

The North Carolina Office of State Archaeology and NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary present  
North Carolina Archaeology Month, October 2021

For more information about "Submerged NC" events, visit  
[www.archaeology.ncdcr.gov/archaeology-month](http://www.archaeology.ncdcr.gov/archaeology-month)  
[www.monitor.noaa.gov](http://www.monitor.noaa.gov)

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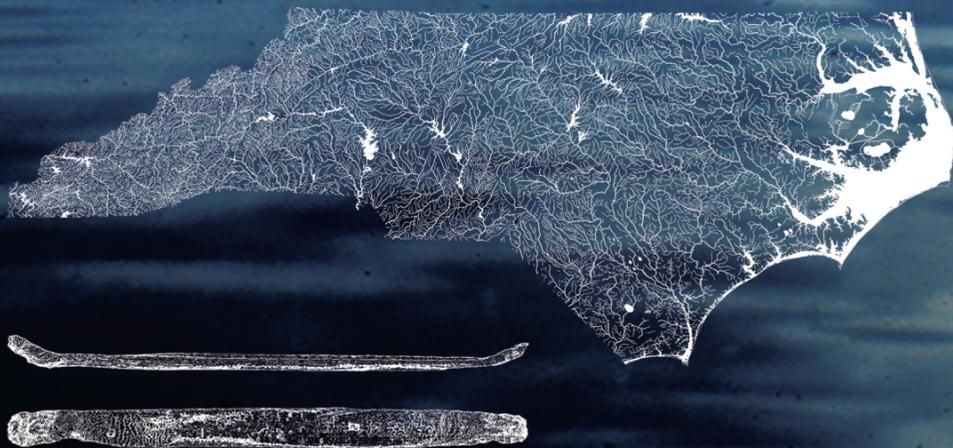
exploring north carolina's underwater cultural heritage

# SUBMERGED NC



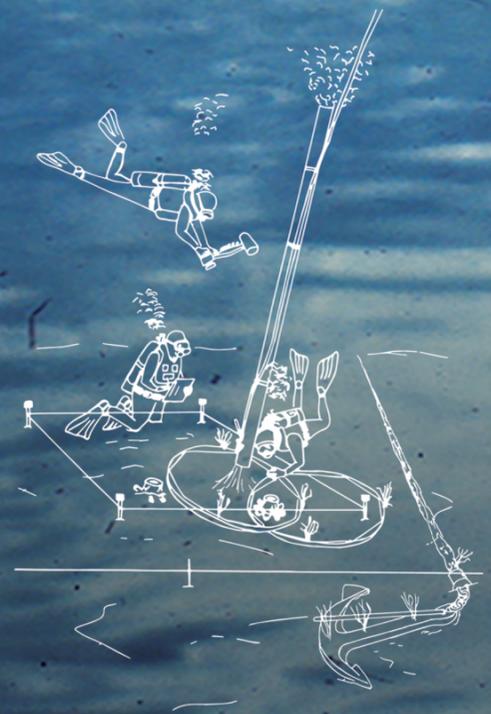
## North Carolina Waters

A vast network of more than 37,000 miles of rivers, inlets, and access to the Atlantic Ocean has served the people of North Carolina for thousands of years, providing food, transportation, power, and entertainment (below). Human interaction with these environments leaves evidence of past North Carolinians visible in our unique underwater cultural heritage.



## Scientific Study

Underwater archaeologists, also called maritime, marine, or nautical archaeologists, are trained in a special set of skills that enable them to perform scientific surveys and excavations in submerged environments (right). They are scientific divers practiced in safely conducting research on underwater sites. The tools and methods may differ from those used on land sites, but the theories and ways of interpreting archaeological and historical information are the same.



Background: An OSA archaeologist surveys Lake Phelps in Washington County to document submerged dugout canoes. Image by NC OSA, 1986.

## Submerged Cultural Resources

Anything man-made beneath the water's surface is considered a submerged cultural resource. Ocean shipwrecks, dugout canoes made by American Indians (above), fish weirs, inundated towns, and mills and irrigation features along rivers are just a few examples.

