

A Proposal to  
Michigan Department of Natural  
Resources and Environment  
and  
Office of the State Archaeologist  
For the Creation of the

# WEST MICHIGAN UNDERWATER PRESERVE



Submitted by:



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The West Michigan Underwater Preserve (WMUP) Council proposes formation of a new preserve with boundaries that would encompass known shipwrecks (historical and recent), geographical features, and other abandoned property, in the Lake Michigan region bordering west Michigan, in accordance with Part 761 Aboriginal Records and Antiquities of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, as amended (Michigan Compiled Laws 324.76101 et seq.).

Over many years, scuba divers, fishermen, pilots and boaters have located and recognized a number of shipwrecks of varying age in this area. With assistance from community organizations, including Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab/NOAA, Grand Valley State University's Water Resources Institute, Michigan Sea Grant Extension, area Great Lakes history museums, local Native Americans, local divers, and others as needed, WMUP's goal is to protect, present and interpret historically significant shipwrecks that date as far back as mid-1800s. Also incorporated will be underwater cultural resources of more recent origin.

The proposed WMUP presents significant tourism, economic, and development opportunities for the Great Lake State of Michigan and counties that border this area of eastern Lake Michigan.

Upon approval by the convening authority, the area will be declared as an Underwater Preserve under the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act 451 of 1994. The preserve council will engage in a range of activities aimed at effectively managing commercial and recreational dive tourism operations while discouraging activities that would compromise safety or conservation of the site.

The proposed West Michigan Underwater Preserve holds significant cultural, historic, and aesthetic values. Creation of an underwater preserve will encourage development of new educational, scientific and historic preservation opportunities and will contribute to enhancing the recreation and conservation values of the region. Development of professional commercial tourism operations has been encouraged by Michigan Sea Grant Extension, in cooperation with Michigan State University, through targeted consultation with the dive/water tourism industry for many years.

The dive industry in this area will work with Michigan Sea Grant Extension to develop feasible options for the provision of commercial dive tourism opportunities that are consistent with the values of the Underwater Preserve, with emphasis on public safety and quality dive tourism service. Community and stakeholder participation in developing this proposal provides evidence that the Underwater Preserve will provide new and important opportunities for dive and other preserve-related tourism in the region.

The proposed preserve area identified by the WMUP Council covers approximately 330 square miles of the eastern half of Lake Michigan. The southern border extends from the established northern boundary of the Southwest Michigan Underwater Preserve northward to the North Boundary of Ludington State Park. (See Appendix A, Map of proposed preserve, page 27.)

Keeping with safety standards and the 400-square-mile preserve limit designation by the state, the proposed preserve boundary follows a 130-foot depth contour and extends 4 miles offshore in some places. The map shows the major ports and boat launches that would facilitate easy access/entrance into the preserve. These harbor towns have the recreational infrastructure needed to support sport diving in West Michigan, such as marinas, launching ramps, air stations and charter operations. Concerning safety, local hospitals and emergency services are available and there is a hyperbaric chamber, if ever needed, in Grand Rapids.

Public and private support for this proposal has been outstanding, with positive input from the media and state legislators who represent regional communities. This support has been demonstrated by numerous letters from appropriate state agencies, Chambers of Commerce, and Tourism Bureaus.

*This proposal is respectfully submitted by the WMUP Council Board of Directors*

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Tom Hamilton, Fishery Biologist, Montague  
Alan Steinman, PhD, Director, Grand Valley State Univ., Water Resources Institute, Muskegon  
David Wells, Attorney, Vanderploeg, Wells and Sweeting, LLP, Whitehall  
Cyndi Larson, Director, Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce, Muskegon  
Michigan State Senator Gerald VanWoerkom, Muskegon

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## INTRODUCTION

This proposal was prepared by the West Michigan Underwater Preserve Council (WMUP) with the assistance of the Grand Traverse Bay Underwater Preserve Council and the formal support of the Michigan Underwater Preserve Council for the purpose of forming an underwater preserve to protect shipwrecks, other submerged cultural resources of American and Native history, and natural features within the proposed preserve boundaries.

What is it about shipwrecks that capture our imagination? Living in Michigan, shipwrecks are a big part of our history. The lumber barons of West Michigan loaded great ships with timber and sent them across the lake. Loads of coal, iron ore, and passengers, too, made their way to Chicago, Milwaukee, and other faraway places. Each trip across the lake was a risky undertaking as ships were at the mercy of the often unpredictable lake. Our many Coast Guard stations and lighthouses are a testament to the awesome and deadly power of the "Big Lake." Shipwrecks are a piece of our history and so they capture our minds, but why do they capture our hearts? Maybe because each shipwreck has a story to tell.

It was November 17, 1886 when the 90' wooden schooner named *Helen* left Chicago after delivering her cargo of lumber. She was headed back to the sawmills on White Lake for more, but never arrived. *Helen* went down just north of the Muskegon Channel in a fierce storm. The body of her captain, John Von Thadden, was spotted on the beach two days after the wreckage was found. It was another four days before the body of Mrs. Von Thadden washed ashore. Today the shipwreck lies in shallow water where the Big Lake toys with it, sometimes covering it with sand, sometimes revealing it to us again.

Fifty-four years later, on November 11, 1940, three more ships met their demise during a single storm: *William B. Davock*, *Anna C. Minch*, and *Novadoc*. With 75 mph winds and 20-foot waves, the 1940 Armistice Day storm sent all three vessels to the bottom of Lake Michigan and claimed the lives of 59 seamen. These are just a few of the many shipwrecks that lay at the bottom of Lake Michigan, many of which are within the boundaries of the proposed West Michigan Underwater Preserve.

Anyone who has ever watched a storm roll in across Lake Michigan has some idea of how powerful and unpredictable the wind and waves can be. To really understand their power, just slip beneath the water and begin descent into the deep, where all is quiet but for the sound of your own breathing. It doesn't matter how many dives you have – there is always the moment of breathless anticipation when the shadowy outline of a ship long since lost emerges from the gloom. Glide effortlessly over the twisted metal of *Minch*, 380' of steel broken in two during the Armistice Day storm, and try to imagine the faces of the crew trying to save her, and so save themselves. Shipwrecks remind us of our history and our humanity. As divers, we know the value of these shipwrecks and their history. We know they must be protected.

The equivalent of dry land preserves, underwater preserves are recognized as places of distinctive historical and recreational interest. The proposed underwater preserve in the bottom lands of Lake Michigan in the West Michigan area serves as both a recreational destination and historical site rich in maritime history.

Preliminary steps taken by the WMUP include precise location of 12 known wrecks and two geographical features (a clay wall and Hamilton Reef) in the proposed underwater preserve area. Other steps taken include meeting with members of the Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce for its endorsement, and meeting with the Michigan Underwater Preserve Council for organizational endorsement of the proposed WMUP. Numerous letters of support have been received for this proposed new preserve. (See Appendix B, Letters of Support, page 28.)

## ***DISCLAIMER***

This document has been prepared for the purposes of discussion and comment in preparation for forming a new underwater preserve. It does not, in its current form, commit the WMUP to any specific future action. This document does not necessarily represent government policy, though efforts have been made to base its content on law and policy, and its development on previous proposals for other preserves. Its preparation indicates only that a proposal is under consideration and specific actions are open for discussion. Provisions in resulting legislation might not be the same as those represented here. The WMUP Council, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), the Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the new, merged Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Michigan Sea Grant Extension, Michigan's Secretary of State, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service do not accept any liability for any actions taken or not taken on the basis of information included or not included in this publication. Nothing in this document is intended to diminish or extinguish native title.

## ***DEFINITIONS***

Language around underwater preserves and their resources often is misinterpreted and some terms currently are open to legal interpretation. Therefore, to minimize inaccurate assumptions and understandings, definitions are referenced from the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act 451 of 1994 Part 761 of the Aboriginal Records and Antiquities 324.76101:

(a) "Abandoned property" means an aircraft; a watercraft, including a ship, boat, canoe, skiff, raft or barge; the rigging, gear, fittings, trappings, and equipment of an aircraft or watercraft; the personal property of the officers, crew, and passengers of an aircraft or watercraft; and the cargo of an aircraft or watercraft, which have been deserted, relinquished, cast away, or left behind and for which attempts at reclamation have been abandoned by owners and insurers. Abandoned property also means materials resulting from activities of historic and prehistoric Native Americans.

(b) "Bottomlands" means the unpatented lake bottomlands of the Great Lakes.

(c) "Committee" means the underwater salvage and preserve committee created in section 76103.

(d) "Great Lakes" means lakes Erie, Huron, Michigan, and Superior.

(e) "Great Lakes bottomlands preserve" means an area located on the bottomlands of the Great Lakes and extending upward to and including the surface of the water, which is delineated and set aside by rule for special protection of abandoned property of historical value, or ecological, educational, geological, or scenic features or formations having recreational, educational, or scientific value. A preserve may encompass a single object, feature, or formation, or a collection of several objects, features, or formations.

(f) "Historical value" means value relating to, or illustrative of Michigan history, including the statehood, territorial, colonial, historic, and prehistoric Native American people.

(g) "Mechanical or other assistance" means all human made devices, including pry bars, wrenches and other hand or power tools, cutting torches, explosives, winches, flotation bags, lines to surface, extra divers buoyancy devices, and other buoyancy devices, used to raise or remove artifacts.

(h) "Recreational value" means value relating to an activity that the public engages in, or may engage in, for recreation or sport, including scuba diving and fishing.

## **Additional Definitions identified by WMUPC**

(a) The term "site" refers to the actual location a diver chooses to spend his time diving.

(b) The term "preserve" is an area in coverage that would include any and all dive sites within.

## OBJECTIVES FOR MANAGEMENT OF WMUP

In accordance with legislative intent, the WMUP Council proposes to manage the preserve by:

1. providing a long-term framework to protect and manage the underwater preserve and its resources in a way that maintains the cultural, historic and aesthetic values of the preserve;
2. providing new opportunities for the dive industry to supply commercial dive tourism activities within the preserve;
3. encouraging compliance with a code of conduct, which will be ratified and endorsed by relevant industry groups and operators;
4. promoting community awareness of the preserve and its resources;
5. engaging in scientific research; and
6. developing educational and interpretive opportunities for residents and tourists, in partnership with various institutions.

The objectives are to be achieved by the WMUP Council interacting with commercial and recreational dive tourism services. They will be asked to manage the site in a manner that is consistent with the proposed management intent and any proposed use of the preserve. These partners are currently working together to reduce exploitation and degradation of the values of the shipwrecks, and maintain a quality experience of diving at the sites and will continue even more so through the vehicle provided by the proposed Preserve.

## Legislation

### CONSISTENCY WITH THE AUTHORIZING LAW

There appears to be considerable diversity from state to state in the amount and effectiveness of legislation regarding underwater cultural resources. Some states have extensive legislation, resulting in a great deal of regulation and policy. On the other hand, some states have very little legislation relating to shipwrecks, and often it is antiquated and ineffective. Several states have either passed legislation or are in the process of preparing and/or adopting legislation to protect and more effectively use their underwater cultural resources. The timing of this recent surge in shipwreck legislation indicates that the Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987 has served to some extent as an incentive to states.

Section 2 of the Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987 states, "The Congress finds that:

- a) states have the responsibility for management of a broad range of living and non-living resources in State waters and submerged lands;
- b) and included in the range of resources are certain abandoned shipwrecks, which have been deserted and to which the owner has relinquished ownership with no retention."

## Legislation in Michigan

### Title

Part 761 Aboriginal Records and Antiquities of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection

Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, as amended

### Citation

Michigan Compiled Laws 324.76101 et seq.

### Summary of Law

Section 324.76111 (See Appendix C for full statement of sections 324.76111 and 324.76112 of the Michigan Compiled Laws 1) authorizes the Department of Environmental Quality to establish Great Lakes bottomlands preserves by rule, or by emergency rule if the department determines such action to be necessary to provide immediate protection of an object or area of historical or recreational value; 2) directs that such a preserve may be established whenever a bottomlands area includes: a single watercraft of significant historical value; two or more abandoned watercraft; or other features of archeological, historical, recreational, geological or environmental significance; and 3) allows bottomlands areas containing few or no watercraft or other features directly related to the character of a preserve to be excluded from preserves.

This section of state law directs the department to consider the following when establishing a Great Lakes bottomlands preserve:

1. Whether creating the preserve is necessary to protect either abandoned property possessing historical or recreational value, or significant underwater geological or environmental features;
2. The extent of local public and private support for the creation of the preserve;
3. Whether a preserve development plan has been prepared by a state or local agency;
4. Preserve support facilities such as roads, marinas, charter services, hotels, medical hyperbaric facilities and rescue agencies have been developed in or planned for the area.

**Section 324.76111** also directs the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of History, Arts and Libraries not to grant a permit to recover abandoned artifacts within a Great Lakes bottomlands preserve except for historical or scientific purposes or when the recovery will not adversely affect the historical, cultural, or recreational integrity of the preserve area as a whole. Limits an individual preserve to not more than 400 square miles. Limits the total area of all Great Lakes bottomlands preserves to not more than 10% of the Great Lakes bottomlands in the state. Allows not more than one vessel associated with Great Lakes maritime history to be sunk intentionally, with the advice of the Underwater Salvage and Preserve Committee, within a Great Lakes bottomlands preserve and prohibits state money from being used to purchase, transport, or sink the vessel.

**Section 324.76107** states that, “a person shall not recover, alter, or destroy abandoned property which is on, under, or over the bottomlands of the Great Lakes, including those within a Great Lakes bottomlands preserve, unless the person has a permit issued jointly by the Department of History, Arts and Libraries and the department under section 76109.” The requirements for obtaining a permit, and situations when a person does not need a permit to recover abandoned property are described in sections 76108 and 76109.

**Section 324.76112** authorizes the department and the Department of History, Arts and Libraries, jointly or separately, to promulgate rules as necessary to implement this part, including rules that govern access to and use of a Great Lakes bottomlands preserve to regulate or prohibit the alteration, destruction, or removal of abandoned property, features or formations within a preserve.

**Section 324.76103** establishes the Underwater Salvage and Preserve Committee, one of the strengths of this act (see excerpt below). Representatives of state agencies and public stakeholders make up the committee, and each represents a different perspective of the shipwreck resource. Of particular interest is the fact that two of the appointees are required to have experience in recreational scuba diving. The committee is advisory in nature and makes recommendations in several areas including salvage permit issuance, appropriate legislation, and program operation.

**Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (Excerpt)**  
**Act 451 of 1994**

324.76103 Underwater salvage and preserve committee; creation; purpose; appointment, qualifications, and terms of members; vacancy; compensation; appointment, term, and duties of chairperson; committee as advisory body; functions of committee; limitation

**Section 324.76103.**

1. The underwater salvage and preserve committee is created in the department to provide technical and other advice to the department and the department of history, arts, and libraries with respect to their responsibilities under this part.
2. The underwater salvage and preserve committee shall consist of 9 members appointed as follows:
  - a) Two individuals appointed by the department who have primary responsibility in the department for administering this part.
  - b) Two individuals appointed by the director of the department of history, arts, and libraries who have primary responsibility in the department of history, arts, and libraries for administering this part.
  - c) Five individuals appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate from the general public. Two of these individuals shall have experience in recreational scuba diving.
3. An individual appointed to the committee shall serve for a term of 3 years. A vacancy on the committee shall be filled in the same manner as an original appointment and the term of a member appointed to fill a vacancy shall be for 3 years. Members of the committee shall serve without compensation, except for their regular state salary where applicable.
4. The chairperson of the committee shall alternate between the representatives from the department and the department of history, arts, and libraries. The chairperson shall be designated by the department or the director of the department of history, arts, and libraries, whichever is applicable from among his or her representatives on the committee. The chairperson's term shall run for 12 months, from October 1 through September 30. The department shall appoint the first chairperson of the committee for a term ending September 30, 1989. The chairperson shall call meetings as necessary but not less than 4 times per year, set the agenda for meetings, ensure that adequate minutes are taken, and file an annual report of committee proceedings with the head of the department of natural resources and the director of the department of history, arts, and libraries.
5. The committee is an advisory body and may perform all of the following functions:
  - a) Make recommendations with regard to the creation and boundaries of Great Lakes underwater preserves.
  - b) Review applications for underwater salvage permits and make recommendations

- regarding issuance.
- c) Consider and make recommendations regarding the charging of permit fees and the appropriate use of revenue generated by those fees.
  - d) Consider the need for and the content of rules intended to implement this part and make recommendations concerning the promulgation of rules.
  - e) Consider and make recommendations concerning appropriate legislation.
  - f) Consider and make recommendations concerning program operation.
6. The committee shall not replace or supersede the responsibility or authority of the department of history, arts, and libraries or the department to carry out their responsibilities under this part.

End of Act 451 of 1994

### **Summary Discussion of Michigan Underwater Preserves**

Michigan underwater preserves are legally defined areas that include submerged lands (i.e., bottomlands) and overlying surface waters of the Great Lakes. The preserves offer special protection of abandoned property of historical, recreational, educational, and scientific value. Several factors are considered by the State of Michigan in the process of establishing an underwater preserve. The law makes very clear that none of the wording contained therein is to be considered as restricting scuba diving in the Great Lakes waters of Michigan. Section 324.76113 states that this law "shall not be considered to impose the following limitations: A limitation on the right of a person to engage in diving for recreational purposes in and upon the Great Lakes or the bottomlands of the Great Lakes."

An important event in the continued effort to advance stewardship of the Michigan underwater preserve system is the formation of the Michigan Underwater Preserve Council (MUPC). The MUPC was formed in an effort to protect and preserve Great Lakes shipwrecks, educate divers and nondivers on their history, and to promote recreational diving in the preserves. MUPC is a private, nonprofit, volunteer driven organization.

The MUPC promotes recreational diving and protection of shipwrecks and other underwater heritage through its members, who represent each of the underwater preserves. Many of the sunken vessels found within the preserves are found in good condition, even after being submerged for 100+ years. There are various factors that keep these shipwrecks in such wonderful condition, some natural factors, some manmade. As an example, great care is taken in the placement of mooring buoys, buoy chains and ropes, the amount of scope in mooring lines as well as other considerations in protecting and preserving the wreck sites.

One of MUPC's many goals for the future involves placing mooring anchors or weights near many of the shipwrecks within the preserves. This will allow divers to visit the wrecks without damage from lines, chains, and grapple hooks. It will also aid in making the dive safer by establishing a line for ascents and descents tied to a mooring anchor or weight as close to a wreck as possible without damaging it.

## Detailed Description of the Proposal

WMUP management responsibilities include:

1. providing for the protection of shipwrecks and conservation of the preserve's natural, cultural and aesthetic values;
2. maintaining the preserve as a quality centerpiece of dive tourism in Michigan;
3. encouraging the development of new educational and scientific opportunities;
4. building partnerships with the community, organizations, commercial operators and other state government agencies to manage and protect the preserve;
5. engaging in stewardship of the preserve as a self-sustaining venture through the possible introduction of Tribal grants, matching grant funds and monies from fundraising activities; and
6. encouraging education and conservation of sites, and promoting safe diving practices.

### ***Proposed Preserve Boundaries***

The proposed eastern preserve boundary shall begin north of Big Sable Lighthouse at N44 04.900 / W086 29.430 and follow the Natural Ordinary High Watermark south to N42 50.017 / W086 12.683. The preserve northern and southern boundaries will extend directly west four miles from the two shoreline points identified. The western boundary of the preserve will run parallel to the Natural Ordinary High Watermark, following the 94-mile shoreline of the eastern boundary. This results in a preserve surface area of 376 square miles.

### ***Site Management / Shipwreck Protection / Enhancing Recreational Diving***

The proposed underwater preserve will be established and managed as consistent with Part 761 Aboriginal Records and Antiquities of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act 451 of 1994, as amended. As an underwater preserve, it will be used responsibly to maintain the cultural, historical, environmental, and aesthetic values of any Native American sites/artifacts, shipwrecks, submerged cultural resources, and other underwater heritage located within the proposed preserve boundaries. Access to the preserve will be subject to current state law and regulations aimed at effectively managing commercial and recreational dive operations while restricting or prohibiting activities that would compromise safety of visitors and preservation of resources. General tourism operations, boating, and other watercraft activities will not be impacted negatively by establishment of the preserve. It is intended that a "code of conduct" will be developed to guide the use of public resources within the preserve, which will be ratified and endorsed by various governmental officials, industry groups, and commercial operators.

### ***Mooring Infrastructure and Maintenance***

To further the responsible use of dive sites, the WMUP will provide moorings for commercial operators and other preserve visitors. The WMUP Council will design, acquire, install, and continue ongoing maintenance of all mooring systems in accordance with applicable state and federal law. It is expected that mooring installation and maintenance work will be completed by members of the WMUP Council and other volunteers. Routine maintenance and a limited amount of contingency repair work have been incorporated into the project's annual costs, to be the responsibility of WMUP.

## ***Agreement Considerations***

The WMUP Council will monitor the use of dive sites and work with commercial dive operators in implementing and complying with a code of conduct (appendix D, page 50 ) for responsible use of these dive sites. Research operations will be asked to notify the WMUPC about their intentions in surveying wreck sites. All operators will be asked to ensure that they abide by the provisions of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act 451 of 1994.

## ***Financial Contributions***

The State of Michigan has determined that ongoing management of the proposed preserve must be at no cost to the State.

Initial material costs for maintenance and administration of the sites, including moorings, research and monitoring, are estimated to be approximately \$6,000. Initially, financial contributions will be from membership fees and fundraiser events with business and community donations and advertising. The WMUP is a 501(c)3 enabling tax deduction status to contributions, making sponsorships and donations more attractive. Commercial charter operations will be asked for donations/membership fees as well.

## **Benefits and Costs**

WMUP Council is seeking to:

- contribute to local and regional economic development and growth by creating a niche market for commercial dive operators within the region who are able to provide a high level of service and safety;
- promote the responsible use of shipwrecks as a resource that can generate a new stream of income over the long term;
- encourage and attract dive tourism;
- promote experiences in the preserve through a focus on public safety and protection of dive sites; and
- improve the clarity and transparency of roles/responsibilities of WMUPC and dive operators.

Overall, it is likely that the financial impact to local, regional, and state economies will be positive as the preserve develops into a new and exciting dive tourism destination.

West Michigan is already a prime tourist destination and the Great Lakes are noted nationally as an established recreational diving location. A 20- year-old survey (1989) by Skin Diver Magazine (circulation one million) showed that 11% of the subscribers who took a dive trip within the United States during the 1984 season went to a Great Lakes location. Dive travelers are the most upscale and affluent of all diving enthusiasts.

Recreational scuba diving continues to be a rapidly growing component of the marine recreation and tourism industry. A 1997 consumer study commissioned by the Diving Equipment and Marketing Association found that at least 16 million Americans consider themselves to be active divers. This estimate was based on a Gallup Organization survey of more than 800 people in all

50 states. Even more astounding was that an additional 75 million Americans wanted to know more about diving, implying that 45 percent of the American population were either active scuba divers or interested in the sport. This illustrates an enormous potential for growth.

This growth factor is one key aspect that is exciting for members presenting this preserve proposal. Several partners have been engaged in plans for promoting the historical, economical, and educational components of the WMUP with a larger number of potential partners. Plans include creating an educational exhibit in the Great Lakes Memorial and Naval (GLMN) Museum describing the shipwrecks within the Preserve. A similar co-operation is planned with the Montague Museum. (See Attachments for Letters of Support). As Bryan Hughes, Executive Director of the Great Lakes Memorial and Naval Museum, said in a recent article printed in the Muskegon Chronicle, he sees potential for education adventures to be promoted as a tourism draw. Local tourism officials are listening and agree.

*"We are in a unique position to offer a quality educational and recreational experience," said Janessa Stroud, chamber vice president. "We need to make this part of our tourism culture. We look forward to promoting it."*

*Port City Princess owner Sylvia Precious said her dinner cruise boat always has had educational programs available for adults and school groups. She said she hopes to expand that part of her business.*

*"It needs to zero in on our maritime history and focus on Muskegon," Precious said of the Education Adventure initiative. – Muskegon Chronicle, Muskegon hoping to capitalize on education adventure opportunities, December 1, 2009*

Noting this article and the other attached Letters of Support from various Chambers of Commerce and Tourism Bureaus, the proposed Preserve and its associated diving and snorkeling opportunities dovetail perfectly with this effort; and the certainly can support education adventures when combined with the planned educational activities of the WMUP.

The declaration of a preserve provides clarity to all stakeholders about the management intent of the site. It ensures that any commercial activity occurring within the preserve is undertaken in an ecologically sustainable manner.

### ***Potential Costs to the WMUP***

Projected costs and cost factors are:

- establishment and declaration of the underwater preserve;
- design and installation of moorings and other infrastructure to enable access for commercial and recreational use;
- administering the process to attract potential dive tourism and to provide dive tourism services at the preserve,
- ongoing maintenance and administration of the site; and
- public contact and education.

The establishment of the underwater preserve has the potential to provide a range of economic and social benefits to West Michigan.

## ***Potential Benefits to the Government***

The benefits of an established and recognized WMUP to the state and local governments of Michigan are:

- enhancement of the historical, cultural, and recreation values of shipwrecks and other underwater heritage within the proposed underwater preserve;
- receipt of municipal/city boat launch fees from boat operators accessing Lake Michigan from local marinas;
- improved clarity and transparency of WMUPC and research dive operators' roles and responsibilities as indicated by standards of responsible diver behavior and etiquette, to be developed and promoted by WMUP;
- clear responsibility for stewardship of the underwater preserve as that of the WMUPC in cooperation with the State of Michigan;
- maintenance of public safety standards;
- protection of important environmental/ecological values of the preserve;
- recognition of the aesthetic values of the preserve;
- growth in local jobs as dependent on the success of the preserve; and;
- ongoing management of dive sites at no cost to the State, after initial costs associated with proposal review and legislative process.

## ***Commercial Fishers***

Consultation with Tribes and review of Tribal laws will take precedence in netting location and best use of tribal fishing treaty. The costs to the commercial fishing industry from the establishment of the preserve are expected to be negligible. Consultation with the DNRE, Fish Division, representing commercial fishers, indicates that the site has little significance for commercial fishing due to possible net snagging.

## ***Considerations***

Factors that could deter public support need to be considered because the proposed preserve will be adjacent to waterfront homes. The question: "Will property value and related taxes increase with the inclusion of a preserve?" A request to Holloway Institute – a firm that educates the real estate companies and their agents – has revealed positive results. They indicate there should be no increase in property/land taxes, and thus, no negative financial impact.

While the benefits of the WMUP are great, basic costs are few. It is estimated that the start-up cost of the proposed Preserve will be approximately \$6,000, with annual expenses estimated as low as \$500. The low annual expense is due to many volunteers and partners providing labor and other associated in-kind contributions.

## **Support Facilities**

### ***Access to the Preserve***

Access to the West Michigan Underwater Preserve can be achieved by utilizing public roads maintained year round, primarily US-31 that facilitates access to support facilities for easy boat access to the proposed underwater preserve with marinas in the water-bordering counties of Ottawa, Muskegon, Oceana, and Mason counties. Various charter services are available in each of these counties.

Due to the popularity of tourism in West Michigan, there are many support facilities, such as lodging (184) and public boat launches (39) to accommodate the increase in tourism, with accommodations to enhance and entice overnight stays for extended dive trips. There is room for the associated stimulated growth in these facilities as well. The table below lists this data by county.

County	Ottawa	Muskegon	Oceana	Mason
Boat Launches	20	13	4	3
Boat Fuel Docks	7	10	2	2
Lodging (including camping)	51	54	34	45

Eight (8) dive shops are located within 30 miles of the proposed Preserve complemented with two (2) Boat Dive Charters along with many fishing charter services able to take out divers.

### ***Medical Support***

Rescue operations surround the preserve with EMS in all marina areas of the preserve, including Holland, Grand Haven, Muskegon, North Muskegon, Norton Shores, Whitehall, Montague, and Pentwater. Search and Rescue dive teams are stationed in Ottawa, Muskegon, Mason and Oceana Counties in association with the Police, Fire and/or Sheriff Departments. The United States Coast Guard is represented with stations in Grand Haven, Muskegon, Ludington, and Manistee, aided with area hospitals to ensure timely transfer.

Mercy General and Hackley Hospitals in Muskegon, Lake Shore Community Hospital in Shelby, Holland Community Hospital and Memorial Medical Center of Ludington are aware of the proposed preserve. Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids has a full-time hyperbaric facility, and chambers are also located in Alpena, Marquette, and Kalamazoo.

The Divers Alert Network (DAN) provides an emergency hotline for dive-related medical emergencies. DAN's medical staff provide emergency advice and, if recompression is needed, assist in locating the closest available chamber.

### ***Economics***

Economics is one of the key elements that demands attention when considering shipwrecks that lie within the Michigan jurisdictional boundaries of Lake Michigan. Diving is an \$800,000,000

industry nationwide, employing 300,000 people, 17,000 of whom are active diving instructors (DEMA 2000). Statistics compiled by members of the industry indicate that recreational diving is growing in its popularity, with increases in annual diving certification ranging from 2% to 4% (PADI 2005). Divers and their tourism-related spending appear to have the potential for significant economic impact on local coastal communities of Michigan.

Peterson<sup>1</sup> provided a profile of Great Lakes divers, which yielded valuable insight into economic opportunities in dive tourism. The study found that Great Lakes divers spent an average of \$2,497.86 on diving equipment. This was significantly higher than the average of \$1,710.00 spent by the general diving population. This difference can possibly be attributed to the Great Lakes divers' need for additional cold water gear. Participants in the study indicated that in 1986 they spent an average of \$1,287.30 for their Great Lakes diving trips; the average number of trips taken in 1986 was 5.26; and the average expenditure per diving trip to the Great Lakes was \$244.73. Since that time, diver expenditures appear to have increased to over \$300 per dive trip (Southwest Michigan Underwater Preserve Committee, 1995).

Furthermore, less than half (33.9 percent) of the money spent during these trips was for direct diving expenses such as scuba equipment and charter boats (Peterson, et al.1987). The remaining two-thirds of the trip expenditures were for items or services indirectly related to diving such as transportation, lodging, and entertainment. In addition, respondents indicated that one half of all expenditures for each trip were made in the communities near the dive site.

The results of expenditure studies of specific diving destinations merit special attention. As an example, approximately 1,600 divers visited shipwreck sites near Munising, Michigan in 1980, and spent about \$700,000 within the local economy (Kinnunen, et al., 1985)<sup>2</sup>. (Munising is the "gateway" to the Alger Underwater Preserve, which was established in 1980.) In 1984, an estimated 6,000 scuba divers and 17,280 accompanying non-divers contributed \$3.4 million in expenditures to the local economy of Munising (Kinnunen,1985). Visiting scuba divers and accompanying non-divers spent approximately \$2.4 million in 1985 (Kinnunen,1984, 1985)<sup>3</sup>. The secondary economic impacts were estimated at approximately \$6.8 million for 1984 and \$4.7 million for 1985. The contribution to personal income in Alger County was estimated at approximately \$2.4 million in 1984 and \$1.7 million in 1985. A related survey of 600 divers visiting the Alger Underwater Preserve during summer 1984 indicated that 80 percent were from states other than Michigan, and that 30 percent were from Illinois (Kinnunen, et al., 1985).

Divers are apparently interested in diving the Great Lakes and its sunken vessels. As an example, the quality of shipwrecks was found to be the second most important attribute in the selection of a Great Lakes diving location (Peterson et al., 1987). PADI stated in a concept report to the President's Commission on American Outdoors in 1984 that, "increasingly, American scuba divers are finding it difficult to locate places to participate in their chosen activity." The challenge may lie in the proper management of shipwrecks to ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to benefit from these precious underwater resources.

---

<sup>1</sup> Peterson, Jon P., Thord Sundstrom, and Steve Stewart. A Profile of Great Lakes Diver Activity, Travel, and Expenditure Patterns. MICHU-SG-87-508. Michigan Sea Grant Extension, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, 1987

<sup>2</sup> Kinnunen, Ronald E. 1985. Alger Underwater Preserve Diver Information Survey Results, Expenditures, and Secondary Economic Impacts. Alger Underwater Preserve Committee, Inc., Munising, Mich.

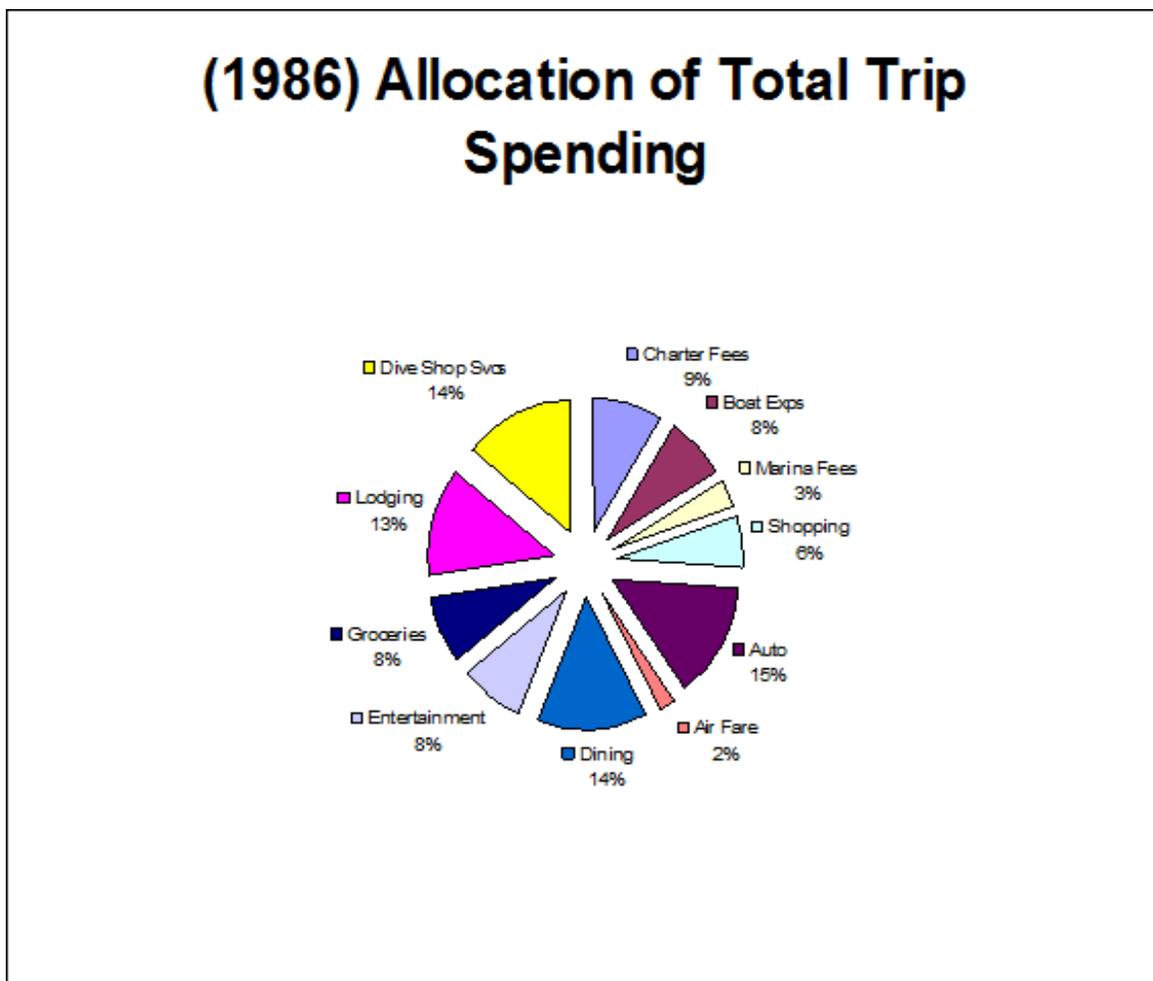
<sup>3</sup> Kinnunen, Ronald E. 1984. Alger Underwater Preserve Diver Information Survey Results, Expenditures, and Secondary Economic Impacts. Alger Underwater Preserve Committee, Inc., Munising, Mich.

According to research by the Southwest Michigan Underwater Preserve Committee (1995), recreational scuba divers are a lucrative tourism market because they are more likely to:

- spend significantly more than non-diving tourists;
- use commercial lodging facilities;
- have relatively high disposable incomes;
- eat in restaurants;
- be more educated than the average tourist;
- bring 2 to 3 non-diving family members with them;
- seek out and visit other tourist attractions; and
- require the use of related services, such as marinas, boat ramps, air stations, charter boats, etc.; and;
- stay more than one day.

According to another study by the Michigan Sea Grant College Program (Peterson et al., 1987), divers made significant expenditures in many categories during their Great Lakes diving trips (Tables 1 and 2).

**TABLE 1**



The table above shows what divers spend when traveling abroad to dive destinations.

**TABLE 2**

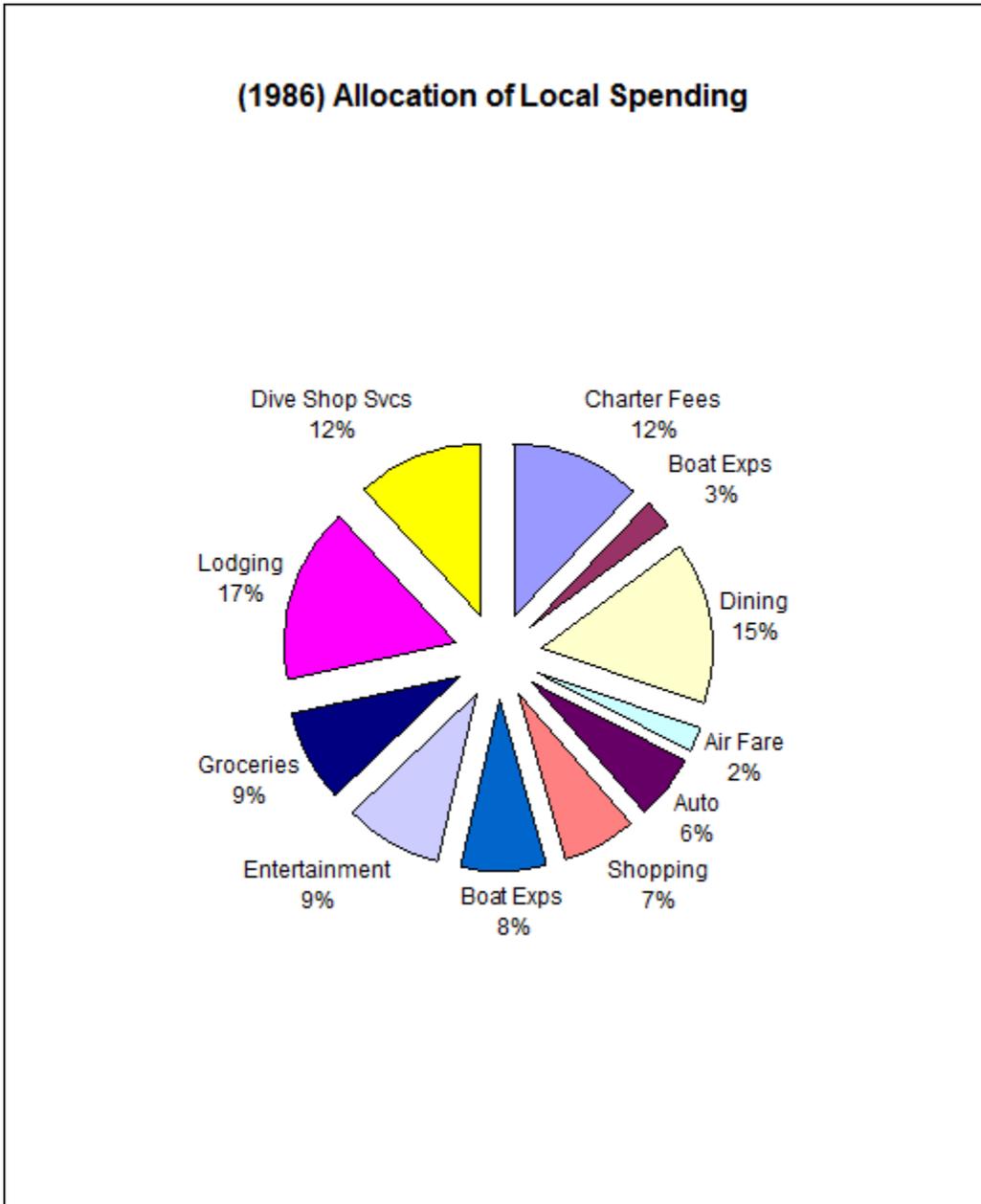


Table showing local spending based on a 1986 study.

It should be noted that most of the Great Lakes diving research is over 2 decades old and conducted when the idea of protecting shipwrecks and creating preserves was new. There is great need for current research to account for significant changes in the industry and diver preferences since that time.

## ***Cost-Benefit Summary***

The cost benefit analysis has considered non-quantifiable impacts and, where available, quantifiable impacts of the proposed establishment and declaration of the underwater preserve.

The costs of the proposed underwater preserve will be covered mainly by WMUP and commercial dive tourism operators, as well as matching monies from organizations, grants, and ongoing fundraisers.

The WMUP stands to incur the greatest financial impact from the proposal.

The costs incurred by WMUP include the preparation, designing, and installation of moorings and other infrastructure for access; ongoing management costs associated with maintaining and minimizing risks to maintain a high level of public safety; and sustainable use of the site to maintain the cultural, historic, and aesthetic values of the site.

The major benefit to all stakeholders, including the general community, is the creation of a new opportunity for dive tourism in the region, and, thus, the creation of new opportunities for economic growth by catering for additional tourism in the area. The proposed underwater preserve will increase dive activity and general tourism in the region.

## **Management of Shipwrecks**

The majority of the shipwrecks lying within Michigan jurisdictional boundaries belong to the citizens of Michigan. This fact is made clear by the number of public acts, among them the Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987, which gave title of three categories of abandoned shipwrecks to the United States government. The federal government in turn transferred title and the corresponding responsibility of most shipwrecks to the respective states on whose submerged lands the shipwrecks lay. These valuable resources are not the sole domain of any one or two special interest groups; rather, they are held in public trust by the state of Michigan for all of its citizens. As a consequence, the state has an obligation to manage shipwrecks for the benefit of all. It is essential to recognize that people may have different interests and are likely to receive different benefits from the same resource. Important questions need to be addressed:

1. What is the best way to manage these resources for the greatest number of users?
2. How does the state ensure that all of its citizens have the opportunity to benefit from its sunken vessels?
3. Is it, in fact, possible to achieve some semblance of compatibility in protecting shipwreck resources while also using them to provide diverse and enjoyable experiences?

The answers to these questions are not simple; and at this point no single definitive method exists that can be used to guide our management efforts. The process of appropriate management begins with a clear plan that recognizes and incorporates past experiences with current situations and information, and then attempts to prepare for future situations and

resource demands. Bottomland preserves and parks concepts have been used by several states in an effort to meet their obligations to protect shipwrecks while providing shipwreck usage.

The two concepts, preserves and parks, should not, however, be used interchangeably. Preserves are typically not developed and/or marketed to the extent that parks are. Most preserves lack entry fees and personnel. The protection of the resource is certainly primary; there is, however, access to those who possess the necessary skills and desire to use the resource. Parks are typically more developed and are designed to appeal to a somewhat broader segment of the population.

WMUP Council intends to incorporate a plan that has been adopted in other similar areas. The Council will undertake a four-stage process in developing principles and procedures for the wise use of their underwater cultural resources. Although there may be some differences in nomenclature and in some of the details, the process is similar in most states. This plan is not static. As improved planning or processes evolve, WMUP will modify its management plan to reflect the most environmentally sound methodology, and with diver safety in mind.

The **initial stage** starts with the inventory of the resources. The nature of the resource (these are lost ships and other underwater cultural resources *believed* to be on the lakes' bottoms) prevents the compilation of a final, once-and-for-all list, but inventories must be initiated and expanded as new resources are inevitably discovered. More sophisticated electronic remote sensing equipment, better search techniques, and an increase in diver participation rates are factors contributing to an increase in shipwreck discovery rates in the Great Lakes.

**Stage two** involves assessment. What makes these shipwrecks worth preserving? This WMUP proposal highlights some of the historical criteria of several of its wrecks found within its boundaries. In some cases, sailor and civilian lives have been lost during their demise. The heritage of these vessels and the tasks they accomplished should not be forgotten. Research and documentation of these sites will be continued.

Assessment of on-shore support services should be considered in the process of underwater cultural resource evaluation. A Michigan Sea Grant Extension survey in 1987 attempted to determine attributes considered important to Midwest divers in their selection of a diving location. Three of the top four attributes were related to on-shore facilities. The single-most important attribute of a dive site was its proximity to dive shop services. Diver safety facilities and information about the diving site were attribute numbers three and four, respectively. The West Michigan Underwater Preserve enlists the services of dive shops from West Michigan.

**Stage three** in the preserve process concerns citizen involvement and community development. WMUP council members have already participated in school lectures and assisting local museums with shipwreck information and heritage research. The extensive local and private sector input in shipwreck preserves may be the result of their obviously vested interests in Michigan in combination with the particular state's resources for additional projects. Michigan's preserve programs would have never come into existence without a great deal of local effort. Citizen participation and community involvement will play an even larger role in the future of shipwreck resource preservation with the current trend of government financial downsizing. West Michigan is one of the most popular destinations for tourism within the Great Lakes.

The **fourth stage** of the management plan for the wise use of shipwrecks, utilized by several states, is marketing and promotion. Here again, the private sector and local community organizations are in the forefront of the effort to attract tourist and sports enthusiasts' dollars. As a current and legal 501(c)3, WMUP will engage actively in marketing and promotion efforts, both individually and in partnership with public and private marketing campaigns ("Pure Michigan" for example). According to PADI (2004), the certification of divers ranks Michigan 13<sup>th</sup> with Ohio 10<sup>th</sup> and Illinois 5<sup>th</sup>. A proper marketing and tourism plan will elevate Michigan and could double the annual numbers, which would bring Michigan to within the top five in the nation.

Within the two broad goals of sunken vessel protection and appropriate use, there are several specific issues. Not only is the user affected by the resource, but the resource is in turn affected by the user. With this in mind, a number of tactics have been employed in an effort to reduce or eliminate visitor damage to the resource. Traditional law enforcement; management techniques, such as interpretation, registration and charter-boat licensing; and education have been used successfully to protect resources (Smiley and Holocek, 1982). Although some minor damage may be expected on shipwrecks with preserve status, it would be much less disastrous than that currently taking place on vessels that are not within preserves and WMUP will engage in active partnership with law enforcement and other similar entities to actively preserve these vessels.

The State of Michigan is responsible for the long-term management of state underwater preserves. The WMUP Council will assist the State of Michigan, however, in this responsibility. Initial cost for placement of properly moored buoys (anchoring buoys close to, but not attached to, the vessel) will be financially offset by contributions, fundraising, and in-kind manual labor.

### ***Known History of West Michigan Underwater Preserve Sites***

Many vessels of various sizes and functions have sailed and been lost in all of the Great Lakes. West Michigan Underwater Preserve (proposed) protects more than a dozen shipwrecks and several underwater features. For a list of lost ships within the preserves boundaries, many still unaccounted for, see Appendix E.

The remains of the schooner **George F. Foster** are near the Big Sable Point Lighthouse. The Foster went ashore and was a total loss in November of 1870. Her remains are on shore and have lain in the sand for many years, often visible from shifting sands.

**Big Sable Drop** is a natural occurring submerged steep drop beginning at 60 ft. and plaining off at 120 ft. in a very short distance. It attracts many species of game fish.

**Comanche**, a 65-ft. tug sunk while being towed to be re-outfitted for a new purpose. There was no loss of life. It sits upright and is fully intact at 90 ft. It is not penetrable, but is a good advanced/intermediate dive. Visibility can vary, but is usually good. This wreck is easily reached from Ludington or Pentwater and is moored.

**The Armistice Day Storm November 11, 1940.** Many vessels and lives were lost on the Great Lakes that day. There were three ships lost during this storm off the Coast of Oceana County

Michigan. **Anna C. Minch**, a 380-ft steel bulk steam freighter built in Cleveland in 1903 was lost with 24 people and a load of coal. It was thought to have collided with **William B. Davock**, but evidence is lacking. More likely she was overwhelmed by the storm. She lies in 35 ft of water in two pieces. It is easy to make a 2-tank dive on this wreck, diving with 1 tank on each half. The bow section is the largest and offers swim-throughs of broken wreckage. The stern has the boilers and schools of perch, small mouth bass and walleye are regulars on these sites. Visibility varies with water temperature. It is a great beginner dive and is moored. This site is best reached from Pentwater. **William B. Davock**, not in preserve boundaries, a 420-ft steel bulk steam freighter built in St. Clair in 1909 was the worst loss of that storm, losing her cargo of coal and 32 lives. She lies just outside the preserve boundaries and is considered a technical dive, being 215 ft deep. Side scan images show that she lies mostly intact nearly upside down and is moored. **Novadoc**, a 252-ft steel bulk steam freighter built in Wallsend, England in 1928 was the third victim of that great storm. She was driven ashore and broke in half. She was carrying coal and 2 lives were lost. She lies in 12 ft of water and is visible from the surface. There is some machinery on the bow and the stern. It is a great snorkel/beginner dive site. Visibility varies and parts of her come and go, according to the whims of Lake Michigan. She is usually marked and is best reached from Pentwater.

**Daisy Day**, a 103-ft. wooden steam barge built in Manistee, Michigan, was stranded on October 11, 1891. No lives were lost, but the ship was a total loss. She lies close to shore at the South end of Claybanks Township Park. This park is located along the southern Oceana County shoreline. Locals mostly view this wreck by snorkeling from shore due to her shallow depth and closeness. Check with local dive shops to find out her current conditions.

**Brightie**, a 182-ft. wooden lumber schooner-barge built in Cleveland in 1868, foundered on August 23, 1928 with a cargo of pulpwood. No lives were lost. This wreck lies broken and flat on the sand at about 75 ft deep. It is considered an intermediate dive. She is moored and can be reached from White Lake or Pentwater.

**Interlaken**, a 170-ft. wooden construction schooner barge built in Algonac, Michigan in 1893, stranded and sank October 1, 1934 with no lives lost. It is quite buried and shallow. She can be reached from White Lake and is not moored.

**State of Michigan**, a 165-ft. wooden passenger and package steamer built in Manitowoc, Wisconsin in 1873, was originally launched as **Depere**. A connecting rod from her steam engine pierced her hull on October 18, 1901, causing her to sink. No lives were lost. She sits upright with her outer hull intact except for the stern, which hit the bottom first. Her boiler and water jacket stand tall off the bottom and is 70 ft deep. This site is considered an intermediate dive, is moored and easily reached from White Lake.

The **Clay Wall** is a naturally occurring underwater wall rising from the sand up to 10 ft. It is 50 ft. deep and several hundred yards long. It has become a favorite with local divers and has some unusual objects found along the wall. This site is close to the **State of Michigan** and makes for a nice 2-tank dive by doing both sites. It is moored and best reached from White Lake.

**Salvor**, a 253-ft. wooden pseudo-whaleback steamer was originally launched as **Turret Chief**, built in Sunderland, England in 1896. She was converted to a steel bulk freight barge in 1927 and renamed **Salvor**. She was being towed by the tug **Fitzgerald** when the tow line broke. She foundered and sank during a storm on September 26, 1930. Five lives were lost. She is mostly buried in the sand and seems like she is in two pieces. She lies in 30 ft. of water and is a good beginner dive. She is best reached from Muskegon Lake and is moored.

**Helen**, a 90-ft wooden scow schooner built in Milwaukee in 1881, stranded and capsized with the loss of all 6 who were on board on November 18, 1886. She lies in very shallow water near the north side of Pere Marquette beach. Shifting sands reveal her rarely.

**Henry Cort**, a 320-ft whaleback steamer built in Superior, Wisconsin in 1892, originally was launched as **Pillsbury**. She stranded on the North breakwall of the Muskegon Channel on November 30, 1934 with 1 life lost. She was salvaged and then dynamited because she was considered a navigational hazard. The boilers and twisted metal are all that remain of her now. The site is identified by rocks on the pier that are painted red. There is no mooring and is best done as a boat dive from Muskegon Lake.

The **Hamilton Reef**, named for Tom Hamilton whose idea it was to create fish habitat, is an artificial reef made up of cement rubble in a snakelike shape on the bottom of Lake Michigan just south of the Muskegon Channel. It is 35 ft. deep in most spots and is home to many and varied fish. Be aware that it is popular with fishermen as well.

**Ironsides**, a 218-ft wooden twin propeller steamer built in 1864 in Cleveland, foundered in heavy seas on September 15, 1873 with a cargo of grain, pork, flour and passengers. Twenty-one of the 50 on board perished. She sits upright in 117 ft of water with her twin boilers holding up the hogging arches that have collapsed inward. The twin propellers and rudders can be seen as well. There is a wagon wheel that lies just off the port side of the wreck. The wreck is not moored due to its location in the shipping lane for Grand Haven. She can be reached from Grand Haven, Port Sheldon and Holland. She is considered an advanced dive.

## Conclusion

There is no question that the citizens of the State of Michigan are losing valuable and nonrenewable underwater cultural resources in the form of shipwreck despoliation. While a discussion might be undertaken about the rate of loss of shipwreck resources, there is no denying that there are fewer historically valuable resources within Great Lakes jurisdictional waters now than there were 20 years ago, one year ago, or even one month ago. The cold, deep waters of the Great Lakes are helpful in preserving these underwater treasures of the past, but even the deepest and most remote shipwreck site is subject to some minor damage from the slow but relentless accumulation of silt on the lakes' bottoms and the enormous weight of marine life growing on them. Those valuable cultural resources lying in shallow waters are affected by the movement of the waters, usually gentle, but on occasion turbulent because of the violent storms and strong currents that are commonplace.

The Michigan Underwater Preserve Council, (MUPC) and other individual preserve committees, have the potential, under proper leadership, to lead the effort in Michigan to recognize, utilize, and preserve these valuable artifacts of the past. The efforts of this organization have resulted in the discovery, survey, and recording of many sunken vessels and other geological features in Michigan waters. It is likely that future commitment of the MUPC and other similar organizations will be indispensable in any successful management effort.

Because there are various groups that view sunken watercraft and various underwater bottomland features, such as shelves and holes, as resources with different values and uses, so also there must be various groups that will play a role in their preservation and protection. The task of managing shipwrecks should be a cooperative effort between public officials, government agencies, private charter boat operators, diving instructors, educators, diving clubs, individual divers and salvors. A future of cooperation and respect among the different user groups is the future of preservation, protection and appropriate usage. Leaders in the various fields associated with Great Lakes shipwrecks and underwater features must decide that these are valuable historic, recreational and educational resources that must be preserved.

The essential need for volunteers is evidenced in virtually all of the states that have effective management programs. The volunteer is vital to the task of managing cultural resources.

A successful management program must begin with a plan that stresses appropriate multiple uses *and* protection *and* preservation. The experiences of other states indicate that use and preservation do not have to be in direct conflict. Properly managed shipwrecks can provide a variety of benefits to a multitude of different groups, not only for the next few years but for generations to come. A perspective must be developed that will draw on the experiences of other shipwreck management programs and then used to design a program that will fit west Michigan's unique situation. Although it will surely be impossible to completely satisfy the needs and desires of everyone involved, it is possible to design a plan that will address and manage the major issues for the greatest benefit to the greatest number of people.

An important step in the process that cannot be overlooked is the education of divers, various other users of shipwrecks, and the general public. Some of the destruction of artifacts is, no doubt, attributable to ignorance rather than to maliciousness. There are a variety of methods by which the educational process will proceed. These methods involve:

- placing greater emphasis on environmental and archaeological issues at the time of diver certification;
- offering maritime history and underwater courses for avocational or enthusiasts (i.e., non-professionals);
- taking programs and information into the schools; and
- coordinating demonstrations and displays at museums and other locations.

An effective educational process will entail an integration of various programs. Projects or programs that fully recognize the vital nature of education are more likely to succeed. WMUP Council members have already been working with schools and museums. The citizens of tomorrow will inherit the results, good or bad, of the efforts of today. The decisions and the subsequent actions that are undertaken for Michigan's underwater cultural resources in the next five years will have far-reaching consequences. These consequences will determine whether or not future generations will gain a thorough understanding and appreciation of this region's rich maritime heritage from first-hand observations or only from a lifeless and superficial description

of past events and people. Proper management of Michigan's shipwrecks today will encourage the continuation of such efforts in the twenty-first century.

The future of the underwater cultural resources of Michigan is too significant to allow a complacent attitude. Michigan must proactively create a planned future for the sunken vessels and underwater natural geographical features within West Michigan for the citizens to whom the state has a responsibility.

It is important that the cultural and historic values of shipwrecks are maintained to reflect the important role that ships have played in Michigan's maritime history.

The WMUP will strive to ensure that high standards of public safety are maintained by divers, commercial operators, and that commercial activities are undertaken in a way that complements the cultural, historic, and aesthetic values of the sites.

WMUP Council's position is that the benefits of an underwater preserve at the proposed site outweigh the total of the costs. The proposed declaration of an underwater preserve and the plan to work with local governments, chambers of commerce, commercial dive tourism operators, local dive groups and other stakeholders, is the most efficient and equitable method of providing an opportunity for all industry members to participate and take advantage of a new tourism venture within West Michigan. At the same time, existing shipwrecks and their history will be protected and maintained.

WMUP Council members have been actively sharing and informing lakeshore communities, visitor bureaus, schools, businesses, and museums of local shipwrecks and underwater natural heritage. (letters of support pages 30 thru 35). Members already regularly attend events with educational displays and distribute flyers to the public. Its web site: <http://wmup.org> lists numerous news articles and site information pertaining to the proposed preserve. West Michigan dive shops are enthusiastic about this mission to become a preserve (support letters 43 thru 47).

This endeavor has gathered strong momentum and the formal approval of the West Michigan Underwater Preserve will serve to additionally energize these activities and engage the management plan.

## Appendix A

Map of West Michigan Underwater Preserve (Proposed)



Wreck Name	Depth	GPS Lat/Lon	Level	Date Sank
George F Foster		N 44 02.588 W 086 30.800	Novice	1870
Big Sable Drop	120'	N 44 03.566 W 086 31.137	Advanced	
Commanche	90'	N 43 50.253 W 086 29.023	Advanced	1964
Anna C. Minch / Bow	35'	N 43 45.768 W 086 27.765	Novice	11 Nov 1940
Anna C. Minch / Stern	35'	N 43 45.701 W 086 27.834	Novice	11 Nov 1940
Novadoc	12'	N 43 41.837 W 086 30.952	Novice	11 Nov 1940
Davock	215'	N 43 40.447 W 086 36.379	Technical	11 Nov 1940
Brightie	75'	N 43 29.898 W 086 29.892	Advanced	23 Aug 1928
Daisy Day	10'	N 43 31.670 W 086 29.282	Novice	11 Oct 1841
Interlaken	15'	N 43 27.056 W 086 27.495	Novice	26 Oct 1923
State of Michigan	70'	N 43 23.335 W 086 27.851	Intermediate	18 Oct 1901
Clay Wall	50'	N 43 23.205 W 086 27.036	Novice	
Salvor	35'	N 43 15.615 W 086 22.119	Novice	26 Sept 1930
Helen	10'	N 43 15.003 W 086 21.152	Novice	18 Nov 1886
Henry Cort	15'	Off N. Muskegon breakwall	Novice	30 Nov 1934
Hamilton Reef	35'	N 43 12.990 W 086 20.490	Novice	
Ironsides	117'	N 43 02.931 W 086 19.155	Advanced	15 Sept 1873

## Appendix B

### Letters of Support from Community Stakeholders and Potential Partners

Thomas Hamilton, Fishery Biologist .....	29
Montague Museum and Historical Association .....	30
Great Lakes Naval Memorial and Museum.....	31
Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce .....	32
Ludington Area Convention and Visitors Bureau .....	33
Grand Haven Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.....	34
White Lake Area Chamber of Commerce .....	35
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians .....	36
City of Holland.....	37
Congressman Pete Hoekstra .....	38
Representative Goeff Hansen .....	39
Representative Doug Bennett .....	40
Representative Wayne Kuipers .....	41
Representative Mary Valentine .....	42
Advance Scuba Dive Shop.....	43
SCUBA Zoo Dive Shop .....	44
Lakeshore SCUBA Dive Shop.....	45
Moby's Dive Shop, Inc.....	46
American Dive Zone.....	47
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*"Hamilton Reef"*  
*Fishery Services*  
*2785 Weesies Road*  
*Montague, MI 49437-9550*  
*(231) 670-2891, hamiltreef@aol.com*

October 17, 2009

Deborah Chase, Co-Chair  
West Michigan Underwater Preserve, Proposed  
6335 N. 176<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Walkerville, MI 49459

RE: West Michigan Underwater Preserve, Proposed

Dear Mrs. Chase,

West Michigan is fortunate to have your local dedicated volunteers of the Michigan Underwater Preserve Council, Inc. to help protect and watch over a future West Michigan Underwater Preserve. I am proud to support your efforts to establish the area from just North of Holland to the North boundary of the Ludington State Park as our next underwater preserve. The tourist diving in our beautiful waters need that sense of security only a true underwater preserve can provide.

The West Michigan Underwater Preserve is very close to becoming a part of the Michigan Underwater Preserve system. That is good. The Lake Michigan waters hold the spirits and artifacts of our earliest Native Americans, European explorers, settlers, farmers, lumbermen, miners, sailors, and all the history that evolved with our West Michigan cultures. West Michigan has it's share of legends, poetry, songs, articles, and family heritage photos. We must show our respect and protect the loved memories of our ancestors that the Great Lakes hold.

The respect given to the West Michigan Underwater Preserve is vital to our diving tourism industry. The continuing education involved with diving sports also has beneficial impacts with promoting water quality, biological sciences, and water safety the tourism industry needs. As a sport fisherman, fishery biologist, and watershed conservation consultant, I can appreciate the years of hard work our local divers give to the community and law enforcement. Thus, the care of the future West Michigan Underwater Preserve will be in good hands.

Respectively yours,

Thomas E. Hamilton, Fishery Biologist  
Michigan Director, Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council

**The Montague Museum**  
**Church & Meade**  
**Montague, MI 49437**

Deborah Chase, Co-Chair  
West Michigan Underwater Preserve, Proposed  
6335 N. 1176th Ave.  
Walkerville, MI. 49459

Dear Mrs. Chase,

The Montague Museum and Historical Association gives our complete support to the addition of the West Michigan Underwater Preserve to be a part of the Michigan Underwater Preserve System. This system was established in Michigan to create underwater preserves for the protection of our Historic Shipwrecks, Artifacts and Underwater features, vital to our cultural heritage.

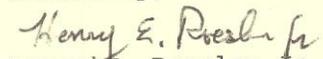
In the proposed preserve area that extends from the Southwestern Michigan Underwater Preserve (just north of Holland) to the lighthouse at Big Point Sable (Ludington State Park), there are 13 known shipwrecks, artifacts and several underwater features, including clay walls.

With the advancement and affordability of underwater sounding equipment, no doubt there are more shipwrecks, artifacts and features that will be discovered. The West Michigan Underwater Preserve will attend to and protect this important underwater history.

Montague has the unique position of being home to one of the ships that sank in Lake Michigan, the Ella Ellenwood, which sank off the shores of Milwaukee in October 1, 1901. Its Captain, Andrew Flagstad was a resident of Montague. In the spring of 1902, a portion of the ships name plate was found floating in the White Lake Channel!, that part of the Ellenwood had returned home and is now on display at our City Hall. The Worlds Largest Operating Weathervane in the town square, is capped by a 14 foot replica of the Ellenwood.

Please let us know if there is anything further we can do to assist you with this most important project.

Sincerely,

  
Henry E. Roesler Jr.  
President



## GREAT LAKES NAVAL MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM

Home of USS SILVERSIDES and USCGC McLANE

**H. Bryan Hughes**  
Executive Director

**Mark Fazakerley**  
Chairman of the  
Board

**William Wrase**  
Vice Chairman

**Don Morell**  
Second Vice  
Chairman

**John Hughes**  
Secretary

**Darla Parrish**  
Treasurer

### Board of Directors

George Bailey  
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Don Newton  
Darla Parrish  
Dean Recknagel  
Charles Roesch, MD  
William Seyforth  
Blanche Smith  
Steve Warmington  
Roger Whitman  
William Wrase

November 13, 2009

Deborah Chase, Co-Chair  
West Michigan Underwater Preserve, Proposed  
875 Sherwood Rd.  
Muskegon, MI 49441

Dear Mrs. Chase,

Great Lakes Naval Memorial and Museum gives our complete support to the addition of the West Michigan Underwater Preserve to be part of the Michigan Underwater Preserve system. This system established in Michigan to create underwater preserves and to protect our historic shipwrecks is vital to our cultural heritage. The waters off of the western side of Lake Michigan are no different.

In the proposed preserve area extending from the Southwestern Underwater Preserve (north of Holland) to Ludington, there are at least 12 known shipwrecks. These wrecks need the attention and protection of the Michigan Underwater Preserve system.

Please let me know if there is anything further I can do to assist in this most important project.

Sincerely,

**H. Bryan Hughes**  
Executive Director  
Great Lakes Naval Memorial and Museum



380 W. WESTERN • STE 202 • MUSKEGON, MI 49440 P (231) 722-3751 • F (231) 728-7251 • MUSKEGON.ORG

March 5, 2009

Deborah Chase, Co-Chair  
West Michigan Underwater Preserve  
6335 N. 176<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Walkerville, MI 49459

Dear Mrs. Chase,

The Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce and Government Affairs Committee support the addition of the West Michigan Underwater Preserve into the Michigan Underwater Preserve Council System.

Muskegon's tourism industry is the second largest economic sector and fastest growing industry in West Michigan. The creation of the underwater preserve will undoubtedly create the opportunity to attract visitors from all over the world and significantly boost West Michigan's economy. In addition, we anticipate the creation of the preserve will offer valuable research and educational opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

In the proposed area that extends from the Southwest Michigan Underwater Preserve, North of Holland, to the lighthouse at Big Point Sable at Ludington State Park, there are thirteen known shipwrecks and several underwater features including clay walls. With the advancement and affordability of underwater sounding equipment, no doubt there are more shipwrecks, artifacts and features that will be discovered. The West Michigan Underwater Preserve will attend to and protect this underwater history.

Please contact me at 231-722-3751 if there is anything I can do to further assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janessa Stroud".

Janessa Stroud  
Vice President, Government Affairs

# Ludington Area

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

For the Proposed West Michigan Underwater Preserve

January, 29, 2010

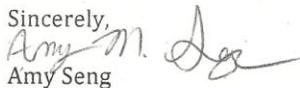
Deborah Chase, Co-Chair  
West Michigan Underwater Preserve, Proposed  
6335 N. 176<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Walkerville, MI 49459

Dear Mrs. Chase,

The Ludington Area Convention & Visitors Bureau gives our complete support to the addition of the West Michigan Underwater Preserve to be a part of the Michigan Underwater Preserve system. This system was established in Michigan to create underwater preserves for the protection of our historic shipwrecks, artifacts and underwater features vital to our cultural heritage.

In the proposed area that extends from the Southwest Michigan Underwater Preserve (just North of Holland) to the North boundary of the Ludington State Park, there are 13 known shipwrecks and several underwater features including clay walls. With the advancement and affordability of underwater sounding equipment, no doubt there are more shipwrecks, artifacts and features that will be discovered. The West Michigan Underwater Preserve will attend to and protect this underwater history.

Sincerely,

  
Amy Seng

Executive Director  
Ludington Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

*Up North, Close By™*

5300 West US 10 • Ludington, Michigan 49431 • (800) 542-4600 • (231) 845-5430 • FAX (231) 845-6857 • [www.ludingtonarea.com](http://www.ludingtonarea.com)



March 4, 2009

Deborah Chase, Co-Chair  
West Michigan Underwater Preserve, Proposed  
6335 N. 176th Ave.  
Walkerville, MI 49459

Dear Mrs. Chase

The Board of Directors for the Grand Haven Area Convention & Visitors Bureau gives their support of the West Michigan Underwater Preserve to be a part of the Michigan Underwater Preserve system.

We support their efforts because we believe that maritime heritage is a vital component of our tourism industry. Creating an underwater preserve means the protection of our historic shipwrecks, artifacts and underwater features which is vital to our cultural heritage. Tourism brings in an estimated \$42 million dollars a year for travel expenditures to the Grand Haven area; being able to secure an additional marketing tool to lure travelers to our area is important. Some of those travelers will want to learn from land while others will want to explore the wrecks from a dive boat. Either way, the West Michigan Underwater Preserve means more exposure for West Michigan Maritime Heritage and more visitors to the Grand Haven area.

The proposed area extends from the Southwest Michigan Underwater Preserve (just South of Grand Haven) to the lighthouse at Big Point Sable (Ludington State Park), there are 13 known shipwrecks and several underwater features including clay walls. With the advancement and affordability of underwater sounding equipment, no doubt there are more shipwrecks, artifacts and features that will be discovered.

We are excited about this project and look forward to joining them in marketing and promoting of this piece of our history. Please let me know if there is anything further I can do to assist with this project.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marci Cisneros".

Marci Cisneros  
Executive Director of Tourism  
Grand Haven Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

Grand Haven Area Convention & Visitors Bureau  
(616) 842-4499, 1 South Harbor Drive, Grand Haven, MI 49417



RE: Proposed West Michigan Underwater Preserve

February 5, 2009

Deborah Chase, Co-Chair  
West Michigan Underwater Preserve, Proposed  
6335 North 176<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Walkerville, MI 49459

Dear Mrs. Chase,

Please receive this letter of support from the White Lake Area Chamber of Commerce for the addition of the West Michigan Underwater Preserve to be a part of the Michigan Underwater Preserve system. In efforts to protect historic shipwrecks, artifacts, and other underwater features, it is vital to cultural heritage.

There are over a dozen shipwrecks and other underwater features that populate the proposed area between northern Holland and Ludington State Park. The White Lake area has a major interest in this stretch of water as maritime and general tourism play a big role to our community's industry. The West Michigan Underwater Preserve effort's in protecting this underwater history remains important to local citizens as well as hundreds of visitors. We are proud of our natural resources and what the area has to offer.

Please feel free to contact me if there is anything further I can assist you with in this project.

Best Regards,

Amy L. VanLoon, Executive Director  
White Lake Area Chamber of Commerce



*Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
Office of Tribal Ogema  
375 River Street  
Manistee, MI 49660  
231-723-8288 (Fax) 231-723-3270*

March 23, 2009

John Hanson, Co-Chair  
West Michigan Underwater Preserve, Proposed  
915 S. Livingston  
Whitehall, MI 49461

Dear Mr. Hanson,

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians gives our complete support to the addition of the West Michigan Underwater Preserve to be a part of the Michigan Underwater Preserve system. This system was established in Michigan to create underwater preserves for the protection of our historic shipwrecks, artifacts and underwater features vital to our cultural heritage.

In the proposed preserve area that extends from the Southwestern Michigan Underwater Preserve (just North of Holland) to the lighthouse at Big Point Sable (Ludington State Park), there are 13 known shipwrecks, artifacts, and several underwater features, including clay walls. With the advancement and affordability of underwater sounding equipment, no doubt there are more shipwrecks, artifacts and features that will be discovered. The West Michigan Underwater Preserve will attend to and protect this important underwater history.

Please let me know if there is anything further I can do to assist you with this most important project.

Sincerely,

Larry B. Romanelli,  
Tribal Ogema

# City of Holland

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN 49423

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
(616) 355-1314  
FAX (616) 355-1490  
e-mail: [mayor@cityofholland.com](mailto:mayor@cityofholland.com)

March 18, 2010

Gary Passon, Co-Chair  
West Michigan Underwater Preserve (Proposed)  
15143 Bayberry Ct.  
Spring Lake, MI 49456

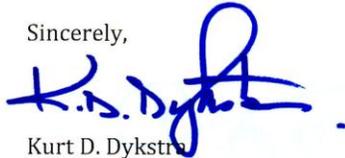
Dear Mr. Passon,

The City Of Holland City Council supports the addition of the West Michigan Underwater Preserve to be part of the Michigan Underwater Preserve system. This system was established in Michigan to create underwater preserves and to protect our historic shipwrecks, which are vital to our cultural heritage. The waters off the western side of Lake Michigan are no different.

In the proposed preserve area extending from the Southwest Michigan Underwater Preserve at Port Sheldon to the north boundary of the Ludington State Park, there are at least 12 known shipwrecks. These wrecks need the attention and protection of the Michigan Underwater Preserve system.

Please let us know if there is anything further that we can do to assist in this most important project.

Sincerely,



Kurt D. Dykstra  
Mayor  
[k.dykstra@cityofholland.com](mailto:k.dykstra@cityofholland.com)

WHERE IT'S TULIP TIME IN MAY

**PETE HOEKSTRA**  
SECOND DISTRICT  
MICHIGAN  
WORLD WIDE WEB:  
<http://hoekstra.house.gov>

111th Congress  
Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

COMMITTEES:  
HOUSE PERMANENT  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE  
RANKING MEMBER  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND LABOR

October 26, 2009

Ms. Deborah Chase  
6335 North 176th Avenue  
Walkerville, Michigan 49459-9372

Dear Ms. Chase:

It is my understanding that the West Michigan Underwater Preserve, Proposed (formerly the West Michigan Artificial Reef Society) has submitted an application to become part of the Michigan Underwater Preserve System. I am writing to let you know of my strong support for this application.

The proposal in submission would include the West Michigan Underwater Preserve, Proposed as the 13<sup>th</sup> Underwater Preserve within the State of Michigan. The underwater preserve system was established in Michigan to create protection of our historic shipwrecks, artifacts and underwater features vital to our heritage. In the proposed area that extends from the Southwest Michigan Underwater Preserve (just north of Holland) to the North boundary of the Ludington State Park, there are 13 known shipwrecks and several underwater features including clay walls. With the advancement and affordability of underwater sounding equipment, no doubt there are more shipwrecks, artifacts and features that will be discovered. The West Michigan Underwater Preserve will attend to and protect this underwater history.

As the U.S. Congressman for the 2nd District, I am well aware of the economic benefits this program would bring to my district through increased tourism as well as the educational benefits of discovery and learning. This grant would positively impact the well-being of many constituents in my district.

I am confident that this proposal will be carefully reviewed and that its merit will be readily apparent. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on my support for this program.

Sincerely,



Pete Hoekstra  
Member of Congress

PH/hs



WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2234 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4401  
FAX: (202) 226-0779

DISTRICT OFFICE—HOLLAND  
184 South River Avenue  
Holland, Mich. 49423  
(616) 395-0030  
FAX: (616) 395-0271

DISTRICT OFFICE—MUSKEGON  
900 3rd Street, Suite 203  
Muskegon, Mich. 49440  
(231) 722-8386  
FAX: (231) 722-0176

DISTRICT OFFICE—CADILLAC  
210-1/2 North Mitchell Street  
Cadillac, Mich. 49601  
(231) 775-0050  
FAX: (231) 775-0298



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER





DISTRICT ONE HUNDRED  
**Goeff Hansen**  
STATE CAPITOL  
LANSING, MI 48913  
PHONE: (517) 373-7317  
TOLL-FREE: (877) 999-0995  
FAX: (517) 373-9469  
E-MAIL: [goeffhansen@house.mi.gov](mailto:goeffhansen@house.mi.gov)  
ONLINE: [www.gophouse.com/hansen.htm](http://www.gophouse.com/hansen.htm)

**House of Representatives**  
**State of Michigan**

**HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS**  
**SUBCOMMITTEES**  
AGRICULTURE, MVC  
GENERAL GOVERNMENT, MVC  
TRANSPORTATION

**February 18, 2009**

Deborah Chase  
West Michigan Underwater Preserve, Proposed  
6335 N. 176th Ave.  
Walkerville, MI 49459

Dear Mrs. Chase,

Please accept my support to the addition of the West Michigan Underwater Preserve to be a part of the Michigan Underwater Preserve system. This system was established in Michigan to create underwater preserves for the protection of our historic shipwrecks, artifacts and underwater features vital to our cultural heritage.

In the proposed area that extends from the Southwest Michigan Underwater Preserve (just North of Holland) to the lighthouse at Big Point Sable (Ludington State Park), there are 13 known shipwrecks and several underwater features including clay walls. With the advancement and affordability of underwater sounding equipment, no doubt there are more shipwrecks, artifacts and features that will be discovered. The West Michigan Underwater Preserve will attend to and protect this underwater history.

Please let me know if there is anything further I can do to assist you with this most important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Goeff Hansen", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Goeff Hansen  
State Representative

COUNTIES: LAKE, NEWAYGO, OCEANA



92ND DISTRICT  
STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 30014  
LANSING, MI 48909-7514  
PHONE: (517) 373-2646  
TOLL-FREE: (877) 411-DOUG (3684)  
FAX: (517) 373-9646  
E-MAIL: dougbennett@house.mi.gov

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**DOUG BENNETT**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
CHAIR, ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
MAJORITY VICE CHAIR,  
CORRECTIONS  
JOINT CAPITAL OUTLAY

February 4, 2009

Deborah Chase, Co-Chair  
West Michigan Underwater Preserve  
6335 N. 176th Ave.  
Walkerville, MI 49459

Dear Ms. Chase,

This letter comes in complete support of the addition of the West Michigan Underwater Preserve to be part of the Michigan Underwater Preserve system. This system was established in Michigan to create underwater preserves for the protection of our historic shipwrecks, artifacts and underwater features vital to our cultural heritage.

In the proposed area that extends from the Southwest Michigan Underwater Preserve (just North of Holland) to the lighthouse at Big Point Sable (Ludington State Park), there are 13 known shipwrecks and several underwater features including clay walls. With the advancement and affordability of underwater sounding equipment, no doubt there are more shipwrecks, artifacts and features that will be discovered. The West Michigan Underwater Preserve will attend to and protect this underwater history.

Please let me know if there is anything further I can do to assist you with this most important project.

Sincerely,

Doug Bennett  
State Representative  
92nd District





30th DISTRICT  
P.O. BOX 30036  
LANSING, MI 48909-7536  
TOLL-FREE: 1-877-KUIPERS  
PHONE: (517) 373-6920  
FAX: (517) 373-2751  
E-MAIL: senwkuipers@senate.michigan.gov

MICHIGAN SENATE  
**WAYNE KUIPERS**  
STATE SENATOR

COMMITTEES:  
EDUCATION, CHAIR  
JUDICIARY, CHAIR  
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES  
ENERGY POLICY  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

January 29, 2009

Ms. Deborah Chase, Co-Chair  
West Michigan Underwater Preserve  
6335 N. 176<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Walkerville, MI 49459

Dear Ms. Chase:

I would like to take this opportunity to add my support to the effort to include the West Michigan Underwater Preserve as part of the Michigan Underwater Preserve system. This system was established in Michigan to create underwater preserves for the protection of our historic shipwrecks, artifacts and underwater features vital to our cultural heritage.

In the proposed area, which extends from the Southwest Michigan Underwater Preserve to the lighthouse at Big Point Sable (Ludington State Park), there are thirteen known shipwrecks and several underwater features. With the advancement and affordability of underwater sounding equipment, no doubt there are more shipwrecks, artifacts and features that will be discovered, and the West Michigan Underwater Preserve would protect this underwater history.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Wayne Kuipers  
State Senator  
30<sup>th</sup> District

WK:sd





91ST DISTRICT  
STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 30014  
LANSING, MI 48909-7514  
PHONE: (517) 373-3436  
TOLL-FREE: (877) 663-0331  
FAX: (517) 373-9698  
E-MAIL: maryvalentine@house.mi.gov

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**MARY VALENTINE**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

COMMITTEES:  
VICE CHAIR, EDUCATION  
COMMERCE  
GREAT LAKES AND ENVIRONMENT  
HEALTH POLICY

January 27, 2009

Deborah Chase, Co-Chair  
West Michigan Underwater Preserve  
6335 N. 176th Ave.  
Walkerville, MI 49459

Dear Mrs. Chase,

I am writing today to offer my full support of the addition of the West Michigan Underwater Preserve to be a part of the Michigan Underwater Preserve system. This system was established in Michigan to create underwater preserves for the protection of our historic shipwrecks, artifacts and underwater features vital to our cultural heritage.

In the proposed area that extends from the Southwest Michigan Underwater Preserve (just North of Holland) to the lighthouse at Big Point Sable (Ludington State Park), there are 13 known shipwrecks and several underwater features including clay walls. With the advancement and affordability of underwater sounding equipment, no doubt there are more shipwrecks, artifacts and features that will be discovered. The West Michigan Underwater Preserve will attend to and protect this underwater history. I believe this preserve will be a great asset to attracting tourism and commerce to West Michigan.

Please let me know if there is anything further I can do to assist you with this most important project. I look forward to working with you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mary Valentine  
State Representative  
District 91



Deborah Chase, Co-Chair  
West Michigan Underwater Preserve, Proposed  
6335 N. 176<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Walkerville, MI 49459

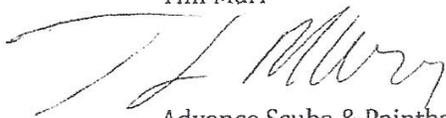
Dear Mrs. Chase,

The dive shop Advance Scuba & Paintball and Tim Marr give our complete support to the addition of the West Michigan Underwater Preserve to be a part of the Michigan Underwater Preserve system. This system was established in Michigan to create underwater preserves for the protection of our historic shipwrecks, artifacts and underwater features vital to our cultural heritage.

In the proposed area that extends from the Southwest Michigan Underwater Preserve (just North of Holland) to the lighthouse at Big Point Sable (Ludington State Park), there are 13 known shipwrecks and several underwater features including clay walls. With the advancement and affordability of underwater sounding equipment, no doubt there are more shipwrecks, artifacts and features that will be discovered. The West Michigan Underwater Preserve will attend to and protect this underwater history.

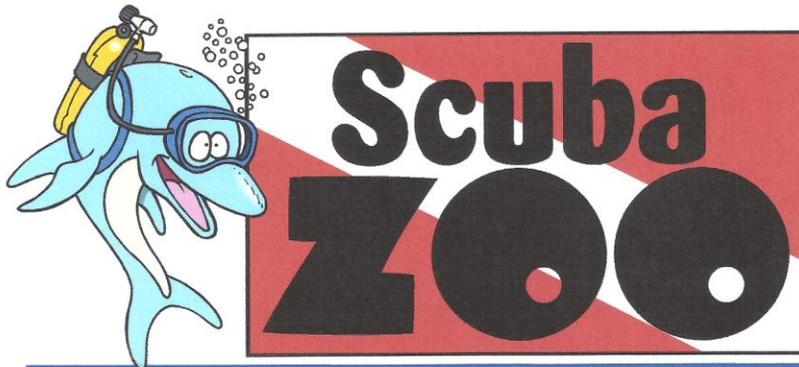
Please let me know if there is anything further I can do to assist you with this most important project.

Sincerely,  
Tim Marr



Advance Scuba & Paintball  
11363 East Lakewood blvd.  
Suite B  
Holland Mi.49423  
616-392-4433  
[www.advancescuba.com](http://www.advancescuba.com)  
timmarr16@hotmail.com

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**DIVE  
SNORKEL  
TRAVEL**  
[www.scubazoo.net](http://www.scubazoo.net)

---

5576 Holton Rd. Twin Lake, MI 49457 PH(231) 828-4400 FX(231) 828-5090

Date: December 7, 2009

Deborah Chase, Co-Chair  
West Michigan Underwater Preserve, Proposed  
6335 N. 176th Ave  
Walkerville, MI 49459

Dear Mrs. Chase,

We here at Scuba ZOO give our complete support to the addition of the West Michigan Underwater Preserve to be a part of the Michigan Underwater Preserve system. This system was established in Michigan to create underwater preserves for the protection of our historic shipwrecks, artifacts and underwater features vital to our cultural heritage.

In the proposed area that extends from the Southwest Michigan Underwater Preserve (just North of Holland) to the lighthouse at Big Point Sable (Ludington State Park), there are 13 known shipwrecks and several underwater features including clay walls. With the advancement and affordability of underwater sounding equipment, no doubt there are more shipwrecks, artifacts and features that will be discovered. The West Michigan Underwater Preserve will attend to and protect this underwater history.

Please let us know if there is anything further we can do to assist you with this most important project.

Sincerely,

Norm & Dee St. Andrew

Lakeshore Scuba Letter of Support  
For the proposed West Michigan Underwater Preserve

December 7, 2009

Deborah Chase, Co-Chair  
West Michigan Underwater Preserve, Proposed  
6335 N. 176<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Walkerville, MI 49459

Dear Mrs. Chase,

Lakeshore Scuba gives our complete support to the addition of the West Michigan Underwater Preserve to be part of the Michigan Underwater Preserve system. This system established in Michigan to create underwater preserves and to protect our historic shipwrecks is vital to our cultural heritage. The waters off of the western side of Lake Michigan are no different.

In the proposed preserve area extending from the Southwestern Underwater Preserve (north of Holland) to Pentwater, there are at least 12 known shipwrecks. These wrecks need the attention and protection of the Michigan Underwater Preserve system.

Please let me know if there is anything further I can do to assist in this most important project.

Sincerely,



Kurt Koella

Moby's Dive Shop, Inc.

March 19, 2010

Deborah Chase, Co-Chair  
West Michigan Underwater Preserve, Proposed  
875 Sherwood Rd.  
Muskegon, MI 49441

Dear Mrs. Chase,

The Moby's Dive Shop, Inc. gives our support to the addition of the West Michigan Underwater Preserve to be part of the Michigan Underwater Preserve system. This system established in Michigan to create underwater preserves and to protect our historic shipwrecks is vital to our cultural heritage. The waters off of the western side of Lake Michigan are no different.

In the proposed preserve area extending from the Southwestern Underwater Preserve (north of Holland) to Ludington, there are at least 12 known shipwrecks. These wrecks need the attention and protection of the Michigan Underwater Preserve system.

Please let me know if there is anything further I can do to assist in this most important project.

Sincerely,

Andrew Moblo  
Owner / Operator  
Moby's Dive Shop, Inc.  
5300-B Northland Dr. NE  
Grand Rapids MI 49525

(616) 364-5991



Letter of Support  
For the proposed West Michigan Underwater Preserve

March 16, 2010

Deborah Chase, Co-Chair  
West Michigan Underwater Preserve, Proposed  
875 Sherwood Rd.  
Muskegon, MI 49441

Dear Mrs. Chase,

The American Dive Zone gives our complete support to the addition of the West Michigan Underwater Preserve to be part of the Michigan Underwater Preserve system. This system established in Michigan to create underwater preserves and to protect our historic shipwrecks is vital to our cultural heritage. The waters off of the western side of Michigan are no different.

In the proposed preserve area extending from the Southwestern Underwater Preserve (north of Holland) to Ludington, there are at least 12 known shipwrecks. These wrecks need the attention and protection of the Michigan Underwater Preserve system.

Please let me know if there is anything further I can do to assist in this most important project.

Sincerely,

Michael J Palmer  
President  
American Dive Zone

March 18, 2010

Deborah Chase, Co-Chair  
West Michigan Underwater Preserve, Proposed  
875 Sherwood Rd.  
Muskegon, MI 49441

Dear Mrs. Chase,

The Michigan Underwater Preserve Council, Inc. fully supports the efforts of the West Michigan Underwater Preserve committee on their application to have the West Michigan Underwater Preserve enacted as Michigan's thirteenth underwater preserve.

Each of Michigan's underwater preserves is a unique time capsule that reveals an enormous amount about the maritime culture of Michigan and the surrounding Great Lakes. In addition every one of the preserves contains history that is also unique to its geographical region, settlements, natural resources, and historical events. For instance, Sanilac Shores Underwater Preserve contains the largest concentration of 1913 storm wrecks; Southwest Underwater Preserve contains vessels that were routinely used in the lumber trade across Lake Michigan; many of the wrecks in the Straits of Mackinac Underwater Preserve were sunk by ice while trying to traverse the early shipping season; and Thunder Bay Underwater Preserve contains a great concentration of wrecks that were created by collisions due to the bustling Great Lakes shipping lanes over many decades.

The West Michigan Underwater Preserve will significantly add to the list of attributes of the entire Preserve System. Three vessels are found within the boundaries that were victims of the 1940 "Armistice Day" Storm. In addition, several other vessels are linked with the lumbering trade which was a key part of the formation of Michigan's economy in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The *Henry Cort* is one of only two whaleback vessels found within Michigan's waters. In addition, several geographic features are interesting underwater features and part of the topography of ancient Michigan. The shifting sands, a common feature of the east coast of Lake Michigan, will undoubtedly reveal more finds as wrecks are covered and uncovered with the shifting lake bottom.

On behalf of the Michigan Underwater Preserve Council, Inc. we welcome the additional resources that will be found within the West Michigan Underwater Preserve and look forward to another key part of Michigan's underwater history being elevated to the status of Underwater Preserve.

Sincerely,

Ron Bloomfield  
President  
Michigan Underwater Preserve Council, Inc.

## Appendix C

**Legislation (excerpt):  
Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act  
PA 451 of 1994**

**324.76111 Great Lakes bottomlands preserve; establishment; rules; determination; factors; granting permit to recover abandoned artifacts; limitation; intentional sinking of vessel; prohibited use of state money; Thunder Bay Great Lakes state bottomland preserve.**

Sec. 76111.

- (1) Subject to subsection (7), the department of environmental quality shall establish Great Lakes bottomlands preserves by rule. A Great Lakes bottomlands preserve shall be established by emergency rule if it is determined by the department that this action is necessary to immediately protect an object or area of historical or recreational value.
- (2) A Great Lakes bottomlands preserve may be established whenever a bottomlands area includes a single watercraft of significant historical value, includes 2 or more abandoned watercraft, or contains other features of archaeological, historical, recreational, geological, or environmental significance. Bottomlands areas containing few or no watercraft or other features directly related to the character of a preserve may be excluded from preserves.
- (3) In establishing a Great Lakes bottomlands preserve, the department of environmental quality shall consider all of the following factors:
  - (a) Whether creating the preserve is necessary to protect either abandoned property possessing historical or recreational value, or significant underwater geological or environmental features.
  - (b) The extent of local public and private support for creation of the preserve.
  - (c) Whether a preserve development plan has been prepared by a state or local agency.
  - (d) The extent to which preserve support facilities such as roads, marinas, charter services, hotels, medical hyperbaric facilities, and rescue agencies have been developed in or are planned for the area.
- (4) The department of environmental quality and the department of history, arts, and libraries shall not grant a permit to recover abandoned artifacts within a Great Lakes bottomlands preserve except for historical or scientific purposes or when the recovery will not adversely affect the historical, cultural, or recreational integrity of the preserve area as a whole.
- (5) An individual Great Lakes bottomlands preserve shall not exceed 400 square miles in area. Great Lakes bottomlands preserves shall be limited in total area to not more than 10% of the Great Lakes bottomlands within this state. However, the limitations provided in this

subsection do not apply to the Thunder Bay Great Lakes bottomland preserve established in subsection (7).

- (6) Upon the approval of the committee, not more than 1 vessel associated with Great Lakes maritime history may be sunk intentionally within a Great Lakes bottomlands preserve. However, state money shall not be expended to purchase, transport, or sink the vessel.
- (7) The Thunder Bay Great Lakes state bottomland preserve established under R 299.6001 of the Michigan administrative code shall have boundaries identical with those described in 15 C.F.R. 922.190 for the Thunder Bay national marine sanctuary and underwater preserve. As long as the Thunder Bay national marine sanctuary and underwater preserve remains a designated national marine sanctuary, the right and privilege to explore, survey, excavate, and regulate abandoned property of historical or recreational value found upon or within the lands owned by or under control of the state within those boundaries shall be jointly managed and regulated by the department of environmental quality and the national oceanic and atmospheric administration. However, this subsection shall not be construed to convey any ownership right or interest from the state to the federal government of abandoned property of historical or recreational value found upon or within the lands owned by or under control of the state.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 58, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995 ;-- Am. 2000, Act 441, Imd. Eff. Jan. 9, 2001 ;-- Am. 2001, Act 75, Imd. Eff. July 24, 2001

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

**Admin Rule:** R 299.6001 et seq. of the Michigan Administrative Code.

### **324.76112 Rules generally.**

Sec. 76112.

- (1) The department and the department of history, arts, and libraries, jointly or separately, may promulgate rules as are necessary to implement this part.
- (2) Within each Great Lakes bottomlands preserve, the department and the department of history, arts, and libraries may jointly promulgate rules that govern access to and use of a Great Lakes bottomlands preserve. These rules may regulate or prohibit the alteration, destruction, or removal of abandoned property, features, or formations within a preserve.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 58, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995 ;-- Am. 2001, Act 75, Imd. Eff. July 24, 2001

**Popular Name:** Act 451

**Popular Name:** NREPA

## Appendix D

### West Michigan Underwater Preserve Council Diver Code of Conduct

All historic shipwrecks within the territorial waters of Lake Michigan are the property of the State of Michigan and are held in trust for the benefit, education and enjoyment of all its citizens.

IT IS A CRIME to remove, displace, deface, or destroy underwater artifacts and shipwreck sites.

Take pictures and memories with you, leave only bubbles.

Use moorings where present. Communicate and cooperate with other boats using sites. If it is safe to do so and with permission, tie boats together. Otherwise be patient and wait your turn.

Take care when using anchors on non-moored sites. Maintain a safe distance from sites to help avoid damage to the sites caused by anchors.

We all love shipwrecks, but we can love a wreck to death if we are not careful.

Shipwreck sites and underwater features are not “hands on” museums. When considering swimming through any openings, do so ONLY if you can clear the openings and exits with NO CONTACT to the site. Some shipwrecks are underwater graves and should be treated with respect, the same as a land based cemetery.

Resist the urge to “wipe” or “scrape” an area on the site as that action causes damage or deterioration. Gentle “wooshing” of water with your hand may give you a better look at a particular object.

As with the case of all diving activities, good buoyancy control and situational awareness will go a long way toward enhancing a divers experience with an underwater attraction that they visit. These two skills along with a “hands off” approach will help keep divers safe and underwater sites in good condition.

With these few things in mind, we will be able to enjoy our great underwater heritage for generations.

## Appendix E

### List of Wrecks

<b>Vessels Wrecked in Preserve Waters</b>									
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Rig</b>	<b>Off #</b>	<b>Built</b>	<b>Tonnage</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Date Lost</b>	<b>Place Lost</b>	<b>Loss Type</b>
1	Neptune	Brig	N/A	1834	166.77 BOM	88.9x24.2x8.10	11/25/1839	Little Sable Point	Aground
2	Telegraph	Sch.	N/A	1848	179.17 BOM	103.7x24.5x7.10	9/28/1853	S. of L. Sable Pt.	Ashore
3	John B. Wright	Sch.	N/A	1854	384 BOM	139x26x11 (est.)	10/3/1854	S. of Pentwater	Aground
4	Amanda Harwood	Sch.	N/A	1847	169.49 BOM	105.6x23.2x7.7	1855	Little Sable Pt.	Unknown
5	James M. Hughes	Sch.	N/A	1847	165.59 BOM	99.8x23.8x8.4	11/15/1855	Pentwater	Ashore
6	North Yuba	Sch.	N/A	1853	154.42 BOM	97.6x25.6x7.0	12/6/1855	S. of L. Sable Pt.	Ashore
7	Mackinaw Boat*	Slp.	N/A	c.1855	c. 15 gt.	30x6x3 (est.)	12/12/1857	Off L. Sable Pt.	Capsized
8	Equator	Sch.	N/A	1842	131.51 BOM	84.10x20.2x8.6	1858	Off L. Sable Pt.	Unknown
9	Garden City	Sch.	N/A	1854	329.08 BOM	131.9x25.8x10.6	10/17/1858	Off L. Sable Pt.	Foundered
10	H.N. Gates	Sch.	N/A	1847	168.78 BOM	100x21.5x8.7	12/14/1864	Pentwater	Ashore
11	Roanoke	Sch.	21299	1843	119.85 gt.	92.1x23.3x8.4	10/27/1866	Pentwater	Aground
12	Mary Stewart	Prop	N/A	1855	422.40 BOM	170.11x27.2x10	11/11/1866	Pentwater	Aground
13	Chieftain	Sch.	N/A	1857	202 gt.	115x25.8x10.8	11/1867	L. Sable Pt.	Ashore
14	Commencement	ScSch	4346	1853	72.66 gt.	75.9x19.9x6.8	10/1869	L. Sable Pt.	Ashore
15	Titan	Sch.	24149	1856	284.65 gt.	132x26x12	11/5/1869	Pentwater	Ashore
16	Jefferson	Sch.	12762	1853	240.03 gt.	137x25.6x10.7	11/1/1870	L. Sable Pt.	Aground
17	Samuel Robinson	Sch.	22347	1853	235.79 gt.	127.8x25.7x10.4	5/24/1872	SW of Pentwater	Collision
18	Louis Meeker	Sch.	15873	1872	310.63 gt.	137.7x26.2x11.2	8/28/1872	N. of L. Sable Pt.	Capsized
19	Souvenir*	Sch.	22579	1854	51.54 BOM	66.3x21.2x5.6	11/26/1872	N. of Pentwater	Ashore
20	Minnie Corlett*	Sch.	16632	1866	93 gt.	c. 99x23x7	11/26/1872	N. of Pentwater	Ashore
21	Black Hawk	ScSch	2236	1857	106.61 gt.	106x23x6	8/6/1875	Silver Lake	Ashore
22	Minnie Williams	Sch.	16426	1862	288.80 gt.	135.0x26.2x12.1	10/27/1875	N. of Pentwater	Foundered
23	Lt. Gen. US Grant	ScSch	14663	1862	156.14 gt.	113.0x24.2x8.7	9/20/1878	Pentwater	Aground
24	Magic	Sch	16411	1853	89.62 gt.	93.2x26.1x6.1	10/28/1878	Pentwater	Ashore
25	Mercury*	Sch.	50874	1872	230.31 gt.	121.3x27.1x9.1	10/19/1879	Pentwater	Aground
26	George Lamont*	Tug	None	1879	14 gt.	45x10x4	3/14/1880	Off Pentwater	Capsized
27	Morning Light	Sch.	16410	1857	225.92 gt.	127.8x26.0x10.7	11/23/1882	S. of L. Sable Pt.	Ashore
28	Norman	Prop	18167	1863	545.23 gt.	134.42x26x12.5	11/11/1883	Pentwater	Aground
29	Kitty Grant	Sch.	14035	1853	75 gt.	78x21x7	10/8/1884	Off L. Sable Pt.	Capsized
30	Alice E. Getty	Tug	10500	1871	30 gt.	70.0x25.5x7.3	11/20/1884	Pentwater	Aground

31	Jane	Sch.	N/A	c.1885	c. 10 gt.	c. 30x6x3	4/4/1885	Off L. Sable Pt.	Capsized
32	Mollie	ScSch	50606	1867	59.38 gt.	83.1x20.3x6.4	11/21/1890	SW L. Sable Pt.	Foundered
33	Daisy Day	Prop	15702	1880	146.86 gt.	103.4x20.7x7.6	10/11/1891	Little Sable Pt.	Aground
34	C.L. Fick	ScSch	33668	1867	89.32 gt.	97.4x22.8x6.7	10/15/1894	Stony Lake	Ashore
35	Phantom	ScSch	15049	1888	13 gt.	57x13x4	9/13/1895	Off L. Sable Pt.	Foundered
36	H.C. Richards	Sch.	95257	1873	700 gt.	189x33x13	10/27/1895	Off L. Sable Pt.	Foundered
37	Charles Rietz*	Prop	12508	1872	245.52 gt.	127.0x26.5x9.4	12/11/1895	S. of Pentwater	Ashore
38	I.M. Forrest	Sch.	10017	1871	174.12 gt.	122x24x9.42	4/16/1897	Pentwater	Aground
39	Emma Banner*	ScSch	13605	1889	92.41 gt.	81.0 x23.9x7.0	8/18/1897	WSW L.Sable Pt.	Capsized
40	Waneetee	Sch.	22919	1847	116.53 gt.	88.7x22.5x8.6	c. 1900	Pentwater Lake	Abandonnd
41	Kellogg*	Scow	16259	1882	619 gt.	160.0x35.9x9.3	9/8/1910	NW of L. Sable Pt.	Capsized
42	Frank L. Vance	Prop	12067	1887	1731.38 gt.	257.5x39.4x20.1	10/4/1910	NW of Pentwater	Burned
43	Two Brothers	Tug	20645	1908	11 gt.	32.0x9.9x3.9	11/23/1912	Pentwater	Hit Pier
44	Starlight	Yct.	11670	1897	30.63 gt.	60.66x14.5x6.5	6/30/1920	Pentwater Lake	Abandonnd
45	+Anna C. Minch	Prop	C1531 13	1903	4285 gt.	380x50x28	11/11/1940	S. of Pentwater	Aground
46	+Novadoc	Prop	C1494 65	1928	1934 gt.	235x43x20	11/11/1940	S. of Pentwater	Aground
47	+Wm. B. Davock	Prop	20411	1907	4220 gt.	420x52x23	11/11/1940	Off L. Sable Pt.	Foundered
48	Mistress	Tug	22260	1922	15 gt.	38.7x10.5x4.0	3/3/1941	Off Pentwater	Burned
49	Pal	Tug	23819	1938	17 gt.	35.8x10.6x3.8	5/4/1946	Off Pentwater	Burned
50	Comanche	Tug	25364	1900	209 gt.	84.7x18.5x8.3	12/11/1985	N. of Pentwater	Foundered
51	Ida Jane								
52	Hiawatha	Sch					1866		sunk
53	Willis Keller								sunk
54	Eclipse and Sigel								
55	Free Democrat								
56	Mojave								
57	Brockville							Aground off Pent.	wreckpieces
58	Arcadia								sank
59	Equinox								flounded
60	Lady Jane	Sch.							brkashore
61	Reindeer							8mi off Bg Sable	sunk
62	Alwilda								
63	Albert Miller							Burned off Pentw.	ashore
64	Blue Belle							White Lake,L.M.	