

• BUILD-A-REEF FUND •

# LET'S HELP OURSELVES

By Fred Golofaro

There is no doubt that the number of anglers working our wrecks and reefs has been on the rise over the course of the last decade. The reasons can be debated, but there is no disputing the competition that exists for prime pieces of structure, especially on the inshore grounds. For years, local anglers have been clamoring for more wrecks and reefs, often citing state-run programs in New Jersey and

Sea Girl Reef. The NJ marine administrator, Bruce Helgren, said that 150 of these tanks were being prepared at Fort Dix for use from Virginia to Rhode Island. Why can't New York do this???

EXPANDED PROGRAM. Doug's attitude concerning reef building is typical of many New York anglers. But, in fact, New York's Department of Environmental Conservation has expanded its

Steve has been diligently working towards the reopening of permits for existing reef sites, and on December 5 received approval for a new site in Great South Bay on Long Island's South Shore.

BUILD-A-REEF FUND. Also, the expense of building and expanding reef sites can be considerable and there has never been very much money in the

DEC budget allocated to reef building. More recently, there have been some monies allocated for fishing areas, and some Wallop/Breux money has been channeled towards reef projects, but more money is needed if New York anglers stand to lose out on some very good opportunities.

There are several potential reef projects in the offing, and we decided that it was time for The Fisherman to make a more concerted effort in helping to raise monies towards this end. Styled after our highly successful Sand-A-Like Fishing Program, The Fisherman Build-A-Reef Fund will rely on donations from fishing clubs, individuals, tournaments, and the boating and fishing industry to help fund these projects.

ARMY TANKS. The use of those Army tanks mentioned in Doug's letter has already been addressed by Steve Heins. He has explored the use of New York Army Reserves to help clean and prepare those armor hulks, once they arrive at Fort Dix by rail. Most of the cost will then be getting the tanks out to the reef sites. He has already discussed with his New Jersey peers the possibility of splitting the cost of a barge which could transport 50 tanks in a one week time-span. The



The new Reef Ball concept is being explored for use in the New York marine district.

Florida as examples of what New York should be doing.

Typical of this attitude is a letter I received recently from Fisherman leader Douglas Roy. In it, he referred to an article in Salt Water Sportsman concerning the availability of old Army tanks for reef building. "Like always, New Jersey took advantage of this for their anglers. They added three tanks to their Axel B. Carlson Reef and three more went to the

reef building efforts in recent years. Much of the credit belongs to Steve Heins, a marine resources specialist with DEC, who has been aggressively pursuing an expanded reef building program in the marine district. Unfortunately, the development of new sites, or the enhancement of existing sites, entails a lengthy system of red tape and must meet the requirements of the Army Corp Of Engineers for final approval.