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FEED SHARKS?** page 88

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# SCUBA DIVING

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Tropical Seas new Beach Buff line of sunscreens is safe for coral reefs.

## Monitoring History

### Using modern technology and old-fashioned people power to survey the USS Monitor

The waters 16 miles off Cape Hatteras are as formidable today as they were when the USS *Monitor* foundered there almost 150 years ago. That's what a team of divers and scientists discovered the last week of June 2009 when they attempted to survey the wreck in collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Acting as citizen-scientists, the divers — armed with high-definition video and still cameras — battled raging currents and rough seas in order to image

the location of artifacts and survey the deterioration of the famous Civil War ironclad. The rough seas prevented them from diving down to the wreck on all but one day of the weeklong expedition; even then, nearly all of the 13 divers battled the 1.3-knot current as they worked their way alongside the wreck to get images for NOAA. The data will "help NOAA decide what it will do with the *Monitor* site over the next five to seven years," said agency historian Jeff Johnston.

NOAA's previous efforts have included the recovery in 2002 of the

*Monitor*'s famed revolving-gun turret, which is currently undergoing painstaking preservation at the Mariner's Museum ([mariner.org](http://mariner.org)) in Newport News, Virginia, along with its engines and Dahlgren cannons.

Dan Crowell, CEO of Deep Explorers, one of the organizers of the expedition, says images like those produced on the expedition aid in the recovery and preservation process. Video of the *Monitor* that Crowell had taken in 1994, for example, eventually assisted in the recovery of the engines.

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