

Shipwreck Mooring Program

Located in northwestern Lake Huron, Thunder Bay is adjacent to one of the most treacherous stretches of water in the Great Lakes. Unpredictable weather, murky fog banks, sudden gales, and rocky shoals earned the area the name “Shipwreck Alley.” From the early 1800s through the middle of the twentieth century, nearly 200 pioneer steamboats, majestic schooners and huge steel freighters wrecked in the Thunder Bay region. Today, the 4,300 square-mile Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary protects one of America’s best-preserved and nationally significant collections of shipwrecks. With nearly 100 shipwrecks located in a wide range of water depths, the area is a world-class destination for divers, snorkelers, and kayakers.

To provide better access to Thunder Bay’s historic shipwrecks, the sanctuary maintains seasonal moorings at many popular shipwreck sites. The moorings make the sites easier to locate and provide a safe means of ascent and descent for divers. They also eliminate anchor damage to these unique and irreplaceable historic sites. The buoys are installed and removed seasonally (around May 15 to October 1), so be sure to check with the sanctuary before planning your trip.

Visit the sanctuary’s interactive moorings map to check buoy status and plan your dive:

thunderbay.noaa.gov/shipwrecks/moorings

To explore the nearly 100 known shipwreck sites in the sanctuary, visit:

thunderbay.noaa.gov/shipwrecks



Vessel	Latitude	Longitude	Depth
Albany (1846-1853)	N45°19.396'	W83°27.508'	5
American Union (1862-1894)	N45°21.411'	W83°35.368'	10
Barge No. 1 (1895-1918)	N45°00.974'	W83°18.252'	42
Bay City (1857-1902)	N45°03.287'	W83°25.603'	14
Chester B. Jones (1873-1924)	N45°24.620'	W83°45.986'	16
City of Alpena (1874-1880)	N44°47.298'	W83°17.452'	8
D.M. Wilson (1873-1894)	N45°03.920'	W83°10.928'	48
Deck Barge	N44°58.576'	W83°13.272'	92
Duncan City (1883-1923)	N45°24.790'	W83°45.754'	17
E.B. Allen (1864-1871)	N45°00.973'	W83°09.898'	100
Grecian (bow) (1891-1906)	N44°58.119'	W83°12.060'	100
Grecian (stern) (1891-1906)	N44°58.099'	W83°11.991'	100
Haltiner Barge (bilge) (Lost 1927)	N45°02.091'	W83°19.595'	17
Haltiner Barge (boom) (Lost 1927)	N45°02.146'	W83°19.631'	15
Harvey Bissell (1866-1905)	N45°03.371'	W83°25.606'	15
Heart Failure (Lost 1910)	N45°03.701'	W83°22.724'	17
Ishpeming (1874-1903)	N44°48.586'	W83°16.656'	12
James Davidson (1874-1883)	N45°01.877'	W83°11.764'	35
John Warner (1855-1890)	N45°03.043'	W83°26.113'	9
Joseph S. Fay (1871-1905)	N45°29.317'	W83°54.600'	18
L.M. Mason (1853-1861)	N45°20.784'	W83°29.613'	14
Loretta (1892-1896)	N44°48.905'	W83°16.957'	6
Middle Island Sinkhole	N45°11.924'	W83°19.677'	72
Monohansett (1872-1907)	N45°01.996'	W83°11.988'	18
Montana (bow) (1872-1914)	N44°59.025'	W83°16.013'	63
Montana (stern) (1872-1914)	N44°59.046'	W83°16.038'	66
New Orleans (1838-1849)	N45°02.589'	W83°14.414'	13
New Orleans (1886-1906)	N45°10.022'	W83°13.106'	130
Ogarita (1864-1905)	N45°06.336'	W83°13.109'	30
Oscar T. Flint (1889-1909)	N45°01.535'	W83°20.839'	32
Portland (1863-1877)	N45°14.854'	W83°24.468'	7
Shamrock (1875-1905)	N45°03.077'	W83°26.052'	11
Van Valkenburg (1862-1887)	N45°03.392'	W83°10.210'	60
W.G. Mason (1898-1924)	N45°24.652'	W83°44.826'	17
W.P. Rend (1888-1917)	N45°03.742'	W83°23.555'	15
W.P. Thew (1884-1909)	N45°02.712'	W83°09.210'	82
William H. Stevens (1855-1863)	N44°53.773'	W83°19.653'	10

Shipwreck Mooring Program (continued)

Enjoy diving the shipwrecks of Thunder Bay, but always respect the past. Removing artifacts or altering shipwrecks sites is illegal. The next generation of recreational divers, explorers, and archaeologists are depending on us to leave historic shipwrecks intact. Learn more about protecting our past at: <http://thunderbay.noaa.gov>

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