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CONFERENCE PAPER ABSTRACT

NAME OF PRESENTER:	Grant Luckman
TITLE OF PAPER:	Understanding the meaning of 'shipwreck': bringing cultural and environmental evidence together.
THEME:	<i>Specific Session 1: Underwater Cultural Heritage</i>
<p>PAPER ABSTRACT:</p> <p>In the study of underwater cultural heritage we freely use the word 'shipwreck' to describe the loss of a vessel, but what exactly does this word mean? The use of the terms 'shipwreck' and 'accident' are both constructs of language that are used to represent an often complex series of factors that we don't fully comprehend or wish to understand. Most shipwrecks are the result of a confluence of cultural factors and environmental conditions that together lead to a 'wrecking event'. The holistic study of pre-disposing cultural factors and the environments in which shipwrecks occur, can help us to understand both the causes and the spatial distribution of shipwrecks in a given area. This paper will explore these relationships in the context of shipwrecks in the North-eastern Australian region, including the Great Barrier Reef and Coral Sea.</p>	
<p>BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTER</p> <p>Grant Luckman is a Maritime Archaeologist and a Senior Program Officer working in the Historic Shipwrecks Program for the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy. His work involves national administration of the Program, legislation and the National Underwater Cultural Heritage Database. He holds a Bachelor of Social Science Degree in History and Archaeology, and a Master's Degree in Maritime Archaeology.</p>	