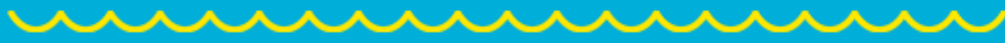


# SS STRENGTH



The Strength, a 185-foot Admirable-class U.S. Navy minesweeper, served heroically in the Pacific during World War II, clearing mines ahead of Allied landings at Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Despite surviving aircraft attacks and even a submarine torpedo, she earned three battle stars before spending more than 20 years in reserve. Reactivated in 1967 for Navy salvage diver training, she was repeatedly scuttled and refloated until her final deployment as an artificial reef in 1987. Originally resting on her side, Hurricane Opal shifted her upright in 1995, creating the distinctive profile divers see today.

Now resting largely upright with her bow separated and portions of her superstructure collapsed, the Strength offers an adventurous and visually compelling dive. Limited swim-throughs and numerous crevices provide habitat for reef fish, while dense bait balls often form above the wreck, attracting jacks and snapper and sometimes briefly obscuring the view.

Despite her age and deterioration, the Strength remains one of Bay County's most popular wreck dives for those seeking rich marine life and a dramatic historical structure.