

Subject: Fwd: Marine environment
From: Jennifer.Gilden@noaa.gov
Date: Tue, 09 Jun 2009 11:10:14 -0700
To: Carolyn.Porter@noaa.gov

Subject: Marine environment
From: kiheidon@sbcglobal.net
Date: Wed, 03 Jun 2009 10:09:08 -0700 (PDT)
To: Jennifer.Gilden@noaa.gov

Hi Ms. Gilden,

The research has shown bottom trawling (is this a redundancy, i.e.; is all trawling done on the bottom?) damages the habitat of reefs and has been going on for a loong time over a wide area of the ocean.

Trawlers also lobby against artificial fish reefs because it damages their gear.

My question to the powers that be:

Since Alabama has less than 3% of the U.S. Gulf Coast and over 34% of that Coast's rock fish landings (because they have been building artificial fish reefs for over 50 years on sandy bottoms), shouldn't we investigate their approach on the West Coast?

Show me any other approach with numbers comparable to Alabama's!

Keep trawlers off reefs for starters!

Are you aware of the research done at Auburn U. on the production component of artificial reefs?

AAES researchers investigated the question of whether or not artificial reefs actually produce food and cause the food chain effect. all suggest that the artificial reef system off Alabama has an important production component.

Szedlmayer is Associate Professor in Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures.

<http://www.ag.auburn.edu/aaes/communications/highlights/summer00/reef.html>

The Lure of the Reefs

AAES Researchers Explore Food Chain Theory

<http://www.ag.auburn.edu/aaes/communications/highlights/fal100/reef.html>

A brief history of Alabama reef building:

<http://www.outdooralabama.com/fishing/saltwater/where/artificial-reefs/reefhist.cfm>

From a human standpoint, reefs bring together two odd bedfellows. Environmentalists creating habitat to help save our oceans and capitalists putting \$131 into the local economy for every \$1 spent on **artificial** reefs

02/13/03 STATUS REPORT

FWC DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

<http://74.125.155.132/search?q=cache:RuRt8IUw-4J:www.reefmaker.net/ppt/What%2520Are%2520Artificial%2520Reefs.ppt+alabama+artificial+reef&cd=14&hl=en&ct=chk&gl=us>

May we please, PLEASE focus on Alabama's success and how we might adapt their success on the West Coast?

Don Heichel
Soquel,

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