Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage in International Waters Adjacent to the UK

Update on the Seminar at Burlington House on 12th November 2010

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At the Seminar organised by the Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee on 12th November 2010 at Burlington House, London (previously notified in *JMA* 5.2), a number of papers by a group of international experts in nautical archaeology explored the arguments advanced by the UK Government for not ratifying the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage 2001.

One of the conclusions of the Seminar was that there is a case for the UK Government to review the position it has taken to date on the UNESCO Convention. A very positive outcome from this is that the national heritage agencies of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and the UK National Commission for UNESCO have given their support for a Project to review the Convention and to identify the implications of ratification for the UK.

The Project Design for the forthcoming Impact Review is included below. The results of this Review will be presented to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for Transport and the devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

It is anticipated that the Project will take 18 months from commencement to complete, with a likely delivery date of December 2012.

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