

Upper Keys Shipwrecks: Archaeological Site Assessment of Shipwrecks in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary - \$9,650

An experienced Nautical Archaeologist will train volunteers in methods of underwater archaeological survey, mapping, and documentation. This inventory and digital record will become part of a final site plan.

Project Lead: John Halas/Brenda S. Altmeier

The project was successful for numerous reasons. The FKNMS was able to foster a relationship around the study of archaeological resources with Mote Marine Laboratory, a non-profit science organization that has been concentrating on nearshore marine research for the past 54 years. The project allowed the two agencies to pool resources and record three previously undocumented FKNMS maritime heritage sites. The collection of information is crucial in order to understand and manage non-renewable resources such as shipwrecks and follows the guidelines of many Acts that were established to protect historic resources on public lands within federal agency boundaries. NOAA's Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 identifies NOAA's commitment to the protection and preservation of heritage resources within its sanctuaries and NOAA is mandated to manage these resources consistent with the Federal Archaeological Program. In response to Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the sanctuary program is mandated to survey, identify, and inventory each sanctuary's maritime heritage resources.

Information collected during the project included; measurements, video, site sketches and still photography which resulted in the creation of five photo-mosaics. Information provided to FKNMS managers increases the knowledge of maritime heritage resources in the FKNMS. This base line of information on a shipwreck is a critical element in discovering the possible name(s), significance and history of a site before environmental and physical threats impact their integrity. Losing information will limit a manager's ability to effectively manage a site and increases the difficulty for future research.

Seven volunteers were trained on mapping techniques and provided 125 hours of service during the project. Volunteers trained during the 2007 PAIG project continue to provide useful assistance to the FKNMS staff.

~Brenda S. Altmeier



B. Altmeier

Porter Anchor Wreck: installing datum point for site documentation

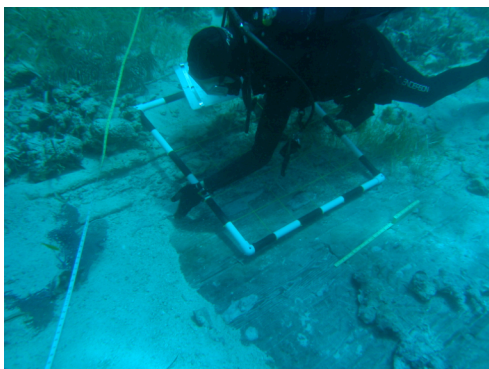
Photographed: L to R: Terry Hopenjans, PAIG Volunteer, Dr. Joseph Cozzi, Marine Archaeologist Mote Marine Laboratory



B. Altmeier

Thomas Wreck: Site documentation

Photographed: Foreground: Dr. Joseph Cozzi, Marine Archaeologist Mote Marine Lab
Background: PAIG Volunteer Phil Darche



B. Altmeier

Three Sisters Wreck: archaeologist using a drawing grid to document a section of timbers on the shipwreck

Photographed: Dr. Joseph Cozzi, Marine Archaeologist Mote Marine Lab