



April 23, 2012

Jeff Gray, Superintendent
Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
500 W Fletcher Street
Alpena, MI 49707

Dear Mr. Gray,

The Northeast Michigan Council of Governments would like to show its support for the proposed boundary expansion for the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve to include waters off Alpena, Alcona, and Presque Isle Counties to the International Boundary.

The boundary expansion will have significant positive impact on the understanding and preservation of maritime heritage which is such a critical issue to coastal northeast Michigan. Increased federal financial resources are badly needed for maritime research, preservation, and education in this area of Michigan. NEMCOG is committed to improving the quality of life in northeast Michigan for residents and for visitors. With this boundary expansion, residents and visitors alike will benefit from an increased awareness of the maritime heritage of the area through a deeper understanding of maritime issues and through the economic benefit that increased visitor awareness will generate.

It is my pleasure to give our full support for boundary expansion for the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve.

Sincerely,

Diane Rekowski
Executive Director
Northeast Michigan Council of Governments