

## There's no place like reefs

Marine life find a home in Dartmouth

By Jack Stewardson  
Standard-Times staff writer

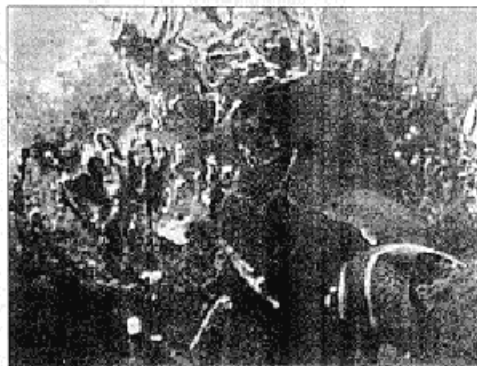
FAIRHAVEN — They look a little like oversized, sawed-off Whiffle balls, but they will soon become hearth and home to a variety of marine life off Salters Point in South Dartmouth.

"Fish will be able to swim both inside and out," said Karen Rypka, a state fisheries biologist coordinating a unique project to create new fish habitat. "Some of these holes are dead ends — they'll make good lobster cavities!"

The state Division of Marine Fisheries, in conjunction with UMass Dartmouth's Center for Marine Science and Technology, plans to create an artificial reef along 3.5 acres of sea bottom off Salters Point.

The reef site will be situated in about 30 feet of water, with largely flat bottom and a layer of silt over sandy clay.

Last week Larry Beggs, a representative of Reef Innovations and Diving Specialists Inc. of Florida and the Reef Ball Development Group Inc., was at Linberg Marine Inc.



in Fairhaven to supervise casting the reef units in fiberglass molds.

Fish like to congregate around reef-like structures that become encrusted with vegetation and invertebrates. The state is hoping the Salters Point site will become a magnet for such species as tautog, black sea bass and possibly striped bass and bluefish, along with lobsters and other shellfish.

The project got off the ground when state Rep. William M. Straus, D-Mattapoisett, managed to get \$75,000 set aside in the state budget a few years ago for the project. (See REEFS, Page B2)

After a few years in the water, a man-made reef, left, will grow to resemble a natural reef. "Fish will be able to swim both inside and out," said Karen Rypka, state fisheries biologist, standing over a completed artificial reef at Linberg Marine in Fairhaven. Crouched inside is Florida reef ball developer Larry Beggs.

Staff photos by Mike Valeri

**Sand dog**  
Richard McCarthy of Buzzards Bay gets assistance from sons David, 4, Richie, 9 and their cousin Justin



## Mov to th cent

New faciliti need in Wa

By David Rising  
Standard-Times staff

WAREHAM — A multi-service center and nursing, provided handicapped access for some town depart

Over the last few refurbished building middle school and th before that, has grad in occupancy.

Veterans' Service Recreation Department a preschool — a building in late Mar the Council on Aging

The Commission and the Visiting should both be in month, and the town ly have a couple of re employee training.

Council on Aging Cunningham said th was a great improve previous quarters in "It's like heaven over here," she said.

The Council on Ag 125 people come th each day — either they offer, crafts, activities.

Ms. Cunningham the vast increase in ferber — the count to one room in th now has the use of a now able to offer seniors.

"We have a podiat ing which we neve because we didn't b we've started build going to start whist she said.

Along with pu room, the newly re addresses many of th plants that people have, about Town H

There are five love service center, but accessible by elevat restroom on every handicapped-access and doors are to an outdoor access building.

Town Administrator Murphy Jr. said th multi-service center, pined, the next part o make Town Hall capped-accessible.

"Once we're tota service center, then t rate on (Town Hall town hall (across t green)."

He said that pho would begin once Nurses Agency use old town hall and inte vice building next to

If that time, we'll

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