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**Abstract Title:** *Black Gold in the Deep Blue Sea: Searching for a Lost WWII Oil Tanker*

**Abstract Description:**

Between 1941 and 1945, 87 ships were lost in North Carolina waters; two-thirds of these were sunk by U-boats. This record of destruction earned the area the nickname “Torpedo Junction”. Many of these wrecks have been found, and their last resting places marked for posterity. Some, however, remain lost.

This presentation will examine one of these missing wrecks, the oil tanker William Rockefeller. When it was sunk on 28 June 1942, Rockefeller was one of the largest tankers in the world, and earned the unfortunate distinction of being the largest ship lost off the North Carolina coast. It is also one of the last WWII-era wrecks in North Carolina waters whose location is unknown.

This presentation will outline the possibility of finding Rockefeller through historical research, probability mapping, and computer modeling. If successful, this methodology may be of use in the creation of search models for other lost shipwrecks.