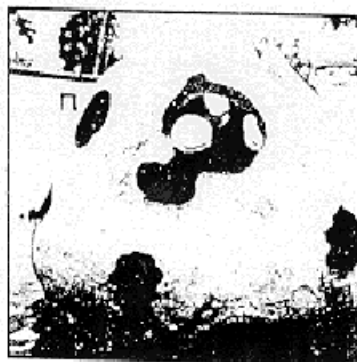


NEWS BRIEFS**Boy Scouts Build Artificial Reefs At Florida Sea Base**

As participants in the Reef Balls Around the Nation program, the Boy Scouts of America are building and deploying Reef Ball artificial reefs in order to learn more about exploring and preserving the underwater wilderness of their Sea Base in the Florida Keys. Reef Balls Around the Nation is a program that represents the first nationwide partnership between reef builders and private organizations to help the marine environment through the building and placement of Reef Ball artificial reefs.

Reef Balls Around the Nation designed with input from the Department of Natural Resources, provides reef builders with a practical invention to use to build reefs with the help of environmentally active companies, groups or individuals. The goal of the program is to place 100 or more Reef Balls in every government reef building program in the nation. Private sponsors provide the builders with the patented artificial reef building mold systems that create Reef Balls—concrete structures that are cost efficient, easy to build and deploy without special tools or equipment, and safe for the environment. Reef Balls are different from any other artificial reef modules since a removable, reusable bladder allows

them to float to their drop sites. This bladder also allows the modules to go down precisely where reef builders want them.



Program participants, sponsors and reef builders work together to achieve

the maximum benefits of Reef Balls Around the Nation. The Boy Scouts are building eight Reef Balls each week. After building the modules, the scouts deploy the Reef Balls on the only permitted site within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

By allowing the scouts to participate in building, deploying and monitoring the Reef Balls, says project coordinator Steve Zalvaney, "the boys will learn a lot from the project—both now and in the future when they come back to see the reef system they created." The sponsor for the Boy Scout mold systems is Charbon's Specialty Sports, a dive shop in Athens, GA.

Several other Reef Balls Around the Nation projects kicked off in Florida in June. In Fort Lauderdale, a sponsor is providing six molds in three sizes for the county to build 300+ Reef Balls to be dedicated as a memorial.

A sponsor in West Palm Beach also provided materials to build one of each of the three newest designs for the Lake Worth test site where the Reef Balls were first made. The South Carolina Marine Resources Division is deploying a large load of Reef Balls to conduct a special study for the state.

Government reef builders have agreed to participate in Reef Balls Around the Nation in the following areas: Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and New York. Many other states are in the application stages. The Reef Ball Development Group, Ltd. is working to match sponsors with state reef building programs now. By creating awareness and excitement about the ocean environment and the need for artificial reefs, the group hopes to help sustain one of the nation's greatest assets—marine life.