

# The Lost Navy - Sweden's "Blue" Heritage circa 1450–1850: Results from a Research Program that Maps, Documents and Researches the Swedish Navy

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## Session Description

In the depths of the Baltic lies a large number of well-preserved wrecks of early modern naval ships. Some have been sunk in battle or by accident, but many have been deliberately scuttled around ports or as foundations for bridges and quays.

The research program The Lost Navy maps, documents and researches the Swedish navy of circa 1450–1850. During this period, the Swedish navy consisted of sailing ships. There is information on over 950 ships, of which many still are preserved on the seabed, but only a few of these have been archaeologically examined and documented. For centuries, these naval vessels were a central part of the Swedish maritime history – a part which is largely still unwritten.

The vessels are identified and researched with maritime archaeological and other methods using both written sources and archaeological finds.

The program is funded by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond and will run 2021–2026 and is a collaboration between the Centre for Maritime Studies at Stockholm University, the Swedish National Maritime and Transport Museums (Vrak – Museum of Wrecks) and the Finnish Heritage Agency.

The research programme consists of eleven subprojects and involve thirteen researchers from archaeology, history and ethology. The papers within this session are results from the program and related research.

## **Keywords**

Naval Wrecks; Maritime Archaeology; Early Modern; Historical Archaeology; Cultural Heritage