



**80-YEAR-OLD WORLD WAR II FLEET SUBMARINE USS *BOWFIN*  
TO UNDERGO DRY DOCK MAINTENANCE BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 17, 2022**

**\* Award-Winning Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum**

**to Remain Open to Visiting Public \***

PEARL HARBOR, OAHU (August 15, 2022) – The Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum (PFSM) today announced that the World War II Fleet Submarine USS *Bowfin* (SS-287) will not be available for tours beginning September 17, 2022 until about November 1, 2022 due to a scheduled dry dock maintenance period. The nationally award-winning museum and campus will remain open to the public throughout this period, from 7 am to 5 pm daily.

The 80-year-old submarine will be towed from Pearl Harbor to Pacific Shipyards International at Honolulu Harbor for the scheduled maintenance and repair work. PFSM executive director Chuck Merkel said the dry dock periods are conducted every 15-20 years to maintain the integrity of the hull, with the last dry dock inspection completed in 2004.

“The scheduled dry dock maintenance period will ensure the submarine remains safe and suitable for public display and allow the Bowfin to tell her story far into the future,” said Merkel. “Our previous dry docking inspection and repairs were in 2004 and our regular inspections of the submarine’s hull and paint indicated this is the appropriate time to bring her out of the water to do detailed inspections, make any necessary repairs and repaint her hull.”

Christened on December 7, 1942, the USS *Bowfin* earned the nickname the “Pearl Harbor Avenger” following the attack on America the previous year. Upon commissioning on May 1, 1943, she conducted nine war patrols in the Pacific Ocean during World War II. She was donated to the Pacific Fleet Submarine Memorial Association in 1979 and opened to the public in April 1981.

The USS *Bowfin* is one of the best preserved Balao-class World War II submarines in the world. Declared a National Historic Landmark in 1986, she was used in 1987 as a floating location to portray three different submarines in the epic mini-series *War and Remembrance*. USS *Bowfin* was also the centerpiece of the 2005 documentary entitled *USS Bowfin: Pearl Harbor Avenger* directed by Grant Slawson.

The Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum completed a \$20 million renovation in 2021. The 12,000-square-foot museum showcases informative and educational museum wings detailing the history of the U.S. Navy’s submarine force; a mix of traditional exhibits, multi-media, and interactive displays showing the importance of submarine warfare; exterior and interior displays of various submarines; and a new museum entrance that complements the Arizona Memorial Visitor Center located next door.

For updates on the status of the USS *Bowfin*’s drydock maintenance and her return to her Pearl Harbor mooring, please visit [www.bowfin.org](http://www.bowfin.org).

## **Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum**

Formerly known as the USS *Bowfin* Submarine Museum & Park, the Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum is located adjacent to the Pearl Harbor Visitors Center. Operated as a non-profit organization, it is home to the USS *Bowfin* submarine. The recently renovated 12,000-square-foot museum features informative and educational museum galleries that detail the history of the U.S. Navy's submarine force; highlights multi-media, interactive and traditional exhibits of submarine design and warfare.

The Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum is open daily from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. except New Year's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Admission is \$21.99 per adult and \$12.99 per child ages 4 to 12. Military and Kama'āina (local resident) and education group rates are also available. For more information, call (808) 423-1341 or visit [Bowfin.org](http://Bowfin.org).