

SCOTT WALKER
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

P.O. Box 7863
MADISON, WI 53707

November 26, 2014

The Honorable Kathryn D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Room 5128
Washington, DC 20230

Mr. Daniel J. Basta
Director, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Administrator Sullivan and Director Basta:

On behalf of the State of Wisconsin, I am pleased to submit the nomination of the Lake Michigan - Wisconsin National Marine Sanctuary for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) consideration as a national marine sanctuary. The nomination represents broad-based support from local governments, state agencies, elected officials, community partners, and user groups.

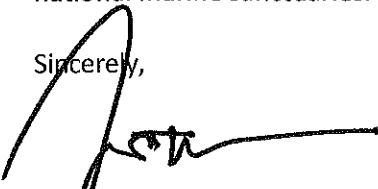
The proposed sanctuary contains an extraordinary collection of submerged maritime heritage resources. The 875-square-mile area is marked by 34 known shipwrecks, 122 reported vessel losses, numerous other historic maritime related features, and communities that have embraced their centuries-long relationship with Lake Michigan. The historic shipwrecks are representative of vessels that sailed and steamed this corridor of Lake Michigan, taking grain and raw materials east as other vessels came west loaded with coal. Many of the shipwrecks retain an unusual degree of architectural integrity as exemplified by the presence of 14 intact vessels. Thirteen shipwrecks are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and two wrecks are pending listing.

This nomination represents a significant and long-standing interest from the communities along Lake Michigan. The coastal communities of Two Rivers, Manitowoc, Sheboygan, and Port Washington, as well as Manitowoc, Sheboygan and Ozaukee Counties, would be key partners in contributing to the success of a national marine sanctuary. In addition to embracing their maritime heritage as integral to their identity, the communities have been proactive in their pursuit of creating vibrant lakefront downtowns, establishing the Lake Michigan coast as a tourism destination, reclaiming and restoring Great Lakes habitat, investing in museums, libraries, recreation trails, and promoting education and training initiatives that are preparing the next generation to carry on their legacy of accomplishments.

Establishing a national marine sanctuary along Wisconsin's Lake Michigan shoreline is an important next step in preserving our Nation's heritage. It would continue and expand the legacy of Wisconsin's maritime archaeology preservation program, expand recreational and tourism opportunities, provide education opportunities and job skills for the next generation and promote stewardship of the largest freshwater system in the world. A sanctuary would increase the recognition of the significance of the Great Lakes in Wisconsin's history, in the Nation's economy, and in creating the sense of place the citizens of Wisconsin value so deeply.

I look forward to NOAA's review of Wisconsin's proposal to be added to the inventory of potential national marine sanctuaries.

Sincerely,



Scott Walker
Governor

Attachments

1. Nomination package
2. Resolutions and letters of support