

Volunteer Roger Burns has created our 15th crossword which features only two shipwrecks. However, it contains several aquatic creatures often found in and around shipwrecks, some of these being suggested by MAT's Brandon Mason who has encountered them while diving. Apart from several general knowledge "link" clues, there is one type of vessel, and a number of nautical terms associated with ships. So, download, print, and test your maritime and general knowledge.

MAT's 15th Maritime Themed Crossword – Clues

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Clues

Aquatic creatures answers are their common names except for 12D which uses the binomial name, and to help you, has the anagram sad revelations. All can be found on the internet.

ACROSS	DOWN
2. Lacking clear purpose. (7)	1. Usually wooden or metal, poles to support rigging and sails. (5)
5. To soak or fill until no more liquid may be absorbed. (8)	2. Element, atomic number 85. (2)
9. Formal agreement. (4)	3. Racing sled for one or two people, feet facing downhill. (4)
11. Software program that performs automated tasks on the internet. (3)	4. Modern name of ancestral river system draining a large part of southern central England, now with east and west entrances to an estuarine strait. (6)
14. 1970 RN frigate sunk 24m deep in 2004 in Whitsand Bay, Cornwall as an artificial reef, and by 2021, 250 species of marine life have been recorded at it. (1,1,1, 6)	5. A large group of aquatic animals, especially fish, swimming together. (6)
15. Amends made, as for damage or loss. (10)	6. Give evidence in a legal case. (7)
17. Used to express various emotions. (2)	7. Repeatedly happens. (6)
18. Something that adds zest or interest. (5)	8. A sloping mass of rock debris at the base of a cliff. (5)
19. The largest British cephalopod, found in deep water, but in Spring moving to shallower water such as the English Channel to breed among muddy or sandy substrates, including Bouldnor Cliff and shipwrecks. (6, 10)	10. Slender fish, female is orange-pink with black spot on tail, male has electric blue markings on head and back. Often approach divers, usually deeper, cleaner water offshore, staying close to marine growth on the wreck. (6, 6)
22. Slang for aggressive or violent behaviour. (5)	11. A small 15 th & 16 th century single masted sailing vessel. (8)
23. Sufficiently interesting or important to the public to report in the media. 10)	12. Most common and destructive 36A, known as the naval 36A. (7,7)
25. See 52A.	13. Male prayer leader in a mosque. (4)
27. A representation, often an a plane surface, of a region of the earth or heavens. (3)	16. Shortened form of images taken by camera. (6)
28. Hard, metallic element, used in ship construction mainly in 2 nd half of 19 th century. (4)	20. Quotes something as support or proof. (5)
29. A large open area, usually with sandy soil and scrub vegetation. (5)	21. In whatever way or manner. (6)
30. Acronym for a computer port. (1,1,1)	24. Highly sought after fish with silver scales. Powerful hunters, preferring sites with strong tidal flow. Often patrol perimeter of shipwrecks for baitfish. (4)
34. Marine invertebrate, jelly like, with pores and channels allowing water to circulate. (6)	26. The transportation of cargo by ships, or the charge for this. (8)
35. Acronym for lightweight 4-wheeled vehicle, typically used in agriculture and for military purposes. (1,1,1)	31. A long, powerful fish with smooth skin. Classic wreck dweller favouring dark, deep holes such as boilers and collapsed plating. (6,3)
36. Any of approximately 65 species of marine bivalve molluscs, common in submerged wood, such as ships' hulls. (8)	32. Acronym which represents the total cost of borrowing, including interest and fees. (1,1,1)
37. Variety of apple; OR a festive occasion. (4)	33. French warship taken as war prize by the British in 1747, grounded on Dean Sand in 1758 and sank. (1,1,1, 10)
41. Any of about 20 species of wood-boring, marine crustaceans, feeding on algae, driftwood and submerged wood. (7)	38 & 64A. Found all around Britain, these edible marine bivalve molluscs are a medium sized variety. (5, 8)
43. Acronym for computational systems to perform tasks typically associated with human intelligence, example being Gemini. (1,1)	39. Sleek, bronze-green hunting fish, often found hovering above and near shipwrecks, using the wreck to ambush smaller fish. (7)
44. Any acid containing oxygen. (7)	40. A drainage opening on a ship. (7)
45. An official supervising a game. (7)	42. Nautically, to secure a rope, e.g. by winding on a cleat; OR to provide security to a climber by paying out or drawing in a rope. (5)
49. To hit a ball in a high arc. (3)	46. A fashion taken with great enthusiasm for a brief period. (3)
51. Defendant's answer to a formal criminal charge. (4)	47. 16 th century wreck found in 1894 off the NW coast of the Isle of Wight, and designated a Protected Wreck site. (8, 5)
52 & 25A. Type of sharp bow developed in 19 th century giving better performance and speed, such as in the China tea clippers and the <i>Cutty Sark</i> . (8,3)	48. To impel, exhort, advocate earnestly. (4)
54. Tending to flow, e.g. a liquid. (5)	50. Unlawful act, fraudulent breach of duty, by a ship's master or crew, conflicting with the interest of ship's owner or cargo's owner. (8)
55. In the past. (3)	53. Period immediately preceding a certain event. (3)
56. To turn a ship on its side for repairs or cleaning, or in a wind, leaning to one side. (6)	55. Emotionally reserved or indifferent. (5)
57. Any one of around 350 examples in the UK of this fresh water species, the common black diving one being an example. (6)	57. A looped rope, knot on one end, eye on other end, to secure ropes, 1D, and oars on say a sailing vessel. (6)
58. Native to forests of equatorial Africa, these comprise two types of apes. (8)	
61. In or near the area occupied by something, for example. (2)	

ACROSS	DOWN
<p>64. See 38D.</p> <p>68. Highly territorial and charismatic with distinctive "head tentacles" and nicknamed "the fish with antlers", they are frequently found peeking out of small pipes, holes, or crevices in shallow or broken-up wrecks. (6, 6)</p> <p>70. A dandy. (3)</p> <p>71. Same answer as for 61A (2)</p> <p>72. Any of various aromatic plants used in medicine or as seasoning. (4)</p> <p>73. Purchase. (3)</p> <p>74. Five points for one scored in rugby union. (3)</p> <p>76. Place or put down in a specific location. (3)</p> <p>77. Firing or discharge of a weapon, for example a gun. (4)</p> <p>79. A pen in which pigs are housed. (3)</p> <p>80. Relative or family member. (3)</p> <p>81. A cranny, hollow, or crevice, as in rock. (5)</p> <p>82. Large, heavy-bodied fish with variable colouring, often mottled green or red, using their strong teeth to pick crustaceans and molluscs off the heavily colonised surfaces of a wreck in shallow rocky sites. (6,6)</p> <p>84. Having long slender limbs. (5)</p> <p>87. Framings or vertical barriers around openings such as hatches in the upper or weather deck of a ship to prevent water running into the vessel. (8)</p> <p>88. Italian appetiser usually comprising an assortment of foods, such as smoked meats, cheese, fish or vegetables. (9)</p>	<p>59. Related to the cod family, these long, eel-like fish are often found near the seabed around the base of deeper offshore wrecks or inside large engine room spaces. (4)</p> <p>60. Any of several venomous snakes. (3)</p> <p>62. In a direction toward so as to reach somewhere. (2)</p> <p>63. Appropriate. (3)</p> <p>65. These clawed marine crustaceans have segmented bodies and exoskeletons, with five pairs of legs. (8)</p> <p>66. Arguably the most common fish on UK wrecks. They form dense, copper-coloured clouds around the lee side of structures, seeking shelter from the current. Alternatively referred to by a item worn by toddlers under the chin when eating (7)</p> <p>67. Of or pertaining to a bubo. (7)</p> <p>69. A dull finish on glass, metal or paper. (5)</p> <p>72. Symbol for the first gas in the noble gas group in the periodic table. (2)</p> <p>75. A marine decapod crustacean, heavily exploited commercially, caught in creels. A staple of wreck life, hiding beneath the wreck "mudline" to hide from predators, such as 31D. (4)</p> <p>76. A small, silvery, plankton-feeding fish, found in large schools near the surface. (5)</p> <p>78. Acceptable. (2)</p> <p>79. A thin, often tapered piece of material, such as wood, metal, stone etc., to fill a gap, make something level, or to adjust to fit something properly. (4)</p> <p>83. The watery fluid circulating through a plant. (3)</p> <p>85. Same answer as for 61A. (2)</p> <p>86. Negative. (2)</p>