

Name: Lindsay Wentzel  
Title: Maritime Studies Program, East Carolina University  
Email: [wentzell20@students.ecu.edu](mailto:wentzell20@students.ecu.edu)

Title of Proposal: “Stripped Clean by Wind and Water”: The Search for a Provincetown Whaler Wrecked in Cape Lookout, North Carolina

Abstract: With whale oil flickering out of public demand following the 1859 discovery of petroleum, some New England whaling operations adopted a “plum-pudding” whaling strategy as a method of self-preservation. Typically carried out by smaller vessels, these brief Atlantic voyages were named for their ability to easily restock fresh supplies. Seychelle, a 47-ton, double-masted whaling schooner owned by E.& E.K. Cook & Co. out of Provincetown, MA, was one such vessel. In 1879 it wrecked at Cape Lookout, NC on its first voyage to the Hatteras Grounds. Building upon prior archaeological efforts from 1982 and 1993, East Carolina University’s Program in Maritime Studies investigated the suspected site of Seychelle during its 2021 Summer Field School. This paper aims to discuss the vessel biography of Seychelle, its inclusion in the local history of the Outer Banks, and whether its suspected remnants could in fact belong to a vessel of this construction.