



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
OFFICE OF OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Douglas D. Scott, Ph.D., RPA  
President  
Society for Historical Archaeology  
15245 Shady Grove Road  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

APR 02 2007

Dear Dr. Scott:

Thank you for your letter regarding the *UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage Annex Rules*. The National Marine Protected Areas Center (MPA Center) supports the Society for Historical Archaeology's recommendation to incorporate the Annex Rules into our guidelines and recognizes your excellent work to advance the awareness and protection of maritime heritage in United States waters and around the world.

While the MPA Center does not have authority to manage underwater cultural heritage, we play an important role in collecting information and developing tools and strategies for understanding and protecting maritime heritage resources across levels of government. Furthermore, the MPA Center partners with governmental and non-governmental entities to conduct the research, analysis, and exploration necessary for the effective study, monitoring, and protection of underwater cultural heritage. Some of our maritime heritage priorities include:

- Science-based identification and prioritization of cultural resources in need of new or additional protection;
- Practical, science-based criteria and protocols for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of MPAs; and
- Identification of opportunities to improve coordination, linkages, and technical assistance to domestic and international MPA programs.

As a matter of policy, the MPA Center will reference and recognize the Annex Rules in our documents and guidelines, where appropriate, as the standard for the study and protection of maritime heritage. In addition, we will ensure that all maritime heritage projects sponsored by or involving the MPA Center follow the Annex Rules to the extent practicable.

Thank you for your continued efforts to protect our nation's maritime heritage. Please contact me or Brian Jordan on my staff at (301) 713-3110, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lauren Wenzel  
Acting Director  
National Marine Protected Areas Center

