



REEF BALL PROVEN EFFECTIVE!

The Reef Ball Development Group, Ltd., has developed a mold system which creates attractive artificial reef modules called Reef Balls™. The concrete Reef Balls™ are unique in that they can be floated to their drop sites behind any boat by utilizing an internal inflatable bladder. The removable bladder eliminates the need for special deployment equipment.

Patented Reef Ball™ systems have several significant advantages over the artificial reefs that are currently being built. The modules are affordable, easy to deploy and they populate quickly. Because their mound-like tops mimic natural coral heads, their appearance pleases snorkelers, Scuba divers, and most importantly - FISH. In just five months, Florida test modules have shown a fantastic population of fish and invertebrate life. The following life forms inhabit the modules already:

Snook	Snapper
Starfish	Bandtail Parrot
Gray Angelfish	3 types of Hydroids
Parrotfish	Barnacles
Corals	Algae
Tunicates	Scombrifish
Blue Angelfish	Featherdusters
Encrusting Sponges	
Schools of Juveniles	
Bermuda Chubs	
Spanish Hogfish	

In addition to providing excellent diving sites, Reef Balls™ make great fishing holes while helping to reduce man-made stresses on natural reefs.

The Reef Ball Development Group, Ltd., has patented complete systems for easy reef building. The systems allow the builders to customize Reef Balls™ for virtually any deployment need. For example, the modules can be made with extra weight and can be joined together using a special patented connection system when the reefs must withstand heavy sea currents. Alternately, the modules can be made to stand alone with a minimal use of concrete.

Whatever the scale, all systems have in common a compact fiberglass mold which contains an internal, inflatable bladder complete with a diver's buoyancy compensator (BCD) style inflation/deflation hose. The bladder allows the floating deployment to take place. The interior of the mold is designed to give the modules a special texture which promotes coral settlement and growth. Many holes, nooks, and crannies are made in the walls of the Reef Ball™ by placing rubberized balls in between the fiberglass mold and the inflated, internal bladder before the structure forming concrete is poured into the mold.

Because concrete companies usually donate waste concrete, and diving and fishing clubs help to deploy the modules, large reefs can be made without straining budgets. If you are interested in learning more about the Group and in receiving their newsletter, call them at (404) 840-8389. Six inch Reef Ball™ Models are available upon request.

THE CAJUN CARIBBEAN

By Cindy Caldwell

FORTY YEARS AGO, it was discovered that Louisiana and her surrounding waters offered opportunities of wealth - Black Gold. Everyone with a stake in the survival of the sea held their breath as thousands of oil and gas platforms were erected along the Gulf Coast - they just knew the ecosystem was doomed, forever ruined.

Today, there are over 3,800 oil and gas structures in the Gulf of Mexico. Gigantic by land standards - often covering an acre in area and stretching from the sea floor toward the sky - higher than the Empire State Building, their giant erector-set construction makes them unique, vertical, artificial reefs.

If you have dived the Gulf of Mexico, but only as far as Florida and surrounding areas, I challenge you to experience a new way of diving. To learn about diving on these wonderful, man-made reefs, sit back and relax, prep your feet up, and read on. Learn about how we dive down south in the Bayou Country.

The offshore areas of Louisiana are divided into specific name bearing blocks or fields. East and south of the Mississippi River are such blocks as Breton Sound, Mair Pass, South Pass, Mississippi Canyon, and the Outer Continental Shelf. These areas are known for swift currents, deep depths, sharks, large game fish, and occasional pelagics. Going west from the mouth of the river are the blocks of West Delta, Grand Isle, Ba, Marshland, South Timberline, Ship Shoal, Eugene Island and South Marsh Island. These areas are visited more often by recreational divers because of lesser currents, shallower depths, and a variety of tropical fishes (with anything in the Caribbean). They offer a multitude