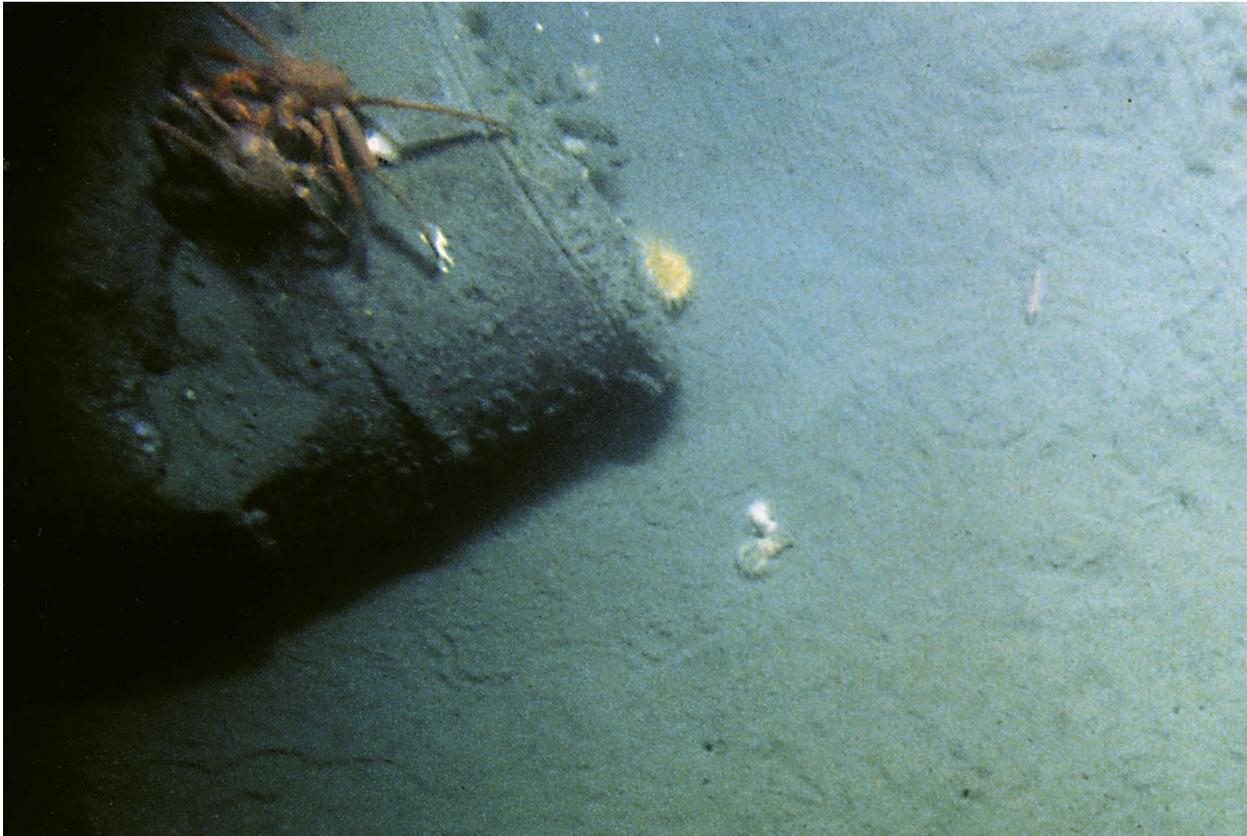


Issues of Environmental Management in the Gulf of the Farallones



Since the mid-1800's, when the California Gold Rush first brought frantic development to the San Francisco Bay region, the waters of the bay and of the Gulf of the Farallones, beyond the Golden Gate, have been used to dispose of manmade waste. Perhaps of greatest concern are thousands of barrels of low-level radioactive waste dumped in the gulf during several decades following the Second World War. To evaluate the hazard from radioactivity to the marine environment, including increasingly important fisheries, scientists have begun the search for containers of radioactive waste on the sea floor of the gulf.

Another issue is the need to find suitable places in the gulf to dump material dredged from shipping channels in San Francisco Bay. Studies of the sea floor in the gulf have already enabled the Environmental Protection Agency to designate the Nation's first deep-ocean disposal site for dredge spoils.