

Reefs Would Attract Fish, Fishermen And Dollars

BY SUSAN USHER

Building and maintaining a single artificial reef is often beyond the pocketbook of a fishing club.

Despite that, area saltwater anglers are going for much more—a complete system of artificial reefs situated three to 18 miles off the Brunswick County shore: reefs accessible to both inshore and offshore fishermen and attractive to a variety of species from groupers to king mackerel; reefs intended to bring fish to Brunswick County in increasingly larger numbers.

More fish means more fishermen and that means a boost to the local economy. In 1980, estimates the U.S. Department of the Interior, recreational fishing brought the state about \$193 million, a figure steadily on the rise.

Offshore reefs could not only increase the local resource for saltwater anglers, they could also bring Brunswick County a larger share of the recreational fishing dollar.

Reefs can be built to be more attractive to a specific kind of species. They begin attracting fish at once; as they mature the food chain includes crustaceans, vegetation, baitfish and at the top of the list, game fish.

On a timetable proposed by members of a committee representing local fishing interests, six new reefs could be created within two years and two existing reefs restored.

"Everything's gone, nothing's out there," says Dale McDowell of Win-

nabow and Sunset Harbor. Winner of the 1981 Arthur Smith King Mackerel Tournament and a licensed boat pilot, he is reef committee chairman for the 500-plus member Brunswick County Fishing Club and a member of the countywide artificial reef steering committee. Other participants include representatives of the Oak Island Fishing Club, a new club organizing in the Shallotte-Ocean Isle Beach area, the U.S. Open King Mackerel Tournament in Southport and the Poor Boy's Shark Tournament at Shallotte Point and others.

Committee members are seeking support from local governments, civic and business groups. They're also working with Rep. David Redwine to identify possible sources of state funding.

State's First

The Brunswick County Fishing Club's artificial reef, located 4.5 nautical miles seaward of Lockwood Folly Inlet, was the first of the North Carolina coastline. Begun in 1971, the last material was dropped on it in 1974, two 28-foot lifeboats.

A second reef off Yaupon Beach, built by the state, shows only a little activity, while a third reef, near Bird Island, was a joint North Carolina-South Carolina venture. No recent drops have been made on either, though South Carolina has indicated it may rescue the sister states reef.

"A reef is like anything else—it dies if you don't feed it," McDowell pointed out.

Starting Now

McDowell said the club wants to begin improvements immediately with a drop on the existing reef off Lockwood Folly's Inlet Pfizer Inc. pharmaceutical plant at Southport has donated two large boilers and agreed to help modify them. Needed still, as of mid-March, were a 100-foot or longer barge and money for drop preparation and insurance.

Not only would this provide a larger profile for the reef, it might also be more cost-effective.

Insurance must be purchased to cover the trip out to the reef and back, in case the material sinks in navigable waters other than its destined location and must be brought back up.

For instance, McDowell said four-day coverage insurance for two tugboats recently dropped off Wrightsville Beach cost \$4,500.

Also, before a barge or other vessel is dropped, it must be cleaned thoroughly of oil and other fuels in order to pass an Environmental Protection Agency inspection to insure it won't pollute the water.

In addition to the boilers, reef proponents in March also were trying to obtain, from the contractors, salvage rights to swing bridges due to be replaced by high rises to Ocean Isle and Holden beaches. These offer perfect reef profiles—they're large, with open water that allows fish and currents to move freely.

With these and other materials they hope to establish these six reefs,

with one drop on each initially:

1. A reef 3.2 miles south of Shallotte Inlet, accessible to inside and outside fishermen;
2. A reef 8.6 miles southwest of Shallotte Inlet;
3. A reef 7 miles southeast of Shallotte Inlet;
4. A reef 19 miles south of Lockwood Folly Inlet;
5. A reef 18 miles south of Lockwood Folly Inlet; and
6. A reef 4.2 miles southwest of the Oak Island lighthouse, to be named the Tom McGlamery Memorial Reef, in memory of a popular sports

fisherman killed in a job-related accident in 1984.

McDowell said the groups also have established a goal of obtaining \$100,000 per year to maintain the eight reefs, at a cost of about \$15,000 per reef.

Persons or groups interested in donating to the reef project, obtaining more information about the reefs or local saltwater fishing clubs, can contact McDowell at 253-6743; Buddy Grooms of the Oak Island Fishing Club, 842-3684; or Bill English in the Shallotte-Ocean Isle area, 579-2704 (work) or 754-6714 (home).

TIDE TABLES FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS

| Date/Day | APRIL | | MAY | |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | AM | PM | AM | PM |
| Tide times are EST/EDT | | | | |
| Mon 1 | 4:07 | 3:34 | 10:30 | 10:51 |
| Tue 2 | 5:01 | 5:33 | 11:26 | 11:47 |
| Wed 3 | 5:56 | 6:26 | 12:15 | 12:36 |
| Thu 4 | 6:42 | 7:18 | 12:42 | 1:03 |
| Fri 5 | 7:38 | 8:11 | 1:33 | 1:53 |
| Sat 6 | 8:29 | 9:01 | 2:24 | 2:43 |
| Sun 7 | 9:19 | 9:51 | 3:15 | 3:33 |
| Mon 8 | 10:10 | 10:46 | 4:07 | 4:13 |
| Tue 9 | 11:05 | 11:42 | 5:02 | 5:05 |
| Wed 10 | 12:04 | 12:54 | 5:58 | 6:03 |
| Thu 11 | 12:44 | 1:06 | 6:57 | 7:05 |
| Fri 12 | 1:47 | 2:10 | 8:01 | 8:11 |
| Sat 13 | 2:48 | 3:14 | 9:01 | 9:15 |
| Sun 14 | 3:50 | 4:10 | 10:00 | 10:18 |
| Mon 15 | 4:55 | 5:04 | 10:47 | 11:08 |
| Tue 16 | 5:51 | 5:50 | 11:33 | 11:54 |
| Wed 17 | 6:14 | 6:29 | 12:13 | 12:33 |
| Thu 18 | 6:52 | 7:08 | 12:57 | 1:21 |
| Fri 19 | 7:30 | 7:43 | 1:18 | 1:27 |
| Sat 20 | 8:05 | 8:17 | 1:56 | 2:03 |
| Sun 21 | 8:37 | 8:49 | 2:35 | 2:38 |
| Mon 22 | 9:08 | 9:23 | 3:11 | 3:11 |
| Tue 23 | 9:41 | 9:57 | 3:49 | 3:48 |
| Wed 24 | 10:15 | 10:38 | 4:21 | 4:25 |
| Thu 25 | 10:55 | 11:25 | 5:11 | 5:08 |
| Fri 26 | 11:48 | 12:08 | 5:58 | 6:03 |
| Sat 27 | 12:32 | 12:48 | 6:57 | 7:05 |
| Sun 28 | 2:21 | 2:57 | 8:58 | 9:14 |
| Mon 29 | 3:28 | 4:02 | 9:58 | 10:21 |
| Tue 30 | 4:29 | 5:08 | 10:58 | 11:27 |

| Date/Day | APRIL | | MAY | |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | AM | PM | AM | PM |
| Tide times are EDT | | | | |
| Mon 1 | 11:35 | 6:09 | 11:53 | --- |
| Tue 2 | 6:27 | 7:05 | 12:26 | 12:44 |
| Wed 3 | 7:22 | 7:59 | 1:23 | 1:34 |
| Thu 4 | 8:14 | 8:51 | 2:15 | 2:24 |
| Fri 5 | 9:07 | 9:42 | 3:07 | 3:17 |
| Sat 6 | 10:00 | 10:26 | 3:58 | 4:01 |
| Sun 7 | 10:53 | 11:29 | 4:51 | 4:51 |
| Mon 8 | 11:48 | 11:48 | 5:44 | 5:44 |
| Tue 9 | 12:34 | 12:47 | 6:38 | 6:38 |
| Wed 10 | 1:20 | 1:25 | 7:30 | 7:30 |
| Thu 11 | 2:18 | 2:45 | 8:30 | 8:44 |
| Fri 12 | 3:18 | 3:45 | 9:26 | 9:46 |
| Sat 13 | 4:10 | 4:37 | 10:21 | 10:46 |
| Sun 14 | 5:01 | 5:27 | 11:08 | 11:38 |
| Mon 15 | 5:48 | 6:15 | 11:53 | 12:23 |
| Tue 16 | 6:33 | 6:54 | 12:25 | 12:34 |
| Wed 17 | 7:15 | 7:36 | 1:10 | 1:15 |
| Thu 18 | 7:55 | 8:11 | 1:52 | 1:53 |
| Fri 19 | 8:33 | 8:48 | 2:32 | 2:32 |
| Sat 20 | 9:09 | 9:24 | 3:10 | 3:17 |
| Sun 21 | 9:43 | 10:00 | 3:51 | 3:45 |
| Mon 22 | 10:16 | 10:38 | 4:29 | 4:24 |
| Tue 23 | 10:57 | 11:18 | 5:10 | 5:04 |
| Wed 24 | 11:43 | 11:58 | 5:55 | 5:50 |
| Thu 25 | 12:28 | 12:35 | 6:38 | 6:43 |
| Fri 26 | 1:10 | 1:38 | 7:23 | 7:44 |
| Sat 27 | 1:57 | 2:42 | 8:09 | 8:52 |
| Sun 28 | 2:51 | 3:38 | 8:58 | 9:44 |
| Mon 29 | 4:00 | 4:47 | 10:24 | 11:04 |
| Tue 30 | 5:00 | 5:48 | 11:22 | 12:04 |
| Wed 31 | 6:01 | 6:44 | 12:07 | 12:17 |

The Following Adjustments Should Be Made

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----------------|-----|-----|
| Bird Head Island | -17 | 11 | Yaupon Beach | -39 | -49 |
| Cannell Beach | -12 | 5 | Lockwood Folly | -29 | -12 |
| Southport | - | -11 | Shallotte Inlet | +10 | 28 |
| Tubbs Inlet | -19 | 12 | Little River | -3 | - |

miller-brown construction & realty, inc.



TELEPHONES 579-2727 & 754-9142 / OCEAN ISLE BEACH, on the Causeway / SHALLOTTE, Main Street

The Ultimate in Villas WEST LAGOONS Ocean Isle at its best!

Located on the exclusive west end of Ocean Isle Beach, these 1,200 square ft. units face white, powdery sand, have a beautiful view of the Intracoastal Waterway, provide privacy, and have their own tennis courts and swimming pool. For a reasonably priced alternative in beach living, visit West Lagoons. You'll appreciate the difference.

Starting at **\$92,900**



Developing in VILLAGE POINT ESTATES, 1,100 sq. ft. homes starting at **\$49,200**

•Sales•Rentals•Construction—for all Brunswick County