



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND
805 KIDDER BREESE STREET SE
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20374-5060

IN REPLY REFER TO
5000
Ser 200/0323
February 24, 2011

William Lees, PhD
President
Society for Historical Archaeology
15245 Shady Grove Rd, Suite 130
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Dr. Lees:

Thank you for you later dated January 21, 2011 requesting that the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) endorse and incorporate the Annex Rules of the *UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage* into its guidelines and practices pertaining to the preservation submerged cultural resources under NHHC's management.

As you are aware, the U.S. Navy has taken the lead in protecting historic sunken military craft through its support of the Sunken Military Craft Act and an active role in managing its submerged cultural resources. The NHHC shares the Society's commitment to protecting and preserving underwater cultural heritage and acknowledges the important role the Annex Rules can play in achieving this objective internationally.

As the United States has yet to ratify the cited Convention, NHHC cannot formally adopt the Annex Rules in any legal capacity. However, the command supports the individual provisions of the Annex Rules and has utilized them as a guide in policy-making decisions and in drafting implementing regulations for the Sunken Military Craft Act. The Annex Rules have, therefore, been incorporated in an essential manner in the resource management program of the command.

On behalf of NHHC, I appreciate the Society's assistance in preserving America's important cultural resources and look forward to close future cooperation as each organization fulfills its stewardship role.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. A. DeLoach".

J. A. DELOACH
Rear Admiral (Ret.), U.S. Navy
Director, Naval History and Heritage