



## Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary



*Queen of the Lakes* remains upright and intact with all three masts still standing after sinking with a cargo of coal in 1906. Photo courtesy of Jill Heinerth



Visitors can learn more about maritime heritage in Oswego. Photo: NOAA



Tibbetts Point Lighthouse sits where Lake Ontario meets the St. Lawrence River. Photo: Matt McIntosh/NOAA

Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary is America's 16th national marine sanctuary and the third in the Great Lakes. The area encompasses 1,722 square miles of eastern Lake Ontario waters and bottomlands adjacent to Jefferson, Oswego, Cayuga, and Wayne counties in the state of New York. Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary will celebrate the region's maritime cultural history and provide new opportunities for research, education, recreation, and maritime heritage-related tourism in local coastal communities.

The sanctuary includes a diversity of nationally significant underwater assets, including archaeological sites, shipwrecks, and submerged aircraft. Many of the shipwrecks in the sanctuary were discovered by recreational scuba divers and shipwreck explorers, and embody more than two centuries of the nation's modern history. Through co-management with the state of New York, NOAA will work to ensure future generations can learn about and explore these underwater treasures.

### America's Maritime Past

Eastern Lake Ontario is a historically rich area where the long relationship between human activity and the maritime environment has created meaning and a sense of place. An intriguing window into history lies on the shores and bottom of Lake Ontario. Forgotten shipwrecks and archaeological resources, hidden in these cold fresh waters, are among the best preserved in the world, offering a chance to learn, share, and connect to the past. The lands and waters hold cultural, spiritual, and historical significance to the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, who populated the area thousands of years ago.



Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary encompasses 1,722 square miles of eastern Lake Ontario waters. Photo: NOAA

# Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary

## Location

Eastern Lake Ontario

## Protected Area

1,722 square miles

## Designation

Summer 2024

## By the Numbers

41 known shipwrecks and 1 aircraft

19 shipwrecks and 3 aircraft not yet located



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### On the Web

Contact: Ellen Brody

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[sanctuaries.noaa.gov/lake-ontario](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/lake-ontario)

## Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Network of marine protected areas

Encompasses more than 620,000 square miles

Established October 1972

### On the Web

[sanctuaries.noaa.gov](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov)

Facebook: NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Instagram: @noaasanctuaries

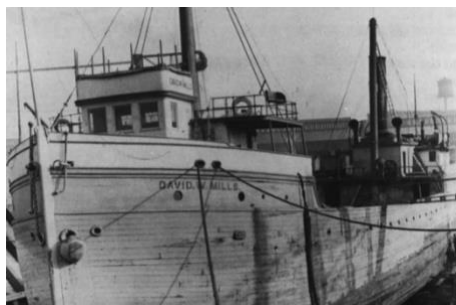
Twitter: @sanctuaries

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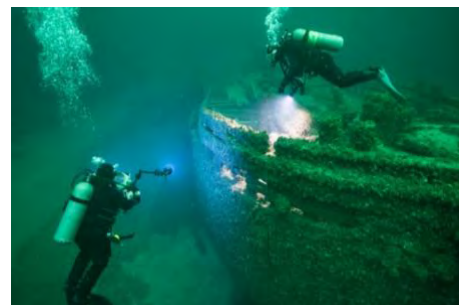
YouTube: [youtube.com/user/sanctuaries](https://youtube.com/user/sanctuaries)



Sanctuary Advisory Council members volunteer at a NOAA display during an outreach event at the H. Lee White Maritime Museum in Oswego. Photo: NOAA



The wreck of the steamer *David W. Mills*, a 19th century cargo vessel, lies within the sanctuary. Photo courtesy of the Collection of Bowling Green State University



*St. Peter* is a historic Great Lakes schooner that sank in 1898 near Pultneyville, New York. Photo: NOAA