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DIVING THE “IMMACULATA” JUNE 8, 2008



No other wreck proves the old maxim that “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure” as well as the “Immaculata”, the site of a wooden trash barge which sank in the early 1900s.

We left the marina on the Independence II at 7AM with Captain Dan at the helm and Bill and Brendan working as crew. The “Immaculata” was our first charter of the season (actually our second but we were blown out by the weather last week). On this day, however, while Philadelphia was sweltering in near 100 degree temperatures we sat on calm seas 15 miles off the coast in a cool ocean breeze-it could not have been a better day to be on the ocean.

The wreck sits in 95-100 FSW and the visibility was at least 30 feet, maybe more with little current and no surge. The goal was bottles and bugs and the “Immaculata” did not disappoint. Everyone got bottles-many fluted, several a deep azure blue, large ones and small ones. And lots of bugs including a couple that were pretty big. And one of our divers brought up a whale vertebra-it was perhaps 3 feet in length. While it was quite interesting, it smelled pretty bad and was returned to the wreck.

Our next charter is scheduled for Sunday, July 22nd on the Independence II, the best dive boat on the Jersey coast with the best crew around. We’re going to the Arundo, a Dutch freighter carrying war supplies to Britain including two locomotives, jeeps and trucks, which was torpedoed in 1942 by the U-136. Call the shop and reserve your spot for what will surely be a great dive.

Hope to see you on the boats.

