America’s First National Marine Sanctuary

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Sanctuaries - America’s Ocean Treasures
What was the USS Monitor?
USS *Monitor* and the CSS *Virginia* engage in the first battle of steam powered ironclads. The battle ushers in a new era of naval technologies and naval warfare.
In 1973 a team of scientists aboard Duke University Research Vessel *Eastward* located the shipwreck remains of what they believed to be the USS *Monitor* lying upside down in 230 feet of water approximately 16 miles off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

In 1974, they confirmed that the shipwreck was in fact the Monitor.
The Monitor National Marine Sanctuary was established by Congress on January 30, 1975, the 113th Anniversary of the Monitor’s launching at Greenpoint, NY.
Due to its rapid rate of deterioration, Congress mandated in 1996 that a plan be developed to conserve and preserve the USS Monitor.
Recovery and Archaeology

USS Monitor Mosaic

Monitor Collection, NOAA
In 1998, work begun with the U.S. Navy to recover iconic pieces of the *Monitor*.

- Propeller and shaft (1998)
- Engine (2001)
- Turret (2002)

….the turret was partially excavated to reduce the lift weights.
Recovery and Identification
Monitor Expedition 2002 – Turret Recovery

August 5, 2002 5:47 PM
Turret Excavations

August – December 2002
USS Monitor Center at The Mariners’ Museum

Opened March 2007
Conservation

USS Monitor Center Batten Conservation Laboratory Complex