

## Al-Ind-Esk-A-Sea

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With a history that includes everything from being a cruise ship, a US Navy ship and a private yacht, the Al-Ind-Esk-Sea floated her last days as a fish processing ship owned by TransAlaska Fisheries Corp. The ship was capable of processing and carrying more than 5 million pounds of packaged seafood in refrigerated holds before sinking in 1982 after a fire. The Al-Ind-Esk-A-Sea now lies on her starboard side in 240 feet of water.

The Al-Ind-Esk-A-Sea• Vessel type: Freighter

• Length: 336 feet

• Beam: approx. 50 feet

• Gross Tonnage: 3,767The Al-Ind-Esk-A-Sea was built in 1945 by Leathem D. Smith Shipbuilding Co. of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. The ship was launched in May 1945 as the cruise ship Coastal Guide. In 1948, the ship was transferred to the Army and renamed the Sgt. George Peterson. In 1950, the ship became the USNS Sgt. George Peterson, a Navy transportation ship. Among other naval assignments, the Peterson spent eight years carrying cargo in the Gulf of Mexico and along the southeastern U.S. seaboard. The Peterson was inactivated in 1959 and placed in reserve in Mobile, Alabama. In 1971, the ship was sold to a Florida publisher, who outfitted it as a private yacht, complete with swimming pool. In 1979, the ship was sold to TransAlaska Fisheries Corp., a subsidiary of the 13th Regional Corp, one of 13 Native Alaskan companies set up by Congress to compensate the natives for loss of their land. The new owner converted the ship into a fish processor, capable of processing and carrying up to 5 million pounds of packaged seafood in refrigerated holds. In 1979, the Al-Ind-Esk-A-Sea was one of the most modern fish processing ships operating in Alaska. In October 1982, the Al-Ind-Esk-A-Sea was at anchor in Port Garner (Everett, WA) about a 1/2 mile off shore. The ship was undergoing repairs and being readied for the December herring season. She had just returned from processing 4.8 million pounds of Alaskan salmon. A fire started on the vessel, apparently caused by a welder's torch. The crew was evacuated and the ship was left to burn. Firefighters stayed away from the blaze fearing that the 18 tons of ammonia used in the ship's refrigeration system would explode and escape into the atmosphere. As the fire progressed, some of the ammonia canisters exploded, sending flames 30-40 feet into the air with a huge column of white smoke. The ship burned for over 2 days. Finally, on October 22, 1982, at 10:13 am, the vessel rolled onto her starboard side and quietly went down, stern first. At the time of sinking, the ship was insured for \$14

million.[al\\_ind\\_esk\\_a\\_sea/images/history/](#)The Al-Ind-Esk-A-Sea TodayThe Al-Ind-Esk-A-Sea now lies on her starboard side in 240 feet of water. The steel hull and superstructure are intact. The upper (port) side of the vessel is nearly level at a depth of approximately 180 feet. A buoy, owned by the Port of Everett, marks almost the exact location of the wreck in Port Gardner.[al\\_ind\\_esk\\_a\\_sea/images/images/](#)[YajSscgEeyU/](#)