

Project Title: Marine Finfish Habitat Management

Project PI/Coordinator: Robert M. Martore

Reporting Period: From: July 1, 2009 To: June 30, 2010

Project Objectives:

- Continue artificial reef development on existing permitted reef sites along the South Carolina coast by completing reef construction activities in accordance with the State's Marine Artificial Reef Management Plan.
- Continue to maintain a system of private aids to navigation on reef sites by following a schedule of routine inspection, maintenance and replacement on all applicable artificial reef sites.
- Continue routine performance and compliance monitoring on all permitted reef sites by following a schedule of routine and special underwater inspections to document the stability, structural integrity and biological effectiveness of the materials in place on each of the State's artificial reef sites.
- Publish and distribute artificial reef fishing guides and material lists to keep the general public informed of the ongoing activities of the program.

Summary of Activities:

- Fourteen reef construction projects were carried out during this reporting period on 12 separate artificial reef sites encompassing every coastal county of the state. They are summarized below:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Reef Site</u>
08 July 09	22 armored personnel carriers	Little River Reef
08 July 09	6 APC's, 4 20-ft. container boxes	Little River Offshore Reef
15 July 09	55-foot deck barge	Georgetown Nearshore Reef
21 July 09	7 concrete culvert pipes	Charleston 60' Reef
14 Sep 09	50-foot dredge barge	Little River Reef
05 Nov 09	80-foot crane barge	Edisto 40' Reef
05 Jan 10	100-foot barge with deck house	Betsy Ross Reef
05 Jan 10	100-foot deck barge	Beaufort 45' Reef
14 Jan 10	60-foot steel-hulled trawler	Edisto Offshore Reef
20 May 10	80-foot steel-hulled trawler	Comanche Reef

10 June 10	33 armored personnel carriers	Beaufort 45' Reef
15 June 10	16 armored personnel carriers	Edisto 60' Reef
15 June 10	17 armored personnel carriers	Hilton Head Reef
23 June 10	92 concrete culvert pipes	Paradise Reef

- Twenty-two days of estuarine and offshore reef monitoring were completed, including the conclusion of a spawning study on artificial reefs which documented the spawning activities of several recreationally important fish species on these reef sites.
- Twenty-nine SCUBA dives were made to conduct video surveys and document colonization of reef structures.
- Eleven missing reef buoys were replaced on offshore and inshore reef sites.
- Major media events were held for this year's Reef-Ex event, including local print and television media, as well as inclusion in a national documentary.
- Numerous presentations concerning the Reef Program were given to various fishing clubs, diving clubs, educational groups, and civic organizations around the state.