

***Queen Anne's Revenge* Shipwreck Project 2010 Fall Field Expedition Summary**

The 6-week, 2010 fall expedition to the *Queen Anne's Revenge* shipwreck site was the fourth field season conducted by the Underwater Archaeology Branch of the NC Office of State Archaeology with the primary goal to complete mitigation (excavation, documentation, and recovery) of all cultural remains. Prior to this, researchers worked 6 weeks in 2006, 12 weeks in 2007, and 8 weeks in 2008. No recovery work was conducted in 2009 because of lack of operational funds. This year's expedition would not have been possible without grant funds from NOAA and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation along with in-kind donation of assets and personnel from other federal, state, and private entities. Participants included the US Coast Guard – Fort Macon, NOAA *Monitor* Marine Sanctuary, NC Division of Marine Fisheries, NC Maritime Museum, Fort Macon State Park, Nautilus Productions, Discovery Diving, Intersal, and the Georgia Underwater Archaeology Office.

The 2010 field objectives included: excavating, mapping, and recovering artifacts from 37 archaeological units; staging one of the ship's largest main deck cannon from its *in situ* location to the on site holding area; taking corrosion readings and replacing aluminum-alloy anodes on the anchors and cannon currently under-going *in situ* corrosion treatment; and initiating *in situ* corrosion treatment on additional cannon.

Weather along the coast of North Carolina is highly variable, one factor that lead to its appellation "Graveyard of the Atlantic." Beaufort Inlet, located west of Cape Lookout, is no exception. Beyond the twice-daily tidal change, wind and water conditions in the south facing ebb tidal delta can change rapidly, sometimes hourly. Because of the weather variable, 25-percent of planned operation days are expected to be too rough to work effectively and safely on site. Weather affected operations even more significantly this season with only the equivalent of sixteen full days of thirty possible days workable (53-percent).



While archaeologists did not complete as many excavation units as hoped (20 out of the 37 planned), gathered data continue to confirm projections for overall field operation time. At the close of the 2010 field season, approximately thirty-two weeks of field work remain. If operational funding continues, this keeps the project on schedule to complete mitigation by the end of 2013.

Research divers conducted 224 dives for a total of 192 hours of bottom time over 17 days. This averages to 13 dives per day with a mean bottom time per dive of 51 minutes. While good, this is below the operations tempo set in previous seasons and can be attributed to numerous half days and very poor visibility even when wind and seas allowed operations. Dive operations were completed by a combination of permanent staff (45%:100), temporary field staff (38%:85), trained volunteers (10%:22), and visiting scientists (4%:9). The remaining dives (4%:8) were completed by VIP/guest divers.

A total of 122 objects were recovered from the wreck site during the field season. Sixty-five concretions of varying sizes have the potential for containing hundreds of individual artifacts. These concretions will be X-rayed at the conservation lab to help identify what may be contained within. Some artifacts readily apparent on gross external examination include: cannon balls, cask hoops, a pewter plate, and the largest object recovered this season - multiple segments of a deadeye stop with the wood deadeye intact, likely from the port side main mast chain

plate. Thirty-nine objects recovered (not in concretion) include a large 33.5-pound lead sounding weight with no hole, a pewter plate, and an antler handle/grip with copper alloy fittings and the remains of an iron blade. Researchers are looking very closely to see if this handle may be part of the same blade that the sword guard recovered in 2008 was from. Eighteen sediment samples were retained from the riffles and matting in the sluice boxes and will be processed in the lab for the presence of micro-artifacts. Other smaller artifacts recovered from the sluices during excavation include ceramic sherds, lead shot, small ballast stones, copper alloy pins, wood fragments, bone, lead window casing, coal, clinker, and cast iron fragments.

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