

## ARTIFICIAL REEFS



### “TAKE YOUR KIDS FISHING”

For more information, please contact Pasco County Parks & Recreation at 727-834-3278 or 813-929-2760

## REEF LOCATIONS

### SITE #1

APPROX. 11 NAUTICAL MILES DUE WEST OF GULF HARBORS CHANNEL  
COORDINATES ARE 28-16.75°N AND 82-57.45°W / DEPTH 25'-30'

CONTAINS STEEL BARGES,  
STEEL CYLINDRICAL CONTAINERS,  
CONCRETE CULVERTS,  
AND 4 SUNKEN BOATS

### SITE #2

APPROX. 14 NAUTICAL MILES DUE WEST OF PITHLACHASCOTEE RIVER.  
COORDINATES ARE 28-17.63°N AND 83-01.09°W / DEPTH 35'-40'

CONTAINS STEEL BARGE, CONCRETE CULVERTS, AND ARMY TANKS

### SITE #3

DISCONTINUED

### SITE #4

APPROX. 10.5 NAUTICAL MILES WEST OF HUDSON BEACH  
COORDINATES ARE 28-22.258°N AND 82-56.999°W / DEPTH 28'

CONTAINS CONCRETE CULVERTS AND STEEL PIPES

**\* PASCO COUNTY \***  
**\* REEF \***  
**\* PROGRAM \***



**PASCO COUNTY  
PARKS & RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT**



## CREATING AN ARTIFICIAL REEF



**BARGES ARE LOADED WITH CONCRETE AND IRON DUCTILE WHICH MIMIC NATURAL REEF HABITATS.**



**REEF MATERIALS ARE LOWERED IN CAREFULLY PLANNED, PERMITTED AREAS.**



**ORGANISMS QUICKLY ATTACH THEMSELVES TO THE ARTIFICIAL REEF MATERIALS, ENTICING FISH AND CREATING A FOOD CHAIN/WEB.**

## DIVING AN ARTIFICIAL REEF

- **EXERCISE CAUTION DUE TO STRONG CURRENTS, POOR WATER VISIBILITY AND ENTANGLEMENTS.**
- **AVOID DAMAGING ANY SOFT OR HARD CORALS.**
- **7-MILE REEFS TYPICALLY HAVE BETTER VISIBILITY.**



**WHEN DIVING OVER REEF, ALWAYS LEAVE SOMEONE ABOARD THE BOAT THAT CAN OPERATE IT IN AN EMERGENCY.**

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**ALWAYS USE A DIVE FLAG.**

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**DIVING WITH THE BUDDY SYSTEM IS THE BEST SAFETY PRECAUTION. ONLY DIVE WITHIN YOUR CAPABILITY, AS CURRENT STRENGTH AND VISIBILITY VARY FROM DAY-TO-DAY, PRE-DIVE PLANNING & STAYING WITH THAT PLAN ARE PARAMOUNT TO YOUR SAFETY.**

**DIVERS WILL FIND TROPICAL FISH ALONG WITH GROUPER, SNAPPER AND OTHER GAME FISH.**

**TO FIND A SPECIFIC SITE, NAVIGATE TO THE COORDINATES & MARK THE SPOT WITH WEIGHTED FLOAT, THEN SEARCH, USING DEPTH PROFILE EQUIPMENT, IN AN OUTWARD SPIRAL TO FIND THE REEF AREAS.**

## FISHING AN ARTIFICIAL REEF



**ANGLERS, ANCHOR A SAFE DISTANCE FROM REEF STRUCTURES TO AVOID ANCHOR & TACKLE ENTANGLEMENTS.**

- **RESPECT ANY DIVERS IN THE AREA.**
- **IF SEVERAL BOATS ARE ANCHORED FISHING THE REEF AREA, RESPECT THEIR RIGHTS AND REFRAIN FROM DRIFT FISHING THAT AREA.**
- **SCHOOLS OF OFFSHORE BAITFISH CONCENTRATE ABOVE THE REEF MATERIAL. MANY DIFFERENT SPECIES OF FISH CAN BE CAUGHT OVER OR NEAR ARTIFICIAL REEFS. SHEEPSHEAD, COBIA, SNAPPER, SPANISH MACKEREL, AND GROUPER ARE REEF DWELLERS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO ANGLERS.**
- **RESPECTING FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL FISHING REGULATIONS (FOR EXAMPLE FISH SIZE AND QUANTITY LIMITS) IS VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE REGULATIONS SERVE TO PROTECT THE RESOURCE FOR ENJOYMENT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS.**