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MARITTIMO-IT FR-MARITIME

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NEPTUNE blue trails

THE MICHEL C



**Warning
FRAGILE**



Diving



**Cultural and
natural**



**Average
frequentation**

Geographic location

France, Région Sud, Hyères les Palmiers

Name of the conservation area (or protected area)

Marine area adjacent to Port-Cros National Park

Level of environmental protection

Natura 2000 Hyères bay

Name of the dive site

THE MICHEL C

Geographic coordinates (reference system)

LAT	N 43'00'688'
LONG	E 06°08'447"
Reference system	EPSG-4326 - WGS 84 system



LOCATION



Access to the dive site by boat

Site characteristics

Maximum depth

32 - 39 metres

Difficulty

occasional strong current



Cultural and natural

Information about the managing body

Port-Cros National Park manages the adjacent marine area and the Hyeres bay Natura 2000 zone. It conducts the concertation between professional divers and fishermen, the municipalities, government bodies, etc., to define the actions and protective measures to carry out.



INFORMATION



Diving



Permit not required

WARNING

Due to the presence of fishing lines, nets, sharp metal parts, and fragile structures that can break without warning, wrecks can be dangerous for divers. Entering a wreck requires skill and specific training and equipment as well as the respect of safety rules.



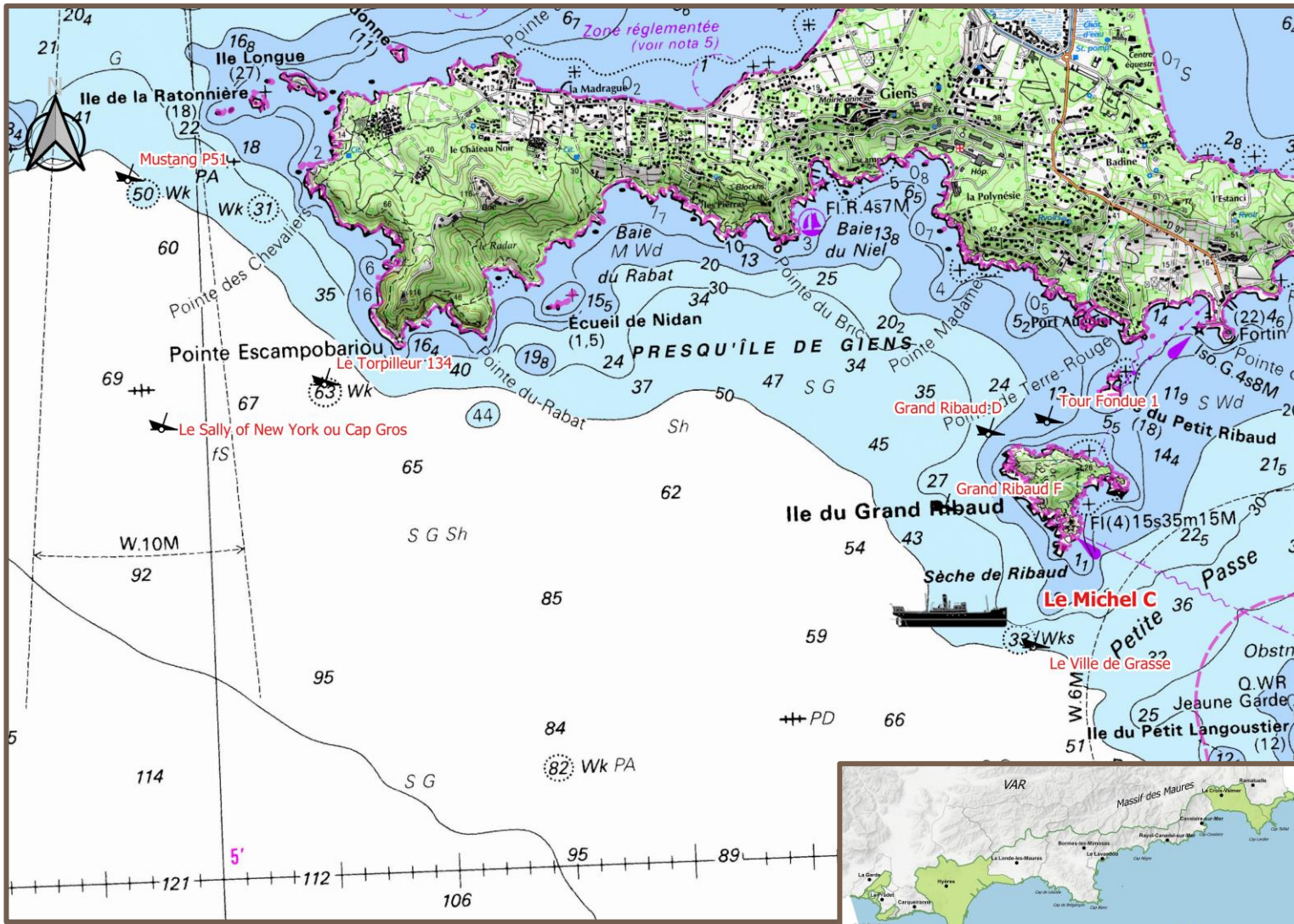
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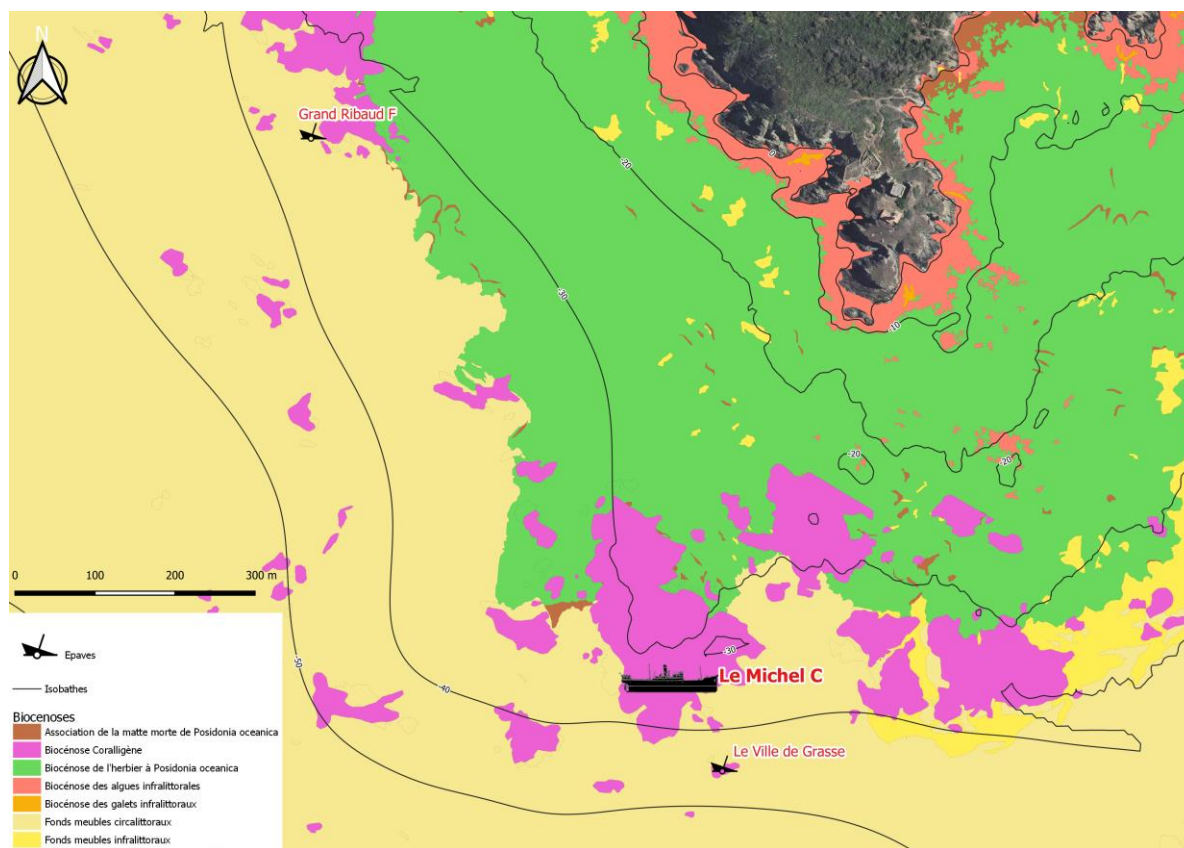
MAP



Warning FRAGILE

Description of the site of natural interest

The wreck lies between 2 rocky zones with varied flora and fauna: dusky grouper (*Epinephelus marginatus*), school of swallowtail sea perch (*Anthias anthias*), rainbow wrasse (*Coris julis*), comber (*Serranus cabrilla*), red sea fans (*Paramuricea clavata*) and yellow gorgonians (*Eunicella cavolini*), etc.



NATURAL

Area of the main habitats (within a radius of 100 m around the site):

- **Coralligenous biocenosis**
- **Unconsolidated bottom in the circalittoral zone**

To protect biodiversity

- Avoid touching underwater flora and fauna
- Do not chase fish
- Do not feed them
- Do not bring anything to the surface
- Beware of uncontrolled flipper movements, check your floatation gear
- Check that your emergency regulator is properly attached to your BCD jacket and in no case allow your equipment to trail behind you as it risks getting caught on flora and fauna.



Gorgonian ambiance - Parc national de Port-Cros
© Dominique BARRAY



Swallowtail sea perch in the
coralligenous biocenosis
Parc national de Port-Cros ©
Sandrine RUITTON



Comber - *Serranus cabrilla*
Parc national de Port-Cros © Dominique BARRAY



Yellow gorgonians - *Eunicella cavolini*
Parc national de Port-Cros © Claude LEFEBVRE

List of main species

- **Swallowtail sea perch** (*Anthias anthias*)
- **Rainbow wrasse** (*Coris julis*)
- **Red sea fan** (*Paramuricea clavata*)
- **Yellow gorgonian** (*Eunicella cavolini*)
- **Dusky grouper** (*Epinephelus marginatus*)
- **Comber** (*Serranus cabrilla*)

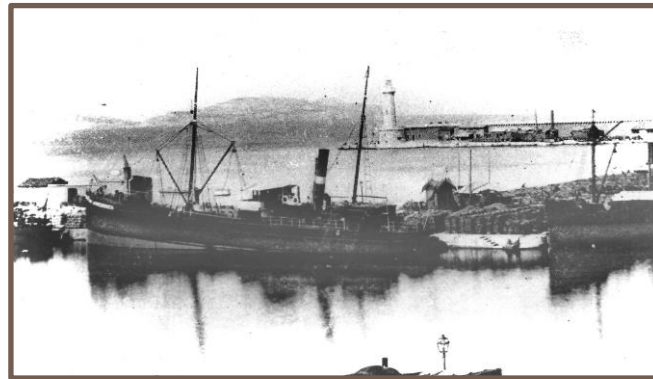
Description of the site of cultural interest

This coastal tramp steamer changed ownership several times. Built in the Irish shipyards of Belfast in 1866, it was originally named the Correo. In 1894, it was sold to a company in Marseille and was given the name Michel C. It changed hands again in 1897 and 1899. The Michel C was then overhauled and given two independent engines, each driving a propellor. After a first misadventure, when it ran aground near the Faraman lighthouse in 1896, the Michel C made its last trip with a cargo of bottled beer and bags of flour.

The wreck:

There was a heavy fog and swell on the night of 26 to 27 November 1900. Another vessel, the Amphion, an iron-built ship that was slightly bigger than the Michel C and belonged to the same company, was underway in the opposite direction. Visibility was poor and the two vessels do not seem to have seen each other. The Amphion struck the Michel C to port, before the smokestack. The Michel C sank within one minute. 11 crewmen were saved by the Amphion, but an engineer perished. The Michel C came to rest on a pile of huge rocks, broken over a distance of more than 50 m. A propellor with one remaining blade is still visible on the ship.

Illustration of the Michel C in the port of Sète – collection Chambre du commerce de Marseille



Photos of underwater cultural heritage

WARNING

Wrecks and all traces of underwater cultural heritage are protected by law.

It is prohibited to bring anything to the surface.

MICHEL C, Bow - Parc national de Port-Cros © Dominique BARRAY



Panoramic view of the Michel C
Parc national de Port-Cros © Nicolas BARRAQUE



MICHEL C, Boiler - Parc national de Port-Cros © Dominique BARRAY



MICHEL C, detail of the propellor Parc national de Port-Cros © Nicolas BARRAQUE