



CALL TO ACTION!



Dear Friends of Thunder Bay,

We need your help, now. On April 28, President Trump issued an Executive Order, "Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy," directing the US Department of Commerce to **review the designations and expansion** of 11 national marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments, **which included Thunder Bay.**

On June 26, 2017, the Department of Commerce opened a 30-day comment period on the review. **NOTE: Deadline for submitting comments has been extended to August 15 at 11:59 p.m. (EDT).**

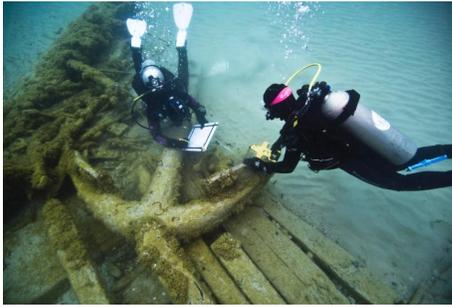
If the public does not stand up for Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the 3,850 square-mile expansion in Lake Huron could be rolled back to reconsider protections for offshore waters that could be opened up to oil and gas drilling.

The order targets **any marine sanctuary or monument established or expanded since April 2007** and halted the government from naming any more. Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary was designated in 2000 and expanded from 448 square miles to 4,300 square miles in 2014.



HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Submit your comments electronically to the Federal Register. *See instructions below.*
- Send letters to your US Senators and Representative. *See instruction below.*
- Share this email with your family and friends and ask that they join you in standing up for the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and all the national marine sanctuaries and monuments.



The sanctuary **protects nearly 200 of America's best preserved and nationally significant shipwrecks**. Over forty NOAA mooring buoys provide access to shipwrecks for divers, snorkelers, and paddlers. Marine scientists, students and tourists from all over the world come to Thunder Bay to explore these shipwrecks that are uniquely preserved in Lake Huron's fresh waters.

The sanctuary's **Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center receives nearly 100,000 visitors annually**. Each year, thousands of students come to the sanctuary to learn about the Great Lakes and their rich history at the center and aboard the *Lady Michigan* glass-bottom boat.



Students learn how to use underwater robots and water quality monitoring to understand environmental topics such as fish spawning habitat, marine debris, and invasive species. **Most importantly, they learn how to be future stewards of our Great Lakes.**



Just this Fourth of July, the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary hosted the **17th Annual Thunder Bay Maritime Festival, attracting upwards of 12,000 people to the heart of Alpena to**

- Ask local community leaders to let their voices be heard as well by passing resolutions and submitting them to the Federal Register.
- Consider supporting the Friends of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary by becoming a member at thunderbayfriends.org.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Send your comments to the [Federal Register](#) by **no later than August 15, 2017 at 11:59 p.m. (EDT)**. Only comments submitted to the Federal Register will be included in the review.

Send your comments electronically by using the [Federal eRulemaking Portal](#) and clicking the "[Comment Now!](#)" icon, or

Send by mail to:

E.O. 13795 Review, NOAA

Silver Spring Metro Campus Bldg 4 (SSMC4),
Eleventh Floor
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910.

If sending a letter, address as follows:

The Honorable Wilbur Ross

Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230
Dear Secretary Ross,

Re: NOAA-NOS-2017-0066, Review of national marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments designated or expanded since April 28, 2007 under Executive Order 13795 Section 4(b)

Share your comment with your elected officials. *(Please click the links highlighted below if you prefer to send your comments by email.)*

The Honorable Jack Bergman

United States House of Representatives
414 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Dear Congressman Bergman,
<https://bergman.house.gov/contact/>

The Honorable Gary Peters

United States Senate
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0001
Dear Senator Peters,
<https://www.peters.senate.gov/contact/email-gary>

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow

United States Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-2204
Dear Senator Stabenow,
<https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/contact>

Check out the [Federal Register](#) and Executive Order 13795 language [here](#).

celebrate our country's birthday and Great Lakes maritime heritage. Events like this **attract thousands of visitors to the area who stay in local hotels and cottages, and enjoy eating and shopping at local businesses, boosting our local economy.**

If you have toured the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, gone diving, paddling or fishing in Thunder Bay, experienced Lake Huron aboard the *Lady Michigan*, or interacted with local teachers, students and business owners, then most likely **you know firsthand the impact the sanctuary has had to date**, and the even greater potential it holds for our the future.

Please join me and the Friends of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary by standing up for our Great Lakes. **The public comment period has been extended to August 15 so take action now!**

Sincerely,



Chuck Wiesen, President
Friends Board of Directors

