

During the past four years the ACUA has actively sought to promote the UNESCO Convention through the following actions:

- The ACUA has organized and directed annual workshops at national and regional conferences focused on educating terrestrial land managers about the needs of underwater archaeological sites within or adjoining their jurisdictions. The annual Conference of the Society for Historical Archaeology workshop is in its seventh year, and continues to reach between 10 and 20 pre-professional students per session. All content is generated by the ACUA and focuses on building capacity and understanding of the unique needs associated with surveying, managing, protecting, and providing access to underwater cultural heritage.
- Continuing to assist the Society for Historical Archaeology Conference committee by annually jurying over 400 presentation abstracts dedicated to maritime archaeology in order to ensure that papers presented at the SHA annual conferences meet ethical standards and guidelines of best practice. This activity reflects the Convention's Annex Requirement I: General Principles, Rules 1 and 2, as well as Requirement XIV: Dissemination, Rule 35.
- As the annual conference location shifts each year, a "local" module of the full-day class shifts to reflect local regulations and regional needs. In previous years the "local" module has been presented by archaeologists from Ireland, England, the state of South Carolina, and the US federal government, among others. The annual workshop complies with Convention Articles 5 (Activities Incidentally Affecting Underwater Cultural Heritage) and 21 (Training in Underwater Archaeology), as well as the entire Annex Rules.
- Since the reactivation of the ACUA Proceedings on Underwater Archaeology in 2007, the ACUA has published 8 volumes and 211 papers from graduate students, avocational archaeologists, academics, as well as archaeologists and cultural resource management professionals representing the governmental and private sectors. See Attachment G for a complete list of publications. The Annual Proceedings efforts comply with Annex Requirement XIV:
- Maintaining a multifaceted media presence. The ACUA website provides documented global access to the general public, media, and practitioners seeking information on underwater archaeology, UCH, and ratification of the Convention. The ACUA website and social media venues reach a multi-national audience and includes dedicated sections addressing special topics such as applicable laws, professional ethics, education, career development, and conservation of UCH. The website also provides visitors with an Ethics Statement and a customized Press Kit for media, as well as serves as a platform for the ACUA blogs (see below). The ACUA has been reworking its website to more prominently post all information about the Convention for easier accessibility. This has been an ongoing effort since 2015. The ACUA social media committee avidly pursues the latest avenues for public awareness through the ever changing media landscape. The effort to promote public awareness about underwater archaeological sites complies with Convention Article 20 – Public Awareness, as well as Article 21 – Training in Underwater Archaeology, and Annex Requirement 1: General Principles, Rules 1-3, and Annex Requirement VII: Competence and Qualifications Rules 22-23.
- Active publishing of blogs on the ACUA website that are focused on varying aspects of ethical questions, the importance of the UNESCO Convention, and the practice of underwater archaeology at large. In 2008, the ACUA launched a blog series on its website known as "Deep

Thoughts” aimed at a large and diverse audience. The blog remains a potent tool for the ACUA to which to direct the media, avocationalists, and the general public when there are timely issues or content in the public eye. In 2014, the ACUA made content for the blog a priority, and six blogs on topics ranging from deaccessioning to professional ethics to volunteering to the growth of capacity around the globe were posted. In 2015, the diverse content and focus on best practices, capacity building, and ethics will continue. In 2016 these were enhanced and will continue to expand in 2017. The blogs promote public awareness about underwater archaeological sites, which complies with Convention Article 20 – Public Awareness.

- Development of a program fostering student engagement and participation by international pre-professionals in underwater archaeology has been a priority of ACUA. This is being achieved through a initiating a Student Travel Award program. The objective of the program is to assist with travel funding as a means of encouraging attendance at annual conferences. Such networking opportunities are vital for nurturing underwater archaeology as a profession and for advancing best practices among the next generation of practitioners. This program will continue in the years ahead. The outreach to students meets Convention Articles 20 (Public Awareness) and 21 (Training in Underwater Archaeology).
- Actively working to promote best practices and ethics with museums, the media, and projects around the globe through letter-writing campaigns, answering stakeholder questions submitted to the Board, and working with our partner NGOs and institutions whenever possible to promote respect, research, and understanding of UCH. These efforts have intensified in 2017 with active letter writing campaigns to museums related to exhibits and to elected officials. These efforts comply with the Convention and Annex Rules as a whole.
- Providing letters of support on specialized campaign topics such as a proposed national marine sanctuary in Maryland, US, that would focus on the impact of maritime history, commerce, and submerged cultural resources. The particular sanctuary in Mallows Bay, situated off the major Chesapeake Bay estuary, would be among the first National Marine Sanctuary located on a river and would provide protection and access to more than 200 known shipwreck sites within the proposed boundaries. The support for specialized opportunities to protect UCH and provide public access complies with Convention Article 6 (Bilateral, Regional, or other Multilateral Agreements), Article 20 (Public Awareness), Article 21 (Training in Underwater Archaeology), and Article 22 (Competent Authorities) as well as Annex Requirement 1: General Principles Rules 1-7.
- Providing and supporting letters to NOVA (a public television science program about cutting edge science), National Geographic Channel, and, together with SHA, Current World Archaeology specifically regarding the UNESCO Convention. These efforts comply with the Convention and Annex Rules as a whole.
- Producing letters from the Board to government and public agencies that educate and inform agencies when underwater cultural resources or heritage are threatened. The support for specialized opportunities to protect UCH and provide public access complies with Convention Article 6 (Bilateral, Regional, or other Multilateral Agreements), Article 20 (Public Awareness), Article 21 (Training in Underwater Archaeology), and Article 22 (Competent Authorities) as well as Annex Requirement 1: General Principles Rules 1 7.
- Participation in two forums centered on ethics at SHA conferences where best practices and the UNESCO Convention were primary topics. This objective complies with Convention Articles 20

(Public Awareness) and 21 (Training in Underwater Archaeology) as many of the participants in the forums are either students or archaeologists unfamiliar with the Convention and underwater archaeology.

- Designed and executed a job market and benchmarking survey for the field of underwater archaeology. This survey stemmed from a need to better understand how to keep underwater archaeological professional training programs relevant and current with the needs and standards of employers dedicated to the survey, excavation and management of UCH. These needs not only necessitate training students in the availability and application of specific scientific methods and the use of suitable techniques, but also addressing the high degree of professional specialization expected by future employers, and keeping abreast of changing job market trends related to the UNESCO Convention's Best Practices. The survey directly addresses Annex Requirement VII: Competence and qualification, specifically Rules 22 and 23. This job market survey, first implemented in 2013, will be run again in 2014 and 2015 with the results being shared with the field through papers, conference presentations, and publication on the ACUA website.
- Reviewed the availability of recreational diver outreach and training programs worldwide. The task includes three primary goals: first, compiling literature (technical reports, journal articles, books, theses and dissertations) relating specifically to management policies, recreational archaeology education programs, and philosophies of various stakeholders towards these programs; second, establishing guidelines or best practices for training the public to participate in underwater archaeological projects; and third, reviewing syllabi, courses and units offered by each program with the goal of making recommendations for core courses. These efforts support the Convention by working towards the public's right to enjoy the educational and recreational benefits of responsible non-intrusive access to in situ underwater cultural heritage, and the value of public education to contribute to awareness, appreciation and protection of that heritage; specifically Articles 20 and 21. These efforts coincide with efforts being made by Nautical Archaeology Society to address training gaps worldwide and locate opportunities to build capacity wherever possible.
- Pursued advocacy initiatives within the US regulatory environment promoting the Convention and its adoption which include: meetings with federal stakeholders, pursuing a letter writing campaign to all federal stakeholders that specifically promotes the Convention, and continuing to promote the Annex as an alternative for individual agencies while the US considers ratification. The initiatives comply with the Convention and Annex as a whole.
- Maintained a standing UNESCO subcommittee to promote the Convention, and to address concerns as they are raised by the membership towards applying the Convention to work performed around the world. The standing committee works to explain and provide implementation recommendations for the Convention and Annex Rules as a whole for global practitioners.
- The 2016 SHA Conference met in Washington, D.C. where SHA and ACUA members conferred with legislators regarding the UNESCO Convention. Additionally, the ACUA and SHA hosted a symposium regarding the Convention and its applicability to the international work of our members, whether working in a ratifying country or not. The efforts were aimed at educating legislators, the public, and the field at large meets Convention Articles 20 and 22, as well as the Annex Rules.