

Figure 1. Painting of the U.S.C.S. Robert J. Walker by W.A.K. Martin, 1852 (courtesy of the Mariners Museum, Newport News, VA) and commemorative plaques (r) placed in memorial at the lighthouse, A

Methods

Remote Sensing

Remote sensing was undertaken at the Walker site from the Stockton University vessel the RV Garnet from May to July 2014. Geo-referenced side scan sonar was used to characterize the Walker wreck and delineate the site. An L3/Klein 3900 digital sidescan was towed over the site at 445 kHz and 900 kHz frequencies to locate and to image the wreck. Side scan data was processed in Sonar Pro 12. (L3/Klein, Salem, NH) software and mosaics of the site produced in Sonar Whiz 5 (Chesapeake Technologies, Mountain View, CA) software. Bathymetric data was collected with an Edgetech 620 (Edgetech West Wareham, MA) multi-phase echosounder bathymetric sonar and processed with Hypack2014 (Hypack, Middletown, CT) hydrographic survey and processing software. Video was recorded of the site with a Seabotix LBV-300 S5 remotely operated vehicle.

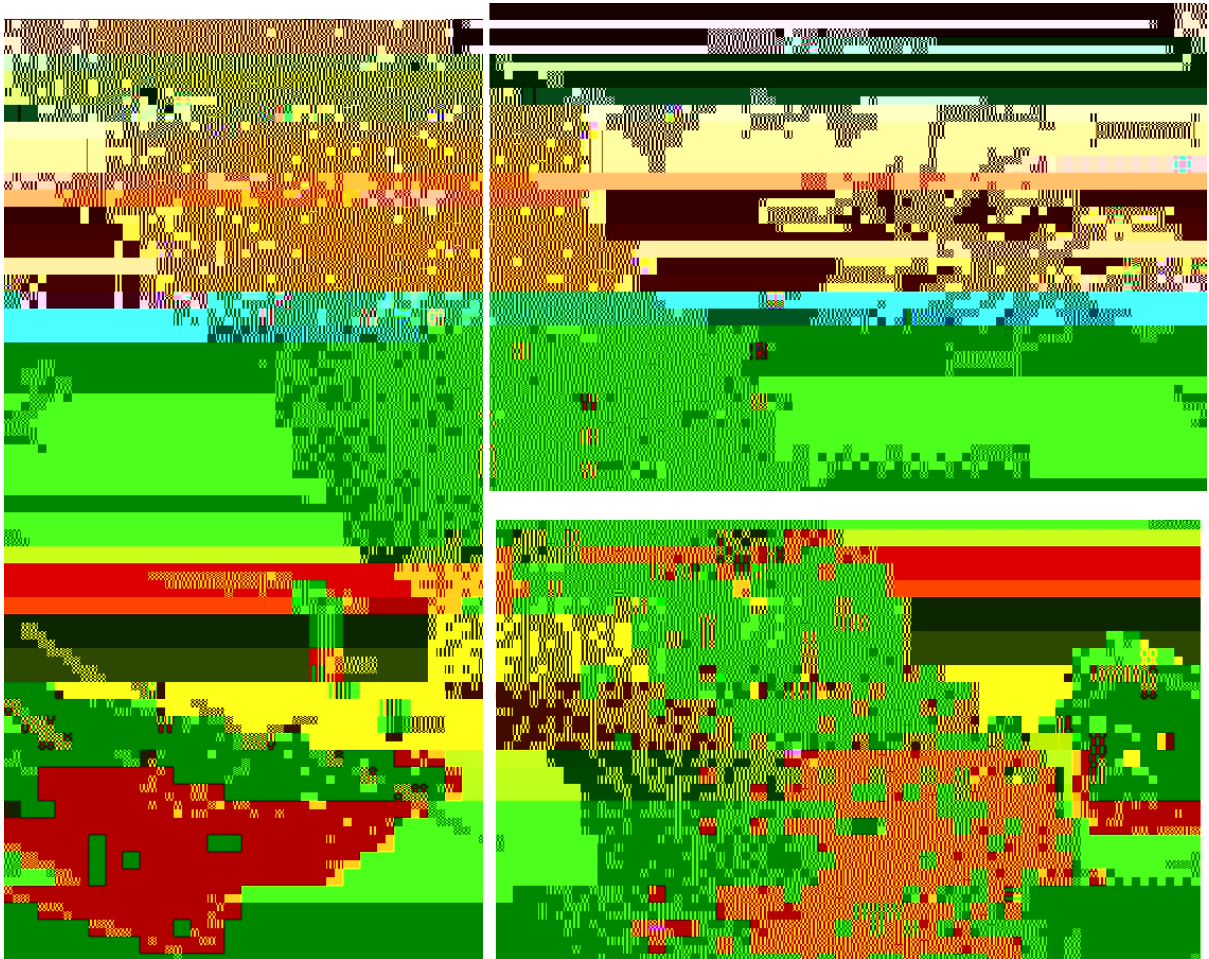


Figure 2. Robert J. Walker site maps including high frequency 900 kHz, 40 m range, si

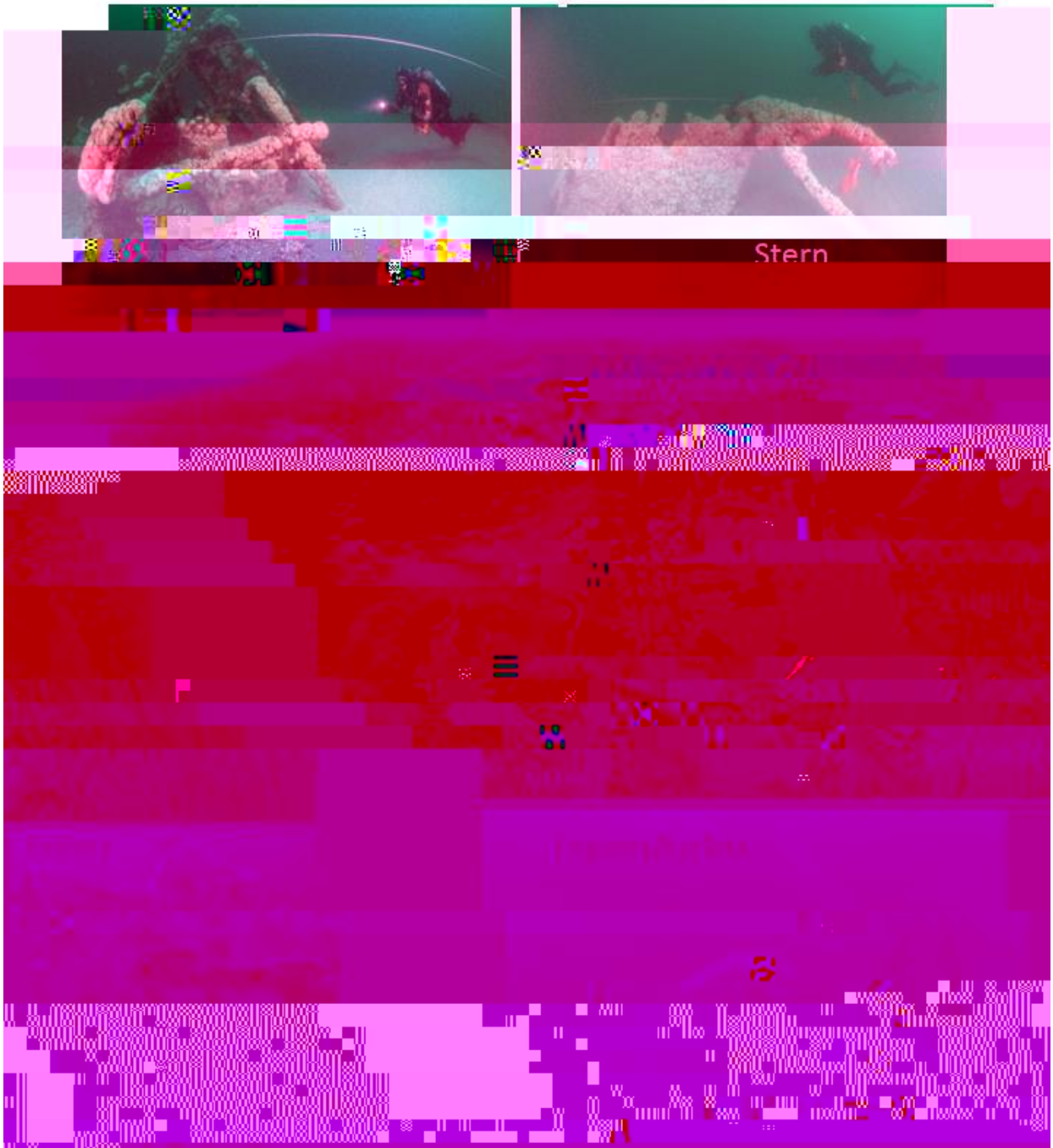


Figure 3. Side-scan sonar, high frequency 900 kHz (center). Underwater photos from the dive team, top left is the bow, top right is the remains of the stern, bottom left and right are the engines and boilers amidships (photos J. Hoyt).

The model of community engagement that the NOAA-OMS Maritime Heritage Program has chosen to pursue in the historical conservation of the U.S.C.S.S. Robert J. Walker resulted in buy-in from the diverse stakeholder groups including local government, U.S. government scientists and archaeologists, amateur archaeologists, academic scientists and archaeologists, sport divers and fishers and the general public. By following this path, the Maritime Heritage Program has designated the site as a reg

the same time honored the memory of the twenty-one Coast Survey personnel who