

# REEF

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and other saltwater creatures grow and live.

The students built the reef balls after the county commission and school board jointly bought materials. The molds provide the half-round shape of the reef balls as well as provide openings so saltwater species can easily move in and out of the structures.

"I wanted to pour concrete from this, but I don't think I want to do that for a job," said Anthony Burgess, 18, as he was preparing to launch 20 reef balls into the Gulf on Tuesday morning with four other students.

Bogges and the other students are trained to dive, being certified scuba water divers by their parental, Mike McCasill. Diving as a hobby will use in the next seasons

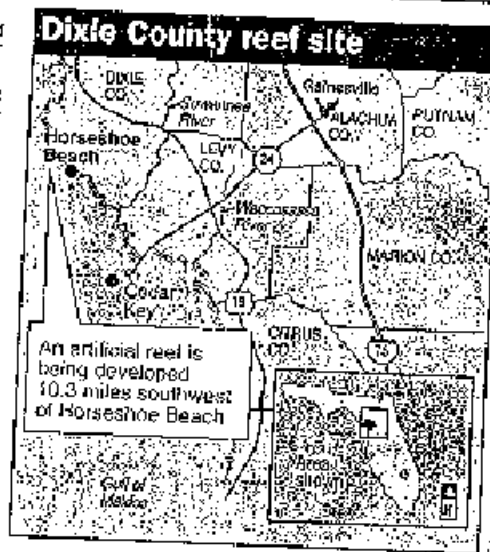
about the reef.

"I hope to see a lot of inhabited space when we dive down there," said Scott Reitz, 18.

McCasill said that in the spring semester, the students will move the structures from wherever they settled into a group. He expects that two students will be able to easily move one of the 250 pound structures and that will be another lesson learning to calculate the changes in perceived weights underwater.

"Dixie County High received a \$4,600 grant from the saltwater fishing license fee program administered by the state Department of Environmental Protection, and we plan to use the money to monitor this reef for the next 30 months," McCasill said.

"We'll be out here at least twice a month and when the water warms up in the spring, we'll do a 24-hour monitoring project so that the students can observe the movement and actions of fish."



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