

ABSTRACT

DOCUMENTING THE SS KILMORE, 10 YEARS AFTER ZINTZEN *ET AL.*

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Zintzen et al studied the marine life on the SS Kilmore between 2003 and 2005. GUE-BE divers now return to the wreck to evaluate her present condition, capture photo and video, build a 3D photogrammetric model and survey the marine life. This presentation invites the scientific community to fine tune our project goals and help us interpret our results.

Global Underwater Explorers (GUE), a global leader in scuba education, conservation and exploration, emerged out of a desire to safely explore and protect the underwater world and to improve the quality of education and research in all things aquatic. GUE divers have advanced experience that enables them to safely reach depths and locations that many recreational divers never could. They can assist researchers, as well as launch their own initiatives, like the discovery of the 16th century Swedish warship Mars or a 12,000-year-old human skeleton in the Mexican Hoyo Negro cave system.

GUE-BE that unites the Belgian GUE community, released a website about its 2017 Project with a short documentary on the Westhinder and a 3D model with centimeter-level detail. The subject of our 2018 Project is the SS Kilmore, which sank in 1906 and now lies at 32 m. GUE-BE volunteers will explore her on five days between May and September 2018, quantify her fauna, create a 3D model, website and documentary about her history, condition and environmental significance, map abandoned fishing gear, and record temperature and visibility.

Although several GUE-BE volunteers are scientifically trained, they are not biologists and have no such aspirations. We therefore reach out to the research community to help us identify the most relevant species and data collection method, and determine the observed animals. By collaborating as citizen scientists, we hope to contribute to initiatives like BeRMS2020.

References

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