

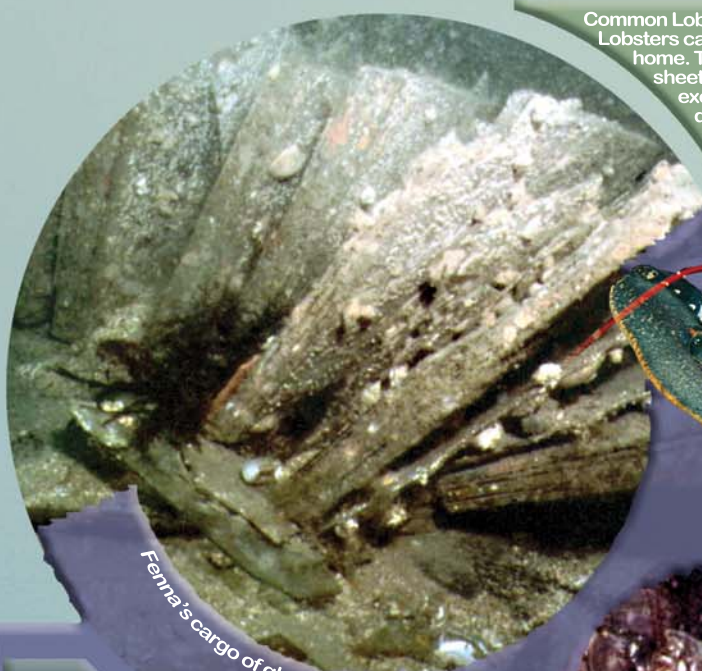
Fenna

Fenna was a Dutch Schooner which sank 3 miles to the west of the Needles in 1881. The ship was carrying a mixed cargo which consisted of items such as railway tracks, sheets of glass and barrels of cement. The loss of the vessel was recorded in the Bournemouth Newspaper.

LOSS OF A DUTCH VESSEL. SAFETY AND ARRIVAL OF THE CREW AT POOLE.

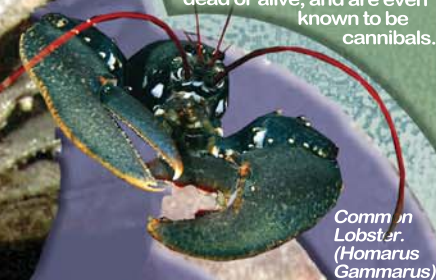
On Thursday night last the Dutch schooner *Fenna* foundered in the English Channel, but we are glad to say that the disaster was not attended with loss of life. The vessel, J. H. Mulder, master, was bound from Amsterdam to Messina and Trieste, with a cargo consisting of bar iron, iron in barrels, and sheet glass in cases, 230 tons in all. She experienced heavy gales after leaving her port of departure and became leaky, and the water gained so much that at half-past six o'clock on Thursday night the crew consulted with the master and finally determined to abandon the vessel. About half an hour after they had left her in the boat she foundered off the Dorset coast, some 20 miles from land. They rowed about till they perceived the red light on the end of Bournemouth Pier, and they there received directions by which they rowed to Poole, arriving at this port about nine o'clock yesterday (Friday) morning. They had saved scarcely anything beyond their personal effects. The master and crew, five in number, proceeded to the Red Star Coffee Tavern, where they are now staying.

A correspondent sends us the following:—On Thursday about midnight, a rather deeply laden boat came to Bournemouth Pier, two of the men landing to inquire their whereabouts and seek refreshments. They purported to be the captain and crew of a Dutch schooner, laden with iron and glass, bound from Antwerp to Trieste, and which had gone down early in the afternoon off the Isle of Wight, having become disabled and waterlogged during the recent gales; having succeeded in obtaining refreshment and directed to proceed to Poole, they left for that destination, there to get assistance from the Dutch consul.



Fenna's cargo of glass sheets

Common Lobster:
Lobsters can often be found using *Fenna* as a home. The remaining cargo of railway tracks, sheet glass and solidified concrete provide excellent hiding places. Lobsters are dark blue in colour, with pale yellow markings and red antennae. At night they can be found roaming the seabed around the wreck searching for food. Lobsters will eat almost anything organic found on the seabed, dead or alive, and are even known to be cannibals.



Common Lobster. (*Homarus gammarus*)



Shipworm & Gribble

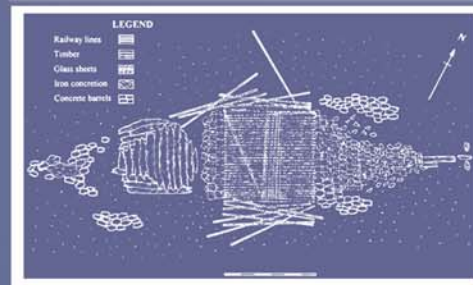
Much of the ships lower hull structure lies beneath the sands and gravels of the seabed. The majority of timber that has not been buried has been eroded or eaten away. The barrels which held the cement have disappeared leaving solid cylinders in the shape of the barrel interiors.

Some of the organisms that eat wood are marine borers such as shipworm (*Teredo Navalis*) and gribble (*Limnoria lignorum*). The gribble resembles an ordinary wood louse, and feeds on unprotected timber, leaving a hollow cylindrical borehole. Shipworm is a mollusc with a worm like body. Only a small portion of the body is covered by a shell, so the worm bores into wood to protect itself. The boring and feeding action of these two species weakens the host timbers, severely damaging any exposed hull structure.

Lobster-inhabiting barrels in Fenna's cargo



Gribble: (*Limnoria lignorum*)



The Underwater Site

Diving on the remains of the wreck site provides a treat for the diver, as they are relatively coherent on the seabed. Archaeological survey has resulted in the production of a scale plan of the site. Much of the lower hull of the wreck is submerged beneath the sand and gravel deposits, but large amounts of the cargo can be seen above the seabed. Despite the dynamic nature of the water movement and seabed deposits in the area, the cargo of the ship is surprisingly ordered. This has contributed to this wreck becoming an excellent marine habitat.



Shipworm: *Teredo navalis* P. Palma - Mary Rose Trust



BIB: *Trisopterus luscus*



Bib:
A common sight around *Fenna* is bib. These fish are members of the cod family, but they are much smaller than the cod with adults growing to around 40cm in length. The body of the bib is coppery coloured with four or five distinctive bands. On their chin they have a single barb, which with the colouring makes the bib an easily identifiable fish.