

14-1338

C.O.W.  
6-16-14

**Resolution of The City Manitowoc  
in Support of  
A National Marine Sanctuary  
in Wisconsin's Mid-Lake Michigan Maritime Trails Region**

**Whereas**, Wisconsin's Great Lakes contain some of the Nation's most important natural, cultural, and recreational resources; and

**Whereas**, Governor Walker has recognized that tourism is a key component of economic development; and

**Whereas**, the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS), in partnership with the Department of Administration's Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP), recommended that an 875 square-mile area within the 2,552 square-mile Mid-Lake Michigan region be considered for a national marine sanctuary in Wisconsin; and

**Whereas**, the "Mid-Lake region" contains 33 known shipwrecks and holds the best examples of many vessels that sailed Wisconsin waters, including 14 intact shipwreck sites; the two oldest shipwrecks discovered to date, both of which remain intact; and 12 wrecks listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

**Whereas**, the WHS, the WCMP, the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute, and the citizens of the State have invested a quarter of a century in documenting, preserving, and celebrating Wisconsin's rich maritime heritage; and

**Whereas**, the WHS administers the Wisconsin Maritime Trails Initiative, which promotes tourism along Wisconsin's lakes and rivers linking maritime-themed websites, interpretive signage, kiosks, shipwreck mooring buoys, parks, historic waterfronts, lighthouses, museums, historical vessels and boat tours and excursions; and

**Whereas**, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Sanctuary Program was established in 1972 under the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act, and today the program serves as the trustee for a system of 14 marine protected areas encompassing more than 150,000 square miles of ocean and Great Lakes waters; and

**Whereas**, national marine sanctuaries draw regional, national and international tourism, impact regional and local economies, and are featured and promoted in countless magazines, journals, books, and films; and

**Whereas**, national marine sanctuaries support a wide variety of educational programs to share the history of Great Lakes shipwrecks with the public and promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); and

**Whereas**, national marine sanctuaries protect nationally significant resources, such as Wisconsin's Great Lakes shipwrecks; and support research and documentation to better understand, protect, and interpret the well-preserved shipwrecks; and

**Whereas**, a national marine sanctuary in Wisconsin's Mid-Lake Michigan shore would leverage the investment made by the State and mid-Lake Michigan harbor towns to enhance tourism as a key component of economic development in the State and this region; and

**Whereas**, no state or local matching funds or on-going operational support are required in order to establish a national marine sanctuary; and

**Whereas**, local resources and infrastructure may be used in partnership with NOAA to complement and enhance a national marine sanctuary in the State; and

**Whereas**, NOAA re-activated the sanctuary nomination process, such that communities can submit nominations for an area to be considered as a national marine sanctuary;

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved** by Mayor Justin M. Nickels and the Common Council of the City of Manitowoc that we support the nomination to NOAA of a national marine sanctuary in this region; agree to partner with our neighboring communities located within the Mid-Lake Region; and

request the Governor and our state representatives in the Senate and Assembly to support the nomination of a national marine sanctuary on the western shores of Lake Michigan.

Introduced     JUN 16 2014    

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

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Justin M. Nickels, Mayor

This resolution was drafted by Mayor Justin M. Nickels