

New Shipwreck - Miracle of Life

The idea of placing a shipwreck off of Deerfield Beach started nine years ago. As I see it, as a dive store owner, we can do a better job by creating more artificial reefs to benefit the environment and also our local economy. I tried the first time in conjunction with the Deerfield Beach Chamber of Commerce and organizer of the annual Beach Blowout, Jim Mathie, and assistance of Ray McAllister.



"The Team" - Arilton Pavan (Dixie Divers) Chad Grecsek (Deerfield Beach) Ken Banks (Broward County) Craig Ash (Cepemar)

U.S Customs and Border Patrol seized a vessel with 154 kilos of cocaine aboard the 165-foot freighter named Miss Lourdis. The vessel was confiscated by U.S customs.



June 26th 2008, US Customs and Border Patrol agents doing a random inspection found more than 150 kilos of cocaine inside a freighter on the Miami River. Agents who randomly inspect ships docked at the Port of Miami and on the Miami River noticed an irregular noise when they tapped on the hull of the Haitian freighter near the 2200 block of Northwest South River Drive. When they broke through the wall, the agents found a steel compartment that was bolted shut and filled with 154 kilos of cocaine.

"They actually had to take the bunk beds and the walls out of the crew cabins, open up a metal compartment, and this is where they found the cocaine," said Zachary Mann of Customs and Border Protection. According to the ship's log, the 165-foot freighter named Miss Lourdis was in Miami to pick up cars, bicycles and mattresses to sell in Haiti.

"It's a significant find. We used to have a lot of activity like this on the river," Mann said. "It just goes to show you that we're still out here looking, and today was a very significant day in that we found a large quantity of cocaine and we've taken it off the streets."



Authorities detained six people in connection with the drugs. Customs and Border Patrol agents are trying to determine who knew the cocaine was in the ship and who was trying to sell it. United States Customs and Border Patrol (US Customs) confiscated the freighter after performing a routine inspection along the Miami River in June 2008.

Agents found more than 150 kilos of cocaine inside the freighter in a concealed steel compartment. The freighter is currently docked near the 2200 block of Northwest South River Drive on the Miami River in Miami.



Changing the Name of the Vessel

By Daniel Fasano

I am so honored and proud to be the sponsor of the naming and sinking of the new Miracle of Life Shipwreck. My friend Pavan at Dixie Divers has gone to great depth to arrange this event. Pavan not knowing that as time grew nearer acquiring this vessel would become so meaningful by adding new life to our precious Ocean Sea Life, but also brought new meaning to my life.

I became a newly certified Open Water Diver in mid 2006 after great fears of swimming in the Ocean, I quickly learn of how wonderful the experience of diving was and experiencing the sea life was now my passion. In January of 2007 I received disturbing news that I have been diagnosed with Leukemia (ALL-Acute Lymphoblast Leukemia). I that spent the next seven months undergoing chemo treatments at the H.E. Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida and quickly went into remission, unfortunately it only lasted for the nineteen month. My doctors at Moffitt explained that the only chance for a possible cure was to have a Bone Marrow Transplant. As of January 17, 2009 I am like a new born baby with a 65 days old immune system, a Miracle of Life thanks to a twenty-four old Bone Marrow Donor.

The sinking of this vessel is the meaning of the Miracle of Life that can be renewed. As founder of AsSeenOnTV.com and proud sponsor for funding this now to be annual event and in recognition and support of my not for profit Miracle of Life Foundation, the Leukemia Lymphoma Foundation, Hospice of South Florida, and H. E. Moffitt Cancer Center.

This is a monumental event that has not occurred in more the 5 year on the coast of South East Florida and to dedicate the sinking of this vessel raising awareness to all the worthy causes that will one day affect all of our lives.

Social and Economical Benefits

Artificial reefs can be used to enhance the biological system and the fisheries on a site. The benefits are not only on the recreational opportunities and related areas, but can also in the biological system of the area, as those structures create or improve spawning substrate, and thus increasing fish populations and species diversity (Evander, 1985). Such enhancements result in intangible benefits to the overall health and sustainability of the marine environment (Woods, 1999).

Improvements lead to an increment on diving and marine recreational fishing activities. Recreational activities related to artificial reefs encompasses many aspects of the tourism industry that are also positively affected, such as hotels, motels, restaurants, boat rentals, fishing guides, bait and tackle shops (Evander, 1985). Just in 2004, the tourism industry in Florida contributed with \$57 billion to the State economy (State of Florida, 2007). In South Florida, (Adams et al. 2006) reports that the economic values associated with artificial and natural reef systems in southeast Florida have been recently measured. Johns, Leeworthy, Bell, and Bonn (2001) examined the economic impact and use values associated with both types of reef systems (artificial and natural).

The study, including Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties, found that non-residents and visitors annually spent \$1.7 billion on fishing and diving activities associated with artificial reefs, resulting in approximately 27,000 jobs in the region and created \$782 million in wages and salaries. The studies reviewed by Adams et al. (2006) show that artificial reefs do increase economic activity in surrounding communities and are valued by users and non-users alike. The benefits provided exceed the costs, and thus being considered a source of economic value that may justify additional deployments, even after taking into account the opportunity costs associated with scarce public funds (Woods, 1999; Adams et al. 2006).



**First Time In 9 Years...
and a First For,
Deerfield Beach,
Florida**

**Life
Begins
Here**

