

## **Position Statement by the Nautical Archaeology Society on the wreck of HMS *Victory* (1744)**

The Society supports both the UK policy of abiding by the Annex to the 2001 UNESCO Convention and the Convention itself. Accordingly the NAS is entirely opposed to the commercial exploitation of Underwater Cultural Heritage and thus of the wreck of HMS *Victory* 1744.

In accordance with international best practice and the provisions of the Annex, the Society would support preservation in situ of the wreck as the preferred option. Should it be the case that it can be objectively established the site of the wreck is at risk then the Society would only support intrusion upon the site if full compliance with the Annex is secured, including prohibition upon any commercial exploitation of material recovered. In this context the Society notes with interest the design concept for a HMS *Victory* 1744 Museum published recently by the JNAPC.

The Society has and will continue to make this view known to Her Majesty's Government in the clearest terms possible and to actively campaign to prevent the commercial exploitation of HMS *Victory* 1744 and other underwater cultural heritage in the UK marine area.

Dated: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2013