

◊ RRT REEF BRIEF ◊

Volume 99, Issue 7

July 14, 1999

<p style="text-align: center;">Important Dates</p> <hr/> <p>7/14 7:00 PM Scuba-nauts regular meeting @ Worman's on San Jose</p> <p>7/10 JAXSPOTS Dive</p> <p>7/18 Monitoring Dive – Native Diver II</p> <p>7/21 6:30 PM RRT Board meeting @ JU's Reid Hall</p> <p>7/21 7:30 PM RRT Regular meeting</p> <p>8/8 JAXSPOTS Dive</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">From Your Coordinator</p> <p>July is upon us and the water offshore Jax is getting warmer and the visibility remains excellent. Our data collection efforts in support of the FLDEP grant has been going well. We still have more sites to complete, but if the vis holds up we maybe can complete them this season!</p> <p>As you can see from the articles in this issue, a lot is going on pertaining to the underwater environment in Northeast Florida. Specifically, I am excited about the possibility of being able to monitor some of the "Reef Balls" in our waters. They have been extremely successful in other parts of the state in attracting fish—both juveniles and mature. See the article on page 3 for more details.</p> <p>Unfortunately the weather didn't allow the Team to go out on July 4th. Steve Parks called the dive due to high winds and accompanying seas. We will need to make up that dive soon either with Steve or with private boats.</p> <p>Please contact Alex Waters regarding the upcoming dives—the next one is July 18th on the Native Diver II. We are scheduled to go the EEF Culverts. We really need to fill the boat as we have a lot of data collecting to do and WE NEED YOU!!!</p> <p>Safe and fun diving to all.</p> <p><i>Jim Cribb</i></p> <hr/> <p>Safety Tips</p> <p>This is the second in a series of safety related topics from your safety officer. Last month we discussed the use of the buddy line. This month we will address the possibility of getting entangled in a line or other debris underwater.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fouling and Entanglement</p> <p>When a diver becomes entangled, trapped or fouled it is important that the first step be a calm assessment of the situation. Struggling probably will result in even deeper entanglement and damage to, or loss of diving equipment. The scuba diver is more concerned about entanglement than other types of divers, because the air supply is limited and communication with the surface usually is not available. The combination of a cool head, common sense, a nearby diver, and a diving knife usually suffices to gain freedom from entanglement. An emergency free ascent should be used only as a last resort.</p> <p>Have fun and dive safe!</p> <p><i>Dennis Short</i></p> <hr/> <p>Miscellaneous</p> <p>A special "Thank You" to Dr. Bozzuto at Baptist Hospital for giving us a great tour of the facilities that we hope we will never need! You run a first class operation!</p> <p>For those of you who ordered the new team logo T-shirts, Polo shirts, or warm-ups, bring your checkbook to the next meeting. For those of you who picked up ordered items last month and didn't pay—pay! For those of you who didn't do anything, we have a <u>few</u> extra items. The T-shirts are 100% cotton and they all look great! The T-shirts are \$6.00, Polo shirts are \$19.00, and the warm-ups are \$35.00 for the set. We will have them at the July meeting. Lets all show off our new logo!</p> <p><i>Editor</i></p>
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From your Vice President

So far, it has been a GREAT summer for diving and getting data. Several trips have been made with private boats, and we hopefully got a dive in with Steve on July 4th.

Last Sunday, Mark and Joanne Dillon invited Jim Barnes and me to go with them in their FAST boat to Southeast 16 and the Coppedge Tug. The visibility is still holding at about 40 to 45 feet, and there is still no thermocline. So, it has been very comfortable in the water all summer. Jim and I got in a nice dive on some scattered ledges at SS, and were very impressed with the number and size of gamefish on the reef. We went "up the road" to the Coppedge, which is one of my favorites, because it is always an easy dive. However, on the way back to Mayport, we encountered some weather and wind as the seas kicked up to about 3-4 feet, and made the trip back home a little longer and a lot bumpier.

Regardless, it was a great day all around. Besides, during a surface interval, Mark pulled up a 24" grouper that made a nice addition to my dinner that evening.

The team dive July 4th is to JW (one of Steve's favorites!). Hopefully, the seas cooperated and good data was collected for the grant.

It appears we won't be manning a booth at the Kingfish Tournament this year because of an unforeseen expense. However, we will be well represented with the 2 page spread in the Tournament magazine. Additionally, I plan to help out Dr. White with the

weigh-ins for the Junior and VIP tournaments.

I want everyone to keep signing up for the dives, which are soon going to be a past memory, so get in as many dives as you can before the season is over. We really appreciate all the help that everyone has been providing. If you have some information about dives you have made that you would like to have passed along, either write them up and send them to Prez Cribb, or to me and I'll include the info in my editorial.

Keep up the good work, and keep diving!

Later, Lex

Public Relations

Well, here it is Kingfish Tournament time and we, THE REEF RESEARCH TEAM will not be there! We were informed by the JOSFC that the cost would be \$250. As we haven't made it a policy of paying large fees for booth space in the past we decided that we would not set a precedent for this event. I would like to thank those of you that offered your time during this coming week. Perhaps next year we will have better luck.

On a brighter side we will have a two page spread in the Kingfish Tournament Program. We would like to thank Bonnie and Mike Barnes for the assistance they provided in helping me meet a very short deadline. I gotta thank Peggy too! Without her tolerance, patience, and help I probably could not get anything accomplished.

Thanks again to those that volunteered for the Kingfish Tournament.

See ya at the meeting!

Jim Barnes

Science Officer update

Well, I apologize for missing the last couple of newsletters and meetings. I also have not been able to make as many monthly meetings as I would like and I have not been diving nearly enough this year. The reason is . . . Well, we had another little girl on June 5th of this year (Allison Michele) and it is keeping us very busy. Anyway, enough on the family front.

On the Science Officer front, we have been doing a good job on Monitoring Grant efforts. We have completed work at BB, HH, and the Anna. Unfortunately, our dive over the 4th of July holiday was cancelled due to sea conditions or we could have completed a good deal of work at JW. I will be working to get an "interim" report done in the next two weeks so that we can get an "interim paycheck" for our efforts. Hopefully, as each of you have been doing your own personal dives you are completing some SOCA's that you can pass along to me. (If you have any, my fax number is 791-5064). I have been out diving a couple of times to do a few SOCA's myself (at JW) and the visibility two weeks ago was pretty good (about 30 feet) and the water temperature was great (81° F) on the bottom with no thermocline). Hopefully, everyone is getting out and doing some diving since conditions have been so good.

On another front, it sounds like there may be some more reef placement coming our way. First, the Jacksonville Offshore Fishing Club is looking to place some material at CH in the next couple of weeks and secondly, there may be a big "Reef Ball" project coming to Jacksonville, perhaps as many as 600 to be place between Jacksonville and St. Augustine. Hopefully, by next month we will have more to share on the project.

Until then . . .Happy Bubbles to you!

John Perkner

New News!

This is just in from Lex Waters. It seems that the Reef Ball Company has decided to do a placement in Northeast Florida. John Perkner and I met these people in West Palm in March of 1998 during the DEP symposium.

This from Lex:

The Reef Ball company of Tampa has received a grant of \$80,000 from the Kirbo Foundation to place about 600 reef balls offshore Jax in the Ponte Vedre area. A mobile fabrication system will be brought up to Jax and is expected to assemble the balls on the site of the Moody Crane company, who, at this point is the transporter of the balls. If an agreement can be reached on the price, Moody will then transport the balls offshore.

The Team will come into play with some long-range monitoring for the Reef Ball company to contribute to their data base information regarding fish population dynamics as impacted by these types of structures. For those of you who may not know what a reef ball looks like, it resembles a concrete igloo with holes in the sides to increase the 3-dimensionality of the structure. The intent is to place balls of every size, from those only 2 feet tall for benthic studies, to balls with a profile of 6 feet. There is even the consideration of stacking the balls to get 7-8 feet of profile!! Also, putting small ones into big ones.

There will be a meeting of the players from the city, the offshore club, the Team, and a research class from Mandarin High School and St. Augustine High School. The approach is to make this a community/PR/educational project. Plans are to begin construction this August, and deploy by September.

So, it appears that this project will be happening fast. We will keep you posted as news develops.

Jim Cribb

1999 DIVE SCHEDULE

Day	Month	Dive Date	Rain Date	M	J	Location
Saturday	April	04/03	04/10		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	April	04/17	04/24		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	May	05/08	TBA	*		BB
Sunday	May	05/16	05/23		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	June	06/06	TBA	*		CR Culverts
Saturday	June	06/19	06/26		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	July	07/03	Open		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	July	07/04	TBA	*		JW
Saturday	July	07/10	07/24		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	July	07/18	TBA	*		EEF Culverts
Sunday	August	08/08	08/15		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	August	08/14	TBA	*		HH Barge
Sunday	August	08/15	08/22		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	August	08/28	TBA	*		TR Anna
Saturday	September	09/04	TBA	*		JW
Sunday	September	09/12	09/19		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	October	10/02	10/09		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	October	10/10	10/17		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	October	10/31	TBA		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	November	11/14	TBA		*	Jaxspots

Notes: M = Monitoring Dives J = Jaxspots Confirmation and Discovery Dives

Meet at Mayport Marine promptly at 7:30 for all dives, unless specified otherwise

Contact Alex Waters at 262-5001 or John Perkner at 273-4562 with questions on the schedule.

1999 Officers/Board of Directors

President - Jim Cribb	904-264-1840 (H)	904-264-0520 (W)
Vice President - Alex Waters	904-262-5001 (H)	904-260-3911 (W)
Secretary - Mary Lyons	904-724-0324 (H)	904-708-8456 (M)
Treasurer - Jim Nelsen	904-641-0717 (H)	904-448-0305 (W)
Board/Webmaster - Ray Smith	904-389-9668 (H)	904-854-5990 (W)
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Board/Safety Officer - Dennis Short	904-268-0414 (H)	904-332-1849 (W)
Board/Public Relations - Jim Barnes	904-757-1928 (H)	904-778-6089 (W)

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Description: color of back iridescent bluish green; sides silvery, streamlined body with tapered head; no black pigment on front of dorsal fin; lateral line starts high and drops sharply below the second dorsal fin; young fish often have yellow spots like those of the Spanish mackerel.

King Mackerel

**Family Scombridae,
MACKERELS and TUNAS**
Scomberomorous cavalla

Similar Fish: cero, *S. regalis*; Spanish mackerel, *S. maculatus*.

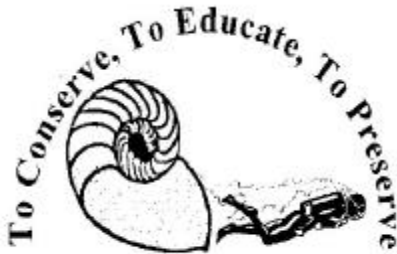
Where found: NEARSHORE and OFFSHORE, occasionally taken from piers running into deep water.

Size: common to 20 pounds.

Florida Record: 90 lbs.

In This Issue...

July meeting back at Jacksonville University – Reid Hall!



Jacksonville Reef Research Team

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