



H.A. LUMB – Port Noarlunga

The steel tug *H.A. Lumb* was built in 1943 by the Decatur Iron and Steel Company, Alabama, USA and registered to the US Navy. The vessel measured 78.1 feet (23.8m) in length, 23.8 feet (7.3m) breadth, 8.8 feet (2.7m) depth and was 153 gross tons. In 1956 the *H.A. Lumb* was acquired by the Geelong Harbour Trust Commissioners and registered in that port, but was later sold and converted to a deep-sea trawler based in Port Lincoln and operating in the Southern Ocean.



Diving the *H.A. Lumb*
Photo: Greg Adams

In 1994 the *H.A. Lumb* was taken over by the Dive Industry Association, with the express purpose of scuttling it as an artificial reef and dive site. The Association raised \$12 000 to purchase the vessel, and to make it visitor-friendly – for both divers and marine life. The vessel was stripped, openings were enlarged and doors and potentially hazardous materials and structures removed.



Diving the *H. A. Lumb*
Photo: Greg Adams

On 9 December 1994 the *H.A. Lumb* was towed by the tug *Mudgee* to a site in St Vincent Gulf, approximately 2 kilometres off O'Sullivan Beach, where it was scuttled in 20 metres of water adjacent to (and approximately 30 metres from) the Port Noarlunga tyre reef.