

To Whom it may Concern

I am writing to formally ask for an extension on our pre disturbance permit for the unknown historic shipwreck in Walker bay, Hermanus, Western Cape.

Progress has been slow on the site this year due to varying factors out of our control. Covid has impacted us greatly as we are a tourist based company and Neptunes divers and cruises was the financial source that allowed us to finance the excursion to the wreck site. We have also been impacted by poor visibility on the site (viz ranging from 30cm-1m) due to both of our estuary's opening in the beginning of the year, on either side of the bay. Unfortunately for us the estuary's usually close shortly after opening however this was not the case this year and both stayed open for a prolonged period of time which made diving condition impossible. The wreck lays in the Whale sanctuary, which is only accessible by boat from the 1st of December to the 30th of June, it is possible to do shore entries however we are at the stage where multiple equipment is required when we are on the site, (eg. Metal detectors, reels, makers, cameras, etc) making shore entries highly difficult and dangerous.

We have completed one magnetometer survey on the site but encountered some technical issues which unfortunately was only picked up once the data was processed off site. A second magnetometer survey will need to be done with Vanessa Maitland in the coming months. While undertaking discovery dives on the site we have been able to identify a new artifact in the surrounding area with metal detectors. We are unable at this point to tell exactly what the new artifact is as it is buried under silt and sand however it does resemble the eye previously found. This find gives us confidence that the wreck has been scattered east across the ocean floor. As we are still discovering new items we are still unable to determine the exact boundaries of the site, however we still believe the centre of the wreck to be as stated in the initial report given. We have been able to collect bearings and distances to connect most of the artifacts, allowing us to create a search pattern during our dives.

When taking on this project we knew it would not be a quick or inexpensive endeavour. We are just as passionate and excited about preserving and protecting what we have discovered as the first day we found the first admiralty anchor. Once we have identified the boundaries of the site and have thoroughly search the area for any artifacts, our goal is to turn this into a historical dive site for our town. Hermanus has a rich history but this will be the first shipwreck found in Hermanus. We believe this wreck has a story to tell us and we have only just begun to find out what that is, we would love the opportunity to be able to continue to discover what happened to this piece of history.

By extending our permit and allowing exclusive access and rights to the wreck, we will be able to ensure the protection of the site from being souvenired and preventing people from undoing the hard work that has already gone into the site and the hard work still to come.

We have found evidence of an historic shipwreck in Walkerbay Hermanus, Western Cape. We would like to undertake a magnetometer survey, to define the boundaries of the site and there after map the site. We have no intention of salvaging or removing any artefacts from the site. We wish to monitor and protect the site in order to promote it as a heritage dive site, with both local and international tourists. We would like to do a magnetometer survey in a 400m radius from the known wreck site in order to ascertain the extent of the wreck dispersal. What we believe may be the centre point of the wreck is 34 25 18S - 19 14 47E We would like to search the area between the following coordinates: 34 25 17S - 19 14 42E 34 25 21S - 19 15 01E 34 25 07S - 19 14 46E 34 25 11S - 19 15 04E Please find search area attached. We have found four anchors which of three of the four appear to be admiralty anchors and the fourth we are still unsure of. There is a vast amount of chain between the anchors, each anchor stands roughly 2m tall and are mostly uncovered. In the same general area we have found what appears to be two half's of an anchor winch, these artefacts are difficult to give a good description as they are buried beneath the sand. We have found what appears to be an eye that may have been used to run rope through or something to that effect, as well as a small concrete block with chain wrapped around it. We have also found what seems to be a metal triangular plate, however this item is buried under the sand and are unable to see its true size. At this point we have not found the boundaries of our site yet as we continue to discover artefacts the more we search. Please note the diving conditions are poor with vizability ranging between 30cm-3m. The photos submitted have been processed through Lightroom to bring out as much detail as possible. We believe this is of historical interest due the era the admiralty anchors were used. We hope we can add to the history of our town Hermanus as there are no other shipwrecks that have been published in Walkerbay since the Birkenhead.

I am writing to you to ask for an extension on our pre disturbance permit for the unknown shipwreck in Hermanus. Progress has been slow on our site this year due to Covid, with us being a tourist base company we have suffered financially making it difficult to find the funds to further our project at a faster pace. Both of Hermanus's lagoons breached this year causing poor diving conditions as well as the site being inaccessible by boat for 6months out of the year due to the whale sanctuary. We would like to extend the permit to December 2022 to allow us to further our study of the site, with the backing of SAHRA to protect it from being souvenired.