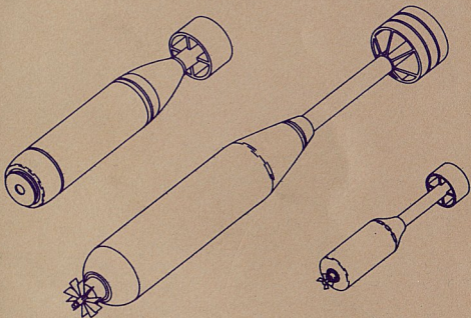


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# A Fisherman's Guide to Explosive Ordnance



*Credits*

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Ordnance Disposal Technology Center*

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UNC Sea Grant College Program*

One clear July evening in 1965, the U.S. trawler *Snoopy* brought up an unusual object in her scallop dredging gear off the coast of South Carolina. Identified by one crew member as a torpedo, the cylindrical object was suspended over the port side as the trawler headed back to shore. But, an unexpected drag en route caused the torpedo to swing away from the boat, and then swing back. The sudden meeting of boat and torpedo produced tragic results as the *Snoopy* exploded and eight lives were lost.

For trawlers, dredgers and other boats with bottom-tending gear, the chances of snagging or netting an explosive ordnance off the North Carolina coast are great. Both explosive and nonexplosive ordnance can be found in most fishing grounds along the U.S. coast, and they are being netted with increasing frequency. However, if handled and disposed of properly, explosives can be of little or no danger to fishermen.

The U.S. Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Center recommends the following instructions for handling explosive ordnance or any object not readily identified as a nonexplosive:

"Recovery, by commercial fishing vessels, of explosive and nonexplosive ordnance along the eastern U.S. continental shelf should be anticipated, as military training, sea dumps, and combat operations have occurred throughout the area. As virtually any type of ordnance may be recovered, it is not practical to provide complete identifying coverage. The following drawings represent the more common types of ordnance which can be expected to be found, especially as the result of combat operations. Such combat usage could

cause the ordnance to be in a more hazardous condition.

"Items which have been submerged for any appreciable length of time may be heavily encrusted with sea growth, and difficult to identify. When in doubt, it must be assumed that the item is explosive ordnance until identified otherwise by qualified personnel. Torpedo warheads are probably the most dangerous items likely to be encountered (they may be separated from the torpedo body). Should suspected ordnance be recovered, the following paragraphs are recommended as a guide.

"As all possible situations cannot be addressed, common sense should be exercised in dealing with suspected ordnance. If ordnance is covered in nets or dredges, cease all operations immediately. Do not allow the item to remain alongside the vessel where wave action may cause contact with the hull. If the item is onboard and suspended, and can continue to be safely suspended, stabilize the net with guy lines to prevent movement and keep crew well forward and away from the stern.

"If the item is not onboard, and can safely be lowered back into the water, do so. If in shallow water (less than 130 feet), lower item to bottom, buoy off net/dredge recovery lines and stand by in immediate vicinity while awaiting assistance. In deep water, stream the object aft as far as possible and maintain steerageway as necessary to remain in the area while awaiting assistance. Keep crew well forward and away from the stern. In all cases, avoid unnecessary movement or jarring of the item. Do not handle the suspected ordnance.

Contact the nearest Coast Guard

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facility by radio, stating vessel position and circumstances, and describe the item as completely as possible, e.g., size, shape, fins, shrouds, props, markings, etc. The Coast Guard will notify the nearest military Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Team which will respond with assistance and will attempt a rendezvous with the vessel at sea. If weather or other conditions dictate the vessel must

make port with the ordnance onboard, anchor or tie up in as remote an area as possible to avoid endangering other lives and property."

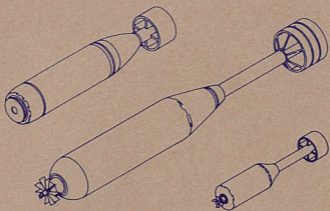
If you should drag up any unusual object in your nets, consult the drawings in this publication for possible identification. If you suspect it is an explosive ordnance, contact the nearest Coast Guard station for assistance.



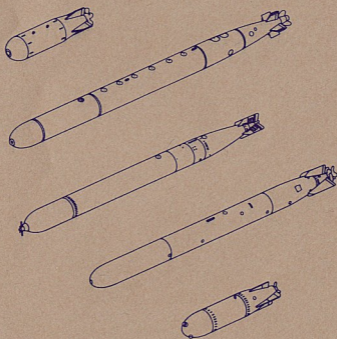
**Mine covered with sea growth**



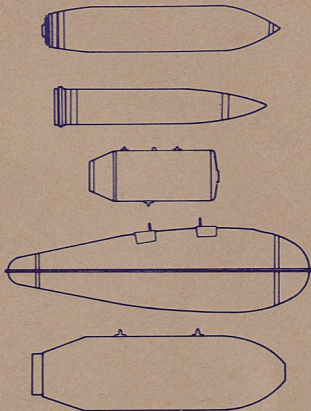
**Projectile covered with sea growth**



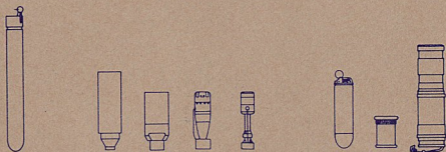
**Projected anti-submarine-warfare weapons**



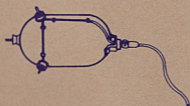
**Representative torpedoes**



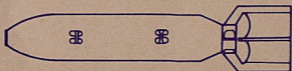
**Aerial bombs without fins**



**Markers and signals**



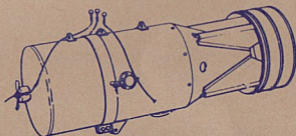
**Miscellaneous mine floats**



**Aerial bomb and projectiles**



**Depth charges**



**Depth bomb**



**Practice depth charges**

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