



Monroe County Annual Impact

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Success Stories

The Florida Marine Studies 4-H Club is a class of 8 students at Coral Shores High with advanced studies in Marine Science. Several years ago, a popular Math teacher at the school was killed by a boater while snorkeling at an unnamed reef in the Florida Keys Marine Sanctuary. At the suggestion of the club members and with the help of 15 community members, organizations and businesses; the club constructed an artificial reef comprised of concrete "reef balls." This involved a 2-year process of forming partnerships and investigating the options. I served on their advisory panel with their 4-H leader and several other 4-H volunteers. The forms and the concrete were donated as were the services of a sea towing company and a dive boat to transport the club to the site. Working with the National Marine Sanctuary, they located a site next to the reef where the teacher was killed and received permission to set the artificial reef there. A memorial plaque was mounted on the largest reef ball to be deployed and the reef was named in his honor.

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