

# Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary



- **Year Designated:** 2000
- **Size (area):** 448 square miles
- **Location:** Northwest Lake Huron, off the northeast coast of Michigan's Lower Peninsula
- **State Waters:** Entirely in State waters
- **Purpose:** To provide comprehensive and coordinated long-term protection and management of a unique collection of maritime heritage resources, primarily shipwrecks and associated artifacts.
- **Fully-Protected Areas:** None
- **Date Management Plan Issued:** 1999
- **Date of Management Plan Review:** The management plan review is expected to begin in spring 2006.



Map credit: Thunder Bay NMS

**Sanctuary Website:** <http://thunderbay.noaa.gov/>

**Sanctuary Regulations:** 15 C.F.R. § 922, Subpart R

## Examples of Research and Monitoring in the Sanctuary:

- Surveys of the shipwrecks.
- Filming for shows on the history and importance of particular shipwrecks.
- Pride of Michigan, Sea Cadet training missions (diving, nautical archaeology, and seamanship).

**Summary of Regulation of Activities and Uses in  
Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve**  
(For full regulations, see 15 C.F.R. § 922 and contact the regulating agencies)



Type of Use	Regulated by the Sanctuary (NMS)				Examples of Other Regulating Agencies, States/Territories, or Laws (may not be comprehensive list)
	Zoned (areas closed to this type of use)	Restricted	Prohibited	Comments	
Commercial Fishing				Not regulated by NMS regulations	State of Michigan
Recreational Fishing				Not regulated by NMS regulations	State of Michigan
Bottom Trawling				Not regulated by NMS regulations	State of Michigan
Collecting Aquarium Fish				Not regulated by NMS regulations	State of Michigan
Aquaculture				May be regulated under Alteration of or Construction on Lakebottom	State of Michigan, Army Corps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Environmental Protection Agency
Alteration of or Construction on Lakebottom		√		Only allowed as incidental result of listed activities, including anchoring and traditional fishing operations	
Seabed cables or devices				May be regulated under Alteration of or Construction on Lakebottom	Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, Army Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, FCC
Exploring for, Developing, or Producing Oil and Gas				May be regulated under Alteration of or Construction on Lakebottom	Minerals Management Service, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
Exploring for, Developing or Producing Other Minerals				May be regulated under Alteration of or Construction on Lakebottom	Minerals Management Service, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
Removal/Damage of Natural Resources				Not regulated by NMS regulations	
Removal/Damage of Cultural or Historical Resources			√		Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987
Overflights				Overflights prohibited in zones	
Use of motorized watercraft	√			Grappling hooks or other anchors prohibited on underwater cultural sites marked by mooring buoys	
Underwater Noise				Not regulated by NMS regulations	
Discharging or Depositing Material Within the NMS				Not regulated by NMS regulations	U.S. Coast Guard
Discharging or Depositing Material Outside the NMS that Might Injure NMS Resources				Not regulated by NMS regulations	U.S. Coast Guard

**Other Regulations:** NOAA and the State of Michigan jointly manage the Sanctuary and its underwater cultural resources. Permits or licenses predating the Sanctuary are still valid if a certification process is undergone to ensure consistency with the Sanctuary Programmatic Agreement. New permits are generally issued by the State of Michigan. Permits for otherwise restricted or prohibited activities may be obtained after certification, as detailed in the NMS regulations.