DISCOVER SAN DIEGO’S WRECK ALLEY

MAGNIFICENT MISSISSIPPI DIVING

EXPLORE THE JUG LONG ISLAND’S WRECK

FUN AND FANTASTIC POMPANO BEACH, FL

HEAVENLY & SPECTACULAR HOOD CANAL, WA

LOVE DIVING? Philippines!
Wreck divers enjoy exploring the remains of sunken ships for a variety of reasons. Some enjoy the thrill of recovering artifacts, others marvel at the plethora of marine life that often inhabit these artificial environments, and still others crave the adrenaline rush of diving deeper and penetrating further inside the ghostly remains of a once proud vessel. But almost all wreck divers are enamored of studying the history of the particular wreck they are visiting, poring over old articles and stories trying to unlock the mysteries of the past. It is this connection with history that makes shipwreck diving such a rewarding and colorful sport.

The seafloor in the waters off New York and New Jersey is littered with the remains of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of shipwrecks. Although there are some very famous shipwrecks here, many are mundane vessels with forgotten histories. Some remain unidentified to this day.
For many years, northeast divers explored an unidentified shipwreck off the southern shores of Long Island near Shinnecock Inlet—it was commonly unknown as the “Jug Wreck.” A low lying pile of wreckage sitting in 130 FSW, the identification of the wreck site eluded divers until Ron Barnes, of the Aquarians Dive Club, surfaced with the ship’s bronze windlass cover during a dive in the late 1980s. Emblazoned on the artifact were the words: “John C. Fitzpatrick, American Ship Windlass Co. Providence RI, 1892. F.W. Wheeler & Co. Shipbuilder, West Bay City, Michigan.”

This artifact proved to be the key to solving the riddle of the “Jug Wreck.”

Built in 1892, the John C. Fitzpatrick was a four-masted wooden schooner measuring 242 feet in length with a 39-foot beam and a 16-foot draft. She displaced 1,277 gross tons.

Eleven years later on Friday April 3, 1903, after having been converted to a barge, the John C. Fitzpatrick was being towed by the tugboat Sweepstakes from Philadelphia to New Bedford, MA loaded with 2400 tons of bituminous coal when her boiler blew up. She sank almost immediately, taking her crew of five with her including George Davis, the barge’s Captain from Philadelphia and
John Nelson of New London, Connecticut. Interestingly, the *John C. Fitzpatrick* was involved in another tragedy a year earlier. On March 17, 1902 while being towed by the same tugboat from Newport News, VA to Boston, MA along with the barge *Wadena*, the barges struck Shovelful Shoal, off the southern end of Monomoy Island, Cape Cod. Several days later, with worsening weather approaching, the few sailors remaining on the barges signaled distress to the nearby Life Saving Station on Monomoy Island. What followed was a tragic attempt at rescue that resulted in the deaths of twelve men, five crewmembers of the two barges and seven crewmembers of the Life Saving Station. This incident is often referred to as one of the worst Life Saving disasters off Cape Cod.

Today, the wreckage of the *John C. Fitzpatrick* lies in 130-140 FSW about 10 miles southeast of the Shinnecock Inlet. The wreck is low lying and scattered across a wide swath of ocean floor. For divers who are experienced to visit these depths, the wreck is an ideal hunting ground for large lobsters. Divers will also find Red Hake, Atlantic Cod, Flounder and Fluke along with Black Sea Bass and occasional pelagics that make

![Photo Courtesy Chris Weaver & Mike Salvarezza, Eco-Photo Explorers](image)
Long Island Divers Association

LIDA is a not-for-profit regional organization dedicated to the promotion of local diving and is staffed completely by volunteers.

Special thanks to our Sponsors

- Stingray Divers
  www.stingraydivers.com
- Captain Mike’s Diving
  www.captainmikesdiving.com
- King’s County Diving
  www.kcdivers.com
- QC Scuba
  www.qcscuba.com
- RV Garloo
  www.garloocent.com
- Swim and Scuba
  www.swimandscuba.com
- Discover Diving
  www.ddwny.com
- Dive Master Services
  www.scubadms.com
- Jeanne II
  www.jeanne-ii.com
- National Aquatic Service
  www.nationalaquatic.com
- Oceanblue Divers
  www.oceanbluedivers.com
- Pan Aqua Diving
  www.panaqua.com

Serving the Long Island and Greater New York Diving Community for More Than 25 Years!