

Restore Act Interest Form

Project Name: Tugboat reef at 18 mile site

Project Sponsor: Marco Island Naples Enrichment Reef Society. MINERS

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The project is to reef a 98' Tugboat at a site 18 miles off the Collier County coast. This project will provide a positive environmental benefit. She will be an island in a underwater desert of sand. Marine life will be provided topographic relief from the flat bottom, a hard surface for algae and other food sources of smaller fish to attach. A habitat for small and medium fish will be created. Since ships have larger compartments for shelter than concrete debris so larger fish can congregate. The ship will be prepared to the EPA guide line for reefing materials.

The project will create jobs in Collier county. It will attract fishermen, more divers will also come and stay longer in Collier county. While divers like diving some concrete structures to see marine life, there are some who like the history of a ship and the general curiosity of being able to explore inside one. Many divers leave Collier county early to stay in Monroe, Broward, or Dade counties to dive ships like the USS Speigel Grove, the Benwood, the City of Washington, the Duane, the Bibb, the Vandenberg, the Thunderbolt, the Eagle, and many more. The USS Speigel Grove alone brings in at least \$8 million a year to Key Largo according to their Chamber of Commerce. Collier county already has 46 reefs created from concrete debris with more coming in the next few years. We only have a few shrimp boats, few barges, and the Cuban refugee boat Santa Lucia. The best ship we have is a freighter that was sunk during World War II, the Baja California. She is over 50 miles off the coast. Her location is too far out to be of much benefit.

Our ultimate goal would be to create a smaller version of the Key's ship wreck trail. The Tugboat project will be a start for this project at 18 miles out. When they become available two ships at 200' to 250' in length would be placed 20 to 25 miles out one to the northern end of the county one to the southern end of the county. Then a marquee piece a 455' former navy ship would be located 30 miles out. Collier has only a handful of dive boats and shops compared to about one hundred in Dade, Broward, and Monroe counties. Our hotels, restaurants, and stores will benefit from more tourism for fishing

and diving and the tourists will stay longer because we offer more to do than in the past. When we have good weather and the east coast of Florida has bad weather, divers will come here to dive with wrecks available.

The Tugboat is 98' long by 22' wide and has a draft of 10' 3" and has a gross tonnage of 149 tons. She was built in 1909 in Quincy, Massachusetts for the Army Corp of Engineers. Originally she was steam powered. She was a ferry for a time in Charleston. In 1950 her engine was changed to a diesel. She is currently in South Carolina and runs every day. Her owner has dropped her price to \$68,250.00 to bring her to the staging area at the foot of the Marco Island bridge, she will have to travel 682 nautical miles. At 10 knots per hour it will take her 2 days 8 1/2 hours to get to Marco Island. She will burn 45 gallons of diesel fuel an hour, that would be 2543 gallons at \$5.00 gallon for a cost of \$12,715.00. Provisions for her crew would be estimated at \$1,000.00, miscellaneous expenses at \$2,000.00. The total dollar amount estimated would be \$83,965.00 to get her to the Marco Island staging area.

Her owner claims she has no asbestos. We have over 50 volunteers that will strip her interior We are planning to get the dumpsters donated. A professional contractor will clean her three 5000 gallon tanks and her two 150 gallon tanks. All wiring and exhaust systems to the engine will be removed, the valve covers and the oil pan on the engine will be removed, the crankshaft and the valve train will be wiped down with oil absorbent cloths designed for oil removal and then cleaned with an eco-friendly degreaser. The waste will be collected and disposed of properly. All loose paint will be removed. The projected cost to prepare her and reef her will be \$15,670.00. The projected total cost for the reef project is \$99,635.00

We would like to reef her at 25 59.80 82 20.24. This would be 18 miles out equal distance from Marco, north Collier and the city of Naples. A short distance compared to the USS Mohawk which is 45+ miles. This distance is within quick reach for the sport fisherman and the diver. And, while not as large as the Mohawk, at \$100,00.00 verses \$1.3 million it is a better buy.

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