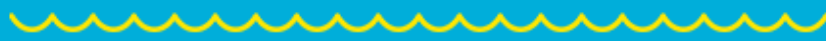


SS TARPON



The SS Tarpon was a steel-hulled cargo steamship built in 1917 during World War I, a period when ships were rapidly constructed to support wartime logistics and commercial trade. She operated primarily in the Gulf of Mexico, transporting general cargo along the Gulf Coast and Caribbean routes during the early 20th century.

On August 30, 1937, the Tarpon was traveling offshore of Panama City Beach when she encountered trouble in rough seas. The vessel began taking on water and ultimately sank approximately 12 miles offshore, settling upright on the sandy bottom. All crew members were successfully rescued, and no lives were lost in the sinking.

Now resting in 85–90 feet of water, the wreck has weathered decades of storms, leaving scattered structure and exposed framework that reef fish have claimed as home. Divers can expect to encounter grunts, snapper, triggerfish, spadefish, barracuda, jacks, and other reef-associated species moving through and above the wreck.