

the Marine Corp. Air Station. The South Carolina DNR, using fish stamp license fees, is paying for the cost of the concrete, transportation and deployment of these units offshore. Due to the input we have received from local anglers, the Reef Foundation and South Carolina DNR has established the Fish America Reef as the site for these new units. It is clear that additional reefs need to be established in closer proximity to shore to make these sites accessible to a greater number of anglers. (This also provides a shorter "rescue" for anglers such as Bill "Tow-Me" Scheper.) The completion of the recent Parris Island reef located near the cobia hole in Broad River is another example of a reef that will be easily accessible by almost any size vessel.

The molds for the Reef Balls have been on loan to the South Carolina DNR for approximately 60 days. Mel Bell, Wayne Hall, and other South Carolina DNR personnel also constructed approximately 150 of the Reef Balls in Charleston, also using fish stamp monies. Reef Ball Development Group, Ltd. has chosen South Carolina as a test state as a demonstration project of the benefits of their design. It is expected CNN will be providing TV coverage of the entire process, including deployment. The Reef Ball Group intends to lease or rent the fiberglass forms to interested parties throughout the country using this unique design.

Some of the many advantages of this program include the ease of construction and deployment. Our two employees, using 10 forms, constructed 10 units per day. Using special chemicals in the concrete which allow it to cure rapidly, the forms can be dismantled in as little as 12 hours after pouring, thus, providing for a quick turnover. The units can be easily moved with a small forklift and can be deployed off of a deck barge. The Reef Ball Group also promotes the fact that these units can be towed by leaving the air bladder inside

inflated prior to deployment. Once on the bottom, divers remove the bladder. While this may prove beneficial if they will be deployed only a short distance from the dock, the Reef Foundation will not be using this method in deployment.

It is hoped that we will be able to deploy these units sometime in the next 3 or 4 months. Bids will be let by the South Carolina DNR for the transportation and deployment of these units.