

## University Helps Build Unique Artificial Reef

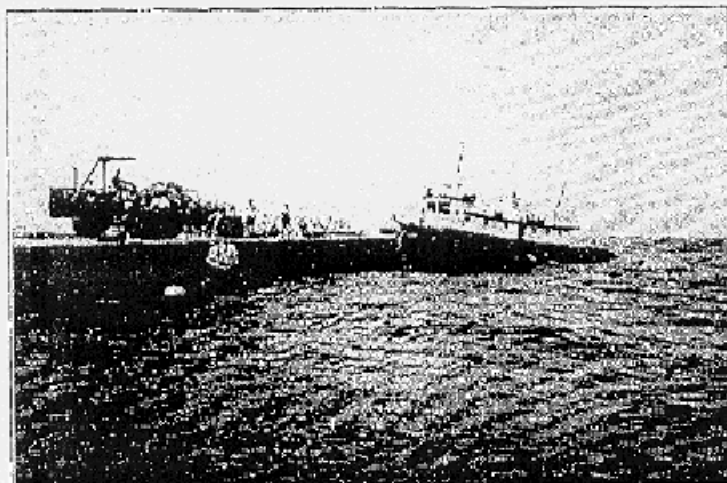
Last July the *R/V Dolphins*, Florida Tech's research vessel, and Lee Harris, associate professor in the ocean engineering program, were in the center of unusual artificial reef construction 16 miles off Port Canaveral. The new reef is made of giant concrete "balls" with large, swiss-cheese-like holes.

About 70 balls were dropped 80 feet of water where the same number of balls were deployed last May in the first phase of construction. The reef's concrete "cores," which cover three square miles of barren sea bottom, are intended as homes for a variety of marine life.

Harris and his students assisted with all phases of the installation process and provided diving inspections and underwater video documenta-

tion. Brevard County, administering a state of Florida grant, was responsible for overseeing the project. The Reef Ball Development Group provided

the concrete modules and International Salvage of Port Canaveral deployed them using a large barge, a front-end loader, and a crew boat.



*A "reef ball" drops 80 feet into the Atlantic to become part of an artificial reef and marine life habitat.*