

The North Carolina Office of State Archaeology and NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary present:



[www.archaeology.ncdcr.gov](http://www.archaeology.ncdcr.gov)

[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

Coastal North Carolina serves as a uniquely accessible underwater museum and a memorial to a generation of mariners who rose to the country's defense when war erupted off our shores. Working together to preserve these sites, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) and the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology (OSA), celebrate North Carolina's underwater cultural heritage while expanding recreational, tourism, education, and economic development opportunities.

## Submerged Cultural Resources

Anything man-made beneath the water's surface may be considered a submerged cultural resource. Ocean shipwrecks, dugout canoes made by American Indians, fish weirs, inundated towns, and mills and irrigation features along rivers are just a few examples. OSA fulfills its state law role to protect, preserve, survey, and recover submerged resources inland and within three nautical miles of the North Carolina coast, and works closely with Federal agencies like NOAA to protect and interpret shipwrecks important to North Carolina's history in Federal waters.

## A History of Preservation

The waters off North Carolina contain NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary and hundreds of years of maritime history including one of the most significant battlefields in American History, World War II's Battle of the Atlantic. In just three years, from 1942 to 1945, Germany's devastating U-boat campaign against merchant shipping caused the loss of 90 ships and nearly 1,700 lives off North Carolina alone. Over the last four decades, NOAA and the OSA have worked together to document, preserve, and honor this underwater cultural heritage and commemorate the sacrifices and accomplishments made by generations before us.

Image: An archaeologist surveys the U-352, the first German U-boat sunk by the U.S. Coast Guard off the U.S. coast during WWII. Image courtesy of NOAA.

