Ocean SAMP:
Submerged Historic Sites in the Vicinity of Block Island

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URI
Scope of Work To Date

- Focused on Southern Block Island
- Historic Rather than Prehistoric Sites
- Shipwrecks, Buildings, Cables, Marine Structures (wharfs, quays, bridges)
- In Practice – Shipwrecks
Southwest Cable Area
Block Island – 1884
First Submarine Cable
WWII Cable Easements
Submarine Cables and De-accession
Block Island Sound - 1901 (1848)
Block Island Sound – 1934 & 1999
Hydrographic Survey - 1839
US Life Saving Station Wreck Reports, 1874
US Life Saving Station Journals
Database of Known and Probable Vessel Losses Near Block Island

- Official State Database
- URI Database (historic research, snag numbers, recreational diver numbers, AWOIS, SAMP geophysical survey)
Multibeam Data for State Waters South of Block Island – *Endeavor* Cruise 2008
Side Scan Mosaic – *Endeavor* Cruise
2008
Post-Processing Side Scan Data and Target Identification
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Target Classification

- 1 – Certain (0)
- 2 – Probable (0)
- 3 – Possible (5)
- 4 – Unlikely (24)
- 5 – Conceivable (56)
Groundtruthing and Site Specific Studies (June 2009, August 2009)
Acoustic Reacquisition
Groundtruthing and Site Assessment
Lightburne, 1939
Photographic and Video Documentation
Evidence of Damage and Looting
Preliminary Shipwreck Distributions for Block and Rhode Island Sounds
Preliminary Shipwreck Temporal Distribution

Rhode Island Shipwrecks by Decade (n=517)
Pre-Contact Archaeological Sites

- Certainly exist in Rhode Island waters
- Cutting edge of underwater archaeology
- Requires paleo-archaeological landscape reconstruction
- Requires sub-bottom data and cores
- Requires high resolution survey
- Requires tribal input
- Site testing
- Not practical within Ocean SAMP structure – should be addressed in the EIS