



Saltwater News Artificial Reef Project



For some years now there has been an effort to increase our nearshore and offshore reefs in Brevard County. The many people that have been in the forefront of these efforts are really to be commended. One quick example of a group that surely gets a "high five" is the Florida Sports Fishing Association, and while many others have worked very hard on artificial reefs, in my opinion the FSFA is the leader when it comes to getting these artificial reefs completed.

Anyone that has gone through the process of trying to get all the permits, money, time and labor involved in starting any artificial reef project knows that it can be a real time consuming headache. And yes, there always seems to be the political thing that enters into the picture, and that, of course, is the environmental issues that surround any project that calls for depositing anything on the ocean floor. And, that is as it should be.

With all of the problems that are involved with any reef project, such as old ships, rockets, tanks, airplanes or just about any object that is going to be sunk, there has to be a complete cleanup and detoxing of the materials. This, along with everything else in the reef project, takes a lot of time, and many times, longer than it should because of the lack of available funds or man hours to complete the projects. As with any project undertaken, a lot of people who are involved early seem to lose interest before the project is finished.

EVER HEARD OF THE REEF BALL?

If you haven't, I encourage you to finish this article, and I think that you will agree with us that this could be the answer that environmentalists, fishermen, businessmen and local, state and federal officials have been looking for. Sounds maybe too good to be true — read on.

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