



MAHS Survey 2015

Pickles Reef

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary





In June of 2015, MAHS returned to Pickles Reef in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary off Key Largo.





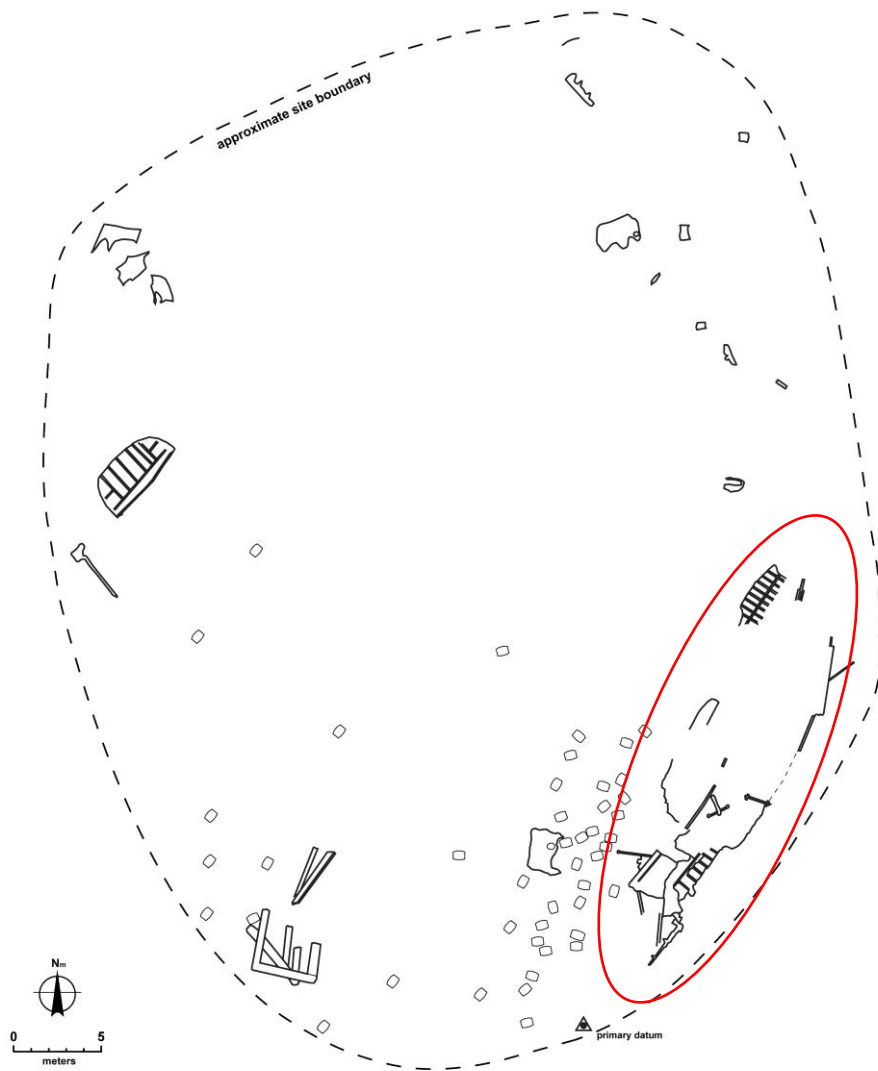
The first task on returning to the site was to re-establish the primary datum point and re-set the baseline so that any new measurements could be added to the existing site map.





Once the baseline had been stretched between the datum stakes, it was straightened and pulled tight.





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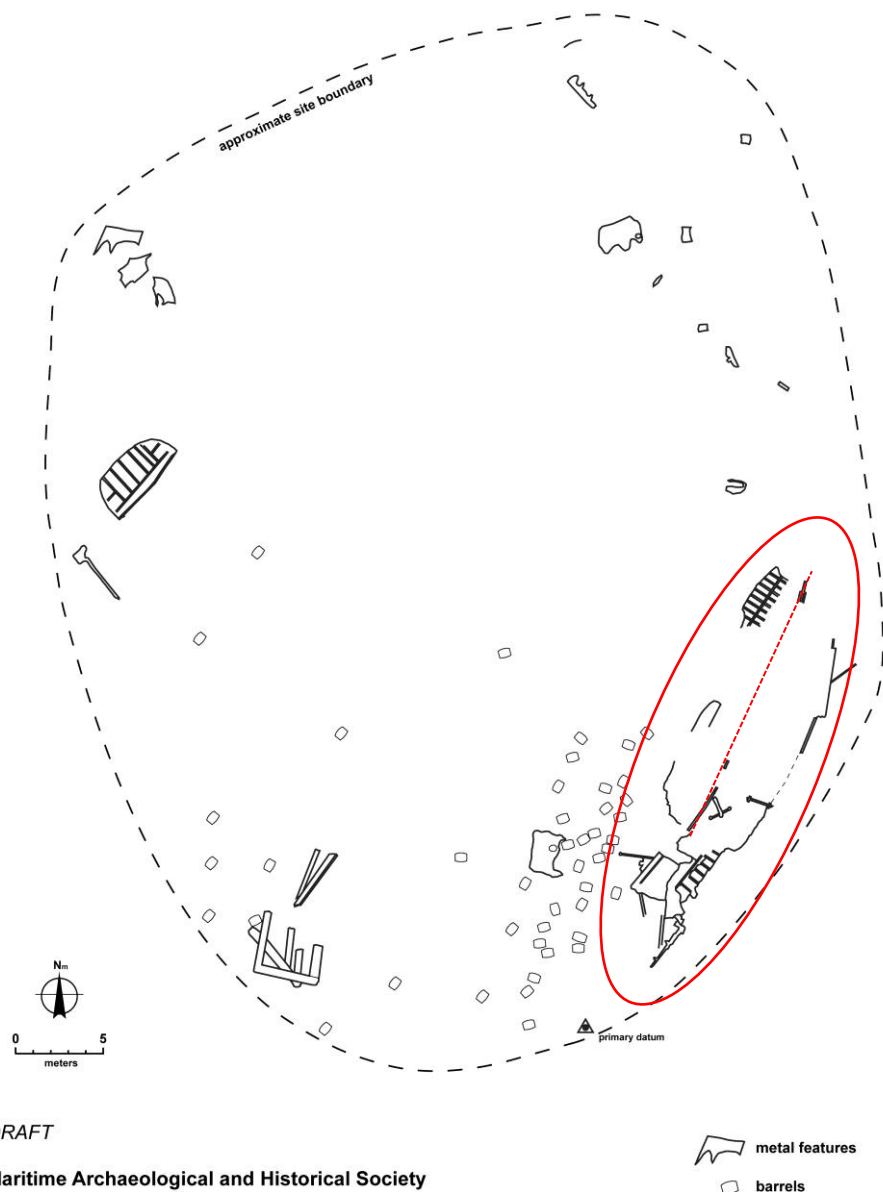
Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society
Pickles Reef Survey
Site Map June 2015



We spent time this season refining the site map, collecting additional detailed data on the metal wreckage that we now think was a schooner.

There is a lot of twisted metal covered in coral and other marine growth in this part of the site, but careful mapping is beginning to show the outlines of the vessel.





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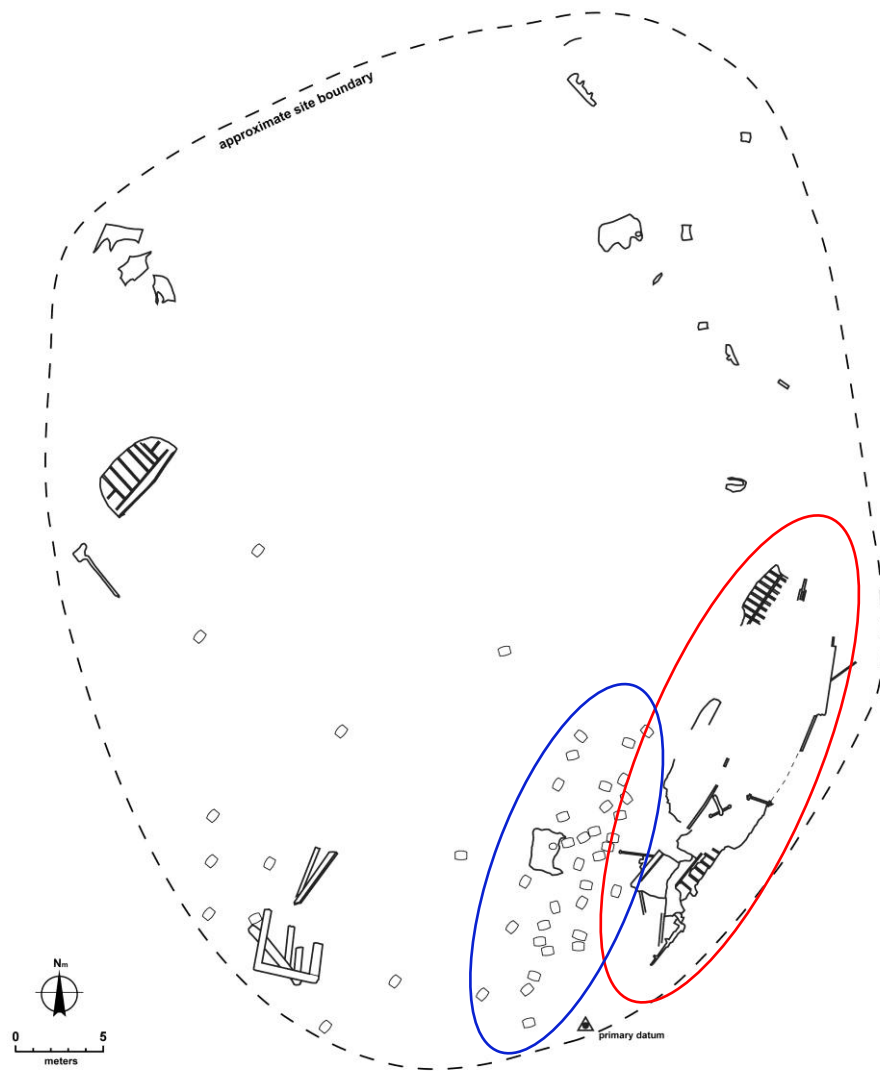
Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society
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Site Map June 2015

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...with a keelson running down the centerline.





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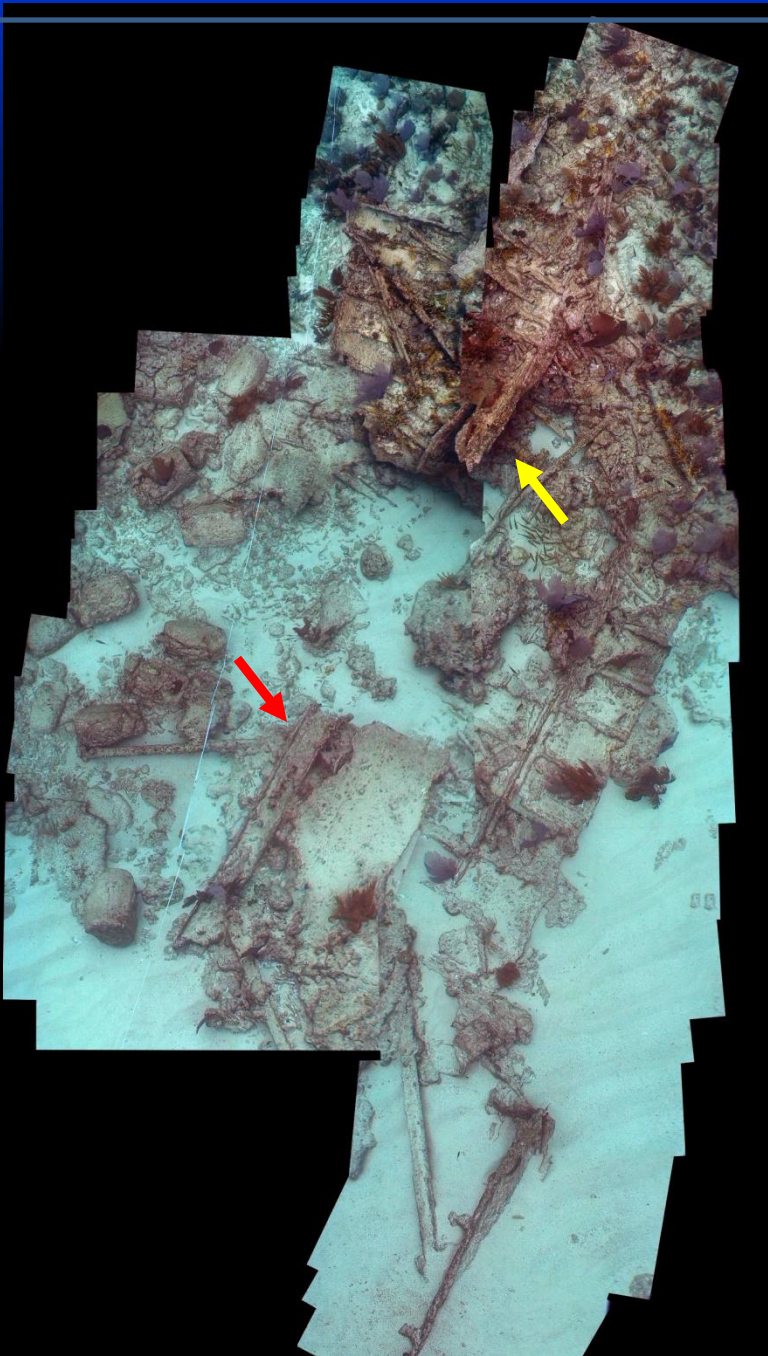
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metal features
barrels

A concentrated area of barrels lies adjacent to the metal wreckage, but with very little overlap between the features.

This suggests that the archaeological remains in this part of the site may have been derived from two separate vessels.





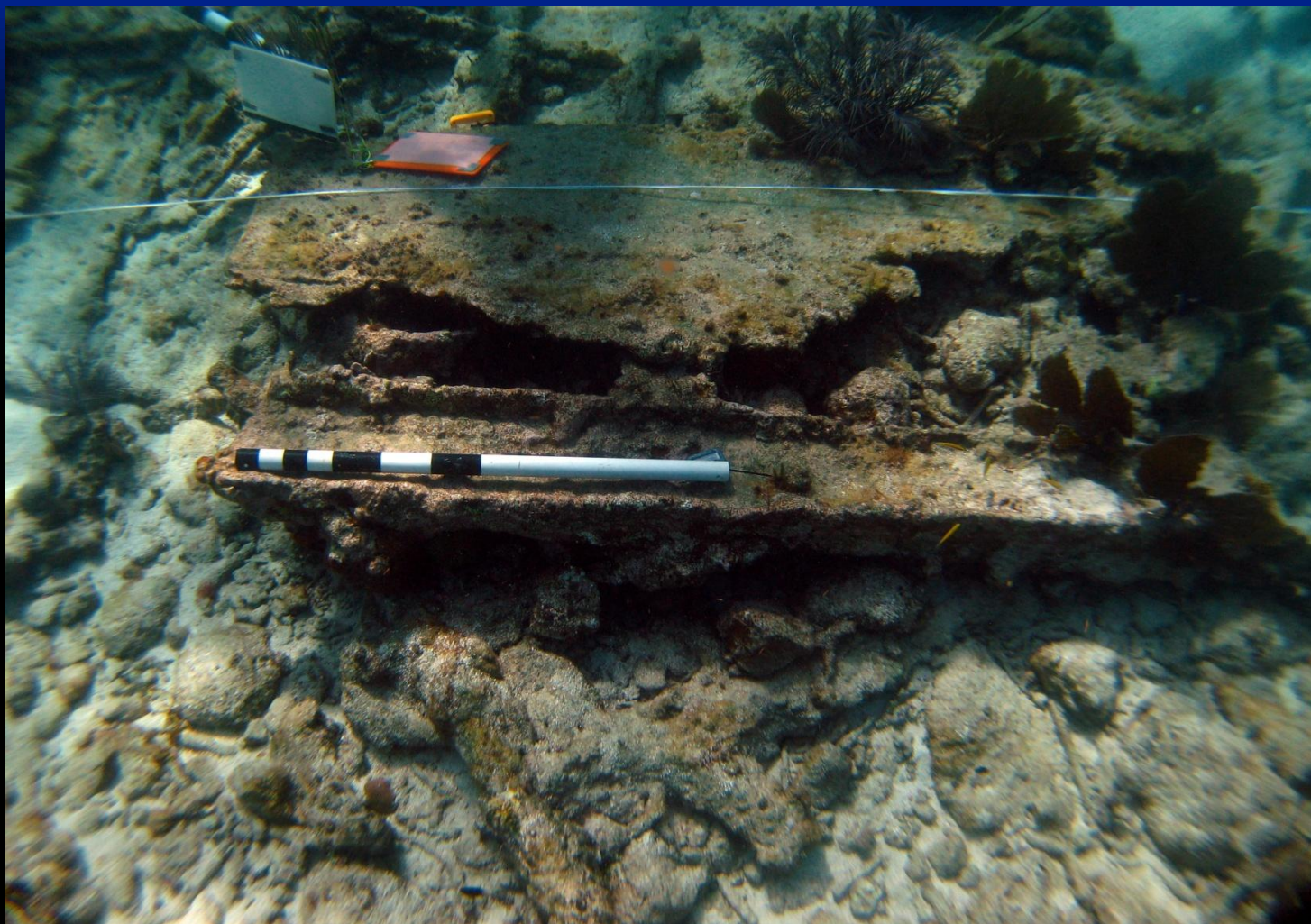
We also continued work on a photomosaic of some of the iron wreckage.

This composite image shows extensive damage to what we think was the bow of the schooner.

The yellow arrow points to the truncated forward end of the vessel's keelson.

The red arrow points to a section of the keelson that has broken off and lies disconnected in the sand.





This is the broken segment of the keelson, lying next to a large but unrelated section of hull plate.



Here is an oblique view of the keelson segment.



Some archival information has provided a likely explanation for the configuration of the wreckage that we see today.

Freight Steamer Ashore.

Key West, Fla., May 15.—Wireless advices report the Norwegian freight steamer *Times* ashore off Pickels reef. She was bound from New York for Cuban ports.

NORWEGIAN CRAFT AGROUND.

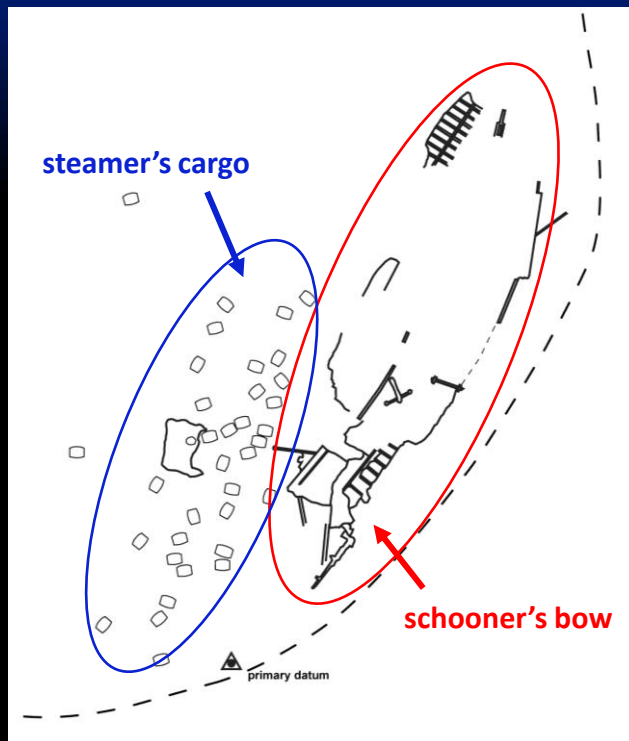
The *Times* Hits Shoals off Carysfort Reef in Florida.

(By Associated Press.)

Havana, May 18.—The Norwegian freight steamer *Times*, from New York, due yesterday, went ashore near Carysfort reef, Florida, on Friday. The captain of the Norwegian *Frednes*, from Baltimore, today reported finding her on Saturday and communicating with her by flag signals. The captain of the *Times* said his vessel was in no danger.

Historical newspaper accounts reported that the Norwegian steamer *TIMES* ran aground on Pickles Reef on May 15, 1914. Further details indicated that the steamer jettisoned 100 tons of cement cargo over the side, allowing it to back off the reef, after which it was towed to Key West.



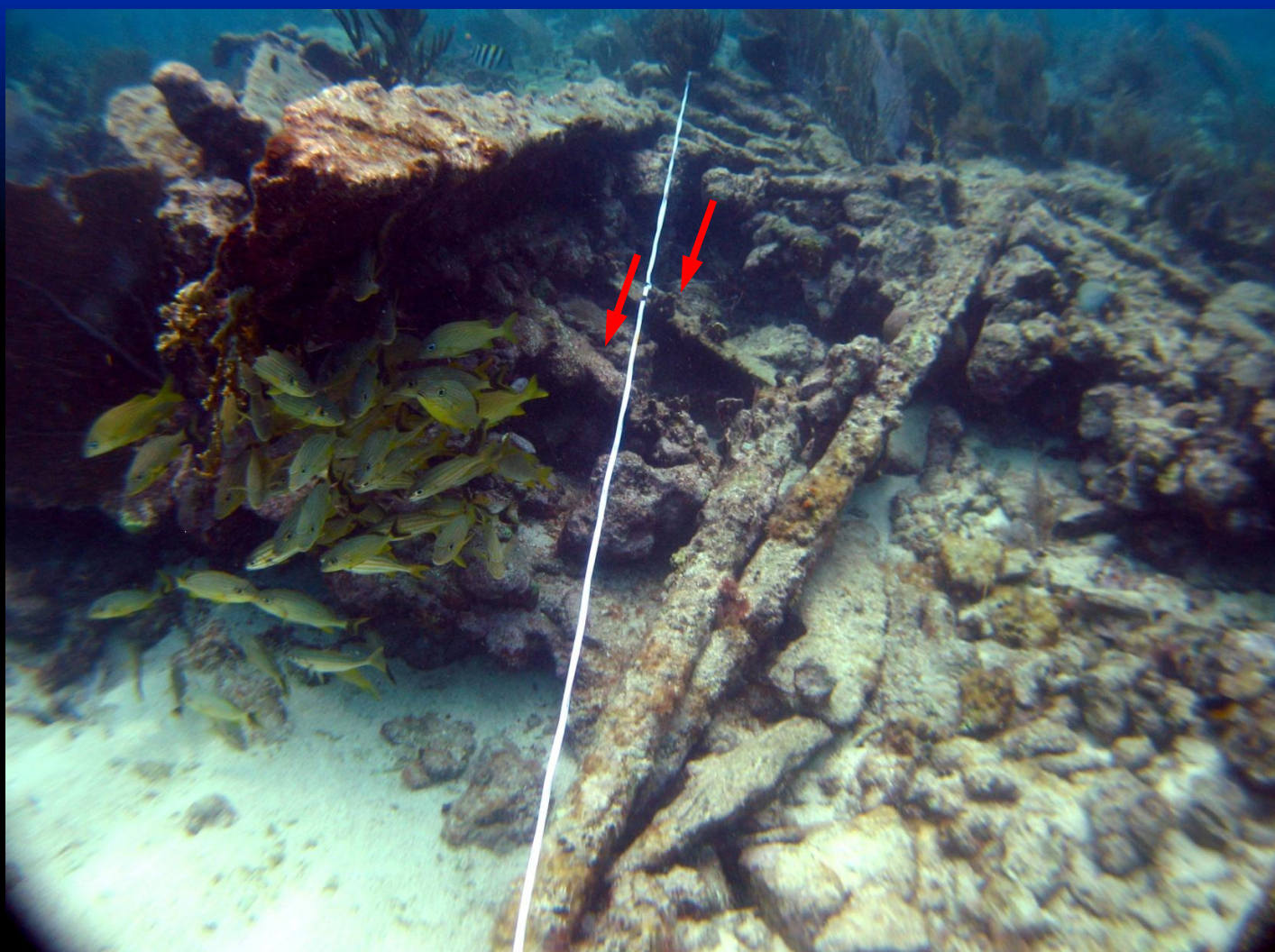


Based on these reports, our current operating theory is that the steamer hit the bow of the already wrecked schooner, causing the extensive damage we see today.

The barrels represent part of the steamer's abandoned cargo.

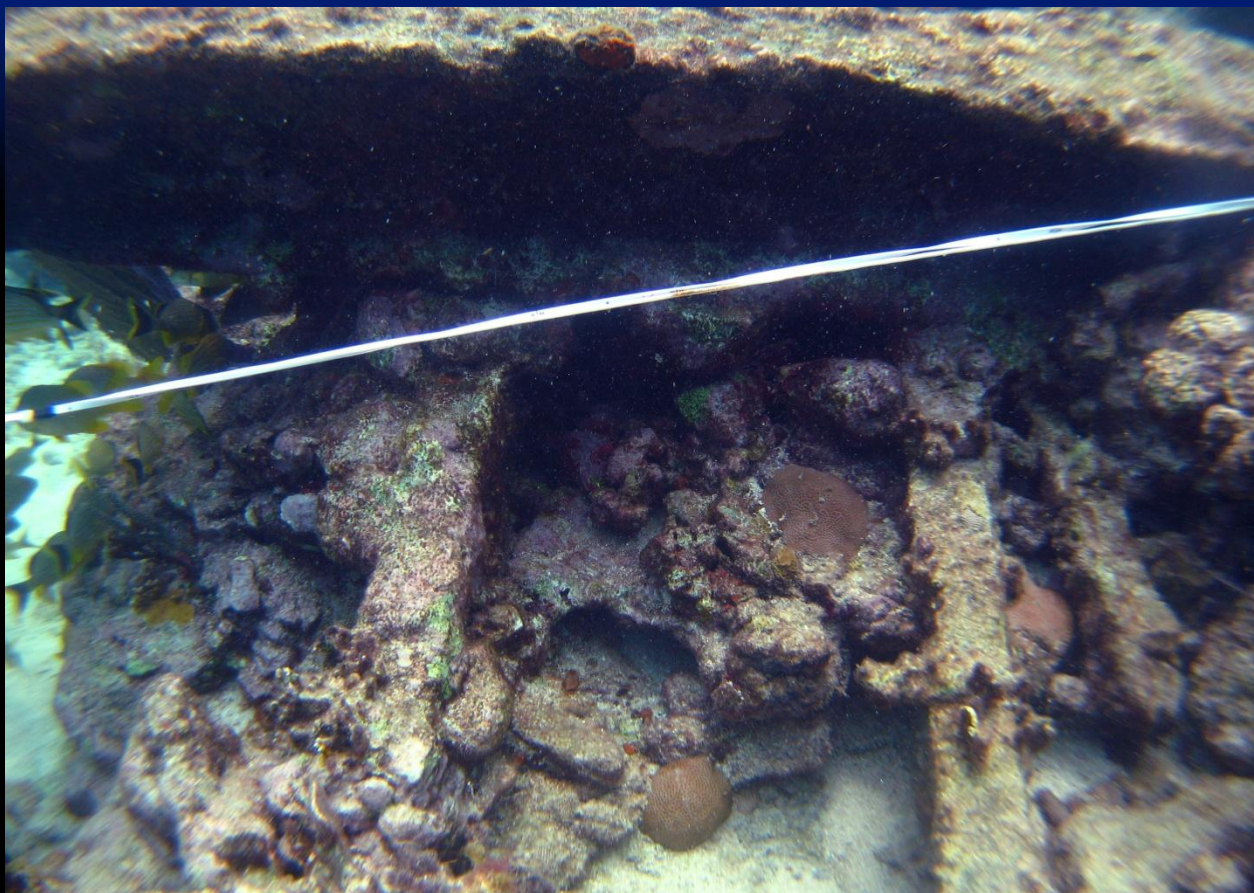
Thanks to Deborah Marx, at the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, for this bit of research.





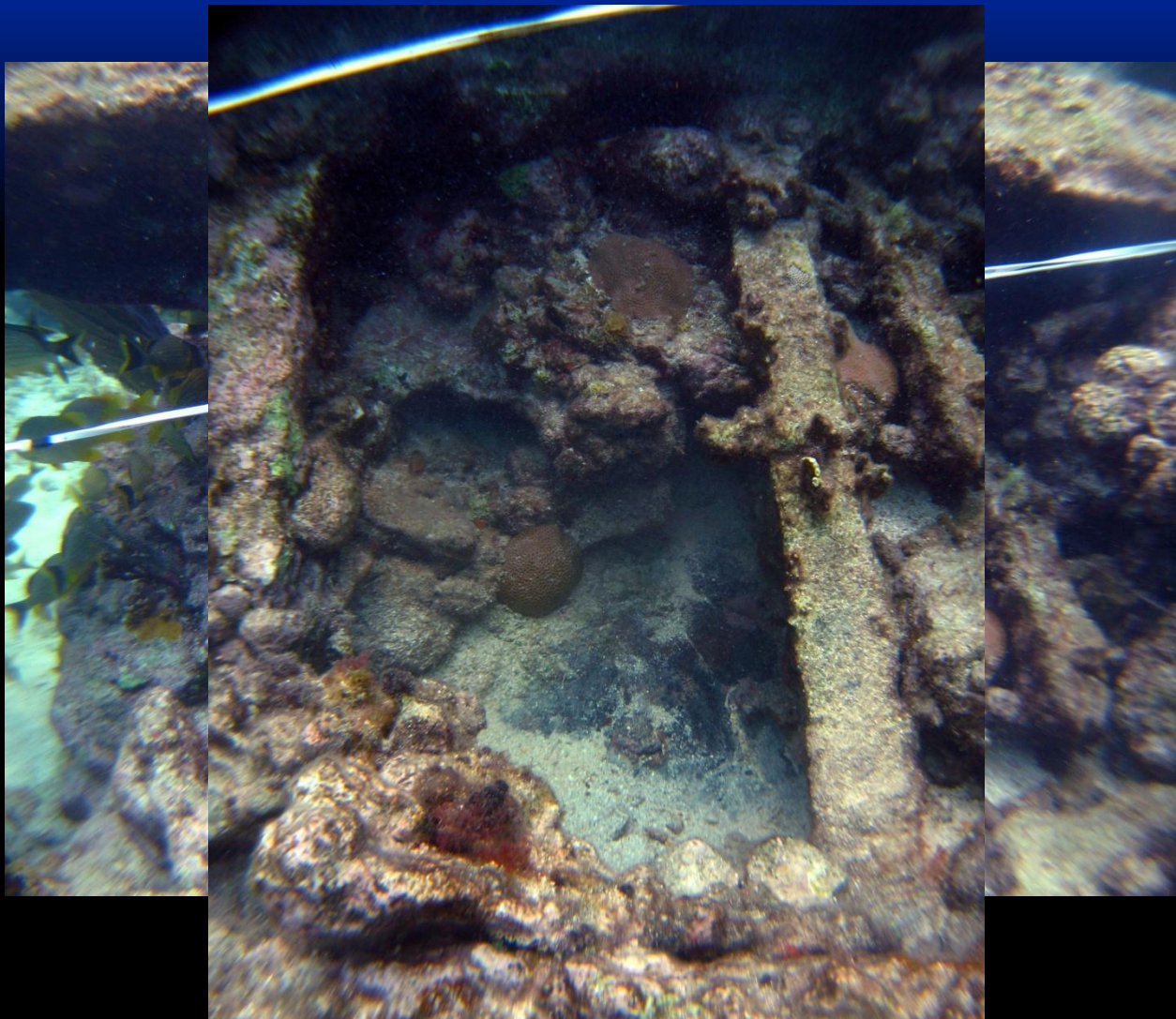
Some additional intact hull structure has been identified.
The yellow grunts are sheltering beneath the truncated end of the keelson.
The arrows mark frames beneath the keelson.





In spite of the marine growth, the frames can clearly be seen extending beneath the keelson and connected to it.





A little hand fanning reveals the inside surface of hull plates attached to the frames.





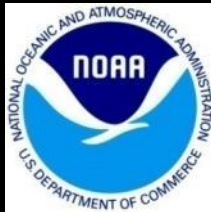
Here is a final view looking toward the bow end of the schooner. This is a composite image constructed from three pictures taken in 2008 by Brenda Altmeier, Maritime Heritage Coordinator for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

The broken keelson fragment can be seen left of center and part of the barrel scatter to the left of that.

The organizations involved in the project this season included:



MAHS – Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society, Washington, D.C.

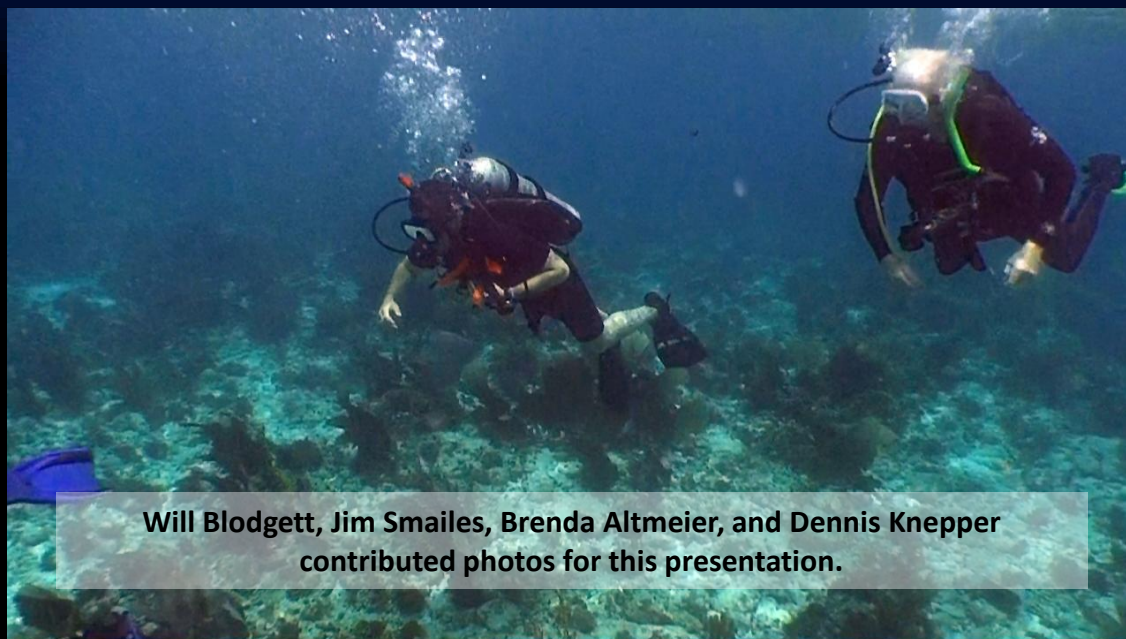


NOAA / Florida Keys
National Marine Sanctuary



Florida Bureau of Archaeological
Research





**Will Blodgett, Jim Smailes, Brenda Altmeier, and Dennis Knepper
contributed photos for this presentation.**



**Special thanks to John Halas and Brenda Altmeier (FKNMS), Matthew
Lawrence (SBNMS), and to Roger Smith (FBHP).**