



Authentically Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Michigan

The Sweetwater Seas' Shipwreck Coast

Outdoor Recreation in Federal Waters

Maritime History: The cold, fresh waters of Lake Huron have preserved more than 200 sunken ships once doomed by past storms and rocky shoals in an area known as "[Shipwreck Alley](#)." The superior water clarity allows for excellent views of the wrecks from a kayak, paddleboard, glass-bottom boat tour, or while snorkeling and diving. Take in some local history as you [climb a lighthouse](#), stroll down the [Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Trail](#), or [learn about the Shipwreck Century](#) while walking the deck of a life-size 19th century schooner.

Dive | Snorkel: [Shipwrecks](#) are found at depths ranging from 12 to over 200 feet that appeal to a variety of diver skill levels. These protected treasures allow viewers a glimpse of Great Lakes history in a hauntingly beautiful setting. Snorkelers, recreational and technical divers will appreciate the [seasonal moorings](#) maintained at popular dive sites.

Fish: Take advantage of the many sport and recreational fishing opportunities and catch your own dinner! Those who seek the tranquility of fly fishing, angling from a canoe, or prefer to book a sportfishing charter will have a chance to catch iconic fish like salmon, lake trout, bass, lake whitefish, walleye, bluegill and more.

Learn more about America's lands and waters in the area: [Heritage Route 23](#), [Blueways](#), [Huron-Manistee National Forests](#), [Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge](#), [Michigan Parks and Nature Preserves](#)

Known For

- One of America's best-preserved and significant collections of shipwrecks
- Diving and snorkeling
- Maritime heritage
- Fishing and boating



Nearby Cities

- Alpena, Michigan;
- Traverse City, Michigan (2.75 hours);
- Flint, Michigan (3 hours);
- Detroit, Michigan (4 hours)

Contact: Sarah Marquis | 949-222-2212
sarah.marquis@noaa.gov



Tane Casserlev. NOAA Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary