



Remains of the fleet

The wrecks of the *Markgraf*, *König*, *Kronprinz Wilhelm*, *Brummer*, *Dresden*, *Cöln* and *Karlsruhe* are all that survive of the German Imperial Navy's High Seas Fleet. The scuttling of the entire fleet of 74 vessels in 1919 remains the largest intentional sinking in worldwide naval history. Most of the wrecks were subsequently salvaged. The remaining vessels preserve important information relating to the design, construction and use of early 20th-century warships. Today the wrecks are seen as an important underwater museum, tourist attraction and national historic asset worthy of statutory protection.

Legal Protection

The seven wrecks are legally protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Within a circular area of 500m diameter around each of the seven wrecks, it is a criminal offence to damage or remove objects without prior written consent from Historic Scotland. It is also an offence to facilitate the recovery of material. Anyone convicted of an offence may face a fine of up to £50,000 and two years imprisonment.

Do's and Don't's

- ✓ Enjoy visiting the remains of the fleet
- ✓ Take photographs
- ✓ Report suspicious activity to Historic Scotland or the police

- ✗ Don't remove any items from the protected area
- ✗ Don't damage the structure of the vessels, or detach ships fittings from their location
- ✗ Don't assist others in the recovery of material