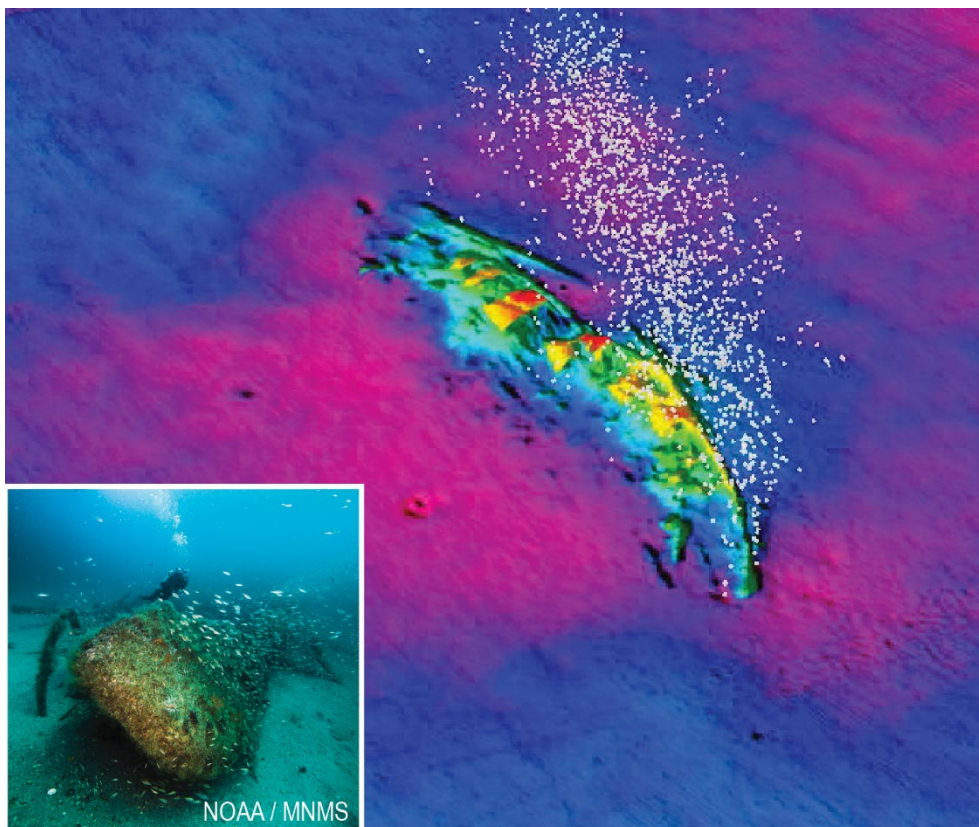


## Meet the Presenter

### Dr. Avery Paxton, Research Associate, NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Service



Dr. Avery Paxton is a Research Associate within the Habitat Mapping Team of the Biogeography Branch in NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science as a contractor with CSS-Inc. Paxton and her colleagues conduct marine science research to support ocean planning and coastal resource management decisions. She often focuses her research related to human-made habitats, ranging from artificial reefs and shipwrecks to offshore renewable energy infrastructure. Paxton and her colleagues use tools ranging from fishery echosounders and remotely-operated vehicles to acoustic telemetry and scuba-diver surveys. She earned her PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her BS in Environmental Science from the University of Virginia.



The ex-USS *Schurz*, formerly the German cruiser SMS *Geier*, is the only German Imperial Navy warship captured by the U.S. Navy during World War I. *Schurz* sank on June 21, 1918, following a collision with the SS *Florida*.

Enormous schools of fish can often be sighted on the ex-USS *Schurz*, resting 110 ft. underwater. Sometimes the fish schools are so dense that they visually obscure the shipwreck. The fish species that form the large schools include vermilion snapper, tomtate, and scad. Predators, such as jacks and sand tiger sharks, can often be found corraling or hovering near the large schools.