

MORNING STAR

Wilmington, NC

12/4/97

Cambodian land-mine victim Tun Channareth gets a hug Wednesday from Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien after officials from dozens of nations signed a treaty banning the production and use of anti-personnel land mines. **Story, 7A.**

Chambers, an electrical engineering major. Other participants also showed their stories of bias.

A psychology major said she had been the only Black student in a class of 1,500. Her

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'ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY' Brunswick to get new kind of reefs

By **AARON HOOVER**

Staff Writer

They've used boxcars, boilers and boats, and now state officials and fishermen are hoping to improve catches with a new kind of artificial reef.

It looks like an igloo with holes.

In what they say is a first for North Carolina, state officials and a fishermen's group are teaming up to sink some "reef balls" off the Brunswick County coast this winter.

While no one has protested the plans, they renew a long-running debate over whether artificial reefs improve fish numbers or merely concentrate fish, making it easier for fishermen to catch them.

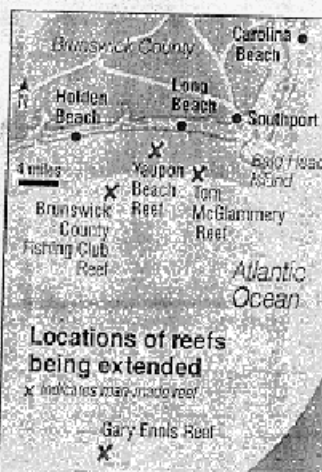
The at least 1,200-pound, semi-spherical reef balls are 3 feet tall, 4 feet wide and covered with holes. The idea is to create nooks and crannies for fish to hide in on the ocean bottom.

Made with a special concrete, the reef balls are designed to be easy for microorganisms and other marine life to cling to, said Bob Black, a member of the Long Bay Artificial Reef Association.

They simulate real reefs better than concrete culverts and other objects used in the past, said Mike Marshall, resource enhancement section chief at the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries in Morehead City.

"Most of the ledges out here,

Please see REEF on page 6A



Locations of reefs being extended

X indicates map location of reef



Reef ball in place on sea floor

About reef balls



■ What are they?

Heavy-bottomed, cast-concrete, hollow domes in sizes up to 6 ft. in diameter. Domes are riddled with holes big enough for fish to swim through.

■ How do they work?

Placed in groups on the sea floor, they provide a foundation for marine plants and animals such as coral, and a habitat for fish and other marine life.

■ How much do they cost?

The 400 balls being installed locally cost \$65,000.

Photos: Ron Bell Web pages

Staff/CAROL HUBER