

Reef

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The artificial reefs are being studied in the "Jamestown Bridge Reef Assessment," a five-year project contracted to the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) Fish and Wildlife Division from the Department of Transportation (DOT). Richard Satchwill, a DEM Fish and Wildlife biologist is the principal investigator on the project.

The project is a requirement of the Army Corps of Engineers, Satchwill said. "They have jurisdiction over every government agency, even Coastal Resources Management Council. They require DOT, the agency holding the permit to dispose of the debris for the artificial reef, to provide the data gleaned from the project."

"We started writing plans for the study as the bridge was being demolished," Satchwill said. "The purpose of the project is to determine if the reefs meet specific goals. We are looking for evidence that they are providing habitat for juvenile fish and other marine life."

He explained that cold water at depths with little light is not conducive to floral marine growth. "However, even though we just started depositing the debris in 2006, it is already showing results with mollusks, fish and other forms of marine life establishing residence," Satchwill said.

"This month we created cryptic habitats using 20 wire baskets containing 250 surf clam shells each. The units are constructed with PVC piping that gives access to the center of the baskets

for mollusks, fish, crabs and other sea creatures.

"We contracted the workboat "Beavertail" to transport the units and lower them to the bottom around the artificial reefs," Satchwill said. "We also engaged divers from Ocean Opportunity and Conusub to help us put everything in place and record data."

He explained how the concrete from the bridge provides hard surfaces needed to attract clams, shellfish and sessile animals and mussels so they have something hard to grab. "The baskets of shells are there for the same purpose, but we can bring them to the surface and study the progress," he said.

"Every year we will bring up two of the 20 baskets. That way we can record yearly progress of growth, mortality in some cases, and density of different species over a five year period," Satchwill said.

"DEM Fish and Wildlife Division is the only government agency involved in the actual work on the project," Satchwill said. However, a University of Rhode Island graduate student is working with the team, but URI is not involved as an institution. She is writing a thesis on early colonization of artificial reefs, and is sharing her data. "Her objectives are different from ours, but certainly of interest," he added.

"Everyone from scientists to fishermen will benefit from the data and the reefs themselves," Satchwill said. "They provide habitat for lobsters, shellfish, a variety of fin fish, and mollusks. An array of marine life will establish residence and proliferate, if all goes well," Satchwill said.



A good day for fishing

Fishermen from Strippers247.com visited Ft. Getty on Saturday and Sunday. The group is comprised of members from all over the East Coast. Every weekend during striped bass season they gather at a designated location as they follow the migration in their attempts to catch the prized game fish from shore, boat and kayak. The group practices catch and release and is pro-active in programs that help sustain the level of the species. Photo by Sam Bari

Parade

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sergeant Jim McLaughlin plans to read the roll call of the veterans who died during the past year as part of the services. Speakers will include Retired U.S. Navy Captain Cliff Largess and VFW Post Commander and retired U.S. Marine Corps Colonel Bruce Livingston.

Also at the ceremony there will be invocations and benedictions, drum rolls, firing squad salutes, bugling of "Taps" and singing of the traditional version of the "Star Spangled Banner." Flowers will be placed on the water to memorial-

ize all those service personnel lost at sea.

In case of rain, the ceremony will be held at the Community Center.

Parade details

The parade and ceremonies will include marching and riding veterans, clergy from all island churches, police, fire and rescue squad personnel with their emergency apparatus, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, local school students, town officials, community organization members, and the Jamestown Community Band. Veterans Bill Murphy and Peter Drury will serve as the parade marshals.

Everyone is invited to join in

the Memorial Day parade. Participants are reminded that formation will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the parade will step off at the Lawn Avenue School at 10 a.m. As usual, anyone interested in honoring the veterans of Jamestown and the nation are invited to line the parade route as they annually do.

Traffic and parking

The Jamestown Police Department reported that Narragansett Avenue from North Main Road at the Four Corners east to East Ferry, will be closed to parking on both sides of the road during the parade. Motorists need to be prepared for short traffic interruptions along the parade route, and at side streets in the immediate area.

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LEGAL TIP

A mobile home park owner doesn't have a duty to reject prospective tenants he may have reason to believe are gang members, the California Supreme Court has ruled in reversing the Court of Appeal.

The plaintiff was injured by a stray bullet shot during a gang fight in a mobile home park where he lived. Prior to the shooting, his grandmother, who lived with him, had complained to the park owner that people who looked like gang members were "moving in," causing property damage and harassing other tenants. The landlord permitted them to rent units despite the complaints.

The plaintiff sued the park owner for negligence, claiming he breached his duty to avoid renting to known gang members or to evict them when they harass other tenants.

The California Supreme Court denied the case saying to expose the landlord to liability would cause unfair discrimination to prospective tenants.

PERSONAL INJURY LAW

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