

The COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02114-2136  
Tel. (617) 626-1200 Fax (617) 626-1240 Web Site: [www.mass.gov/czm/buar/index.htm](http://www.mass.gov/czm/buar/index.htm)

September 15, 2011

Kimberly White  
Regional Project Manager  
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1  
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100  
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Superfund Records Center  
SITE: New Bedford  
BREAK: IC-1  
OTHER: 498987

RE: Final Technical Memorandum, Dredge Areas N, O, K, and L, New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site  
BUAR Special Use Permit 11-004  
Final Disposition of Unanticipated Shipwreck Timbers, New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site  
BUAR Special Use Permit 09-003

Dear Ms. White:

The staff of the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources has completed its review of the technical report entitled, *Final Technical Memorandum, Supplemental Marine Archaeological Survey, New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site, Dredge Areas N, O, K and L, Acushnet River, Acushnet and New Bedford, Massachusetts*, dated August 2011, and its review of your detailed transmittal letter, dated August 30, 2011.

The Board is satisfied with the overall research design and methodology for the supplemental marine archaeological survey, documentation, and assessment of Dredge Areas N, O, K, and L. It concurs with the report's interpretation and recommendations that no further investigation is warranted with respect to targets C-1, C-2, S-1, and S-2. With respect to the relict paleochannel identified at target S-2, the Board is encouraged the proponent will follow through on the report's recommendation for re-survey of the area in 2012 after completing of dredging in 2011.

The Board takes this opportunity to extend its compliments to the technical services provider, Fathom Research LLC and CR Environmental for preparing a thorough and well-written marine archaeological technical report.

In its letter of January 20, 2011, the Board concurred with the findings and recommendation relative to the unanticipated shipwreck timbers recovered in 2009. As no party has been identified who is willing and able to undertake the requirements of a TSCA plan to safely curate and display these materials, the Board concurs with USEPA's plans to appropriately dispose of these materials if no party come forward by September 30, 2011. However, should an interested and qualified party come forward before the deadline the Board expects notification from USEPA. The Board expresses its appreciation to USEPA and USACE for their assistance in trying to facilitate the appropriate curation and display of these unanticipated shipwreck timbers.



The Board appreciates the opportunity to comment on this report. Should you have any questions regarding this review, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at (617) 626-1141.

Sincerely,



Victor T. Mastone  
Director

/vtm

Cc: B. Simon, MHC  
M. Paiva, USACE (via email attachment)  
R. Boeri, MCZM (via email attachment)  
J. Coyne, DEP (via email attachment)  
L. Adams, USEPA (via email attachment)  
B. Washington, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) (via email attachment)  
C. Green, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe (via email attachment)  
J. Nersesian, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park (via email attachment)  
J. Russell, New Bedford Whaling Museum (via email attachment)  
A. Louro, New Bedford Planning Department (via email attachment)  
L. Bergson, WHALE (via email attachment)  
P. Teixeira, Acushnet Historical Commission (via email attachment)  
D. Despres, Fairhaven Historical Commission (via email attachment)



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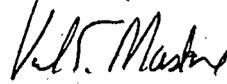
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L. Bergson, WHALE (via email attachment)  
P. Teixeira, Acushnet Historical Commission (via email attachment)  
D. Despres, Fairhaven Historical Commission (via email attachment)



**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

September 9, 2011

Kimberly White  
Remedial Project Manager  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100  
Boston, MA 02114-2023

RE: New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site, 2011 Marine Reconnaissance Archaeological Survey,  
New Bedford, MA. MHC #RC.17682.

Dear Mr. White:

Staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the office of the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer, have reviewed the *Final Technical Memorandum Supplemental Marine Archaeological Survey, New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site, Dredge Areas N, O, K and L* for the 2011 dredge areas, prepared by Fathom Research, Inc., received August 31, 2011, for the project referenced above.

Results of the video hydro-probe inspection of the four identified targets that may correspond to submerged cultural resources determined that all four targets are associated with natural deposits of shell, gravel and/or cobbles. Since no significant archaeological deposits were identified during the survey and video hydro-probe inspection, MHC recommends no further survey of the four targets.

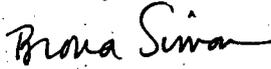
The MHC understands that a relic paleochannel has been identified within the 2011 southern dredge area, and which may be present within other northern portions of the project area. The proposed 2011 project impacts are not expected to effect the paleochannel, and additional bathymetric survey will be undertaken after dredging within the southern portion of the project area to determine if the paleochannel is exposed. MHC looks forward to reviewing the results of post-dredge surveys in order to provide comment on any potential effects to the paleochannel.

A CD-ROM with the report abstract and bibliographic information; and, two copies, punched for insertion in the report, of a USGS locus map showing the 2011 survey areas, and locations of the four target and video hydro-probe survey points, should be submitted to the MHC by Fathom Research, Inc.

The MHC requests that if the ship timbers recovered during the 2009 dredging are requested for further conservation and display, that the MHC be notified of their disposition. If other historic maritime archaeological discoveries are made during the remediation project, MHC recommends that the EPA, with the assistance of the US Army Corps of Engineers, continue to follow the notification and consultation process pursuant to 36 CFR 800.13.

MHC looks forward to continued consultation with EPA and the Corps with other interested and consulting parties to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects to significant historic properties during the project. These comments are provided to assist in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR 800). If you have questions or require additional information please contact Jonathan K. Patton at this office.

Sincerely,



Brona Simon  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Executive Director  
State Archaeologist  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc: CR Environmental, Inc.  
Lois K. Adams, EPA Region 1  
Marc Paiva, USACOE-NED  
Bettina Washington, THPO, WTGH(A)  
Ramona Peters, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe  
Jennifer T. Nersesian, Superintendent, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park,  
Attn: Jan da Silva  
Victor T. Mastone, BUAR  
Joe Coyne, DEP-SERO, BRP  
James Russell, President, New Bedford Whaling Museum  
Peter Hawes, President, Waterfront Historic Area League  
Anne Louro, City of New Bedford  
Acushnet Historical Commission  
Fairhaven Historical Commission  
David S. Robinson, Fathom Research, LLC