

# SS Copenhagen Site Plan

FLORIDA BUREAU OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH MAY 1993

## SHIP FACTS

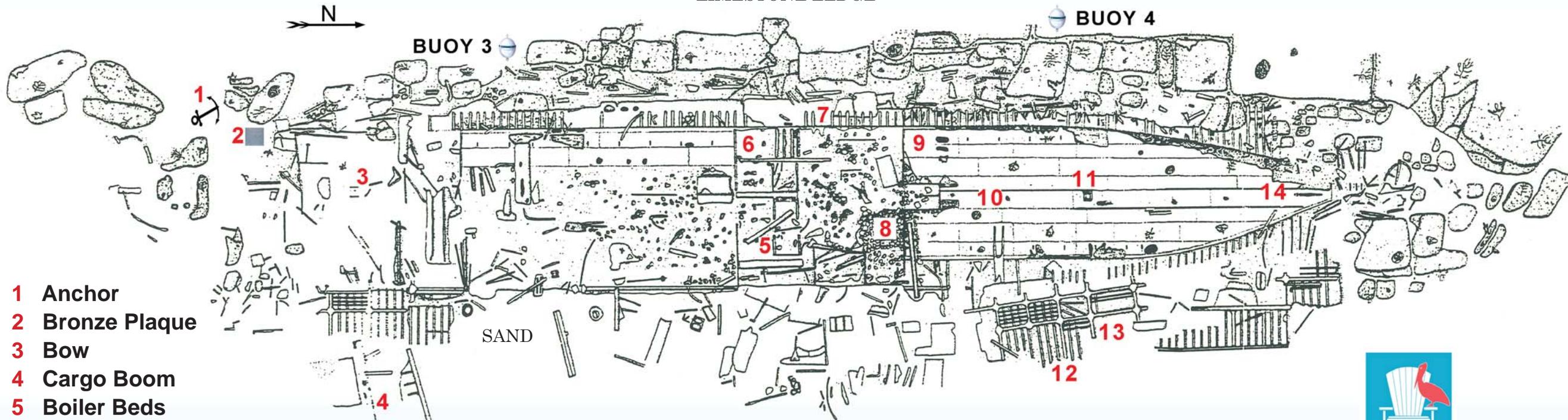
LAUNCHED: FEB. 22, 1898    CREW: 26    TONS: 3,279    LENGTH: 325'    BEAM: 47'    HOLD: 26'



Bronze Plaque



Pillow Block



- 1 Anchor
- 2 Bronze Plaque
- 3 Bow
- 4 Cargo Boom
- 5 Boiler Beds
- 6 Engine & Boiler Space
- 7 Frame Knees
- 8 Donkey Boiler
- 9 Bulkhead
- 10 Double Bottom
- 11 Pillow Block
- 12 Intermediate Frame
- 13 Deep Frame
- 14 Stern

FINDING SS COPENHAGEN / GPS: 26° 12.349'N 80° 05.108'W

The *Copenhagen* is in 15 to 30 feet of water just outside the **Pompano Drop Off**, 3.6 miles south of the **Hillsboro Inlet** and three-quarters of a mile off the **Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea**. Broward County reef mooring buoys **No. 3** and **No. 4** mark the historical site. The wreckage, scattered over an area of about 300 feet, rests with her bow section pointed south.

## ABOUT THIS UNDERWATER GUIDE

This underwater shipwreck guide was created and printed in 2013 by the **Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea's Public Information Office**, 4501 N. Ocean Drive, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, FL 33308. Tel: 954-640-4209. It was based on a previous underwater guide printed by **Broward County's Department of Natural Resource Protection**. The Town thanks the **Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Archaeological Research** for its help and valuable assistance.  
**Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Town Commission**

Mayor Roseann Minnet, Vice Mayor Scot Sasser, Commissioner Mark Brown, Commissioner Chris Vincent, Commissioner Stuart Dodd



LAUDERDALE  
BY-THE-SEA



Marine Archaeological Council, Inc.



FLORIDA PUBLIC  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
NETWORK

WWW.FLORIDAPUBLICARCHAEOLOGY.ORG

# EXPLORE SS COPENHAGEN!

A state archaeological preserve off Lauderdale-By-The-Sea that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places!

Most of the shipwrecks off **Broward County** were scuttled as part of the county's impressive artificial reef program. The fate of *SS Copenhagen*, however, was never planned. The 19th Century steamship accidentally struck a reef three-quarters of a mile off present-day **Lauderdale-By-The-Sea** on **May 26, 1900**, seven years before the **Hillsboro Lighthouse** was built. Most of the cargo was recovered. Efforts to free the vessel were almost complete when salvage crews were called away to a huge maritime disaster in New Jersey. The abandoned vessel, which remained visible above water for decades, was used for military target practice by **U.S. Navy** pilots stationed in **Fort Lauderdale** during **World War II**.

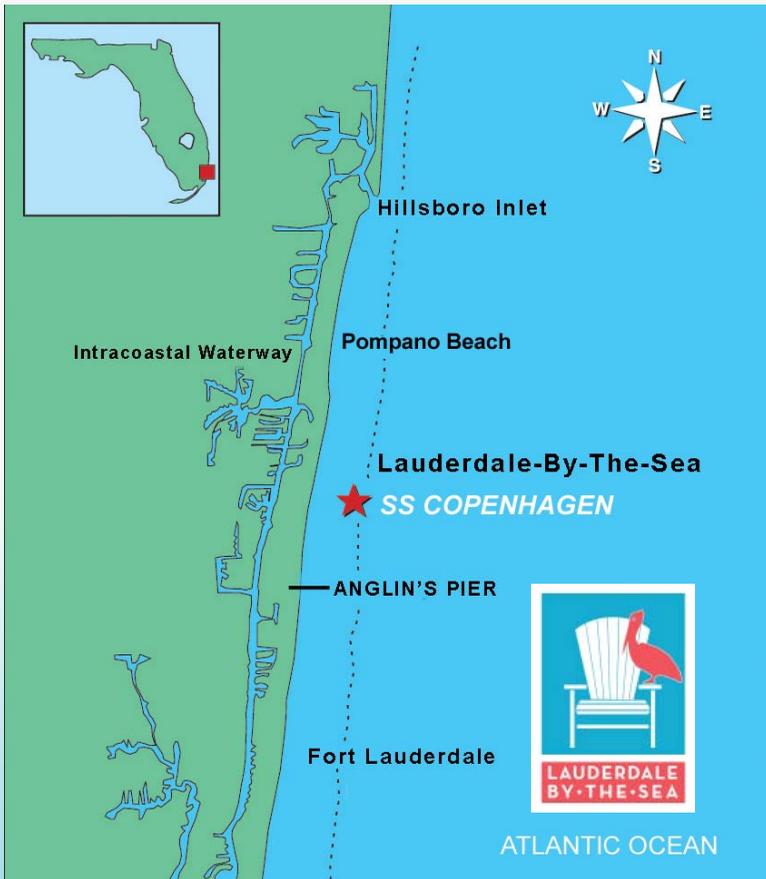
Ninety-four years later, *Copenhagen* was established as the state's fifth shipwreck preserve in **June**

**1994**. One of several **Underwater Archaeological Preserves** statewide, it was officially placed on the **National Register of Historic Places** in **2001**.

Launched in **1898** in **Sunderland, England**, *Copenhagen* at the time was a prime example of a dynamic shift in shipbuilding design and propulsion as old world shipyards switched from building wooden sailing ships to steam-powered vessels with steel hulls. The ship's final voyage began on **May 20, 1900**, when it left **Philadelphia** bound for **Cuba** with 5,000 tons of coal.

After what remained of the ship's structure eventually disappeared below the surface, her story was forgotten. Subsequent research by the **Marine Archaeological Council of Broward County** re-established the ill-fated *Copenhagen's* true identity and history.

The wreck today provides vital habitat for sea fans, loggerhead sponges, spiny lobsters, sergeant majors and numerous other species of tropical fish. Because of its shallow depth in 15 to 30 feet of water, *Copenhagen* is an excellent shipwreck and preserve for divers to safely explore.



## STEP BACK IN TIME



Photo courtesy St. Augustine Historical Society

**Steamship Ashore on Florida Coast.**  
**FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., May 26.—**The steamship *Copenhagen*, Capt. Jones, is ashore six miles north of this place. She is making six inches of water over her pumps. The *Copenhagen* is from Philadelphia, bound for Havana with a cargo of coal.

The New York Times May 27, 1900  
Copyright © The New York Times



A black and white photograph of *Copenhagen* circa 1900. The ship is listing to starboard after striking a reef. If you look closely, there are crew members visible standing near the ship's railing towards the stern. The *New York Times* article in May 1900 reporting on the accident. The paper's dispatch incorrectly stated that the ship had run aground. Seen here is a reproduction of a painting of *SS Copenhagen* by Florida maritime artist William Trotter. The ship had three steam engines (then the new modern technology), but it was also outfitted with two wooden masts (old world technology, just in case).

## RESOURCE PRESERVATION

As a state and national historic site, *SS Copenhagen* is protected by Florida and federal laws prohibiting the unauthorized disturbance, excavation or removal of ship artifacts, including the remnants of its cargo (Anthracite coal). Please keep this state preserve intact for future generations of divers and snorkelers.

### Please observe the following:

- ✂ Do **not** disturb or remove any corals attached to the reef or the ship.
- ✂ Do **not** spearfish, collect or harvest any tropical fish, spiny lobsters, live rock or any other marine life on the wreck or within 500 feet of it.
- ✂ Follow safe diving practices and the law by always displaying a **Divers Down** flag.
- ✂ Exercise caution while exploring the wreck. Wear gloves and avoid sharp edges and rough surfaces.
- ✂ Do **not** anchor on the site! Tie up your vessel to a mooring buoy or anchor in the sand.
- ✂ Maneuver your boat at slow speeds near the wreck and watch for divers in the water.



## DIVE INTO COPENHAGEN ONLINE

<http://journals.fcla.edu/browardlegacy/article/view/79346/76690>

[www.nps.gov/history/nr/travel/flshipwrecks/cop.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/travel/flshipwrecks/cop.htm)

[www.flheritage.com/archaeology/underwater/seamuseum/copenhagen/index.htm](http://www.flheritage.com/archaeology/underwater/seamuseum/copenhagen/index.htm)

