

## Kevin's Best Visibility Wrecks - Lake Erie Central Basin

Since the dive season is fast approaching, I thought it was appropriate to review my log books for the past four years (1998-2001) and see what the average visibility was on the wrecks in the central basin of Lake Erie. Only the wrecks that were dove enough to be statistically significant were considered, which resulted in 14 wrecks being analyzed.

The results showed that the overall average visibility was 11', the average minimum visibility was 5', and the average maximum visibility was 20'. The best visibility was 35', and this was recorded on three separate wrecks: the *Dundee*, *S. F. Gale*, and *Duke Leudtke*. Very close maximum visibilities of 30' were also recorded on the *Admiral* and the *Queen of the West*.

A seasonal analysis showed the following average visibilities and average minimum and maximum visibilities.

May-Jun: 7' (3'-11')

Jul-Aug: 14' (7'-23')

Sep-Oct: 6' (4'-8')

As no surprise, the best time to dive was found to be the summer (July and August). The second best time to dive was the spring (May and June), followed very closely by the fall (September and October). Both the spring and fall were almost identical, and both were only half the values of the summer.

The top 5 wrecks - as far as average visibility is concerned - were the following.

- 1.) 19', *Duke Leudtke*
- 2.) 17', *Dundee*
- 3.) 15', *Queen of the West*
- 4.) 13', (tie) *S. F. Gale* & *Admiral*
- 5.) 10', *Two Fannies*

The worst wrecks were the following.

- 6.) 9', *Pridgeon*
- 7.) 6', (tie) *Sand Merchant*, *Mecosta*, & *Morning Star*
- 8.) 4', (tie) *Craftsman*, *117th Street Wreck*, & *Ivanhoe*
- 9.) 3', *Butters*

Next time, we'll look at the average visibility of the eastern basin wrecks of Lake Erie.