

# USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park

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## **The Search for USS Wahoo (SS-238)**

### **Energy Company confirms research team's position**

#### **Russian Divers prove site as submarine**

The search project for the World War II United States submarine USS Wahoo (SS-238), taken to a new level with the assistance of major energy contractors and Russian authorities, has confirmed what the USS Wahoo Project Group believes may be the final resting place of America's most famous WWII submarine.

The Project Group was given a substantial lift when Sakhalin Energy Investment Company Ltd. provided immense support in the form of offshore electronic surveys of sites previously indicated to the Russian authorities by the USS Wahoo Project Group, headed by the MacKinnon Organization (Japan) and the Ocean Wilderness Group, (Australia). The surveys confirm a side scan anomaly, which may possibly be the submarine USS Wahoo. The energy company, aware of the historic and humanitarian operation, selflessly offered its support, which coincided with its own offshore surveys.

A sub-sea survey conducted by Russian divers out of Vladivostok, utilizing the Project Group's information, confirmed the findings as a submarine at the end of July.

The USS Wahoo Project Group received U S Navy approval for their South China Sea Project, the search for five lost US WW II submarines and several other vessels in 2003 after their approach to the US Secretary of the Navy, following many years of development. The Project Group has received continual support and assistance from Russian and Japanese authorities, sponsors, veterans and researchers from several countries. The USS Bowfin Submarine Museum, the project's scrutineers, research custodians and project curators, will be the official recipient of the project on behalf of those who were lost, their families, and their comrades. The Museum will work closely with the USS Wahoo Project Group and US Navy, Russian, and Japanese authorities in the correct approach

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management of the confirmation identification project. Specialist Archaeologists and Anthropologists have been appointed to oversee the identification project, and work with Ocean Wilderness Group divers to document the site.

The project, which has been an epic of research and beauracatic negotiation, has brought together several nations, individuals, private organizations and companies in support of veterans and families of the lost from previously opposing nations. The generation of goodwill and the prospect for closure, historic documentation of the site and the commemoration of the brave by the United States, Japanese and Russian governments is remarkable. The support of the Russian Federation Foreign Affairs Department, and the assistance provided to the Project Group by the Russian Federation Embassy to Australia has been exceptional.

Managed by Bryan MacKinnon, grandnephew of Wahoo Commander Dudley "Mush" Morton, the Project Group, now preparing a complete, non-intrusive sub-sea survey, has a thorough understanding of their responsibilities with regard to the USS Wahoo site and other sites. The group has no intention of either releasing the location of, or interfering in any way, with the site. Their primary aim is to verify, document, and to provide record of the USS Wahoo and her resting place as the tomb of eighty brave souls, entrusting all gathered materials to the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and the appropriate authorities for historic and commemorative purposes, and to close another mystery in the chapter of events known as World War II.

This effort follows up the June 2006 final identification of the USS Lagarto (SS-371) located in the Gulf of Siam in the summer of 2005. These two identifications are the first in as series that may result in several identifications of submarines lost in World War II and provide closure to relatives and loved ones. Critical is ensuring that the locations, while identified, remain undisturbed as fitting resting places for these World War II submarine heroes. The identifications are made possible through improved search technologies that use remote search techniques and computer analysis. The Project Wahoo Group has also offered its assistance to the government of the Russian Federation in the location and documentation of the USSR L-19 submarine lost in the final stages of WWII.

The story of the USS Wahoo is in current development with Becker Entertainment Australia and the Baldwin Entertainment Group in Los Angeles.

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