

June 29th, 2008

U.S Customs and Border Patrol seized a vessel with 154 kilos of cocaine aboard the 165-foot freighter named Miss Lourdies. The vessel was confiscated by U.S customs. US Customs and Border Patrol agents doing a random inspection Thursday (26 June) 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.

Ash (Cepemar)

October 6th, 2008

Ken Banks contacted Pavan, owner of Dixie Divers, to let him know there is a possible vessel available in Miami.

November 16th, 2008

Dan Fasano committed to help pay for the cost of cleaning the new shipwreck.

December 2nd, 2008

Deerfield Beach city commissioners voted accepting the ship to make it an artificial reef of Deerfield Beach with no cost to the city.

March 13th, 2009

Contract signed between stakeholders, Dixie Divers A. Pavan (financial provider), Chad Grecsek City of Deerfield Beach (government agency) and Bruce Sugar Bunnell Foundation, Inc. Environment Cleaning Contractor.

March 20th, 2009

Vessel was transferred from U.S Customs to the City of Deerfield Beach and later to the Bunnell Foundation, Inc. Environmental Cleaning Contractor on port on Miami River.

March 23rd, 2009

Bunnell Foundation, Inc start cleaning process on private dock at 2750 NW N. River Drive, off Miami River.

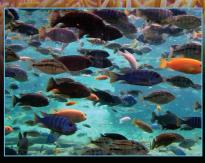
May 30th, 2009

Sinking of Miss Lourdies (Miracle of Life Shipwreck)

Benefits of an artificial reef

Miss Lourdies (Miracle of Life) Feasibility Study

Benefits of artificial reefs range from increasing reef fish habitats to socio-economic benefits to coastal communities. In Florida, there is also the role that artificial reefs can play on the restoration of reef habitat lost through activities such as beach re-nourishment and accidental vessel groundings and the protection of vulnerable shorelines due to erosion from wave activity (Dodrill, 2007). The following are some of the benefits this project can bring:



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).



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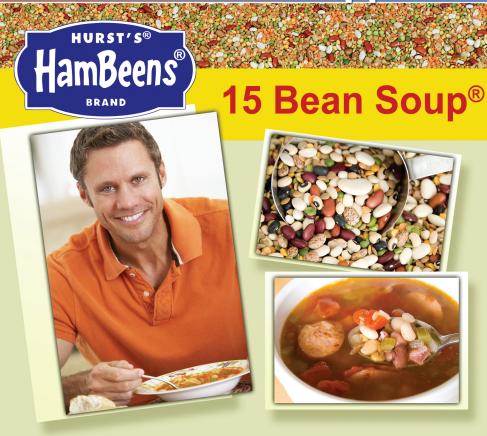






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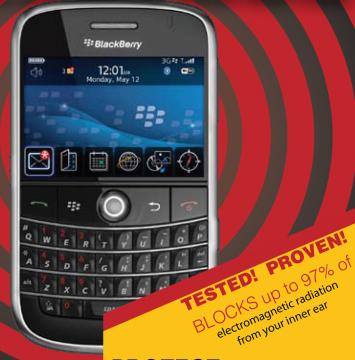


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