MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND
Federal Conference
Auckland 11-13 September 2019

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

Piers Davies
Consultant
Wackrow Williams & Davies Limited
For permission to use these photos our thanks go to:

Dave Moran and Dive New Zealand
Dr Simon Mitchell
Keith Gordon
Museum of Wellington City & Sea collection
Bill Laxon Maritime Library,
Voyager New Zealand Maritime Museum, Auckland
Alexander Turnbull Library, National Library of New Zealand,
Wellington
Mary O'Keeffe, Malcolm McGregor,
Maritime Heritage Trust of Wellington, Mike Pryce,
Jack Fry and Neil Price
Lynton Diggle
Royal New Zealand Navy
UNESCO
Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences
Ross Blair
New Zealand’s Exclusive Economic Zone

Courtesy of the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences
New Zealand

Coastline:
• 15,000 Kilometres - 10\textsuperscript{th} longest.

Exclusive Economic Zone:
• approximately 4 million square miles – 5\textsuperscript{th} 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.
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.
Images courtesy of Dave Moran and Dive New Zealand (www.divenewzealand.com)
Mikhail Lermontov

Image courtesy of Dave Moran and Dive New Zealand (www.divenewzealand.com)
Side scan sonar image of The Boyd
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
New Zealand has ratified:


But has yet to ratify:

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.
Cannon from the *Half Crown* wreck
The first gold bar
RMS Niagara fan
Illustrations from *Deep Water Gold* by Keith Gordon
(published by SeaROV Technologies Ltd)
The Daring
Conserved signal gun
What may happen if not conserved
The *Inconstant* under the old Bank of New Zealand building
Inconstant display
Sinking the F69
Image courtesy of Dave Moran and Dive New Zealand (www.divenewzealand.com)