The Copenhagen is in 15 to 30 feet of water just outside the Pompano Drop Off, 3.6 miles south of the Hillsboro Inlet and three-quarters of a mile off the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea. Broward County reef mooring buoys No. 3 and No. 4 mark the historical site. The wreckage, scattered over an area of about 300 feet, rests with her bow section pointed south.
A state archaeological preserve off Lauderdale-By-The-Sea that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places!

Most of the shipwrecks off Broward County were scuttled as part of the county’s impressive artificial reef program. The fate of SS Copenhagen, however, was never planned. The 19th Century steamship accidentally struck a reef three-quarters of a mile off present-day Lauderdale-by-the-Sea on May 26, 1900, seven years before the Hillsboro Lighthouse was built. Most of the cargo was recovered. Efforts to free the vessel were almost complete when salvage crews were called away to a huge maritime disaster in New Jersey. The abandoned vessel, which remained visible above water for decades, was used for military target practice by U.S. Navy pilots stationed in Fort Lauderdale during World War II.

Ninety-four years later, Copenhagen was established as the state’s fifth shipwreck preserve in June 1994. One of several Underwater Archaeological Preserves statewide, it was officially placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001. Launched in 1898 in Sunderland, England, Copenhagen at the time was a prime example of a dynamic shift in shipbuilding design and propulsion as old world shipyards switched from building wooden sailing ships to steam-powered vessels with steel hulls. The ship’s final voyage began on May 20, 1900, when it left Philadelphia bound for Cuba with 5,000 tons of coal.

After what remained of the ship’s structure eventually disappeared below the surface, her story was forgotten. Subsequent research by the Marine Archaeological Council of Broward County re-established the ill-fated Copenhagen’s true identity and history. The wreck today provides vital habitat for sea fans, loggerhead sponges, spiny lobsters, live rock or any other marine life on the wreck or within 500 feet of it.

Please observe the following:
- Do not disturb or remove any corals attached to the reef or the ship.
- Do not spearfish, collect or harvest any tropical fish, spiny lobsters, live rock or any other marine life on the wreck or within 500 feet of it.
- Follow safe diving practices and the law by always displaying a Divers Down flag.
- Exercise caution while exploring the wreck. Wear gloves and avoid sharp edges and rough surfaces.
- Do not anchor on the site! Tie up your vessel to a mooring buoy or anchor in the sand.
- Maneuver your boat at slow speeds near the wreck and watch for divers in the water.

As a state and national historic site, SS Copenhagen is protected by Florida and federal laws prohibiting the unauthorized disturbance, excavation or removal of ship artifacts, including the remnants of its cargo (Anthracite coal). Please keep this state preserve intact for future generations of divers and snorkelers.

Dive into Copenhagen online:
http://journals.fcla.edu/browardlegacy/article/view/79346/76690
www.nps.gov/history/nr/travel/fl/shipwrecks/cop.htm
www.flheritage.com/archaeology/underwater/seamuseum/copenhagen/index.htm