

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 448-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 (May 1 to September 30), so be sure to check with the sanctuary before planning your trip.

Vessel	Latitude	Longitude	Depth
Albany (1846-1853)	N45°19.396'	W83°27.508'	5
Light Guard (stern) (1866-1903)	N45°03.657'	W83°22.111'	6
Portland (1863-1877)	N45°14.929'	W83°24.450'	7
John Warner (1855-1890)	N45°03.043'	W83°26.113'	9
American Union (1862-1894)	N45°21.411'	W83°35.368'	10
Shamrock (1875-1905)	N45°03.077'	W83°26.052'	11
Haltiner's Barge (crane) (? - 1927)	N45°02.147'	W83°19.631'	13
New Orleans (1838-1849)	N45°02.589'	W83°14.414'	13
North Bay Wreck	N45°20.784'	W83°29.613'	14
Bay City (1857-1902)	N45°03.287'	W83°25.603'	14
W.P. Rend (1888 - 1917)	N45°03.742'	W83°23.555'	15
Harvey Bissell (1866-1905)	N45°03.371'	W83°25.606'	15
Haltiner Barge (boom) (? - 1927)	N45°02.146'	W83°19.631'	15
Haltiner Barge (bilge) (? - 1927)	N45°02.091'	W83°19.595'	17
Heart Failure (Ca. 1910)	N45°03.701'	W83°22.724'	17
W.P. Rend (1888-1917)	N45°03.742'	W83°23.555'	17
Monohansett (1872-1907)	N45°01.996'	W83°11.988'	18
Ogarita (1864-1905)	N45°06.326'	W83°13.109'	30
Oscar T. Flint (1889-1909)	N45°01.535'	W83°20.839'	32
Nordmeer (bow) (1954-1966)	N45°08.184'	W83°09.583'	35
James Davidson (1874-1883)	N45°01.877'	W83°11.764'	35
Barge No. 1 (1895-1918)	N45°00.974'	W83°18.252'	42
Van Valkenburg (1862-1887)	N45°03.390'	W83°10.210'	60
Montana (bow) (1872-1914)	N44°59.025'	W83°16.013'	63
Montana (stern) (1872-1914)	N44°59.046'	W83°16.038'	66
Middle Island Sinkhole	N45°11.898'	W83°19.665'	72
W.P. Thew (1884-1909)	N45°02.712'	W83°09.210'	82
Grecian (bow) (1891-1906)	N44°58.117'	W83°12.068'	98
Grecian (stern) (1891-1906)	N44°58.099'	W83°11.991'	100
E.B. Allen (1864-1871)	N45°00.968'	W83°09.902'	100



Schooner *E.B. Allen*



Freighter *Nordmeer*



Steamer *Grecian*

