SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR MA ARTIFICIAL REEFS
(File name: art_reef)

1. **Dartmouth** - this site was created during the summer of 1997 using two sizes of Reef Balls. There are approximately 75 units on the bottom. The project was originally conceived as a joint project between the Division and UMass Dartmouth. We were to get the permits and take care of the deployment, and the school was to handle biological monitoring and directed studies. DMF holds the permits and got the Reef Balls deployed, but the monitoring and research portion was never funded. A few survey dives were performed in 1998 & 1999, but since then the only surveys that take place are the ones required in the permit from the Corps to assure the continued stability and placement of the structures. We have tried several times to buoy the site, but the buoys keep disappearing. The site is not currently marked. The Reef Balls have become colonized by algae, byrozoans, tube worms, and other small encrusting organisms. During our dives we have seen small black sea bass, cunner, tautog, and scup, and have observed lobster burrowing underneath the edges of some of the units.

2. **Yarmouth** - this project was a joint effort between the Division, the Town of Yarmouth, and the Cape Cod Salties Fishing Club. This project was intended to provide increased habitat for fishing access, and the site is heavily fished by recreational fishermen, party boats, and fish potters. A number of diving and fishermen intercept surveys were conducted here by the Division for several years immediately following deployment in the 1970's. This site is buoyed by the Town of Yarmouth and is marked on NOAA charts of Nantucket Sound as a "Fish Haven". The tire units are completely overgrown with algae and invertebrates and attract large numbers of black sea bass, tautog, cunner, and scup during the warmer months.

3. **Sculpin Ledge Channel** - this site was constructed by the Central Artery Project under the direction of the National Marine Fisheries Service as mitigation for the loss of rocky subtidal habitat during the rehabilitation of Spectacle Island. Two types of units were deployed - 10' x 10' x 10' concrete shelf units and several cobble arrays. The concrete shelves were designed to provide attachment substrate for blue mussels and habitat for finfish. However, I have seen few finfish and no mussels during my dives at the site. The cobble was intended to provide settlement, forage, and shelter habitat for lobster. This effort has been very successful, with large numbers of lobster ranging from age 1 through age 7+ found there each summer. An added bonus, these cobble patches also provide excellent habitat for several life-stages of winter flounder. Annual monitoring is conducted by a consultant for the Central Artery Project. The Division also added one of the cobble deployments to its annual early benthic phase (EBP) lobster survey. Survey results are being compared with those from a natural habitat EBP station that DMF has sampled at the end of nearby Long Island for over 5 years. The reef site is not marked, but is fished by lobstermen. The Division of Marine Fisheries is the lead agency in the Commonwealth for the management and enhancement of marine fisheries resources, and the promotion and development of the recreational and commercial marine fisheries. Creation of artificial habitat can be an effective method of increasing productivity, providing additional recreational and commercial fishing opportunities, and enhancing the forage base. The Division will support and participate in such enhancement efforts if these activities do not disrupt traditional fishing practices and shipping, or adversely impact existing fish populations or habitat.
DMF's Definition of an Artificial Reef:

"Any area within the marine waters of the Commonwealth in which approved structures have intentionally been placed or constructed for the purpose of enhancing benthic relief. Such structures may be designed to provide opportunities for recreational and commercial fishing, aid in the management or enrichment of fishery resources, or to achieve a combination of these objectives."

Please contact Vin Malkoski of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries for more information about artificial reefs in Massachusetts.

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vin Malkoski  
Senior Marine Fisheries Biologist / Diving Safety Officer  
MA Division of Marine Fisheries  
Southeast Marine Fisheries Station  
50A Portside Drive  
Pocasset, MA 02559  
508.563.1779, x 119 Fax 508.563.5482

NOTE: Vin Malkoski, of the MA Division of Marine Fisheries, is the MA Artificial Reef Coordinator, and serves as the MA representative on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Artificial Reef Technical Committee.