



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

October 12, 2021

Darryl Ertel
P.O. Box 318
Paradise, MI 49768

Dear Mr. Ertel,

As you are aware, our review of the Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary nomination has been ongoing for some time; it has taken longer than we anticipated. I want to thank you again for both your time and effort in authoring a strong nomination, as well as your patience with our detailed review.

When reviewing nominations, we focus on the 11 criteria identified in the Sanctuary Nomination Process (nominate.noaa.gov). While the Shipwreck Coast proposal met a number of these criteria, we feel it has fallen short of the requirement demonstrating broad-based community support (management consideration #7) and we must, therefore, decline the nomination. This is based in particular on the positions of the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and the State of Michigan, all of whom have indicated objections to the nomination. Correspondence representing the views of each of the entities are attached to this letter; I hope it provides you with additional context for our decision. While we greatly appreciate the support you generated for, and included in the nomination, the views of these governments are particularly important given their authorities within the proposed sanctuary area.

Finally, I want to personally commend you for your decades of work in documenting the shipwrecks in and around Whitefish Bay; it is my hope you and your colleagues continue this work long into the future. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our decision regarding this nomination, please let me or our Great Lakes Regional Coordinator, Ellen Brody, know.

Sincerely,

Matt Brookhart, Eastern Regional Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

cc: Ellen Brody, Great Lakes Regional Coordinator, ONMS
Jessica Kondel, Chief for Policy and Planning, ONMS

Attachments (3)

