Florida’s Shipwreck Preserves: A Tool for Public Archaeology and Cultural Resource Management

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A program of the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research
Spanish treasure and Pirate booty!!
“Museums in the Sea”

Preserve Concept Goals

- Protect and preserve the resource.
- Educate the public about the importance of shipwrecks as part of the maritime past.
- Provide a means of education through recreation.
- Promote heritage tourism.
Biological Importance of Shipwrecks

- Artificial reefs
- Shelter for juveniles
- Substrate for invertebrates
Preserve Process

- Nomination by public
- Inspection to meet criteria
- Historical research to verify identity
- Archaeological documentation
- Biological survey
- Public proposal
- Preparation of interpretive literature
- Placement of plaque and exhibit
- Nomination to National Register
- Cooperative local management and promotion
Community Support and Involvement

Local Management and Protection
Florida's Shipwreck Preserves

USS MASSACHUSETTS
1 The Spanish-American War-era battleship USS Massachusetts was scuttled for target practice in the emerald-green waters off Peninsula in 1921.

SS Tarpon
2 The merchant steamer SS Tarpon plied the Gulf Coast for over 30 years before she was lost in a gale off Panama City in 1937.

Vamar
3 Admiral Richard Byrd used this 3-masted schooner in his Antarctic expedition of 1928-30 and named her Beringia Bolling in honor of his mother. Later sold and re-named Vamar, she sank off Port St. Joe in 1942 under mysterious circumstances.

CITY OF HAWKINSVILLE
4 The naval transport predreadnought City of Hawkinsville lies submerged in the Savannah River, a storybook ghost ship inhabited by otters and sturgeons.

Regina
5 The Cuban lumber-barge Regina, loaded with lumber and munitions, exploded in a gale off Brandenton Beach in 1940.

San Pedro
6 Victim of the 1733 Spanish Plate Fleet disaster, the galleon San Pedro was lost in a hurricane near the Everglades in the Florida Keys.

Half Moon
7 Half Moon, originally renamed Gemmard, was a rum-running vessel and后来 we became a racing schooner in Miami and later wrecked on a sand bar off Key Biscay.

Urca de Lima
11 Part of the ill-fated 1775 Spanish Plate Fleet, Urca de Lima ran aground off Florida's east coast in 1985.

Georges Valentine
10 The Italian lumber bark Georges Valentine wrecked in 1984 offshore of the House of Refuge near Stuart, scattering her cargo of mahogany lumber on the beach.

Lofthus
9 The wreck of the Norwegian bark Lofthus, sank during a storm in 1896 near Key West, was dynamited to salvage the valuable cargo of lumber.

SS Copenhagen
8 The steamer SS Copenhagen, wrecked in 1899, ends up at the bottom of Pompano Beach and is home to a variety of marine life.

Ship paintings courtesy William Trotter
State Underwater Archaeological Preserve

Florida Heritage Site
Listed on NRHP
Welcome to the Florida “Museums in the Sea” website. Here you will find information about all of Florida’s Underwater Archaeological Preserves. Click on the name of a ship to explore the remains located at that site.

www.museumsinthesea.com
Partnering for Heritage Tourism & Preservation

- Florida Public Archaeology Network
- Florida Underwater Archaeology
- National Marine Sanctuaries
- Florida Aquarium
- M.A.R.C.
- Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program
- Barracuda Dive Club
- Florida Maritime Museum at Cortez
- Scuba News Magazine
Take only photos, leave only bubbles!