

# Welcome to the Seaway Trail

*New York State's National Scenic Byway... the road that leads to great adventures and lifelong memories for you and your family.*

The New York State Seaway Trail is a 454 mile scenic route paralleling the St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario, the Niagara River and Lake Erie. Seaway Trail Pennsylvania continues the route 50 miles along Lake Erie to the Ohio state line. A well-marked alternative to interstate highways and toll roads, the Seaway Trail leads to eye-opening treasures you might otherwise overlook. Traveling the Trail takes you to sophisticated cities, quaint villages, fishing ports, and dozens of family attractions, restaurants, accommodations and shops. Come visit us soon. We'll help make your next vacation one you'll remember for a lifetime.



Use the green and white trailblazers along the Seaway Trail to guide you on your journey from West Springfield on Lake Erie to Rooseveltown on the St. Lawrence. Each marker features footprints and a watermark reminding you that the route parallels NYS's and Pennsylvania's freshwater coastline.



NYS Seaway Trail is proud to have been selected as a National Scenic Byway by the U.S. Department of Transportation. National Scenic Byways "possess outstanding qualities that exemplify the regional characteristics of our nation." The Seaway Trail was chosen for its unique landscape which has been sculpted by the forces of nature and for its historical significance.



"Dive the Seaway Trail" and enjoy some of the Northeast's finest freshwater diving sites, with a full complement of Wreck, Shoal, Deep, and Historical diving. For over two centuries the lake and rivers have been major shipping thoroughfares. Today, the Seaway Trail is the final resting place of hundreds of ships, dating back to the late 1700's.

**Experience all the terrific dives of the Seaway Trail!**

## Dive Flag Laws in New York

Once a boat is anchored and diving is about to begin, the vessel must fly a red and white divers down" flag. By law, the boat must also fly the blue and white "Alpha" flag. Divers must stay within 100 feet of the dive flags. Surface vessels must stay a minimum of 100 feet away from the flags. All standard, safe diving procedures relating to towing dive flags must be followed.



## Dive Site Steward



### Oswego Maritime Foundation

41 Lake Street  
Oswego, NY 13126  
315.342.5753  
omf@oswegomaritime.org  
www.oswegomaritime.org

OMF is non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation dedication to public services through maritime related education, recreation and research.



Seaway Trail, Inc.  
315.646.1000  
info@seawaytrail.com  
www.seawaytrail.com



NY Sea Grant  
315.312.3042  
sgoswego@cornell.edu  
www.nyseagrant.org

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# DIVE! the Seaway Trail

*New York State*

## David W. Mills

*Submerged Cultural Preserve & Dive Site*

**Oswego, NY**

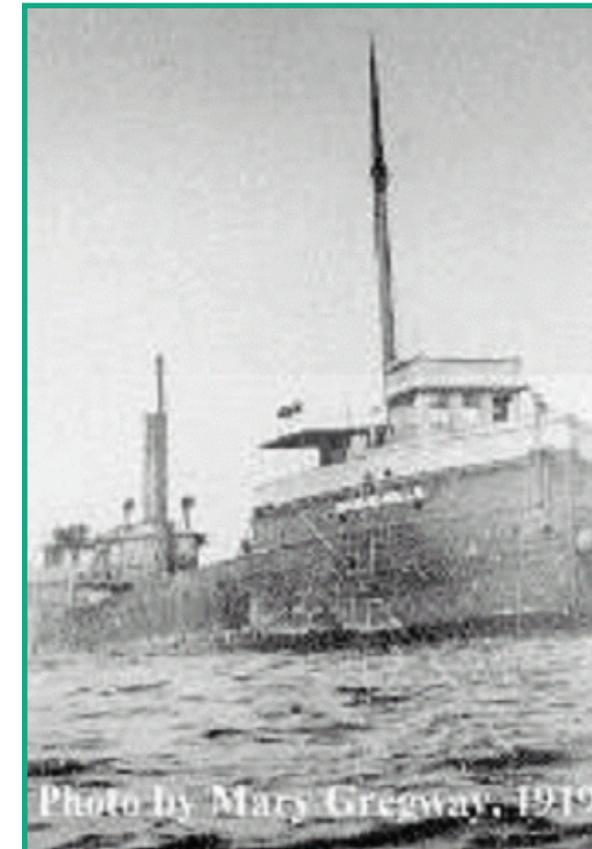


Photo by Mary Gregaway, 1919

## Dive Site Information

**Location:** Four and one-half miles west of the Oswego Harbor Lighthouse, one-half mile offshore, halfway between shore and the Ford Shoals buoy (G"7").

**GPS:** N43.26.555 W076.35.094

**Access:** Boat Only.

**Depth:** 12-25 feet.

**Visibility:** 20 to 100 feet. Average 45 feet.

**Temperature:** 40 to 73 degrees F.

**Skill Level:** Basic open water diver.

**Bottom:** Flat and rocky.

**Hazards:** Lake Ontario weather is unpredictable and can change very rapidly from good to severe. Weather conditions and unexpected weather changes should be a constant consideration. Strong currents may be present if seas are running 3 feet or higher.

**Description:** The vessel has broken into large sections, allowing visitors to examine ship construction techniques. Prominent features include the intact keel with its 11-foot propeller, and anchors, winch, engine, boiler, rudder, various pieces of machinery, and large sections of hull.

The diving season is typically May through mid-October. May to early June and late summer are the best times to dive.

## Emergency Information

**US Coast Guard Station Oswego:**

**Marine Band Radio: Channel 16**

**Phone: 315.343.1551**

Oswego County Emergency: 911

Oswego Hospital: 315.349.5511

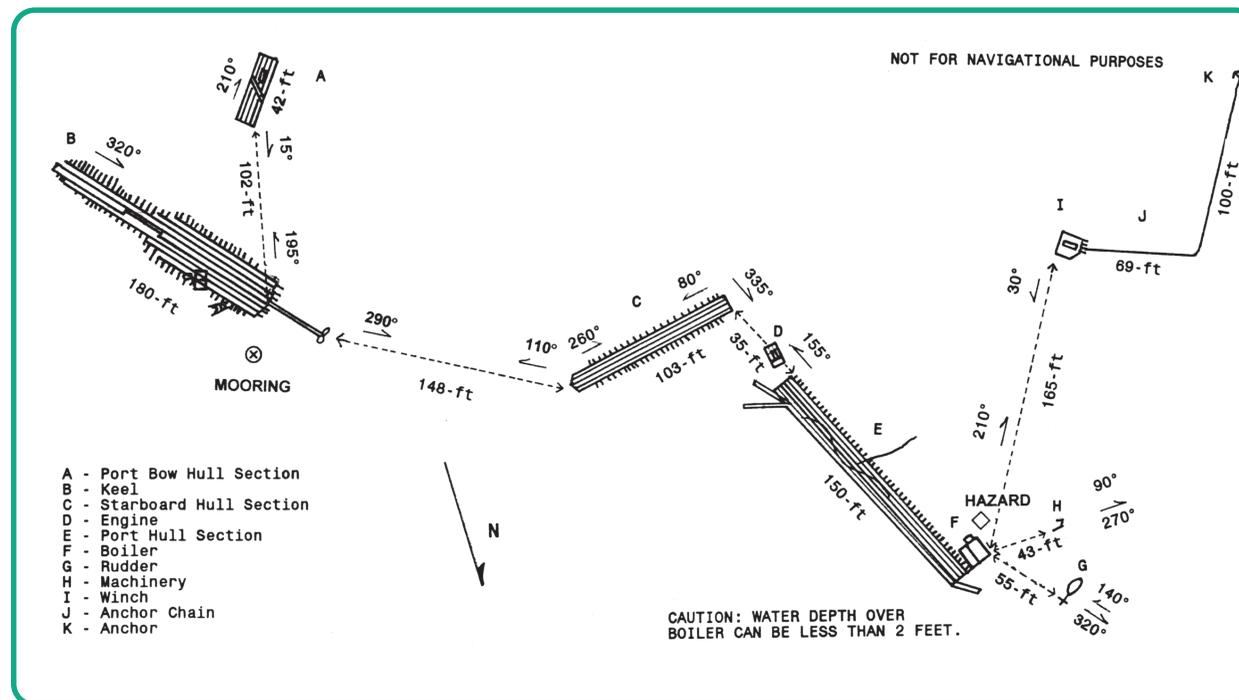
Divers Alert Network: 919.684.8111

The nearest recompression chamber is at the SUNY Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse.

Referrals should be made through the Oswego Hospital.

## The Wreck of the David W. Mills

\*\*\*A New York State Submerged Cultural Preserve & Dive Site\*\*\*

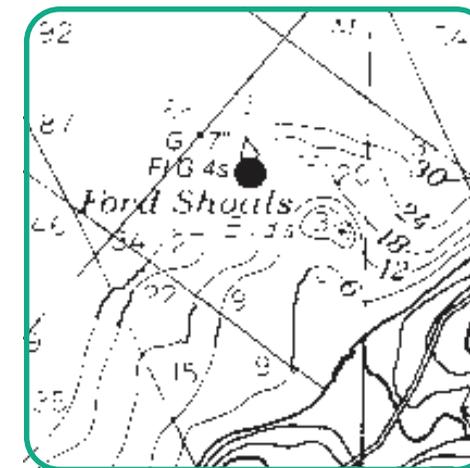


The *David W. Mills* was a typical Great Lakes cargo vessel of the late 19th century. Measuring 202 feet by 34 feet by 13 feet, this wooden "steambarge" could carry over one million board feet of lumber. Built by Thomas Quayle and Sons Shipyard, the vessel was originally named *Sparta* and was launched at Cleveland, Ohio on April 11, 1874. The vessel was renamed in 1910 after the manager of the Port Huron Navigation Company, the firm that owned the ship. Captain Frank J. Peterson bought the *Mills* in 1919.

The *Mills* ran aground on Ford Shoals on August 11, 1919 in dense smog created by forest fires in Canada. Attempts to free the boat failed and it broke apart during a violent October storm.

From 1991 to 1994, the wreck site was mapped by the Oswego Maritime Foundation (OMF). On May 3, 2000, the *Mills* was designated as New York State's first Submerged Cultural Preserve and Dive Site in Lake Ontario. A mooring buoy is provided from late May through mid-October for easy access by divers, snorkelers, and boaters. Please direct comments, reports of damage, or buoy problems to OMF at 315.342.5753.

## NOAA Chart 14803



## Site Markings



MOORING



HAZARD

Take only pictures...

...leave only bubbles

Abandoned submerged items resting within the jurisdiction of New York State are the property of New York State. New York State Education Law Article 5, Section 233, states "...no person shall appropriate, excavate, injure or destroy any objects of archaeological and paleontological interest, situated on or under lands owned by the state of New York, without written permission of the Commissioner of Education. Violation of this provision shall constitute a misdemeanor."