



HOMELESS FISH?

Coral reefs are being destroyed by human abuse, changes in ocean temperature, and natural disasters, leaving fish and other marine life homeless. Because natural reefs cannot rebuild themselves as quickly as they are being destroyed, a Georgia-based company has developed artificial "reef balls" to give marine life a new home. Specially molded from marine-grade concrete and strengthening fiber, the hollow, swiss-cheese style "balls" are 6 feet wide, 4 feet tall, 2 to 12 inches thick, and designed to last more than 500 years. According to the Reef Ball Development Group, Ltd., reef balls are safe for the environment, inexpensive, durable, and easily deployed. Tests have shown that marine life moves into these artificial reef communities soon after they are "planted" on the ocean floor.

—Reef Ball Development Group, Ltd., press release, July 20. (U.S.)