

Board of Commissioners

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County Manager
W. Russell Overman

Clerk to the Board
Rachel B. Hammer

**RESOLUTION
OPPOSING A PROPOSED BOUNDARY EXPANSION FOR THE
MONITOR NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ("MNMS")**

WHEREAS, the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary ("MNMS") was designated as the nation's first national marine sanctuary in 1975 and protects the wreck of the Civil War Ironclad USS Monitor; and

WHEREAS, the MNMS is located approximately 16 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is the trustee of the Sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, the National Marine Sanctuaries Act requires NOAA to periodically review the management plan for each of the nation's thirteen Marine Sanctuaries; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has no issue with NOAA's stated objectives - "to conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity, ecological integrity and cultural legacy of each sanctuary, while fostering public awareness of marine resources and maritime heritage through scientific research, monitoring, exploration, education and outreach;" and

WHEREAS, the proposed rule by the NOAA as printed in the Federal Register on January 8, 2016 is vague and silent relating to regulatory requirements associated with the four models outlined.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Carteret County Board of Commissioners opposes any expansion of the boundaries of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary.

ADOPTED this the 21st day of March 2016.



Robin V. Comer, Chair

ATTEST:



Rachel Hammer, Clerk to the Board