MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

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The Future of Shipwrecks and Underwater Cultural Heritage in Australia and New Zealand

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Dave Moran and Dive New Zealand
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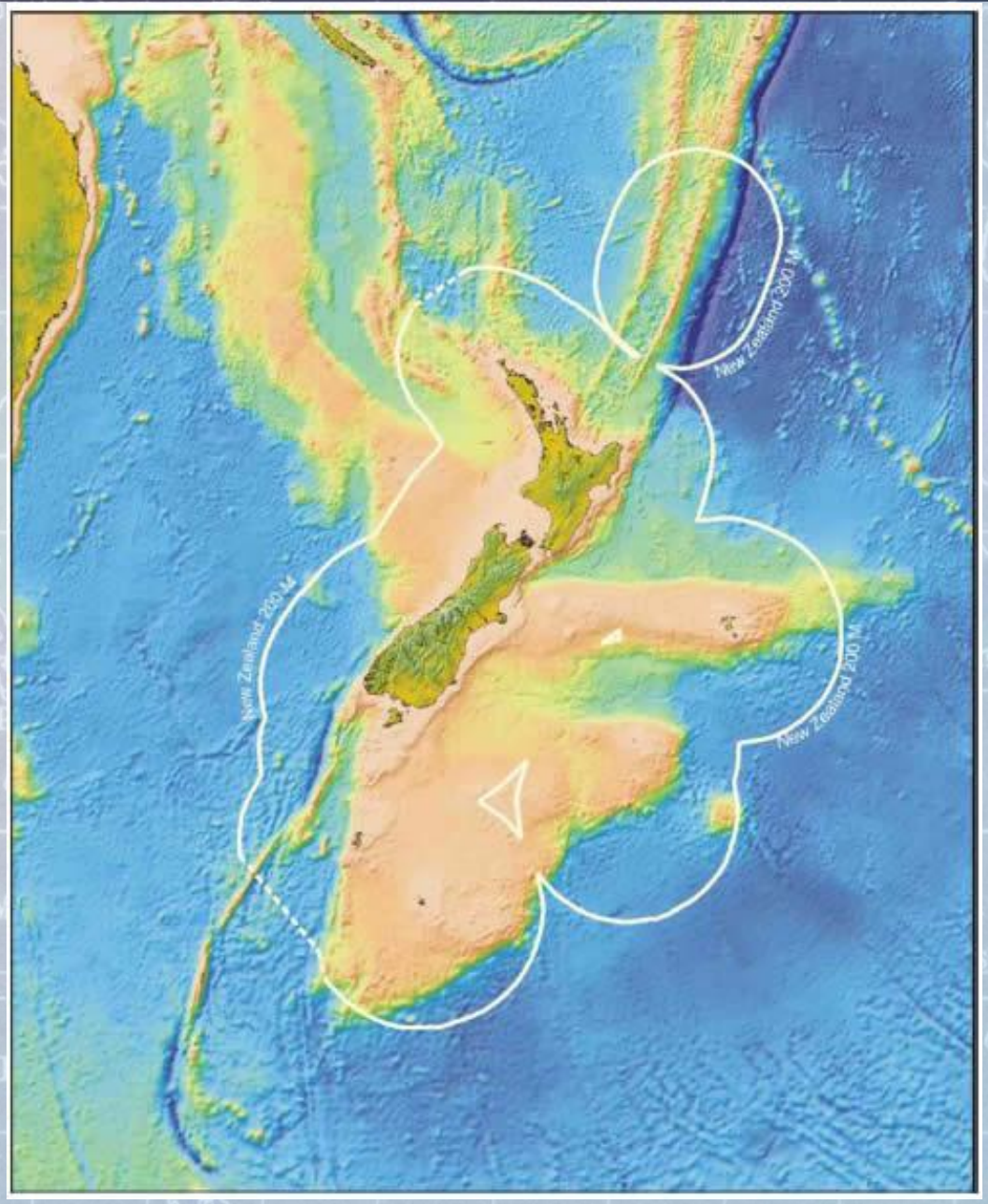
New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone



Courtesy of the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences

New Zealand

Coastline:

- 15,000 Kilometres - 10th longest.

Exclusive Economic Zone:

- approximately 4 million square miles – 5th largest.

New Zealand has also expanded its maritime boundaries over the adjacent continental shelf under UNCLOS.

Royal New Zealand Navy:

- 2 frigates;
- 2 logistic support vessels;
- 2 offshore patrol vessels;
- 4 inshore patrol vessels.

Royal New Zealand Navy in Antarctic Waters

New Zealand

Wreck Sites:
Around 2,500 although many of these have been obliterated by the turbulent sea conditions.

Earliest wreck recovery:
Two of the three anchors lost by *de Surville* in 1769.

Worst decade for wrecks:
1860's, totalling 491.

Worst year for wrecks: 1865, totalling 101.

Worst site: Hokitika and its bar.

Image courtesy of Dave Moran and Dive New Zealand
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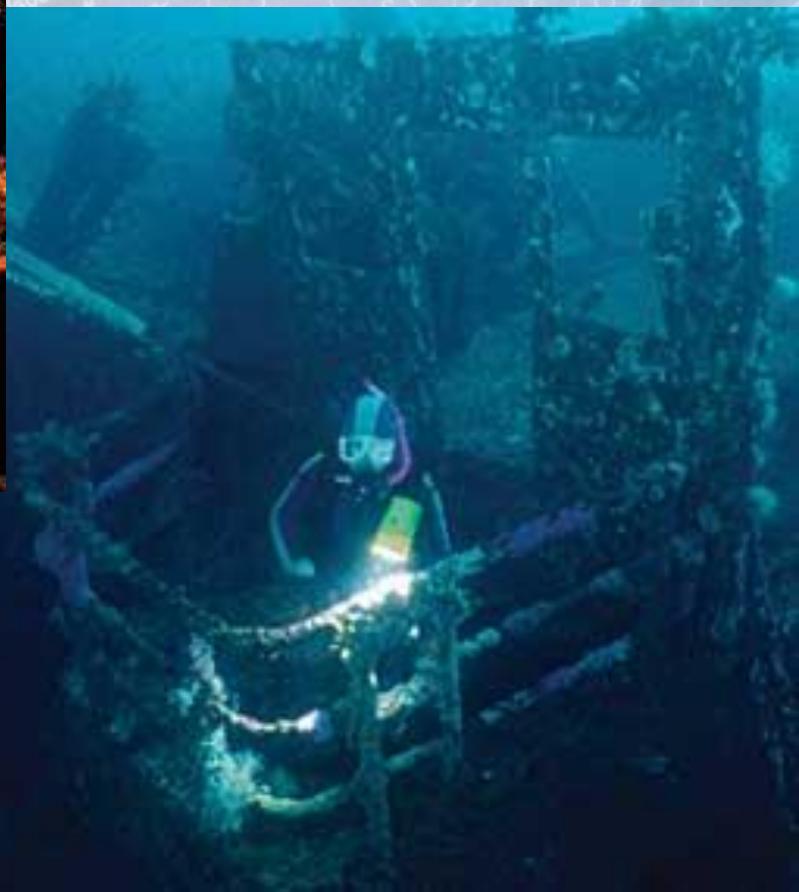

Images courtesy of Dave Moran and Dive New Zealand (www.divenewzealand.com)

Mikhail Lermontov

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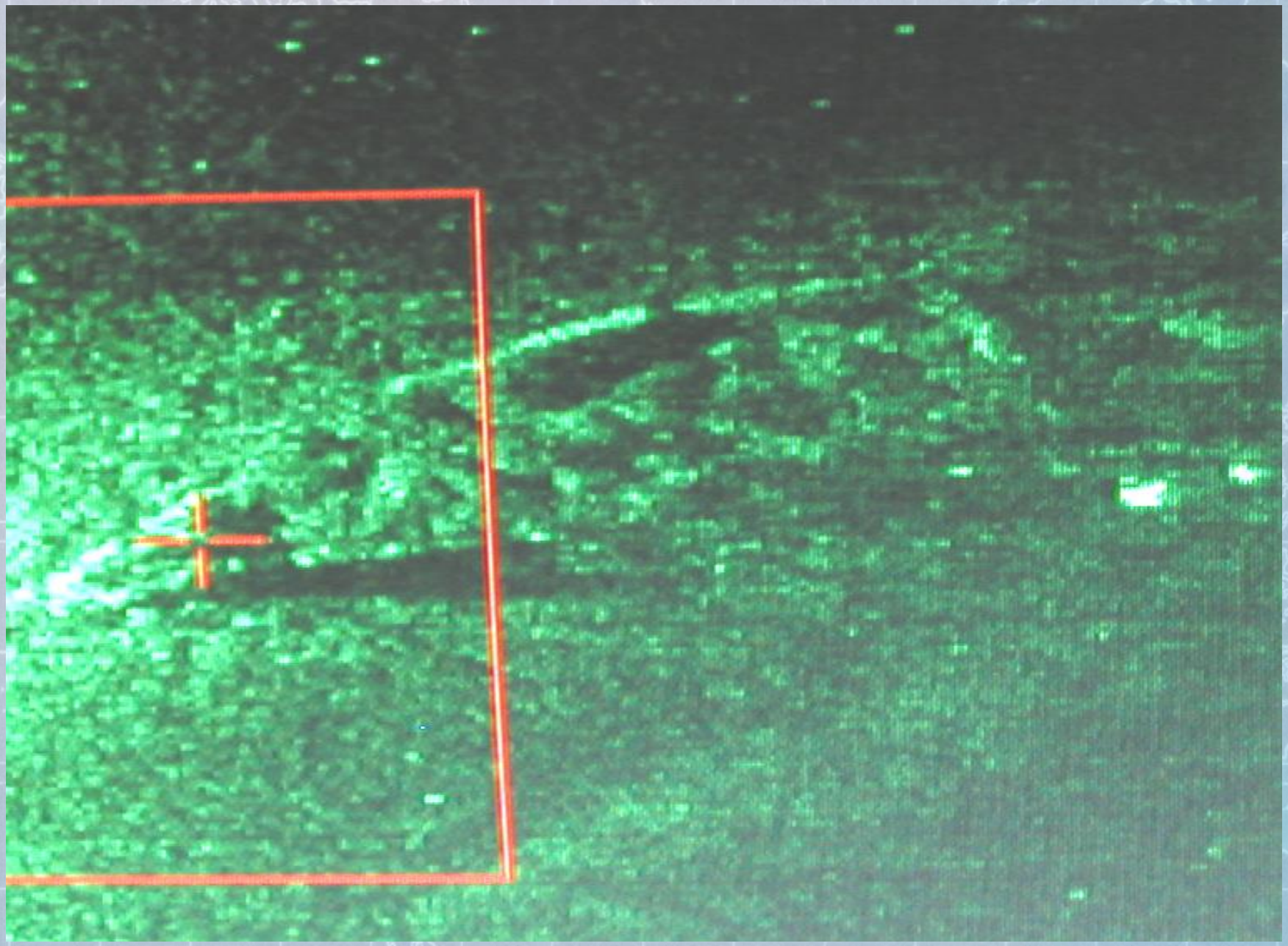
Side scan sonar image of The *Boyd*



Illustrations from *Deep Water Gold* by Keith Gordon
(published by SeaROV Technologies Ltd)

Image courtesy of Dave Moran and Dive New Zealand
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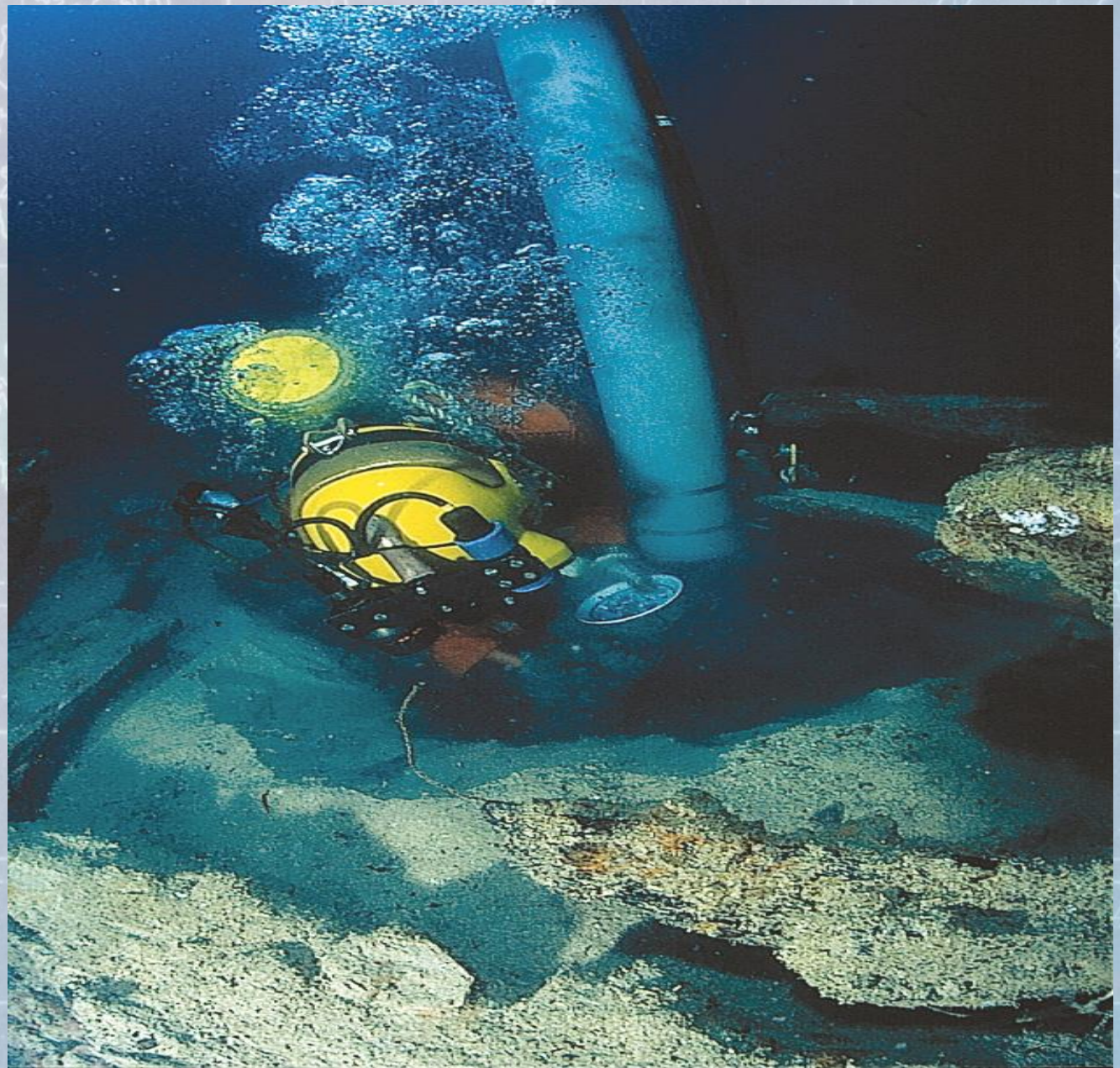
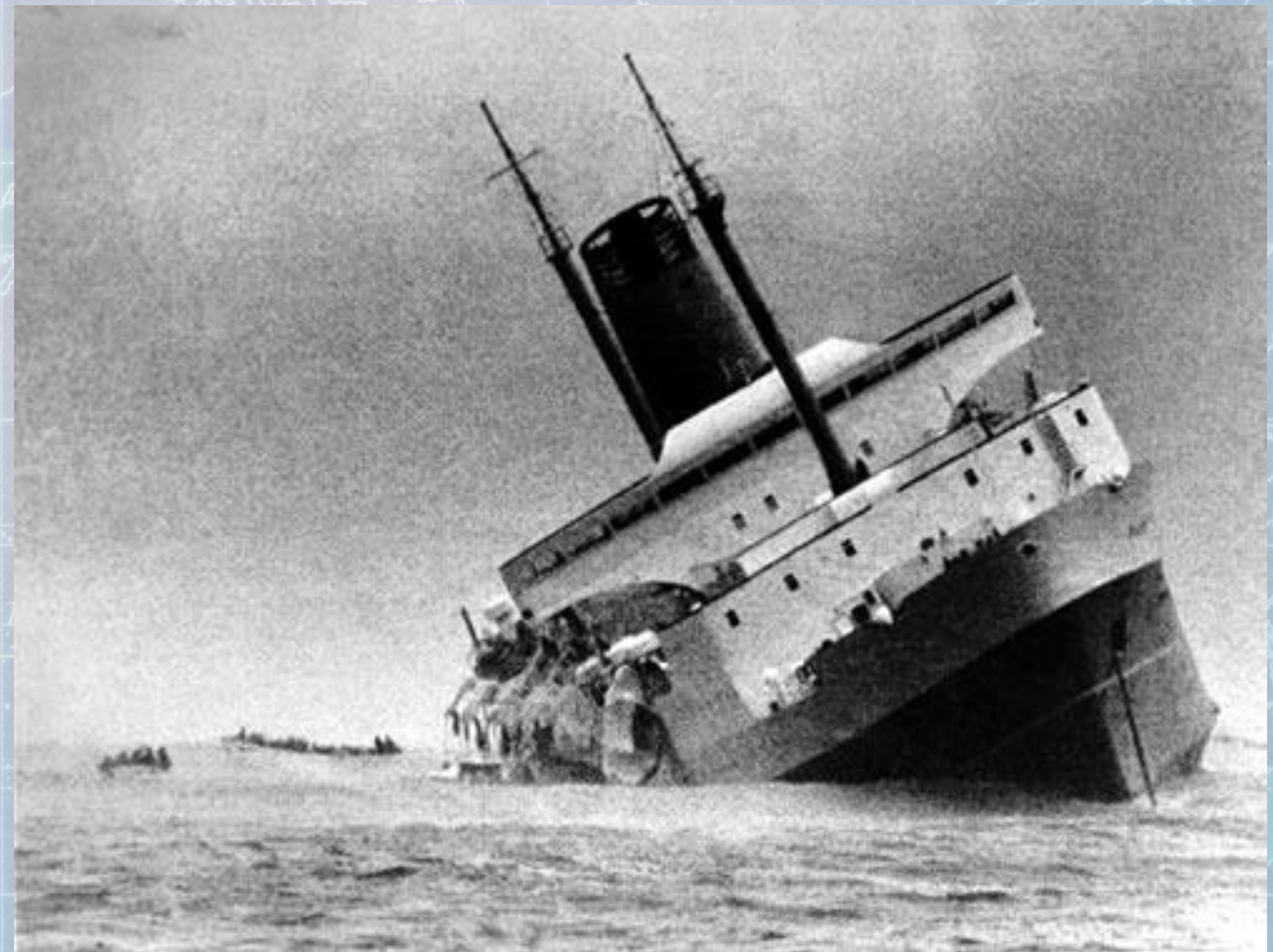


Side timbers of a boat in Lake Waikaremoana

Possible site of *General Grant* at Auckland Islands

The *Wahine* lists heavily to starboard near Steeple Rock in Wellington Harbour 10/04/68



Relevant Conventions

New Zealand has ratified:

- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) signed 1982 effective 1994.
- The International Convention on Salvage IMO 1989.

But has yet to ratify:

- The UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage 2001.
- The Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks 2007.

Unratified Conventions

Nairobi Wreck Convention 2007

- Entered into effect 14 April 2015.
- 46 States Parties (including Denmark, Germany and the United Kingdom).
- 73.16% of World Shipping Tonnage.

UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage

- Entered into effect 2 January 2009.
- 61 States Parties.
- Concentrated around the Mediterranean (including France, Italy and Spain), the Black Sea and the Caribbean but only New Caledonia, Tahiti, Wallis and Futuna and part of Micronesia in the South Pacific so far.

"Underwater cultural heritage" **means all traces of human existence having a cultural, historical or archaeological character which have been partially or totally under water, periodically or continuously, for at least 100 years such as:**

- **sites, structures, buildings, artefacts and human remains, together with their archaeological and natural context;**
- **vessels, aircraft, other vehicles or any part thereof, their cargo or other contents, together with their archaeological and natural context; and**
- **objects of prehistoric character.**

Pipelines and cables placed on the seabed shall not be considered as underwater cultural heritage.

Installations other than pipelines and cables, placed on the seabed and still in use, shall not be considered as underwater cultural heritage.

UNESCO's Standard Setting Work

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Internal Oversight Office

Evaluation Office

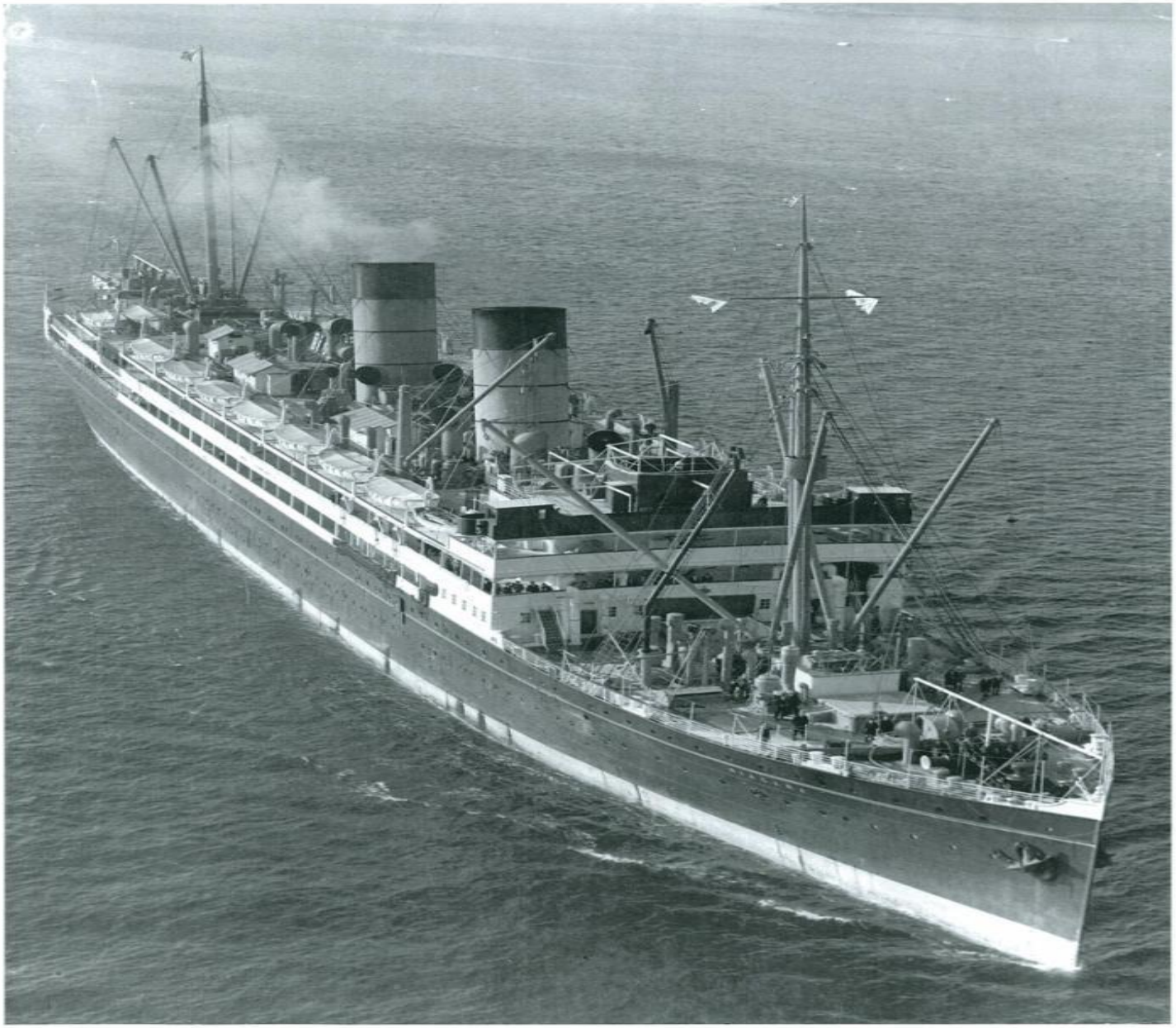
IOS/EVS/PI/174

May 2019

EVALUATION OF UNESCO'S STANDARD-SETTING WORK OF THE CULTURE SECTOR – PART VI – 2001 CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE

Cannon from the *Half Crown* wreck

RMS Niagara



The first gold bar

Illustrations from *Deep Water Gold* by Keith Gordon
(published by SeaROV Technologies Ltd)

RMS Niagara fan

Illustrations from *Deep Water Gold* by Keith Gordon
(published by SeaROV Technologies Ltd)

The Daring

The Daring

SS Hikitia - Wellington Harbour

SS Hikitia - Laboratory

Conserved signal gun

What may happen if not conserved

The *Inconstant* under the old Bank of New Zealand building

Inconstant display

Sinking the F69

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