



Dive 121 - Portimão - 06-06-2014



The 'Ocean Patrol EX-NRP Zambeze' with NATO designation P1147 was built for coastal and river patrol operations in Africa. All the ships of this class were named after African and Indian rivers from former Portuguese colonies. The ships were the next technological step up from LFGs - Large Inspection Ships of the 'Argos' class, built between 1964 and 1965. The Ocean Patrol was taken into active Armed Forces service in July 1972 with 33 crewmembers.

Due to lots of algae floating in the water at twenty five to thirty meters, visibility was limited to 3 to 4 meters. The ship has been in the water for only about a year or two, and is therefore not completely corroded. The wreck has large areas covered with mussels.

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A wreck penetration is made easy due to numerous large openings in the ship's hull. Openings have also been made in the decks, allowing vertical penetration. This is how we got into the engine room; you need a good torch here because it is very dark. Some good buoyancy is preferable, since there is some sediment inside the wreck that will obscure the viz if you are a wild one!

