

Navy Launches *Stewards of the Sea* Exhibit at Nauticus National Maritime Center Museum

Interactive Exhibit Showcases Marine Mammal Research & Shipboard Environmental Protection

ON MARCH 13, 2014 the Nauticus National Maritime Center Museum hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Navy's *Stewards of the Sea: Defending Freedom, Protecting the Environment*, a highly interactive exhibit that showcases the U.S. Navy's ability to protect the environment and marine life. The exhibit is the culmination of two years of planning and design work, and is a partnership among Nauticus, U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF), and the Hampton Roads Naval Museum (HRNM).

serves as a reminder of how the Navy protects us every day, and now *Stewards of the Sea* will help our guests better understand how the Navy helps preserve and protect our waterways and marine life."

"This exhibit demonstrates, in an entertaining, imaginative manner, the highly technical environment in which naval personnel perform their duties," explained Elizabeth Pouillot. "Visiting families, children, and adults will

Partners in the project anticipate that the exhibit could reach a million visitors over the next four years, based on typical foot traffic at the museum.

Admiral Bill Gortney, commander, USFF, gave the opening remarks at the event.

"This exhibit will help educate America on what their Navy does for their nation, and what their Navy does to preserve the world's oceans," said Admiral Gortney.

Other key attendees and participants included Paul Fraim, Mayor of Norfolk; Ms. Elizabeth Pouillot, HRNM director; and Mr. Stephen Kirkland, Nauticus executive director.

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"We're thrilled about this partnership and this interactive exhibit," said Stephen Kirkland. "The Battleship Wisconsin

encounter scenarios where they will have to choose the correct action to take, just like actual Sailors do on a daily basis while at sea."

***Stewards of the Sea* Vision for the Future**

WHEN AND IF it is feasible, the Navy would like to leverage content from the Nauticus *Stewards of the Sea* exhibit to create similar exhibits at museums in other Navy Fleet concentration areas (e.g., San Diego, Hawaii, Jacksonville). This would enable expansion of the Navy's environmental stewardship message from the Hampton Roads area to a broader audience.



Nauticus Maritime Museum in Norfolk, Va.
Nauticus



The Navy's *Stewards of the Sea: Defending Freedom, Protecting the Environment* exhibit at the Nauticus Maritime Museum.
Katherine Turner



FROM LEFT: Elizabeth Poulliot, Hampton Roads Naval Museum director, Admiral Bill Gortney, USFF commander, and Stephen E. Kirkland, Nauticus executive director, participate in the grand opening of the Navy's *Stewards of the Sea* exhibit at the Nauticus Maritime Museum.
MC1 Erik Wehnes



"Whale Identification" station.
Katherine Turner



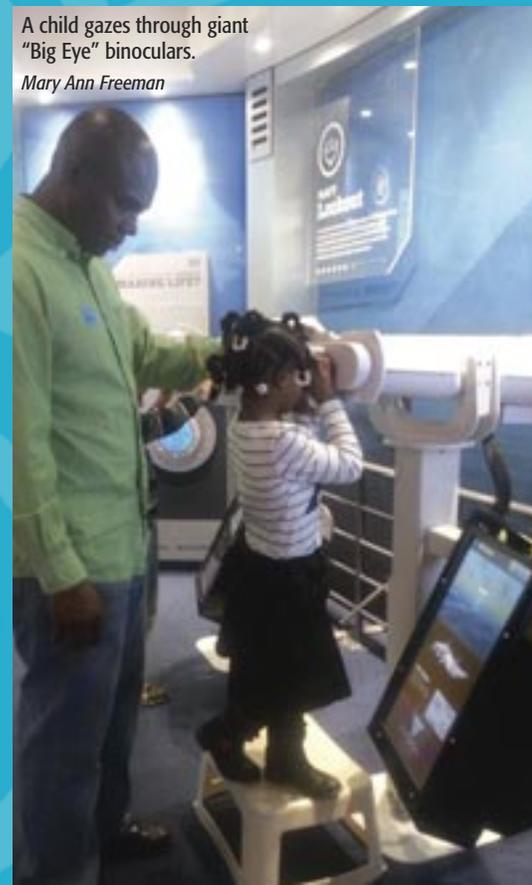
"Navy Lookout" station.
Katherine Turner



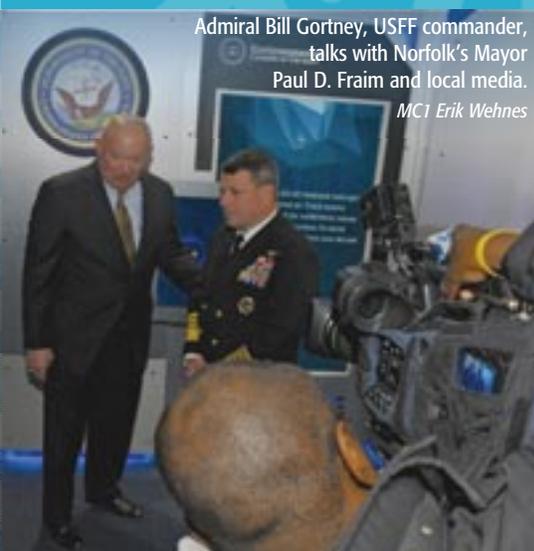
Father and child explore the "Whale Identification" station.
Mary Ann Freeman



"Plastic Waste Processor" station.
Katherine Turner



A child gazes through giant "Big Eye" binoculars.
Mary Ann Freeman



Admiral Bill Gortney, USFF commander, talks with Norfolk's Mayor Paul D. Fraim and local media.
MC1 Erik Wehnes

The Basics about the Nauticus National Maritime Center Museum

NAUTICUS IS AN interactive science and technology center that explores the naval, economic, and nautical power of the sea. It serves as home of the Battleship Wisconsin and the HRNM. HRNM is a subordinate command of the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) and physically resides within Nauticus under a memorandum of agreement between the City of Norfolk and the NHHC.

In 1994, the HRNM and Nauticus National Maritime Center Museum forged a mutually beneficial partnership when both opened to the public June 1 on Norfolk's Elizabeth River waterfront.

Nauticus and the Battleship Wisconsin allow visitors to explore the economic, naval, and natural power of the sea.

The 120,000-square foot maritime science museum includes hands-on exhibits, aquaria, 3D films, and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration-related exhibits. For more information, visit www.nauticus.org.

The HRNM introduces visitors to more than 238 years of U.S. naval history in Hampton Roads, VA. One of ten officially operated U.S. Navy museums reporting to the NHHC, the museum hosts a rich collection of authentic uniforms, weaponry, underwater artifacts, detailed ship models, and artwork. Admission is free. For more information about HRNM, visit www.hrnm.navy.mil.

Nauticus, the Battleship Wisconsin, and the HRNM host 300,000 visitors annually from around the world and the complex is the site of many regional and community events.

Stewards of the Sea will help our guests better understand how the Navy helps preserve and protect our waterways and marine life.

—Stephen Kirkland

Through hands-on activities, videos, and large, color graphics that circle through the exhibit space, visitors can learn the steps the Navy takes to protect marine life; how the Navy manages shipboard waste; and what the Navy is doing to better understand the effects of manmade sound on marine mammals while continuing to fulfill its national security

mission. There is also a section of the exhibit devoted to Navy careers with an environmental focus.

Visitors to the exhibit can listen for enemy submarines using sonar; scan the horizon for whales through giant “Big Eye” binoculars; hear what whale calls sound like underwater; discover how whales are tagged and tracked for research; and learn about the scientific

equipment the Navy uses to better understand the ocean environment.

The *Stewards of the Sea* exhibit is located on the third floor of Nauticus in downtown Norfolk, Va. For more information, call 757-664-1000 or visit the Nauticus web site at www.nauticus.org. 

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The Basics about U.S. Fleet Forces Command

USFF TRAINS NAVY forces to conduct prompt, sustained naval, joint, and combined operations in support of U.S. national interests. Other responsibilities are command and control of Navy forces and shore in support of the Chief of Naval Operations and operational planning and coordination support to Commanders at the U.S. Northern Command, U.S. Element North American Aerospace Defense Command, and U.S. Strategic Command. For more information, visit www.public.navy.mil/usff/pages/environment.aspx, www.cfc.navy.mil, and www.facebook.com/USNavyStewardsOfTheSea.