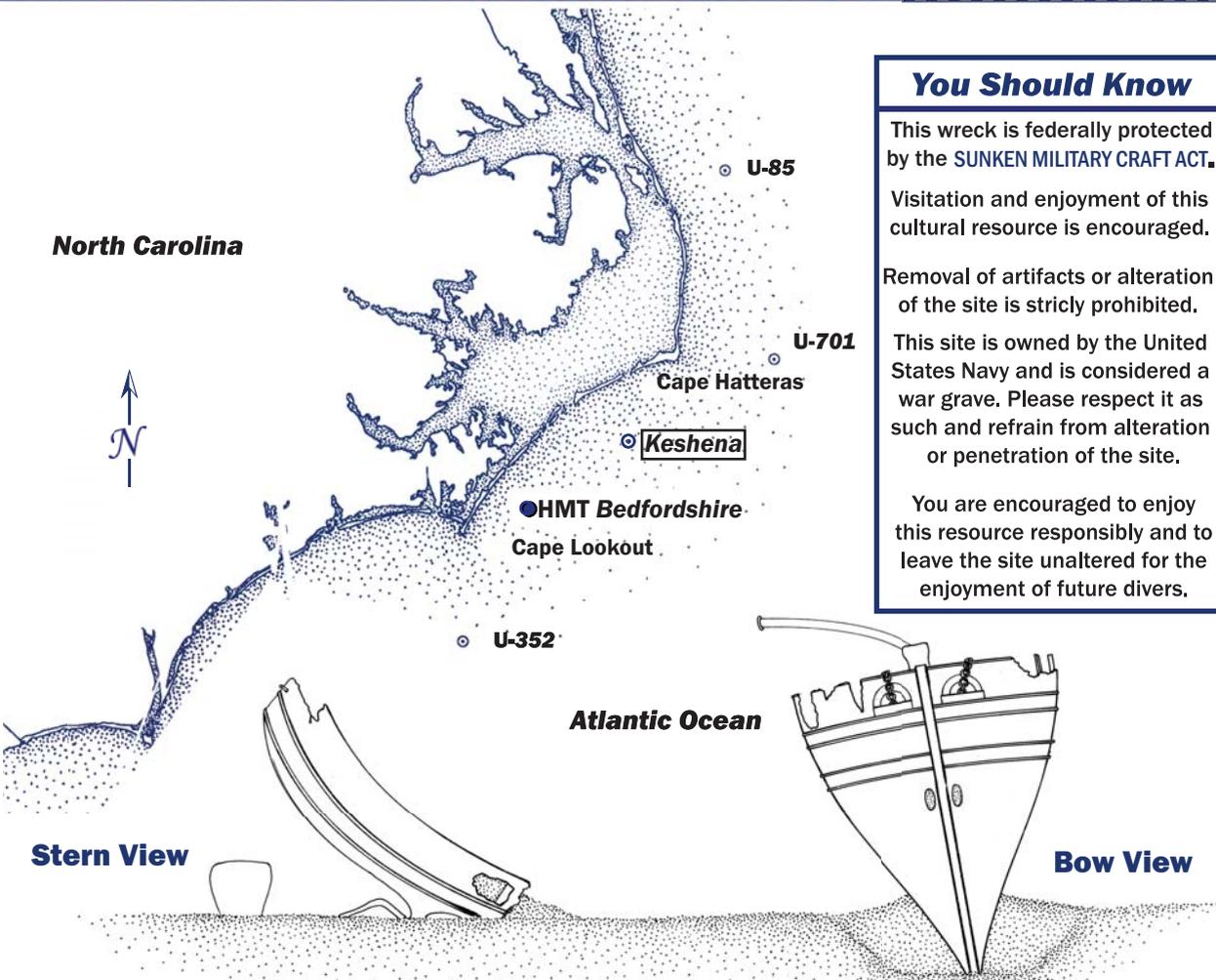




Keshena

US Navy Tug



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 strictly prohibited.

This site is owned by the United States Navy 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: 1939 by Gulfport Boiler & Welding Works

Owner: United States Navy (Navy Rescue Tug Service)

Actions: *Keshena* was an unarmed service craft operated by the Navy Rescue Tug Service. Vessels such as this served an important function and received few accolades unless lost dramatically. Small support and service craft assisted larger naval vessels, supported operations and were critical to a well-functioning navy.

History: On July 15, 1942, the U-576 attacked Convoy KS-520 off the Cape Hatteras coast. Three ships, *Chilore*, *J.A. Mowinckel*, and *Bluefields* were struck by torpedoes. The *Bluefields* sank within minutes, while *Chilore* and *Mowinckel* were severely damaged, but still afloat. Following the attack, U-576 was sunk by the efforts of the armed merchant vessel *Unicoi* and two Navy Kingfisher aircraft. *Chilore* and *Mowinckel*, in an attempt to reach safety, inadvertently detonated mines in the defensive Hatteras minefield. Both vessels were damaged further and ordered to await minesweeping and assistance.

Fate: On July 19, 1942, US Navy Rescue Tugs *Keshena* and *J.P. Martin* were dispatched to assist *Chilore* and *Mowinckel* in returning to port for repairs. Operating under the assumption that all mines in the area had been swept, *Keshena* accidentally detonated a mine while attempting to steer *Mowinckel*. The resulting explosion sent the *Keshena* to the bottom immediately killing two of the servicemen aboard.

Sand Tiger Shark

Purple Sea Urchin

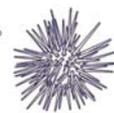
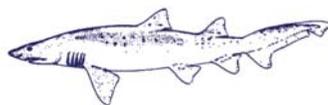
Gag Grouper

Marine Life Commonly Found on the Keshena Site

Atlantic Spadefish

Sheepshead

Black Sea Bass



<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/missions>

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Odontaspis Taurus

Arbacia punctata

Mycteroperca microlepis

Chaetodipterus faber

Archosargus probatocephalus

Centropristis striata

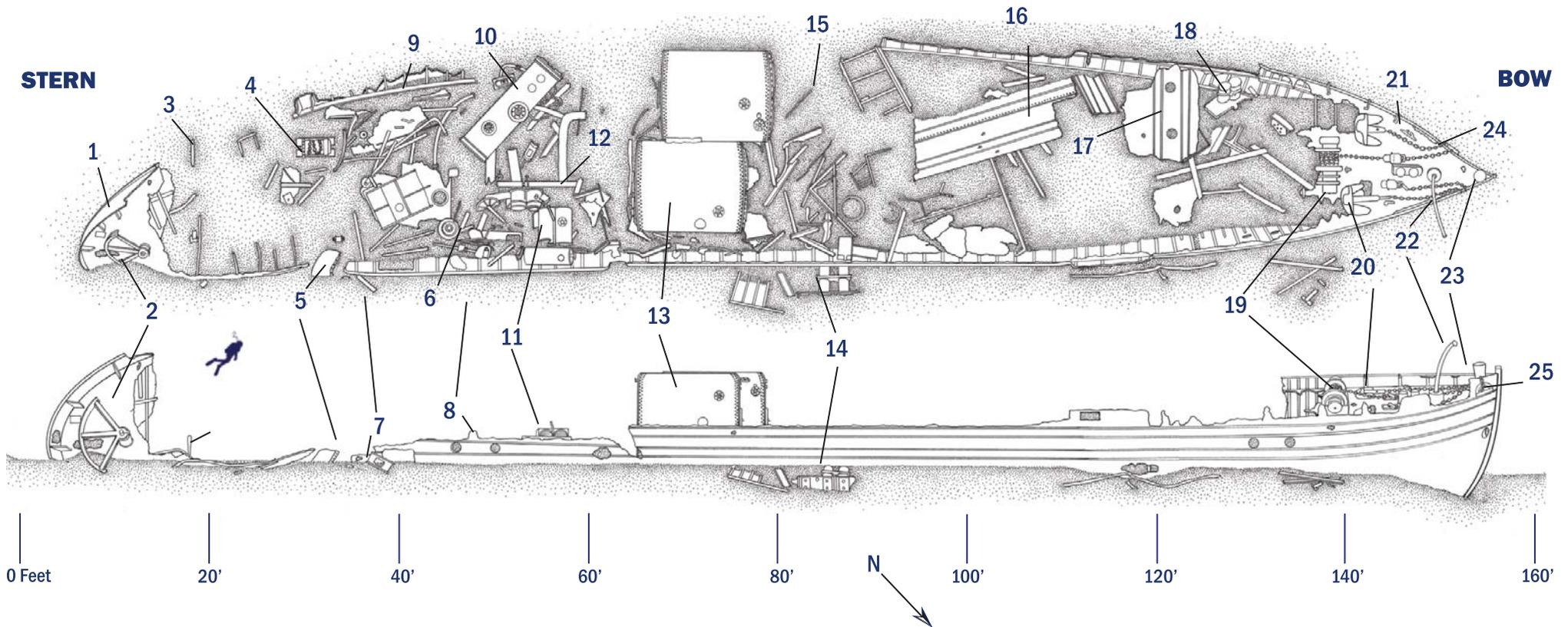
GPS Coordinates:
 N34° 59.614'/W75° 45.698'
 Depth: 85-90 fsw
 Skill Level: Novice

US Navy *Keshena* Tug

Archaeological Site Plan



- | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Fantail Stern | 6 Debris Field | 11 Keshena's Engine | 16 Collapsed Hull Plates | 21 Line Fairlead |
| 2 Steering Quadrant | 7 Towing Bits | 12 Propeller Shaft | 17 Port Holes and Plating | 22 Steering Mast |
| 3 Propeller Blade | 8 Starboard Hull | 13 Double Boilers | 18 Dislodged Towing Bits | 23 Large Towing Bit |
| 4 Winch and Chain | 9 Port Side Hull | 14 Towing Bits | 19 Anchor Winch | 24 Anchor Chains |
| 5 Break in Hull | 10 Steam Condenser | 15 Hull Break/Debris | 20 Two Salvage Anchors | 25 Hawse Holes |



Take Only Pictures ~ Leave Only Bubbles