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MASSACHUSETTS CHIEF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGIST TO SPEAK ABOUT SHIPWRECK COLLABORATION

*Drift Wood, Stone Circles, Three Canoes, a Lost Lighthouse, and a Piano:
Stories of Collaboration and Engaging the Public*

Edgartown, MA – April 30, 2012 – The Museum is pleased to bring Victor Mastone, Director and Chief Archaeologist of the Massachusetts Underwater Archaeological Resources Board to the Island as part of the Museum's Shipwreck Lecture Series to discuss "*Drift Wood, Stone Circles, Three Canoes, a Lost Lighthouse, and a Piano: Stories of Collaboration and Engaging the Public.*"

When the public thinks about underwater archaeology and shipwreck discovery, they generally picture intact shipwrecks, pirate treasures, and mysteries. In reality, the first two are rare, however, archaeologists are all too familiar with mysteries. Many years of research often result after a shipwreck is discovered, and the public is usually involved in helping to find answers. Mastone will discuss the process of addressing shipwreck mysteries and explain how they inspire collaboration and a means to engage the public.

Established in 1973, the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources is the sole trustee of the Commonwealth's underwater heritage, protecting the public's interests for recreational, economic, environmental, and historical purposes. The Board ultimately oversees the process of discovering and identifying underwater property, artifacts, treasure troves, and shipwrecks. Their efforts employ various levels of collaboration and public involvement to:

1. Accomplish site discovery objectives;
2. Stimulate interest in maritime cultural heritage and preservation;
3. Build local partnerships; and
4. Reach a wide audience.

Victor Mastone will speak on Tuesday, May 8th in the Museum Library beginning at 5:30pm. Admission is \$8 for members, and \$12 for non-members. A reception will follow in the Museum galleries. *Out of the Depths: Martha's Vineyard Shipwrecks*, will be on display at the Museum until August 11th, 2012.

Visit www.mvmuseum.org for more information about upcoming programming and exhibits. The Martha's Vineyard Museum is dedicated to furthering an interest in, experience of, and appreciation for the history and culture of the Island and its environs. The Museum is open year round, 10am to 4pm Monday through Saturday. Admission is free to Members; admission for non-Members is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for children 6 to 15 and free for children under the age of 6.