

Tampa Bay's ARTIFICIAL REEFS

About the ARTIFICIAL REEF PROGRAM

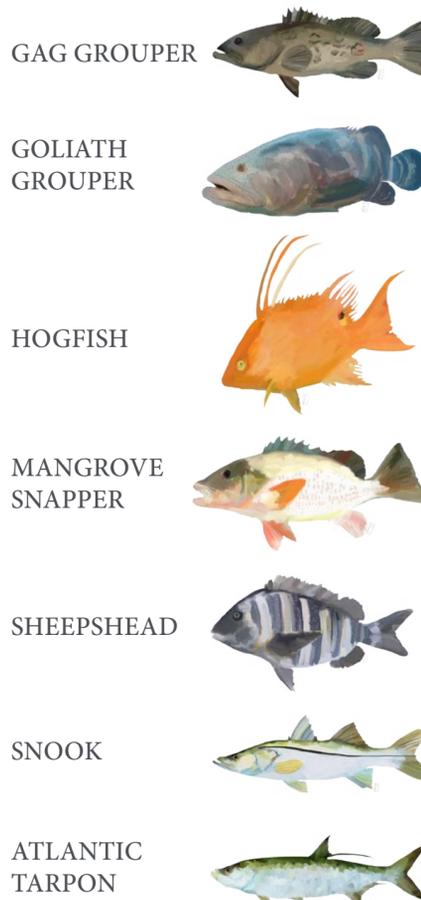
ESTABLISHED IN 1986

- Administered by the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County
- Goal is to increase habitat availability to promote diversity
- Eight reefs constructed in Tampa Bay
- 50,000 tons of material deployed
- Funded by EPC's Pollution Recovery Fund
- Additional funds have been provided by:
 - Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program
 - Florida Recreational Saltwater Fishing License funds administered by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Division of Marine Fisheries



The Artificial Reef Program is interested in your catch! Catch information can be reported to EPC from any computer or mobile device. Your information helps us make management decisions regarding Tampa Bay and the artificial reefs, and is an invaluable tool for us to better understand reef dynamics. Share your photo! You can also view the catch reporting by other anglers at this site. Tell us and show us what you're catching at epchc.org/reefs. Thanks, and happy fishing!

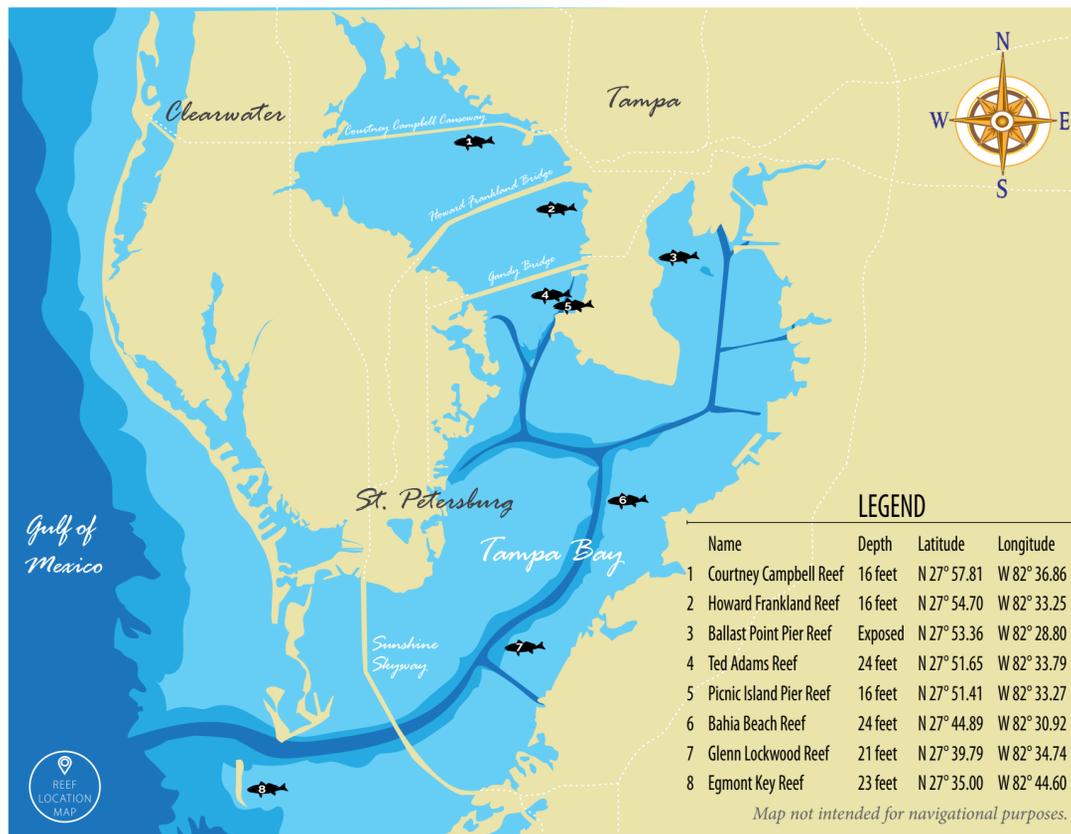
More than 60 different species of fish have been observed on Tampa Bay's reefs, including:



ATLANTIC
TARPON

OUR HIDDEN FISHING TREASURES

REEF LOCATIONS IN TAMPA BAY



Reef Name	Center Coordinates	NE Corner Coordinates	SE Corner Coordinates	SW Corner Coordinates	NW Corner Coordinates
Bahia Beach Reef 200 X 400 yards	N 27° 44.89' W 82° 30.92'	N 27° 44.99' W 82° 30.87'	N 27° 44.79' W 82° 30.87'	N 27° 44.79' W 82° 30.97'	N 27° 44.99' W 82° 30.97'
Ballast Point Fishing Pier Reef N/A	N 27° 53.36' W 82° 28.80'	N / A	N / A	N / A	N / A
Courtney Campbell Reef 200 X 400 yards	N 27° 57.81' W 82° 36.86'	N 27° 57.86' W 82° 36.76'	N 27° 57.76' W 82° 36.76'	N 27° 57.76' W 82° 36.96'	N 27° 57.86' W 82° 36.96'
Egmont Key Reef 400 X 400 yards	N 27° 35.00' W 82° 44.60'	N 27° 35.10' W 82° 44.50'	N 27° 34.90' W 82° 44.50'	N 27° 34.90' W 82° 44.70'	N 27° 35.10' W 82° 44.70'
Glenn Lockwood Reef 400 X 400 yards	N 27° 39.79' W 82° 34.74'	N 27° 39.89' W 82° 34.64'	N 27° 39.69' W 82° 34.64'	N 27° 39.69' W 82° 34.84'	N 27° 39.89' W 82° 34.84'
Howard Frankland Reef 200 X 400 yards	N 27° 54.70' W 82° 33.25'	N 27° 54.80' W 82° 33.20'	N 27° 54.60' W 82° 33.20'	N 27° 54.60' W 82° 33.30'	N 27° 54.80' W 82° 33.30'
Picnic Island Fishing Pier Reef N/A	N 27° 51.41' W 82° 33.27'	N / A	N / A	N / A	N / A
Ted Adams Reef 100 X 400 yards	N 27° 51.65' W 82° 33.79'	N 27° 51.75' W 82° 33.76'	N 27° 51.55' W 82° 33.76'	N 27° 51.55' W 82° 33.82'	N 27° 51.75' W 82° 33.82'

Benefits of Artificial Reefs

The goal of EPC's Artificial Reef Program is to increase habitat diversity by providing hard-bottom substrates and communities which might not otherwise be available in Tampa Bay. Providing additional habitat increases the diversity of marine species that can be found in the bay. More than 60 different species of fish call the reefs home. Artificial reefs provide economic benefits as well. A recent study by Florida Sea Grant found the annual economic benefit in Hillsborough County alone was over \$30 million spent by fishermen and divers, supporting approximately 285 full and part-time jobs.

Reef Materials

The eight artificial reefs in Tampa Bay have provided valuable habitat for nearly 30 years. The primary material for all reefs is concrete, including pilings, slabs, culverts, and bridge decking, while Picnic Island Pier Reef and Egmont Key Reef also feature large concrete pyramids. Additionally, four steel barges are submerged at Ted Adams Reef. The reef material and profile can be easily viewed using recreational-grade fish finders when drifting over a permitted reef area. The chart above provides coordinates for the center of the reef and associated corner points. Reef material is scattered throughout the reef area within the corner points so there is plenty of room for everyone. Explore different areas of the reef to find your favorite spot!

Cautions

Conditions at the reef sites, such as strong tidal currents, poor water visibility and entanglements may make diving hazardous. Divers must make reasonable efforts to stay within 300 feet of the vessel displaying the diver-down flag. It is recommended that anglers anchor away from reef structures to avoid entanglement of anchors and tackle.

RESPONSIBLE FISHING

CATCH AND RELEASE

The simple act of releasing a fish back into the water affords it the chance to grow into a spawning adult. It is these mature adults that will help ensure local marine fisheries for generations to come. Please practice catch and release.

- Utilize non-stainless circle hooks (increases the chance a fish is hooked in the corner of the mouth and not the esophagus or stomach).
- Use barbless hooks to help reduce the time it takes to de-hook a fish.
- Try to keep fish in the water while utilizing a de-hooking tool.
- Wet hands before touching the fish (helps to keep the protective "slime" coat on the fish intact).
- Cut the line as close as possible to the hook in a gut-hooked fish. Don't try to pull the hook out or this could increase damage to the fish.
- After the fight, help to revive an exhausted fish by gently holding it upright in the water and passing water through its gills until it gains the energy to swim away on its own.

ANGLER ETIQUETTE

Share the water. Give other vessels enough room to enjoy the water without overcrowding to ensure a positive experience for all.

- Stay 300 feet from vessels displaying a diver's down flag.
- Please don't litter. Keep all trash aboard vessel including: monofilament fishing line, plastic bags, and bottles and cans.
- Treat fish and the environment with respect.
- Only keep the fish you intend to eat.
- When keeping fish, please follow all current size and daily bag limits by referring to the latest edition of the FWC's rules and regulations.

FISH AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION

If you suspect a fish, wildlife, boating, or environmental law violation, report it to the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922). Please report all collisions with manatees. In many cases injuries do not kill manatees immediately, and early rescue efforts may save the manatee's life. Please report any of the following to FWC: boating accidents, boating under the influence, oil spills, illegal dumping, taking of protected wildlife species, taking of saltwater game fish out of season, disturbance to nesting birds, and any injured birds, sea turtles, dolphins, and manatees.

LIONFISH

Lionfish are non-native to Florida and can decimate reef fish populations. Removing lionfish can help Florida's native marine species and habitats. Divers, anglers, and commercial harvesters are encouraged to safely remove lionfish in order to help control the numbers of these invasive fish. Please report all lionfish sightings to FWC.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
COMMISSION OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
ROGER P. STEWART CENTER
3629 QUEEN PALM DRIVE
TAMPA, FL 33619-1309
Phone: 813-627-2600
Web: EPCHC.ORG
Email: epcinfo@epchc.org

Thank you to the
CONTRIBUTORS
WHO MADE THIS GUIDE POSSIBLE



Support bay restoration efforts by purchasing a Tampa Bay Estuary license tag. Revenues from the tag are returned to the community in the form of grants to citizen groups, schools and non-profit organizations.

The staff of the Artificial Reef Program frequently speaks to fishing clubs, schools, and many other civic groups in the Tampa Bay area. If you would like to schedule a speaker for your next meeting, please give us a call at 813-627-2600 or email us at epcinfo@epchc.org.

Find us on Facebook at Friends of EPC - Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County.

See what hides below the surface at TBartReefs on YouTube.