

Diving the Seaway Trail: An Economic Development Partnership

Scuba divers represent an economic impact of more than \$108 million to New York's Great Lakes region (*New York Sea Grant survey, 1999*). The fresh waters of the St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario, Niagara River and Lake Erie are filled with fascinating shipwrecks, aquatic life, and geologic formations. In 2007, "Dive the Seaway Trail," a project of New York Sea Grant and Seaway Trail, Inc., showcased this largely undiscovered underwater destination for attention by diving enthusiasts and history buffs.

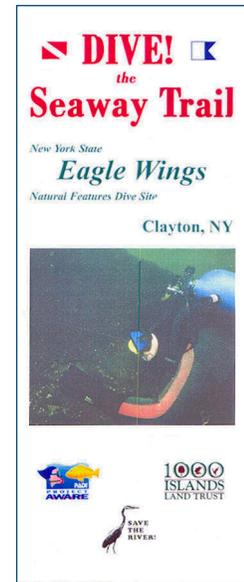
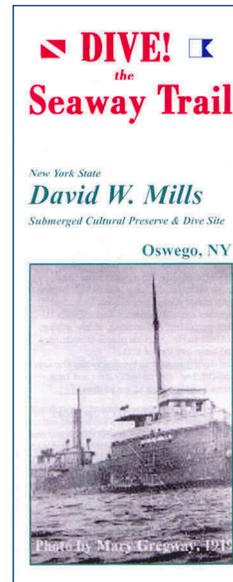
The "Dive the Seaway Trail" project includes development of a series of dive sites marked, buoyed and maintained by community-based stewards along the 518-mile freshwater shoreline in New York and Pennsylvania.

"We are pleased to be bringing New York's freshwater resources to the attention of divers looking for exciting new experiences," says Seaway Trail, Inc. President and CEO Teresa Mitchell. "In return, the divers are positively impacting the region's economy."

A 1999 New York Sea Grant survey showed divers living within the Great Lakes region spent \$61 million a year on boat and auto fuel, lodging and food, etc. and \$47 million on diving-related expenditures.

The "pilot" destinations being profiled on the Dive the Seaway Trail website are:

- the *David W. Mills*, Lake Ontario's first New York State Submerged Cultural Preserve, Oswego, NY;
- Eagle Wings natural features dive site, Clayton, NY;



These brochures were developed to help divers and shipwrecks enthusiasts learn about New York's Great Lakes' underwater resources.

- the *St. Peter*, an advanced-level, deep historic dive site, Pultneyville, NY; and
- the *Islander*, a shore-access dive site, Alexandria Bay, NY.

The Oswego Maritime Foundation's management of the *David W. Mills* and Save the River's stewardship of the Eagle Wing have set the project's site stewardship model. New York Sea Grant and Seaway Trail, Inc. are assisting stewards by providing funding for the development of promotional and interpretive materials for the sites.

Learn more about the "Dive the Seaway Trail" project on this America's Byway and National Recreation Trail at www.nysgunderwater.org.

New York Sea Grant is a cooperative program of the State University of New York and Cornell University. Sea Grant Extension administration is located at 112 Rice Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853.

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