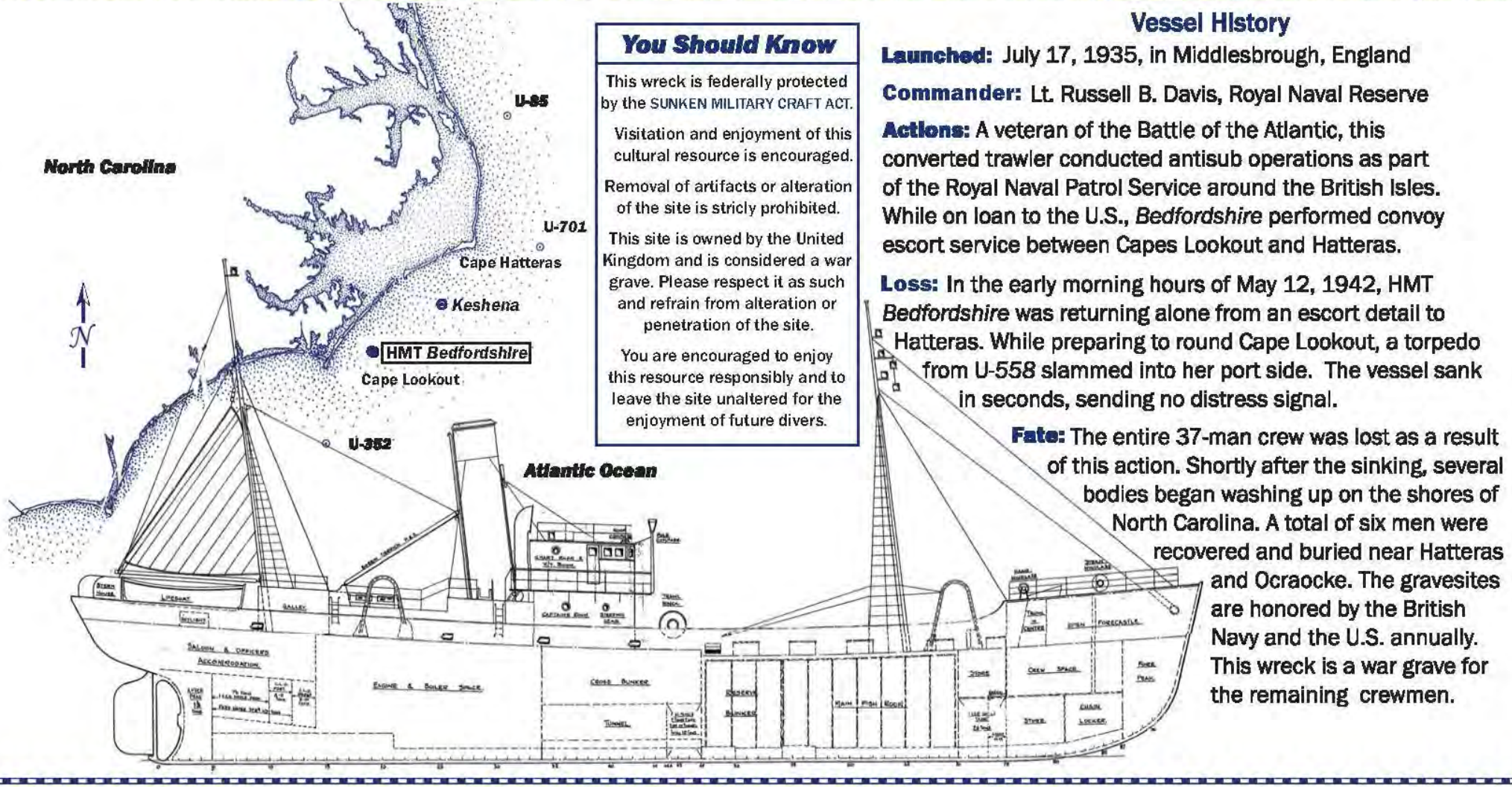
HMT Bedfordshire

Royal Navy Patrol Service



You Should Know

This wreck is federally protected by the SUNKEN MILITARY CRAFT ACT.

Visitation and enjoyment of this cultural resource is encouraged.

Removal of artifacts or alteration of the site is stricly prohibited.

This site is owned by the United Kingdom and is considered a war grave. Please respect it as such and refrain from alteration or penetration of the site.

You are encouraged to enjoy this resource responsibly and to leave the site unaltered for the enjoyment of future divers.

Vessel History

Launched: July 17, 1935, in Middlesbrough, England

Commander: Lt. Russell B. Davis, Royal Naval Reserve

Actions: A veteran of the Battle of the Atlantic, this converted trawler conducted antisub operations as part of the Royal Naval Patrol Service around the British Isles. While on loan to the U.S., *Bedfordshire* performed convoy escort service between Capes Lookout and Hatteras.

Loss: In the early morning hours of May 12, 1942, HMT *Bedfordshire* was returning alone from an escort detail to Hatteras. While preparing to round Cape Lookout, a torpedo from U-558 slammed into her port side. The vessel sank in seconds, sending no distress signal.

Fate: The entire 37-man crew was lost as a result of this action. Shortly after the sinking, several bodies began washing up on the shores of North Carolina. A total of six men were recovered and buried near Hatteras and Ocraocke. The gravesites are honored by the British Navy and the U.S. annually. This wreck is a war grave for the remaining crewmen.

Marine Life Commonly Found on the *Bedfordshire* Site

Blue Angelfish

Holacanthus bermudensis

Summer Flounder

Paralichthys dentatus

Gray Triggerfish

Balistes capriscus

http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/missions

Visit us online to learn more!

Little Tunny

Euthynnus alletteratus

Black Sea Bass

Centropristis striata

Tomtates

Haemulon parrai

GPS Coordinates:
N35° 54.810'/W75° 17.215'
Depth: 95 fsw
Skill Level: Intermediate

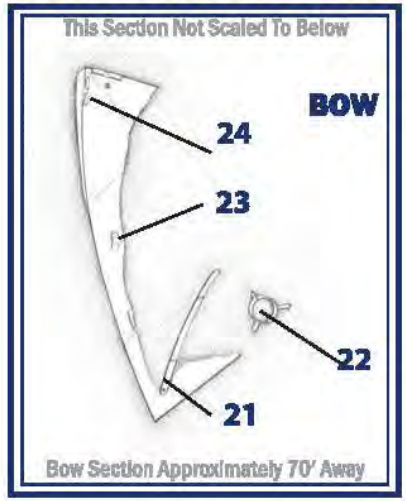
HMT Bedfordshire

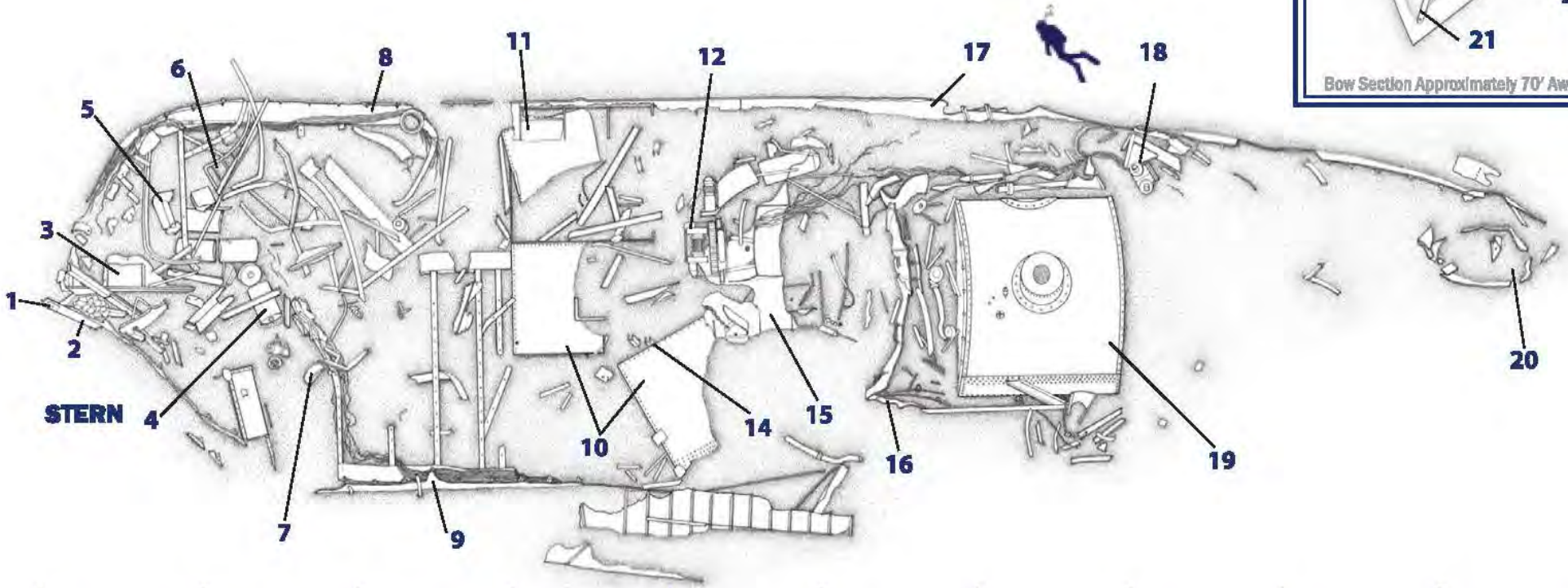
Archaeological Site Plan

National Marine Sanctuaries

NOAA

1 Sacrificial Zinc Anode
2 Stern Post
3 Liver Boiler Deck Combing
4 Exposed Depth Charge
5 Depth Charge Support
6 Stern Depth Charge Rack
7 Buried Depth Charge
8 Wiring Harness for Vessel
9 Starboard Side High Point
10 Exposed Deck Plating
11 Port High Point/Deck Level
12 Main Trawl Winch
13 Starboard Outer Hull
14 Deck Support Stanchions
15 Original Deck Level
16 Reinforced Boiler Room Wall
17 Port Side Outer Hull Plate
18 Disarticulated Machinery
19 Exposed Main Boiler
20 Likely Torpedeo Strike Area
21 Forward Bulkhead
22 Forward Deck Gun Mount
23 Towing or Docking Bit
24 Bow Line Fairleads





0 feet 10' 20' 30' 40' 50' 60' 70' 80' 90' 100'

Take Only Pictures ~ Leave Only Bubbles