

Wreck: Matthew Atlantic



Port Mouton – South Shore

Scuttled: August 8, 1998

The Event

Unlike most wrecks, the Matthew Atlantic was intentionally scuttled on August 8, 1998.

Sea cocks were opened in a controlled sinking to create an artificial reef, placing the vessel on a sandy bottom off Port Mouton.

The Ship

Originally built in 1964 at Pictou, Nova Scotia as Blue Crest, this steel trawler served multiple roles and names: Atlantic Mildred, Gaultois II, and finally Matthew Atlantic.

- Length: ~130 ft
- Steel-hulled offshore trawler
- Gross Tons: ~331

Worked Newfoundland's offshore fishery before transitioning to Nova Scotia lobster operations.

Why It Was Sunk

Part of an artificial reef program:

- Create marine habitat
- Support local diving
- Preserve working vessel history

The Wreck Today

- Depth: ~60 ft
- Bottom: Sand with scattered rock
- Orientation: Resting on port side

The wreck remains largely intact, allowing a full bow-to-stern circuit on a single dive.

Marine growth now dominates:

- Anemones
- Mussels
- Tunicates
- Kelp and sea life throughout structure

Wreck: Matthew Atlantic



Diver Notes

- Easy descent and navigation
- Suitable for recreational divers
- Full penetration should be approached with caution

Expect:

- Strong structure definition
- Good marine life density
- Occasionally reduced visibility

A popular and accessible South Shore dive site

Why This Site Matters

- A rare intentional wreck with full known history
- Represents transition from working vessel to reef
- Built, worked, and returned to Nova Scotia
- A complete lifecycle of an Atlantic vessel

Final Thought

This is not a wreck claimed by storm or error.

It is a vessel placed deliberately beneath the surface—

where a working life ended, and a different one began.