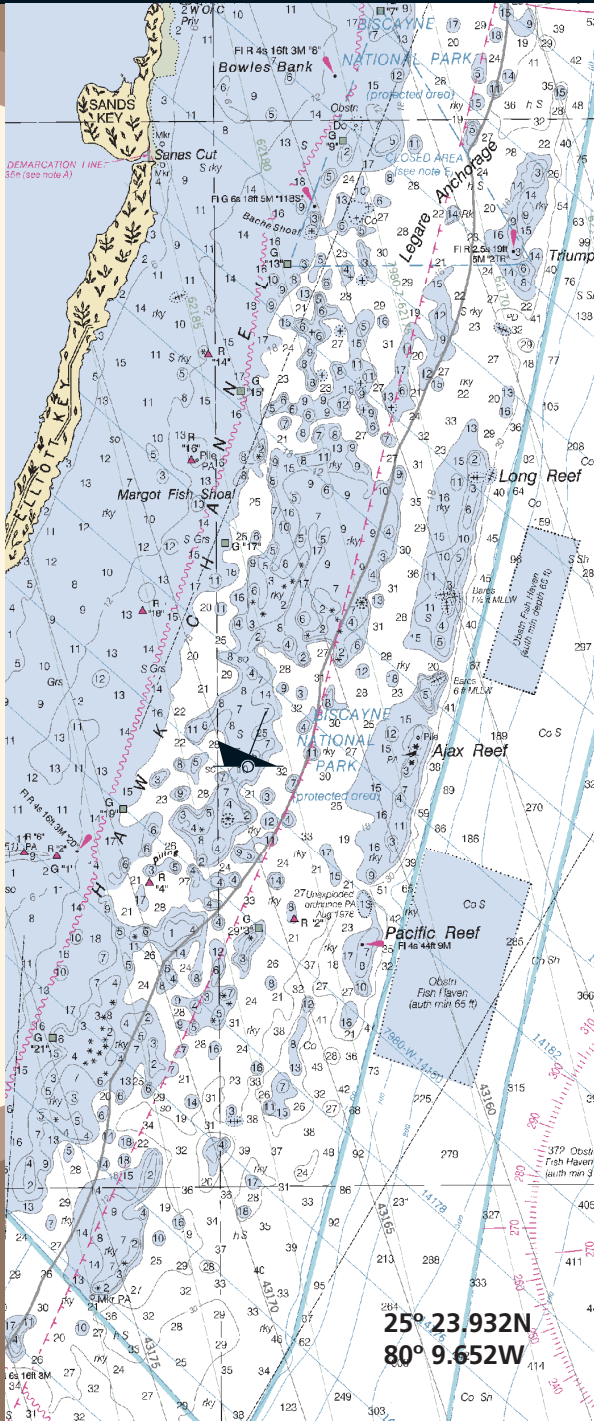


LOCATION



Biscayne

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Biscayne National Park was established as a national monument in 1968. In 1980 it was expanded to its current size of 173,000 acres and designated a national park to protect a rare combination of terrestrial and undersea life, to preserve a scenic subtropical setting, and to provide an outstanding spot for recreation and relaxation. The park is dedicated to the preservation and public enjoyment of natural and cultural resources.

Visit us online at: www.nps.gov/bisc



FLORIDA PUBLIC
ARCHAEOLOGY
NETWORK

The Florida Public Archaeology Network is dedicated to the protection of cultural resources, both on land and underwater, and to involving the public in the study of their past. Regional centers around Florida serve as clearinghouses for information, institutions for learning and training, and headquarters for public participation in archaeology.

Find out more at: www.flpublicarchaeology.org

Biscayne

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Biscayne National Park

Biscayne National Park Maritime Heritage Trail

19th Century Wooden Sailing Vessel



Ballast stones reveal the final resting place of an unknown vessel who met her fate over 100 years ago.



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History

Very little is known about the site commonly called the “Schooner Wreck,” and, in fact, it is not clear whether the ship actually was a schooner or if the term was generally attributed to a shipwreck of unknown type or origin. The site contains little evidence of cargo and, like most of the historic wrecks in Biscayne National Park, the ship was likely salvaged after sinking. The ship’s stone ballast is basalt, though its exact origins are unknown. Ballast is not a unique marker for a ship’s origin or even for its last port of call, as it was commonly loaded and offloaded as needed. Ballast was often moved from one ship to another and was frequently shared after offloading between two or more ships for ongoing voyages.

The presence of rigging elements and iron fasteners throughout the site, as well as the size of the ballast piles and remaining wooden structural elements, points to a small to medium sized sailing vessel from the 19th century. She probably represents a fairly typical working sailing vessel from the Florida Keys. Her port of origin, destination, and the fate of those on board are, at this point, unknown.

You are reminded that this site, like all our shared resources in Biscayne National Park, is protected by law. Please use moorings. Do not disturb or remove anything from the site. Theft or disturbance of archaeological resources in a national park is punishable by severe civil and criminal penalties.

Remember: Take Only Pictures, Leave Only Bubbles.



Diver Level: Open Water / Snorkel
Maximum Depth: 15 feet
Moorings Approximate,
Anchoring Prohibited

Location: 25° 23.932N, 80° 9.652W