



RE: Deep/Quest 2 Expeditions Operation Vortex 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to support the aims and objectives of Deep/Quest 2 Expeditions project Operation Vortex 2022, "In Search of Sunken History".

Nature Canada is currently campaigning to protect Eastern Lake Ontario through the establishment of a National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) with the support of multiple environmental and other organizations like Deep/Quest 2 Expeditions.

While the main purpose of an NMCA is to protect the local biodiversity of an area, this protection measure will also ensure the marine heritage of the area is protected in perpetuity. Eastern Lake Ontario is as diverse in marine heritage as it is in flora and fauna. This includes several lighthouses that sit along the lake's coasts and islands, and the hundreds of shipwrecks, many undiscovered, that lie on the lakebed.

Shipwrecks preserve a snapshot of history and provide an excellent opportunity to study and educate the public on the influence of nature on human activity. In the context of an NMCA, these sunken ships would be of interest as they are popular recreation sites among divers and history enthusiasts. These archaeological sites also demonstrate how sunken ships influence the ecology of their underwater environment, because overtime, the wrecks become suitable habitats for aquatic species and help improve water quality.

Discovering and studying these artifacts, through initiatives like Operation Vortex, allows visitors to connect with Lake Ontario's past and gain a better understanding of its fascinating



history. Connecting to the lake in this unique way, encourages people to preserve its protection for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the people of Canada and the world.

Nature Canada looks forward to seeing the results of Operation Vortex and wishes Deep/Quest 2 Expeditions the best of luck with the project.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hannah Dean".

Hannah Dean
Organizing Director, Nature Canada