

RECEIVER OF WRECK

Where to turn when you've turned something up

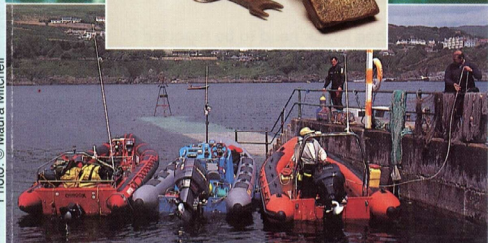
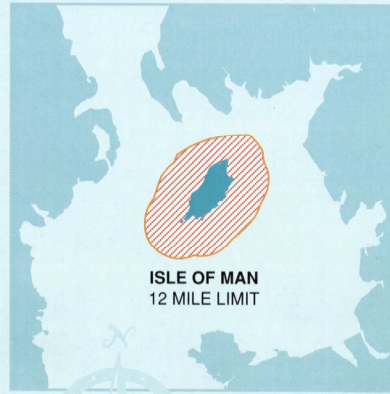


Photo: © Ben Hextall

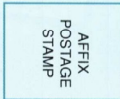
Photo: © Maura Mitchell



The Receiver of Wreck

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What is wreck?

Wreck is jetsam, flotsam, lagan and derelict found on or near the coasts of the Island or the shores of any tidal water. It includes a ship, aircraft, or hovercraft, parts of these, their cargo or equipment. It may be of antique or archaeological value such as gold coins, or a yacht or dinghy abandoned at sea, or items such as drums of chemicals, or crates of foodstuffs.

Jetsam... goods cast overboard in order to lighten a vessel which is in danger of being sunk, notwithstanding that afterwards it perishes.

Flotsam... goods lost from a ship which has sunk or otherwise perished which are recoverable by reason of their remaining afloat.

Lagan... goods cast overboard from a ship which afterwards perishes, buoyed so as to render them recoverable.

Derelict... property, whether vessel or cargo, which has been abandoned and deserted at sea by those who were in charge of it without any hope of recovering it.

What to do if you find wreck

It is a legal requirement that all recovered wreck is reported to the **Receiver of Wreck for the Isle of Man** whether recovered from within or outside Manx waters and even if the finder is the owner. The **Receiver of Wreck** is responsible for the administration of the Wreck and Salvage (Ships and Aircraft) Act 1979. Operating on behalf of the Department of Transport the **Receiver of Wreck** is located within the Director of Harbours Office. If you find wreck contact the **Receiver of Wreck**, your local Harbour Office or Coastguard Station. Forms for reporting items of wreck are available from the **Receiver of Wreck**, your local Harbour Office and Coastguard Station.

Why does wreck need to be reported?

To give the legitimate owner the opportunity of recovering their property.

What will happen to the wreck?

The **Receiver of Wreck** will investigate ownership of the wreck items. The owner has one year in which to come forward and prove title to the property.

Will I be able to keep the find?

The **Receiver of Wreck** is required to dispose of wreck recovered from within Manx waters and which remains unclaimed at the end of the one-year statutory period, in accordance with the provisions of the Wreck and Salvage (Ships and Aircraft) Act 1979 and after consultation with the Treasury.

Will I be able to keep historic wreck?

The **Receiver of Wreck** is committed to try, wherever practical, to offer items of historic wreck to museums where they will remain accessible to the public.

The Receiver of Wreck will liaise with Manx National Heritage when dealing with historic wreck.

Will information supplied to The Receiver of Wreck be confidential?

The **Receiver of Wreck** recognises the responsibility to both owners and finders of wreck. Information provided will not be passed onto a third party without the finder's prior knowledge.

The information contained here should not be taken as a definitive statement of the law relating to wreck and salvage. The **Receiver of Wreck** will be happy to provide advice but if you have a technical enquiry about rights or obligations under the Wreck and Salvage (Ships and Aircraft) Act 1979 you may wish to seek legal advice.

Addresses:

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Photo: © Maura Mitchell

To report a find:

If you have discovered items of wreck, simply fill in your name and address below and post to **The Receiver of Wreck** who will send you a report form to complete.

Name:

Address:

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Daytime telephone no:

E-mail address:

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Please send me: A form for reporting wreck
 Notes on Wreck Law

