

PRESS RELEASE

NEWEST ADDITION TO GRENADA'S DIVE SITES:

The freighter "Shakem" sank on May 30, 2001 off the coast of Grenada.

SHAKEM WRECK

Sank 30.May 2001 7.00 a.m. just off Long Point, 1 mile out of St. George's harbor, Grenada.

As the vessel traveled from Trinidad over night, at 3.00 a.m. in the morning the load started to shift towards the port bow side. The load (heavy cement bags) could not be replaced and the boat started to take on water. As approaching Grenada the reeling was already under water and with a sudden movement the vessel turned over. It sank to a coral ground at 90 feet and turned again while sinking. Now it stands upright and dive can explore it in a depth between 90 and 60 feet.

The vessel was built in Germany 1956 at J.J.Sietas in Hamburg with 500 t gross tonnage and 55 m length. It was used apparently to transport grain and owned by Germans before it was sold to Mr. Frank Ollivierre of St. Vincent in 1997. Mr. Olivierre added a crane mid ships and transported all kinds of cargo between the West Indies.

Local eyewitnesses saw it riding the waters funny as approaching St. George's harbor and called the authorities. The Grenada coast guard saved all 4 crewmembers including the boat owner and was awarded 2 life rafts and one drum of rum. One of the original crew of 5 had overslept and missed the trip, intentionally going from Trinidad via Grenada to St. Lucia.

After 2 weeks the wreck already is inhabited by a large school of squid, reef squid as well as open ocean squid. Further; large schools of fish cruising it such as mackerel squad brown chromies and other.