

**DECLARATION OF INTENT FOR COOPERATION ON MARITIME HERITAGE
BETWEEN**

**THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES
AND FRANCE’S UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY RESEARCH DEPARTMENT, hereinafter
the “Participants”**

Emphasizing the common interest in science and the duty to protect objects of a historic nature found at sea;

Recognizing that activities under this instrument are subject to laws, regulations, policies, and procedures of each country and to international law, including as reflected in the 1982 United Nations Law of the Sea Convention;

Recognising that the Participants have authority and responsibilities for the protection of maritime heritage including research, education and outreach;

Appreciating the value of our ongoing cooperation and acknowledging the benefits from cooperation between our nations in the past to protect the maritime heritage associated with CSS Alabama, La Belle, Le Griffon, Bonhomme Richard, and Titanic and the Agreements on Science & Technology and Friendship Treaties Science and Technology Agreement and other agreements and memoranda of understanding;

Noting the mutual interest in continuing and strengthening the programs of the Participants relating to underwater cultural heritage resources and sites and facilitating exchanges of information or other collaboration concerning potential site-specific projects;

Convinced that regular and sustained cooperation between the Participants can be of significant benefit in enhancing their existing and future programs in these areas; and valuing the essential role of international partnerships to achieve our shared objectives,

Have reached the following understandings:

1. Objective

The objective of this Declaration of Intent is the continuation of a framework for cooperation between the Participants to facilitate and enhance programs and projects concerning the shared cultural, historic and archaeological heritage of France and the United States in particular concerning the identification, protection, management and preservation of maritime heritage resources and sites within the Participants’ respective areas of authority and responsibility.

2. Modes of cooperation

Cooperation under this Declaration of Intent is broad and may be accomplished with activities in a variety of ways including, but not limited to, the following:

A. The Participants intend to meet as appropriate to exchange, review, prepare and update proposals for collaborative projects, programs or other requests for assistance, or cooperation to achieve the purposes of this Declaration of Intent.

B. The Participants intend to designate one or more persons to serve as Coordinator(s) for their respective agencies and as principal points of contact under this Declaration of Intent.

C. The Coordinators are the primary persons responsible for communications pursuant to this Declaration of Intent and for coordinating internal review and decision-making within their respective agencies concerning proposed projects and programs and other ongoing implementation.

D. Each of the Participants also intend to designate a team leader or other person with specific responsibility for the execution of projects and programs approved by the Participants. All proposed projects or programs and changes to projects or programs are subject to approval by each of the Participants. The terms of reference for each approved program, project, or other activity within the framework of this Declaration of Intent are expected to be set forth in writing jointly by the Participants prior to its commencement.

E. The Participants intend to continue to work collaboratively to determine and pursue any necessary actions to address programs, projects, or other initiatives of an urgent or emergency nature.

3. Areas of cooperation

High priority geographic areas or specific sites or projects for potential collaboration between the Participants may be designated and such designations may be reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis.

Specific subject areas of collaboration pursuant to this arrangement may include, but are not limited to:

A. Collaborating in research using materials retained in archives, libraries, museums, universities, and other public, private, and religious institutions concerning the maritime heritage of France and the United States;

B. Identifying historic documents and/or artifacts that may enhance public awareness and education concerning sites associated with our common maritime heritage;

C. Providing historic documents or artifacts, or reproductions of such materials, by loans or other agreements for public display and education at sites, exhibitions or in educational or cultural programs;

D. Participating in training or research projects or programs to assist personnel of the Participants in carrying out their responsibilities for the preservation or interpretation of the shared maritime heritage of France and the United States;

E. Collaborating in archaeological studies of maritime heritage sites where appropriate in accordance with internal guidelines and policies of the Participants and collaboration in studies of artifacts and data obtained from past or future projects;

F. Cooperating in the preparation and dissemination of reports, public education and other interpretive materials and other outreach with respect to maritime heritage of mutual interest;

G. Cooperating with respect to the preservation, storage, and curation of historic and archeologically recovered artifacts and related documents; preservation of historic structures and related objects; and archiving and digital imaging of historic documents.

4. Forms of cooperation

The form of cooperative activities is intended to be broad and generally includes exchanges of historical, archaeological and technical information, participation in seminars, conferences, training courses, and workshops in areas within the objectives of this Declaration of Intent. They are intended to include, but are not limited to:

A. Exchanging information, personnel, and other resources for programs and/or projects such as concerning the actual or potential location, identity and historical, archaeological or cultural significance of French-related maritime heritage;

B. Cooperating in archaeological research, studies and/or other projects consistent with appropriate archaeological standards, such as those set forth in the Rules in the Annex to the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage;

C. Conducting surveys or other studies of areas or sites which may contain maritime heritage resources or sites of interest and the exchange of information developed by such activities;

D. Providing information concerning actual or potential unauthorized disturbance of maritime heritage resources or sites in which either of the Participants may have an archaeological, historical, ownership or programmatic interest;

E. Cooperating in projects concerning maritime heritage with nongovernmental organizations engaged in historical, cultural or archaeological research and/or other programs compatible with the objectives of this Declaration of Intent and the laws, regulations and policies of the United States and France and the Rules in the Annex to the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage;

F. Cooperating in the preparation and dissemination of education and outreach materials to make available for public benefit information developed by programs and projects within the framework of this Declaration of Intent.

5. Miscellaneous

A. Cooperation under this Declaration of Intent is subject to the availability of funds and personnel to each Participant, and to the laws and regulations of each Participant's country. The terms of reference for each project or activity are expected to be jointly developed in writing by the Participants before its commencement.

B. This Declaration of Intent is not a funds transfer or funds obligating document. Any activities involving reimbursement or transfer of funds between the Participants are intended to be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures of the Participants. Such activities are expected to be documented in separate instruments.

C. The Participants intend to continue cooperate on activities of mutual interest.

D. This Declaration of Intent is not legally binding under international law.

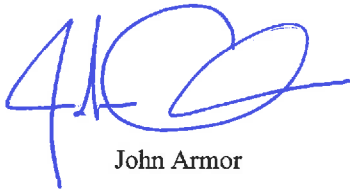
E. The Participants intend to seek the participation of other relevant governmental bodies for the implementation of this Declaration of Intent when appropriate or necessary.

6. Signatures of Participants

Done at Mount Vernon, Va., on January 18, 2017, in two originals in the English and French languages,

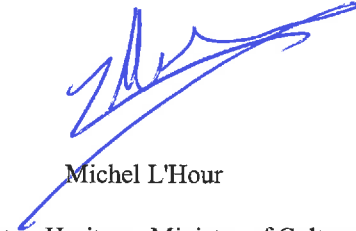
FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
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CULTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS
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