The Artificial Reef Program is interested in your catch! Catch information can be reported to EPC from any computer or mobile device. Your information helps us make management decisions. Tell us and show us what you’re catching at catch reporting by other anglers at this site. Information helps us make management decisions.

**Benefits of Artificial Reefs**

The goal of EPC’s Artificial Reef Program is to increase habitat diversity by providing hard bottom substrates and communities which might not otherwise be available in Tampa Bay. Providing additional habitat increases the diversity of marine species that can be found in the bay. More than 60 different species of fish call the reefs home. Artificial reefs provide economic benefits as well. A recent study by Florida Sea Grant found the annual economic benefit in Hillsborough County alone was over $100 million spent by fishermen and divers, supporting approximately 285 full and part-time jobs.

**Cautions**

Conditions at the reef sites, such as strong tidal currents, poor wave visibility and entanglements may make diving hazardous. Divers must make reasonable efforts to avoid entanglements of anchors and tackle.

**Catch and Release**

The simple act of releasing a fish back into the water affords it the chance to grow into a spawning adult. It is these mature adults that will help ensure local marine fisheries for generations to come. Please practice catch and release.

Utilize non-stainless circle hooks (increases the chance a fish is hooked in the corner of the mouth and not the esophagus or stomach).

Use barbless hooks to help reduce the time it takes to de-hook a fish.

Try to keep fish in the water while utilizing a fish flag. It is recommended that anglers anchor away from reef structures to display the diver-down flag. It is recommended that anglers anchor away from reef structures to display the diver-down flag. It is recommended that anglers anchor away from reef structures to display the diver-down flag.

**ANGLER ETIQUETTE**

Share the water. Give other vessels enough room to enjoy the water without overconsuming to ensure a positive experience for all.

Stay 300 feet from vessels displaying a diver’s flag. It is recommended that anglers anchor away from reef structures to display the diver-down flag.

Please don’t litter. Keep all trash aboard vessel including: monofilament fishing line, plastic bags, and bottles and cans.

Treat fish and the environment with respect.

Just keep the fish you intend to eat.

When keeping fish, please follow all current sizes and daily bag limits for the latest edition of the FWC’s rules and regulations.

**OUR HIDDEN FISHING TREASURES**

**REEF LOCATIONS IN TAMPA BAY**

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**FISH AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION**

If you suspect a fish, wildlifé, boating, or environmental law violation, report it to the FWC’s Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922). Please report all collisions with manatees. In many cases injuries do not kill manatees immediately, and early rescue efforts may save the manatee’s life.

**LIONFISH**

Lionfish are non-native to Florida and can decimate reef fish populations. Removing them can help Florida’s native marine species and divers. Hunters, anglers, and commercial harvesters are encouraged to remove lionfish in order to help control the numbers of this invasive fish. Please report all lionfish sightings to EPC.