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Preserving America's Heritage

April 25, 2008

Dr. Lu Ann De Cunzo  
President  
Society for Historical Archaeology  
Department of Anthropology  
University of Delaware  
Newark, DE 19716

Dear Dr. De Cunzo:

The Society for Historical Archaeology has written to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) requesting that the ACHP endorse the Annex Rules of the *UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage* and abide by them as we assist other federal agencies in managing our nation's cultural and historic underwater heritage. The SHA also has requested that the National Park Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration endorse or incorporate these Annex Rules. Both agencies have responded positively to the SHA's request.

I am pleased to inform you that the ACHP has completed its review of the Annex Rules. We have also compared these with the U. S. Department of State's document *U. S. Policy for Research on Underwater Cultural Heritage Objects*. We find the provisions of the Annex Rules to be reasonable and effective, and believe that adherence to them should greatly assist in preserving our irreplaceable underwater heritage. Accordingly, we will encourage federal agencies to use the Annex Rules in the context of their compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and will request that they review their underwater management programs for consistency with the Annex Rules. We can also reference the Annex Rules in the ACHP Section 106 Archaeology Guidance question-and-answer section of our Web site.

We appreciate the SHA's efforts to protect our underwater heritage, and look forward to working with your membership on this issue. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call Dr. Tom McCulloch at 202-606-8554.

Sincerely,

John M. Fowler  
Executive Director

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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