ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF ARTIFICIAL REEFS
Manatee County, FL

These are findings from a recent study of economic benefits associated with artificial reef programs in a six-county region of Southwest Florida (Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte and Lee counties).

At a glance:
- The results from a recent survey of the economic impact of artificial reefs show extensive use of the Manatee County artificial reef system by residents, visitors, private boaters and for-hire clients.
- On a daily basis, an average of more than 540 persons in Manatee County – residents and visitors included – use artificial reefs.
- Fishermen and divers who use Manatee County's 13 artificial reef sites spend over $23 million in the county annually.
- Survey results document that artificial reefs help support the for-hire fishing sector (guides, charter and party boats) with clients spending nearly $7 million on artificial reef-related trips.
- Visitors bring new money into the local economy ($11.10 million), accounting for almost half of artificial reef expenditures.
- Expenditures on artificial reef-related activities generate over $19 million in net economic impacts annually that support 234 full- and part-time jobs.
- Manatee County government dedicates approximately $50,000 annually for artificial reef construction projects. Supplemental grant funding is provided by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission statewide artificial reef program and the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program.
- With 43 recreational parks, 5 area marinas with over 500 total slips, and 27 miles of white sand beaches, Manatee County is an important tourist destination on Florida’s West Coast.

Annual Use of Artificial Reefs
58,842
Boat Days
197,522
Person Days

Annual Artificial Reef Related Expenditures By Users
$23.18
Million

$12.08
Million
(residents)
$11.10
Million
(non-residents)

-- OR --

$16.24
Million
(private boaters)
$6.93
Million
(guide, party, charter clients)

Public Support for Artificial Reefs
In general, what is your opinion regarding the use of public funds to provide and maintain artificial reefs for recreation in Florida’s waters?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reef Users</th>
<th>Non Reef Users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Economic Output $19.47 Million
Total Income $10.58 Million
Business Taxes $1.49 Million
Full/Part-time Jobs 234

The study was conducted by Florida Sea Grant and University of Florida researchers with funding provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program through a grant to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; the West Coast Inland Navigation District; and by participating counties. Information was collected using a variety of survey techniques that asked private boater and for-hire operators and clients about their artificial reef use during 2009. For more information, contact: John Stevely, Manatee County Sea Grant Extension, (941) 722-4524, jsmarine@ufl.edu.

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ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF ARTIFICIAL REEFS
Southwest Florida

These are findings from a recent study of economic benefits associated with artificial reef programs in a six-county region of Southwest Florida (Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte and Lee counties).

At a glance:

- The results from a recent survey of the economic impact of artificial reefs show extensive use of the Southwest Florida artificial reef systems by residents, visitors, private boaters and for-hire clients.
- On a daily basis, an average of more than 5,600 persons in Southwest Florida — residents and visitors included — use artificial reefs.
- Fishermen and divers who use Southwest Florida’s artificial reefs sites spend over $253 million in the region annually.
- Survey results document that artificial reefs help support the for-hire fishing sector (guides, charter and party boats) with clients spending nearly $90 million on artificial reef-related trips.
- Expenditures on artificial reef-related activities generated almost $227 million in economic outputs that supported over 2,500 full- and part-time jobs.
- Visitors bring new money into local economies ($117.58 million), accounting for almost half of artificial reef expenditures.

Public Support for Artificial Reefs

In general, what is your opinion regarding the use of public funds to provide and maintain artificial reefs for recreation in Florida’s waters?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Non-Reef Users</th>
<th>Reef Users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinellas</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillsborough</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manatee</td>
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<td>33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarasota</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annual Economic Impacts

| Economic Output | $226.93 Million |
| Total Income    | $121.72 Million |
| Business Taxes  | $16.60 Million  |
| Full/Part-time Jobs | 2,595 |

Annual Artificial Reef Related Expenditures By Users

- $253.35 Million
  - OR -
  - $135.77 Million (residents)
  - $117.58 Million (non-residents)
  - OR -
  - $163.61 Million (private boaters)
  - $89.74 Million (guide, party, charter clients)

The study was conducted by Florida Sea Grant and University of Florida researchers with funding provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program through a grant to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; the West Coast Inland Navigation District; and by participating counties. Information was collected using a variety of survey techniques that asked private boater and for-hire operators and clients about their artificial reef use during 2009. For more information, contact: John Stevely, Florida Sea Grant Extension, (941) 722-4524, jsmarine@ufl.edu.