

JOINT
PUBLIC NOTICE

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION
1949 Industrial Park Road, Room 140
Conway, South Carolina 29526

and

THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400
Charleston, South Carolina 29405

REGULATORY DIVISION

04 JUNE 2014

Refer to: P/N # 2014-00404-3E

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), and the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (48-39-10 *et seq.*), an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control by

ROBERT MARTORE
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 12559
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29422

for a permit to construct an artificial reef in the

ATLANTIC OCEAN

at a location five nautical miles southwest of the Little River Inlet south jetty, Horry County, South Carolina (Latitude 33.769167, Longitude -78.598333).

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received by the **Corps** until

15 Days from the Date of this Notice,

and **SCDHEC** will receive written statements regarding the proposed work until

30 Days from the Date of this Notice

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

The proposed work consists of the construction of an artificial fishing reef around an existing shipwreck. In detail, the applicant proposes to place one hundred (100) concrete cone-shaped structures within the Atlantic Ocean. Each structure measures 48 inches across the base and 42 inches in height. A permanent marker buoy will designate the site as a South Carolina Artificial Reef. The applicant states that all materials used in artificial reef construction are clean and environmentally friendly. No additives or leachates are used in the construction of concrete habitat modules, and all construction activities follow guidelines set forth in the South Carolina Artificial Reef Management Plan (1991). The applicant does not propose any mitigation and states "artificial reefs are designed to enhance aquatic resources with no negative impacts to the environment". The purpose of

the proposed project, as stated by the applicant, is to “provide habitat for a number of marine finfish species and to enhance fishing opportunities for the state’s recreational anglers”.

NOTE: Plans depicting the work described in this notice are available and will be provided, upon receipt of a written request, to anyone that is interested in obtaining a copy of the plans for the specific project. The request must identify the project of interest by public notice number and a self-addressed stamped envelope must also be provided for mailing the drawings to you. Your request for drawings should be addressed to the

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION
1949 Industrial Park Road, Room 140
Conway, South Carolina 29526.**

The work shown on this application must be certified as consistent with applicable provisions of the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (15 CFR 930). The District Engineer will not process this application to a conclusion until such certifications are received. This activity may also require evaluation for compliance with the S.C. Construction in Navigable Waters Permit Program. State review, permitting, and certification is conducted by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The applicant is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State to facilitate the review. Persons wishing to comment or object to State certification must submit all comments in writing to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control at the above address within thirty (30) days of the date of this notice.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed project would impact approximately 320 acres of tidal habitat utilized by various life stages of species comprising the red drum, shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the District Engineer has consulted the most recently available information and has determined that the project is not likely to adversely affect any Federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. This public notice serves as a request for written concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service on this determination.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), this public notice also constitutes a request to Indian Tribes to notify the District Engineer of any historic properties of religious and cultural significance to them that may be affected by the proposed undertaking.

In accordance with the NHPA, the District Engineer has also consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places for the presence or absence of registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein, and this worksite is not included as a registered property or property listed as being eligible for inclusion in the Register. To insure that other cultural resources that the District Engineer is not aware of are not overlooked, this public notice also serves as a request to the State Historic Preservation Office to provide any information it may have with regard to historic and cultural resources.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest. In cases of conflicting property rights, the Corps of Engineers cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

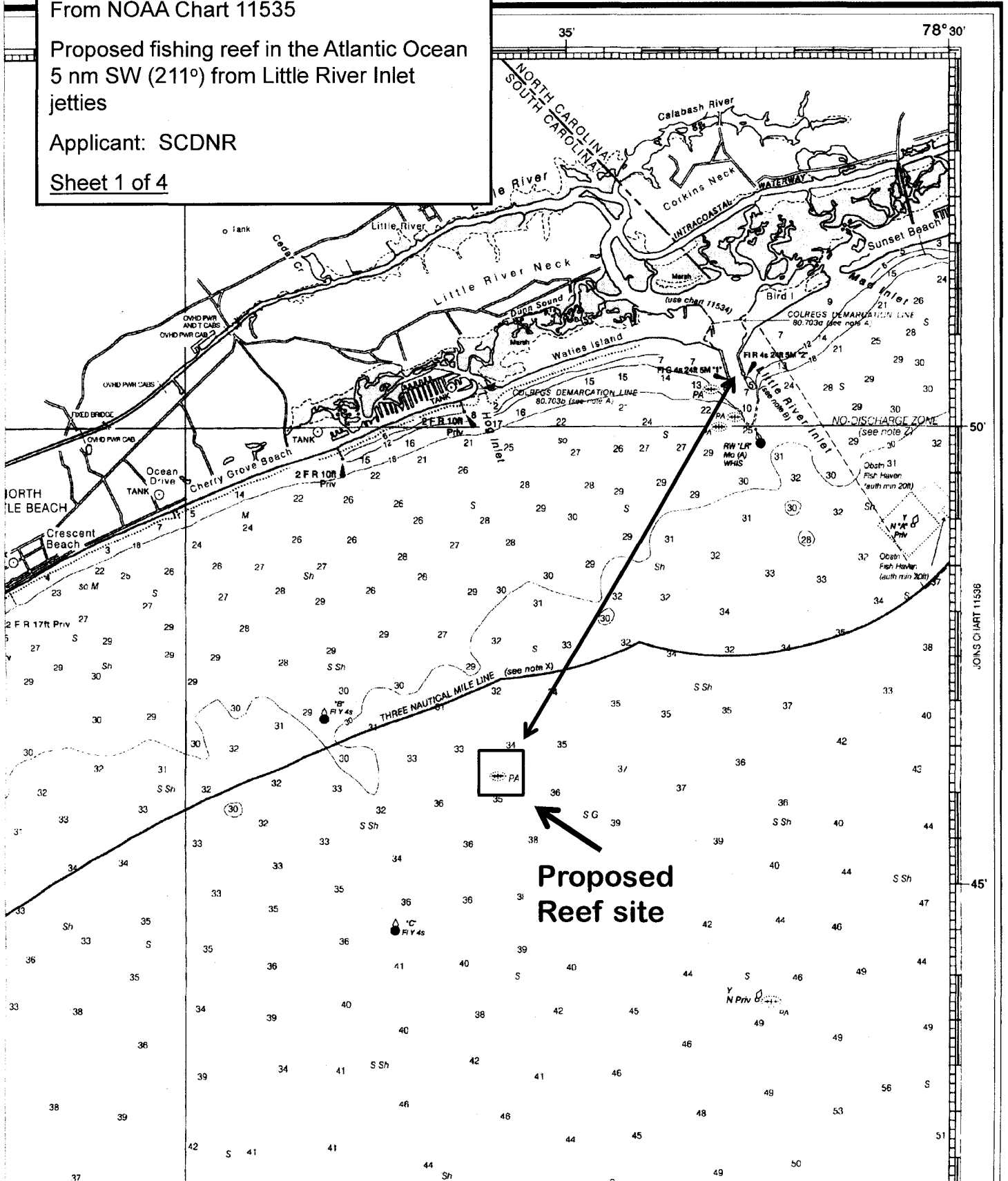
If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Ann Eaddy at 843-365-1709.

From NOAA Chart 11535

Proposed fishing reef in the Atlantic Ocean
5 nm SW (211°) from Little River Inlet
jetties

Applicant: SCDNR

Sheet 1 of 4



Artificial fishing reef in the Atlantic Ocean,
5 nm SW of Little River Inlet jetties

Applicant: SCDNR

Sheet 2 of 4

100 concrete modules, see sheet 4, will be placed around an existing shipwreck. Due to the weight of the modules, 1300 pounds each, no additional anchoring will be necessary.

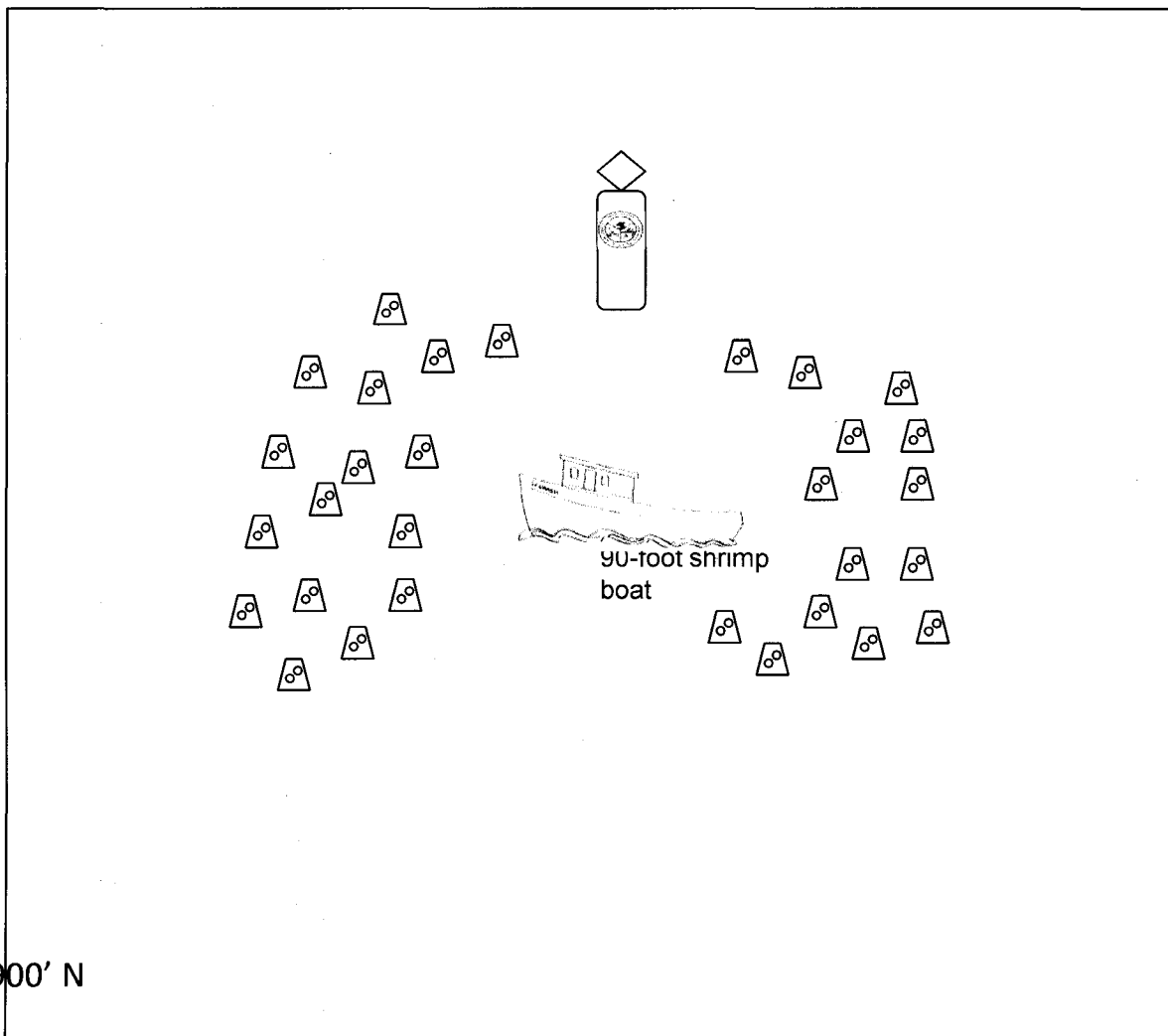
Top View

33° 46.400' N

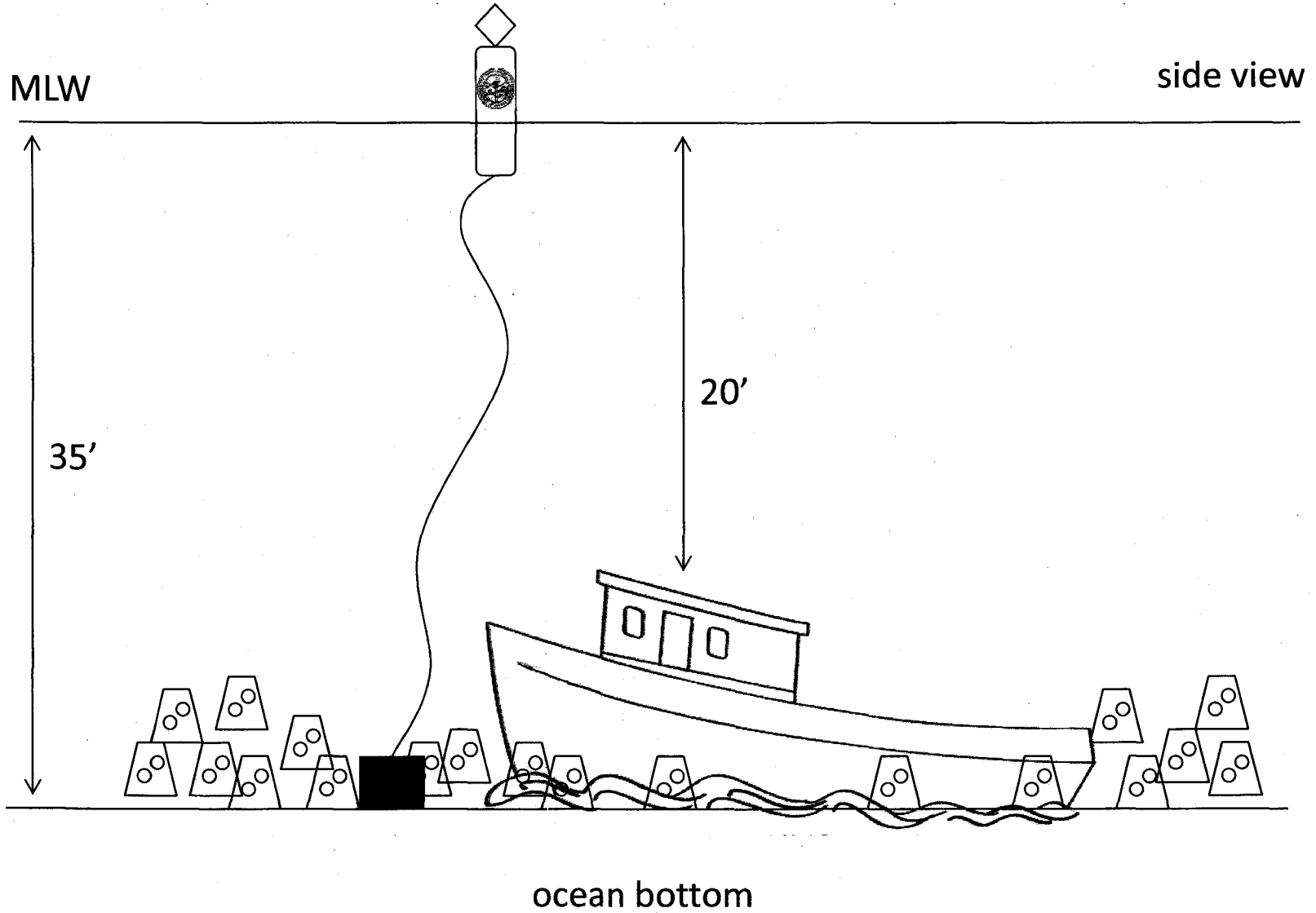
33° 45.900' N

078° 36.200' W

078° 35.600' W

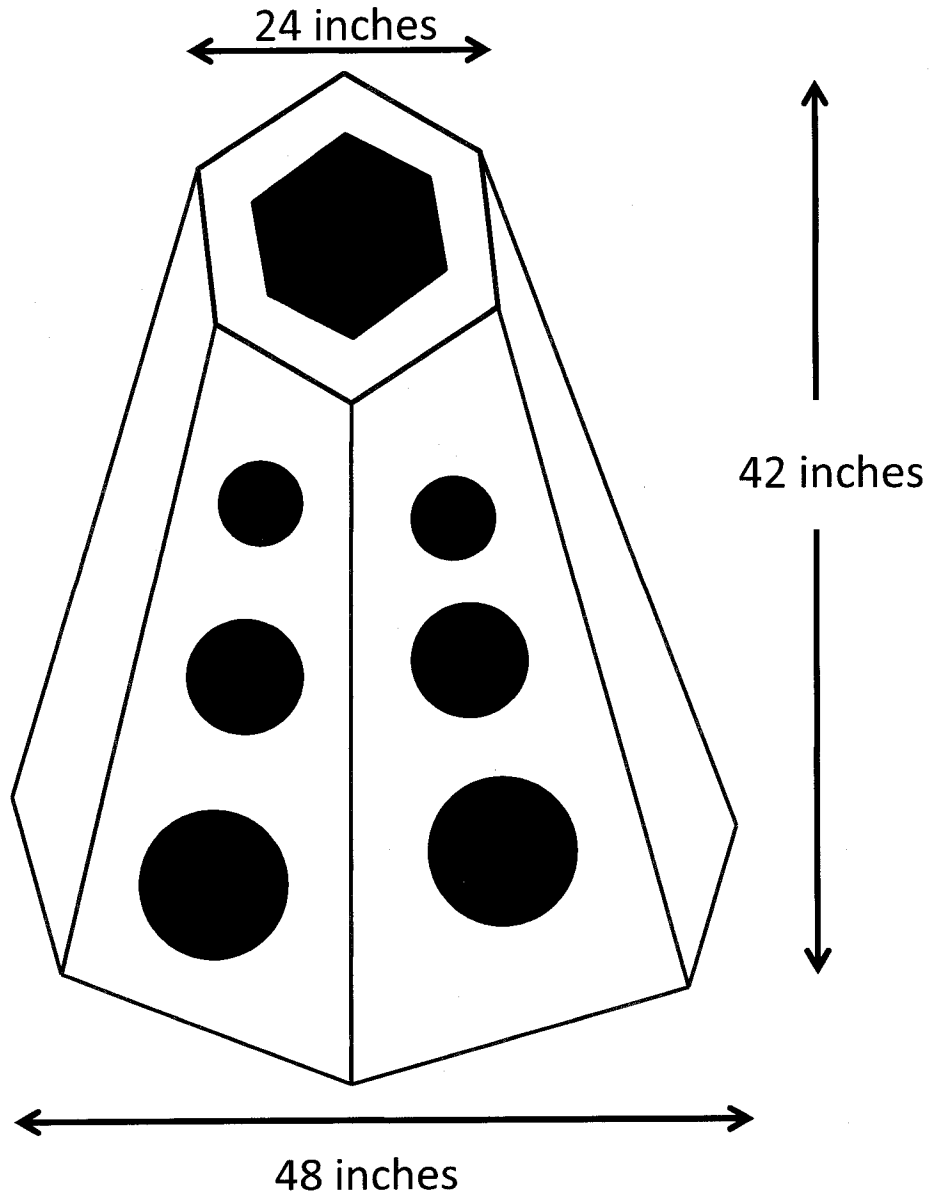


Current wreck extends 15 feet from ocean bottom leaving 20 feet of clearance to the surface. Concrete cones are 42 inches in height from the ocean bottom.



Sheet 4 of 4

Concrete Artificial Reef Module



Total Weight: 1300 pounds