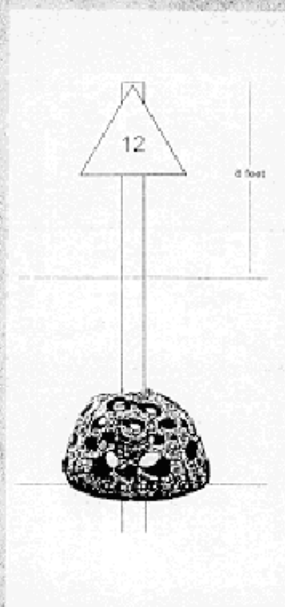


Innovative artificial reef projects give marine habitat a boost

Three innovative artificial reef projects are underway for Sarasota Bay that will turn typical channel markers into mini-artificial reefs to increase their habitat potential. Marine piling will be placed through prefabricated reef modules. Then the typical signage will be attached. Fifteen of these innovative channel markers will be placed from Big Pass to Ken Thompson Park boat ramp. This project is being funded by grants from the Florida Artificial Fishing Reef Grant Fund and the Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program and is expected to be completed in October.



Channel markers will serve as mini-reef sites in new project.

The other two projects will be at the Jantzen and Hart reef sites in Sarasota Bay. Fifty artificial reef modules will be deployed at each site. These modules are constructed from 100 percent recycled materials using waste concrete and shredded tires. This project is funded through a grant from the Sarasota County Recycling Division, with a September completion anticipated. All three projects are managed and coordinated by the Resource Management Division.

This article was contributed by Michael Solum, Environmental Specialist.

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