



2014 NOAA *Preserve America Initiative* Internal Funding Program Recipients

Mariner’s Signposts: The U.S. Coast Survey’s Florida Reef Beacons **\$10,161**

*Project Lead: Brenda Altmeier, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary,
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Key Largo, FL
National Ocean Service*

More than 160 years ago, the Coast Survey erected a series of unlighted beacons, labeled “A” through “P,” at treacherous reefs along the Florida coast. In collaboration with the Office of Coast Survey and the NOAA Library, this project will locate and document these largely forgotten “mariner’s signposts,” many of which can still be found in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Interpretive plans call for a digital exhibit hosted by the OCS, ONMS and NOAA Library showcasing the magnificent charts, historical correspondence and archaeological discoveries relating to the beacons. In addition, this project will make downloadable dive/snorkel slates available to the public, including a brochure for distribution online and at Florida Keys water sports operators.

USCS Robert J. Walker Memorial **\$6,000**

*Project Lead: Dr. James P. Delgado, Maritime Heritage Program,
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Silver Spring, MD
National Ocean Service*

This project will commemorate the U.S. Coast Survey ship, the Robert J. Walker, honoring the lives of the 21 crew members who lost their lives on active duty off Atlantic City, New Jersey in June 1860, and will recognize the sacrifice and significance of that vessel and its crew in charting of the nation’s coast, an ongoing responsibility of NOAA. A memorial and interpretative signs will be designed, fabricated and installed at the Absecon Lighthouse Museum in Atlantic City, the beacon to which the sinking Walker was heading when it foundered. This project is also being partially funded by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and Office of Coast Survey.

**Unlocking Secrets of the Deep: \$12,000
Creating a Marine Technology Exhibit to Highlight Career Paths and Encourage Stewardship**

*Project Lead: Russ Green, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary,
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Alpena, MI
National Ocean Service*

Funds will create a state-of-the-art, remotely operated vehicle (ROV) simulator exhibit to be installed at NOAA's Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center in Alpena, Michigan, fostering appreciation for one of Lake Huron's most historically significant shipwrecks, located in an area now being considered for sanctuary expansion. Center visitors will be able to run the simulated ROV in a real world scenario, thereby motivating users to explore career opportunities in marine technology and preservation. The exhibit serves as an education and outreach tool promoting STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education, allowing for clear partnerships with local schools.

Old Oregon Inlet Life Saving Station: Promoting History through Partnership \$9,000

*Project Lead: Lauren Heesemann, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary,
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Wanchese, NC
National Ocean Service*

NOAA and the United States Coast Guard have collaborated for nearly 200 years. To build upon this relationship and jointly promote the unique maritime heritage of coastal North Carolina and the role these agencies have played in the area's history, project funds will be used to create educational and interpretive products that focus on the Old Oregon Inlet Life Saving Station located in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. A short, 3-4 minute film will be created and will accompany eight Outer Banks Maritime Heritage Trail videos on the existing website. The short film will also be aired on the local Dare County Government and Education Access Channel. Interpretive signs for both Oregon Inlet and the Old Oregon Inlet Life Saving Station will also be developed and placed at the site.

**Remembering the Birthplace of West Coast Tuna Fishing and Canning: \$11,500
Oral Histories from the Tuna Pioneers of San Pedro and Terminal Island, California**

*Project Lead: Jennifer Isé, West Coast Regional Office, Long Beach, CA
National Marine Fisheries Service*

This project seeks to preserve NOAA heritage assets in the form of oral histories, photographs, documents, and other artifacts through capturing first-hand accounts about the U.S. West Coast tuna industry. Vital to the community fabric, the industry unified culturally diverse residents who were recent immigrants from Japan, Croatia, Italy, and Portugal. Today, the tuna boats are gone and the canneries are largely overseas. Many former fishermen and cannery workers still reside in the area and many of these pioneers are in their twilight years. Eleven interviews have been filmed so far with a professional documentary filmmaker. Funds will support a documentary film that will highlight personal experiences, as well as gear/method development, fishing expeditions, observations, and issues such as seafood sustainability and working waterfronts. Education materials will be developed for use in local schools, aquaria, museums, and the local

Boys and Girls Club. Selected interviews will be archived in the NMFS *Voices from the Fisheries Database*.

Interpreting NOAA's Whaling Heritage through the *Charles W. Morgan's 38th Voyage* \$11,869

*Project Lead: Matthew Lawrence, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, National Marine Sanctuaries Office, Scituate, MA
National Ocean Service*

Originally built in 1841, the recently restored *Charles W. Morgan*, a wooden whaleship, will begin its 38th during the summer of 2014. The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) will participate through a dockside exhibit and telepresence programming to convey NOAA's heritage conservation messaging. This project will draw new connections between ONMS and NOAA Fisheries through collaborative public outreach activities. Project funds will support dockside staffing by subject matter experts. The ONMS intends to bring NOAA conservation messaging to a broader audience through telepresence programs onboard the *C. W. Morgan*. Project funds will assist with providing a World Wide Web connection for individuals to participate in the voyage and learn about NOAA's whaling heritage by connecting with NOAA experts.

Recreational Fishermen of the Greater Tampa Bay Voices from the Fisheries Project \$7,362

*Project Lead: Christina Package-Ward, Southeast Regional Office, St. Petersburg, FL
National Marine Fisheries Service*

NOAA will partner with a local school, Admiral Farragut Academy, to conduct oral histories with recreational fishermen in Florida's Tampa Bay area. The project will be integrated into the school's curriculum, and students will learn about the history of recreational fishing in their area. Students will develop interview questions based on set themes and will be trained to conduct interviews with members of the recreational fishing community. Interviews will be video and audio recorded and uploaded to NOAA's *Voices from the Fisheries* oral history database where they can be accessed by researchers and the public. The project will help to build and strengthen relationships between NOAA, recreational fishermen, the partnering school, and the local community and provide lifelong skills to the students.

The Preservation of the Origin and History of NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory \$11,950

*Project Lead: Erica Rule, Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory, Miami, FL
Office of Atmospheric Research*

ESSA (NOAA) established the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) in 1973 on the island of Virginia Key in Miami, FL. The laboratory's original director, Dr. Harris B. Stewart, bequeathed to AOML a treasure trove of historical documents, instruments, photographs, and paintings that have never been catalogued or preserved. Funds will be used to identify, catalogue, digitize, and, to the extent possible, preserve these assets. The digitized products will be added to AOML's history page on the laboratory's website. A display case will feature instrumentation, photographs, and other memorabilia. Large scale heritage assets at the AOML facility will be labeled with plaques noting their identity, origin, and history. These

improvements in interpretation of AOML's heritage will enhance visitors' experience on site and will be also available on AOML's website.

Voices from the Working Waterfront: Oral Histories around the Nation **\$8,930**

*Project Lead: Kenneth Walker, Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, Silver Spring, MD
National Ocean Service*

Working waterfronts (WWFs) are inherently entwined with the social and cultural aspects of their host communities; they are integral to how community members define and distinguish themselves. This project will capture and preserve oral histories showcasing successful community efforts to preserve WWFs through the implementation of tools such as land use planning, historic preservation, and financing mechanisms. Interviewees will be identified on a regional basis and may include land use planners, community organizers, waterfront business owners, and fishermen. These oral histories will be archived in the *Voices from the Fisheries* Database, and linked to the National Working Waterfront Network website. The National Sea Grant Law Center will provide the primary administrative support for this project, and will, with the help of Maine Sea Grant, coordinate planning, implementation, dissemination, and archiving of the oral histories.

TOTAL: \$88,772