



DID YOU KNOW THAT DISTURBING OR REMOVING ITEMS FROM A HISTORIC SHIPWRECK IS AGAINST THE LAW?

Historic Shipwrecks are part of our national heritage and are protected under the Commonwealth Government's *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976*. They provide a physical link between the lives and conditions of the passengers and crew of these early vessels.

The *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976* gives legal protection to the shipwreck and its relics from damage, disturbance and removal.

If found guilty of an offence under the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976*, you may face fines of up to \$10,000 and a term of imprisonment of up to 5 years for an individual and fines of \$50,000 for a body corporate.

Looting at SS *Florence D*

Recently it has been reported that persons have illegally entered a protected zone around the Historic Shipwreck SS *Florence D* without a permit in late March 2011 (possibly 30 March). The site is located approximately 85 nautical miles NW of Darwin. Items have been reported to be removed from the site.

The *Florence D* is a US flagged vessel and was carrying a large cargo of munitions including 3 inch artillery shells and .30 and .50 calibre ammunition. The vessel was sunk by Japanese bombers returning from the first of two raids on Darwin on 19 February, 1942 resulting in the loss of three crew members and one person earlier rescued from a US Navy Catalina crew.

We need your help

If you are aware of any diving or vessel activity on the SS *Florence D* or environs, or vessels leaving boat ramps or marinas equipped for diving on or around 30 March 2011, your information could be important. Persons with any information to share can:

Call: 1800 110 395 (free call) or 0429 326 955 (24 hours)

Email: compliance@environment.gov.au

Visit: www.environment.gov.au/heritage/shipwrecks



Ammunition (.30 calibre)



Three inch artillery shells

Courtesy of Heritage Branch, Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport, Northern Territory Government