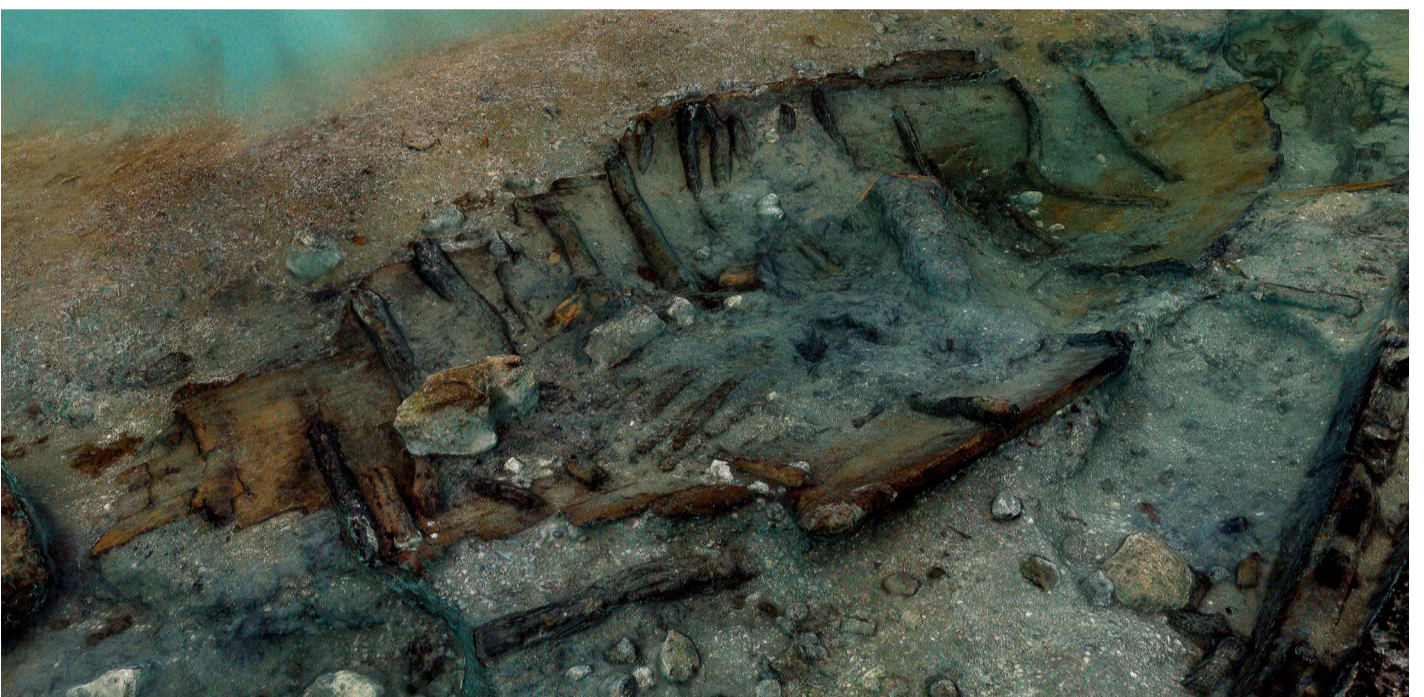


SHIP 5 - A MEDITERRANEAN SHIPWRECK



The IEASM found the remains of a small ship built in a **classical ship-building tradition** in Thonis-Heracleion, relying on a dense network of mortise-and-tenon joinery for its planking.

Several amphorae and pieces of tableware found directly resting on the interior of the hull of Ship 5 indicate that its sinking occurred sometime between the first half and the middle of the 4th century BC.

Ship 5 was found surrounded by other shipwrecks in the eastern part of the Central Port of Thonis-Heracleion. Moreover, Ship 5 was deposited inside the hull of another ship (Ship 6) whose dimensions were considerably larger.

All of the surrounding ships belonged to the baris type. A layer of sediment between Ships 5 and 6 confirms that some time had elapsed between the separate events of their deposition on the seafloor.

The preserved portion of the hull of Ship 5 measures seven by three meters while the original length of the ship may be estimated at 14 to 15 m. The hull's remains were in a good state of preservation and contained a **considerable amount of thick ropes**. The use of species such as fir, pine, maple, and walnut in the construction of Ship 5 favours a foreign origin.



Lost under tragic circumstances

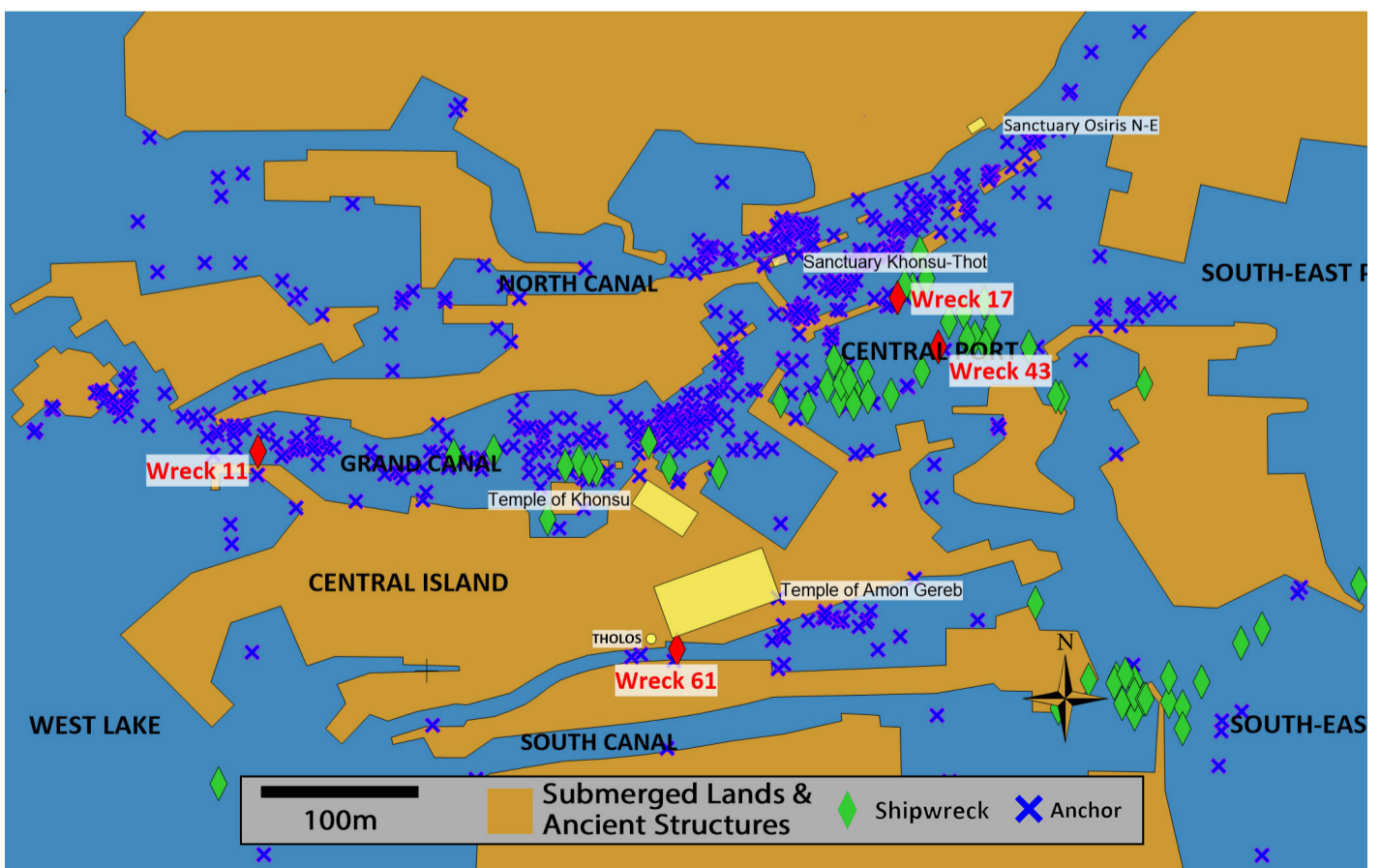
The ship caught fire and sank during a putative naval battle. The preserved section of the outer hull, many internal constructional members, and pieces of rigging bear witness to that.

Consequently, a considerable amount of charcoal was deposited inside the hull. The excavation brought to light several lead sling bullets and a Greek helmet of Chalcidian type (5th–4th c. BC). These artefacts allow for the suggestion that Ship 5 was lost during a military conflict.

Importance of the city confirmed

There are not many known Mediterranean wrecks that date to the 4th century BC and demonstrate a well-preserved hull. In this respect, the data collected from Ship 5 is of prime importance for the study of the naval architecture of the period.

Moreover, the ship belongs to a different type of construction than the majority of the ships from Thonis–Heracleion and was in all likelihood built abroad. The ship further confirms that Thonis–Heracleion played an important role in Egyptian history in peacetime and wartime alike.



Map showing the reconstructed area of Thonis-Heracleion with the positions of anchors and shipwrecks ©IEASM



Object: location: eastern part of the Central Port of Thonis-Heracleion

Source:

Franck Goddio & Alexander Belov: Shipwreck 5 from Thonis-Heracleion, Egypt. Proceedings of the 16th International Symposium on Boat & Ship Archaeology ISBSA 16, 2021

Photo and 3D photogrammetry: Christoph Gerigk © Franck Goddio/Hilti Foundation