

CAPTAIN HORNBLOWER

Built in 1956, the Captain Hornblower spent decades as a hardworking harbor tug, guiding ships safely in and out of port and providing critical maneuvering power when vessels needed extra control. After a long career on the surface, she was given a second life beneath the Gulf through Bay County's artificial reef program.

In April 2025, the retired tug was intentionally sunk approximately 13 nautical miles southwest of St. Andrews Pass, coming to rest in about 97 feet of water. Today, the Hornblower rises from the seafloor as a vertical reef structure that quickly attracts marine life. Schools of baitfish swarm the wreck, drawing in snapper, jacks, and other predators, making this an exciting, advanced dive for those seeking action, depth, and a newly developing reef with plenty of promise.

An underwater photograph showing two divers exploring the Captain Hornblower wreck. The divers are in the foreground, with one diver in the center-right and another in the lower-left. The wreck is a large, cylindrical structure with a ladder leading up to it. The water is clear and blue.

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