

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

Keeping with my geeky tendencies, here's the second part of my visibility analysis for Lake Erie. This month covers the eastern basin. I looked at my log books over the past four years (1998-2001) and analyzed what the average visibility was. Only the wrecks that were dove enough to be statistically significant were considered, which resulted in 15 wrecks.

The results showed that the overall average visibility was 53', the average minimum visibility was 34', and the average maximum visibility was 68'. The best visibility was 100', and this was recorded on two separate wrecks: the *Straubenzie* and *Schooner B*. A very close maximum visibility of 90' was recorded on the *Crystal Wreck*, and 80' was seen on the *Betty Hedger*, *Oxford*, *Boland*, *Dean Richmond*, and *Passaic*.

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

May-Jun: 43' (28'-44')

Jul-Aug: 56' (42'-67')

Sep-Oct: 47' (35'-60')

As with the central basin, the best time to dive was found to be the summer (July and August). Unlike the central basin, however, there was a noticeable difference with the fall (September and October) as the second best time to dive. The worst time to dive by a noticeable margin was the spring (May and June).

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

- 1.) 75', *Crystal Wreck*
- 2.) 70', (tie) *Betty Hedger*, *Oxford*, & *Straubenzie*
- 3.) 63', *Dean Richmond*
- 4.) 57', (tie) *Schooner B* & *Tradewind*
- 5.) 50', *Acme*

The lesser visibility wrecks were the following.

- 6.) 47", *Boland*
- 7.) 42', *Indiana*
- 8.) 35', (tie) *Passaic*, *Brunswick*, *Carlingford*, *St. James*
- 9.) 33', *Atlantic*