Anguilla’s Artificial Reefs

Reefs: the facts

- Coral reefs are living structures. They are formed of colonies of coral polyps held together by calcium carbonate.

- Corals are animals. Microscopic algae called zooxanthallae live inside of them. The zooxanthallae photosynthesize to create energy for the coral polyp. The relationship is symbiotic. Both the polyp and algae benefit.

- Coral reefs cover less than 1% of the earth’s surface but a staggering 1/3 of all marine life depends on them for survival.

- Their value to humans is estimated at US$170 billion per year in terms of fisheries, coastal protection, and tourism.

- But corals are under threat from:
  - overfishing
  - invasive species, such as lionfish
  - coastal development
  - damage caused by boat anchors
  - sun screen
  - climate change

Restoring Little Bay Marine Park

- In 2018, Anguilla’s first artificial reef was installed in Little Bay Marine Park.

- The reef, made of concrete structures of various sizes provides homes for juvenile lobster, reef fish and many other species.

- The hard structures also provide substrate to encourage and allow the regrowth of hard and soft corals.

- The artificial reef has been designed as a dive and snorkel trail with underwater information signs and buoys marking the trail and the way.

For more information about Anguilla’s coral and artificial reefs, contact:

Anguilla National Trust
PO Box 1234
The Valley, Anguilla
Tel. 264 497 5297
Email. antadmin@anguillanet.com

Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources
PO Box 60
The Valley, Anguilla
Tel. 264 497 2871
Email. fisheriesmr@gov.ai

This work was made possible through funds provided by the European Commission’s BEST 2.0 Initiative (SG2246).