



State Historic Preservation Office

Shipwreck Inventory Submission Procedures

The Ohio Shipwreck Law

Ohio law governs management of certain submerged property under the Ohio waters of Lake Erie, to which the State of Ohio holds title in trust for all the people of the state. This trust property is any part of a sunken ship or aircraft (if the owners or insurers are not still trying to get them back); anything from the ship or aircraft; and Native American artifacts. Anyone who recovers property in violation (without a salvage permit) of this law is subject to fines & possible confiscation of diving equipment.

Section 1506.32-1506.36 and 1506.99 of the Ohio Revised Code

The ORC generally states any person who wishes to recover, alter, salvage, or destroy any abandoned property that is located on, in, or in the immediate vicinity of and associated with a submerged watercraft or aircraft in Lake Erie shall obtain a permit to do so from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources that also has been approved by the Ohio History Connection. For additional information please contact the State Historic Preservation Office or the Ohio Coastal Management Program, ODNR Office of Coastal Management, 105 West Shoreline Drive, Sandusky, Ohio, (419) 626-7980.

Submission Procedure

1. Research vessel.
 - We recommend any historical information that cannot be incorporated into the database application be submitted as separate, electronic files. This includes historic photos, nautical maps (charts), and newspaper articles.
2. Contact Ohio Historic Preservation Office Archaeology Survey and Data Manager (see contact information below) to obtain Ohio Shipwreck Inventory (OSI) number.
3. Download and review instructions for completing Ohio Shipwreck Inventory.
4. Download blank Access database and record results of your research.
5. Document the wreck location by collecting longitude and latitude coordinates at the center point on the keel of the vessel.
6. Plot the coordinates on a Great Lakes nautical chart to document the vessel location. Map should be no larger than 8.5 x 11 and be of adequate scale to clearly depict the location of the vessel(s) in reference to the shoreline.
 - Charts can be downloaded from the NOAA Office of Coast Survey website at:



<http://www.charts.noaa.gov/OnLineViewer/GreatLakesViewerTable.shtml>

7. Burn completed Microsoft Access Shipwreck database file to CD. You do not need to send a paper copy of each shipwreck, as forms will be printed at the State Historic Preservation Office on archival paper.

Include the following on the CD:

- Access Shipwreck Database
- Nautical Chart with location of wreck(s) plotted
- Site Plan (optional)
- Side Scan (optional)
- Historic Images in either .TIF or .BMP format (optional)

Where possible, shipwrecks should be photographed using digital photography. Photographs of non-embedded shipwrecks should include shots of the wrecked vessel, artifacts, and important features. Embedded shipwrecks should be photographed without removing bottom sediments or encrustations. All photographs should be clearly labeled with OSI number and, where possible, contain scales and compass points. When the identity of a shipwreck is known, photographs of the wrecked vessel when afloat and of the actual wreck event should be obtained, where they exist.

- Newspaper articles regarding the ship and/or wreck (optional)

Completed OSI submissions of less than 5 MB (zipped) can be emailed to the Archaeology Survey and Data Manager (mailto: ArchSurvey@ohiohistory.org). For larger projects, please label all images, maps and scans with the OSI number and mail CD to:

State Historic Preservation Office
800 E. 17th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43211-2474
Attn: Archaeology Inventory Survey Manager