



FISHING BUDDIES Rosalyn and Beverlee McDowell check out the locations of six new reefs proposed off the Brunswick County coast by local saltwater anglers. Their dad, Dale McDowell (center) is chairman of the Brunswick County Fishing Club's reef committee.

Saltwater Anglers Seek Money, Materials For Artificial Reefs

BY SUSAN USHER

Area saltwater fishing enthusiasts want to develop six additional artificial reefs off Brunswick County's coast within the next two years.

Their plans, reviewed with Rep. David Redwine Saturday, also call for rejuvenating two of three existing reefs and providing annual upkeep for all eight reefs at a cost of about \$100,000 per year, or \$15,000 each.

Money and materials will be needed for their project to succeed.

Redwine has committed an unspecified portion of any discretionary funds allocated to Democratic legislators at the close of the session. As vice chairman of the House Marine Fisheries Committee, he also is interested in the development of a statewide artificial reef program.

"If we have the money, we can get the material. There's plenty of material available," Dale McDowell, chairman of the Brunswick County Fishing Club's reef committee, told Redwine Saturday.

McDowell is part of a presently informal "reef committee" trying to obtain both. Among the materials they hope to obtain are the old Holden Beach and Ocean Isle Beach bridges, soon destined for dismantling as they are replaced by high-rise fixed spans. Buddy Grooms and Bill English are talking with local contractors on the projects about that possibility. The contractors have the salvage rights to the structures. The bridges, with their open-work design and large profile, are ideal for reef-building, club members said.

The group has appeared before the county board of commissioners and will take its proposal to municipal boards, chambers of commerce and other organizations that are likely sources of support.

Those meeting informally with Redwine Saturday represented the Brunswick County Fishing Club, the new Oak Island Fishing Club, and a fishing club in the organizational stages in the Shallotte-Ocean Isle Beach area, and the sponsors of the two saltwater fishing tournaments held in the county. These are the U.S. Open King Mackerel Tournament, a fundraising event of Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce, and the Poor Boys' Shark Tournament at Shallotte Point, organized as a non-profit corporation with any profits to be contributed to development of an artificial reef off Shallotte Inlet.

Proponents expect the artificial reef program to enhance both recreational and commercial fishing, making a "tremendous impact" on the local economy.

Immediate Impact

Researchers have found that fishing for species such as snapper

and grouper improves immediately with the placement of a reef and that more and larger species, such as king mackerel, are attracted as the structure matures.

Reefs can also be designed to be more attractive to specific species, McDowell said. Research continues as to the best material for reefs, with large profiles such as those provided by Liberty ships preferred.

Two types of material with large potential for use were found through trial and error to be unsuitable—automobile bodies, because they deteriorate too quickly, and tires, because they come loose too easily.

Proposed Sites

These new reefs would be located from three to 18 nautical miles offshore, as follows:

- No. 1—a reef to be located 18 miles south of Lockwood Folly Inlet, proposed drop material: barges;
- No. 2—a reef 10 miles south of Lockwood Folly Inlet, proposed drop material: dredge hull;
- No. 3—a reef 4.2 miles southwest of the Oak Island Light House to be named the Tom McGlammy Memorial Reef after a popular king mackerel fisherman who was killed in a work-related accident in 1984; proposed drop material: sunken Holden Beach Bridge;
- No. 4—a reef seven miles southeast of Shallotte Inlet, proposed drop material: sunken Ocean Isle Beach Bridge;
- No. 5—a reef 3.2 miles south of Shallotte Inlet, proposed drop material: barges; and
- No. 6—a reef 6.6 miles southwest of Shallotte Inlet, proposed drop material: barges.

Existing Reefs

No drops have been made since the mid-1970s on the three existing reefs off the Brunswick County coast.

Of the three, only the Long Beach Reef, permitted to the state, remains active, but it is deteriorating. A total of 50,000 tires were dropped on it between 1974 and 1978.

Local anglers want to improve both the Brunswick County Fishing Club

Reef, 4.5 miles seaward of Lockwood Folly Inlet, and the North Carolina/South Carolina reef, near Bird Island at the state line, which are now sanded over.

South Carolina has plans to rejuvenate the latter reef, which was created with a July 18, 1975 drop of 24,000 tires at a permitted depth of 25 feet.

The Brunswick County Fishing Club Reef has the distinction of being the first reef along the North Carolina coastline.

It was the product of a local effort

spearheaded in the early 1970s by the club, which was still in its organizational stage. The original permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers went to the Town of Long Beach and was later transferred to the club. The first drop of 1,500 tires was made in 1972, followed by two 28-foot lifeboats in 1974.

"We were the first to start," said McDowell. "Now we're way behind." McDowell asked persons or groups interested in the reef program to call him at 253-6743; Grooms, 842-3684; or English, 579-2704 (work) or 754-6714 (home).

Skillsbank Being Formed

The Voluntary Action Center of Bolivia is developing a program called Skillsbank, a bank or list of citizens who are willing to volunteer their skills or experience in the community.

Skills include such things as work-related activities, hobbies, interests and friendships. Those applying to the Voluntary Action Center should

include how often they are available to volunteer to be added to the Skillsbank.

When organizations or individuals indicate a need for certain skills, the center will contact those participants needed. For more information, contact the VAC center, sponsored by the Volunteer and Information Referral Center, 253-4441.



Re-Opening
Friday, Mar. 22

- Homemade hamburgers
- Hot dogs •Local seafood

Try our crab burgers & shrimp burgers!

Causeway Grill

Holden Beach Causeway. Phone 842-3527

Woman Claims Tow Truck Grabbed Wrong Vehicle

A Long Beach vacationer who was awakened in the middle of the night as her car was being towed away has filed a lawsuit seeking damages for wrongful conversion, embarrassment and mental distress.

Nancy Fletcher of Johnson City, Tenn., filed a lawsuit on March 5 against Clifton E. Baxter Jr., John Allen Potter and Dallas F. King, owners and operators of a tow truck in Brunswick County; the First Citizens Bank of Southport and the Oakland Deposit Bank of Oakland, Tenn.

According to the suit filed in Brunswick County District Court, Oakland Deposit Bank contacted First Citizens on Sept. 26, 1984 about repossessing a 1975 Chevrolet Camaro that Oakland held a security interest on. However, on the night of Oct. 13, 1984, Ms. Fletcher was awakened as her 1981 Camaro was pulled away instead.

A loud noise awakened Ms. Fletcher

around 1:30 a.m. and she looked out the window as her automobile and personal belongings were being towed away, the suit states. Ms. Fletcher's 1981 Camaro was never pledged as security for any loans and the taking of her automobile "was in all respects wrongful and tortious," the suit filed by Long Beach attorney David Ford states.

After watching her car being towed away, Ms. Fletcher then contacted the Long Beach Police Department, who "initially did not believe her and accused her in front of others of not paying for her car, resulting in great humiliation and embarrassment," it states.

The incident left Ms. Fletcher "very upset" and suffering from "mental distress." She is seeking \$300 to pay for damages to her car, \$2,000 for wrongful conversion, \$4,000 for punitive damages, \$1,500 for embarrassment and another \$1,500 for mental distress caused by the incident.

DON'T BE AN APRIL FOOL!



Start Your IRA in Time To Beat IRS Time.

It's still not too late to shelter a nice share of your hard-earned 1984 income from Uncle Sam in an Individual Retirement Account at Horry County National Bank. Any working person can contribute any amount up to \$2,000 between now and tax time and still deduct it from his or her 1984 state and federal income tax returns.

An income earner with a non-working spouse can contribute up to \$2,250 and a working couple can contribute up to \$4,000.

And, while you're saving your cash from the tax man, you'll also be earning top rates on your IRA from the little bank that could. Don't be an April Fool. Be an April winner with an IRA from HCNB.

Horry County National Bank
Your Full-Service Bank in Loris & Little River

Member FDIC



Big Jon and 40 hp Johnson... quite a combination!

18 ft. Lowe line Big Jon with 40 hp Johnson outboard, 1,200 lb. capacity completely galvanized Long trailer.

THE COMPLETE RIG: List Price \$4,918.83
Sale Price \$3,611.35

Ed's Net Shop

Hwy. 904, 1/4 mile east of Hwy. 17 at Grissettown. Phone 579-6676