



Charlotte County
Natural Resources



Charlotte County Artificial Reefs

Artificial Reef Etiquette

When visiting an artificial reef site remember to use Reef Etiquette to avoid user conflicts.

- 1) Approach a reef area slowly when other boats are in the area.
- 2) Try to make contact with other boaters before approaching a reef site that is being used.
- 3) Remember when a dive flag is displayed all vessels must make a reasonable effort to maintain a **minimum distance of 300 feet**.
- 4) The reefs cover a large area, coordinates given are to help to locate the reefs. Watching the depth sounder will help you locate a piece of the reef for your enjoyment. Share the reefs!

All persons diving or snorkeling in Florida waters must display a divers-down flag. This flag must be at least 20" in height. The Navigation Rules require vessels which are restricted in their ability to maneuver because of diving activity to exhibit a rigid Letter "A" flag.

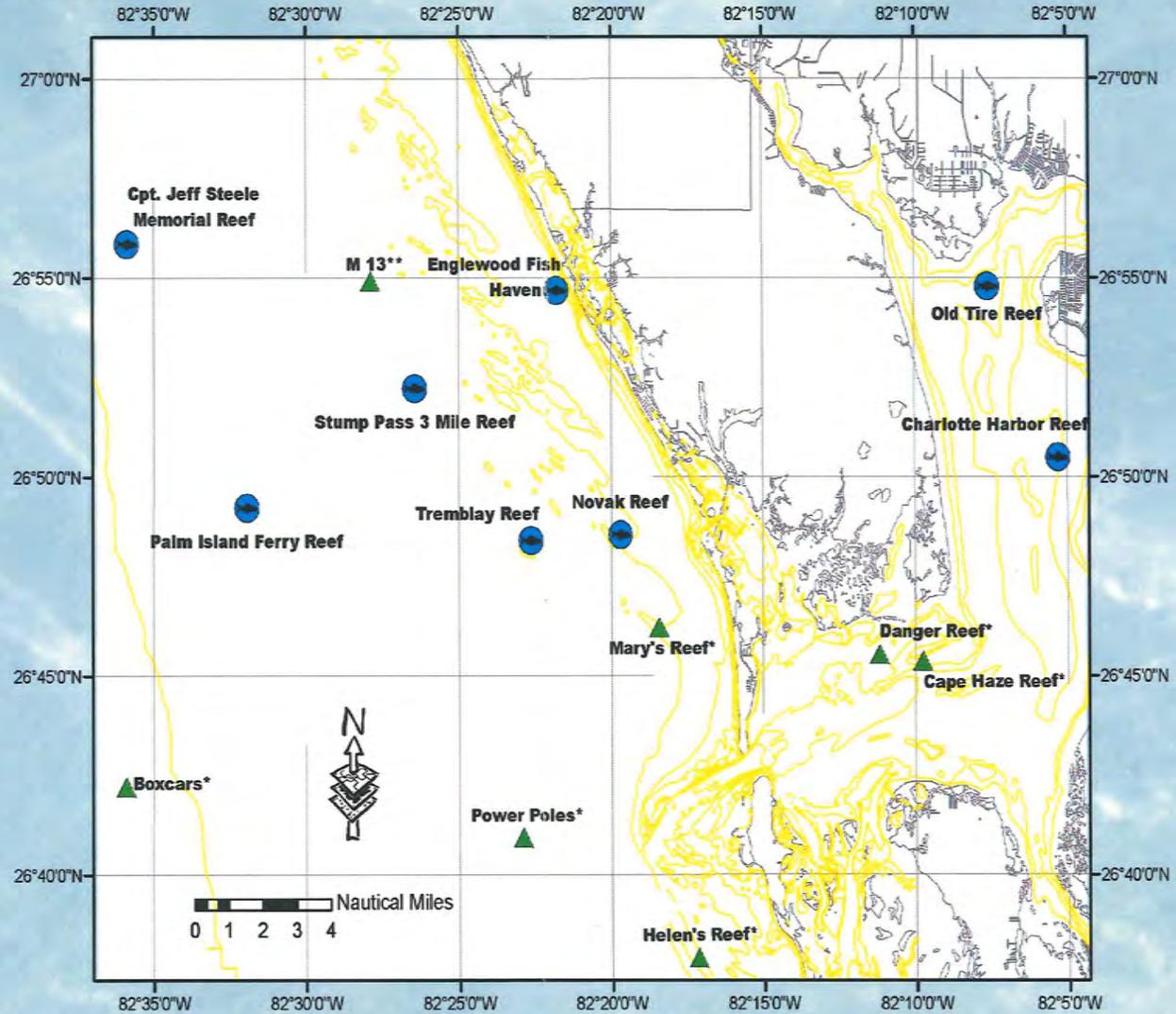


Diver Down Flag



Alpha Flag

The "Alpha flag" must be rigid and at least 1 meter (3'3") in height. It is displayed on the vessel in addition to, not in place of, the Florida divers-down flag.



Artificial Reef Basics: Charlotte County's artificial reef program strives to increase reef fish habitat and improve recreational fishing and diving opportunities. Remember when a dive flag is displayed all vessels must maintain a **minimum distance of 300 ft**



<u>REEF LOCATIONS</u>	Latitude	Longitude	Depth	Materials
Old Tire Reef	26° 54.80'	82° 07.62'	8'	Tires - no vertical profile remains
Charlotte Harbor Reef	26° 50.65'	82° 05.317'	12'	Concrete culverts
	26° 50.989'	82° 05.317'	12'	Reef balls, concrete modules
	26° 51.502'	82° 05.318'	12'	Reef balls, concrete modules
	26° 51.502'	82° 05.296'	12'	Reef balls, concrete modules, culverts
Cape Haze Reef*	26° 45.753'	82° 09.354'	18'	Concrete culverts
	26° 45.769'	82° 09.466'	18'	Steel units
Capt. Jeff Steele Memorial Reef	26° 55.838'	82° 35.901'	60'	Concrete culverts, power poles, boxes
	26° 55.674'	82° 35.832'	59'	Concrete culverts, power poles, boxes
	26° 55.935'	82° 35.847'	59'	110' Barge
Danger Reef*	26° 45.550'	82° 11.175'	12'	40' Steel tug
	26° 48.570'	82° 19.700'	30'	Reef Center, Concrete bridge sections
Novak Reef	26° 48.557'	82° 19.699'	30'	Novak Memorial
	26° 48.461'	82° 19.822'	30'	Concrete bridge sections
Matlacha Bridge Reef	26° 48.485'	82° 19.602'	30'	Matlacha bridge sections
	26° 48.350'	82° 22.700'	42'	Reef Center, Concrete bridge sections
Tremblay Reef	26° 48.241'	82° 22.822'	42'	Concrete bridge sections
	26° 48.415'	82° 22.651'	42'	90' Steel barge
	26° 48.437'	82° 22.806'	42'	Coral Creek bridge sections
	26° 49.236'	82° 31.951'	55'	60' Steel ferry
Palm Island Ferry Reef	26° 49.221'	82° 31.879'	56'	70' Steel barge
	26° 49.338'	82° 31.980'	55'	Concrete Culverts, Limestone, Seawalls
	26° 46.239'	82° 18.43'	29'	Concrete culverts
Mary's Reef*	26° 46.177'	82° 18.353'	30'	Concrete culverts
	26° 52.236'	82° 26.441'	43'	Concrete culverts
Stump Pass 3 Mile Reef	26° 52.256'	82° 26.434'	42'	Concrete culverts
	26° 52.269'	82° 26.430'	45'	Concrete culverts
	26° 54.7'	82° 21.8'	22'	Bridge rubble
Englewood Fish Haven	26° 54.719'	82° 55.893'	105'	Steel crane barge, fiberglass boats
D 9** ~	26° 55.099'	82° 27.882'	43'	Concrete culverts
M 13**	26° 38.018'	82° 17.454'	30'	Culverts
	26° 37.938'	82° 17.161'	30'	2 Barges
Helens Reef*	26° 42.222'	82° 35.930'	72'	Railroad Boxcars, Hopper cars
	26° 41.730'	82° 35.930'	72'	Steel Framework
	26° 42.220'	82° 36.018'	72'	Railroad hopper cars (8)
Boxcar*	26° 40.958'	82° 22.471'	45'	Barge, crane
	26° 40.958'	82° 22.320'	45'	Power poles

* Lee County

**Sarasota County

~Outside Map Extent

Catch & Release Tips:

- 1) Plan ahead and be prepared to release a fish before it is hooked.
- 2) Use appropriate tackle and bring the fish in quickly to avoid exhaustion.
- 3) Use circle hooks when fishing with live or dead bait. Circle hooks hook a fish in the jaw rather than in the gut. This makes it easier to release fish.
- 4) Bend down barbs on artificial baits that have treble hooks to minimize damage to fish being released.
- 5) Know the best way to handle the fish species you are targeting and have release equipment ready.
- 6) If you can't see the hook, cut the leader as close to the hook as possible without removing the fish from the water.
- 7) Be prepared and know how to vent a bloated fish with buoyancy problems.
- 8) Release fish gently head first into the water. Revive a stressed fish by moving it forward in the water to promote water flow over the gills.

For more information call
Charlotte County Parks & Natural Resources
(941) 613-3220

Photos by Capt. Jeff Steele, Sara Peatrowsky,
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