

Contributors

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EPA - Lake Pontchartrain
Basin Foundation

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation

FishAmerica/NOAA
Restoration Center

Jefferson Parish

Dr. Robert Weilbaecher

East Ascension Sportsman's
League

DONATED SERVICES

Lake Pontchartrain Basin
Foundation

Chet Morrison Contractor's Inc.

T. Baker Smith & Son, Inc.

LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries

North Shore Hammerheads

NOAA

Seal Sports - Mandeville

Tulane School of Public Health

Special thanks also to volunteer **Nathan Arthur** who manufactured customized survey reef markers, **Sammy Bruiglio** for producing sidescan sonar images, and **Rob Kohl & Les Dauterive** who organized volunteer divers. Special thanks also to **Dr.'s Mike Poirrier and Marty O'Connell** of the University of New Orleans.

Lake Pontchartrain Artificial Reef Working Group Members (LPARWG)

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Fnd

LSU AgCenter/ Extension

Louisiana Sea Grant

Jefferson Parish Marine Fisheries
Advisory Board

Jefferson Parish Economic
Development Commission (JEDCO)

La. Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries

Lake Pontchartrain Commercial
Fishermen's Association

University of New Orleans-

Dept. of Biological Science

NOAA

North Shore Hammerhead Divers

Louisiana Wildlife Federation

East Ascension Sportsman's
League

Jefferson Rod and Gun

Clio Sportsman's League

Jefferson Parish Port Director

Jefferson Parish Environmental

Minerals Management Service

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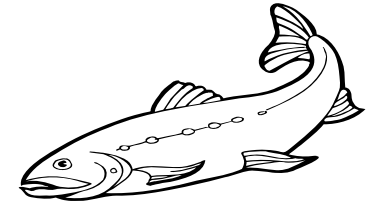
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Grant Program (504) 838-1170

Lake Pontchartrain Artificial Reef Program

June 2005



Through a cooperative effort of environmental organizations, fishing associations, and government agencies, Lake Pontchartrain now has five artificial reefs. The Lake Pontchartrain Artificial Reef Working Group (LPARWG), was organized in June 2000, and built its first reef near Lakefront Airport in August 2001. Four additional artificial reef sites were developed from August of 2003 to January 2004.

All sites are within a 20 minute boat ride of public boat launches. One site was created with limestone rubble in Orleans Parish. Four sites utilizing Reefballs™ are located in Jefferson and St. Tammany Parishes.

All five sites have been donated by the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation to the LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Reef sites are about an acre in size and have been marked with yellow, crash-proof buoys. Coordinates are given inside or can be found on-line at

SAVEOURLAKE.ORG.

Site Descriptions

The Jefferson Parish (H1, H3 & H4) reefs are 6.5 miles from the public boat launch from Bonnabel Blvd. and 3.5 miles from the public launch at Williams Blvd. (see map) They are approximately 3.5 miles offshore and about 4.0 miles west of the Causeway Bridge. Three reef sites are all located within 1000 feet of each other to offer multiple fishing opportunities. Each site is roughly a 1 acre shell mound (water depth 7-10 feet) with reef balls around the perimeter in 13-15 feet of water.

The St. Tammany Parish (N1) site is 5.5 miles south of Mandeville. This site has a small shell mound (30 foot diameter) where the water depth is 7-10 feet with Reefballs placed entirely around the perimeter in 13- 15 feet of water.

The Orleans Parish (L1) site is 3.0 miles northeast of the public launch at Seabrook Bridge (boat ride is 4.5 miles). The site is composed of limestone rubble mounds 1-2 feet above the lake bottom in 15-16 feet of water.

Reef Center Coordinates (NAD 83)

Jefferson Parish

"H1" 30⁰ 5.028 90⁰ 12.096

"H3" 30⁰ 5.034 90⁰ 12.582

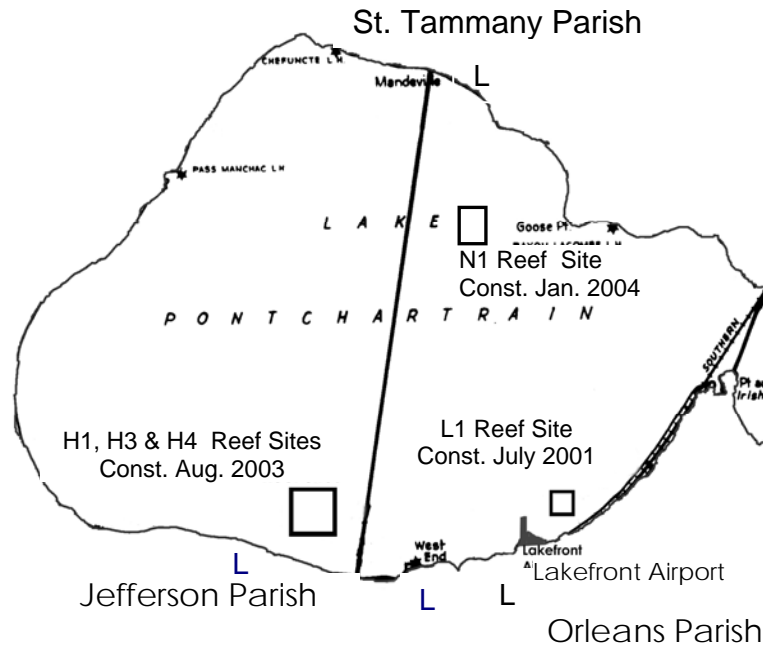
"H4" 30⁰ 5.274 90⁰ 12.336

St. Tammany Parish

"N1" 30⁰ 16.296 90⁰ 3.753

Orleans Parish

"L1" 30⁰ 3.521 89⁰ 50.608



IMPORTANT WARNINGS
Trawling over the reef sites is hazardous. It is recommended that trawlers avoid the entire permitted areas by not approaching within ¼ mile of the reef center coordinates.

All sites have reduced draft with a minimum clearance of 7-10 feet. Heavy seas may develop quickly. Small craft should exercise caution.

It is recommended that captains drop anchor upwind off the reef site and allow their boat to drift in close enough for casting over the structure.

Most sites are charted on NOAA charts as either Fish Havens or oil & gas sites. A request has been submitted to have all sites identified as Fish Havens.

Reef Construction and Monitoring

Two styles of reefs have been developed. At Lakefront Airport, limestone rubble was placed in small mounds creating a hummocky relief over 1 acre. Maximum relief over the lake bottom is 1-2 feet.

The sites in Jefferson and St. Tammany Parishes utilized former oil and gas shell pad sites. These shell mounds are generally 1 acre in size. The St. Tammany site was roughly 30 feet in diameter. For all the shell pads sites reef balls were placed on the perimeter of the pads on a shell apron. Reefballs™ are a patented concrete mold specifically designed as fish habitat. They have been successfully used in locations around the world.

The hard surface and physical relief at all the sites should change currents and create cover to attract fish and promote feeding. The reefs are expected seasonally to attract recreational fish such as speckled trout, sheepshead, redfish and white trout.

All reefs are within state waters where public fishing is allowed with a fishing license. The reefs have been donated to the state to be managed by the LA Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Monitoring of the sites will be conducted by the University of New Orleans. Monitoring will include physical integrity, fishing utilization, and habitat change. The reef balls have an identifying plate with a unique serial number for tracking purposes.

Creation of un-permitted reef sites in state water bottoms is illegal and strongly discouraged by the LPBF and LPARWG.