

Artificial Reef. Proposal to use wrecks to make in Gulf of Paria. Sent in July 2005

The General Manager,
Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago,
Wrightson Road,
Port of Spain.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Ref: Salvage and Removal of Wrecks within the Waters of Port of Spain Harbour.

We have seen a Request for Proposals for the captioned project in the press.

The Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club would like to propose that material recovered in this exercise be dumped in shallow waters of the Gulf of Paria to form an artificial reef. The reef is proposed as a sport diving location, with fishing permitted over 50% of it and total protection from fishing over the remainder. By creating a hazard for trawl nets it would also create a haven for marine life over a wider area, thus helping to regenerate fish stocks in our coastal waters. With time this will have the potential to be a tourist diving attraction also.

The location of this artificial reef we propose be in water less than 100 feet deep and sufficiently removed from shore to access water with good diving visibility. The exact location should be determined from considerations of navigation, anchorage, subsea pipeline, future planned developments, international agreements, and potential effects on erosion of shoreline areas, and warning buoys placed to warn maritime traffic.

We propose that the appropriate authorities demarcate the area for this reef having a length of at least 2 miles, and dumping of metallic and inert building or construction wastes, that have been cleansed of soluble or dispersible pollutants be encouraged. This will therefore be a suitable disposal of scrapped automobiles and heavy equipment to assist with national clean up campaigns and benefit the environment.

We look forward to your response to this proposal and offer to assist you with any environmental expertise we may be able to offer from among our membership and associates.

Yours sincerely,

Carrall Alexander

President TTFNC