

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. The area is a haven for recreational 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. The moorings also eliminate anchor damage to these unique and irreplaceable historic sites.

Approved by the U. S. Coast Guard, the mooring buoys are white with a horizontal blue stripe and many are lighted to increase visibility at night. The buoys are installed and removed seasonally (around May 1 to September 30), so be sure to check with the sanctuary before planning your trip.



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

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Shipwreck Mooring Program (continued)



Enjoy diving the shipwrecks of Thunder Bay, but always respect the past. Removing artifacts or altering shipwreck 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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