

F.W. Abrams

U.S. Flagged Merchant Tanker



Vessel History

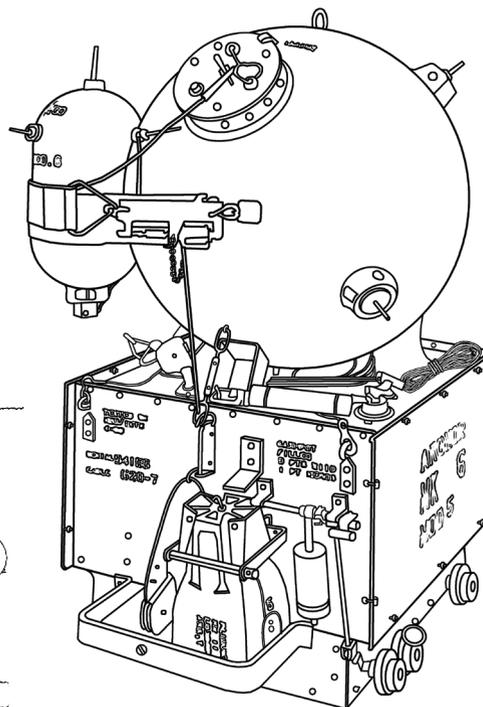
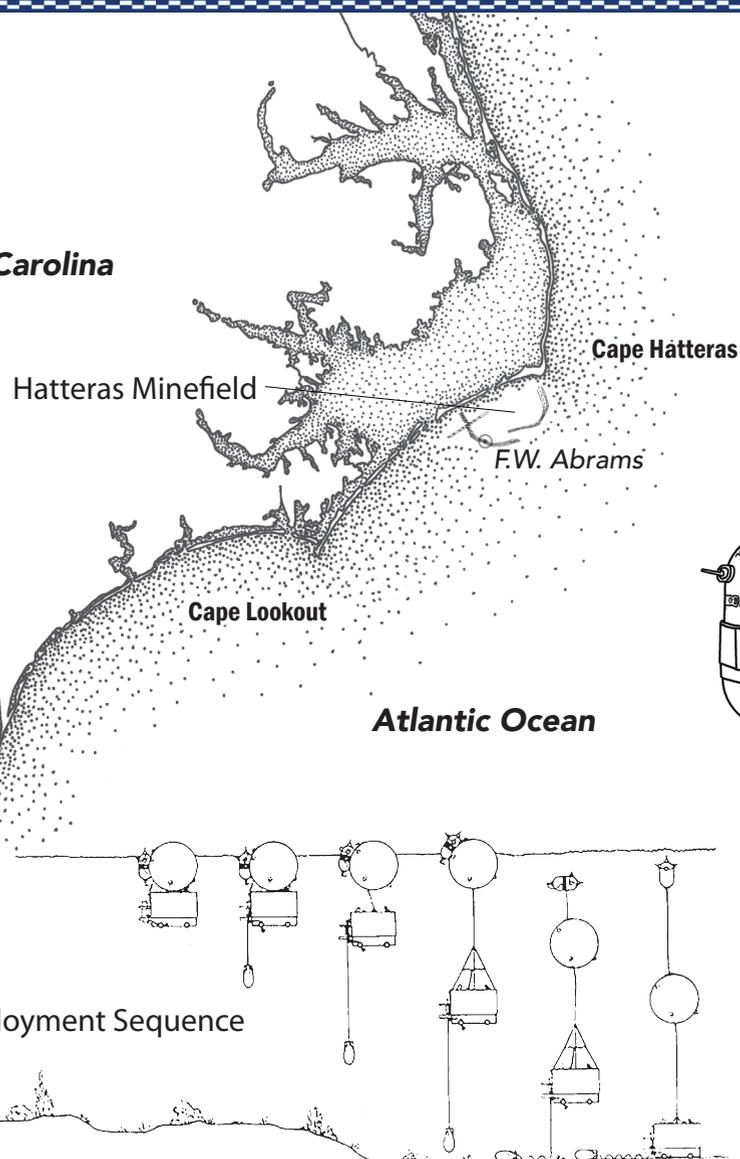
Built: 1920, New York Shipbuilding Corporation - Camden, New Jersey

Owner: Standard Oil Company, New Jersey

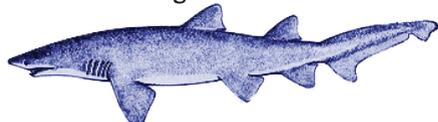
History: Launched in 1920 for Grace Line Inc., the ship was originally named *Nora* until it was sold to Standard Oil in 1932 and renamed *F.W. Abrams*. The tanker was 467.6' long, 62.7' abeam, had a depth of 31.3' for a gross tonnage of 9,310, and was outfitted with three oil fired boilers that provided steam to a quadrupel expansion steam engine. During WWII, *Abrams* fulfilled a critical service delivering bulk oil for the War Shipping Administration as part of the Western Hemisphere Supply Line. From the outbreak of hostilities until its sinking, *Abrams* carried a total of 3,748,828 barrels for the war effort.

Loss: The destruction of *F.W. Abrams* was an unfortunate accident. Rather than enemy action, *Abrams* sank from "friendly fire." In the spring of 1942, the U.S. Navy established a defensive minefield off the coast of Hatteras due to a lack of deepwater ports. It consisted of two overlapping crescents with a total of 2,635 Mark VI sea mines (left image). On the morning of June 11, 1942, *F.W. Abrams* left the minefield anchorage escorted by CG-484, carrying 90,000 barrels of crude oil. Thick fog, confusion, and poor communication between Captain Coumelis, master of *Abrams*, and CG-484 resulted in the two vessels losing contact. *Abrams*, believing they were clear, inadvertently struck three submerged mines that destroyed the ship. All crew were saved, but the vessel was a total loss. The minefield was ultimately a failure, succeeding only in destroying friendly ships. It was later swept, but records indicate only about half of the mines were actually removed.

North Carolina



Sand Tiger Shark



Odontaspis taurus

Greater Amberjack



Seriola dumerili

Marine Life Commonly Found on the *F.W. Abrams* Site

<https://monitor.noaa.gov/shipwrecks>
Visit us online to learn more!

Great Barracuda



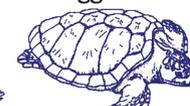
Sphyraena barracuda

Northern Sea Robin



Prionotus carolinus

Loggerhead



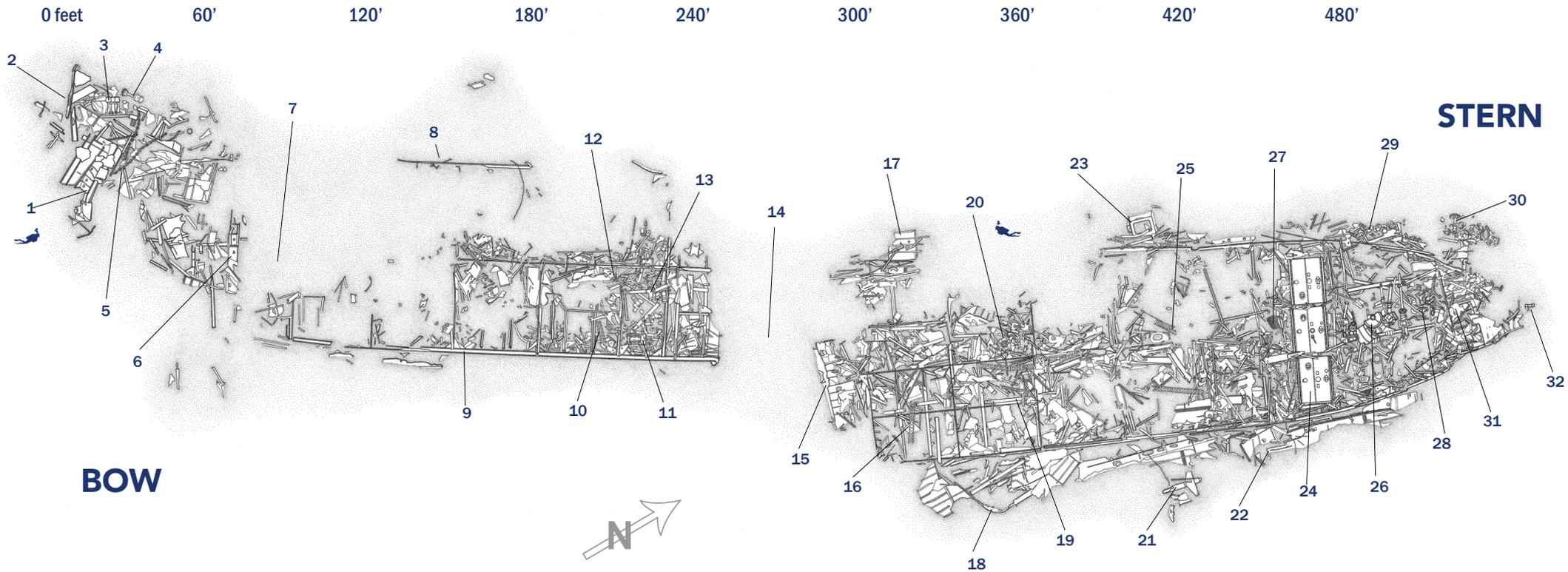
Caretta caretta

GPS Coordinates: N34° 59.407'
 Depth: 80fsw W75° 48.060'
 Skill Level: Intermediate

U.S. Flagged
 Tanker

F.W. Abrams

Archaeological Site Plan



- 1 Forward Bulkhead
- 2 Port Bow Hawse Pipe
- 3 Small Auxiliary Engine
- 4 Capstan
- 5 Anchor Chain
- 6 Fore-Area Cargo Bulkhead
- 7 Hull Breach (Mine Damage)
- 8 Starboard Hull Plate Remains

- 09 Longitudinal Stringer (Port)
- 10 Access Ladder
- 11 Cargo (Oil) Transfer Pump
- 12 Wiring Remains and Debris
- 13 Cargo Transfer Piping
- 14 Hull Breach (Mine Damage)
- 15 Midships Bulkhead
- 16 Access Ladder

- 17 Midships Bulkhead (Damage)
- 18 Upper Deck and Hull Debris
- 19 Cargo Transfer Piping
- 20 Cargo Loading Machinery
- 21 Mast and Cross-Tree Remains
- 22 After Superstructure Remains
- 23 Deck Access Combing
- 24 Boilers and Engineering

- 25 Access Ladder
- 26 Quadruple Expansion Engine
- 27 Condensing Rods
- 28 Torpedo Container Brackets
- 29 Engineering Area Debris
- 30 Stern Capstan
- 31 Propulsion System Gears
- 32 Stern Post

Take Only Pictures ~ Leave Only Bubbles!

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