

*Office of State Archaeology Educational Lecture Series*

# Conserving Our Underwater Cultural Heritage: An Introduction

Presented by Sarah Watkins-Kenney

Wednesday, August 16, 2017, at 11:30 am in the auditorium,  
Archives Building, 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh  
Free and open to the public



Since the early 1960s, North Carolina's Office of Archives and History has been striving to implement public laws and policies for the protection, preservation, and investigation of underwater archaeological sites in the state. There are many thousands of known underwater sites, constituting part of our "underwater cultural heritage". Since the 1970s, heritage conservation has expanded in scope and complexity beyond just concern with technical preservation of tangible remains to also aim to preserve intangible aspects. Concepts, attitudes, and expectations for conservation are continually changing. More than one conservation strategy may be possible for a site or find but could have very different consequences for use of those remains in the present and future. Please join us as Sarah Watkins-Kenney, QAR Lab Director and Chief Conservator, introduces some of the concepts, challenges, and choices available for the conservation of underwater archaeological sites and finds, both in situ and ex situ. Various approaches and choices made will be described and illustrated, including those that have been and are being applied in North Carolina.