



SOUTH CAROLINA NATURAL Resource

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Reef Program Participating in National Project

EXPERIMENTAL CONCRETE fish attractors have been sunk on a South Carolina reef as part of a national program to evaluate the effectiveness of the units.

Reef Ball Development Group of Doraville, Ga., recently launched a program called Reef Balls Around the Nation to place 100 or more "reef balls" in every reef building program in the nation.

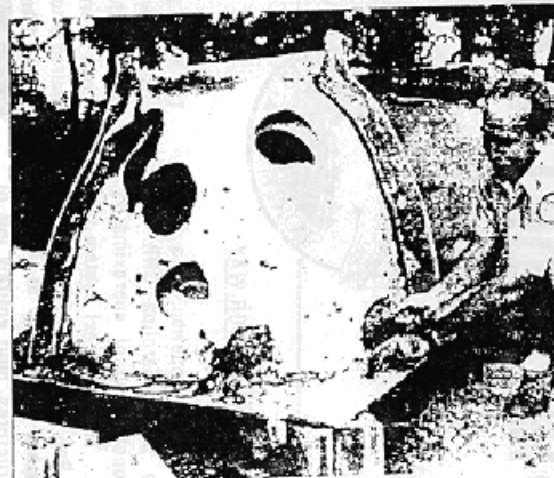
Reef balls are hollow concrete structures three to six feet in diameter that are molded around a reusable, inflated bladder. About 120 reef balls of three different sizes will be sunk on the Kiawah Reef southeast of Charleston.

South Carolina is the second state to participate in the program. More than 300 reef balls were recently added to artificial reefs off the Florida coast.

"The company has provided us with the use of the molds for 60 days so our only cost is the concrete and transportation to the reef," said Mel Bell, artificial reef manager for the Marine Resources Division.

Revenues from the sale of the Marine Recreational Fisheries Stamp have been used to build and sink the units, Bell said.

"The high profile design of the reef balls and the many access holes in each unit make these ideal fish attractors," Bell said. "We will monitor their



These concrete reef balls will be evaluated as fish attractors on South Carolina artificial reefs.

effectiveness over a period of several years for attracting fish and other marine life and providing suitable habitat."

Other states which have agreed to

participate in Reef Balls Around the Nation include Georgia, Maryland and New York.