

As managing member and director of operations for Maritime Research & Recovery LLC (MRR) Dan Porter has been in the field of historic sunken shipwreck search and recovery for the past 39 years. Mr Porter began his career as a historic shipwreck salvor in the Bahamas while conducting Survey and Recovery for Mr. John Brandon on the Lucaya Shipwreck in 1980, 1992, 1993 and 1994, Mr. Porter was the actual diver that located the famous Brandon Astrolabe on Treasure Reef. From there Mr. Porter continued following his career path on the famed Atocha and Margarita sites which sank in 1622 off the Florida keys. Dan Porter is a boat captain and shipwreck recovery operations director with almost four decades of experience in the industry. He has been recognized by the US Department of Commerce and the Florida Key National Marine Sanctuary for his 39 years of experience in working in environmental sensitive marine environments. (Exhibit 1) His unique qualifications, which combine old school hands-on work ethic with contemporary state-of-the-art acoustic and electronic sensing technical knowledge, have made him one of the most proficient and sought-after onsite directors today. Dan is also actively consulting for specific Central and South American Countries as well as Island Nations throughout the Caribbean. His clients enjoy his straight forward approach to actually indexing Shipwrecks and Artifacts in a user friendly scientific manner that can be a staple tool for the management of the underwater culture heritage. As MRR Director of Operations, Dan directs search and recovery strategies as well as investigating and facilitating new undertakings. Dan literally grew up in the salvage industry.

He has personally recovered or implemented the salvage plan to recover three of the most significant artifacts ever discovered from a Spanish Ship wreck, As diver who located a jewel-encrusted "Cinta" belt on the famed 1622 Atocha wreck site in 1982, As operations Manager that led to the recovery of a lead box containing more than 16,000 rare natural pearls on the 1622 Santa Margarita, and as operations manager and vessel captain the recovery of a magnificent gold chalice weighing 1.49 pounds. Practicing his own unique blend of straight forward science and uncanny intuition on some of the most famous shipwreck sites in the world, Dan has recovered multi-millions of dollars' worth of treasures and innumerable artifacts of significant archaeological and historical importance.

After completing the He is recognized for completing all phases of historic shipwreck projects in a scientific & archaeological manor with an emphasis on environmental responsibility.



Dan Porter is a boat captain and shipwreck recovery operations director with three decades of experience in the industry. His unique qualifications, which combine old school hard work ethic with contemporary state-of-the-art acoustic and electronic sensing technical knowledge, have made him an in-demand consultant for numerous clients and one of the most proficient and sought after on-site directors today.

As MRR Director of Operations, Dan directs search and recovery strategies as well as investigating and facilitating new undertakings. Dan literally grew up in the salvage industry— working with treasure hunting legend Mel Fisher and his protégée John Brandon, Mo Molinar, Fay Fields, and his own father, Don Porter. He has personally recovered or implemented the salvage plan to recover three of the most significant artifacts ever discovered, in 1982 dan was the diver that located the famed jewel encrusted “Cinta” belt. In 2007, Dan was the operation manager in charge of the project that recovered a lead box containing more than 16,000 rare natural pearls. In 2008, Dan was the operations manager and captain on the project that recovered a magnificent gold chalice. Practicing his own unique blend of straight science and uncanny intuition on some of the most famous shipwreck sites in the world, Dan has recovered multi-millions of dollars’ worth of treasures and innumerable artifacts of significant archaeological and historical importance.

Dan’s career on the 1715 Fleet began in 1983 working onboard John Brandon’s vessel, the M/V Endeavor. That particular year, was very rewarding, with major recoveries for the Endeavor and crew on the Corrigan’s wreck site. Dan, as first mate, was a integral part of the success for that season. Recoveries included five gold bars, a large gold disc, numerous gold coins of all denomination, a chest of worked silverware and a magnificent silver plate that is being exhibited in the State’s collection.



Recoveries made by the Endeavor during the 1983 season.



Gold bars recovered by the Endeavor during the 1983 season.



Silver plate recovered by Dan Porter in 1983 and currently exhibited in the State's collection.

In 1990 Dan received his own contract to work on the 1715 sites through his company Tropical Treasure Salvage, Inc. On the third day of operations on the Cabin wreck site, directly in front of Kip's cabin, about 100 yards offshore in approximately 4 ft. of water, Dan recovered 28 Mexican eight escudos and one Bogota 2 escudo.



Gold eight escudos recovered by Dan Porter on the

Cabin wreck site during the 1990 season.

During the following days of the 1990 season, Dan's project continued to recover hundreds of silver coins, unique artifacts such as two high-karat gold rings and two low-karat gold rings, numerous pieces of gilded silver and a mano stone. Dan also worked numerous wrecks recovering artifacts from nearshore waters of the Riomar wreck site and others.

Dan continued his career and was hired in 2006 as Operations Manager for Blue Water Ventures Key West, Inc., a company that was working under contract with Motivation, Inc. During that period, with Dan's direction, there were many significant finds on the site of the 1622 *Santa Margarita*. In 2007, there was a single-day haul of 12 gold chains, 23 pieces of gold jewelry, one gold bar, and a lead box containing 16,148 rare and natural saltwater oyster pearls.



Gold bar, chains, jewelry, silver coins and pearls recovered during the 2007 season.



Gold bar recovered by Dan Porter on his birthday during the 2007 season.

During the 2008 season on the Santa Margarita site while Dan was Operations Manager and captain of the Blue Water Rose, he and his crew recovered a magnificent gold chalice weighing 1.49 lbs.



Dan Porter and daughter Allie Porter with the gold chalice recovered in 2008.



Gold chalice recovered in 2008.

Between 2013 and 2015, Dan oversaw all phases of a shipwreck recovery in the Republic of Panama, where he took the 1631 San Jose project from archival data through final disposition of artifacts with the Panamanian government. This included a complete review of all archival information, design and implementation of the remote sensing surveys which located both areas of this famous galleon in the Bay of Panama. The areas were separated by 42 miles. After locating and identifying the two sections, Dan oversaw the complete recovery of nearly 10,000 silver coins, an assortment of gold jewelry and a museum full of historic artifacts. Dan also oversaw the buildout of the conservation facility and orchestrated the conservation, curation, photo documentation and numismatics of all artifacts and coins. As well as the general conservation process, Dan also designed and implemented a comprehensive database that will index shipwrecks and all artifacts located on particular shipwrecks. This database is so comprehensive that it will actually produce certificates of authenticity, coin flip-its and run randomized disposition of artifact collections for not only government dispersal but also for individual members or shareholders.

Panama Project Photos, San Jose 1631:



San Jose treasure recovered under the direction of Dan Porter in 2013.



Single excavation of coin recoveries, photographed after conservation.



Initial discovery of the second area of the San Jose.

Panama Conservation Lab Photos:



Outside conservation.



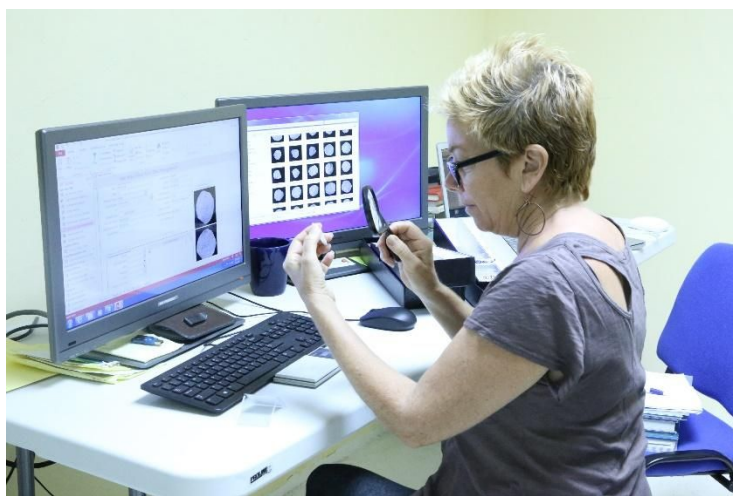
INAC inspector reviewing a day's recoveries.



Electrolytic reduction tanks.



Post-conservation exhibit.



Numismatic specialist Carol Tedesco at the Panama conservation laboratory analyzing coins recovered from the San Jose.

MRR 1715:

Dan and his company Maritime Research & Recovery, LLC brought a new vessel, the 65 ft. Sea Reaper, to the 1715 Fleet in 2015. This vessel is completely outfitted for historic shipwreck recovery. This vessel is captained by Josh Fisher Abt and has performed very well. In the year 2016, our prime concentration was the Douglas Beach wreck site, where Dan was privileged with the honor of directing Josh, the grandson of Mel Fisher, to his first gold coin recovery on a wreck that his grandfather made famous in the 1960s.



Josh Fisher Abt & Dan Porter recover gold coins from the Douglas Beach site in 2016.

During the 2017 season, Dan guided the MRR crew in recovering seventeen two escudos from four different mints.



Some of the gold two escudos recovered by MRR in 2017.

In 2018, MRR recovered four gold coins, a gold ring and thirteen silver coins along with many other artifacts.