

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

1305 East-West Highway Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

MAR - 6 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR:

CAPT Greg Stump, Commanding Officer, Sector San Francisco.

FROM:

Robert Schwemmer,

Regional West Coast Maritime Heritage Coordinat

Lisa Symons,

Damage Assessment and Resource Protection Coordinato

James Delgado,

Director of Maritime Heritage

SUBJECT:

Sonar Data Site Characterization MV Fernstream

REF:

USCG-NOAA MOA-2009-20/7848

## General Background

Three recent surveys of opportunity in 2013, allowed for a more detailed assessment of the wreck of *Fernstream*, a RULET target classified as a High/Medium Risk, and the highest ranked potentially polluting wreck in U.S. Coast Guard District 11. The original assessment notes

"For the Worst Case Discharge, Fernstream scores High with 15 points; for the Most Probable Discharge (10% of the Worse Case volume), Fernstream scores Medium with 13 points. Given these scores, and higher level of data certainty, NOAA recommends that this site be reflected within the Area Contingency Plans and be considered for further assessment to determine vessel condition, amount of oil onboard, and feasibility of oil removal action. At a minimum an active monitoring program should be implemented."

Table 1. Original summary matrix for the vessel risk factors for the Fernstream

Vess	el Risk Factors	Data Quality Score	Comments	Med  Not Scored	
	A1: Oil Volume (total bbl)	Low	Maximum of 12,500 bbl, not reported to be leaking		
	A2: Oil Type	Medium	Bunker oil is diesel oil, a Group II oil type		
Dellusian Detection	B: Wreck Clearance	High	Vessel not reported as cleared		
Pollution Potential Factors	C1: Burning of the Ship	High	No fire was reported		
	C2: Oil on Water	Low	No oil was known to have been reported on the water		
	D1: Nature of Casualty	High	Collision		
	D2: Structural Breakup	High	The vessel remains in one contiguous piece		
Archaeological Assessment	Archaeological Assessment	Low	The best sinking assessment still comes from the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Board of Investigation so a detailed assessment was not prepared		
	Wreck Orientation	Medium	Believed to be on one side		
	Depth	High	150 ft		
	Visual or Remote Sensing Confirmation of Site Condition	High	Location is known and charted	Not Scored	
Operational Factors	Other Hazardous Materials Onboard	High	No		
	Munitions Onboard	High	No		
	Gravesite (Civilian/Military)	High	No		
	Historical Protection Eligibility (NHPA/SMCA)	Medium	Possibly NHPA		



Navigation Response Team 6 (NRT6) from NOAA's Office of Coast Survey conducted multibeam sonar operations on the *Fernstream* site in May 2013; this was followed by side-scan sonar in October and further, detailed 3D scans using a Coda Octopus Echoscope with the San Francisco Police Department's Marine Unit in November 2013. Working with the data from all three surveys, we have characterized the site for the first time, conducting the archaeological assessment previously not possible, due to a lack of information. Based on this new data and characterization, we recommend a revised scoring for this wreck.

## General Observations/Archaeological Assessment

The shipwreck of *Fernstream* as observed from the multi-beam and side-scan sonar data recorded in 2013, Figures 5-6, confirms that the shipwreck sits upright with the forecastle, partial remains of the stern-house and bridge-house, as well as the forward and after mast house structures all visible (Coda Octopus 2013). Figures 4-13 indicate that the hull has suffered from catastrophic collapse of the bridge-house structure, has a severe breach in the steel hull on the starboard side forward of the bridge-house, masts and booms, king posts have all collapsed onto the main deck or possibly shelter deck, and the port side of the wreck is buried deep in sediment. The stern is the highest remaining structure above seafloor, but also in a state of collapse. The shipwreck appears to be listing to port in the bow. At the starboard breach in the hull forward of the bridge-house structure, the bow is no longer in longitudinal alignment with the after part of the hull to the stern. (NOAA 2013). Outside the wreck, the starboard side of the hull shows evidence of scouring of sediment, more prominently in the bow, a typical occurrence with shipwrecks and due to their position on the seafloor in prevailing currents.

Fernstream as designed had nine designated sections between frames with multiple deep tanks that could be utilized to carry bunker fuel as noted in Figures 1-3. The total capacity of these tanks totaled 2,615.6 Oil Tons @ 38 C.F.; 18,925 NUCOS Volume (bbls) and 794,829 NUCOS Volume (gals) with the assumption that oil tones equals metric tons (tonnes) of Diesel, as noted in Figure 1. (Stout 2013). No records or interviews with crewmen of Fernstream at the time of loss have determined which deep tanks carried bunker fuel or other lubricants. This volume is higher than the previous assessment.

In reviewing the ship's plans, No. 3 deep tank(s) hold; positioned forward of the machinery space has the tallest deep tank profile above the ship's keel (MMG 2013). The United Coast Casualty Report states: "The vessels collided at an angle of about 20 degrees. The port bow and stem of the Hawaiian Rancher first came in contact with the port side of the Fernstream just abaft the bridge, damaging the lifeboat and superstructure. It penetrated the hull at the after part of the engine room, damaging the watertight bulkhead to No. 4 hold. The bow of the Hawaiian Rancher withdrew from the hole in the Fernstream within a few seconds" (USCG 1953). The collision impact zone of Fernstream is far aft of the No. 3 deep tank(s) hold on the port side of the vessel, but Hawaiian Rancher's bow may have impacted deep tanks No. 5 between bulkheads No. 3 and No. 4, deep tanks No. 6 aft of bulkhead No. 4. The sonar imagery (Figures 5-6) clearly shows that the port side of the ship's outer hull at the collision zone is buried deep under tons of sediment. Submerged reconnaissance with a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) would not yield useful site characterization data for this region of the shipwreck.

On the starboard side of the shipwreck where the No. 3 deep tank(s) are located, the sonar imagery (Figures 5-6) reveals a severe breach in the hull. Although not related to the collision impact zone, a catastrophic event has caused a major break in the hull, possibly when the freighter impacted the seafloor, was weakened by the collision, or 61 years of degradation of a steel-hull vessel in a saltwater environment caused the hull to collapse on itself. There is a high probability the No. 3 deep tank(s) has also succumbed to the elements or has been impacted by the collapse of the bridge-house structure.

### Conclusions and Updated Risk Assessment

Although an ROV survey may provide some further characterization data, the limited visibility and currents approaching this break in the hull with a tethered vehicle would risk the loss of the ROV. The only possible access to the lower deep tanks would be from the starboard side of the wreck where the sediment has scoured out. Although some observations might be made on the condition of the steel hull, access with an ROV near the lowest part of the vessel is highly unlikely.

The surveys provide information that allows NOAA to update the Vessel Risk Factors used for determining potential pollution risk. NOAA ran a revised Pollution Risk Factor assessment and the Pollution Potential score for the vessel remains medium given that it is not possible to state that the vessel lost all of its bunkers at the time of the casualty.

Based on the detailed sonar data, the state of hull degradation and superstructure collapse of the wreck of MV Fernstream has reduced the structural integrity of the vessel to where much of it is open to the sea and not likely to hold significant amounts of oil. Strong currents and an active deposition of silt as a result of offshore sediment movement, calculated over a 12 day period of observation to be  $59334 \times 10^{4}$  m  $^{3} \pm 4$  m of movement offshore (Wayman 2005) are reflected in the site's characteristics, notably the burial of substantial portions of the vessel's interior, this suggests that although the vessel most likely still contains some diesel bunker fuel and oil lubricants, it is likely trapped beneath the sediments in areas inaccessible to ROV survey.

The scoring of the Fernstream Pollution Potential Factors does not change as noted on Table 2 on the next page. The NOAA recommendation now changes to inclusion within the Area Contingency Plan and active monitoring based on the results of the three surveys of opportunity.

Table 2. Revised summary matrix for the vessel risk factors for the Fernstream

Vess	el Risk Factors	Data Quality Score	Comments	Risk Score	
	A1: Oil Volume (total bbl)	High	Maximum of 18,925 bbl, not reported to be leaking		
	A2: Oil Type	Medium	Bunker oil is diesel oil, a Group II oil type	Med  Not Scored	
	B: Wreck Clearance	High	Vessel not reported as cleared		
Pollution Potential	C1: Burning of the Ship	High	No fire was reported		
Factors	C2: Oil on Water	High	Oil was reported on the water at the time of the collision		
	D1: Nature of Casualty	High	Collision		
	D2: Structural Breakup	High	The vessel is in two pieces		
Archaeological Assessment	Archaeological Assessment	High	Recent sonar surveys reflect significantly reduced structural integrity, with significant sedimentation covering any remaining tanks on the port side.		
	Wreck Orientation	High	Ships sits upright, with the bow listing to port		
	Depth	High	150 ft		
	Visual or Remote Sensing Confirmation of Site Condition	High	Location is known and charted, 3 surveys 2013		
Operational Factors	Other Hazardous Materials Onboard	High	No	Not Scored	
	Munitions Onboard	High	No		
	Gravesite (Civilian/Military)	High	No		
	Historical Protection Eligibility (NHPA/SMCA)	Medium	Possibly NHPA		

#### References

Coda Octopus, November 2013, With San Francisco Police Department Marine Unit MMG, 2013, Maritime Museum of Gothenburg

NOAA May and October, 2013, Office of Coast Survey NRT6 Survey Team

NOAA, March 2013. Screening Level Risk Assessment Package Fernstream

Stout, Jordan, 2013, NOAA Emergency Response Division, provided estimated deep tank capacity calculations based on historic records of similarly designed vessels and report tank capacities listed in ships plans.

USCG, 1953. United States Coast Guard Casualty Report of the collision between MV Fernstream and SS Hawaiian Rancher, Washington DC, 8 May 1953

Wayman, King, 2005. Bedform Migration and Sediment Transport Rates in the Mouth of San Francisco Bay. California State University, Monterey Bay.

Dist: District 11

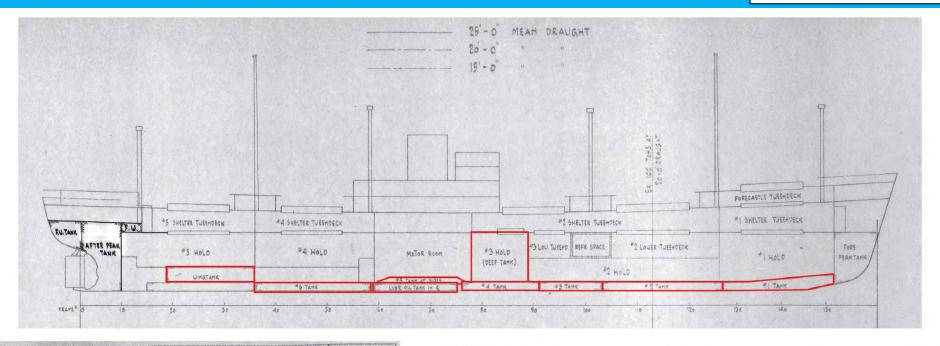
Sector San Francisco

**USCG-MER** 

NPFC ORR

**ONMS** 

# Deep Tanks Designated to Carry Bunker Fuel & Lube Oil



SPECT ON DRAUGHT		SALT	<b>展现的</b>	TANK CAPACITIES OIL		Toris	In III Oil Tons equals metric	tons (tonnes) of Diesel			
ORWARD	AFT	WATER	H 3	COMPARTMENT	PRAME MS	A 38 C.F.	Tank Capacities	M <sup>3</sup>	Oil Tons @ 38 C F	NUCOS volume (bbls)*	NUCOS volume (gals)*
+ 8"	- 41/2	63.0	68.0	FORE PEAK TANK	197 - 57		Fore Peak Tank	63.0	N/A		
101/4"	- 63/8	96.1	95.2	XI TAHK	127 - 152	88.5	#1 Tank	95.2	88.5	640	26,88
1'- 53/8	- 6/8	235.0	253.2	*e	163 - 127	216.6	#2 Tank	233.2	216.6	1,567	65,81
THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE	- 05/9	173.0	171.4	#5 N	91 - 103	158.4	#3 Tank	171.4	158.4	1,146	48,13
73/8"	+ 3/8	228.1	225.8	*4 ·	76 - 91	208.5	#4 Tank	225.8	208.6	1,509	63,37
3/8	+ 103/4"	310.6	307.5	YŞ k	60 - 76	286.1	#5 Tank	307.6	286.1	2,070	86,94
47/8"	+ 1 - 41/4	264.2	241.8	£6 "	75 - 78/60	243.4	#6 Tank	261.8	243.4	1,761	73,96
3-3/8	+ 1-434	1210.8	15.00.4	DEEP TANK	78 - 89	11126	Deep Tank	1,200.0	1,112.6	8,051	338,12
1'-3"	- 2-45/8	327.2	2002	WidaTadic	15/19 - 36	301.4	Wing Tank	324.3	301.4	2,181	91,60
3'-31/4"	+6"	53.2	52.3	DRINKING WATER TANK	10 - 14		Drinking Water Tank	52.7	N/A		
1'-51/2"	107-535-99	224.1	555.0	AFTER PEAK TANK	0-10		After Peak Tank	222.0	N/A		
- 5 3/4	18/4	653	65.0	F.W. TANK IN STERN	167 - 0		FW Tank in Stern	65.0	N/A		
						7 -	TOTALS	3,222.0	2,615.6	18,925	794,82

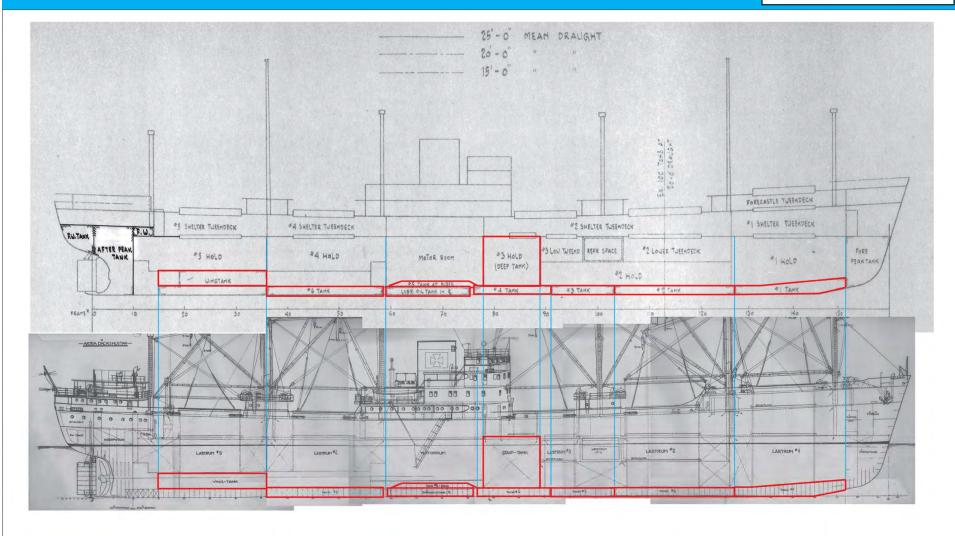
Last modified 07/01/2013

Tanks highlights drawn by Robert Schwemmer, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Tank capacities provided by Jordan Stout, NOAA Emergency Response Division Ships plans courtesy of Maritime Museum of Gothenburg





# Deep Tanks Designated to Carry Bunker Fuel & Lube Oil

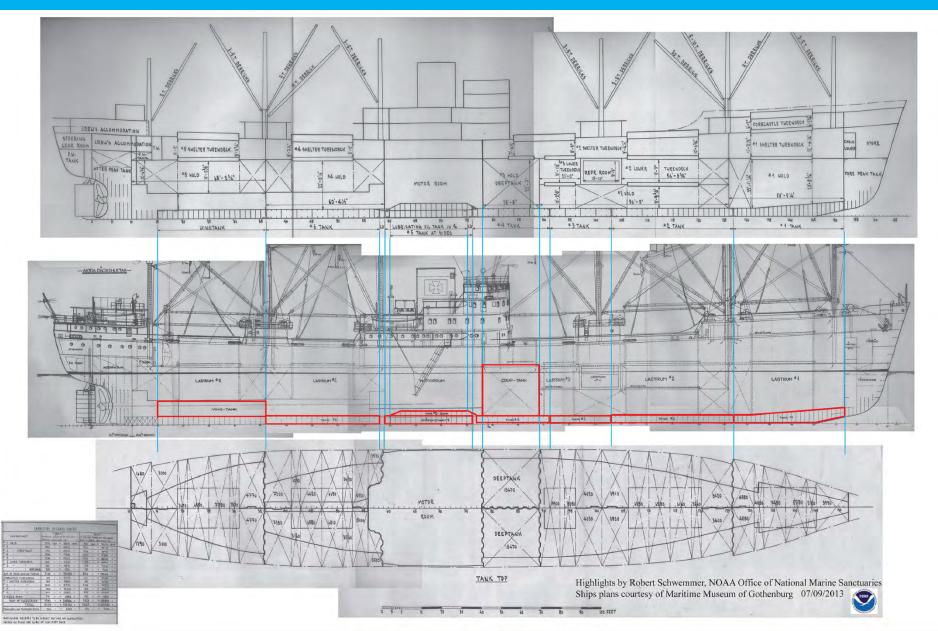


Last modified 07/01/2013

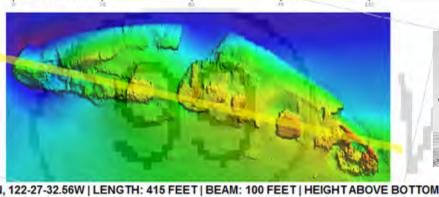
Tanks highlights and mosaic by Robert Schwemmer, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Ships plans courtesy of Maritime Museum of Gothenburg



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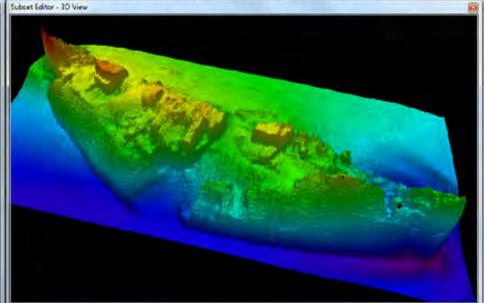


# MV FERNSTREAM FIGURE 4









Chartlet 1 of 8

## WRECK FERNSTREAM, EASTBOUND SAN FRANCISCO TRAFFIC LANE, 0.1 METER RESOLUTION

Preliminary data subject to office review. Soundings corrected using prelimininary observed tides. Data reflects state of sea floor in existence on day and at time the survey was conducted.

This chartlet has been corrected through Notice to Mariners dated 5/11/2013 NOT FOR NAVIGATION



NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Project: NRT-6 Response

Survey: Wreck Fernstream Development

State: California

Locality: San Francisco Bay

Sub-locality: East of the Golden Gate Bridge

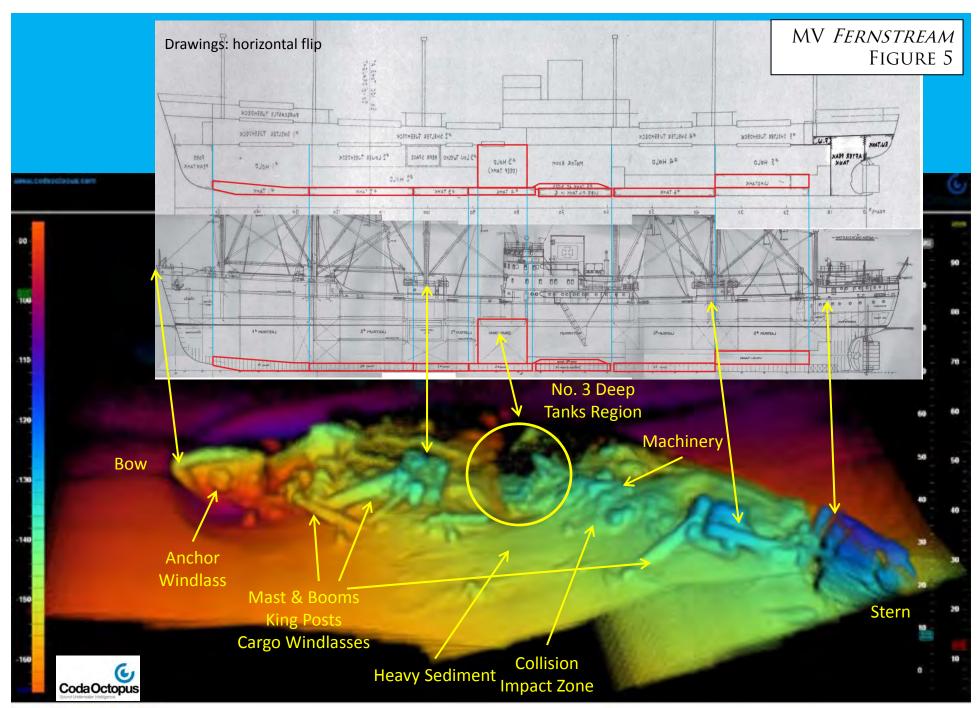
Survey Scale: 1:10,000

Sounding Units: Feet Sounding Datum: MLLW Horizontal Datum: NAD 83 Chart Number: 18650 Chart Edition: 56, Sep./2009

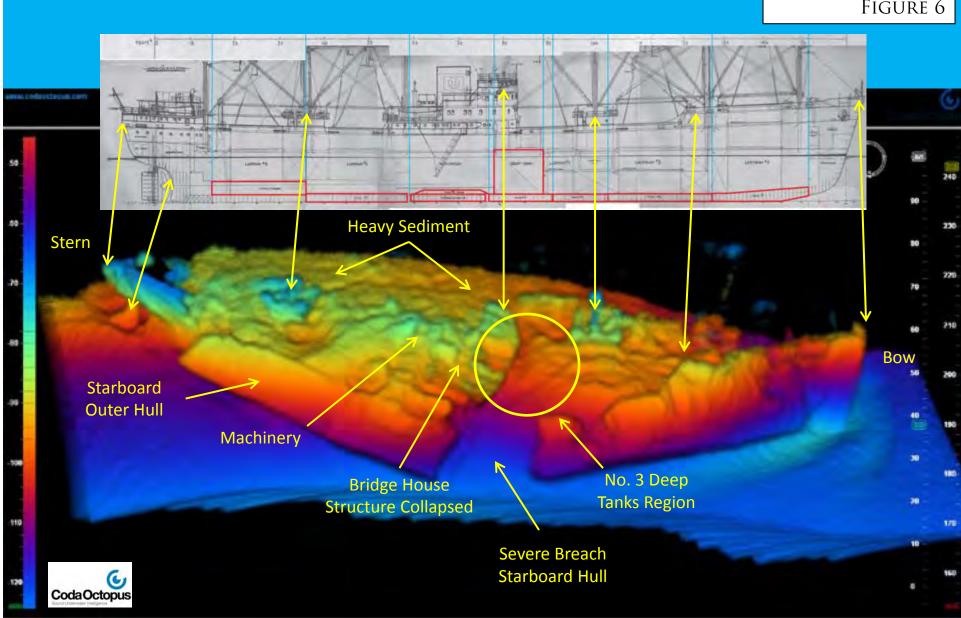
NOS Ref.

NOAA NRT-6 Laura Pagano, Team Lead Ian Colvert **Edmund Wernicke** 



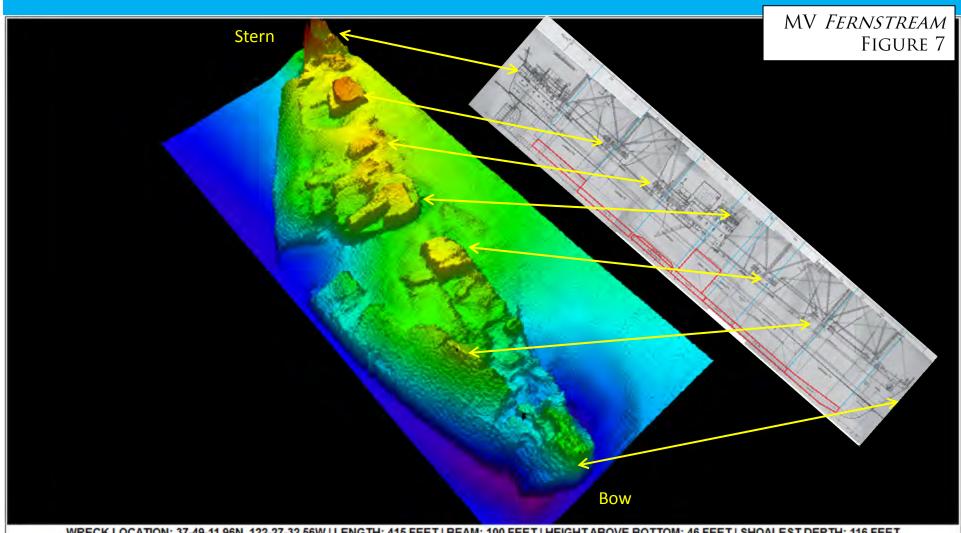


MV FERNSTREAM FIGURE 6



**Looking South** 





WRECK LOCATION: 37-49-11.96N, 122-27-32.56W | LENGTH: 415 FEET | BEAM: 100 FEET | HEIGHT ABOVE BOTTOM: 46 FEET | SHOALEST DEPTH: 116 FEET

Chartlet 6 of 8

### WRECK FERNSTREAM, EASTBOUND SAN FRANCISCO TRAFFIC LANE, 0.1 METER RESOLUTION

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NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Project: NRT-6 Response Survey: Wreck Fernstream Development State: California

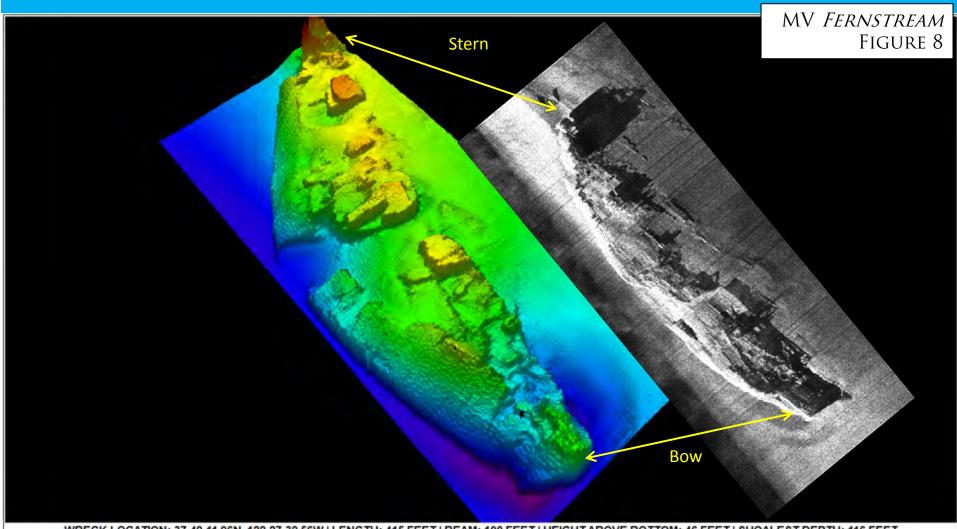
Locality: San Francisco Bay Sub-locality: East of the Golden Gate Bridge

Survey Scale: 1:10,000

Sounding Units: Feet Sounding Datum: MLLW Horizontal Datum: NAD 83 Chart Number: 18650 Chart Edition: 56, Sep./2009 NOS Ref:

**NOAA NRT-6** Laura Pagano, Team Lead Ian Colvert **Edmund Wernicke** 





WRECK LOCATION: 37-49-11.96N, 122-27-32.56W | LENGTH: 415 FEET | BEAM: 100 FEET | HEIGHT ABOVE BOTTOM: 46 FEET | SHOALEST DEPTH: 116 FEET

Chartlet 6 of 8

### WRECK FERNSTREAM, EASTBOUND SAN FRANCISCO TRAFFIC LANE, 0.1 METER RESOLUTION

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NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Project: NRT-6 Response Survey: Wreck Fernstream Development State: California

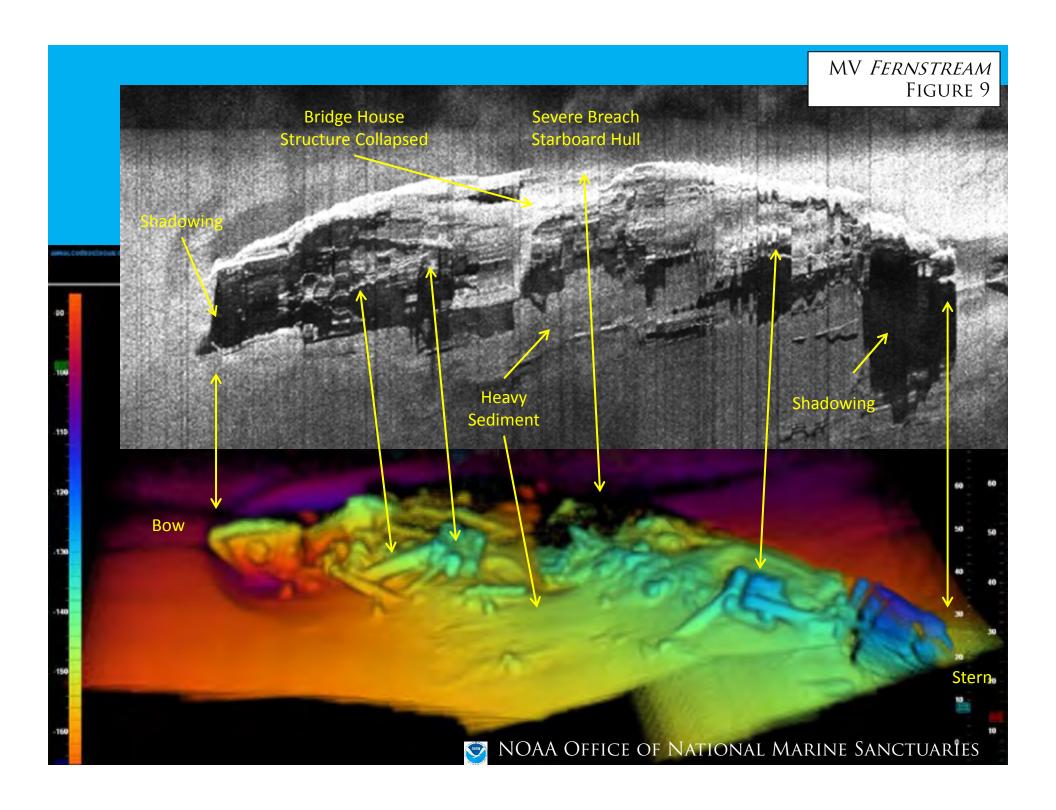
Locality: San Francisco Bay Sub-locality: East of the Golden Gate Bridge

Survey Scale: 1:10,000

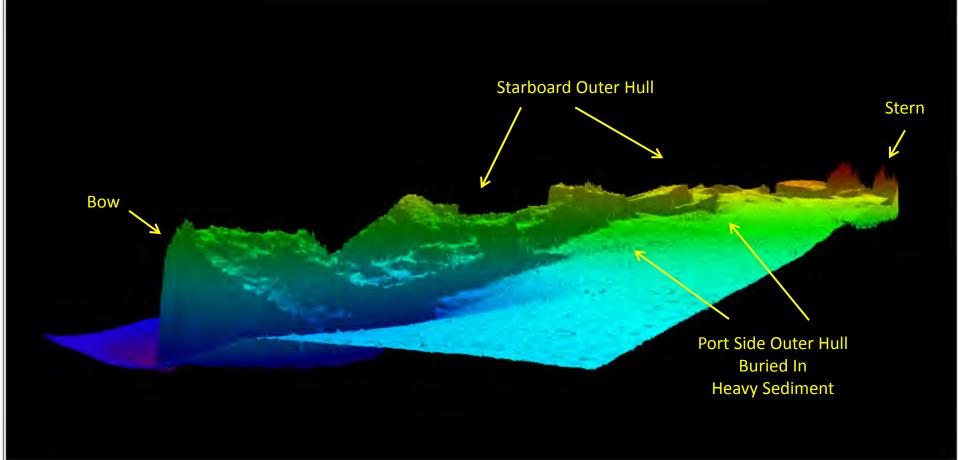
Sounding Units: Feet Sounding Datum: MLLW Horizontal Datum: NAD 83 Chart Number: 18650 Chart Edition: 56, Sep./2009 NOS Ref:

**NOAA NRT-6** Laura Pagano, Team Lead Ian Colvert **Edmund Wernicke** 





# MV FERNSTREAM FIGURE 10



WRECK LOCATION: 37-49-11.96N, 122-27-32.56W | LENGTH: 415 FEET | BEAM: 100 FEET | HEIGHT ABOVE BOTTOM: 46 FEET | SHOALEST DEPTH: 116 FEET

Chartlet 3 of 8

#### WRECK FERNSTREAM, EASTBOUND SAN FRANCISCO TRAFFIC LANE, 0.1 METER RESOLUTION

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NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Project: NRT-6 Response Survey: Wreck Fernstream Development State: California

Locality: San Francisco Bay

Sub-locality: East of the Golden Gate Bridge

Survey Scale: 1:10,000

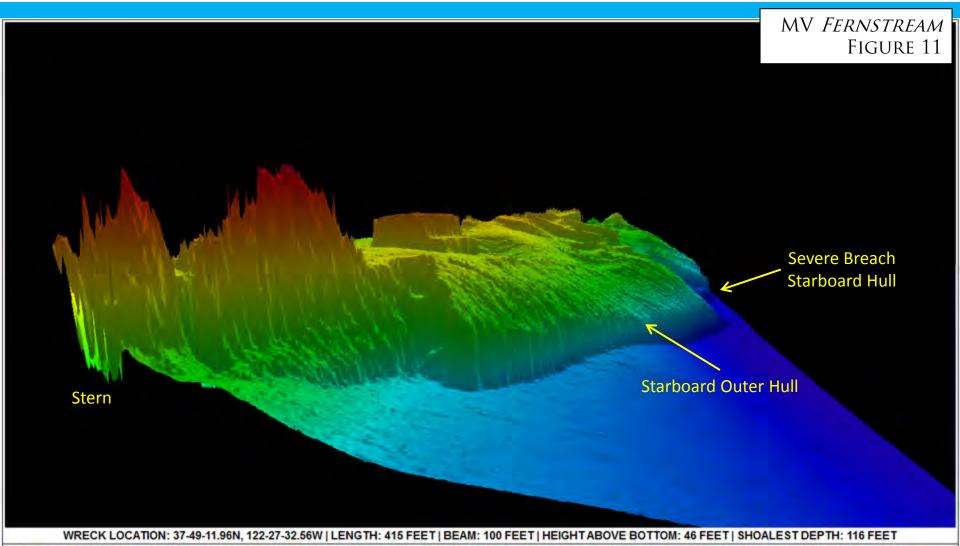
Sounding Units: Feet Sounding Datum: MLLW Horizontal Datum: NAD 83 Chart Number: 18650 Chart Edition: 56, Sep./2009 NOS Ref.

**NOAA NRT-6** Laura Pagano, Team Lead Ian Colvert **Edmund Wernicke** 

Survey Date: July 8, 2013



NOAA OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES



Chartlet 5 of 8

## WRECK FERNSTREAM, EASTBOUND SAN FRANCISCO TRAFFIC LANE, 0.1 METER RESOLUTION

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NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Project: NRT-6 Response

Survey: Wreck Fernstream Development State: California

Locality: San Francisco Bay

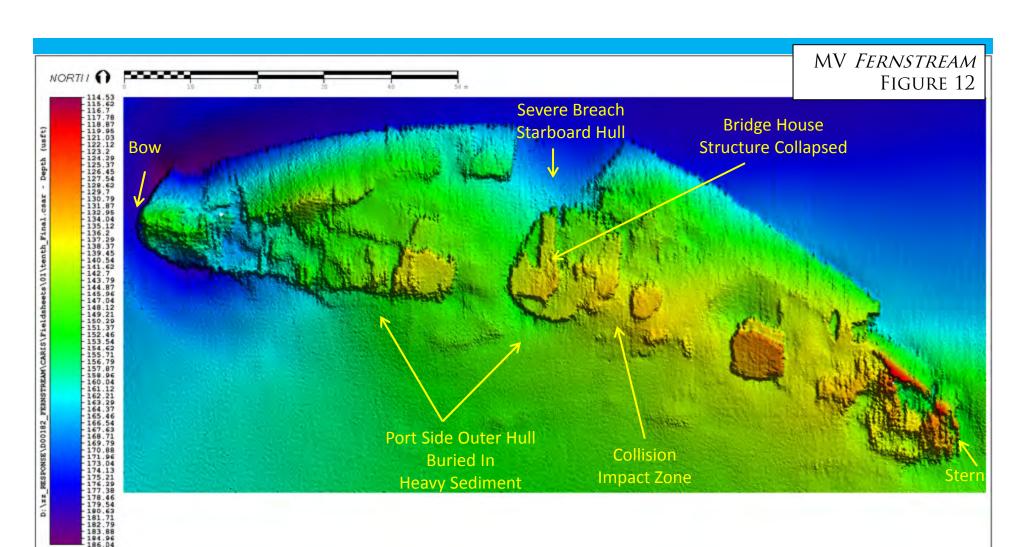
Sub-locality: East of the Golden Gate Bridge

Survey Scale: 1:10,000

Sounding Units: Feet Sounding Datum: MLLW Horizontal Datum: NAD 83 Chart Number: 18650 Chart Edition: 56, Sep./2009 NOS Ref:

**NOAA NRT-6** Laura Pagano, Team Lead Ian Colvert **Edmund Wernicke** 





WRECK LOCATION: 37-49-11.96N, 122-27-32.56W | LENGTH: 415 FEET | BEAM: 100 FEET | HEIGHT ABOVE BOTTOM: 46 FEET | SHOALEST DEPTH: 114 FEET

Chartlet 8 of 8

#### WRECK FERNSTREAM, EASTBOUND SAN FRANCISCO TRAFFIC LANE, 0.1 METER RESOLUTION

Preliminary data subject to office review. Soundings corrected using prelimininary observed tides. Data reflects state of sea floor in existence on day and at time the survey was conducted.

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Project: NRT-6 Response

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Sounding Units: Feet Sounding Datum: MLLW Horizontal Datum: NAD 83 Chart Number: 18650 Chart Edition: 56, Sep./2009 NOS Ref:

**NOAA NRT-6** Laura Pagano, Team Lead Ian Colvert **Edmund Wernicke** 



