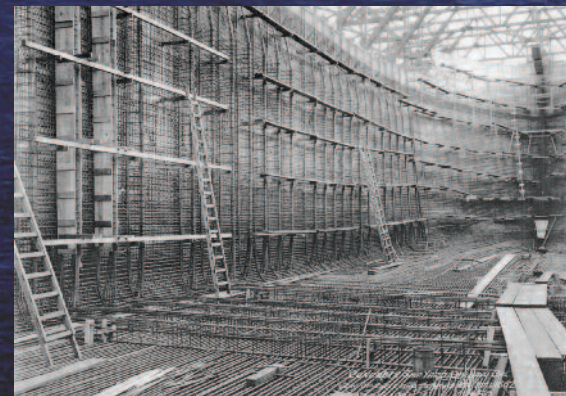
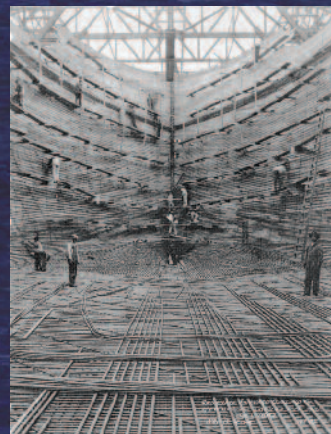
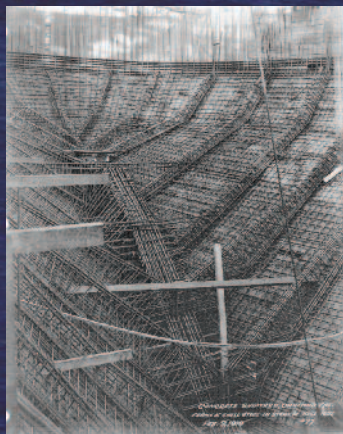


Next Artificial Reef Project Powell River Breakwater Ships

The McCloskey Ships of The Second World War Just as steel had become scarce during the First World War, the Second World War was again consuming the country's steel resources. In 1942, the United States Maritime Commission contracted McCloskey and Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to build a new fleet of 24 concrete ships. Three decades of improvements in concrete technology made this new fleet lighter and stronger than its WWI predecessors. All but one of the McCloskey ships at Powell River were used as US Army "crockery" ships in the South Pacific. The majority of these ships ended up being used as breakwaters after their decommissioning.



Ferro-concrete ships were an experiment that was justified by the fact that they only require about 1/3 of the steel needed to build a similarly sized steel ship. This was a key consideration during wartime steel shortages. The concrete ship's proponents also claimed that they could be built faster and cheaper than steel ships, a claim that proved to be incorrect. In fact, they were as expensive to build and took as long, if not longer to build and were also much heavier than steel ships of the same size.



THE WRECK TREK Artificial Reef Locations



For Further Information, Please Contact:
The Artificial Reef Society of British Columbia
c/o The Vancouver Marine Museum
1905 Ogden Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6J 1A3
artificialreef.bc.ca
Facebook:



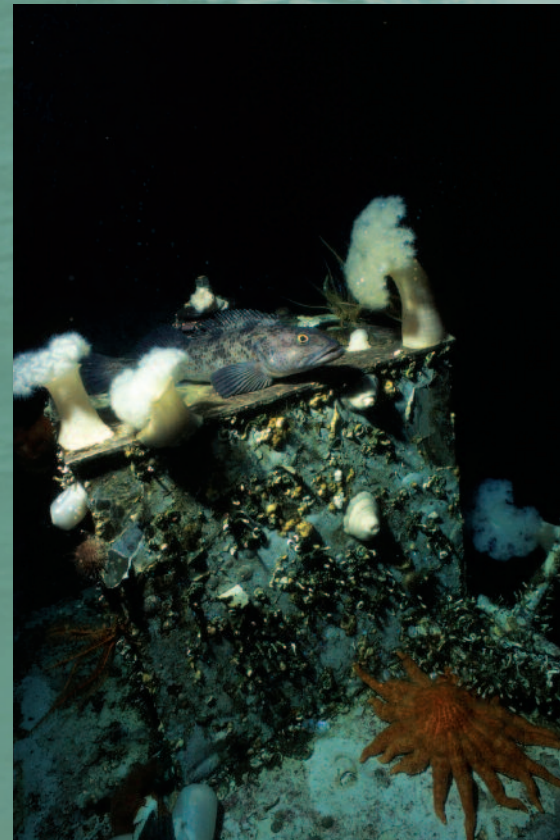
A non-profit society dedicated to the enhancement of the British Columbia marine environment and to the advancement of sport diving through public education and the creation and preservation of artificial reefs.

Come Dive BC's Artificial Reefs!



What is an Artificial Reef?

By definition, an artificial reef is any structure placed by man in the marine environment. Located strategically, it attracts marine life of all kinds. The diverse marine life along British Columbia's coastline has come under increased stress in recent years, through over-fishing, ecological problems, pollution and general loss of marine habitat. Many fish and invertebrate species may soon be in danger of depletion or extinction. An artificial reef can help by providing a new place for them to live. For example, an old ship - stripped of dangerous or polluting components - makes an ideal habitat. As time goes by, the reef becomes a self-sustaining ecosystem, populated by a wide variety of creatures and the organisms upon which they feed. The ship with its ever-growing population becomes a prime site for scuba divers.



Resident Lingcod resting on HMCS Saskatchewan



Plumose anemones thrive on the Mackenzie artificial reef



Cloud sponges adorn the Columbia artificial reef

What are the benefits an Artificial Reef?

- They create marine habitat and spawning grounds for fish, invertebrates and filter feeders. They are a unique laboratory for the biological study of marine colonization as the reef matures.
- They enhance British Columbia's reputation as a world-class dive destination. Scuba divers wanting to explore and photograph are attracted by these underwater structures.
- Artificial reefs relieve the pressure and potential for damage on historic ship wreck sites by providing alternative sites for recreational divers.
- They are training grounds for safe wreck-diving methods and techniques.
- Artificial reefs help tourism-related economic growth for coastal communities through the development of dive-related businesses such as scuba charter operators, dive shops, equipment manufacturers, hotels, restaurants and more.



Who is the Artificial Reef Society (ARSBC)?

The ARSBC is a provincially registered not-for-profit group run entirely by Volunteers. In 1986, this group of concerned divers and marine stewards recognized an important opportunity was at hand to enhance fish habitat in regions along the west coast of BC. A comprehensive plan was established with the monumental task of converting large steel hulled ships into reef habitat. In doing so, and as an economic spin off benefit, these projects have helped to highlighted British Columbia as a premier wreck diving destination.

Working in cooperation of coastal communities, First Nations, local stake holders, federal and provincial governments and others, the ARSBC's successful track record has accomplished a great deal. Nature provides evidence that purposefully placed man-made structures like steel based ships do provide for net gain when it comes to healthy marine biodiversity.

Artificial Reef Project Honours



The MV (Motor Vessel) G.B. Church (Pilot Project)
Description: Coastal Freighter, built 1943 in Goole, England
Size: 175 feet (53 metres)
Location: Portland Island, near Sidney, BC
Co-ordinates: 48° 43.323' N, 123° 21.339' W
Sinking date: August 11, 1991



The Saskatchewan: DDE 262
Description: Mackenzie-class Destroyer Escort
Size: 366-feet (111 metres), 2900 tons
Location: Snake Island, Nanaimo, BC
Co-ordinates: 49° 12.96' N, 123° 53.070' W
Motto: "Ready and Confident"
Sinking date: June 14, 1997



The Chaudiere: DDE-235
Description: Restigouche-class Destroyer Escort
Size: 366-feet (111 metres), 2900 tons
Location: Kunechin Point, Porpoise Bay, Sechelt, BC
Co-ordinates: 49° 37.694' N, 123° 48.699' W
Motto: "Fortune smiles on the Brave"
Sinking date: December 5, 1992



The Yukon: DDE 263
Description: Destroyer Escort
Size: 366-feet (111 metres), 2900 tons
Location: Mission Beach, San Diego, California
Co-ordinates: 32° 46.80' N, 117° 17.12' W
Motto: "Only the Fit Survive"
Sinking date: July 14, 2000



The Mackenzie: DDE 261 Destroyer Escort
Description: Mackenzie-class Destroyer Escort
Size: 366-feet (111 metres), 2900 tons
Location: Gooch Island, Sidney, BC
Co-ordinates: 48° 40.094' N, 123° 17.170' W
Motto: "By Virtue and Valour"
Sinking date: September 16, 1995



The Cape Breton: FMG 100 (Fleet Maintenance Group)
Description: World War II Victory Ship
Size: 440-feet (134 metres), 9500 tons
Location: Snake Island, Nanaimo, BC
Co-ordinates: 49° 12.88' N, 123° 53.067' W
Motto: "Chance changes not our race"
Sinking date: October 20, 2001



The Columbia: DDE 260 Destroyer Escort
Description: Restigouche-class Destroyer Escort
Size: 366-feet (111 metres), 2900 tons
Location: Maude Island, Campbell River, BC
Co-ordinates: 50° 08.031' N, 125° 20.152' W
Motto: "May Columbia flourish everywhere"
Sinking date: June 22, 1996



The Xihwu Boeing 737: FIN-540 Artificial Reef
Co-ordinates: 48° 56.142' N, 123° 43.130' W
The Xihwu (pronounced key' quot), mounted on an 11-foot high support cradle, was lowered by crane just off Chemainus, on Vancouver Island, BC on Saturday, January 14, 2006.



Credit: Seaproof TV

The Annapolis: DDH-265
Location: Halkett Bay Marine Provincial Park, Gambier Island, BC
Description: Mackenzie Class Helicopter Carrying Destroyer Escort
Size: 366-feet (111 metres) 2815 tons
Co-ordinates: 49 26 55.0 N 123 19 51.1 W
Motto: To Excel
Sinking date: April 4, 2015