

Environmental impact of shipwrecks

See also EN from Sweden.

Traditionally, the purpose to gain information on shipwrecks and other obstructions is to determine their potential danger for shipping and fisheries. In the light of an increasing concern about the vulnerability of the environment especially in the Baltic Sea, it becomes more and more important to classify shipwrecks also with regard to their environmental impact. This could for example mean to inspect wrecks more closely and allocate information/parameters about:

- If bunker oil is still onboard;
- The likeliness of leaks;
- The kind of cargo and goods;
- The probability of explosives or other dangerous material.

Germany proposes to discuss

- up to which amount such enhanced investigations as mentioned above are being seen as duties of Hydrographic Offices;
- whether there are projects scheduled or planned related to that topic;
- on their views about national or international coordination on that matter.