Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Photo: Joe Hoyt, NOAA

A diver investigates the wheel of the *F.T. Barney*, wrecked in a collision with another schooner in 1868.

Photo: David Ruck, NOAA

A snorkeler explores the remains of the passenger steamer *Albany*, lost in 1853.

Photo: Tane Casserley, NOAA

NOAA divers swim by the bow of the oceanic steel freighter *Nordmeer* lying in 40 feet of water within the sanctuary.

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (TBNMS), located in northwest Lake Huron, is adjacent to one of the most treacherous stretches of water within the Great Lakes system. Unpredictable weather, murky fog banks, sudden gales and rocky shoals earned the area the name "Shipwreck Alley." Fire, ice, collisions and storms have claimed over 200 vessels in and around Thunder Bay. Today, the 4,300 square mile sanctuary protects one of America's best-preserved and nationally significant collections of shipwrecks. Through research, education and community involvement, the sanctuary and its partners ensure that future generations can enjoy Thunder Bay's irreplaceable underwater treasures.

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary encourages paddlers, divers and snorkelers to visit the area's historic shipwrecks. Seasonal mooring buoys improve access to many of the sanctuary's shipwrecks by providing a safe attachment point for boats. Moorings also protect the shipwrecks by eliminating the need for anchoring.

Research and Monitoring

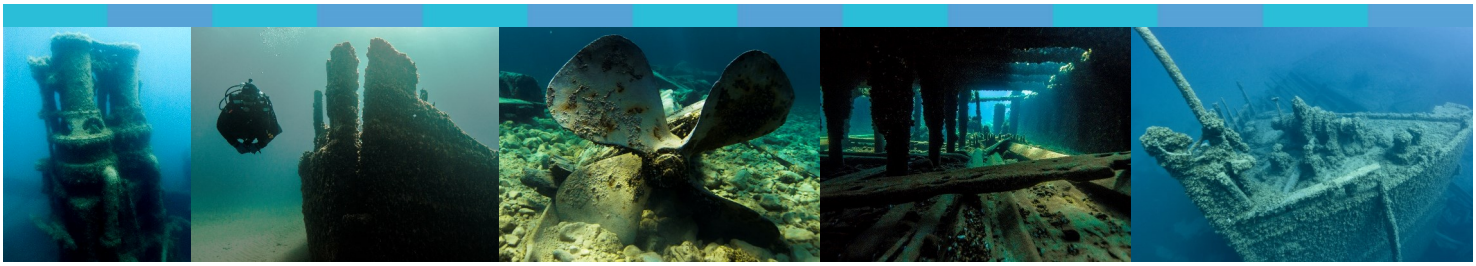
Lake Huron's cold, fresh water ensures that Thunder Bay's shipwrecks are among the best preserved in the world. The sanctuary conducts research in an effort to better understand and protect the recreational, historical and archaeological value of the region's maritime heritage resources. Knowledge acquired through research is used to evaluate existing management practices, improve future management decisions, and educate the public about the significance of the Great Lakes and their history. The sanctuary also promotes and assists research aimed to learn about the environmental and natural aspects of Lake Huron, and works with a variety of partners to accomplish these goals.

Education and Outreach

Sanctuary education and outreach programs are designed to raise public awareness about the sanctuary and its resources, encourage public involvement in resource protection, increase knowledge about Great Lakes maritime history and expand ocean and Great Lakes literacy. While education and outreach efforts are concentrated in and around the sanctuary's visitor center facility, the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center in Alpena, Michigan, they extend out to the region, state and nation. Various strategies, from classroom activities to public exhibits, allow the sanctuary to efficiently and effectively carry out its education and outreach objectives.

Photo: Tane Casserly and Joe Hoyt, NOAA

Photomosaic of the shipwreck *Defiance*, lost in 1854. Lake Huron's cold, fresh water ensures that Thunder Bay's shipwrecks are among the best preserved in the world.



Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Location
Northwest Lake Huron, off the northeast coast of Michigan's lower peninsula

Protected Area
4,300 square miles

Designation
October 2000

By the Numbers
93 Known shipwrecks

100 Shipwrecks not yet located

36 Mooring buoys

100,000 annual visitors to the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM

Scale varies in this perspective. Adapted from National Geographic Maps.

Find Us
Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center
500 West Fletcher Street
Alpena, MI 49707
989-365-8805

On the Web
Email: thunderbay@noaa.gov
www.facebook.com/ThunderBayShipwrecks
Twitter: @ThunderBayNMS

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Network of marine protected areas
Encompasses more than 170,000 square miles
Established October 1972

On the Web
sanctuaries.noaa.gov
www.facebook.com/NOAAOfficeofNationalMarineSanctuaries
Instagram: @noaasanctuaries
Twitter: @sanctuaries
Tumblr: @noaasanctuaries

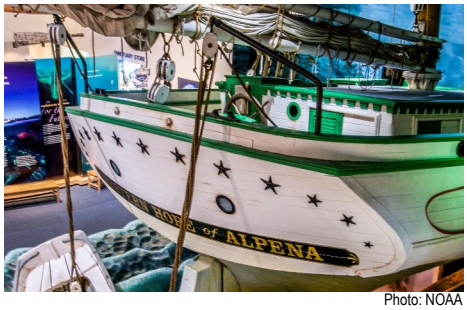


Photo: NOAA

The sanctuary's visitor center features interactive exhibits about Thunder Bay's shipwrecks and more.

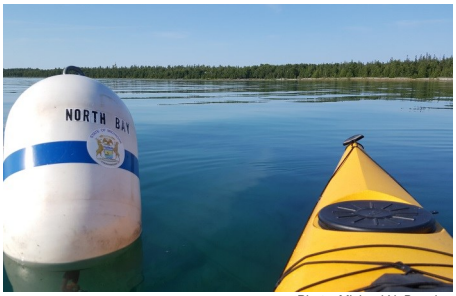


Photo: Micheal N. Beaulac

Shipwreck sites provide paddlers, snorkelers and divers opportunities to explore some of the nation's best-preserved historic wrecks.

Photo: Tane Casserley, NOAA

A NOAA diver swims over the remains of the wooden three-masted schooner, *Lucinda Van Valkenburg*.

http://thunderbay.noaa.gov/