



Emerald Bay Maritime Heritage Trail Dive Information

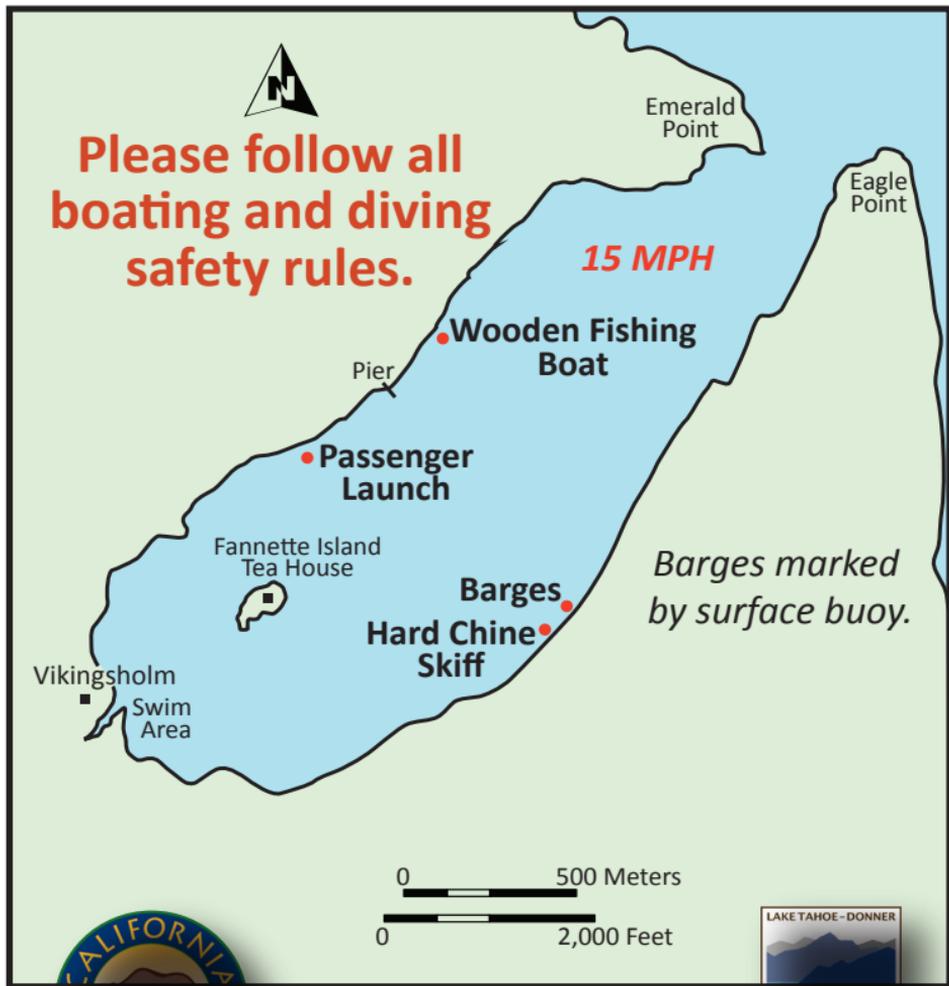
Emerald Bay is the final resting place of recreational boats, launches, and barges used on the lake during the early 20th century. This was the heyday of the Emerald Bay Resort (1920s and 1930s) and the time of the construction of Vikingsholm (1929). These boats were purposely scuttled (sunk) when they outlived their usefulness. They now serve as reminders of the golden age of recreation in Tahoe. This collection is the largest, most diverse group of sunken small craft known to exist in its original location, in the nation.

All boats and accompanying artifacts are protected by state law and may not be disturbed or removed—regardless of their size or value. Help us preserve and protect these resources for future generations of divers to enjoy. Please follow all boating and diving safety rules. Have fun exploring California's maritime heritage!



Emerald Bay Maritime Heritage Trail

Dive Locations





Emerald Bay Maritime Heritage Trail Wooden Barges

Two historic barges, constructed of massive ponderosa pine timbers, are located between 10 and 40 feet of water near the bay's southeast shore. The barges were owned and operated by the lumber companies, who used them to haul cord wood part of the year and then employed them as car ferries during the summer months. Since the barges had no means of propulsion, they were either towed or pushed by steamers.

Barge I, with a remaining length of 85 feet, lies perpendicular to the shore. Twenty-nine of the frames, 16 hull strakes, and the eastern transom are still attached to the northern hull side.

Barge II parallels the shoreline approximately 15 feet south of Barge I. Within the 106-foot-long barge are 55 single timber frames spanning the hull. Natural deterioration has begun in the bulkheads at the southern end of the barge, and approximately 75% of her decking has been salvaged.



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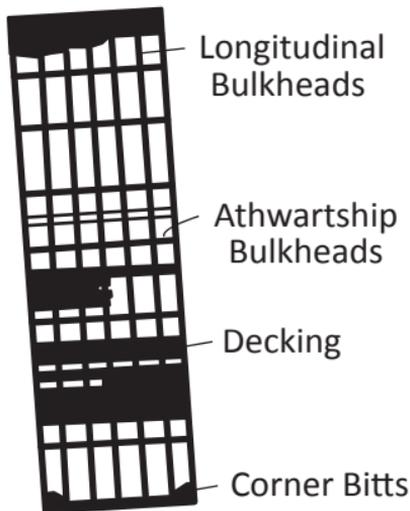
Wooden Barges




Buoy
For Divers



Barge II
106 Feet Long



GPS Coordinates (NAD 83):
752,120 mE 4,315,640 mN
Moor a safe distance away
to avoid anchor damage to
historic barges.



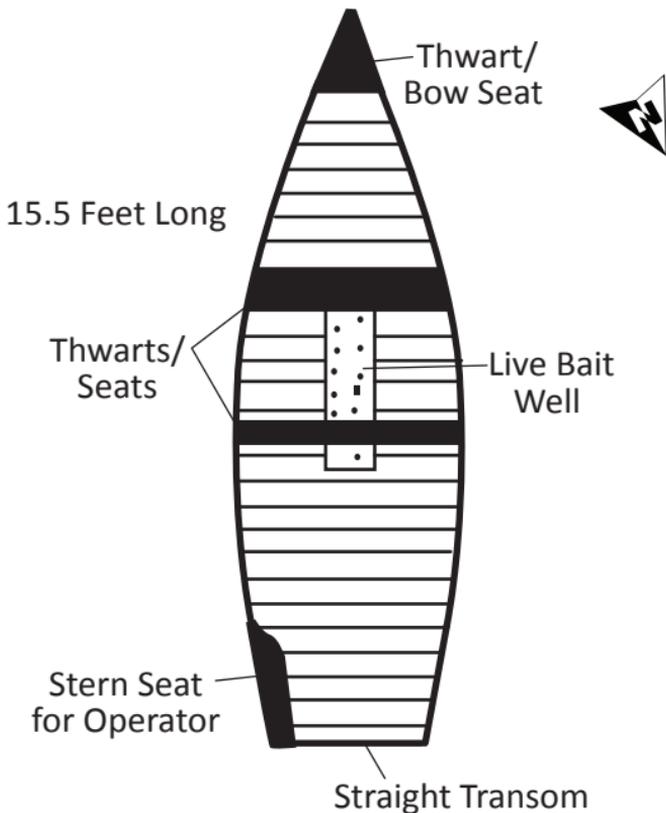


Emerald Bay Maritime Heritage Trail Wooden Fishing Boat

This early 20th century wooden fishing boat with carvel planking, discovered in 2002, rests in about 35 feet of water. It was powered by an outboard motor and has a live well and four seats. The built-in live well, designed to keep bait alive while fishing, is an example of a uniquely local boat construction element specifically designed for recreational use in the calm waters of the bay. This vessel measures 15.5 feet long by 4 feet wide. The hull is secured with 29 ribs and two thwarts that also serve as seats.



Emerald Bay Maritime Heritage Trail Wooden Fishing Boat



GPS Coordinates (NAD 83):
751,759 mE 4,316,454 mN
Moor a safe distance away
to avoid anchor damage to
historic fishing boat.





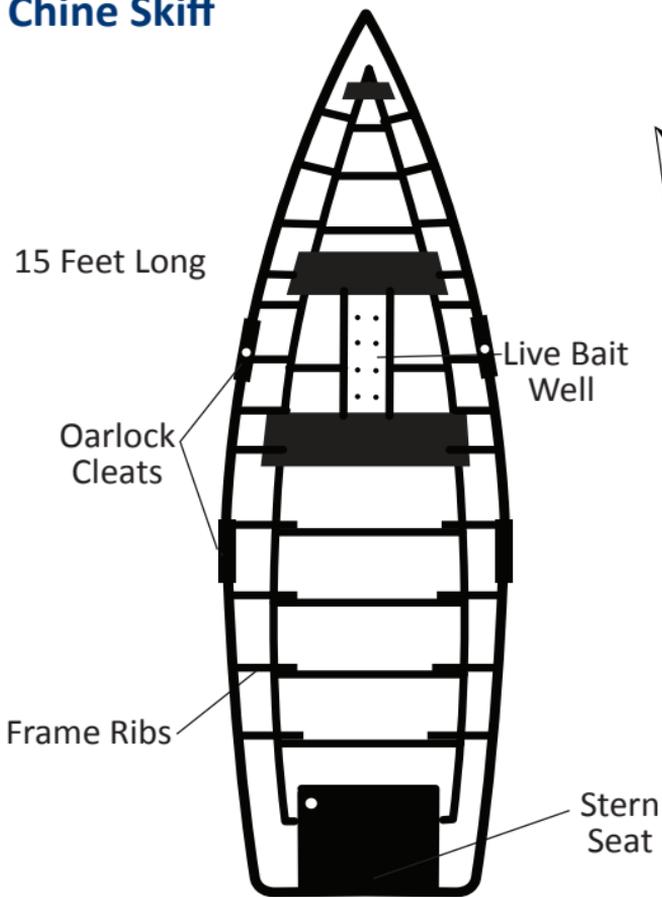
Emerald Bay Maritime Heritage Trail Hard Chine Skiff

This early 20th century hard chine skiff fishing boat is lying under 60 feet of water on a moderately sloped bottom. This style of boat is relatively easy to build and only requires a few wide, thin planks to form the hull. The two thwart/seats and thin thwarts near the bow and stern keep the hull together. Two sets of oarlock cleats forward and aft of the central thwart reflect the ability to row forward or backward.

Like many of the other Emerald Bay Resort craft, this boat has a centrally located, live-bait well. Lack of batter boards on the transom suggest this craft was propelled by oars and not by a motor. It was likely constructed from local timber by a local carpenter specifically for use by Emerald Bay Resort patrons.



Emerald Bay Maritime Heritage Trail Hard Chine Skiff



GPS Coordinates (NAD 83):
752,058 mE 4,315,591 mN
Moor a safe distance away
to avoid anchor damage to
historic skiff.





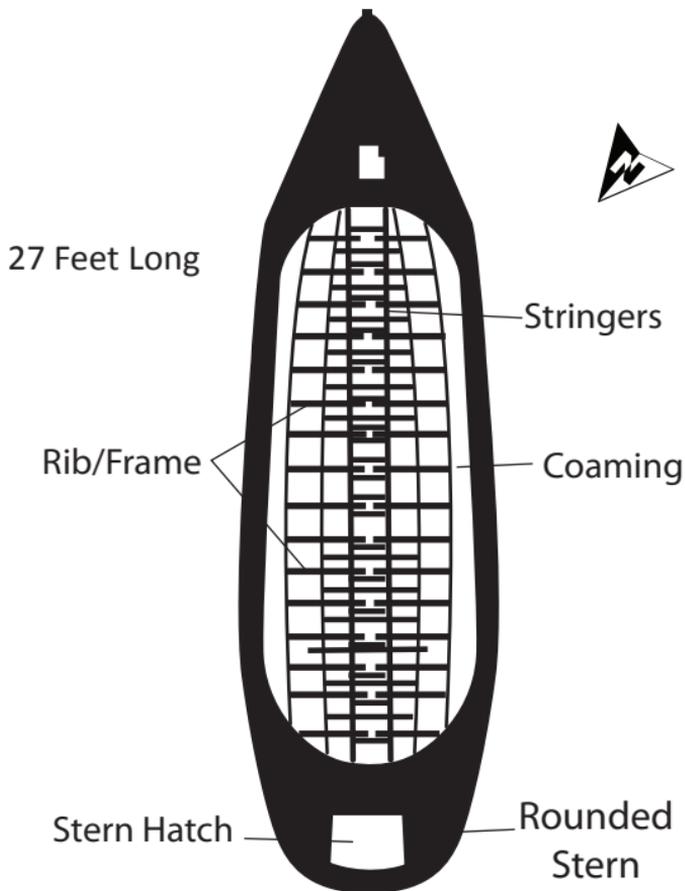
Emerald Bay Maritime Heritage Trail Passenger Launch - *Florence M*

This 27-foot wooden launch, named *Florence M*, was built in 1915 by the Stephens Brothers' boatyard in Stockton, California. Ralph Graves, proprietor of Emerald Bay Resort, purchased this vessel for excursions around the lake. She was equipped with a 20 horsepower engine and electric lights, and likely had a canopy to shade passengers. Discovered in 2014, the launch is the earliest and largest vessel among the resort fleet. She now rests in water between 50 (stern) and 60 (bow) feet deep. Traces of paint (white with green trim) are still visible on the hull.



Emerald Bay Maritime Heritage Trail

Passenger Launch - *Florence M*



GPS Coordinates (NAD 83):

751,364 mE 4,316,091 mN

Moor a safe distance away to avoid anchor damage to historic launch.

