

Researchers explore shipwrecks near San Francisco

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Federal researchers are exploring several underwater sites where ships sank while navigating the treacherous waters west of San Francisco in the decades following the Gold Rush.

Over the past week, a team from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration used a remote controlled underwater vehicle, equipped with sonar and [video cameras](#), to examine and record the historic shipwrecks.

NOAA officials are conducting an archaeological survey of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, a 1,300-square-mile region where they believe more than 300 ships have wrecked.

The Associated Press accompanied the NOAA team on research boat Friday, when they explored the underwater remains of Selja, a 380-foot cargo steamship that sank west of Point Reyes on Nov. 22, 1910, after it collided with another ship.

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