



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

CITATION

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION AWARD
BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC EXPEDITION

In recognition of the Battle of the Atlantic Expedition, a unique collaboration among Federal, State and academic entities to strengthen research efforts and document historically significant shipwreck sites associated with World War II losses in the Atlantic Ocean off the North Carolina coast.

The Battle of the Atlantic Expedition involved Federal partners from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Minerals Management Service, and the National Park Service; academic partners from East Carolina University's Program in Maritime Studies, and the University of North Carolina's Coastal Studies Institute; and State partners from the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources and the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island. The project is dedicated to raising awareness of the war that was fought so close to the American coastline and to preserving the Nation's maritime history. Known as the "Graveyard of the Atlantic," this area contains German U-boats, British naval vessels, and U.S. Merchant Marine ships that were lost during the war, many of which are within recreational diving depths and have been severely impacted by relic hunters for decades. It is the intent of this project to catalog each site's significance and identify degrading impacts from both environmental and cultural factors. The archeological objectives are to ground-truth, document, positively identify, and assess the National Register status of both Allied and Axis vessels lost during World War II. These objectives require historical research and field investigations for each site. Additionally the project is designed to educate the public, including the local diving community, on the significance of these shipwrecks in the Nation's history and the importance of protecting these non-renewable cultural resources against the impacts of relic hunters. The 2008 expedition successfully documented three German submarines, U-85, U-352, and U-701. Each of these vessels has suffered extensive impacts through looting by relic hunters. By documenting the current status of each of these vessels, baseline data was acquired which can be used for long-term monitoring of the sites. For their dedication to protecting significant archeological resources on the seabed, the partners in the Battle of the Atlantic Expedition are granted the Department of the Interior's Partners in Conservation Award.