The Public and South Carolina’s Maritime Heritage: Two Heritage Trails
Maritime Research Division’s SDAMP Program

- Management of Hobby Diver Licenses
- Public presentations and workshops for dive clubs and community groups
- The Cooper River and Ashley River self-guided heritage trails
- Volunteer opportunities for recreational divers
Ashley River Heritage Trail
Pimlico Wreck
Mepkin Wreck

The Mepkin Shipwreck
1. Stempost
2. Mast Step
3. Stanchion notches
4. Frame
5. Upper hull planking
6. Keelson
7. Stern area
8. Loose frames
9. Cargo of Shingles
10. Log

Cooper River Underwater Heritage Trail
Diving the Mepkin Plantation Wreck

Plantation Ships
Small plantation owners, ship owners, and other citizens, and in the West Indies, provided or operated their own ships. The Mepkin Wreck is an example of a ship that may have been owned by or sailed under the command of one of the Mepkin Plantation owners. The ship was likely used for trade and transport, carrying goods and supplies to and from the plantation. The remains of the ship provide insights into the history and economy of the Mepkin Plantation and the broader colonial context.

Henry Laurens: A Planter, Merchant, and Politician
Henry Laurens was a prominent figure in colonial Charleston. He was a significant figure in the colonial economy, involved in trade, commerce, and politics. Laurens was a major slave owner and played a prominent role in the colonial government, serving as a representative in the colonial legislature. His involvement in the colonial economy and politics highlights the influence of wealthy planters and merchants in shaping the colonial society.

Mepkin Plantation
The Mepkin Plantation was established in the late 17th century and was one of the largest and most prosperous plantations in South Carolina. The plantation was owned by the Mepkin family, who were prominent figures in the colonial society. The plantation was known for its production of rice and other crops, and it played a significant role in the local economy and society. The remains of the shipwreck at Mepkin Plantation provide a glimpse into the history of the plantation and its role in the colonial economy.
Pimlico Barge and “Anchor Farm”
Mepkin Dock
Strawberry Ferry Landing
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Link to the Heritage Trail website:
http://www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa/mrd/sdamp_mht.html