

## Artificial Reefs and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

## Creating a Win-Win-Win Solution FIRST DO NO HARM!!

Win - Enhance Ocean life

Win - MARAD/US Navy/NOAA and Taxpayers economically and efficiently recycle ships and other materials

Win - Local economies benefit

## **NOAA's National Artificial Reef Plan**

# Guidelines for Siting, Construction Development, and Assessment of Artificial Reefs

February 2007

## **NOAA's National Artificial Reef Plan**

#### **Materials Criteria**

- Function
- Compatibility
- Stability
- Durability



## **NOAA's National Artificial Reef Plan**

#### Suitable Materials

- Concrete Rubble
- Steel Hulled Vessels
- Oil/Gas Platforms
- Aircraft
- Subway & Street Cars
- Military Hardware
- Designed Units (i.e., Reef Balls)
- Stones & Sand Bags
- Miscellaneous (i.e., bridge spans)





## History of Artificial Reefing



#### Intentional

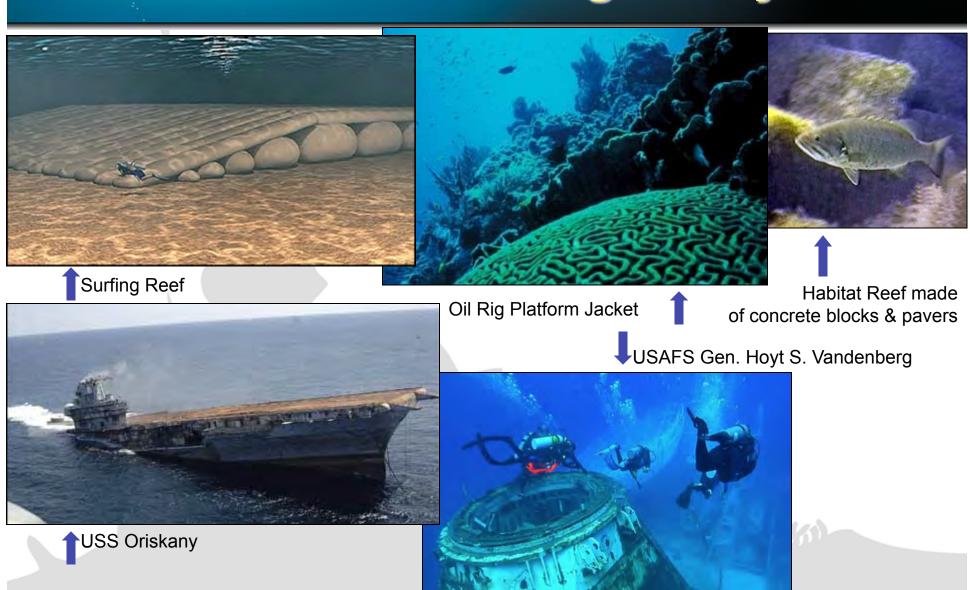
Rocks stacked in ancient times by Persians & Romans for sea power, in 1600s by Japanese for aquaculture



#### Unintentional

Suspected 5000 year old sunken Japanese city (left) and wrecked Greek ship off Sicily (500 BC)

## **Artificial Reefing Today**



## **National Policy and MBNMS Regs**

#### **National Marine Sanctuary Act**

15 CFR Ch. IX (1-1-09 Edition) 922.2 Mission, goals, and special policies

- Support, promote and coordinate scientific research on, and monitoring of, the resources of these marine areas, especially long-term monitoring and research of these area
- Facilitate to the extent compatible with the primary objective of resource protection, all public and private uses of the resources of these marine areas not prohibited pursuant to other authorities
- Maintain, restore, and enhance living resources by providing places for species that depend upon these marine areas to survive and propagate

15 CFR Ch. IX (1-1-09 Edition) 922.48 National Marine Sanctuary permits-application procedures and issuance criteria

• A person may conduct an activity prohibited by subparts F through O, if conducted in accordance with the scope, purpose, terms and conditions of a permit issued under this section and subparts F through O, as appropriate.

#### 1992 Final MBNMS EIS and Management Plan

- Sec 2 E. Compatible Use of the Sanctuary
  - •3. Collaborate with public and private organizations in promoting compatible use of the Sanctuary

http://www.reef.org/enews/articles/final-report-fiveyear-spiegel-grove-assessment

## **Project Permitting**

#### **Baseline Studies**

- MBNMS
- State Lands Commission Lease (if applicable)
- Army Corps of Engineers

#### **Artificial Reef Projects**

- All of the above +
- Full EIR and/or EIS as appropriate
- California Coastal Commission
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Cal-FPA
- Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Sign-offs from
  - California Department of Fish and Game
  - NOAA Fisheries Management Service
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

#### **MBNMS CONCERNS**

- Seabed Alteration
- Loss of Natural Habitat
- Fishing Interactions
- Stability & long-term placement
- Monitoring
- Liability/Clean-up
- Discharges & Vessel Condition
- Diver Safety

#### **DISCHARGES & VESSEL CONDITION**

EPA's National Guidance: Best Management Practices for Preparing Vessels Intended to Create Artificial Reefs + Plastics (particularly man-made carpet fibers)

#### **Materials of Concern**

- Oil & Fuel
- Asbestos
- Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)
- Paint
- Solids/Debris/Floatables
- Other Materials of Environmental Concern

CSTR's commitment is: If not sure, remove it!

## **DIVER SAFETY (DIVERIZATION)**

Remove Doors

Remove Bulkheads

Remove all wiring & cable runs

Cut numerous holes



## **Ecological Enhancement**





Fish Procreation

Ocean Oasis

Predator Protection







- Spring 2001 to Fall 2003 Procreation (Yukon Study)
  - 300% Increase in fish count
  - Over Twice as many species of fish found

## **Education Opportunities**

- Web Cams
- Learning Centers
- K-12 Classrooms
- Trade Schools

College/University Degrees





Compliments of Terry Murray

## **Current Conditions – Economics**

#### Fiscal Impact of ONE ship in San Diego (Yukon Study)

- Cost \$1.5 Million to Reef
- San Diego Market impact \$4.5 Million/year
- 10,800 dives/year; 6,000 from out of town
- Brings \$\$ to California & local economy





#### Other Economics

**British Columbia: 2004** 

• \$15Million in annual direct dive-related business activity including \$3-4Million in Nanaimo alone (i.e. does not include meals/accommodations



#### Florida's 4 Southeastern Counties: 2006

Artificial reef economic impact is approximately
\$1.7Billion per year

Put Monterey at the forefront of this market



### **Economic Beneficiaries**

- Travel Agencies
- Airlines
- Hotels
- Restaurants
- Car Rental Agencies
- Gas Stations
- Local Tourist Sites
- Dive Shops
- Dive Boats
- Fishing Boats:
  - Recreational
  - Commercial



Compliments of Steve Holmstrom, NCOF 2008

## Summary

#### **Ecology**

- Enhance Ocean Life
- Prevents 4,500 tons of carbon emissions for towing vessels to Texas

#### Government

- Cost effective military ship & other materials disposal
- Additional tax revenues

#### **Private**

- Cost effective ship & other materials disposal
- Tax deductible donations

#### **Economy**

Self sustaining program enhancing tourism in diving/fishing

#### Artificial Reefs ...

Help MBNMS fulfill its mission – maintain, restore and enhance the ocean environment for its current and future stakeholders

### What We Need From You!

**Provide Us With Your Questions and Concerns** 

Work With Us to Make Our Permit Application Acceptable

Help Us Find an Appropriate Location for a Vessel in Monterey Bay

Help Us Obtain a Ship Appropriate to Monterey Bay



Compliments Artificial Reef Society of British Columbia Canada

## **How to Reach Us**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

http://www.CaliforniaShipstoReefs.org

#### **OR CONTACT:**

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