



Roberts Bay Artificial Reef Project – Phase 1

Questions and Answers

City of Venice Meeting, March 14, 2023

- 1) Why Roberts Bay versus other locations across the city of Venice?
 - Our goal is to expand this project along with additional water filtration methods throughout the City of Venice. A decision was made to use Robert Bay as our pilot program to collect preliminary data and to identify any weaknesses or logistical problems before asking for funding for additional projects around the city of Venice.
- 2) Can you explain how the mini reefs measured 30,000 gallons per day of filtration?
 - Oceanic Habitat conducted studies with experimental and control sides. The use of a marina with a known volume of water was used, mini reefs were placed inside of it and timed on how long it took to clean up the water quality. That gave us how many gallons per day. These experiments were repeated 100 times with different amounts of water. In one we created 40' of visibility in canal water with only 15" outside the experiment.
 - Ocean Habitat also scraped all the life off those mini reefs, counted and identified the animals. Filtration rates were used for everything we collected, and the numbers came out within 2% of the timed experiments above.
 - The actual range of filtration is 18,000-120,000 gallons per day depending on what filter feeders are living on the reef. That is determined by the location the reef is in. The average of all the reefs we studied was 30,117 gallons.
- 3) Are these going on city docks or private docks?
 - Mini reefs can be placed in both locations. To enhance the pilot study, we would like to suggest a combination of both be used. RBARP has been approach by numerous private homeowners that are willing to have these mini reefs installed.
- 4) Do we need a waiver if it is put on a private dock?
 - Yes, a purchase of Business Agreement has been created and will be used with private dock owners prior to the installation of the mini reefs.
- 5) Who will monitor this project?
 - The project will be monitor by the Environment Committee from the Venice Yacht Club, Sarasota Bay Watch Organization, Oyster Boys Conservation Organization and Suncoast Reef Rovers Organization. Also, we will be incorporating local volunteers to help us in this effort.
- 6) Will it be studied, and City Council provided with results?
 - Yes, documentation will be provided with the results of this pilot program. A detailed testing plan as well as timeline for annual maintenance reviews are being developed.

- 7) What other cities and organizations are using these mini reefs?
- Venice Yacht Club – 4 mini reefs – installed June 2021
 - Sarasota Yacht Club – 10 mini reefs – installed August 2020
 - Bird Key Yacht Club along with the Anna Maria Island Community – 200 units in August 2020
 - Siesta Key Association – 35 mini reefs – February 2021 – joining 121 mini reefs installed at an earlier date.
 - Pelican Alley in Nokomis - July 2021
 - Santa Rosa, Florida – July 2021
 - Charlotte County, Florida – May 2021
 - Manasota Key Docks – 22 mini reefs – February 2021
 - More than 4,000 units are installed in Florida and close to 5,000 elsewhere in the US and other countries
- 8) Donors of mini reefs for other organizations
- Gulf Coast Community Foundation
 - Lightspeed
 - Sarasota County
 - Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Partnership
 - Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Team
 - Florida Department of Environmental Protection
 - Coastal Resources Group
 - Start1.org
 - Community Foundation of Sarasota County
 - Sarasota Bay Watch
 - Sarasota Bay Estuary Program
 - IOBG Chapter of the Venice Yacht Club
- 9) Coalition and partners that support this type of environmental projects
- Siesta Key Grand Canal Project
 - Center of Anna Maria Island
 - Mote Marine Dr. Ryan Schlosser and Dr. Valdes of Eckerd
 - Bocilla Island Conservancy
 - Venice Environmental Advisory Committee
 - Phil Chiochio, scientist, lecturer
 - Eckery College – Dr. Angulo-Valdes, Mar Science Prof
 - Ernesto de la Vega, USF marina bio. And clam man