

Secretariat of the 2001 Convention on the Protection
of the Underwater Cultural Heritage
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Report of Activities, 2017-2019
Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA)

In spring of 2017, committee Chair Amanda Evans traveled to Paris to represent the SHA at the public Exchange Day, the 6th Meeting of States Parties, the 8th meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body, and the UNITWIN meeting. Building from themes highlighted at both the Exchange Day and STAB meetings, the Society for Historical Archaeology UNESCO Committee collaborated with the SHA Heritage at Risk committee during the summer and fall of 2017 to develop an organized conference symposium on ocean literary and archaeology. The symposium was presented as part of the Conference on Historic and Underwater Archaeology held in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA in January 2018. The session used the UN's Sustainable Development Goals as a framework to discuss the impacts of climate change on cultural heritage.

In October 2017, US Dept of State issued a statement announcing US intent to withdraw from UNESCO. The committee met with legal counsel Cultural Heritage Partners on potential actions during 2018. Despite attempts to contact representatives within the US National Commission to UNESCO, no additional information was obtained. The US withdrawal went into effect on 01 January 2019, but has not affected the SHA's activities.

In spring of 2018, committee Chair Evans traveled to Paris to represent the SHA at the public Exchange Day, the 9th meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body, and the UNITWIN meeting. An NGO meeting was held during this event, and plans were made for a subsequent NGO meeting in December 2018. Although unable to travel to the December meeting, committee Chair Evans participated via Skype and presented information on the SHA and potential collaborative actions.

The SHA committee had its annual meeting in January 2019, and plans are underway for a UNESCO-themed panel at the 2020 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology to be held in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. Discussions are underway about potential symposia, or events for the 2021 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology to be held in Lisbon, Portugal. The Portugal conference venue represents an opportunity to reach a different audience and interact with other NGOs, as well as highlight the start of the Decade of Ocean Science.

The committee continues to liaise with the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology, the Government Affairs committee, and is developing collaborative actions with the Heritage and Risk committee.

The committee submitted a budget request, which was approved, to support travel to the Meeting of States Parties, STAB, and NGO meetings to be held in June of 2019.

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Evans, Chair, UNESCO Committee, Society for Historical Archaeology