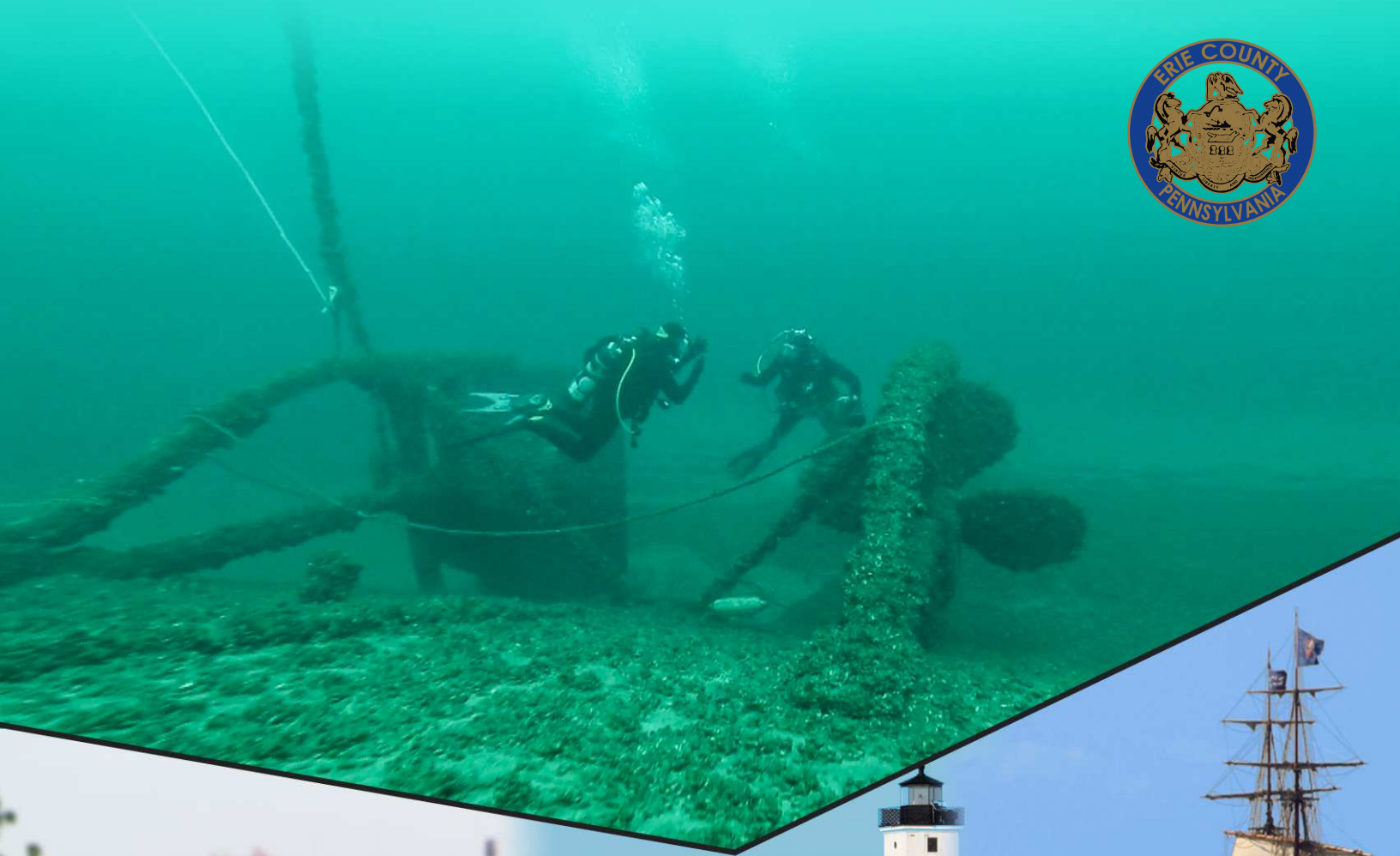




Lake Erie Quadrangle

National Marine Sanctuary Proposal

December 2015



SECTION I – BASICS

Nomination Title: Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary

Nominator Name and Affiliation: Erie County Executive, Kathy Dahlkemper

Nomination Point of Contact: Kathy Dahlkemper, Erie County Executive, 140 West 6th Street, Erie, PA 16501, (814) 451-6333, kadahlkemper@eriecountypa.gov

SECTION II – INTRODUCTION

Narrative Description

The Great Lakes are the Inland Seas of North America and for much of the continent, its link to the Ocean. Lake Erie is the southernmost, shallowest, and smallest of the Great Lakes. It is also considered the most treacherous of the lakes. With storms quickly changing the conditions of the lake, many a sailor has found him/herself in a perilous situation while navigating its waters. Lake Erie is believed to have more shipwrecks per square mile than any other freshwater location.

The waters of Lake Erie and Pennsylvania's 76 mile shoreline support a diversification of Northwestern Pennsylvania's economy that is unparalleled within the Commonwealth. Lake Erie is home to an estimated 50% of the biomass of Great Lakes fish, providing the area with important commercial and recreational assets. The only natural harbor on the south side of the lake, created by Presque Isle peninsula, has helped develop industries in tourism, marine industries and trades, and recreational fishing which depend on the health and preservation of these waters.

Bordering the shores of Lake Erie in Pennsylvania and extending north to the shores of Ontario, Canada as well as to the east and west into portions of New York and Ohio, the Lake Erie Quadrangle is a 2,500 square mile area that is home to more than 430 reported maritime disasters. The proposed sanctuary encompasses a key portion of the larger quadrangle, the waters of Pennsylvania. Within this key segment, 196 vessels are reported to have been lost. An underwater museum of sorts, the proposed sanctuary serves as a resting place for at least one of every type of vessel that has operated on the Great Lakes for over two centuries.

Aside from the historical significance of the shipwrecks, the shores of Lake Erie were the home to numerous Native American tribes before Europeans entered the area. Some of that history is now buried under the waters of the lake. The waters of Lake Erie also played an integral role in the War of 1812 and the Pennsylvania waters, particularly the area of Presque Isle Bay, are laden with history from that war.

The port of Erie was a key shipbuilding port from the late 1700's until the early 20th century. In addition to being the site of the construction of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's fleet for one of the most significant battles of the 1812 war, the first iron-hulled warship, *U.S. Michigan*, was built in Erie. This led to decades of shipbuilding at the port that continues today.

The connection to the lake has been strong throughout history for the people who call this portion of Pennsylvania home. Prior to the Civil War, Pennsylvania's Lake Erie waters housed the nation's largest fleet of steamboats and was a major hub on the Underground Railroad, the lakeshore serving as a final U.S. 'stop' before many crossed Lake Erie to Canada. The maritime cultural landscape includes several lighthouses. The Erie Land Lighthouse (the oldest in the Great Lakes) and the Presque Isle Lighthouse are listed on the National Register of Historic

Places and the Presque Isle North Pierhead Lighthouse is the only surviving example of the square and pyramidal style lighthouse tower in the United States. Presque Isle State Park, a peninsula, creates the natural Presque Isle Bay and welcomed 3.7 million visitors in 2014, more than visited Yellowstone National Park in that same period.

While Pennsylvania's great lake port's role in the War of 1812 is its most widely known piece of U.S. history, a deeper exploration of the historical connections to Native American and Underground Railroad history adds layers to the maritime cultural landscape beyond the shipwrecks and lighthouses. A partnership with NOAA through the designation of a National Marine Sanctuary will act to greatly expand people's knowledge and appreciation of these events which deeply impacted the nation, as well as the entire history of maritime travel on the Great Lakes, connecting the past to today and to the future.

Goals Description

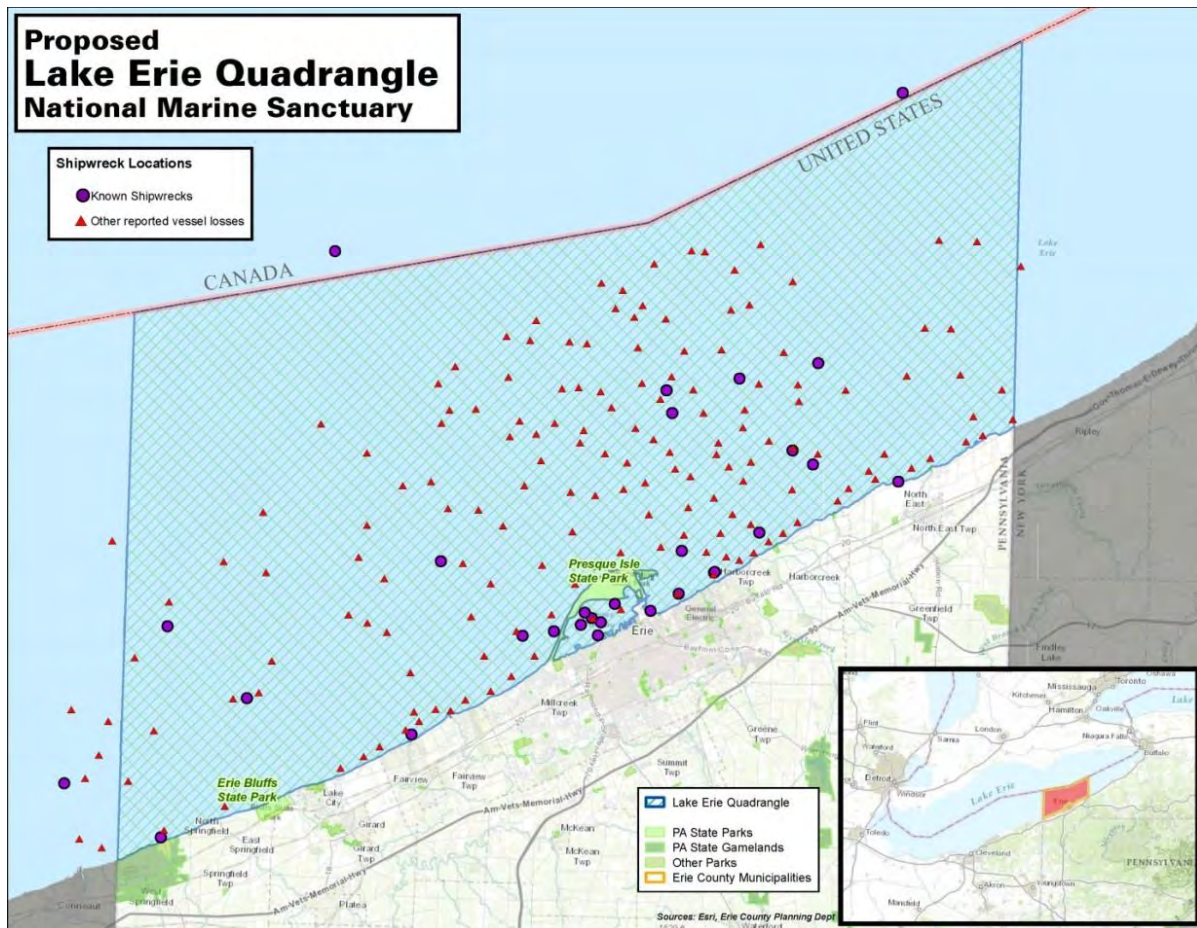
For years, too few have been aware of the significant and expansive shipwreck graveyard present in what has been named the Lake Erie Quadrangle. This underwater museum is believed to hold one of the densest collections of shipwrecks within the Great Lakes. The Pennsylvania portion of this area of Lake Erie is being nominated for designation as a National Marine Sanctuary with the following goals in mind:

- 1). Protect the cultural and historical artifacts – the various vessels that have sunk in the Pennsylvania (PA) waters over the past two and a half centuries. Preserving this rich maritime history is important for current and future generations. A national marine sanctuary designation would encourage state and local prioritization of endeavors to locate, identify, interpret, and preserve the 196 shipwrecks reported to have been lost in the PA Lake Erie Quadrangle.
- 2). Expand the maritime campus that has been developing on the Pennsylvania shores of Lake Erie for decades. Current institutions on this campus include the Regional Science Consortium, the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, the Erie Maritime Museum, the Bayfront Maritime Center and more. A sanctuary would be the keystone to the current effort to create a destination on the Erie waterfront, providing opportunities for organizations to more easily partner in creating a world class educational and recreational destination focused on historically based educational experiences.
- 3). Partner with county, regional, and state educational institutions to provide STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) enrichment opportunities that will prepare students for the jobs of the future and expand partnerships with area manufacturers and businesses.
- 4). Build strong partnerships for maritime heritage management with Pennsylvania's Historical and Museum Commission and other state agencies to gain appropriate recognition of the significance of Lake Erie and the Great Lakes to ensure the current and future vitality of the Commonwealth and the nation. A sanctuary designation will stimulate renewed interest in Pennsylvania's only Great Lakes port. This will lead to deeper connections with other historical and business interests in Pennsylvania, benefitting both the residents of Erie and the region by drawing needed and renewed state attention to Pennsylvania's only county on the Great Lakes.
- 5). Enhance and expand the tourism industry, one of the leading economic drivers of the region.
- 6). Create an international agreement with Canada to protect the estimated 400+ shipwrecks within the Quadrangle and engage as the Keystone in the emerging network of Great Lakes National Marine Sanctuaries.

Location Description

The proposed Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary will encompass the 759 square miles of Pennsylvania's Lake Erie waters up to the low water mark. The sanctuary boundary will extend westward to the Ohio state line, northward to the international border with Ontario, Canada, and eastward to the New York state boundary. The proposed boundary excludes the Port of Erie to avoid any limitation on port operations that are critical to local, regional, and national economies. The Erie Port is defined as Presque Isle Bay, the channel connecting the bay to Lake Erie, and the HeroBX water lots, a small area southeast of the channel. The boundary also excludes any privately owned water lots that extend into Presque Isle Bay and Lake Erie.

The 76.6 miles of sanctuary shoreline located along Erie County, Pennsylvania, contain six townships, two boroughs and the City of Erie. Erie County is equidistant from the major population centers of Cleveland, Ohio; Buffalo, New York; and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; located midway between New York and Chicago; and within a day's drive of Washington D.C. The sanctuary would be within 500 miles of more than half the U.S. population.



***Note:** The proposed boundary excludes any privately owned water lots and the Port of Erie which is defined as Presque Isle Bay, the channel connecting the bay to Lake Erie, and the HeroBX water lots, a small area southeast of the channel.

SECTION III – CRITERIA INFORMATION

Criteria 1: The area's natural resources and ecological qualities are of special significance and contribute to: biological productivity or diversity; maintenance or enhancement of ecosystem structure and function; maintenance of ecologically or commercially important species or species assemblages; maintenance or enhancement of critical habitat, representative biogeographic assemblages, or both; or maintenance or enhancement of connectivity to other ecologically significant resources.

As the eleventh largest lake in the world, Lake Erie provides year-round opportunities to enjoy its beauty and its bounty. Originally formed as a glacial lake, and the last of the Great Lakes to be “discovered” by the French in 1669, Lake Erie is the fourth largest Great Lake by surface volume and the smallest by water volume. The proposed sanctuary is located in what is termed Lake Erie’s “Eastern Basin.”

While there are numerous ecological qualities, it is important to note eighty percent of the land surrounding Presque Isle Bay is urban and subject to point and nonpoint source pollution. Discharge of industrial and domestic wastewater contaminated the bay with pollutants including excessive nutrients, organic compounds, and heavy metals. Concerns over these contaminants led to the listing of Presque Isle Bay as the 43rd “Area of Concern” (AOC) in 1991 under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. In 2002 the Bay was transitioned to an Area of Recovery, the first AOC to do so. In 2013, the Presque Isle Bay AOC was the second AOC in the United States to be delisted.

Lake Erie provides Pennsylvania with its only Great Lakes shoreline habitat and its only surf beach. The natural jewels of the region are Presque Isle Bay, which is excluded from the proposed boundary, Presque Isle State Park, and Erie Bluffs State Park. Presque Isle State Park is one of the most ecologically diverse sites not only of Pennsylvania, but of the United States.

Presque Isle State Park

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Presque Isle State Park (PISP) ranging 3,200 acres, contains the greatest numbers of Pennsylvania’s threatened and rare species, more than any other place of comparable size in Pennsylvania. Presque Isle State Park is a prime example of ecological succession, containing six distinct ecological zones, and is home to 640 species of plants, 339 species of birds (47 of which are listed as endangered), 50 species of mammals, 31 species of reptiles and amphibians, and thousands of invertebrates, including 84 different spiders, and 35 different butterflies. A main stopover on the Atlantic Flyway, PISP is considered one of the best birding sites in the U.S. and in the world according to *BirdWatching* (formerly *Birder’s World*) magazine, attracting thousands of birders to the area each year. Seasonally, 65 acres of PISP’s Gull Point is closed to visitors to protect critical bird habitat, particularly for the Piping Plover, which has been listed as an Endangered Species since 1985. Presque Isle State Park and the Purple Martin Roost in the head of Presque Isle Bay are both considered Important Bird Areas.

Erie Bluffs State Park

The Erie Bluffs State Park (EBSP) is a second state park located along the shores of Lake Erie. Designated in 2004, EBSP attracts about 40,000 visitors per year. The park was created to preserve and protect endangered and threatened plant species (approx. 17 species), an old-growth forest, and an unexcavated village from the Late Woodland period (c. 1000 - 1500 A.D.) The park also contains a world-class steelhead fishery in Elk Creek which runs through EBSP.

State Game Lands 314

The Pennsylvania Game Commission continues to protect a 3,495 acre game land in the far northwest corner of Erie County along Lake Erie's southern coast in Springfield Township. This land is the largest undeveloped stretch of shoreline in the county. According to the PA Game Commission, over 50% of the game lands are mature forested wetland and drain into two major creeks where steelhead enter from Lake Erie to breed. The game lands are heralded as one of the best woodcock areas in the Northeast United States and has been identified as one of 73 important bird areas across the state by the Pennsylvania Audubon.

Fisheries

According to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, on average 1.5 million fish are caught each year in Lake Erie, Presque Isle Bay, and its tributaries. Lake Erie and its tributaries are known as the Walleye Capital of the World (according to the nonprofit organization, Lake Erie Waterkeeper, Inc.), a hotspot for smallmouth bass, and the only place in Pennsylvania to catch steelhead. Lake Erie has the most abundant fish population of the Great Lakes, accounting for 50% of the total fish population in the system.

Criteria 2: The area contains submerged maritime heritage resources of special historical, cultural, or archaeological significance, that: individually or collectively are consistent with the criteria of eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; have met or which would meet the criteria for designation as a National Historic Landmark; or have special or sacred meaning to the indigenous people of the region or nation.

The Lake Erie shores of Pennsylvania allow non-diving, non-boating visitors to interact with the maritime heritage of the region. They can see the lighthouses that guided navigation, visit major sites of ship construction, snorkel on shallow shipwrecks, tour the Erie Maritime Museum and the reconstructed *U.S. Brig Niagara*, and sail aboard the 1813 Schooner *Porcupine*. Through these and other opportunities, a wide variety of people can actively interact with the protected submerged resources of the Lake Erie Quadrangle. NOAA support of the Lake Erie Quadrangle Marine Sanctuary will allow Erie County to leverage these existing resources and build on the knowledge, skills, and interest that already exists in this community. While there has been limited research and government resources dedicated to the shipwrecks in Pennsylvania waters, this opportunity to work with NOAA to establish a National Marine Sanctuary will serve as a bridge to the other Great Lakes. This bridge will connect researchers, educators, and recreational users of the Pennsylvania portion of Lake Erie to the maritime history, culture, and resources of its Lake Erie neighbors to the west (Ohio), north (Ontario), and east (New York) as well as the other Great Lakes regions.

Historically, Lake Erie linked the Upper Great Lakes to the rest of the world. Goods and resources flowing in and out of the interior of North America passed through Lake Erie via the Erie Canal or the Welland-Ontario-St. Lawrence route. As such, Lake Erie formed a bridge between the heartland of the U.S. and Canada and the urban centers of the Eastern Seaboard, and beyond. The Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie were the keystone of that bridge. Contiguous with the waters of Ohio, New York, and Ontario, this area hosted one of the mid-19th century's busiest waterways. Pennsylvania also supported the Great Lakes' largest commercial fishing fleet during the 19th century, some of the earliest shipbuilding on the Great Lakes, and major Naval Yards during the War of 1812.

These were also among the most dangerous shipping lanes in the Great Lakes. The orientation of Lake Erie combined with its shallow depths and location along the edge of the jetstream lead to sudden, extreme storms, with high winds and short wavelength waves that battered ships. It is not surprising that at least 196 vessels are reported to have been lost within the proposed sanctuary boundary. Almost as soon as Euro-Americans began building vessels on Lake Erie, the Lake Erie Quadrangle began to take its toll.

The *Detroit*, one of the earliest reported losses on the lake (1797), and nearly every kind of Great Lakes ship through the modern period sank in Pennsylvania's Lake Erie waters. Each of these shipwrecks has a story to tell, and taken as a whole they offer an unparalleled snapshot of 19th and early 20th century maritime life on the Great Lakes. These waters also have the potential to extend our understanding of maritime heritage farther into the past through the evidence of submerged Native American sites they contain. The proposed sanctuary has the potential to engage and educate a wide variety of cohorts - K-12 students, university researchers, lifelong learners - through many different resources that extend from the shore into the deepest waters of Lake Erie.

Shipwreck Resources

According to Dr. Ben Ford, underwater archaeologist, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, of the 196 vessels which historical records indicate may have sunk within the proposed sanctuary boundary, only 35 shipwrecks have been identified (see **Table 1**). These known shipwrecks span every type of ship construction from the 1838 steamboat *Chesapeake* to speedboats, tugs, barges, and workboats lost before 1940. In between, schooners, brigs, and barks; barges and schooner barges; dredges and sand suckers; fishing tugs and trawlers; sidewheel steamboats and propellers sank and have subsequently been found within the Lake Erie Quadrangle. Several of these shipwrecks are in excellent condition, including the mid-19th century *Oxford*, *Belle Mitchell*, and the 1883 propeller *S.K. Martin*. Many were likely salvaged due to the shallowness of the lake and the value of the lost ships to local commerce. Others have not yet been found, including the massive car ferry *Marquette and Bessemer No. 2* and the Curtiss biplane used for the first international flight.



S.K. Martin

According to Dr. Ford's analysis, it is equally important to note that nearly every type of vessel that operated on the Great Lakes during the historic period is represented in the underwater museum that is the Pennsylvania portion of Lake Erie. Beyond the variety of vessel types, these shipwrecks carried a wide assortment of cargoes and were owned by various entities including large shipping companies and single-family-single-ship operations. Many of these ships also carried immigrants to the Midwest, as people of all nationalities moved west to begin new lives. The development of Great Lakes shipping, industry, and maritime technology is contained within shipwrecks that are easily visited. The average depth of these shipwrecks is 41 feet and all but one of the sites can be accessed by recreational SCUBA divers. This ready accessibility is a boon to public interpretation but also means that the shipwrecks would benefit from increased protection and management.

TABLE 1. Known Shipwrecks within the Lake Erie Quadrangle

Name	Date Built	Date Lost	Type	Condition	Depth (feet)
Chesapeake	1838	1847	Steamboat	Broken-up	30
Oxford	1842	1856	Brig	Excellent	160
Susquehannah	1846	1864	Schooner	Broken-up	55
Rough and Ready / Mud Wreck	1847	1847	Schooner	Mostly buried, believed good condition	65
Indiana	1852	1870	Barkentine	Very good	90
Algerine	1856	1879	Schooner	Lower portion intact	10
Eldorado	1857	1880	Wood barge/Steamer	Burned and broken-up	15
Oneida	1862	1893	wood propeller	Poor condition	10
Passaic	1862	1891	Wood propeller	Dynamited	80
Dean Richmond	1864	1893	Wood propeller	Inverted, partially salvaged	15
Belle Mitchell	1874	1886	Schooner	Excellent	70
F.A. Georger	1874	1940	Schoonerbarge	Broken-up	15
Charles Foster	1877	1900	Schoonerbarge	Splayed but otherwise intact	75
Hunter Willis	1878	1931	Wood tug/excursion	Largely broken-up, but hull and engines remain	10
S.K. Martin	1883	1912	Wood propeller	Excellent	55
Canobie	1887	1921	Wood propeller	Stripped, burned, scuttled	15
Philip D. Armour	1889	1915	Wood barge/Propeller	Broken but largely intact	30
Neal Dow	1889	1910	Wood fish tug	Scant remains	10
Isolde	1891	1933	Wood barge/Steamer	Broken-up	10
Crete	1897	1930	Barge	Lower portion and fittings remain	110
Rob Roy	1897	1916	Schoonerbarge	Largely intact, stern buried	40
Patapsco	1901	1930	Dredge	Hull, dredge and much of mechanicals intact	25
Howard S. Gerkin	1910	1926	Sandsucker	Inverted, good condition	70
GLM 507 Stern	1963	1981	Steel Barge	Intact fragment	70
Cranberry Street Barge	19th c	19th c	Barge	Good	10
Albion	19th c	1858	Schooner	Good	80
Beach 7 Wreck	19th c	Unknwn	Schooner	Intact fragment	15
Misery Bay 1	19th c	19th c	Schooner	Disarticulated	5
Misery Bay 2	19th c	19th c	Schooner	Disarticulated	5
Barge	20th c	20th c	Barge	Excellent	20
Work Platform	20th c	20th c	Platform	Excellent	15
Speed boat	20th c	20th c	Speedboat	Burned but intact	30
Work Launch	20th c	20th c	Work Launch	Very good	30
Hammermill Wreck	Unknwn	Unknwn	Schooner	Broken-up and burned	10
Carol Sue II	Unknwn	1999	Trawler	Excellent	80

Dr. Ford notes that while none of the known shipwrecks have been officially evaluated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, the age, type, and condition of several of them suggest that there is significant potential. Among the known shipwrecks, several deserve special mention.

The *Oxford* (1842), *Indiana* (1852) and *Belle Mitchell* (1874) are nearly intact and offer a cross-section of 19th century sailing vessels, a brig, barkentine, and schooner, respectively. These vessels represent an excellent repository of 19th century sailing technology and could potentially be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criteria A and D for their association with the development of lake commerce and their potential to yield information about sailing life on the Great Lakes.* The transition to steam technology is also represented within the Lake Erie Quadrangle. Prior to the Civil War, the port of Erie was home to the nation's largest fleet of steamboats. The early steamboat *Chesapeake* (1838) and the later wooden propeller *S.K. Martin* (1883) illustrate the development of steamboats on Lake Erie. The *S.K. Martin* in particular is in remarkably good condition.

Also of this generation, the *Philip D. Armour* (1889) (*photo right*) was the largest wood propeller ever built by the Detroit Dry Dock Company. The *Philip D. Armour* has the potential to be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C due to its size and what it may tell us about shipbuilding technology, while the *Chesapeake* may be eligible under Criteria A and C for its association with the development of Great Lakes steamships and its role as a representative of early steamboats on Lake Erie. The less than pristine condition of both of these wrecks will need to



be weighed against the history that they represent. The *S.K. Martin*, conversely, has excellent integrity but its history will need to be further investigated to determine if it warrants inclusion on the NRHP. Bridging the period between sail and steam are several schoonerbarges, including the *Charles Foster* (1877), which began its career as a sailing ship and ended it towed behind the steamer *Iron Duke*. While schoonerbarges were very common during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, their ubiquity caused very few to be preserved. The *Charles Foster* may be eligible for the NRHP as a representative example of a schooner barge under Criterion C and Criterion D for its potential to contain data regarding shipboard life on Lake Erie. Other vessels, such as the *Hunter Willis* (1878), *Howard S. Gerkin* (1910), and *Eldorado* (1857) were converted from one ship type to another during their working lives, capturing the rapidly changing demands of lake shipping over relatively short periods of time. Lake Erie's important role in fishing is also represented by the fish tugs *Neal Dow* (1889) and *Hunter Willis* (1878) and trawler *Carol Sue II* (mid-20th c.).

The *Neal Dow*, which reportedly still contains minié balls, was built from timbers harvested near Antietam. While many shipwrecks contain minerals and materials extracted from around the Great Lakes, such as paving stones on the *Indiana*, iron ore on the *Charles Foster*, or coal on the *Rob Roy*, the Lake Erie Quadrangle also includes the *Howard S. Gerkin*, which sank while dredging sand from the bottom of the lake. The *Howard S. Gerkin* is inverted but intact and

* While there is currently not enough information for a NRHP determination of eligibility for the Lake Erie Quadrangle shipwrecks, we believe that several of the shipwrecks have the potential to be eligible as discussed in the text.

represents an example of a regionally important ship type. The uniqueness of the *Howard S. Gerkin* suggests that it might be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C. This and other shipwrecks, such as the unnamed speedboat and work launch situated within Presque Isle Bay, represent the changing maritime trades of Lake Erie.

Non-Shipwreck Resources: The Maritime Landscape and Submerged Prehistoric Sites

Submerged Prehistoric Sites

There is increasing awareness that maritime peoples regularly crossed the waterline in their daily lives; neither ships nor sailors were born afloat. The waterline is also constantly in motion so that the archaeological remains of many maritime peoples are now submerged. People moving across the waterline and the movement of the waterline itself require us to consider sites other than shipwrecks when thinking about the resources of the Lake Erie Quadrangle. As the glaciers retreated out of the Erie Basin at the end of the last ice age, what is now Lake Erie consisted of two smaller lakes connected by a river and wetlands. Importantly, portions of both of these lakes as well as the river and wetlands that connected them were situated in what is now Pennsylvania. This mixture of environments would have been very attractive to the people who moved into the region as the glaciers withdrew, making this an excellent location to look for submerged prehistoric sites.

While many of the sites along the shores of earlier lakes would have been destroyed as Lake Erie rose, the relatively rapid rise of the lake between 5300 and 5400 years ago and the soft bottom of the lake may have preserved evidence of some of the earliest residents of North America. Dr. Ford notes that in addition to providing important information about how Native Americans and First Nations peoples utilized the Great Lakes before the arrival of Europeans, these submerged sites may also contain materials such as bone and wood that are not regularly preserved at terrestrial sites. As the lake stabilized and Euro-Americans moved into the region, what are now the Pennsylvania shores of Lake Erie continued to be immensely important to the development of maritime culture in the region.

War of 1812

Erie played an integral role in one of the most significant events in the nation's history, the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812. Presque Isle Bay was the only place on the Great Lakes where the British could not sabotage the shipbuilding efforts of the novice United States Navy. Had it not been for the ideal location, conditions, and resources of Presque Isle Bay, our nation's history may be very different. Daniel Dobbins, with his extensive knowledge of the Great Lakes, realized the seriousness of the British captures of Fort Mackinac and Detroit and convinced the U.S. government to build a squadron at Erie to regain control of Lake Erie. He and Ebenezer Crosby built the *Tigress* and the *Porcupine*, and Noah Brown, a New York shipbuilder was contracted by the Navy to build the *Scorpion*, *Ariel*, *Lawrence*, and *Niagara*. These ships were constructed to withstand only one battle, which we now know was the most important battle to secure the nation's western borders. Under the command of Oliver Hazard Perry, the Erie built fleet reversed the momentum of the War of 1812. Perry and his Great Lakes fleet were the first in history to defeat an entire British squadron.

Following the Battle of Lake Erie, Perry's fleet, including the British ships that were captured, returned to Little Bay at Presque Isle to repair the fleet and seek medical treatment for the wounded. During the winter of 1813-14, many of Perry's crew did not survive the poor living conditions and the harsh winter. In remembrance of that harsh winter and the hardship suffered

there, Little Bay was renamed Misery Bay by the surviving sailors. Perry's two most well-known ships, the *Lawrence* and *Niagara* were intentionally sunk in Misery Bay following the battle. The *Lawrence* was raised in 1875 for display at the Centennial International Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876. The *Niagara* was initially repaired, sunk in Misery Bay in 1820, and then raised and restored for the 1913 centennial celebration of the War of 1812.

Shipbuilding Beyond the War of 1812

Shipbuilding began in Erie in 1798 with the launching of the *Washington*. This industry fueled the growth of the City of Erie and its harbor. During the War of 1812, the region supported two naval shipyards as well as the naval station at Misery Bay. Shipbuilding continues today with the Bayfront Maritime Center (BMC) program leading the way. Currently BMC is building a representation of the *Porcupine*, a schooner rigged gunboat used during the Battle of Lake Erie. In the recent past, about 1,000 students from the Erie schools have worked with BMC to build the historic reproduction of the 29 foot *Erie Boat*, the sailing work-boat that fished local waters from 1880-1910. For over three decades more than a hundred Erie Boats fished these waters providing family sustaining jobs. The Erie Boat now regularly sails as a floating STEM classroom (*photo right*).



The United States Steamer *Michigan* (later renamed *Wolverine*), the U.S. Navy's first iron-hulled warship, was also built in Erie. During the Civil War, the *Michigan* was used to patrol the Great Lakes and to quell draft riots. Not only was the *Michigan* a patrol vessel, it was also used as a training ship for the U.S. Navy. Many of the well-known naval heroes of the time were trained on board the ship, including Captain Charles Gridley, commander of the *Olympia* during the Spanish American War. It is noted by historians that so many U.S. Naval officers who trained on the *Michigan* married local Erie women that the ship was called the "Mother-In-Law" of the U.S. Navy. The bow of *Michigan* is housed at the Erie Maritime Museum.

Other Contributions to the Maritime Landscape

By the mid-1800s, Erie was a major manufacturing center for marine engines, boilers, and other equipment, providing engines and gear for lake and inland vessels. Local entrepreneurs developed machine shops and foundries for shipbuilding and repair. Erie was also the northern terminus of the Beaver-Erie Canal (1844), allowing easy connection from the Great Lakes to inland ports. At the turn of the 20th century Erie was considered the freshwater fishing capital of the world. Lake Erie was the most economically important Great Lakes fishery and Pennsylvania ports were among the busiest fishing ports on the lake. Local boat builders built hundreds of fishing boats, as well as tugboats, ferries, and pleasure boats. While many of the machine shops and boat yards have been converted to other purposes, and the canal has been filled, many traces of these important resources are still evident and can be easily interpreted.

Underground Railroad

Erie was also a hub on the Underground Railroad prior to the American Civil War because of the steady flow of people and ships through the city, as well as its proximity to Canada. Self-manumitted African Americans flowed up the roads and rivers of western Pennsylvania to Erie and then on to freedom across the lake. Erie's role as a final 'stop' on the road to freedom and the maritime aspect of crossing the lake by ship make this a narrative that resonates both with the National Marine Sanctuary initiative and with Americans in general.

Lighthouses

Another important aspect of Erie's maritime heritage is its many lighthouses. Erie is home to three lighthouses, two of which are currently in full-time use, the Presque Isle Lighthouse and the Presque Isle North Pierhead Lighthouse. The Erie Land Light, originally built in 1818, was the first lighthouse to be commissioned on the Great Lakes in 1812, but with the start of the War of 1812, construction was delayed. This lighthouse, located in James N. Thompson Lighthouse Park, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978, and during the summer months visitors can enjoy tours conducted by authentically dressed interpreters. In 1858, the Presque Isle North Pierhead Lighthouse was constructed. According to Eugene Ware, author of *A History of Presque Isle*, this lighthouse exhibits the "...only surviving example of the square and pyramidal style lighthouse tower left in the country." The Presque Isle Lighthouse was the final lighthouse to be built in the area, lighting the lake in 1873. This lighthouse is located in Presque Isle State Park (PISP). This lighthouse was added the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 and is now open for public tours to visitors of PISP.

There are sufficient intact structures, buildings, and sites in the Erie and Presque Isle vicinity that the area may warrant consideration as a NRHP district for its association with the development of Great Lakes commerce and shipping. Even without NRHP recognition, the richness and variety of these non-shipwreck resources reaffirm that the shore formed a bridge between terrestrial and maritime lives and occupations, giving the Great Lakes their purpose; people, goods, and ideas travelled across the Lakes, but the goal was always to land safely on the other shore. Much of this movement was through the Lake Erie Quadrangle. The bridge analogy can be extended to how the public interacts with maritime cultural resources.

Criteria 3: The area supports present and potential economic uses, such as: tourism; commercial and recreational fishing; subsistence and traditional uses; diving; and other recreational uses that depend on conservation and management of the area's resources.

As the only Great Lakes shoreline in Pennsylvania and interlaced with portions of Interstates 79, 90 and 86, Erie County enjoys a robust economic boost from tourism, recreational fishing, diving, other maritime related activities, as well as its agricultural endeavors such as its grape vineyards and wineries. Visitor spending is in excess of \$1 billion annually, particularly in the summer months when visitors flock to Pennsylvania's only "seashore" to spend time at Presque Isle State Park, Waldameer and Water World (one of the United States' oldest amusement parks), the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, and the numerous festivals, events, and wineries throughout Erie County. The County is currently evolving into a year-round tourist destination playing host to a vibrant arts and culture scene that includes theatres, museums, and historic locations, like the lighthouses, throughout the County.

Presque Isle State Park

The history of Presque Isle predates the 1650's when the Eriez Indians inhabited the area for farming. In the mid-late 1600's the Eriez tribe was absorbed by the Iroquois and eventually Presque Isle was "discovered" by the French in the 1720's; it is from the French that Presque Isle, "almost an island", derives its name. In 1921 Presque Isle State Park (PISP) was designated a state park by the Pennsylvania state legislature and then as a National Natural Landmark in 1967 by the National Park Service. Presque Isle State Park is the most visited of Pennsylvania's 120 state parks with 3.7 million people visiting the park in 2014. It provides year round recreational opportunities such as hiking, biking, swimming, fishing, surfing, diving, boating,

water skiing, birding, hunting, and in-line and ice skating. Presque Isle State Park also supports 1,089 jobs and contributes \$76.9 million in visitor spending annually to the local economy.

Erie Maritime Museum

Specifically related to maritime heritage, Presque Isle Bay is home to the Erie Maritime Museum (EMM), Pennsylvania's Maritime Museum which hosts exhibits on Erie's role in Great Lakes history with a specific focus on the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812 as well as short term exhibits on the fishing industry, charting the harbor, salvage diving, the lifesaving service, ongoing work for the Navy, etc. The museum houses a reconstruction of the mid-ship section of the *Lawrence*, the flagship of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry in the Battle of Lake Erie, until she was disabled by fire during battle as well as the museum's most prized exhibit, the *U.S. Brig Niagara*.

U.S. Brig Niagara



The *U.S. Brig Niagara* (photo left), home-ported in Erie, is a replica of the relief flagship of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry. She is the embodiment of the dual mission of the Erie Maritime Museum and the Flagship Niagara League. The *Niagara* sails the Great Lakes providing education on, and interpretation of, the Battle of Lake Erie. While touring the Great Lakes, the *Niagara* operates as a Sailing School Vessel, providing trainees one of the only remaining opportunities to be trained in traditional square-rig seamanship.

The *Niagara* is a two-masted, square-rigged sailing vessel. In 1813, she had a crew of 155 men and boys who manned her sails, 18 carronades and two long guns. On September 10, 1813, nine small ships — six of them, including the *Niagara*, constructed at Erie – defeated a British squadron of six vessels in the Battle of

Lake Erie. A pivotal event in the War of 1812, it led to regaining Detroit, lost at the war's outset, and lifted the nation's morale.

The current *Niagara*, the third reconstruction of the original vessel, was launched in Erie in 1988, the 175th anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie. *Niagara* sails the Great Lakes, preserving and interpreting the story of the Battle of Lake Erie, and acting as an ambassador in her capacity as the flagship of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Bayfront Maritime Center

Also contributing to the maritime educational landscape of Presque Isle Bay, specifically for marginalized youth populations such as youth at-risk, students with differing physical and mental abilities, and Erie County's growing immigrant and refugee population, is the Bayfront Maritime Center (BMC). Through year-round programming at the BMC, students engage in experiential, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) based maritime projects that includes boat building, sailing, rowing, paddling, and underwater exploration of shipwreck sites located near Presque Isle State Park. The Center's Erie Adaptive Sailing Experience (EASE) is the first and only adaptive sailing program in Pennsylvania. Started in 2001, EASE allows community members with physical and mental challenges to sail on Presque Isle Bay on Hansa dinghies and BMC's larger keel boats. Bayfront Maritime Center's newest program, Veterans at EASE, uses sailing as therapy for veterans dealing with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, as well as for job

preparation in the maritime industry. Since its inception in 1998, BMC has built 92 boats and worked with 17,000 community members.

Tall and Small Ships Festivals

In 2010 Erie hosted its first Tall Ships Festival. In 2013 the Tall Ships returned to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Perry's victory in the Battle of Lake Erie. The Tall Ships will once again grace the bay in September 2016. The Tall Ships events draw about 58,000 visitors with an economic impact of \$6 million. Also, annually since 2011, the Bayfront Maritime Center has hosted the Presque Isle Bay Messabout, a traditional Small Craft Association event that features handmade traditional, contemporary, and antique boats as well as a cardboard regatta. In addition, people can enjoy a ride on the *Victorian Princess*, a three level paddle wheel boat that cruises the bay from May through October.

Fishing

In the spring of 2012, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives designated Erie County as the Freshwater Fishing Capital of Pennsylvania, reaffirming its attraction to anglers because of its abundance of fish and public access. Recreational fishing contributes significantly to the local economy, drawing people from all over the world to Lake Erie. The 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, noted the economic impact of sports fishing in Erie County at \$55,911,600 and supports 219 jobs. According to the PA Fish and Boat Commission, there are currently 27 fishing charters that operate out of Erie. In September 2015 Erie hosted the Fishers of Men, one of the top national bass fishing tournaments. This is the second time that Erie has hosted this tournament.

Diving

There is growing interest in diving from people in the Erie region and the population centers of Cleveland, Buffalo, and Pittsburgh. According to the owner of Diver's World, there are 200-300 active divers within a 100 mile radius of Erie. The local diving clubs, Blue Dolphin Skin Divers and Erie Skin Divers represent over 100 members in and around Erie alone.

Scuba Diving Charters represents another avenue to bring awareness and tourism to the Erie area. Established in 2014, Lake Erie Adventure Charters is a full-time dive charter that, during the off-season, has focused on developing relationships with diving clubs in Cleveland, Buffalo, and Pittsburgh and, as a result, doubled their business. Two other charters operate on the Ohio-Pennsylvania and New York-Pennsylvania state borders taking divers to shipwrecks in Pennsylvania waters and beyond the Pennsylvania state line.

The Niagara Divers Association, located in Ontario, holds an annual conference on shipwrecks in the Great Lakes. The conference draws about 400 people and covers both recreational and technical topics. The conference is embarking on its 22nd year and has featured presenters with connections to the Erie shipwrecks such as Georgeann and Michael Wachter, authors of *Erie Shipwrecks East* and two other books on Lake Erie shipwrecks, and Chris Kohl, author of numerous books and DVDs on shipwrecks.

As maritime issues increase in importance, Erie is poised to become a magnet destination for tourism visitors, scholars, and maritime trade service providers. Over the last several years, Erie has created many of the pieces for a world class maritime campus offering learning opportunities at all levels from the vacationer looking for something to do during their visit through advanced professional development opportunities.

Criteria 4: The publically-derived benefits of the area, such as aesthetic value, public recreation, and access to places depend on conservation and management of the area's resources.

Aside from Erie County's shoreline state parks and game lands, the region contains other initiatives, parks, and places that would augment visitor experiences to the Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary. Located near the Bayfront Parkway, the Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park (LEAF), a tree museum with over 225 varieties of trees, hosts year-round educational opportunities, festivals and arts and culture performances. The Let's Move Outside (LMO) initiative, a collaboration between several organizations in Erie County, encourages people to get outside and get moving while enjoying public art and local history. While there are 15 trails that are a part of the LMO initiative, the Perry 200 Commemoration Trail features sights both on and off the shoreline that were significant to Perry's time in Erie and beyond. In addition, the Great Lakes Seaway Trail, a National Scenic Byway, provides opportunities for visitors to tour Lake Erie's southern coast. For those that desire more of a connection to the water, there are several opportunities to rent paddle boats, paddleboards, jet-skis, and kayaks, or partake of a pontoon boat ride in order to enjoy the unique beauty of Presque Isle Bay and Presque Isle State Park.

Erie County currently has 65,000 acres of protected open space or 12.64% of its 514,000 acres that generates \$254 million in annual spending and supports 1,678 jobs. This includes 140 parks and trails that are enjoyed year round in a variety of ways such as: hiking, biking, walking, running, rollerblading, and cross-country skiing. The abundant green space and natural beauty that is pervasive throughout Erie County is reliant on an ecosystem in which the best practices in conservation and management are employed. Serving as host to the Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary would heighten the awareness and execution of best practices in relation to our resources by managers, residents and visitors alike, so that all can benefit from the beauty and recreational opportunities that the region has to offer for generations to come.

SECTION IV – CONSIDERATION INFORMATION

Management Consideration 1: The area provides or enhances opportunities for research in marine science, including marine archaeology.

Pennsylvania's Lake Erie waters are rich with opportunity for research in marine archaeology and marine science. Until October 2014, with the creation of the Pennsylvania Archaeology and Shipwreck Survey Team (PASST), there has been no long-term coordinated effort by those in academic and related fields to accurately locate and identify the shipwrecks in the Pennsylvania portion of Lake Erie. Two previous studies by the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission (1985) and the STEAR (Shipwreck Training Education Archaeology Research) Study (2001) focused only on the wrecks located in or close to Presque Isle Bay. Herein lies the greatest opportunity to create and execute a comprehensive plan for surveying the entire Pennsylvania lake bottom to further identify, interpret, preserve, and protect the 196 vessels that have been reported lost, as well as those shipwrecks that have yet to be discovered.

The PASST, an initiative of the Regional Science Consortium (RSC), is composed of representatives from the RSC, Flagship Niagara League, Indiana University of PA, PA DCNR, PA DEP – Coastal Resource Management, the Erie County Department of Planning, PA Historical Museum Commission, PA Sea Grant, S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie (a fishing organization),

Tri-County Intermediate Unit #5, and Diver's World of Erie, Inc. This volunteer working group is dedicated to the documentation, scientific study, and educational promotion of Pennsylvania's underwater archeological resources. The formation of the PASST complements the current work being done by the PA DEP to analyze the lake floor with side-scan sonar to identify shipwreck sites that will then be incorporated into the DEP's marine spatial plan. In the short time since its inception, two representatives from the group collaborated to create the NAUI certified "PASST Survey 1" course.



The PASST Survey 1 course was designed by Dr. Ben Ford, historical and underwater archaeologist and Dr. Jeanette Schnars, Executive Director of the RSC, to provide divers with the skills and knowledge to conduct a level one (non-invasive) survey of a submerged historical site in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. Graduates are qualified to participate in the Pennsylvania Archaeological Shipwreck and Survey Team (PASST) site surveys. To date, PASST Survey 1 participants have surveyed the *S.K. Martin* (photo left).

Unlike many other areas in the Great Lakes, the shipwrecks in the Pennsylvania portion of Lake Erie have not been systematically located, identified, and studied for their historical significance. A National Marine Sanctuary designation would be the catalyst for such work to be completed with the assistance of the region's already established maritime partners so that more of the Erie community, region, state, nation, and the world would know about the significant role that Erie County, Pennsylvania played in our nation's dynamic history. The shipwrecks in the Lake Erie Quadrangle link the shipwrecks in Michigan and Wisconsin to the rich history of the founding and development of our country. The Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary will serve as a metaphorical water bridge, linking the maritime history of eastward to westward expansion.

In addition to the burgeoning interest in the Commonwealth's submerged maritime history, through the work of the Regional Science Consortium and PA Sea Grant, there is also an opportunity to study the aquatic wildlife that inhabits the shipwrecks and the effects of the invasive and exotic species located in our waters on the degradation or preservation of these maritime artifacts. While as of yet research has not focused on the above considerations, there has been considerable research on water quality with a focus on the bacterial concentrations of the Presque Isle State Park swimming beaches that allows for seven days/week, 'day-of' reporting of conditions to the beach managers. Additional research has focused on aquatic invasive species such as the Round Gobies and their dietetic shifts and the sequencing environmental and species DNA to identify potential invasive species. Collaborative efforts of the Regional Science Consortium and PA Sea Grant led to the discovery of Tubenose Gobies in Lake Erie waters.

The Regional Science Consortium also deploys two nearshore buoys that monitor weather, water, and wave conditions on Lake Erie with a Great Lakes Observing System Coastal Storms Nearshore Buoy. The RSC is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Lake Erie Nearshore Buoy. This system measures parameters in real-time and posts the data to www.PALakeErieBuoy.com and is also available to users of the lake via a free app from the Live Datacenter.

The opportunities for regional organizations to partner with NOAA for research in the marine sciences are endless. Some potential collaboration with NOAA could include, but is not limited to organizations such as PASST, Pennsylvania Sea Grant (PASG) a NOAA program that focuses on economic and environmental resources of Pennsylvania's coastal communities, and the many higher education institutions in the region. For example, currently the PASST only has the capacity to locate and survey two-three shipwrecks per year based on current funding levels. Receiving a sanctuary designation could provide additional resources that would provide the opportunity to locate and survey several more shipwrecks per year. Also, PASG, which has just received full college status, has an interest in research on several topics which are of value to a potential marine sanctuary, such as the beneficial aspects of shipwrecks as fish habitat, the destructive effects of invasive species on shipwrecks, and the study of littoral drift to determine sedimentation covering and uncovering rates. And finally, local and regional universities that are currently engaged in marine research endeavors are interested in internship opportunities related to resource protection, education and outreach, research and monitoring, and community engagement as it relates to a national marine sanctuary. These are just a few examples of the ways in which NOAA and the region's organizations could partner in research endeavors.

Management Consideration 2: The area provides or enhances opportunities for education, including the understanding and appreciation of the marine and Great Lakes environments.

The Lake Erie Quadrangle is rife with opportunities for students, researchers and visitors to understand and appreciate the region's marine heritage and resources and how it relates to the Great Lake's environment as a whole. With many resources already in place to support learning events of all sizes, the Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary designation would support fully integrated learning opportunities for all ages and levels of learners.

K-12 Education

Curriculum exists that is tied directly to the Lake Erie Quadrangle and the Great Lakes including the *Shipboard Curriculum* for grades 7-12 and *Project STEAR* (Shipwreck Training Education and Archaeology Research) for middle school students.

The Shipboard Curriculum is a collaborative effort between PA Sea Grant, NOAA, Gannon University, the Regional Science Consortium, and the Erie Maritime Museum. It provides students with an opportunity to participate in meaningful scientific research while learning about the environmental health and ecology of Presque Isle Bay. Two aspects of the program provide experiential opportunities on board a 53-foot historic fishing boat converted to a research vessel, Gannon University's *Environaut*, and the U.S. Brig *Niagara*, a 200-foot traditionally rigged replica of the original in Perry's fleet. On board the *Environaut*, students participate in the "Lake Erie Science Program" and on board the *Niagara*, students participate in the "Tall Ships" program.

Project STEAR (Shipwreck Training Education and Archaeology Research) provides an introduction to marine archaeology and careers in oceanography. Students participating in this program learn standard skills used in the identification, research, preservation and conservation of Pennsylvania's maritime history and submerged cultural resources.

Experiences take place between two locations, the Tom Ridge Environmental Center (*photo below*) and the Erie Maritime Museum. *Project STEAR* was created through the partnership of the following organizations: Bayfront Maritime Center, PA Sea Grant, Mercyhurst University,

Lakeshore Towing, Diver's World, PA DEP, and NOAA and has won the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. Since the inception of *Project STEAR* in 2005, 300 - 800 middle-school students per year have experienced Lake Erie's maritime history while expanding their math and science skills and environmental awareness. Work is currently being done by the Pennsylvania Archaeological Shipwreck Survey Team to update and broaden the curriculum to engage high school students.

In addition, the PASST is working with the Tri-County Intermediate Unit #5, which represents 20 school districts across three counties, to develop a Passport 2 Anywhere module (the Regional Science Consortium and PA Sea Grant have previously developed two of these types of modules). This particular module would include three pre-activity videos, a teleconference, and two post-activity videos. The module includes field experience, highlights research methodologies, and includes a hands-on activity. The teleconference component allows researchers to interact with students in the classroom. An informational display highlighting the aspects and science of this project will then be developed for display at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center.



Tom Ridge Environmental Center

During the school year, the Tom Ridge Environmental Center Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Educators host between 13,000-15,000 student visitors from the tristate area annually. The students engage in a variety of topics from shipwreck history to park ecology to outdoor survival skills. In addition, DCNR Educators facilitate professional development opportunities for pre-service and practicing teachers and environmental educators on a wide variety of topics that are aligned with the PA Department of Education standards.

Pennsylvania Sea Grant, (PASG), a partnership between NOAA, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania State University, provides ongoing professional development for teachers, support for student field experiences, the development of student driven service projects and opportunities for citizens to engage in science-based learning. PASG staff has indicated they would be happy to include sanctuary research, resources and curriculum with Sea Grant staff and educators in Ohio and New York as well.

The Center for Great Lakes Literacy, (CGLL), is a partnership between the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network and the U.S. EPA. Its mission is to build Great Lakes Literacy in students, educators and citizens of the Great Lakes basin. Between 2013 and 2014 PASG education staff worked with the NOAA B-WET program to share B-WET and CGLL resources with local educators, and students. This project, called Great Lakes-Great Stewards, won the 2015 Pennsylvania Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. The Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary would put all of these people and resources in the same locale, providing a rich opportunity for synergistic efforts.

The Regional Science Consortium also contributes to the K-12 learning landscape by providing opportunities to participate in a lab experience during field trips, job shadow a scientist, internships, and service learning projects. The RSC also hosts Enviro Research Camp for college-bound students that allows students to solve an environmental problem and contribute to real-time research efforts being conducted by the Science Consortium's higher education partners. Gifted K-12 student groups also participate in RSC learning opportunities. Students visit the RSC during the school day to participate in laboratory and field lessons. Experiences often relate to current local research and include introduction to laboratory and field equipment. Previous lessons have included water quality analysis, microbiology, forensic science, roller coaster physics, building drift buoys for NOAA, and building ROVs for underwater exploration.

Higher Education

Gannon University's Freshwater and Marine Biology major is the only program like this regionally, one of the only majors of its kind in the Great Lakes, and one of 61 such programs nationally. It provides students with a combination of classroom and on-site experience via the *Environaut* and various partner organizations that are doing work in the aquatic sciences.

The Regional Science Consortium also provides summer field course opportunities to its member organizations. The proposed courses for the summer of 2016 are: Field Ichthyology, Wetlands Ecology, Water Quality and Current Issues, Marine Archaeology, and Aquatic Macroinvertebrates. In addition to field courses, members have access to a water quality lab, chemistry lab, plant lab/greenhouse, microscopy lab, aquatic lab, biological preparation lab, a marina field station, as well as any needed field supplies and instrumentation.

Lifelong Learning

Lifelong learning opportunities abound in the Erie region. Lifelong learners have the opportunity to enjoy a multitude of educational opportunities from many community partners such as the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, the Regional Science Consortium, the Erie Maritime Museum and the Flagship Niagara.

The Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC) provides many opportunities for learners in this category. Each month, TREC offers a variety of programming and since its opening in May of 2006 has attracted just over 1.1 million visitors to the Center, Presque Isle State Park (PISP), and Erie Bluffs State Park (EBSP) for activities such as native garden tours, history by pontoon, and birding classes. Also, the collections of the Natural History Museum at TREC are available for viewing by appointment and tours are often scheduled during special events at TREC. Specimens from the collection are utilized in the educational programming at TREC and are available via loan to area educators. Providing educational opportunities to such a large number of visitors would not happen without a strong core of volunteers. TREC has 500 volunteers that in 2014 contributed 16,295 hours to the TREC, PISP, and EBSP. The volunteers don't just contribute their time to Presque Isle related opportunities, but they spread their time among many of the other environmentally related organizations across the region.

For lovers of history, particularly military history, the Erie Maritime Museum and the Flagship Niagara are the northernmost point on the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission's Military History Trail.

The previously mentioned PASST is developing a website that will provide photos and video clips of surveyed underwater shipwreck sites. This website will provide historical information

regarding Great Lakes shipwrecks, Lake Erie shipwrecks, maritime history, and the importance of preservation/conservation.

There are a multitude of educational experiences that could be created through the aligned efforts of partner organizations that would pair nicely with the Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary.

The Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary would become the keystone of the existing effort to create an international destination on the Erie waterfront, offering visitors and students historically based educational experiences on and along the water.

Management Consideration 3: Adverse impacts from current or future uses and activities threaten the area's significance, values, qualities, and resources.

Potential human impacts to the maritime heritage resources in the proposed sanctuary include inappropriate use of anchors by both fisherman and divers, the inappropriate use of nets by fisherman, and of course further removal of the artifacts by recreational divers or other damage to the shipwrecks. While less direct, additional human impacts to our maritime resources include the use of harmful fertilizers by our farming community and the adverse impact of climate change. Receiving a sanctuary designation would strongly aide in broader regulatory and educational efforts to mitigate the inadvertent and/or intentional damage to our maritime resources.

Potential natural impacts to the maritime heritage resources include invasive and exotic species such as zebra mussels and round gobies. It is not known what the long-term impact these invaders will have on the submerged maritime resources as formal research has not taken place in Lake Erie waters around this issue as of yet, although there is interest in doing so on behalf of the Regional Science Consortium.

A sanctuary designation will aid in educating user groups of the potential impacts of their actions as well as the impact of invasive species on Erie's submerged maritime resources.

Management Consideration 4: A national marine sanctuary would provide unique conservation and management value for this area or adjacent areas.

A marine sanctuary in Erie County would provide the resources to develop first rate, multi-agency education, outreach, and research opportunities for students, educators, and life-long learners locally, regionally, and across Pennsylvania. Because of Erie's centralized location to population centers in Ohio, New York, and Canada, the reach and impact extends well beyond the county and state borders. A marine sanctuary would provide an opportunity to understand the full story of Erie County's maritime heritage and culture and how it relates to, and impacts, Great Lakes history and culture. This includes both the wrecks that have been discovered, but not well identified and documented, and the other wrecks that remain buried, waiting to be discovered and have their stories become a part of the greater narrative of the rich maritime heritage of the Great Lakes.

The Lake Erie Quadrangle in Pennsylvania is a turnkey location for NOAA in regard to already established educational initiatives and research, and is ripe with opportunity to develop a cohesive plan to locate, identify, document, preserve, and protect the known and unknown shipwrecks in Lake Erie. The Erie County Redevelopment Authority has expressed interest in financing new business opportunities that would develop as a result of a sanctuary designation. In addition some of the region's technology incubators, angel investment and economic

development groups have voiced their support as they see the business opportunities that are available as the result of establishing a marine sanctuary.

As described in management consideration five below, the state of Pennsylvania does not have a robust law in relation to the shipwrecks, nor is there active enforcement in Lake Erie of the shipwreck law. A sanctuary designation would mean a greater NOAA presence in the region. A NOAA presence could supplement and enhance the efforts of state agencies with authority over the shipwrecks. A partnership with NOAA could provide an additional layer of authority that would aide state agencies in more fully protecting these threatened historical resources.

Management Consideration 5: The existing regulatory and management authorities for the area could be supplemented or complemented to meet the conservation and management goals for the area.

According to the 2014 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Title 37-Historical and Museums, Chapter 5-Historic Preservation, section 511-Criminal Penalties, the law pertaining to shipwreck artifacts in the Commonwealth is as follows:

A person who conducts a field investigation on any land or submerged land owned or controlled by the Commonwealth, without first obtaining a permit from the commission, or a person who appropriates, defaces, destroys or otherwise alters any archaeological site or specimen located upon lands owned or controlled by the Commonwealth, except in the course of activities pursued under the authority of a permit granted by the commission, commits a misdemeanor of the third degree and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$2,500 or to imprisonment for not more than one year, or both. In addition, such person shall forfeit to the Commonwealth all archaeological specimens collected or excavated together with any photographs and records relating to such specimens.

In regard to enforcement, according to the 2014 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Title 37-Historical and Museums, Chapter 5-Historic Preservation, section 512-enforcement of historic preservation laws and policies, the law is as follows:

The Attorney General, the commission, any political subdivision, person or other legal entity may maintain an action in an administrative tribunal or court for the protection or preservation of any historic resource in this Commonwealth.

In conversations with state agencies while preparing this nomination, it is known that jurisdiction of artifacts recovered from the shipwrecks falls to the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission (PHMC), while the state owns most of the bottomlands of the Pennsylvania portion of Lake Erie. The exception to the ownership of the bottomlands comes in the form of privately owned 'water lots' in Presque Isle Bay and Lake Erie.

While other state agencies currently defer to PHMC if there is a potential disturbance of a shipwreck, realistically PHMC does not have the resources to address these potential disturbances due to budget and staff cutbacks during previous administrations. In addition, adequate attention is not being given by PHMC to the existing and potential shipwrecks as they do not have a marine archaeologist on staff unlike some other state historical commissions that border the Great Lakes and other U.S. waters.

Due to the shallowness of the lake, the wrecks located here are very accessible by the public and as a result are considered to be some of the most threatened cultural resources on the Great

Lakes. Being designated a national marine sanctuary and partnering with NOAA would not only enhance the protection and recognition of the shipwrecks, making them a more known and valued resource in the state of Pennsylvania and the nation, it would also reduce the threat to an integral piece of national history.

Management Consideration 6: There are commitments or possible commitments for partnerships opportunities such as cost sharing, office space or exhibit space, vessel time, or other collaborations to aid conservation or management programs for the area.

From the first whisper of the possibility of a national marine sanctuary being designated in Pennsylvania's Lake Erie waters, organizations have excitedly come forward with ideas and opportunities to collaborate with NOAA on resource protection, education and outreach, research and monitoring, and community engagement related to a sanctuary. The following are just some of the possible commitments that have initially been secured should the Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary come to fruition.



A piece of Erie County's Maritime Campus - *Raymond M Blasco, M.D. Memorial Library, Erie Maritime Museum, U.S. Bring Niagara*

Cost sharing: PA Sea Grant has an annual research budget of approximately \$250,000/year that is used to fund projects that are prioritized by the statewide advisory committee and staff. This includes research done by academics, non-governmental organizations, and state/federal agencies. These priorities are reviewed regularly and could easily incorporate topics of interest to both the Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary and the Sea Grant program.

Office Space:

The County of Erie is committed to providing in-kind office space located on the third floor of the Raymond M. Blasco Public Library located on Presque Isle Bay (*photo above*), for staff working for the designated National Marine Sanctuary.

Exhibit Space:

Opportunities for exhibits include interpretive panels at our region's major attraction and visitor center, Presque Isle State Park and the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. The Erie Maritime Museum can offer a venue for presenting exhibits of various wrecks, as well as developing programs and exhibits that inform the visitor about the world of a mariner in past centuries.

Vessel Time:

The Regional Science Consortium, PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, and the PA Fish & Boat Commission have agreed to share vessel time of their boats docked at Presque Isle Marina with staff working on the National Marine Sanctuary. Platypus, LLC, located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania has offered the use of their small robotic boats for education, tourism attraction, and research. Gannon University's College of Health Professions and Sciences have also agreed to utilize their vessel the *Environaut* for research based excursions.

The Bayfront Maritime Center has offered the use of the schooner *Porcupine* and the *EASE-Y Spirit* as well as their other vessels.

Classroom Space:

The Tom Ridge Environmental Center can offer classroom space in one of four classrooms on the first floor of the center. The Bayfront Maritime Center can also offer classroom and meeting space in their facility. There are spaces within the Blasco Public Library building that could be used for meetings, classes, and large presentations.

Research Support:

The Regional Science Consortium (RSC) has committed to providing lab space in any of their seven labs which include: a water quality lab, chemistry lab, plant lab/greenhouse, microscopy lab, aquatic lab, and marina field lab. NOAA would also have access to the RSC's wide variety of instrumentation and equipment. In addition, there is an opportunity to partner with RSC's 23 member organizations for research and education.

Diver's World and the Blue Dolphin Skin Divers have a minimum of 10-20 divers that would volunteer their time to assist with locating, identifying, documenting, interpreting, and any other tasks related to the shipwrecks in the Pennsylvania portion of Lake Erie.

The Erie County Historical Society will allow researchers to access the Robert J. MacDonald Collection of maritime documents, photos, and books housed in the King-Mertens Archives Building at the Hagen History Center.

International Partnership:

The County of Erie is committed to fostering relationships with Parks Canada, Ontario, and representatives of Great Lakes National Marine Sanctuaries to work toward establishing an international agreement with Canada that aims to protect the cultural resources within the Great Lakes. The Erie County Executive will schedule regular meetings with Parks Canada, Ontario's Department of Environment and Energy, NOAA, and representatives of Great Lakes National Marine Sanctuaries to develop a working relationship and negotiate this agreement.

Great Lakes Marine Sanctuary Network:

A National Marine Sanctuary in the Lake Erie Quadrangle would serve as a Keystone to the emerging network of Great Lakes National Marine Sanctuaries. Agencies of Erie County's maritime campus such as the Flagship Niagara League and the Regional Science Consortium are willing and eager to engage in joint programming with Thunder Bay and other Great Lakes sanctuaries in an effort to elevate awareness of cultural resources, throughout Erie County and the entire Great Lakes region.

Higher Education Partnerships:

Gannon University's College of Health Professions and Sciences would like to create a partnership that would allow students to participate in internships and research, such as laboratory water testing, related to the sanctuary. In addition, there would be integration of the National Marine Sanctuary into a variety of components of their freshwater and marine biology major.

The faculty of the Biology Department at Grove City College is interested in partnering to study the ecology of wildlife and fishery and the conservation and management of natural resources within the Quadrangle. The department would also gladly assist with creating internship opportunities related to the marine sanctuary.

The School of Science at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College pledges to support the marine sanctuary by having students and faculty available to aid in conservation efforts and management of programs.

The Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Department of Anthropology is interested in partnering with NOAA and related organizations to study the maritime cultural landscape of Lake Erie.

Other:

WQLN, the public television station will continue to film and broadcast the public meetings related to the national marine sanctuary.

The Erie Metro Transit Authority has indicated interest in donating transportation to qualifying user groups of the sanctuary, such as members and partner organizations, free of charge.

The Erie County Health Department has committed to partnering on the following: staff technical expertise and assistance, contributions to exhibits, increased water quality testing or resources for such, connections to universities and educational institutions, and assistance with community education efforts.

The region is abundant with partnership opportunities that will assist NOAA with conservation, education, research, and management of the area. We anticipate that this is the tip of the iceberg as it is likely that other partners will come forward to offer their skills, expertise, time, and facilities, should the designation process move forward.

Management Consideration 7: There is community support for the nomination expressed by a broad range of interests such as: individuals or locally-based groups (e.g., friends of groups, chamber of commerce; local, tribal, or national agencies; elected officials; or topic-based stakeholder groups, at the local, regional, or national level (e.g., a local chapter of an environmental organization, a regionally-based fishing group, a national-level recreation or tourism organization, academia or science-based group, or an industry association).

While the application has been submitted by Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper on behalf of Erie County, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf also supports submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary nomination with various agency heads having submitted letters of support. There is strong and diverse support from national, state, regional, and local elected officials. There is also great backing from area clubs and organizations, municipalities, educational institutions, businesses and residents.

Pennsylvania is known as the Keystone State. A sanctuary, located in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie, will serve as the 'keystone' of a series of sanctuaries throughout the Great Lakes. It will be a connection point, a bridge, to current and future sanctuaries in the Great Lakes by connecting the maritime related history and stories of individuals, of the states, and of the nation.

List of Supporters

Government/Elected Officials

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf
U.S. Congressman Mike Kelly
U.S. Senator Bob Casey
State Senator Sean Wiley
State Senator Michele Brooks
State Representative Ryan Bizzarro
State Representative Florindo Fabrizio
State Representative Patrick Harkins
State Representative Curt Sonney
Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald

Commonwealth Agencies

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Pennsylvania Department of Tourism
Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission
Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission
Pennsylvania Sea Grant
Pennsylvania State Educators Association

Municipal Government

City of Erie
Erie County Association of Boroughs (representing 14 boroughs)
Erie County Association of Township Officials (representing 23 townships)
Erie County Council

Regional Authorities

Erie County Convention Center Authority
Erie County Health Department
Erie International Airport
Erie Metro Transit Authority
Erie Water Works
Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority

Economic Development Organizations

Develop Erie
Emerge 2040

Erie County Gaming & Revenue Authority
Erie Downtown Partnership
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership
NWPA Workforce Development Board/Partners for Performance
Redevelopment Authority of Erie County

Archaeological & Historical Organizations

Erie Maritime Museum
Erie Yesterday (representing 20 organizations)
Fairview Area Historical Society
Preservation Erie
The Historical Society of Erie County
Wisconsin Historical Society

Tourism Agencies

Great Lakes Seaway Trail
Erie Sports Commission
VisitErie

Business/Technology Incubators

Blue Tree Allied Angels
Innovation Collaborative
Technology Council of Northwest PA

Business

Diver's World of Erie, Inc.
DonJon Shipbuilding
Erie Fine Dining Group Platypus, LLC
Erie Insurance
Lake Erie Adventure Charters
Lakeshore Towing Services Inc.
Osprey Charters
Platypus, LLC

Educational Institutions

Edinboro Univ.-Dept. of Biology & Health Services
Gannon University-College of Health Professions and Sciences
Grove City College-Dept. of Biology

Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania-Dept. of Anthropology
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College-Office of the Chancellor
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College-Greener Behrend
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College-School of Forest Resources
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College-School of Science
Erie County Technical School
Fort LeBeouf School District
Girard School District
Harbor Creek School District
Iroquois School District
North East School District
Northwestern School District
Union City School District

Nonprofit Organizations

All Aboard Erie
Bayfront Maritime Center
Erie Arts & Culture
Erie Art Museum
Erie Community Foundation
Friends of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center
Jefferson Educational Society
Presque Isle Partnership
Regional Science Consortium (representing PASST & 23 member organizations)
United Way of Erie County
WQLN
The YMCA of Greater Erie

Environmental Organizations

Environment Erie
Erie County Conservation District
Erie County Master Gardeners
Green Building Alliance
Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park
Lake Erie Regional Conservancy
Northwest PA Green Economy Task Force
Presque Isle Audubon Society

Riverlife
Sierra Club, PA Chapter The Purple Martin Conservation Association
Western PA Conservancy

National Marine Sanctuary

Organizations

Friends of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Recreational Organizations

Blue Dolphin Skin Divers Club
Commodore Perry Yacht Club
Explorers Club of Pittsburgh
NAUI Worldwide
Sail Erie
S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie
Venture Outdoors

Individuals

Judith Emling
Judy & Terry Lynch
Michael Moulton
Louise Stuart
Claudia Woodard

Other State's Agencies

Ohio Sea Grant



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

December 31, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I am honored to support the nomination of the Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) consideration as a national marine sanctuary. This nomination represents broad-based support from local and regional governments, state agencies, elected officials, community partners, and user groups.

The proposed sanctuary contains an important, but underappreciated collection of submerged maritime resources. There are 188 ships that are known to have been lost within the proposed sanctuary boundaries. Of these, 35 shipwrecks have been identified. Each of these shipwrecks has a story to tell, and when taken as a whole they offer an unparalleled snapshot of 19th and early 20th century maritime life on the Great Lakes. Nearly every type of vessel that operated on the Great Lakes during the historic period is represented in the underwater museum that is the Pennsylvania portion of Lake Erie.

During the War of 1812, the region supported two naval shipyards as well as the naval station at Misery Bay. The ships built there contributed to one of the most significant victories of the early U.S. Navy, a victory that reversed the momentum of the War of 1812 and established Oliver Hazard Perry as a national hero.

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan and Mr. Daniel Basta
December 31, 2015
Page Two

Erie County is a turnkey location for a national marine sanctuary. On one side, Presque Isle Bay is anchored by the Bayfront Center for Maritime Studies, the Erie Maritime Museum, and the Flagship of the Commonwealth, the U.S. Brig Niagara. The other side of the bay is anchored by the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, which houses numerous organizations that have synergy with NOAA, and Presque Isle State Park. Numerous potential partnerships with a wide variety of organizations in Erie have already been identified, from research partnerships to potential visitor center sites. The willingness of these organizations to partner with NOAA makes Erie an obvious choice and an ideal location for a marine sanctuary.

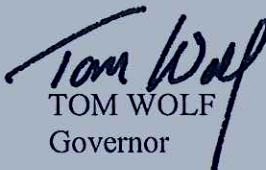
I sincerely appreciate the County's willingness to exclude the Port from the designation request. Similar exemptions have been granted in other Marine Sanctuaries to allow Ports to conduct their necessary business without additional regulatory restrictions. In this application, the Port is defined as Presque Isle Bay, the Channel, and a small portion of Lake Erie, up to and including HeroBx Biodiesel facility. The sanctuary boundary also excludes any privately owned water lots that extend into Presque Isle Bay and Lake Erie.

To date, there has been limited research or government resources, at any level, dedicated to the shipwrecks in Pennsylvania. Therein exists the opportunity to work with NOAA to establish a national marine sanctuary that will serve as a bridge to other current and future sanctuaries in the Great Lakes. A Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary would also connect researchers, educators, and recreational users of the PA portion of Lake Erie to the maritime history, culture, and resources of its immediate Lake Erie neighbors – Ohio to the west, Ontario to the north, and New York to the east – as well as the entire state of Pennsylvania.

One outstanding issue remains. NOAA regulations do not specifically restrict the exchange of ballast water; however, designation as a Marine Sanctuary prohibits ballasting under both Coast Guard and Environmental Protection Agency regulations. It is my understanding that the prohibition of ballasting within all of the waters of Pennsylvania will prevent the safe operation of vessels which would result in the closure of the Port and shipbuilding facilities. I look forward to learning more about the progress the Lake Carriers Association and Federal Legislators are making to resolve this issue. I believe there is an overall understanding that legislative changes similar to those passed for the Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary take time to implement.

I look forward to NOAA's review of Erie County's proposal to be added to the inventory of potential national marine sanctuaries.

Sincerely,


TOM WOLF
Governor



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

June 12, 2015

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Director Basta:

We write in support of the nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine sanctuary in Pennsylvania's Lake Erie waters. The Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary would protect over 400 shipwrecks, lighthouses, and ancient shorelines throughout a 2,500 square mile area in central Lake Erie. This region includes The Presque Isle Bay, considered among the most important natural resources in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

We applaud NOAA's decision to re-establish the process for accepting applications from communities along our nation's shores to be considered as national marine sanctuaries. The designation of Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary would not only protect cultural resources in our region for future generations, but would provide education for students, residents and visitors. Home to Presque Isle Bay, the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, the Regional Science Consortium, the Erie Maritime Museum and an active sport fishing community, the proposed Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary would build upon existing infrastructure to create robust educational, scientific and recreational opportunities.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the Port of Erie was known as the fresh water fishing capital of the world. The lake's volume of ship traffic and often treacherous conditions resulted in what we currently estimate to be over 400 shipwrecks. Being the shallowest, southernmost and warmest of the Great Lakes, Lake Erie's designation as a national marine sanctuary would provide for ample diving opportunities which would attract diving enthusiasts from our region and throughout the country. These underwater treasures contribute to the Commonwealth's cultural history and should be safeguarded and shared appropriately.

The Port of Erie, located at the hub of the US and Canadian industrial center, supports a thriving commerce and ship building industry that are vital to our local economy. It is important that vessel operators have the ability to continue taking up or discharging ballast water in order to safely stabilize their vessels when calling on the Port of Erie and transiting Lake Erie. While the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) restrict vessels from taking up or discharging ballast water in national marine sanctuaries in order to protect vulnerable underwater marine life, the proposed Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine

Sanctuary is not intended to be a protected area to conserve marine life and therefore should be exempt from these regulations. We will continue working with our Congressional colleagues to address the applicability of the USCG and EPA ballasting prohibitions to any new sanctuary.

It is important we also recognize the critical and ongoing projects performed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) within the proposed Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary waters. The USACE's ability to dredge the Erie Harbor and operate in Open Lake Sediment Placement Areas is vital to our region's manufacturing and commerce industries and must be maintained. Erie's harbor and federal navigation channel have not been found to contain any of the ship wreckage we intend to preserve with a national sanctuary designation. The USACE also works closely with Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and other agencies to ensure dredged sediment placement areas do not affect cultural resources.

In addition, the USACE's annual 'Beach Nourishment Project' is critical for maintaining the park's shoreline for economic and environmental purposes. The project protects Presque Isle State Park from the constant erosion caused by Lake Erie and helps sustain the many unique habitats found throughout the park. This annual project ensures that Presque Isle's pristine beaches are protected, which will keep tourists coming and commerce flowing year after year.

Designation of the Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary will benefit our region by preserving important discoveries and promoting education, research, recreational opportunities and tourism. We will continue working with the state, local communities and organizations that strongly support this effort. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

cc: Reed Bohne
Northeast and Great Lakes Regional Director
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
10 Ocean Science Circle
Savannah, GA 31411

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.
PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE
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FINANCE

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LABOR, AND PENSIONS

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

JOINT ECONOMIC

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 16, 2015

Dr. Kathryn Sullivan
Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 5128
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Administrator Sullivan:

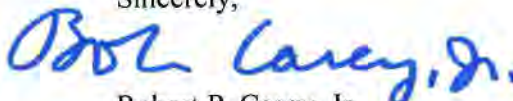
I write today to express support for the nomination of Pennsylvania's Lake Erie waters to receive a national marine sanctuary designation by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary would protect over 400 shipwrecks, lighthouses, and ancient shorelines throughout a 2,500 square mile area in central Lake Erie. This region also includes the Presque Isle Bay, considered among the most important natural resources in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I urge you to give full and fair consideration to this nomination.

The designation of Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary would not only protect natural, historic resources in our region for future generations, it would build upon existing institutions and infrastructure to create robust educational, scientific and recreational opportunities for visitors, students and residents. The hundreds of shipwrecks found in the lake would provide ample diving opportunities and attract diving enthusiasts from around the world. The Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary would significantly contribute to and safeguard the Commonwealth's maritime heritage and cultural history.

The proposed Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary is primarily a showcase of the region's rich maritime heritage, more so than a protected area to conserve marine life. As you may know, the Port of Erie's thriving commerce and ship building industry are vital to the region's economy. The ongoing projects performed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) within the proposed marine sanctuary waters, including dredging the Erie Harbor and operating in Open Lake Sediment Placement Areas, are critical to the region's manufacturing and commerce industries. Furthermore, the USACE works to maintain the park's shoreline for economic and environmental purposes, while ensuring dredged sediment placement areas do not affect cultural resources. Erie's harbor and federal navigation channel have not been found to contain any of the ship wreckage that would be preserved with a national sanctuary designation.

Thank you in advance for the consideration of my views. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, I also respectfully request that you keep me informed of the status of this grant application. Finally, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me or Jack Groarke on my staff at (202) 224-6324.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

49TH DISTRICT
SEAN D. WILEY

□ **SENATE BOX 203049**
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3049
717-787-8927
TOLL FREE 1-855-258-7398
FAX: 717-772-1588

□ **1314 GRISWOLD PLAZA**
SUITE 100
ERIE, PA 16501
814-453-2515
FAX: 814-871-4640

EMAIL: senatorwiley@psenate.com
WEBSITE: senatorwiley.com



Senate of Pennsylvania

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**COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC
& RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
GAME & FISHERIES

August 17, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans & Atmosphere
NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: Erie County National Marine Sanctuary Designation application

I write in support of the application by the County of Erie regarding a National Marine Sanctuary Designation.

I am encouraged by the potential economic and tourism benefit to the greater Erie community as balanced by the protection of the historical significance deep within Lake Erie. I look forward to being a part of the next phases of this process.

Should I be able to be of further assistance in respect this proposal or any other matter, do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean D. Wiley".

Sean D. Wiley
Senator
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

RYAN A. BIZZARRO, MEMBER
3RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

PENINSULA PLAZA
1101 PENINSULA DRIVE, SUITE 209
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16505-4169
(814) 835-2880
FAX: (814) 835-2885

27B EAST WING
P.O. BOX 202003
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2003
(717) 772-2297
FAX: (717) 780-4767

WEBSITE: WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/BIZZARRO



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

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June 22, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta, Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of Erie County Delegation of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the undersigned are pleased to pledge our support for a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. The nomination represents broad-based support from local government, state agencies, elected officials, community partners and user groups.

The proposed Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania. This area represents a significant and long-standing interest in our communities submerged heritage. A national marine sanctuary will strengthen the marine spatial planning and education efforts that are being completed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Archeological Shipwreck and Survey Team.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools,



universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County, Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. Please know, we support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Ryan A. Bizzarro in cursive script.

Rep. Ryan A. Bizzarro
3RD Legislative District

Handwritten signature of Florindo J. Fabrizio in cursive script.

Rep. Florindo J. Fabrizio
2ND Legislative District

Handwritten signature of Patrick J. Harkins in cursive script.

Rep. Patrick J. Harkins
1ST Legislative District

Handwritten signature of Michele Brooks in cursive script.

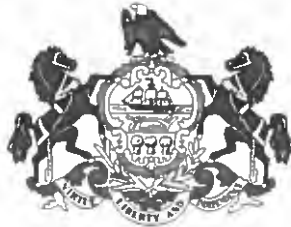
Sen. Michele Brooks
50TH Senatorial District

REPRESENTATIVE CURT SONNEY
4th Legislative District

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EMAIL
CSONNEY@PAHOUSEGOP.COM

WEB:
REPSONNEY.COM



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

HARRISBURG OFFICE:
161-B East Wing
PO Box 202004
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2004
Phone: (717) 783-9087
Fax: (717) 787-2005

DISTRICT OFFICES:
4457 Buffalo Road
Erie, PA 16510
Phone: (814) 897-2080
Fax: (814) 897-2083

434 North Center Street
Corry, PA 16407
Phone: (814) 664-9126
Fax: (814) 664-5857

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I am pleased to pledge my support for a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. The nomination represents broad-based support from local government, state agencies, elected officials, community partners and user groups.

The proposed Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania. This area represents a significant and long-standing interest in our communities submerged heritage. A national marine sanctuary will strengthen the marine spatial planning and education efforts that are being completed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Archeological Shipwreck and Survey Team.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Curt Sonney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "S".

Curt Sonney

CS/rv



July 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans &
Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta, Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta:

I write today to convey my support of the designation by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie as a national marine sanctuary. The proposed sanctuary, the Lake Erie Quadrangle, will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources. Such a designation would include a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania which waters include 132 identified shipwrecks.

Having the Lake Erie Quadrangle be designated as a national marine sanctuary would provide important benefits to Erie, but also to our region. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. Such a designation would also result in increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. Our region, and our Commonwealth, along with local communities and user groups, would benefit from being part of this national system.

While Allegheny County is an hour or two away from Erie, our residents frequently travel there to visit Lake Erie's shores for recreational and educational purposes. As part of the sanctuary program, the Lake Erie Quadrangle would have additional resources to protect the existing natural and cultural resources for generations to come. Being able to further develop those resources to provide a natural classroom for residents and visitors alike will continue to build upon the natural amenities that exist in the Quadrangle.

I am pleased to support the submission of this nomination package to NOAA, and full support the addition of this valuable Great Lakes resource to the inventory of the National Marine Sanctuaries. I urge your support of this designation.

Sincerely,

Rich Fitzgerald

Rich Fitzgerald

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

101 COURTHOUSE • 436 GRANT STREET • PITTSBURGH, PA 15219 • PHONE (412) 350-6500 • FAX (412) 350-6512
WWW.ALLEGHENYCOUNTY.US • EXECUTIVE@ALLEGHENYCOUNTY.US

July 2, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta:

I am writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast along Erie County, Pennsylvania.

As Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), I believe that it would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities, and user groups to be a part of this national system. Some of the important benefits to this area would include increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer.

As the agency responsible for managing state parks, DCNR already plays a role in the local community through our stewardship of Presque Isle State Park and Erie Bluffs State Park, both of which are located within the Erie Quadrangle. Presque Isle State Park is a 3,200 acre, sandy landscape on Lake Erie, which is a favorite spot for boating, swimming, bicycling, hiking, and bird watching that attracts over four million visitors annually, more than any other park in our system. Erie Bluffs State Park, the newest park in the system, was recently established along the Erie shoreline. Featuring 90-foot bluffs overlooking Lake Erie, the park is the largest piece of natural-growth, undisturbed land in the region attracting approximately 40,000 visitors per year. Visitors to the two parks generate more than \$75 million annually in economic activity, sustaining approximately 1,100 local jobs. Together, these parks demonstrate the impact that scenic tourism and outdoor recreation can have on a community. A national marine sanctuary designation would only magnify the economic impact that the parks have made.

July 2, 2015

Given DCNR's close involvement with the local state parks and the commonwealth's ownership of the surrounding waters, we pledge to support the proposed national marine sanctuary in the Erie Quadrangle by providing environmental education programming and aiding in conservation efforts.

For the above reasons, I strongly support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,



Cindy Adams Dunn
Secretary

cc: Kathy Dahlkemper, Erie County Executive
Ellen Broday, NOAA's Great Lakes Regional Coordinator
Honey Stempka, Sustainable Lifestyle Group

August 25, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans
and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta, Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta:

I am writing in support of a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area of Lake Erie between Ohio and New York states extending from the Pennsylvania shoreline out to the Canadian border.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area, including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

This designation will offer partnering opportunities between private business, non-governmental organizations, educational, cultural and local, state and federal government agencies in research and educational outreach efforts towards protection of the many shipwrecks and other historic, cultural and natural resources present in Lake Erie. Additionally, those visiting the sanctuary will be able to witness the aesthetic appeal of the 90-foot bluffs along Lake Erie and learn about how valuable they are in protecting in the shoreline.

I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,



John Quigley
Secretary

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

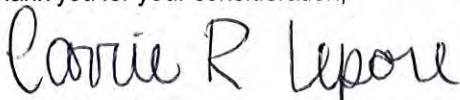
Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

The Pennsylvania Office of Marketing, Tourism, & Film is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

As the Deputy Secretary overseeing tourism, I recently visited Erie and had the opportunity to spend some time at Presque Isle on Lake Erie. The pristine shoreline and various water activities available is a major draw for visitors coming to our state. In fact, tourism in Erie County injects approximately \$924 million into the state's economy and supports over 7,000 jobs. The designation as a national marine sanctuary from the NOAA would allow us to preserve this great treasure for future generations and continue to elevate the economy of Pennsylvania.

Thank you for your consideration,



Carrie Fischer Lepore
Deputy Secretary
Office of Marketing, Tourism, & Film



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
P.O. Box 67000
HARRISBURG, PA 17106-7000
717-705-7801 – 717-705-7802 (FAX)
E-MAIL: JARWAY@PA.GOV

August 12, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta:

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is writing regarding a nomination by Erie County, Pennsylvania to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine sanctuary designation to include all the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie.

As proposed, the “Lake Erie Quadrangle” marine sanctuary will protect and preserve Pennsylvania’s Lake Erie archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 mile of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania. Given this purpose for the sanctuary, we see no immediate concerns with the sanctuary designation affecting recreational fishing activities in Pennsylvania’s waters of Lake Erie. However, we reserve the right to modify our position on the designation if unforeseen effects of the designation on Pennsylvania’s recreational and commercial fishing activities arise when and if the designation process indeed moves forward. Lake Erie is one of Pennsylvania’s most prized and heavily used fisheries, and we are vigilant to protect the public’s access to these fisheries and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission’s legislated authority to manage these resources.

We have contacted the state of Michigan regarding the national marine sanctuary designation of Thunder Bay on Lake Huron. We are aware that in the development of that sanctuary there is virtually no authority reserved for the Federal government over biological resources and as such, virtually no regulatory position over recreational or commercial fishing. We would support a similar arrangement established through a Memorandum of Understanding

(MOU) between your agencies and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that clearly defines the roles and authority of each agency in management of the sanctuary. Such an MOU was established in the Thunder Bay case.

Notwithstanding our concerns with the impact of this designation on the biological resources of Pennsylvania's waters of Lake Erie, we recognize that designation of the Lake Erie quadrangle into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to the area, including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public.

We request the opportunity for further consultation on this matter as plans develop in the future.

Sincerely,



John A. Arway
Executive Director

cc: Erie County Executive

John Quigley, Secretary, PA Department of Environmental Protection



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
300 NORTH STREET
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-0024
(717) 787-2891
FAX (717) 783-9924
www.phmc.state.pa.us

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 14, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archaeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759-square-mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated as a national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle will share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It will be a great benefit for the commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

As the administrator of the Erie Maritime Museum, PHMC believes the people who will be drawn to visit a NOAA Maritime Sanctuary are likely to have an interest in maritime history, boosting visitation at the Erie Maritime Museum. As the Erie Maritime Museum matures we will include the environmental history of the Great Lakes, which is a natural fit with NOAA's mission of teaching the importance of good stewardship of 20 percent of the world's fresh water.

As the administrator of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), PHMC believes that sanctuary status will help to ensure that the numerous submerged maritime heritage resources within the waters of Lake Erie in Pennsylvania will remain intact. The designation will provide for educational opportunities as well as the proper long-term management and study of these unique underwater archaeological resources. This fits well with our agency's goals to inventory, record and manage significant places of archaeological and historical interest for the future.

We strongly support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

James M. Vaughan
Executive Director

August 5, 2015

Daniel J. Basta
Director, NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program
1305 East-West Hwy 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Director Basta,

I am writing in support of the nomination for a National Marine Sanctuary in Pennsylvania's Lake Erie waters. As envisioned, the Lake Erie Quadrangle would protect and interpret maritime resources and history for 759 square miles of Lake Erie's central basin, including the waters between the New York and Ohio boundaries northward to the international border with Ontario, Canada.

As one of thirty-three Sea Grant programs in the U.S., Pennsylvania Sea Grant, a research, outreach and extension arm of The Pennsylvania State University, has worked with the academic institutions, NGOs, state and federal agencies, and stakeholders in this region to develop a better understanding of the economic and environmental importance of Pennsylvania's coastal resources since 1998. The Pennsylvania Sea Grant program, which will be awarded full-college status in the fall of 2015, provides science-based information to multiple audiences in a non-advocacy role. The NOAA resources that accompany a Marine Sanctuary designation would further this Sea Grant mission and build on the existing draws to the region including tourist attractions such as Presque Isle State Park, the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, the Erie Maritime Museum; multiple first rate colleges and universities; and an active shipbuilding industry.

As a full college program Pennsylvania Sea Grant would have a substantial research budget. Several topics of interest to our program would also be valuable to the Lake Erie Quadrangle Marine Sanctuary. Examples include the beneficial aspect of shipwrecks as fish habitat, the destruction of wrecks by invasive species, and a study of the economic benefit of tourist diving, (eco-tourism). Other areas of mutual interest include side scan sonar detection and mapping of wrecks, littoral drift studies to determine sedimentation covering and uncovering rates, and water quality monitoring and nutrient control to prevent harmful algal blooms.

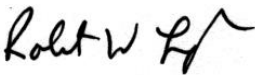
Pennsylvania Sea Grant has developed an award-winning education program in partnership with the NOAA Great Lakes B-WET program and the U.S. E.P.A.'s Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO).

Our goal is to build Great Lakes literacy among educators, students, and citizens from around the Great Lakes basin. Through our education programs we provide professional development focused on Great Lakes issues for educators; field experiences and the tools and materials to develop stewardship projects for students; and opportunities for citizens to get involved in issues that protect water quality in the lakes such as the International Coastal Clean-up. The Lake Erie Quadrangle Marine Sanctuary would add to this pool of knowledge and resources, enabling the development of first rate, multi-agency education and research opportunities for students, educators, and lifelong learners.

A marine sanctuary designation would clearly bring multiple benefits to the state of Pennsylvania, the local community, and its various stakeholders. It would strengthen the presence of NOAA-affiliated organizations in the region and allow us to leverage the resources that each brings to the table in ways that will collectively benefit the health of Lake Erie, residents, industry, visitors to the region, and others.

For these reasons I support the nomination of the Lake Erie Quadrangle Marine Sanctuary to the NOAA Marine Sanctuary inventory.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Light, Ph.D.
Senior Associate Dean for Research and Outreach & COO
and Director Pennsylvania Sea Grant
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
4701 College Drive, Erie PA 16563

PENNSSTATE



EXTENSION • EDUCATION • RESEARCH

A Partnership of The Pennsylvania State University, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and NOAA.
Penn State is an affirmative action, equal opportunity university.



April 1, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of the 6,000 members of the Pennsylvania State Education Association – Northwestern Region, I am writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for 13 school districts, five major universities, and a myriad of technical and vocational schools. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities, and user groups to be a part of this national system.

With particular regard to our role as educators in primary and secondary schools throughout Erie, Crawford, Warren, and Forest counties, the Lake Erie Quadrangle represents an infinite number of educational opportunities, connections, and resources. Among them:

- Encouraging science students to study and understand the biological communities which congregate around shipwrecks
- Opportunities to learn about the maritime history of the Great Lakes and northwestern Pennsylvania
- Increasing community educational outreach between schools and universities
- Opportunities to host conferences for teachers and researchers and fostering such partnerships
- The benefit to students and our local economy by encouraging students to pursue science professions with the “living lab” of Lake Erie minutes away
- Providing a natural classroom for students and residents
- Increasing availability to resources for students and teachers
- Increasing access for our aquatic based science programs, and
- Generating further academic and research programs.

The PSEA Mission

To advocate for quality public education and our members through collective action.
Affiliated with the National Education Association

Sam R. Talarico
President, Northwestern Region
4120 Harvard Road
Erie, PA 16509

(814) 440-2027 (Cell)
(814) 866-7897 (Home)
www.psea.org

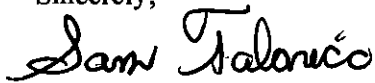
Michael J. Crossey, *President*
W. Gerard Oleksiak, *Vice President*
Dolores M. McCracken, *Treasurer*
John F. Springer, *Executive Director*

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Mr. Daniel J. Basta
April 1, 2015
Page Two

With educators in every school in the region, we educate thousands of children about the region's maritime history, environmental stewardship, and the importance of our limited water resource of Lake Erie. Having a marine sanctuary in our backyard would greatly enhance our educational programs with important research and curriculum that would accompany this endeavor.

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Talarico". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

Sam Talarico, President
NW Region PSEA

Mr. Brennan

Seconded By:

Mr. Jones

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Erie, Pa. July 1, 2014

WHEREAS, the National Marine Sanctuary of the City of Erie was established in 1972 to preserve the extraordinary scenic beauty, biodiversity, historical connections, and economic productivity of the nation's most precious underwater treasures for future generations and to foster and understanding of our country's maritime heritage and landscape; and,

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for a network of 14 protected marine sanctuaries encompassing more than 170,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters throughout the nation; and,

WHEREAS, for the first time in two decades, NOAA has invited communities across the nation to nominate their most treasured places in our marine and Great Lakes waters for consideration as national marine sanctuaries; and,

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie, which encompasses 759 square miles and Presque Isle Bay, along Erie County, Pennsylvania, is home to 132 identified shipwrecks, which are a resources with archeological, historical and recreational value, and are subject to continuing threats of pillaging by recreational divers and are vulnerable to exploitation and degradation; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of Erie, on behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, has recommended that a 759 square mile area in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie be nominated for designation by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as a national marine sanctuary to preserve these historical resources; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed marine sanctuary contains many types of sunken vessels, including 132 identified shipwrecks, none of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and,

WHEREAS, establishment of the proposed national marine sanctuary will preserve and protect these valuable maritime resources; advance educational programming in the region; interpret the maritime and cultural history of the area; and enhance tourism as a key component of economic development for the state and the region; and,

WHEREAS, no state or local matching funds or on-going operational support are required in order to establish a national marine sanctuary; and,

WHEREAS, local resources and infrastructure may be used in partnership with NOAA to complement and enhance a national sanctuary; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Erie, PA supports the nomination, designation and development of the proposed national marine sanctuary in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie, including Presque Isle Bay.

JOURNAL 130-209-B

CITY COUNCIL - CITY OF ERIE, PA.

NO. 1

2015	Ayes	Nays
Horan-Kunco	1	
Jones	1	
Kwitowski	1	
Merski	1	
Winarski	1	
Witherspoon	1	
Brennan	1	

Distribution: 1. Clerk-White 2. Finance-Blue 3. Public Works-Green
4. Public Safety-Yellow 5. Economic & C.D.-Pink 6. Mayor/Misc.-Gold

July 28, 2015

Mr. Terry Bowersox
Current President
Erie County Association of Boroughs
10426 Bowman Avenue

Cranesville, PA 16410

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

The Erie County Association of Boroughs is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a National Marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

The Erie County Boroughs Association is made up of fourteen (14) individual boroughs. The designation would benefit our boroughs in many ways that are listed in the above paragraph. At our July 17, 2015 General Meeting with nine of the fourteen boroughs present; it was voted unanimously nine to zero to support a nomination for a designation of becoming a National Marine Sanctuary. The nine boroughs in attendance were: Albion, Cranesville, Girard, Lake City, McKean, Mill Village, Platea, Union City and Wesleyville.

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential National Marine Sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,



Terry Bowersox
Current President: Erie County Association of Boroughs



ERIE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

AMITY

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

CONCORD

CONNEAUT

ELK CREEK

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

FAIRVIEW

FRANKLIN

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

GIRARD

On behalf of the Erie County Association of Township Officials, we are pleased to pledge our support for a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. The nomination represents broad-based support from local government, state agencies, elected officials, community partners and user groups.

GREENE

GREENFIELD

HARBORCREEK

The proposed Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania. This area represents a significant and long-standing interest in our communities submerged heritage. A national marine sanctuary will strengthen the marine spatial planning and education efforts that are being completed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Archeological Shipwreck and Survey Team.

LAWRENCE PARK

LEBOEUF

MCKEAN

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

MILLCREEK

NORTH EAST

SPRINGFIELD

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

SUMMIT

UNION

Sincerely,

ERIE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tenderrlee Little".

Tenderrlee Little
ECATO Secretary

VENANGO

WASHINGTON

WATERFORD

WAYNE

RESOLUTION NUMBER 36, 2015

In Support of the Designation and Development of A National Marine Sanctuary in the Pennsylvania Waters of Lake Erie, Including Presque Isle Bay

WHEREAS, the National Marine Sanctuary Program was established in 1972 to preserve the extraordinary scenic beauty, biodiversity, historical connections, and economic productivity of the nation's most precious underwater treasures for future generations and to foster an understanding of our country's maritime heritage and landscape; and

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for a network of 14 protected marine sanctuaries encompassing more than 170,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, for the first time in two decades, NOAA has invited communities across the nation to nominate their most treasured places in our marine and Great Lakes waters for consideration as national marine sanctuaries; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie, which encompasses 759 square miles and Presque Isle Bay, along Erie County, Pennsylvania, is home to 132 identified shipwrecks, which have archeological, historical and recreational value, none of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the County of Erie, on behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, has recommended that a 759 square mile area in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie be nominated for designation by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as a national marine sanctuary to preserve these historical resources; and

WHEREAS, Erie County encourages and supports the proposed sanctuary allow for recreational activities within its designated boundaries, including, but not limited to: recreational and commercial boating; charter, recreational, and commercial diving; charter, recreational, and commercial fishing; as well as activities promoting education and research; and

WHEREAS, establishment of the proposed national marine sanctuary will enhance recreational opportunities, preserve and protect valuable maritime resources; advance educational programming in the region; interpret the maritime and cultural history of the area; as a part of promoting tourism, a key component of economic development for the state and the region; and

WHEREAS, no state or local matching funds or on-going operational support are required in order to establish a national marine sanctuary; however, local resources and infrastructure may be used in partnership with NOAA to complement and enrich a national sanctuary project; and

RESOLUTION NUMBER 36, 2015

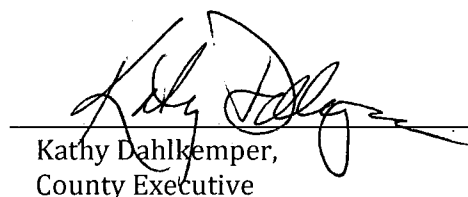
In Support of the Designation and Development of A Proposed National Marine Sanctuary in the Pennsylvania Waters of Lake Erie, Including Presque Isle Bay

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Erie hereby urges and supports the nomination, designation and development of the proposed national marine sanctuary in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie, including Presque Isle Bay.

On the motion of Mr. Horton, seconded by Mr. Fatica, this resolution was passed on this 14th day of July, 2015 by a vote of 5 to 2 Mr. DiMattio & Mrs. Loll voting No.

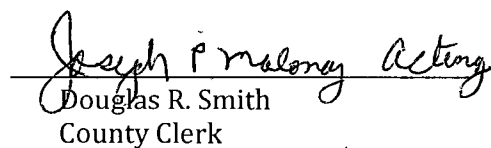
APPROVED BY:


Fiore Leone, Chairman
Erie County Council


Kathy Dahlkemper,
County Executive

Date: July 15, 2015

ATTEST:


Douglas R. Smith
County Clerk

Date: 7-14-15



NOAA Backgrounder

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries

Conservation



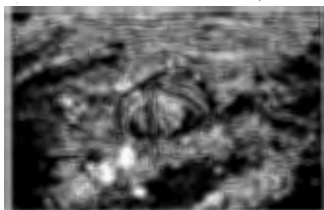
Sanctuaries provide food, shelter, and nursery areas for marine life.

Education



Sanctuaries are living classrooms.

Exploration



Discovery of the marine world unlocks the mysteries of our planet.

Our National Marine Sanctuaries

In 1972, in response to a growing awareness of the intrinsic environmental and cultural value of our coastal waters, Congress passed the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. The Act authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to designate discrete areas as national marine sanctuaries to promote comprehensive management of their special conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, research, educational or aesthetic resources. National marine sanctuaries may be designated in coastal and ocean waters, in submerged lands, and in the Great

Lakes and their connecting waters.

To date, the nation has designated 13 marine sanctuaries. They include nearshore coral reefs and open ocean, and range in size from less than one to over 5,300 square miles.

Sanctuaries harbor a fascinating array of plants and animals, from the great whales to tiny, brightly colored sea snails. These protected waters provide a secure habitat for species close to extinction, and protect historically significant shipwrecks and prehistoric artifacts. They serve as natural classrooms and laboratories for school children and researchers alike.

A WORD ABOUT NOAA . . .

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) conducts research and gathers data about the global oceans, atmosphere, space, and sun, and applies this knowledge to science and service that touch the lives of all Americans.

NOAA warns of dangerous weather, charts our seas and skies, guides our use and protection of ocean and coastal resources, and conducts research to improve our understanding and stewardship of the environment which sustains us all.

A Commerce Department agency, NOAA provides these services through five major organizations: the National Weather Service, the National Ocean Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service, and Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research; and numerous special program units. In addition, NOAA research and operational activities are supported by the Nation's seventh uniformed service, the NOAA Corps, a commissioned officer corps of men and women who operate NOAA ships and aircraft, and serve in scientific and administrative posts.

For further information: NOAA Office of Public Affairs, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, Room 6013, Washington, D.C. 20230. Phone: (202) 482-6090.



NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES

Contact Us

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries

1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD
20910

Phone:

(301) 713-3125

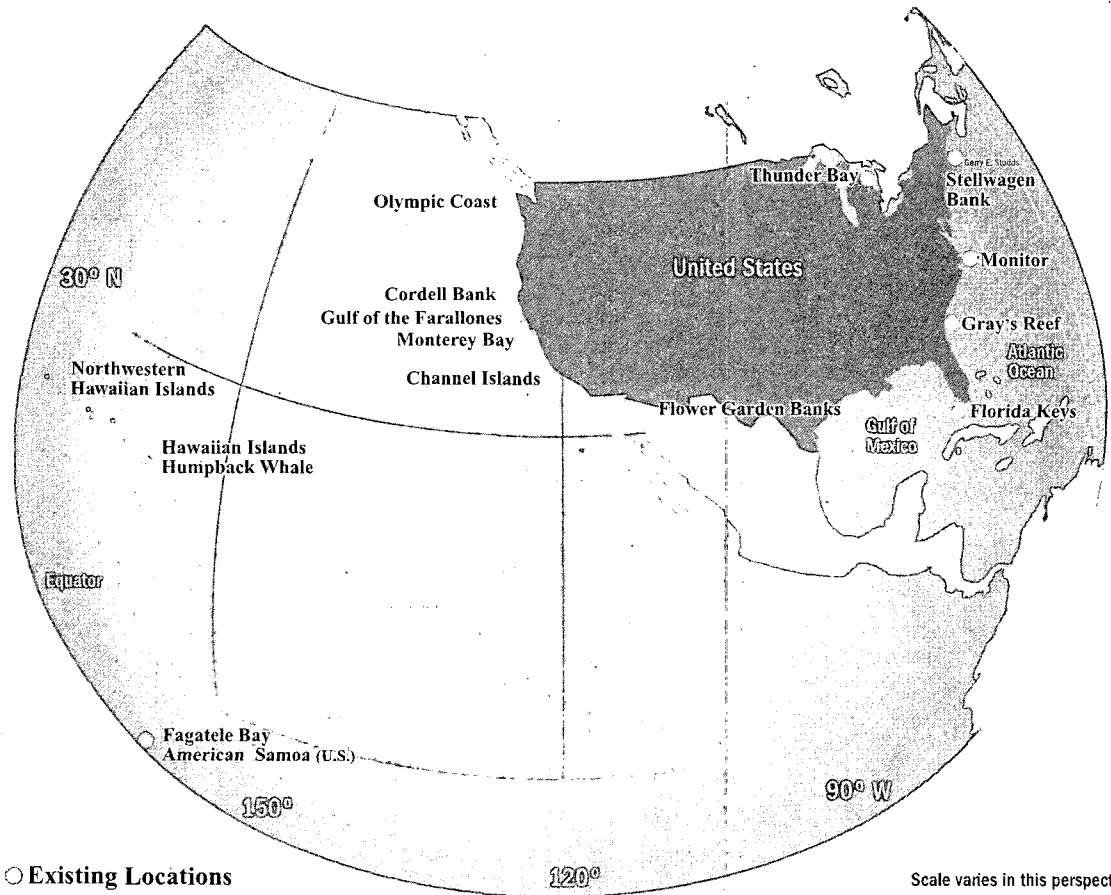
Fax:

(301) 713-0404

Email:

nmscomments@noaa.gov

Sanctuaries are also cherished recreational spots for diving and sport fishing, and support valuable commercial industries such as fishing and kelp harvesting. Thus, part of the challenge of managing these areas is balancing environmental protection with economic growth. The marine sanctuaries are part of our collective riches as a nation. They are treasures that belong to all of us as citizens, that we have the right to enjoy and the responsibility to protect for future generations.

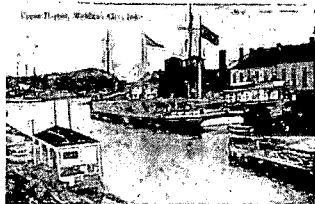


○ Existing Locations

△ Proposed

Scale varies in this perspective.
Adopted from National Geographic Maps.

Maritime Culture



Sanctuaries are part of our nation's historical heritage.

Recreation



Sanctuaries contain our cherished places where we enjoy nature's beauty.

Science



Understanding our environment benefits our economy and health.

PROPOSED NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY LAKE ERIE QUADRANGLE

Background

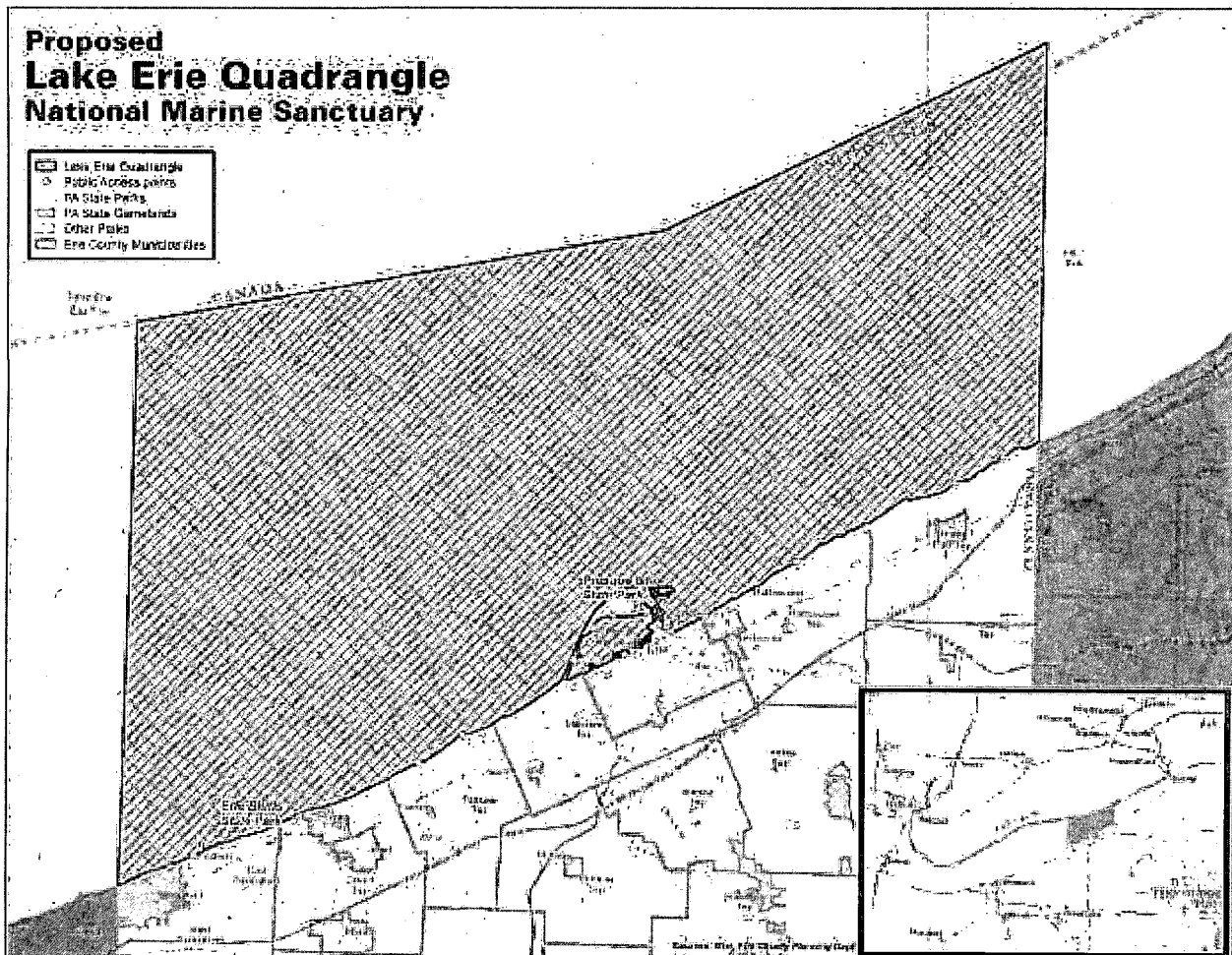
- For the first time in 20 years, NOAA is accepting nominations by communities to consider marine and Great Lakes waters as national marine sanctuaries.
- The County of Erie has taken the lead role to inform the public of this opportunity and gauge whether or not our community would like to move forward with a nomination.
- Prior to making a final decision on a submission, the County felt it was best to have as much outreach as possible with the public, businesses, municipalities, nonprofits and schools and universities.

What is a National Marine Sanctuary?

- A marine sanctuary is an area of protected water that preserves the scenic beauty, biodiversity, historical connections or economic productivity of our oceans and Great Lakes waters
- Marine sanctuaries can include rocky reefs, habitat or even underwater archeological sites – and provide safe habitat for species or protection of historically significant shipwrecks
- Each sanctuary is unique and can range in any size; from less than one to over 137,000 square miles

What/where is the proposed Erie County marine sanctuary?

- The County is proposing, at this time, a national marine sanctuary to include all Lake Erie waters located in Pennsylvania, including Presque Isle Bay
- ~759.1 square miles of Lake Erie's central basin
- 76.6 miles of Erie County, PA shoreline
- Name: Lake Erie Quadrangle



Why have a sanctuary?

- To protect the natural and cultural resources in our region, now and for future generations
- To help develop legislation to protect the shipwrecks on our lake floor
- These areas provide: a natural classroom for students, residents and visitors; a unique recreational spot or a story to tell of our maritime history
- Provides increased funding and ability for research and education in the region

Activities

Allowed: Currently the County is encouraging and promoting the proposed sanctuary allows for recreational activities within the designated boundaries; which include, but not limited to:

- Boating: recreational and commercial
- Diving: charter, recreational and commercial
- Education
- Fishing: charter, recreational, and commercial
- Research

Proposed Prohibited: The use of grappling hooks or other anchoring devices on any underwater cultural resource site that is marked with a mooring buoy

The Process

- Becoming a National Marine Sanctuary is no easy process and does not happen overnight.
- Their needs to be community support and if there is, then the County will submit a nomination to NOAA
- NOAA will do an initial review and take a close look at not only the nomination but most importantly proof of public support
 - The nomination then will either be accepted or denied – if accepted it will be added to their inventory
- The inventory is a list of successful nomination that NOAA could consider for potential designation as a sanctuary
 - *Sanctuary designation is a separate process that, by law, is highly participatory, and often takes several years to complete and is conducted by NOAA officials.

NOAA

- Who is NOAA? National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is part of NOAA and is responsible for the management of the designated underwater designations
- NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is committed to building a stronger and resilient future for the nation's communities, ecosystems and economy
 - Serve and protect a network of 14 marine protected areas located throughout the nation



809 French Street
Erie, PA 16501
Administrative Offices
(814) 453-7117
Box Office (814) 452-4857
Fax (814) 455-9931
www.erieevents.com

July 20, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of the Erie County Convention Center Authority Board of Directors, I am writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

As an organization who has various properties and investments on the magnificent Presque Isle Bay, the designation of a national marine sanctuary will benefit our current and future development. The designation will be beneficial for regional residents and their visiting families and friends, meeting and convention visitors, travelers and vacationers.

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

John A. Wells
Executive Director

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ecdh.org



Melissa C. Lyon, MPH
Director

Kathy Dahlkemper
County Executive

August 3, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

Erie County Department of Health is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

The marine sanctuary is important to the Health Department and region because it adds additional value to our recreational waters. The mission of the Health Department is to promote, preserve and protect the environment in which we all live, work and play. The Health Department partners with many community agencies and universities to ensure that the water quality of our Lake Erie region is safe for recreation. This designation will generate more interest and resources to improve the ways we accomplish these activities.

Erie County Department of Health pledges to support the proposed national marine sanctuary by providing:

- Staff technical expertise and assistance
- Contribute to exhibits
- Increased water quality testing or resources for such
- Linkage to universities and educational institutions
- Partner in community education

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melissa Lyon".

Melissa C. Lyon, MPH
Director
Erie County Department of Health



ERIE
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
TOM RIDGE FIELD

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

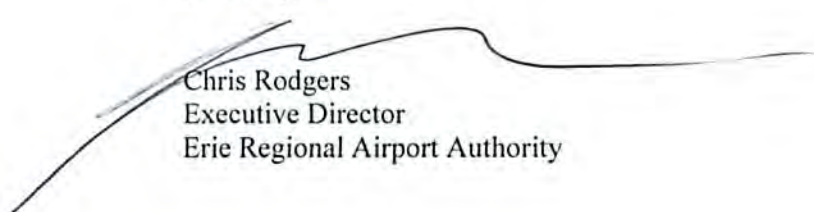
The Erie Regional Airport Authority is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

A marine sanctuary in Lake Erie will boost scientific and recreational interest in Erie County. The resulting increased activity will boost the local economy and will expand eco-tourism. Ultimately this marine sanctuary will be beneficial to our lake environment and drive additional activity at Erie International Airport.

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,



Chris Rodgers
Executive Director
Erie Regional Airport Authority



Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority
127 East Fourteenth Street -- Erie, PA 16503
Phone: (814) 459-4287 – Fax: (814) 455-0071
www.ride-the-e

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

The Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

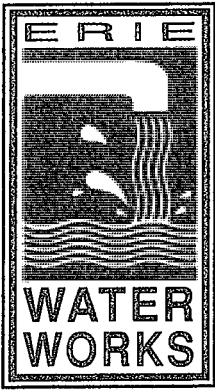
Such a designation will have a very positive affect on our organization as groups use public transportation to access waterfront points served by mass transit. We also envision partnering with all members and support groups to increase opportunities for education and tourism. We are also prepared to donate transportation to qualifying groups free of charge to allow even more accessibility.

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Tann
Executive Director



Administration Building
340 West Bayfront Parkway
Erie, PA 16507-2004
814/870-8000
www.eriewater.org

August 20, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Springs, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

The Erie Water Works is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

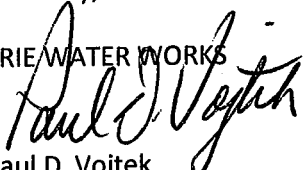
Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of education programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

As the provider of public water service to more than 190,000 people in NW Pennsylvania, Erie Water Works uses Lake Erie as the sole source of its supply. Maintaining the water quality and protecting it as much as possible is imperative to producing a high quality potable water supply for all our customers, which in turn promotes overall good public health.

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

ERIE WATER WORKS


Paul D. Vojtek

Chief Executive Officer /
Chief Financial Officer



ERIE-WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA PORT AUTHORITY
1 Holland Street
Erie, PA 16507
Phone: 814-455-7557
Fax: 814-455-8070
www.porterie.org

October 22, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Daniel L. Harmon
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Harbormaster

Robin Waldinger
Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

I am writing today as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority to support a nomination for portions of Lake Erie to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Sanctuary Designation.

The Port Authority understands that being designated into the National Marine Sanctuary system has the potential to provide benefits to Northwest PA which include increased tourism as well as a wide variety of educational programming. However, these benefits do not come without potential risks.

The Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority's mission is "to further industrial, commercial and recreational opportunities along the Erie Bayfront and adjacent waters for the benefit of the Northwest Pennsylvania region". Upon review of both 15 CFR 922 and 16 CFR 1431, there is language associated with the designation of a Marine Sanctuary which appear to conflict with our core mission. It is at this point where our support ends. While not an exhaustive list, the following are examples of the concerns we have with moving forward with a designation which, at this time, includes all Commonwealth waters.

NOAA regulations do not specifically restrict the exchange of ballast water, however, designation as a Marine Sanctuary prohibits ballasting in both Coast Guard and Environmental Protection Agency regulations. In speaking with our partners, the prohibition of ballasting within all of the waters of Pennsylvania will prevent the safe operation of vessels which would result in the closure of our port and shipbuilding facilities.

Prohibited activities also include drilling, dredging or otherwise altering the lake bottom “associated with underwater cultural resources”. The challenge is that “associated with” is not defined and therefore becomes cause for concern. The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway system, through the Army Corp of Engineers, maintains shipping areas at a minimum depth of 27 feet. Dredging is also important to the recreational boating community. Dredging occurs on a frequent basis to remove silt and sediment from marinas and basins to allow for recreational boating as well as recreational and commercial fishing.

15 CFR 922.2 specifically describes the Mission, goals and special policies of a Marine Sanctuary. Goal #5 states “Facilitate to the extent compatible with the *primary objective of resource protection*, all public and private uses of the resource of these marine areas not prohibited pursuant to other authorities” (emphasis added). The Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority has historically and continues to act as an environmental steward of our waters. We understand that without a healthy ecosystem, our mission will be compromised. Individuals would lose interest and the ability to recreate in Lake Erie and commercial enterprises would not be located along the bayfront. However, unlike the goal referenced above, we do not view any one portion of our mission to be a “primary objective”. The Authority has successfully balanced industrial, commercial and recreational development and uses for decades and we would ask and expect no less from this designation.

15 CFR 922.2(c)(2) states that “The size of a National Marine Sanctuary, while highly dependent on the nature of the site’s resources, will be *no larger than necessary* to ensure effective management” (emphasis added). It is with this statement that opens up the conversation to reduce the proposed area and location as currently proposed. Our concern would be significantly mitigated if the designation under consideration did not include the area of Presque Isle Bay, the Channel as well as the area beginning at the eastern property line of HeroBX north to a point on parallel with the north side of the Channel, extending to the Channel then along the landmass back to the point of beginning.

While our support is contingent upon the removal of the area referenced above, the removal of this area does not address the concern regarding the prohibition of ballast water exchange. It is our understanding that the Lake Carriers Association has been meeting with Federal Legislators to resolve this issue. Our support would be contingent upon the passing of one or more legislative amendments to remove any restrictions associated with ballasting in a Marine Sanctuary.

It is our understanding that this is the first step in a multi-step process prior to the designation of Commonwealth waters as a Marine Sanctuary. I look forward to further discussion regarding how the concerns above may be appropriately addressed so that we do not enhance one portion of our economy at the expense of another.

Respectfully,



Daniel L. Harmon
Chairman



September 4, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Corporation d/b/a DevelopErie, I write to support proceeding with investigating the process of a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie as set forth in the proposed Lake Erie Quadrangle.

Our organization supports this process in conjunction with further research and inquiry into the viability of an area of Lake Erie becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system. We look forward to hearing more from the community at-large as the process proceeds. Based on preliminary discussions, we understand the potential benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the general public. As the lead economic development agency in the region, we are certainly supportive of the benefits such designation would bring to the area.

We appreciate your consideration of the submission of a nomination package to NOAA for a potential national marine sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie.

Sincerely,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Katrina J. Vincent
President & CEO



July 13, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta:

On behalf of Emerge 2040, I'm writing in support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a National Marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters off Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

In March of this year, the Erie County region released Destination Erie: A Regional Vision, a community-driven plan for sustainability. Based on the input of thousands of residents over three years, the plan identifies dozens of recommendations to build on the region's assets to create a more resilient future. The need to celebrate, protect, and leverage the waters of Lake Erie came up frequently among participants in the planning process. The final plan calls specifically to protect the rich cultural and environmental resources found in Lake Erie and elevate their international profile by seeking designation as a National Marine Sanctuary.

Becoming designated into the National Marine Sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programing for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system

Emerge 2040 and its steering committee of local elected officials and community leaders are working to implement the recommendations of the Destination Erie plan. Establishing a National Marine Sanctuary would be a significant step toward achieving Erie's vision for its future. Therefore, Emerge 2040 fully supports submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential National Marine Sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Anna Frantz
Executive Director

July 16, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
& NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,



Perry N. Wood
Executive Director

Board of Directors

David S. Sample
Chair

Michael J. Paris
Vice-chair

Charles J. Peters
Treasurer

David H. Yaple
Secretary

Dale E. Barney

James T. Domino

Tony A. Logue

Jay A. Breneman
Ex-officio

Gary N. Lee
Ex-officio

Perry N. Wood
Executive Director

140 E. 5th Street
Erie, PA 16507
www.eriedowntown.com



The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of the Erie Downtown Partnership, I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Buchma".

Chief Executive Officer



October 8, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
& NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership I write to support proceeding with investigating the process of a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a National Marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

The Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership is supportive of development initiatives that benefit economic, educational, cultural, and quality of life opportunities. We are enthusiastic about the potential benefits of a national marine sanctuary designation to tourism and cultural and educational programming. We would be keenly interested in the results of the investigation to ensure that such a designation would not have any detrimental economic impact for the businesses and industries dependent on Presque Isle Bay and the Port of Erie. Continued support of a successful application process would of course be particularly predicated on this consideration.

As an organization focused on addressing all aspects of economic prosperity in the region, we see the Lake Erie Quadrangle as a complement to the tourism draw of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Flagship Niagara, Maritime Museum, our 3,200 acre Presque Isle State Park and our eleven miles of beaches.

We appreciate your consideration of the submission of a nomination package to NOAA for a potential national sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie.

Sincerely,

Barbara C. Chaffee
President & CEO

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the National Marine Sanctuary Program was established in 1972 to preserve the extraordinary scenic beauty, biodiversity, historical connections, and economic productivity of the nation's most precious underwater treasures for future generations and to foster and understanding of our country's maritime heritage and landscape; and

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for a network of 14 protected marine sanctuaries encompassing more than 170,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, for the first time in two decades, NOAA has invited communities across the nation to nominate their most treasured places in our marine and Great Lakes waters for consideration as national marine sanctuaries; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie, which encompasses 759 square miles and Presque Isle Bay, along Erie County, Pennsylvania, is home to 132 identified shipwrecks, which are a resources with archeological, historical and recreational value; and are subject to continuing threats of pillaging by recreational divers and are vulnerable to exploitation and degradation; and

WHEREAS, the County of Erie, on behalf of the Northwest Workforce Investment Board, has recommended that a 759 square mile area in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie be nominated for designation by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as a national marine sanctuary to preserve these historical resources; and

WHEREAS, the proposed marine sanctuary contains many types of sunken vessels, including 132 identified shipwrecks, none of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, establishment of the proposed national marine sanctuary will preserve and protect these valuable maritime resources; advance educational programming in the region; interpret the maritime and cultural history of the area; and enhance tourism as a key component of economic development for the state and the region;

WHEREAS, no state or local matching funds or on-going operational support are required in order to establish a national marine sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, local resources and infrastructure may be used in partnership with NOAA to complement and enhance a national sanctuary; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwest Workforce Investment Board supports the nomination, designation and development of the proposed national marine sanctuary in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie, including Presque Isle Bay.

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF ERIE



Kathy Dahlkemper – County Executive
1524 Enterprise Road – Corry - PA 16407
Phone (814) 664-3884
Fax (814) 664-3885

Richard Novotny
Executive Director

Michael Martin – *Chairperson*
John Laird – *Vice Chairperson*
William DeLuca Jr. – *Secretary*
Harry Eighmy – *Treasurer*
Robert Williams – *Member*

July 10, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

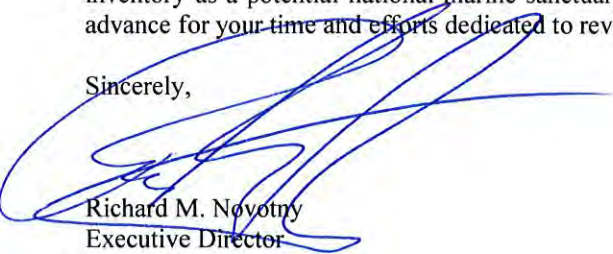
The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Erie is writing in full support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. The Lake Erie Quadrangle a site of many historic archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks (and some yet to be discovered), over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

The designation as a national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle will share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region. It will not only benefit local communities and user groups, but also the Commonwealth and the entire Tri-State region if we are a part of this national system.

Designation as a national marine sanctuary will assist the Redevelopment Authority to fulfill its main mission, which is to assist in creating and retaining employment opportunities for local residents, by expanding the economic base of the County. We are extremely interested in financing new business opportunities which will develop as a result of a National Marine Sanctuary designation.

We wholeheartedly support the submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory as a potential national marine sanctuary designation. The Redevelopment Authority of The County of Erie thanks you in advance for your time and efforts dedicated to reviewing this designation and are hopeful that you look favorably on this project.

Sincerely,



Richard M. Novotny
Executive Director

October 1, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta, Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

This letter is in support of the establishment of a NOAA Marine Sanctuary to be designated the Lake Erie Quadrangle. The Erie Maritime Museum seeks to present the whole story of the regional maritime history and its effects on the development of Pennsylvania and the nation. Our core story, the Lake Erie Campaign of 1813, wherein six warships were built in Erie and commanded by Oliver Hazard Perry, wrested control of the Lake from the British at the Battle of Lake Erie, 10 September 1813. Two of the most widely known phrases in U.S. naval history “Don’t Give Up The Ship” and “We have met the enemy and they are ours..” are both associated with this battle during the war of 1812. Yet this is only the first chapter of a much larger story. The Great Lakes are the Inland Seas and route to the heartland of the North American Continent. Once connected to the East Coast via the Erie Canal in 1825, Lake Erie became a super-highway for immigrants moving to settle the West and every manner of product exported from the region. This ability to transport goods cheaply by water assured the profitability and incentivized the torrent of immigration.

The costs of this venture, in hardship, toil, and lives, are attested to by the hundreds of vessels wrecked in Lake Erie. As these wrecks are documented, their stories will fill in a vast mosaic, a vivid chapter in the national narrative. The Erie Maritime Museum will be able to partner with many institutions in telling this story. The Museum can offer a venue for presenting exhibits of various wrecks, but also by developing programs and exhibits that inform the visitor about the world of a mariner in past centuries. Most vivid of these is the sail training experience we offer onboard the Sailing School Vessel U.S. Brig Niagara, keeping alive the craft skills of the age of sail. As we mount exhibits about ship building, charting, aids to navigation, and the art and practice of navigation, the background information to put the shipwrecks in context is achieved. This is primarily a human story, but unless one understands just enough of the technicalities it is impossible to appreciate just how difficult and dangerous a trade the mariners of the past plied on these waters.

For all of these reasons we look forward to and support the establishment of a NOAA Marine Sanctuary dedicated to preserving a cultural resource in the waters adjacent Erie. I believe we are well positioned to make a contribution to the overall project through our educational programming and exhibits and such will be mutually beneficial.

Sincerely,

Walter Rybka, Director Erie Maritime Museum and senior captain U.S. Brig Niagara



c/o Historical Society of Erie County
356 West Sixth Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16507
www.erieyesterday.org
www.facebook.com/ErieYesterday

Member Organizations

Asbury Woods Nature Center
Corry Area Historical Society
Edinboro Area
Historical Society
Elk Creek Township
Historical Society
Erie Art Museum
Erie Cemetery Association
Erie County Historical Society
Erie Maritime Museum/
Flagship Niagara League
Erie Society for
Genealogical Research
expERIENCE Children's
Museum
Fairview Area
Historical Society
Firefighters Historical
Museum
Fort LeBeouf Historical Society
Archeology Museum Gallery
at Gannon University
Grape Discovery Center
Goodell Gardens &
Homestead
Harborcreek Historical Society
Hornby School
Restoration Society
Hubbard House Underground
Railroad Museum
Hurry Hill Farm &
Maple Syrup Museum
Lake Shore Railway
Historical Society
Lawrence Park
Historical Society
North East Historical Society
Penn State Erie The Behrend
College John M. Lilley Library
Union City Historical Society
Valley School Museum
Wattsburg Area
Historical Society
West County
Heritage Association

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

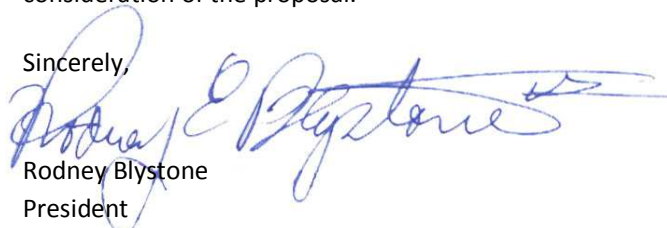
On behalf of Erie Yesterday, I am pleased to support the Lake Erie Quadrangle nomination seeking national marine sanctuary designation for the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect, preserve and promote archeological treasures and maritime resources in a 759 square mile area adjacent to and including the 76.6 mile shoreline of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Erie Yesterday (EY) is a consortium of 25+ historical organizations and sites. The organization was created with the purpose to promote an awareness of the history, historic sites and museums of Erie County, and provide a unified voice for the heritage community.

The county has a rich collection of heritage attractions, which includes museums and historical societies, historic main streets, historic and cultural sites, parks and archaeological resources. National marine sanctuary designation will build a case for the long-term preservation of maritime heritage assets along the shoreline and underwater. It will also keep Erie County – specifically the Lake Erie Quadrangle, with its 400+ years of maritime history, sites and traditions and 132 identified shipwrecks - in the forefront of heritage tourism development and build that part of the region's economy.

Receiving this designation and joining the national marine sanctuary system will promote a connectedness to and stewardship of key historic resources that carry regional and national significance. For this reason, Erie Yesterday enthusiastically supports the Lake Erie Quadrangle nomination for national marine sanctuary designation and appreciates your consideration of the proposal.

Sincerely,



Rodney Blystone
President



Fairview Area Historical Society

P. O. Box 553 - Fairview, Pa. 16415

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of Fairview Area Historical Society, I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.



Fairview Area Historical Society

P. O. Box 553 - Fairview, Pa. 16415

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Barbara McLaughlin, Fairview Area Historical Society President



Our mission is to promote, preserve, and enhance the distinctive character of greater Erie through community-based planning, design, and historic preservation.

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of Preservation Erie, I am pleased to support the Lake Erie Quadrangle nomination seeking national marine sanctuary designation for the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve archeological treasures and maritime resources in a 759 square mile area adjacent to and including the 76.6 mile shoreline of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Preservation Erie works to preserve and protect the unique character of greater Erie by encouraging a greater appreciation for the cultural and economic value of the historic buildings and sites which make up our built landscape. The Lake Erie Quadrangle, with its 400+ years of maritime history, sites and traditions and 132 identified shipwrecks, is a tangible expression of our richly layered social, cultural, and industrial history. Along with the natural landscape of the Lake Erie waters and shoreline, this built environment has shaped our collective regional identity and sense of place. And it's worth preserving.

Receiving this designation and joining the national marine sanctuary system will promote a connectedness to and long-term stewardship of key historic and natural resources that carry regional and national significance. For this reason, Preservation Erie enthusiastically supports the Lake Erie Quadrangle nomination for national marine sanctuary designation and appreciates your consideration of the proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melinda A Meyer".

Melinda Meyer
President



July 27, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta

Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Re: Letter of Support - Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of the Historical Society of Erie County, its officers, board of directors and members, I am pleased to announce that we are in support of the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The creation of the Lake Erie Quadrangle NMS will not only help protect the currently known archeological treasures and maritime resources within Pennsylvania's Lake Erie waters, but hopefully will generate research that will identify other wrecks, artifacts, and additional historical areas hereto hidden beneath the waters of Lake Erie.

For over 100 years the Historical Society of Erie County has been dedicated to collecting, documenting and preserving artifacts, documents and mementos related to Erie County's rich past. Many of our collections, like the Robert MacDonald collection of maritime documents, photos, and books are dedicated to our maritime history and are available to researchers for study.

Designation into the National Marine Sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism, educational opportunities, and the preservation of Erie's rich historic heritage. For these reasons, the Historical Society of Erie County endorses the submission of a nomination package to NOAA as the nation's next NMS.

Sincerely yours,

Caleb Pifer, Executive Director



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

December 22, 2015

Mr. John Armor
Acting Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Armor:

The Wisconsin Historical Society is writing to support the Lake Erie Quadrangle nomination to NOAA's inventory for potential national marine sanctuary locations. The proposed 759 square miles of Lake Erie in the Lake Erie Quadrangle area contain 35 identified shipwrecks and a total 196 reported vessel losses, as well as other maritime related heritage resources directly tied to the development of our Nation.

The expansion of the United States into the western Great Lakes lies at the core of our Nation's history and was dependent upon developing a commercial fleet and associated navigational aids. That story is a lakes-wide story and adding additional sanctuary locations will allow researchers, students, and visitors to understand that great American story from the appropriate regional perspective.

We look forward to partnering with NOAA sanctuaries, NOAA estuarine reach reserves, and other partners on innovative programming that will draw students into research on the largest fresh water system on earth and expand opportunities for public engagement. Adding additional sanctuary locations will increase the capacity of individuals, organizations, and institutions already present in the region as well as adding capabilities and creating new partners.

The Great Lakes are a breathing taking natural and cultural wonder, a laboratory of international importance, and an economic engine for not just the region, but for our Nation. Understanding the wonders of the region and developing ground breaking research and innovative public engagement is best achieved with place-based locations and a region-wide perspective.

Sincerely,

John H. Broihahn
State Archaeologist
Historic Preservation-Public History Division
John.broihahn@wisconsinhistory.org
608-264-6496

Collecting, Preserving and Sharing Stories Since 1846

816 State Street Madison, Wisconsin 53706

wisconsinhistory.org



September 25, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of Great Lakes Seaway Trail, I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a National Marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

The Great Lakes Seaway Trail is a federally designated national scenic byway, stretching 518 miles along the waterways from Massena NY to the Pennsylvania-Ohio border. Our organization is dedicated to the advancement of tourism and economic development based on the history, the unique geography, and the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the Trail. The importance of the maritime history of the lower Great Lakes, and the Erie Quadrangle specifically, cannot be overstated. Our history was made here, from the earliest exploration of the Americas through national and regional conflicts through the industrial revolution to the present day.

Designation into the National Marine Sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Establishing a National Marine Sanctuary along the shores of Erie County Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential National Marine Sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Hall".

John P. Hall
Board Chair and Interim CEO Great Lakes Seaway Trail, Inc.



208 E. Bayfront Pkwy. • Suite 201 • Erie, PA 16507-2405
Phone: 1.800.524.3743
814.454.1000
Fax: 814.459.0241
www.eriesportscommission.com
info@eriesportscommission.com

2014 National Sports Commission of the Year

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

I am writing to support the nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area, including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources our region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

The Erie Sports Commission is committed to promoting Erie as a prime destination for sports tourism, and this designation could significantly aid in our efforts to attract sports events to our region. It has been shown that other National Marine Sanctuaries have seen a substantial increase in economic impact in regards to the recreation and tourism-related dollars created in their regions. As we seek to bring new events to Erie, this designation would only help to enhance Erie's image as a great destination for sports and recreation.

We support the submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

R. Ron Sertz
Executive Director
Erie Sports Commission

ERIE GETS SPORTS![®]



Monday, April 20, 2015

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

At the February 25, 2015 VisitErie Board of Directors meeting, the following resolution was unanimously passed:

“The Board of Directors for VisitErie, the leader for marketing Erie’s tourism industry and promoting its economic growth, supports Erie County’s efforts to receive the designation from NOAA as a National Maritime Sanctuary. We recognize the positive impact such a designation would have on the tourism economy in Erie.”

This designation would expand Erie’s growing tourism product, enhance our ability to increase visitation and would serve as a major component in our marketing efforts to Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Buffalo and Southern Ontario (including Toronto).

Erie currently attracts in excess of 2 million visitors a year. Those visitors generate over \$1 billion in direct spending. The National Maritime Sanctuary designation would allow Erie to not only better interpret our storied maritime past, but also allow NOAA to expand its efforts in educating our visitors as to NOAA’s role and impact on the United States.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Oliver".

John Oliver
President/CEO VisitErie





P.O. Box 1323
Wexford, PA 15090
PHONE: 724.475.4538
FAX: 724.475.6001
info@bluetreealliedangels.com

www.bluetreealliedangels.com

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

BlueTree Allied Angels is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Catherine V. Mott
CEO/President
BlueTree Capital Group, LLC
BlueTree Allied Angels
BlueTree Venture Fund



Innovation Collaborative

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of Innovation Collaborative, I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

A stated priority of Innovation Collaborative is to inspire a culture of entrepreneurship and risk taking that supports the efforts of local entrepreneurs. Ultimately our organization aims to prevent brain drain, especially within our city's bountiful University student population. Our organization sees the Lake Erie Quadrangle initiative as helpful in the prevention of brain drain. The Lake Erie Quadrangle highlights our city's natural capital, providing additional educational and historical resources that will further showcase our waterfront to those working to better our region.

I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Beth Zimmer
Founder and Managing Director



The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of The Technology Council of Northwest PA, I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Sean Fedorko

Sean Fedorko, Executive Director of the Technology Council of NWPA



August 24, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

Diver's World of Erie, Inc. is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Diver's World is the area's leading scuba diving center and having the Lake Erie wrecks and marine heritage preserved will provide additional protection, attention and diving opportunities in this region. The Lake Erie waters of Pennsylvania offer a diversity of diving variety and depths that cater to divers from beginners to advanced technical divers. Further, with our local universities and the Regional Science Consortium the possibilities to offer educational opportunities including Underwater Archaeology, Ecology, Biology and other diving sciences is greatly enhanced.

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

J. Matthew Dickey
Owner, Diver's World of Erie, Inc.
NAUI Instructor #54435



DONJON SHIPBUILDING & REPAIR LLC

220 EAST BAYFRONT PARKWAY
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16507

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
And NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

Donjon Shipbuilding and Repair, LLC is writing in support of a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for National Marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

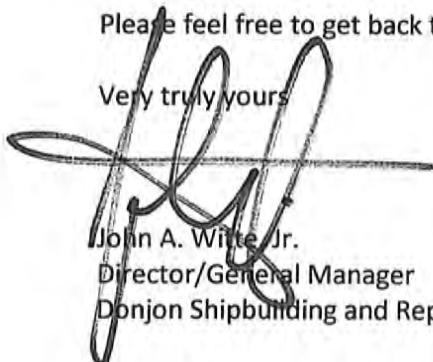
Becoming designated as a National Marine Sanctuary will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Donjon Shipbuilding's interest in supporting this initiative is not based upon any quantifiable monetary gain for itself or the area. The reason for our support is based upon our opinion that the shipwrecks in question need to be protected from the perspective of both preservation of history as well as to provide the general public the ability to witness, first hand, another reason to come visit the true beauty and historical significance of Erie County, PA.

Therefore please accept this correspondence as support for the submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory of National Marine Sanctuary's.

Please feel free to get back to me with any additional questions, comments or needs you may have.

Very truly yours



John A. Witte Jr.
Director/General Manager
Donjon Shipbuilding and Repair, LLC

PHONE
(814) 455-6442

FACSIMILE
(814) 455-8121

PREFERRED RESTAURANTS® ERIE & CHAUTAUQUA

August 3, 2015

Erie Fine Dining Group

Alto Cucina
Aoyama Japanese Steakhouse
Bayfront Grille
Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel
Bertrand's Bistro
Bistro 26
The Brewerier at Union Station
The Colony Pub & Grille
Cross Creek Resort
Crowley's Restaurant
El Toro Loco
House of Petillo
Johnny B's Restaurant
La Bonne Vie
Presque Isle Downs & Casino
Latino's Restaurant
Mi Scúzi Ristorante
Nic-L-Inn Restaurant
Petra Restaurant
The Pufferbelly
Erie's French Street Firehouse
Riverside
The Inn at Cambridge Springs
Serafini's Italian
Smugglers' Wharf
Summer House Café
Theodore's Restaurant
1201 Kitchen
Victor's at The Bel-Aire
Webb's Captain's Table
Webb's Year Round Resort
White Horse Inn
ZeBro's Sports & Beach Bar

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans
& Atmosphere & NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta, Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

Robert Schultz is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Erie Fine Dining Group is a marketing program for restaurants serving Erie County, Pennsylvania. A marine sanctuary will be beneficial to restaurant business throughout the region by bringing additional tourists. The additional traffic will enhance current local business, lodging and ultimately the restaurant industry.

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,



Erie Fine Dining Group
Robert Schultz
President



Home Office • 100 Erie Insurance Place • Erie, Pennsylvania 16530 • 814.870.2000
Toll free 1.800.458.0811 • Fax 814.870.3126 • www.erieinsurance.com

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director - Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

August 3, 2015

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of Erie Insurance, I am writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a National Marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

The National Marine Sanctuary designation could benefit Erie Insurance by contributing to our recruitment and retention efforts; protecting Lake Erie for our community's use and enjoyment, including our Employees, well into the future; protecting our water source; encouraging tourism, which spurs economic growth and potential new business development from which Erie Insurance derives its customer base; and contributing to the education of our current and future workforce.

Should the National Marine Sanctuary designation be conferred, Erie Insurance would be very interested in discussing potential partnerships such as volunteer opportunities for our Employees or potential donations to support education, safety, or environmental responsibility which are focus areas of our Erie Insurance Giving Network. The Erie Insurance Giving Network promotes community outreach throughout our footprint through strategic partnerships and donations of money, materials, and time. Organizations that qualify for our Giving Network support must be designated 501(c)3 nonprofits by the Internal Revenue Service. Examples of complementary organizations that have and continue to receive Giving Network support include the Presque Isle Partnership, the Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC) which houses the Regional Science Consortium, the Erie Maritime Museum and the U.S. Brig Niagara, Environment Erie, and STEM education at our local schools and universities.

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Ann K. Scott, SPHR
Community Outreach Manager

Lake Erie Adventure Charters

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

I am writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

As the owner and operator of a scuba diving charter business, I have a direct interest in the organizational efforts to create a marine sanctuary in Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. I have seen the degradation of wreck sites due to anchoring in shipwreck and the removal of artifacts from them. In that vein, I visited the community of Alpena, Michigan and the Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary facility the first part of August 2015. During my stay, I was seeking independent community thoughts on Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary and its impact. I was very impressed with awareness the community had concerning the Sanctuary and its shipwrecks. Upon visiting the facility and meeting the staff I saw why. One thing that stood out for me was the donation of shipwreck artifacts to the Sanctuary. I also saw artifacts on the wrecks that I would have never seen outside Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary. No doubt that is a direct result of your staff's efforts.

I support the submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Peter C. Schaefer
Lake Erie Adventure Charters
15064 Old Frisbeetown Road
Waterford, Pennsylvania 16441



34 State Street
Erie, Pa 16507

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

Lakeshore Towing Services, Inc. is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Lakeshore Towing Services, Inc. is a marine contractor located in Erie. We have been advocating for the preservation of our nautical heritage for many years. Our immediate concerns are as follows:

- Every year the shipwrecks in Lake Erie suffer more degradation from natural decomposition, intrusion of sediment, impact from ice and waves, and pilfering by divers.
- It is critical that these shipwrecks be documented and protected to save their history for future generations.
- There is currently no cohesive process in place for documenting and preserving the wrecks.
- The Marine Sanctuary designation will help in many ways to facilitate the process of documentation and preservation.

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Eric J. Guerrein, President
Lakeshore Towing Services, Inc.
August 25, 2015

Osprey Charters Inc.

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

Osprey Charters is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the **Lake Erie Quadrangle** will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programing for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Just a few benefits of this are as follows:

- Bring additional tourists to the region
- Increase lodging, shopping, restaurants
- Help grow current local businesses
- Bring additional businesses to the region – such as kayaking, boat tours, diving, charters, etc...
- Potential host for future conferences for teachers and researchers (partnerships) – bring additional money into our economy
- Secondary benefit is a sustainable economic impact on local communities

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Osprey Charters Inc.

Michael Cochran



Brandy Cochran





The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

Platypus LLC is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Platypus builds small robotic boats that are capable of monitoring bodies of water. The unmanned vehicles provide vital data to those who seek to preserve the health of the aquatic ecosystem. As a relatively simple to control robot, the vehicles have also proven to be a great educational tool for high schools and universities. Platypus believes that a marine sanctuary will lead to an important water-monitoring project within Lake Erie. This will provide significant benefits to Platypus and Erie County , including:

- Allowing Platypus to demonstrate the capabilities of their vehicles in an interesting environment (the boats will locate and map features on the floor of the lake, including shipwrecks).
- Provide an interesting spectacle for locals/tourist (the unmanned vehicles move quickly across the water, providing real time data to the user on the shore).
- Increase interest in science/technology/water health for local students (Platypus has repeatedly partnered with local education institutions to allow participation in data collection).

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,



Paul Scerri, President of Platypus LLC



Department of Biology and Health Services
Cooper Hall 126 • 230 Scotland Road • Edinboro, PA 16444
phone: (814) 732-2500
fax: (814) 732-1691

17 September 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

I am writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

I study freshwater turtles at Presque Isle State Park, primarily in Misery Bay and adjoining Graveyard Pond. I also bring classes on field trips to Presque Isle and several undergraduate and graduate students have assisted me in my field work. In addition, I have been on the Board of Directors for the non-profit Presque Isle Partnership since 2003, working to help enhance the visitor experience at the park. I believe the recognition of the Presque Isle area as a national marine sanctuary would greatly enhance the protection and valuation of our ecological heritage in this area.

I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter V. Lindeman", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Peter V. Lindeman, Ph.D.

Department of Biology and Health Services
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

As Dean of the College of Health Professions and Sciences at Gannon University, I am writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for 13 school districts, five major universities and myriad of technical and vocational schools. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

The designation will be of specific benefit to several ongoing initiatives within the College of Health Professions and Sciences at Gannon University. For example, students in our new Freshwater and Marine Biology major will have an opportunity to participate in internships and research projects related to the sanctuary. Additionally, we will have an opportunity to offer research based excursions on our vessel the *Environaut*. Finally, we will have an opportunity for enhanced federal funding opportunities that faculty within the College regularly apply for.

At Gannon University, we educate thousands of students about the region's maritime history, environmental stewardship and the importance of our limited water resource of Lake Erie. Having a marine sanctuary in our backyard would greatly enhance our educational programs with important research and curriculum that would accompany this endeavor.

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Steven Mauro



Morosky College of Health Professions and Sciences

109 University Square
Erie, Pennsylvania 16541-0001
(814) 871.7708 • fax (814) 871.7382
www.gannon.edu

Steven A. Mauro, Ph.D.

Dean

Morosky College of Health Professions and Sciences

109 University Square

Erie, PA. 16541

Phone: 814-871-7708

e-mail: mauro003@gannon.edu



GROVE CITY
COLLEGE
ESTABLISHED 1876 • PENNSYLVANIA

September 14, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan, Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta, Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, 1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor, Silver Springs, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta:

Fred J. Brenner, PhD, Professor of Biology, Grove City College is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national Marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania water of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and Maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, within the 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide benefits to this including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, colleges and universities, as well as the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be of great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be part of this national system.

I will be available for studies on the ecology of the wildlife and fishery of Lake Erie Quadrangle including the supervision of interns and Grove City College students involved with this aspect of the Lake Erie Quadrangle. In addition, faculty interested in the botany and invertebrate biology also have also indicated that they would become involved in research related to the conservation and management of the natural resources within the Lake Erie Quadrangle.

In conclusion, the biology department at Grove City College supports the submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Fred J. Brenner PhD, Professor of Biology



Department of Anthropology
McElhane Hall, Room G-1
441 North Walk
Indiana, Pennsylvania 15705-1018

P 724-357-2841
F 724-357-7637
www.iup.edu/anthropology

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

Indiana University of Pennsylvania Department of Anthropology is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including more than 100 shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programing for 13 school districts, five major universities and myriad of technical and vocational schools. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

A national marine sanctuary would allow us to expand our educational offerings around maritime history and archaeology. We offer a short course in maritime archaeology that utilizes the Lake Erie shipwrecks as an underwater classroom. This course enrolls both university students and local divers who want to learn archaeological ethics and non-destructive recording techniques. We also collaborate with colleagues in Geoscience and Biology to discuss shipwrecks as fish habitats and features in underwater sediment movement. These activities allow students to see archaeology as part of an integrated approach to underwater resources, while also learning a wide variety of scientific methods. The increased availability of resources that come with a national marine sanctuary will allow us to expand our efforts to a wider public and hopefully involve high school students in future projects. On a personal level, I am excited by the prospect of a national marine sanctuary as I begin a multi-year endeavor to study the maritime cultural landscape of Lake Erie.

Working at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, we educate thousands of students about the region's maritime history, environmental stewardship and the importance of our limited water resource of Lake Erie. Having a marine sanctuary in our backyard would greatly enhance our educational programs with important research and curriculum that would accompany this endeavor.

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Ben Ford



September 9, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
 Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
 and NOAA Administrator
 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta, Director
 Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
 1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
 Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for 13 school districts, five major universities and many technical and vocational schools. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities, and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Having a marine sanctuary will allow our science undergrads to study and understand the biological communities which congregate around shipwrecks by providing a natural classroom for students, benefitting those who will go on to pursue science professions; provide potential host opportunities for conferences and research partnerships; and grow our aquatic based science programs through our Pennsylvania Sea Grant program. Along with these important activities for the college the sanctuary will provide increased community educational outreach between the local colleges and provide outreach opportunities to learn about Great Lakes and Pennsylvania maritime history.

Working at Penn State Behrend, we educate thousands of children in our educational outreach programs, as well as our own college students, about the region's maritime history, environmental stewardship and the importance of our limited water resource of Lake Erie. Having a marine sanctuary in our backyard would greatly enhance our educational programs with important research and curriculum that would accompany this endeavor.

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Ralph M. Ford, Ph.D.
 Interim Chancellor

c: R. Light



The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

August 31, 2015

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of The Penn State Erie, Greener Behrend organization, I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programing for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Ann Quinn
Director, Greener Behrend

PENNSSTATE



Jay R. Stauffer
Distinguished Professor of Ichthyology
The Pennsylvania State University
School of Forest Resources
432 Forest Resources Building
University Park, PA 16802-4300

Phone: (814) 863-0645
Fax: (814) 865-3725

27 August, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

I am writing to support a nomination for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Inclusion into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities, and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

I routinely teach courses to high school students, university undergraduates, and university graduate students. The inclusion would further enhance securing of funding to support these programs and attraction of some of the best students to the programs. I am willing to pledge my support to continue these educational programs. Thus, I enthusiastically support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to designate this valuable Great Lakes resource as a national marine sanctuary.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "JR Stauffer".

Jay R. Stauffer, Jr.



The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

As the Director of the Penn State Behrend, School of Science, I am writing to lend our institutional support to the nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

The coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania provides a vital resource for our faculty and students to not only learn, but help support and engage with our community partners. We currently have several ongoing projects involving this area and the future of our environmental science program will hinge largely on the use of this region as a "laboratory" for many others.

Penn State Behrend pledges our support the proposed national marine sanctuary by providing:

- Aid in conservation efforts
- Management of programs

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Martin G. Kociolek
Director, School of Science
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
kociolek@psu.edu
814-898-6105



The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta, Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

The Erie County Technical School is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated as a national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a variety of educational programming for 13 school districts and five universities. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the region's maritime heritage and cultural resources. It would benefit the Commonwealth, local communities, and various user groups to be a part of this national system.

The sanctuary would offer the following benefits to our students and the students across the county:

- Increase community educational outreach between schools, universities, and business
- Benefit students who pursue a career pathway in the science professions
- Demonstrate the versatility of attractions to a region's tourism industry
- Serve as a potential host for conferences for teachers and researchers

At Erie County Technical School, we educate youth about the importance of a diverse economy. The presence of a marine sanctuary in Erie County would enhance our Tourism & Hospitality Management program with work experience opportunities that would be available through the sanctuary.

We support the submission of this nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Aldo R. Jackson'.

Aldo R. Jackson, Ph.D.
Director



Fort LeBoeuf

SCHOOL DISTRICT

34 East 9th Street

P.O. Box 810

Waterford, Pennsylvania 16441

Richard B. Emerick, Superintendent
Kimberly J. Heller, Business Manager

Phone: 814-796-2638
Fax: 814-796-6459

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Administrator Sullivan,

The Fort LeBoeuf School District Board of Directors has requested that I issue a letter in support of a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for 13 school districts, five major universities and numerous technical and vocational schools. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Specifically for our District, the establishment of a national marine sanctuary designation for Lake Erie would afford many educational opportunities for our students including but not limited to:

- Allowing science students to study and understand the biological communities which congregate around shipwrecks
- Opportunity to learn about Great Lakes and Pennsylvania maritime history.
- Increase community educational outreach between schools and universities.
- Potential host for future conferences for teachers and researchers (partnerships).
- Benefit students who will go on to pursue science professions.
- Provide a natural classroom for students and residents.
- Increased availability to resources for students and teachers.
- Potential to learn aquatic based science programs.

Throughout our proud history, the Fort LeBoeuf School District has educated thousands of children about the region's maritime history, environmental stewardship, and the importance of our limited water resource of Lake Erie. Having a marine sanctuary in our backyard would greatly enhance our educational programs with important research as well as a curriculum that would accompany this endeavor.

In closing, we support the submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Emerick", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard B. Emerick, Superintendent
Fort LeBoeuf School District



Fort LeBoeuf

SCHOOL DISTRICT

34 East 9th Street
P.O. Box 810
Waterford, Pennsylvania 16441

Richard B. Emerick, Superintendent
Kimberly J. Heller, Business Manager

Phone: 814-796-2638
Fax: 814-796-6459

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Director Basta,

The Fort LeBoeuf School District Board of Directors has requested that I issue a letter in support of a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for 13 school districts, five major universities and numerous technical and vocational schools. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Specifically for our District, the establishment of a national marine sanctuary designation for Lake Erie would afford many educational opportunities for our students including but not limited to:

- Allowing science students to study and understand the biological communities which congregate around shipwrecks
- Opportunity to learn about Great Lakes and Pennsylvania maritime history.
- Increase community educational outreach between schools and universities.
- Potential host for future conferences for teachers and researchers (partnerships).
- Benefit students who will go on to pursue science professions.
- Provide a natural classroom for students and residents.
- Increased availability to resources for students and teachers.
- Potential to learn aquatic based science programs.

Throughout our proud history, the Fort LeBoeuf School District has educated thousands of children about the region's maritime history, environmental stewardship, and the importance of our limited water resource of Lake Erie. Having a marine sanctuary in our backyard would greatly enhance our educational programs with important research as well as a curriculum that would accompany this endeavor.

In closing, we support the submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Emerick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "E".

Richard B. Emerick, Superintendent
Fort LeBoeuf School District

National Marine Sanctuary Program Resolution

WHEREAS, the National Marine Sanctuary Program was established in 1972 to preserve the extraordinary scenic beauty, biodiversity, historical connections, and economic productivity of the nation's most precious underwater treasures for future generations and to foster and understanding of our country's maritime heritage and landscape; and

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for a network of 14 protected marine sanctuaries encompassing more than 170,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, for the first time in two decades, NOAA has invited communities across the nation to nominate their most treasured places in our marine and Great Lakes waters for consideration as national marine sanctuaries; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie, which encompasses 759 square miles and Presque Isle Bay, along Erie County, Pennsylvania, is home to 132 identified shipwrecks, which are a resources with archeological, historical and recreational value; and are subject to continuing threats of pillaging by recreational divers and are vulnerable to exploitation and degradation; and

WHEREAS, the County of Erie, the Fort LeBoeuf School District, has recommended that a 759 square mile area in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie be nominated for designation by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as a national marine sanctuary to preserve these historical resources; and

WHEREAS, the proposed marine sanctuary contains many types of sunken vessels, including 132 identified shipwrecks, none of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, establishment of the proposed national marine sanctuary will preserve and protect these valuable maritime resources; advance educational programming in the region; interpret the maritime and cultural history of the area; and enhance tourism as a key component of economic development for the state and the region;

WHEREAS, no state or local matching funds or on-going operational support are required in order to establish a national marine sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, local resources and infrastructure may be used in partnership with NOAA to complement and enhance a national sanctuary; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the the Fort LeBoeuf School District supports the nomination, designation and development of the proposed national marine sanctuary in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie, including Presque Isle Bay.

FORT LEBOEUF SCHOOL DISTRICT
Waterford, PA

October 15, 2015
DRAFT Minutes



The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors was held on October 15, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School Library with President Bruce Hordusky presiding.

Meeting Place/Date

The following members were present:

Mr. Bill Bliley	Mr. Benny Hunt	Mr. John Ogden
Mr. Marvin Cross	Mrs. Kellie Lichtinger	Mr. Ted Szall
Mr. Bruce Hordusky	Mr. Bob Oberlander	Mr. Joe Welch

Attendance

Others in attendance were: Matthew Bennett, Yvonne Best-Proctor, Rick Emerick, Kim Heller, Brent Holt, Jenna Hopkins, Martin Rimpa, Robin Roberts, Larry Roesch, Jason Vaughn, and Sean Wolfrom.

Note: During the October 8, 2015 Work Study Meeting, the Board held an Executive Session for the purpose of personnel and legal matters.

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mrs. Lichtinger to approve the minutes of September 17, 2015. Motion carried with an all "ayes" vote.

Approval of Minutes

Report of the Superintendent

Mr. Emerick updated the Board on the ROTC survey conducted at the High School. As a result of the data collected, the District will study the logistics of the program.

Mr. Emerick reported that the State Budget impasse has reached the 100 day mark. He has composed a letter to local legislators asking for their help in bringing about a swift resolution.

Mr. Emerick reminded the Board that they are welcome at two upcoming events October 20, 2015, 6:30 p.m. at IU5, "Protecting the Fundamental Right to an Education in Light of the Budget Impasse". October 22, 2015, 7:00 p.m. at General McLane, "A Night of Education About Education", and October 31, 2015, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., "Negotiations Skills Workshop".

Mr. Emerick noted a few last details that need finished completing the Art Steves room, and bringing to a close a very successful joint project with our community.

Report of Superintendent

Report of Association Representatives

Ms. Coletta-Brown, FLB-EA representative, was not present.

Mr. Roesch, service personnel representative, had nothing to report.

Report of Association Representatives

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mr. Ogden to approve the Treasurer's Report as of October 1, 2015, as presented. Motion carried with an all "ayes" vote.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mr. Ogden to accept the Expenditure and Revenue Reports as presented by the business manager and file for audit. Motion carried with an all "ayes" vote.

Approval of Expenditures and Revenues

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mr. Ogden to approve the interim computer bills #41905 through #41910 and #42067 through #42212 in the amount of \$1,338,510.93 and the computer bills #42222 through #42413 in the amount of \$260,754.91. Motion carried with an all "ayes" vote.

Approval of Bills

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mr. Oberlander to approve and file for audit the Cafeteria Report. Motion carried with an all "ayes" vote.

Approval of Cafeteria Report

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mr. Ogden to approve the local audit for fiscal year ending 6/30/2015. Motion carried with an all "ayes" vote.

Approval of Local Audit for Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/2015

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mr. Ogden to approve PlanCon Part F for the High School Project. Motion carried with an all "ayes" vote.

Approval of PlanCon F for High School Project

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mrs. Lichtinger to approve the Resolution for the National Marine Sanctuary Program. Motion carried with an 8-1 vote.

Approval of National Marine Sanctuary Resolution

Bill Bliley - Yes	Benny Hunt - Yes	John Ogden - Yes
Marvin Cross - Yes	Kellie Lichtinger - Yes	Ted Szall - No
Bruce Hordusky - Yes	Bob Oberlander - Yes	Joe Welch - Yes

Staff and Finance and Co-Curricular Programs (Mr. Oberlander)

A motion was made by Mr. Oberlander and seconded by Mr. Ogden to approve the following leave requests.

Approval of the Following Leave Requests:

- a. Erin Brown, Teacher, High School, effective on or About 1/19/16 through 3/22/16
- b. Amanda Kutterna, Teacher, Robison Elementary, effective on or about 1/28/16
- c. Danielle Myers, Teacher, Mill Village Elementary, effective on or about 11/27/15

Erin Brown
Amanda Kutterna
Danielle Myers

Motion carried with an all "ayes" vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Oberlander and seconded by Mr. Cross to approve the following resignation:

Approval of the Following Resignations:

- a. Bill Lavery, Bus Driver, Effective 9/25/15.

Bill Lavery

Motion carried with an all "ayes" vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Oberlander and seconded by Mr. Welch to approve the following positions:

Approval of the Following Positions:

- a. Greg Amenta, 9th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach, \$4,121.00, effective 10/16/15 (John Campbell's resignation)
- b. Lorah Falzone, Lunchroom Supervisor, Middle School, Step 1, \$9.93/hour, effective 10/16/15 (Rose Cole's resignation)
- c. Maria Mankowski, Recreation Program Instructor, Robison Elementary, \$11.00/hour, 4.5/hours, Effective 10/16/15
- d. Lisa Oesterling, Recreation Program Instructor, Robison Elementary, \$11.00/hour, 4.5/hours, Effective 10/15/16

Greg Amenta

Lorah Falzone

Maria Mankowski

Lisa Oesterling

Motion carried with an all "ayes" vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Oberlander and seconded by Mr. Cross to approve the following credit reimbursement:

Approval of the Following Credit Reimbursement:

- a. Ben Miller, APSY-796, Crisis Management, 3 Credits, SPED-765, Data Management, 3 Credits, Edinboro, \$2,724.00.

Ben Miller

Motion carried with an all "ayes" vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Oberlander and seconded by Mr. Cross to approve the District Substitute List. Motion carried with an all "ayes" vote.

Approval of the District Substitute List

A motion was made by Mr. Oberlander and seconded by Mr. Cross to approve the District Volunteer List. Motion carried with an all "ayes" vote.

Approval of the District Volunteer List

A motion was made by Mr. Oberlander and seconded by Mr. Cross to approve the Winter Sports Schedule. Motion carried with an all "ayes" vote.

Approval of the Winter Sports Schedule

A motion was made by Mr. Oberlander and seconded by Mrs. Lichtinger to approve the Special Olympics Unified Sports Partnership. Motion carried with an all "ayes" vote.

Approval of the Special Olympics Unified Sports Partnership

Instructional and Educational Programs (Mr. Hunt)

A motion was made by Mr. Hunt and seconded by Mr. Cross to approve the Following Professional Development Requests:

Approval of the Following Professional Development Requests:

- a. Kristen Dahn, Pa Association of Gifted Educators Conference, Cranberry, PA, 11/5/15 - 11/6/15
- b. Winnie Oberrath, Pa Association of Gifted Educators Conference, Cranberry, PA, 11/5/15 - 11/6/15

Kristen Dahn
Winnie Oberrath

- c. Cami Adam, Dr. Jean’s Learning Adventure, Cleveland, OH 11/16/15
- d. Aimee Hartman, Dr. Jean’s Learning Adventure, Cleveland, OH 11/16/15
- e. Kara Hopwood, Dr. Jean’s Learning Adventure, Cleveland, OH 11/16/15
- f. Leah Johnson, Dr. Jean’s Learning Adventure, Cleveland, OH 11/16/15.

Cami Adam
Aimee Hartman
Kara Hopwood
Leah Johnson

Motion carried with an all “ayes” vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Hunt and seconded by Mr. Ogden to approve the following field trip requests:

Approval of the
Following Field Trip
Requests:

- a. Keith Gilson, National Honors Music Society, Slippery Rock and Carnegie Mellon Universities, 10/28/15
- b. Melanie Goodwin, Waterford Elementary, Carnegie Science Center, Pittsburgh, PA 3/10/16

Keith Gilson

Melanie Goodwin

Motion carried with an all “ayes” vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Hunt and seconded by Mr. Cross to approve the following policy revision:

Approval of the
Following Policy
Revision:

- a. Screening and Evaluations for Students with Disabilities #113.3

Screening and
Evaluations for
Students with
Disabilities #113.3

Motion carried with an all “ayes” vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mr. Oberlander to adjourn for Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried with an all “ayes” vote.

Executive Session

The meeting reconvened at 9:04 p.m.

Reconvene

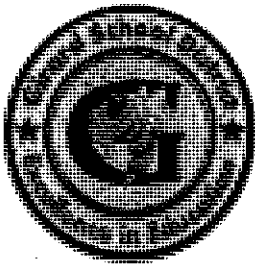
Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the board, it was moved by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mr. Ogden that the meeting adjourn at 9:04 p.m. Motion approved unanimously with an all “ayes” vote.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly J. Heller
 Board Secretary



GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT

**ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE**
1203 Lake Street
Girard, PA 16417
814-774-5666
FAX 814-774-4220

**GIRARD
HIGH SCHOOL**
1135 Lake Street
Girard, PA 16417
814-774-5607
FAX 814-774-4530

**RICE AVENUE
MIDDLE SCHOOL**
1100 Rice Avenue
Girard, PA 16417
814-774-5604
FAX 814-774-5259

**ELK VALLEY
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
2556 Maple Avenue
Lake City, PA 16423
814-774-5602
FAX 814-774-8885

September 28, 2015

Whereas, The National Marine Sanctuary Program was established in 1972 to preserve the extraordinary scenic beauty, biodiversity, historical connections, and economic productivity of the nation's most precious underwater treasures for future generations and to foster an understanding of our country's maritime heritage and landscape; and

Whereas, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for a network of 14 protected marine sanctuaries encompassing more than 170,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters throughout the nation; and,

Whereas, for the first time in two decades, NOAA has invited communities across the nation to nominate their most treasured places in our marine and Great Lakes waters for consideration as national marine sanctuaries; and,

Whereas, the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie, which encompasses 759 square miles and Presque Isle Bay, along Erie County, Pennsylvania, is home to 132 identified shipwrecks, which are resources with archeological, historical and recreational value; and are subject to continuing threats of pillaging by recreational divers and are vulnerable to exploitation and degradation; and,

Whereas, the County of Erie, on behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, has recommended that a 759 square mile area in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie be nominated for designation by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as a national marine sanctuary to preserve these historical resources; and,

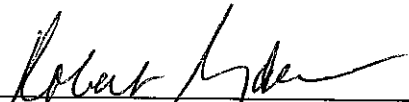
Whereas the proposed marine sanctuary contains many types of sunken vessels, including 132 identified shipwrecks, none of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and,

Whereas, establishment of the proposed national marine sanctuary will preserve and protect these valuable maritime resources; advance educational programming in the region; interpret the maritime and cultural history of the area; and enhance tourism as a key component of economic development for the state and region; and

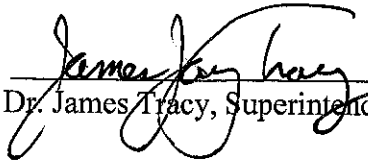
Whereas, no state or local matching funds or on-going operational support are required in order to establish a national marine sanctuary; and,

Whereas, local resources and infrastructure may be used in partnership with NOAA to complement and enhance a national sanctuary; and,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Girard School District supports the nomination, designation and development of the proposed national marine sanctuary in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie, including Presque Isle Bay.



Robert Snyder, School Board President



Dr. James Tracy, Superintendent of Schools



HARBOR CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT

6375 Buffalo Road
Harborcreek, Pennsylvania 16421-1632
www.hcsd.iu5.org
Phone: (814) 897-2100

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

Harbor Creek School District is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for 13 school districts, five major universities and myriad of technical and vocational schools. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

The Harbor Creek School District will benefit from the Marine Sanctuary in many ways.

- Allowing science students to study and understand the biological communities which congregate around shipwrecks
- Opportunity to learn about Great Lakes and Pennsylvania maritime history
- Increase community educational outreach between schools and universities
- Potential partnerships to host future conferences for teachers and researchers
- Benefit students who will go on to pursue science professions
- Provide a natural classroom for students and residents
- Increased availability to resources for students and teachers
- Important to academic and research programs.

Working in the Harbor Creek School District, we educate over two-thousand students about the region's maritime history, environmental stewardship and the importance of our limited water resource of Lake Erie. Having a marine sanctuary in our backyard would greatly enhance our educational programs with important research and curriculum that would accompany this endeavor.

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Kelly S. Hess
Superintendent



IROQUOIS SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

800 Tyndall Avenue

Erie, PA 16511

(814) 899-7643 Ext. 4000

Shane S. Murray, Superintendent

Kimberly A. Smith, CPA, CGMA, Business Manager

IROQUOIS JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

4301 Main Street

Erie, PA 16511

(814) 899-7643 Ext. 1000

IROQUOIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

4231 Morse Street

Erie, PA 16511

(814) 899-7643 Ext. 2000

The Iroquois School District 50th - Celebrating the past ... Shaping the future

September 30, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta, Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta:

The Iroquois School District is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming part of the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for 13 school districts, five major universities and myriad of technical and vocational schools. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities, and user groups to be a part of this national system.

A marine sanctuary would greatly benefit our schools by

- allowing our science students to study and understand the biological communities which congregate around shipwrecks;
- providing our students with another opportunity where they can learn about Great Lakes and Pennsylvania maritime history;
- increasing community educational outreach between schools and universities;
- serving as a potential host for future conferences for teachers and researchers (partnerships);
- providing a natural classroom for students and residents;
- increasing availability to resources for students and teachers;
- serving as a site for students to learn aquatic based science programs; and
- serving as a site for future academic and research programs.

Working at Iroquois School District, we educate well over 1,000 children about the region's maritime history, environmental stewardship, and the importance of our limited water resource of Lake Erie. Having a marine sanctuary in our backyard would greatly enhance our educational programs with important research and curriculum that would accompany this endeavor.

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Shane S. Murray
Superintendent



NORTH EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT

50 EAST DIVISION STREET • NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428 • TELEPHONE (814) 725-8671

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta, Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

North East School District is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for 13 school districts, five major universities and myriad of technical and vocational schools. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

A marine sanctuary would be beneficial to the science programs our school district in many ways. It would allow students to study and understand the biological communities which congregate around shipwrecks. It would provide them opportunities to learn about the maritime history of Pennsylvania and the Great Lakes. It would provide a natural classroom for both students and residence, and increase educational resources for both students and teachers. A maritime sanctuary would increase community educational outreach while enhancing our academic programming, especially benefiting those students who are considering pursuit of careers in the field of science.

North East School District educates thousands of children about the region's maritime history, environmental stewardship and the importance of our limited water resource of Lake Erie. Having a marine sanctuary in our backyard would greatly enhance our educational programs with important research and curriculum that would accompany this endeavor.

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Frank M. McClard, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

"Serving Students in The  Heart of The Grape Country"



Northwestern School District

100 Harthan Way, Albion, PA 16401-1368

Phone: (814) 756-9400 Fax: (814) 756-9414 web address: www.nwsd.org

Karen S. Downie, D.Ed., Superintendent

Mr. Paul P. Sachar, Business Manager

September 22, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

Northwestern School District is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programing for 13 school districts, five major universities and myriad of technical and vocational schools. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Northwestern School District educates the students each year about the region's maritime history, environmental stewardship and the importance of our limited water resource of Lake Erie. Having a marine sanctuary in our backyard would greatly enhance our educational programs with important research and curriculum that would accompany this endeavor.

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,



Karen S. Downie D. Ed.
Superintendent



Union City Area School District

107 Concord Street
Union City, Pennsylvania 16438

www.ucasd.org

(814) 438-3804
Fax: (814) 438-2030

Dr. Sandra K. Myers
Superintendent
smyers@ucasd.org

Tara Lineman
Business Manager
tlineman@ucasd.org

October 2, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

The Union City Area School District is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

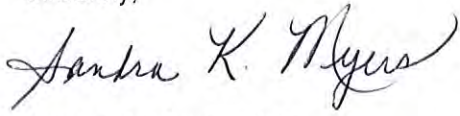
Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for 13 school districts, five major universities and myriad of technical and vocational schools. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

A marine sanctuary is beneficial to our school because it allows students to study and understand the biological communities around shipwrecks. It would increase the availability of resources for our students and teachers and provide a natural classroom for students and residents. Our students are very concerned about environmental concerns and this opportunity would provide a potential for collaboration with universities and other schools to enhance our science programs.

Over the years, we have educated thousands of children about the region's maritime history, environmental stewardship and the importance of our limited water resource of Lake Erie. Having a marine sanctuary in our backyard would greatly enhance our educational programs with important research and curriculum that would accompany this endeavor.

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra K. Myers". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Sandra K. Myers, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of All Aboard Erie, I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Brian Pitzer
Executive Director
All Aboard Erie



BMC Partners

July 20, 2015

AmeriCorps*VISTA

Building to Teach

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
& NOAA Administrator

Erie Community
Foundation

1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

ECGRA

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director

Erie Housing
Authority

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Erie Insurance

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

Erie School District

The Erie Maritime Foundation which conducts business as the **Bayfront Maritime Center** in Erie Pennsylvania is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a National Marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks. The area includes 759 square miles of Lake Erie and 76.6 miles of Erie County, Pennsylvania coastline. Pennsylvania is the only state in the United States with an ocean port, a river port and a port on the Great Lakes and ranks 5th among all the states in amount of cargo carried over the water.

Erie Western PA
Port Authority

Mercyhurst
University

Nonprofit
Partnership

Northwest
Tri-County
Intermediate Unit

Sarah Reed
Children's Center

Becoming a part of the National Marine Sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle will share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It will be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

TK Foundation

United Way of Erie
County

The mission of the Bayfront Maritime Center is to: **To design and implement hands-on, maritime themed, educational, vocational, and recreational activities for the community in a universally accessible waterfront facility.** Since 1998 BMC has built 92 boats, most notably the historic reproduction of an Erie Boat, the 29' two masted fishing boat used here on the south shore of Lake Erie when Erie, Pennsylvania was the freshwater fishing capital of the world, 1880-1910. A fleet of over 100

40 Holland Street, Erie, PA 16507

814-456-4077

www.bayfrontcenter.org



Erie Boats fished these waters. This historic reproduction was entirely built by over 1000 school students, 4th through 12th grade at the Bayfront Maritime Center from 1998-2000. The Erie Boat now sails as a floating STEM classroom. BMC staff and volunteers have sailed, rowed, paddled, and studied environmental science with over 17,000 youth. Hundreds of local students have participated in BMC's [Shipwreck Science Program](#). BMC hosts Pennsylvania's first and only adaptive sailing program, [EASE](#). The Lake Erie Quadrangle Marine Sanctuary status will help promote BMC's hands-on maritime programming, and in turn, BMC's hands-on maritime programming is an existing asset that dovetails perfectly with the national sanctuary designation. Currently BMC is building a representation of the [Schooner Porcupine](#), a historic gunboat built in Erie in 1812 by Daniel Dobbins for Oliver Hazard Perry's fleet. *Porcupine* is scheduled to launch in the spring of 2016 and sail as the *Schoolship for Presque Isle Bay*, a sustainable floating STEM classroom.

BMC fully supports the development of the Lake Erie Quadrangle Sanctuary and looks forward to partnering with and supporting the sanctuary. BMC pledges our support and can offer classroom space, meeting space, and vessel time on our two USCG inspected vessels, *Porcupine* and EASE-Y SPIRIT, and our other vessels. *Porcupine* will be an exceptional platform to tow BMC's Side Scan Sonar with support amenities for a crew of operators and scientists for days at a time.

BMC's Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers fully support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a National Marine Sanctuary designation. Please read more about BMC's educational accomplishments and available assets we can add to the sanctuary and see photographs on our website, www.bayfrontcenter.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rich Eisenberg'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

Richard Eisenberg
Executive Director



Erie Arts & Culture

The collective voice for a vibrant region

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of Erie Arts & Culture, I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Amanda Brown Sisseem
Executive Director

Join. Support. Participate.

3 East 4th Street, Suite 10, Erie, PA 16507 - (814) 452-3427

www.erieartsandculture.org



The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of the Erie Art Museum, I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

John Vanco, Director



The Erie
Community
Foundation

Helping today... Shaping tomorrow.

459 West Sixth Street • Erie, Pennsylvania 16507 • ph. 814.454.0843 • fx. 814.456.4965 • www.eriecommunityfoundation.org

July 29, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta:

On behalf of The Erie Community Foundation, I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Batchelor,
President

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President

Michael L. Batchelor

mbatchelor@eriecommunityfoundation.org



FRIENDS OF THE TOM RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
301 PENINSULA DRIVE, SUITE 1
ERIE, PA 16505
TEL: 814-835-1384
FAX: 814-833-0266

11/16/2015

Dear National Marine Sanctuary Application Review Committee,

The mission of the Friends of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center at Presque Isle is to forge a partnership between the private sector and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) at Presque Isle State Park in order to enhance educational programming, natural history research and visitor services opportunities of the highest quality to assure that the Tom Ridge Environmental Center is nationally recognized as a center of excellence for now and for generations to come.

We welcome and support the application of a **Proposed National Marine Sanctuary Lake Erie Quadrangle**.

As you are aware, the quadrangle is a unique and interesting part of the Great Lakes. We have much history to preserve. Many shipwrecks are locating in the Quadrangle and the history of the War of 1812, the building of the fleet in Presque Isle, and the commercial fishing history of Erie are one of a kind.

What sets Erie apart from other towns and cities on the Great Lakes, is the bay area and Presque Isle Park. There are four million visitors each year that come and visit Presque Isle. Annually, over 100,000 visitors visit our center at the entrance of Presque Isle. The Friends of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center is one of six non-profit organizations that are located at the Center. Each one supports the environmental education and conservation of the Erie area.

We provide a natural classroom for many students, residents and visitors.

I can think of no more perfect spot for a National Marine Sanctuary and highly endorse plans to move forward and petition to become one.

Sincerely,

Bob Hersch

Executive Director

JEFFERSON EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

Erie's Think Tank for Community Progress

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of Jefferson Educational Society, I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ferki Ferati". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "F".

Sincerely,

Ferki Ferati
Vice-President and Executive Director

3207 State Street • Erie, PA 16508
P. 814.459.8000 • F. 814.459.8006
www.JESerie.org



PRESQUE ISLE PARTNERSHIP

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of Presque Isle Partnership, I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon DeMarco", is written over a white background.

Jon DeMarco
Executive Director



October 1, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

The Regional Science Consortium (RSC) and its Pennsylvania Archaeological Shipwreck and Survey Team (PASST) is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a National Marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the National Marine Sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities, and user groups to be a part of this national system.

The National Marine Sanctuary designation would be beneficial to the RSC and PASST by protecting and showing value to the areas where we are collecting data and conducting research. The RSC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization facilitating research, education, and collaborations with RSC members. The RSC is not directly affiliated with an institution, but instead is a consortium of institutions seeking collaborations in scientific research. Institutions include colleges, universities, state and federal agencies, school districts, and other non-profit organizations. Members of these institutions work together through the RSC on various grant funded research projects, including the development of PASST. The PASST group is comprised of archaeologists, biologists, historians, lakefront managers, marine operations, and a dive team. The mission of PASST is to document through scientific methods underwater archaeological resources, inventory underwater historical sites, provide training for its associates and develop educational and outreach curricula to promote the preservation and conservation of Pennsylvania's maritime heritage.

The RSC and PASST pledge their support for the proposed National Marine Sanctuary by providing informational data on the survey and inventory of the shipwrecks in the Lake Erie Quadrangle.



We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Jeanette L. Schnars, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Regional Science Consortium
Chair, PASST
Tom Ridge Environmental Center
301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 9
Erie, PA 16505
Jeanette@RegSciConsort.com

420 West 6th Street · Suite 200 · Erie, PA 16507-3210
tel: 814.456.2937 · fax: 814.459.5750 · UnitedWayErie.org

United

United Way of Erie County

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Scott Whalen
Saint Vincent Hospital

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Julie Wollman
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Scott Wyman
Penelec, A FirstEnergy Company

July 27, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

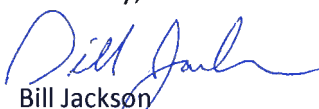
Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of United Way of Erie County, I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,


Bill Jackson
President

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of WQLN-TV, and WQLN Radio, I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,



Tom New
WQLN Public Media
President/CEO



RONALD LORD, CHAIRMAN
GERRY VANDEMERWE, CEO

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

March 6, 2015

Dear National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,

On behalf of the YMCA of Greater Erie, I am writing in support of the proposed National Marine Sanctuary to include all Lake Erie waters located in Pennsylvania.

For the past 100 years, the YMCA of Greater Erie has owned and operated a 70-acre outdoor recreation and camping facility which is situated right on the shores of Lake Erie. For generations, kids and families from all over Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York have enjoyed the natural beauty of the Lake and numerous recreational offerings such as fishing, boating, swimming and the oh-so-popular beach glass search!

We are encouraged about Erie County's application for the National Marine Sanctuary designation and the opportunity it provides for the preservation of the scenic beauty, biodiversity and historical connection of Lake Erie.

As a member of VisitErie, our local tourism agency, we full support Erie County's application.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at 814-452-1432 or troche@ymcaerie.org.

Sincerely,

Tammy Roche
Vice President, Financial Development, Membership and Marketing
YMCA of Greater Erie

YMCA OF GREATER ERIE WWW.YMCAERIE.ORG

Our Mission: To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.



CORPORATE OFFICE
31 West 10th Street
Erie, PA 16501
(814) 452-1432

CAMP SHERWIN
8600 West Lake Road
Lake City, PA 16423
(814) 774-9416

COUNTY YMCA
12285 YMCA Drive
Edinboro, PA 16412
(814) 734-5700

**DOWNTOWN/
UPMC HAMOT YMCA**
31 West 10th Street
Erie, PA 16501
(814) 452-3261

EASTSIDE YMCA
2101 Nagle Road
Erie, PA 16510
(814) 899-9622

GLENWOOD PARK YMCA
3727 Cherry Street
Erie, PA 16508
(814) 868-0867

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301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 5

Erie, PA 16505

(814) 835-8069

www.environmenterie.org

July 13, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta, Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

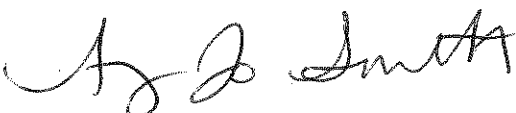
Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of **Environment Erie**, I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,



Amy Jo Smith
Executive Director



Erie County Conservation District

1927 Wager Road
Erie, PA 16509
Phone: 814-825-6403 fax: 814-825-6033
Email: eriecons@erieconservation.com
Earl J. Brown – District Manager



July 1, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere &
NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitutional Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Maritime Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of Erie County Conservation District, we are pleased to support submission of the Lake Erie Marine Sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie.

The citizens of Northwestern Pennsylvania have an unshared treasure along our Lake Erie shoreline. We have a world class fishery, extensive beaches, and a vibrant Bay Front development effort in its infancy. The designation as a National Marine Sanctuary would bring additional businesses, tourists, and grow our current businesses.

Erie County is proud to be the home of four universities and other science based organizations that use our “living classroom” to study biological communities which congregate around shipwrecks, to learn aquatic based science programs, and learn about our Great Lakes maritime history.

The Erie County Conservation District has a 66 year history as environmental stewards. We look forward to protecting our soil and water for our children and sharing our valuable Great Lakes resource with others.

Sincerely,

Earl J. Brown
District Manager

Penn State **Extension**

July 13, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta:

On behalf of Penn State Extension – Master Gardeners, I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programing for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Roberta McCall
Master Gardener Coordinator
Penn State Extension-Erie County
850 East Gore Road
Erie, PA 16509
Phone: (814) 825-0900 Ext. 236
Fax: (814) 825-4783
Email: rem42@psu.edu
Web: extension.psu.edu/erie

PENNSTATE



Cooperative Extension
College of Agricultural Sciences



July 21, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan,
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta, Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of Green Building Alliance, I am pleased to support the nomination of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) national marine sanctuary designation. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759-square-mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, PA.

As a nonprofit organization, GBA inspires the creation of healthy, high-performing places for everyone by providing leadership that connects knowledge, transformative ideas, and collaborative action. Founded in 1993, headquartered in Pittsburgh and serving all of Western Pennsylvania including Erie, GBA is a chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council. With 22 years of local and national green building work, our strength lies in our leadership, partnerships, and ability to identify strategic programs and projects.

Designating the Lake Erie Quadrangle as a national marine sanctuary would help connect citizens to the natural world in an ever more direct, convenient, and personal manner. This Quadrangle demonstrates the value of good decision-making, understanding one's place in the world, and giving a voice to what we have learned here. Not only would the benefits include increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities, and the public, but this additional access would also create reasons for more people to care about the environment, establish a sense of place through the shared history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources of the region, and create reasons for people to think differently about their own behaviors (at home, school, work), possibly leading to improved decision-making in many aspects of daily living.

I strongly support the submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a national marine sanctuary designation and believe that the establishment of a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County, Pennsylvania is a vital step in both preserving our nation's heritage and establishing reasons to protect current resources for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. J. Basta", is written over a faint, light-colored rectangular stamp or watermark.

CEO



July 6, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of the Board of the Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park (LEAF), I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coastline in Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. It would complement the work that we do here at LEAF in educating the public about the value of our natural resources including trees and water. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Charlotte P. Mashyna
Director



July 7, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: Letter of Support – Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of the Board of the Lake Erie Region Conservancy (LERC), I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The creation of the Lake Erie Quadrangle NMS will help in protecting and preserving our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, within Pennsylvania's Lake Erie waters. LERC is a local, non-profit organization dedicated to the identification, conservation and protection of the Lake Erie region's unique natural and cultural resources, and as such, the proposed establishment of the NMS strongly relates to our mission.

Designation into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle NMS would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be of great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Establishing the 759 square mile Lake Erie Quadrangle NMS offshore from Erie County, Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving an important part of our regional and national heritage. As such, LERC enthusiastically endorses submission of a nomination package to NOAA as the nation's next NMS.

Sincerely,

David A. Skellie
LERC Board President
1540 East Lake Road
Erie, PA 16511



NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA GREEN ECONOMY TASK FORCE

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

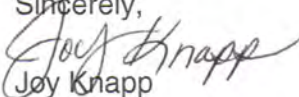
Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of the Northwest Pennsylvania Green Economy Task Force (NWPAGE), we are pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania. This will provide an important boost to the outdoor activities that provide an important part of our local green economy.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. Our outdoor recreational opportunities are a foundational element of our local green economy. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Our understanding of this designation is that it would help preserve an important part of our local natural heritage without precluding other activities in the area – such as fishing, boating, shipping and potential energy development through offshore wind turbines or other technologies. We therefore support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Joy Knapp
Co-Chair


Stephen Porter
Co-Chair

PRESQUE ISLE AUDUBON SOCIETY
TOM RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
301 PENINSULA DRIVE, SUITE 8
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16505



April 5, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

Presque Isle Audubon is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming, which dovetails perfectly with Audubon's mission of preserving quality habitat for birds and other wildlife, and educating the public on the benefits of doing so.

Presque State Park and the Purple Martin Roost (at the head of the bay) are both designated as Important Bird Areas. Numerous other areas in the county and the waters of Lake Erie are also harbor important environments that should be protected and celebrated. We believe the marine sanctuary designation will help in our efforts to maintain them, and bring the public to a greater understanding of their necessity to us all.

Also, Presque Isle State Park and the surrounding area already attract thousands of birders each year, who spend money in our community for lodging, food, transportation and other goods and services. The marine designation—which would highlight the natural amenities of this region—would bring additional attention to the unique wildlife viewing opportunities here.

We fully support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Michele Rundquist Franz
President
Presque Isle Audubon



The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Riverlife, I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programing for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jay Sukernek
Acting Director
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the National Marine Sanctuary Program was established in 1972 to preserve the extraordinary scenic beauty, biodiversity, historical connections, and economic productivity of the nation's most precious underwater treasures for future generations and to foster and understanding of our country's maritime heritage and landscape; and

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for a network of 14 protected marine sanctuaries encompassing more than 170,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, for the first time in two decades, NOAA has invited communities across the nation to nominate their most treasured places in our marine and Great Lakes waters for consideration as national marine sanctuaries; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie, which encompasses 759 square miles and Presque Isle Bay, along Erie County, Pennsylvania, is home to 132 identified shipwrecks, which are a resources with archeological, historical and recreational value; and are subject to continuing threats of pillaging by recreational divers and are vulnerable to exploitation and degradation; and

WHEREAS, the County of Erie, on behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, has recommended that a 759 square mile area in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie be nominated for designation by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as a national marine sanctuary to preserve these historical resources; and

WHEREAS, the proposed marine sanctuary contains many types of sunken vessels, including 132 identified shipwrecks, none of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, establishment of the proposed national marine sanctuary will preserve and protect these valuable maritime resources; advance educational programming in the region; interpret the maritime and cultural history of the area; and enhance tourism as a key component of economic development for the state and the region;

WHEREAS, no state or local matching funds or on-going operational support are required in order to establish a national marine sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, local resources and infrastructure may be used in partnership with NOAA to complement and enhance a national sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Erie Group of the Pennsylvania Sierra Club Chapter serves Erie County and its contiguous counties in Northwestern Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Sierra Club mission is to explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; and to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural human environment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lake Erie Group supports the nomination, designation and development of the proposed national marine sanctuary in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie, including Presque Isle Bay.

Approved by the Executive Committee of the Lake Erie Group on July 13, 2015.

PO Box 1556, Erie, PA 16507

LKE Group ExCom Contact person: Al Richardson (814) 528-5126

August 4, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of The Purple Martin Conservation Association, I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

It will also help to preserve waterways that are vital to migratory birds such as the Purple Martin. The Purple Martins also use the waterway for their fall migratory roost that swells to groupings of martins estimated to range in numbers from at least 50,000+. The roost is a tourist attraction and a vital pre-migratory gathering location for the Purple Martins.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Ellen Brockwell,
Executive Director, PMCA
301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 6
Erie, PA 16505
814.833.7656



July 22, 2015

The Honorable Kathryn D. Sullivan, Ph.D.
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Dr. Sullivan and Mr. Basta:

On behalf of Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, I am pleased to support the nomination of the Lake Erie Quadrangle to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary (NMS) designation.

In addition to the historic and cultural resources present, the area covered by the Lake Erie Quadrangle also contains important natural resources and significant aquatic biodiversity. Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has a long and successful history of working in the Erie County area. In addition to the creation of Erie Bluffs State Park in 2004 and Roderick Wildlife Reserve additions from 2010-2014, we have also recently partnered on a street tree planting initiative in the City of Erie. We feel that the positive economic benefits of advancing a NMS designation will complement these efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Gallagher".

Brian Gallagher
Public Policy and Government Relations Manager
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

cc: Thomas D. Saunders, President and CEO, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Honey Stempka, Project Manager, Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary Designation
The Honorable Kathy Dahlkemper, Erie County Executive



December 8, 2015

Kathy Dahlkemper, Executive
Erie County
140 West 6th St.
Erie, PA 16501

Dear Ms. Dahlkemper,

As president of Friends of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (located in Alpena, Michigan) I am pleased to provide this letter enthusiastically supporting the **Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary** nomination.

As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle would protect and interpret significant maritime heritage resources in the 759 square mile proposed sanctuary. The list of over 100 supporters, representing both public and private sectors, provides you with key partners for the possible designation of a national marine sanctuary. It is clear that you and your team have prepared a plan which will expand the network of public cultural and environmental resource sites in the Great Lakes basin and enhance Erie's attractiveness as a tourism and education destination. The Friends of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary supports a network of sanctuaries in the Great Lakes, and we would be pleased to have Pennsylvania on NOAA's inventory.

We congratulate you on the exceptional work done to date and look forward to helping you and your team in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Charles N. Wiesen, President
Friends of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
500 Fletcher St.
Alpena, MI 49707
wiesencn@gmail.com

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

December 17, 2015

Kathy Dahlkemper, Executive
Erie County
140 West 6th St.
Erie, PA 16501

Dear Ms. Dahlkemper,

The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council believes our country needs more National Marine Sanctuaries to protect the natural and cultural heritage treasures found in our oceans and Great Lakes. We particularly support the idea of a network of sanctuaries in the Great Lakes. Since our communities both border one of the great lakes, we share a wonderful heritage and history. We also share a vision of the role that the National Marine Sanctuary Program plays in our local coastal communities. We are writing to support the Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary nomination. That the conversation begins within the communities that are directly impacted by these decisions is essential, and we believe that each community must be engaged in the discussions about whether a national marine sanctuary is right for their area.

At least 15 years prior to designation as a National Marine Sanctuary the Alpena community was engaged in dialogue about protecting the shipwrecks and other cultural resources that lay off our shores. Active discussions with NOAA began in the middle 1990s that led to the formal designation of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in 2000. Since that time, the partnership between NOAA, the State of Michigan and the local shoreline communities has been successful beyond our initial projections or dreams. We are not only protecting Lake Huron and its rich history, we are also enhancing the local economy through destination tourism; bringing an appreciation of something much greater than ourselves to our young people through our education programming; advancing ocean and Great Lakes science through research; and so much more.

Strong communities are the fabric of a strong nation and we firmly agree that having the National Marine Sanctuary in our communities has made us a stronger, better, more stable region of Michigan. On behalf of the Sanctuary Advisory Council let me congratulate you on what you have accomplished to date and offer our assistance in working with stakeholders in the Lake Erie region as their vision for a sanctuary develops. Our Advisory Council unanimously offered a resolution of support for your efforts and we are eager to welcome you to the family of Sanctuaries across this great nation. If successful, you will join a very special club of dedicated communities all working for a set of common goals.

Please let us know how we can be of any assistance, now or in the future.

Sincerely,



Carol Shafto, Chair
Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

August 29, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

We are writing in support of the creation of a National Marine Sanctuary in Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As divers, we know firsthand the dynamic and rich maritime history that lies on the bottom of Lake Erie. We support wholeheartedly the effort to protect and preserve these archaeological treasures. Our support extends to helping NOAA in any way we can, including as volunteer divers to catalogue and survey shipwrecks.

Northwestern Pennsylvania is fortunate to have a myriad of active and unique maritime organizations that celebrate the maritime cultural heritage of the area. This heritage is important to the nation as a whole. As scuba divers, we have benefitted tremendously from these resources (the Brig Niagara, Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Presque Isle State Park to name just a few). They have served to make us more knowledgeable divers and given us a sustained appreciation for the rich ecological and maritime history of the area. A National Marine Sanctuary would extraordinarily enhance the educational opportunities and focus already present.

Among these enhanced opportunities are:

- Increasing awareness of the unique characteristics of the Great Lakes and Lake Erie in particular
- Protection of the maritime history of the area
- Increasing tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public.
- Importance in garnering interest of researchers to conduct research

We support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory and to our community's and the nation's inventory of educational resources.

Sincerely,

Blue Dolphin Divers Club

Michael Moulton, President

moultonm@live.com

415 French Creek Road

Waterford, PA 16441



Commodore Perry Yacht Club
646 West Bayfront Parkway
PO Box 3455 Erie, PA 16508-0455

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA
Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta, Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

August 17, 2015

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta:

Commodore Perry Yacht Club is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

As you can imagine, we strongly support any project that protects or enhances our Lake and Bay. We are not just boaters but SCUBA divers, fisherfolk, jet skiers, kayakers and swimmers.

Our club benefits financially from its many visitors during the boating season. Over the years, we have seen growth in the average number of nights and repeat visits from Canadian and domestic tourists.

Commodore Dana Anderson and our membership support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Chris Mead
Secretary (814) 881-4324 Secretary@CommodorePerryYachtClub.com



August 25, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of the Explorers Club of Pittsburgh (ECP), I am pleased to submit this letter of support for nomination of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Founded in 1947, the ECP was organized to promote exploratory science and adventure. Adopting the motto "Research, Education, and Adventure," our members, which comprise individuals throughout western Pennsylvania and beyond, engage in a variety of activities that would be permitted in the Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary, including recreational boating, diving, and fishing. The club's constitutional functions of promoting explorations at home and abroad, and to educate interested persons in exploratory science, align well with the education and research activities that would be available in the national marine sanctuary.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to the Lake Erie area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

The ECP supports submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation. We look forward to sharing news of the national marine Sanctuary designation with our membership!

Sincerely,

Ron Edwards, President
Explorers Club of Pittsburgh



JUST DIVE®

Bill Legler

North East Territory Representative

Phone: 814.873.0013 Email: blegler@nau.org

8-24-15

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
And NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Danial J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

I am writing you today on behalf of NAUI WORLDWIDE and the SCUBA diving community in and around Erie, Pa. supporting a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of lake Erie.

I met with Ellen Brody (NOAA Great Lakes Regional Coordinator) and Jeff Gray (Superintendent Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary) last December at Erie's Bayfront Maritime Center to discuss a Sanctuary and the NOAA Ocean Guardian youth diving program.

After touring BMC and meeting with its Director Rich Eisenberg, both Ellen and Jeff agreed that Erie would be the perfect fit for both programs. On several occasions I heard Ellen state the Erie was "turnkey" for an Underwater Sanctuary. She also stated the BMC was perfect for the Ocean Guardian program as the center already teaches youth in maritime math and sciences along with boat building and sailing.

Later that same day there was unanimous support for the Sanctuary not only from the diving community but also from local dive charters along with the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie, an organization that promotes fishing and conservation. There were NO negative feelings of feedback from anyone that attended.

The implementation of a National Underwater Marine Sanctuary along with the Ocean Guardian program will bring a tremendous amount of exposure and additional business to the region. The substantial economic impact and future growth of local business is tremendous. The educational aspects from Erie's rich maritime history of building the ships that fought the war of 1812 right here coupled with diver training for both young and old will be an integral part of Erie's future. NAUI WORLDWIDE will be proud to be part of that training.

Erie divers and fishermen are excited about the possibility of a National Sanctuary in our community. Feel free to contact me directly if I can be of any help with its inception.

Respectfully,

Bill Legler
NAUI Northeast



October 19, 2015

To: The Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary Committee

Dear Organizing Committee:

The members of Sail Erie wish to lend our voices of support to your efforts to establish the Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary.

We are a group of 35+ Lake Erie and Great Lakes sailors who believe the sanctuary is an opportunity to protect the waters we sail in, fish from, and depend on for our drinking water.

We have heard speakers from TREK, Pennsylvania Sea Grant, and others who have explained the project and the potential it holds for Lake Erie waterways.

We wish you success in your efforts. If we can assist in any way, please don't hesitate to contact members of our Board and Bridge—listed below.

Sincerely,

Sail Erie

Board and Bridge Members:

Linda and Doug Dunbar, 814-602-7717, wineisfine@neo.rr.com

Tom Todd, 814-397-4497, t.todd.ret@gmail.com

Dave Schnall, 814-450-8968, waveman@roadrunner.com

Rod Troester, 814-490-2066, rlt5@psu.edu



S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie Fishing Club

Sonsoflakeerie.org

PO Box 3605

Erie, PA 16508

Ph. 814-453-2270 Fax 814-453-2270

A 501(c) 3 not for profit organization

July 16, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Re: Letter of Support - Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie Fishing Club, its officers, directors and our over 3000 members, I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The creation of the Lake Erie Quadrangle NMS will not only help protect the archeological treasures and maritime resources within Pennsylvania's Lake Erie waters but hopefully generate research that will identify habitat, structure and other factors to support and preserve our Lake Erie fishery. We do however hope that an NMS designation will not disrupt the historic fishing patterns of the Lake Erie fishermen.

The S.O.N.S. (Acronym for Save Our Native Species) of Lake Erie is a local, non-profit organization dedicated improvement of fishing and the fishery in Lake Erie. We have worked diligently towards these ends since 1981.

Designation into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism, educational opportunities and the preservation of Erie's rich historic heritage. The S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie also see the NMS designation and the resulting benefits as a an opportunity to improve the fishing and fishery of Lake Erie. For these reasons, the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie endorses submission of a nomination package to NOAA as the nation's next NMS.

Yours truly,

Jerry Skrypzak- President

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

On behalf of Venture Outdoors, I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle marine sanctuary nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

As an organization with the mission of connecting everyone to the benefits of outdoor recreation and promoting the region's unique natural amenities, our program offerings allow us to highlight the beautiful waters of Lake Erie and preserve this space rich in both history and resources for current and future generations. Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and organizations like Venture Outdoors. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,



Joey-Linn Ulrich,
Executive Director

June 11, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta:

I am writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,



Judith Emling
230 Stonegate Dr.
Erie PA 16505
judithemling@roadrunner.com

June 11, 2015

Erie County Planning Office
140 West Sixth St.
Room 111
Erie PA 16508
Attn: Julia Donahue

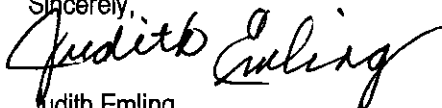
Dear Julia:

I am writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,



Judith Emling
230 Stonegate Dr.
Erie PA 16505
judithemling@roadrunner.com

Erin
Erie, June 17, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

As a member of the Erie County Civic Leadership Group, I am pleased to support the submission of the Lake Erie Quadrangle for nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for designation as a national marine sanctuary. As proposed, I believe the designation of the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Being designated as part of the national marine sanctuary system will provide other important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would then share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities, and user groups to be a part of this national system.

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along the shores of Erie County Pennsylvania is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. I support submission of the nomination package to NOAA and hope this valuable Great Lakes resource will be added to the inventory of the national marine sanctuaries.

Sincerely,

Juday & Jerry Lynch
803 Chelsea Lane
Erie PA 16505
833-5747

August 12, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

I am writing in support of the creation of a National Marine Sanctuary in Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. Having visited Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and dived on some of the wrecks within the sanctuary, I am keenly aware of the economic impact the sanctuary has had on the community of Alpena, Michigan and envision the same for Erie, Pennsylvania. I am most excited, however, as a public school teacher, at the educational potential afforded marine sanctuary status.

Northwestern Pennsylvania is fortunate to have a myriad of active and unique maritime organizations that celebrate the maritime cultural heritage of the area. A heritage that is important to the nation as a whole. My students and I have benefitted tremendously from these resources (the Brig Niagara, Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Presque Isle State Park to name just a few). A National Marine Sanctuary would extraordinarily enhance the educational opportunities and focus already present.

Among these opportunities are:

- Increasing awareness of the unique characteristics of the Great Lakes and Lake Erie in particular
- Protection of the maritime history of the area
- Momentum in the creation of materials which may be used to educate students (and public) to the rich maritime history of the area
- Ability to implement STEM activities within sanctuary waters (much of this already occurs with such organizations as Sea Grant but a NOAA Sanctuary would add greater emphasis)
- Increasing community educational outreach between schools and universities
- Importance in garnering interest of researchers to conduct research

I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory and to our community's and the nation's inventory of educational resources.

Sincerely,

Michael Moulton

moultonm@live.com

415 French Creek Road

Waterford, PA 16441

8570 Nissen Drive,
Fairview, PA 16415
June 19, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

I, Louise A. Stuart am writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archaeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

I love history, and there is so much history in this area, on the land as well as in the waters of Lake Erie. I think having that having the sanctuary to protect and learn about our maritime history will be a wonderful opportunity for all in our area.

I therefore support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Louise A. Stuart

3321 Eliot Road
Erie, PA 16508

June 23, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta, Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta:

I am writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a national marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the national marine sanctuary system will provide important benefits to this area including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programming for schools, universities and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle would share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources the region has to offer. It would be a great benefit for the Commonwealth, local communities and user groups to be a part of this national system.

I support submission of a nomination package to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes resource to its inventory for a potential national marine sanctuary designation.

Sincerely,

Claudia Woodard



October 2, 2015

The Honorable Kathy D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta,

Ohio Sea Grant College Program is writing to support a nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a National Marine Sanctuary designation in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie. As proposed, the Lake Erie Quadrangle will protect and preserve our archaeological treasures and maritime resources, including 132 identified shipwrecks, over a 759 square mile area off the 76.6 miles of coast of Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Becoming designated into the National Marine Sanctuary System provides important benefits to this area including increased tourism opportunities and an expansion of the educational programming for schools, universities, and the public. The Lake Erie Quadrangle will share the history of the maritime heritage and cultural resources of the region. To be a part of this national system will greatly benefit the Commonwealth, local communities, and user groups.

As a hotspot for fishing and recreational boating, an invaluable education resource, and an economic driver for the surrounding states, protection of Lake Erie is essential. Ohio Sea Grant strives to conserve unique and fragile coastal environments, conduct relevant research, and educate about the importance of a healthy Lake Erie. By protecting the cultural and natural resources of the Eastern Basin of Lake Erie through its inclusion in the National Marine Sanctuary Program, you would be securing a necessary investment in the future of the Great Lakes. From our perspective this designation would provide many new education, outreach, research, and tourism opportunities, as well as future partnerships and collaboration opportunities.

Ohio Sea Grant offers full support of the Lake Erie Quadrangle as a submission to NOAA to add this valuable Great Lakes' resource to its inventory as a potential National Marine Sanctuary.

Sincerely,

Jill Bartolotta
Extension Educator
The Ohio State University
Ohio Sea Grant College Program