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# Outdoors

## Greenville club gets \$20,000 grant for reef

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The Greenville Saltwater Sports Club has received a \$20,000 grant from the Turner Foundation to complete funding for an offshore reef.

The club had been trying to raise the required \$45,000 for about a year when former club president Roy Phillips decided to try the Turner Foundation, an Atlanta-based organization founded and led by media mogul Ted Turner and his family.

"We had gotten up to about \$28,000, but then hit a wall," Phillips said. "So I wrote the Turner Foundation a letter and told them what we were doing. I gave them an overview of the project and had to go through an extensive application process. I figured, 'What the hell?'"

Phillips figured right.

The Turner Foundation, created in 1991, awards grants for worthy

grassroots projects that benefit wildlife or the environment, according to executive director Peter Baibouch.

Baibouch said the Foundation is funding about 300 projects a year to the tune of \$7.5 million annually.

"We mostly fund homegrown initiatives — ordinary people who are trying to do something good," Baibouch said. "This project certainly fits that bill."

"The Turners care a lot about fishing and a lot about fish and the oceans."

Construction has already begun on the reef, which will be comprised of "junk" from the Charleston Naval Shipyard, including large, metal scaffolding structures and 10 submarine nose cones that will rise about 30 feet off the ocean bottom.

The cones are so large, in fact, that only four will fit on the barge at a time, which means three trips are required for the nose cones

### 'Reefballs' hit Folly Beach Pier

Two hundred artificial reef units or "reefballs" were recently placed on the ocean floor adjacent to the new Folly Beach Fishing Pier, creating the state's newest and perhaps most accessible man-made reef.

Folly Pier's new artificial reef, located in downtown Folly Beach, was a joint effort by the Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission, which owns the pier, and the DNR Marine Resources Division.

Each dome-shaped concrete

reef unit deployed near the pier weighs about 1,500 pounds and is hollow with many holes, nooks and crannies offering excellent fish habitat, according to David Cupka, director of the Office of Fisheries Management for the Marine Resources Division of the S.C. DNR.

Clusters of the reef balls were positioned in a staggered formation about 50 to 100 feet from the pier. The reef extends 150 feet into the Atlantic from the end of the fishing pier.

alone.

"We're in a hurry, and would like to see it finished, but anything worthwhile takes some time," said Phillips, a Greenville insurance ex-

ecutive.

The "Greenville Reef" will be the 36th artificial reef created along South Carolina's coast. The site, which was moved from the