

Magee's Memos

Best Visibility Wrecks - Lake Erie Central Basin

Since the dive season is fast approaching, I thought it was appropriate to review my log books for the past four years (1998-2001) and see what the average visibility was on the wrecks in the central basin of Lake Erie. Only the wrecks that were dove enough to be statistically significant were considered, which resulted in 14 wrecks being analyzed.

The results showed that the overall average visibility was 11', the average minimum visibility was 5', and the average maximum visibility was 20'. The best visibility was 35', and this was recorded on three separate wrecks: the "Dundee," "S. F. Gale," and "Duke Leudtke." Very close maximum visibilities of 30' were also recorded on the "Admiral" and the "Queen of the West."

A seasonal analysis showed the following average visibilities and average minimum and maximum visibilities.

May-Jun: 7' (3'-11')

Jul-Aug: 14' (7'-23')

Sep-Oct: 6' (4'-8')

As no surprise, the best time to dive was found to be the summer (July and August). The second best time to dive was the spring (May and June), followed very closely by the fall (September and October). Both the spring and fall were almost identical, and both were only half the values of the summer.

The top 5 wrecks - as far as average visibility is concerned - were the following.

- 1.) 19', "Duke Leudtke"
- 2.) 17', "Dundee"
- 3.) 15', "Queen of the West"
- 4.) 13', (tie) "S. F. Gale" & "Admiral"
- 5.) 10', "Two Fannies"

The worst wrecks were the following.

- 6.) 9', "Pridgeon"
- 7.) 6', (tie) "Sand Merchant," "Mecosta," & "Morning Star"
- 8.) 4', (tie) "Craftsman," "117th Street Wreck," & "Ivanhoe"
- 9.) 3', "Butters"

Next time, we'll look at the average visibility of the eastern basin wrecks of Lake Erie.

Magee's Memos continued...

Best Visibility Wrecks - Lake Erie Eastern Basin

Keeping with my geeky tendencies, here's the second part of my visibility analysis for Lake Erie. This covers the eastern basin. I looked at my log books over the past four years (1998-2001) and analyzed what the average visibility was. Only the wrecks that were dove enough to be statistically significant were considered, which resulted in 15 wrecks.

The results showed that the overall average visibility was 53', the average minimum visibility was 34', and the average maximum visibility was 68'. The best visibility was 100', and this was recorded on two separate wrecks: the "Straubenzie" and "Schooner B." A very close maximum visibility of 90' was recorded on the "Crystal Wreck," and 80' was seen on the "Betty Hedger," "Oxford," "Boland," "Dean Richmond," and "Passaic."

A seasonal analysis showed the following average visibilities and average minimum and maximum visibilities.

May-Jun: 43' (28'-44')

Jul-Aug: 56' (42'-67')

Sep-Oct: 47' (35'-60')

As with the central basin, the best time to dive was found to be the summer (July and August). Unlike the central basin, however, there was a noticeable difference with the fall (September and October) as the second best time to dive. The worst time to dive by a noticeable margin was the spring (May and June).

The top 5 wrecks - as far as average visibility is concerned - were the following.

- 1.) 75', "Crystal Wreck"
- 2.) 70', (tie) "Betty Hedger," "Oxford," & "Straubenzie"
- 3.) 63', "Dean Richmond"
- 4.) 57', (tie) "Schooner B" & "Tradewind"
- 5.) 50', "Acme"

The lesser visibility wrecks were the following.

- 6.) 47', "Boland"
- 7.) 42', "Indiana"
- 8.) 35', (tie) "Passaic," "Brunswick," "Carlingford," "St. James"
- 9.) 33', "Atlantic"