



City of Destin

Office of the City Manager

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Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Marine Fisheries
Bureau of Marine Fisheries Management
620 South Meridian St. Box MF-MFM
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

SUBJECT: LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR ARTIFICIAL REEFS, INC.

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

During the late spring and summer of 2000, the City of Destin awarded a contract to Artificial Reefs, Inc., for the design and deployment of a very complex, three-satellite reef system in Okaloosa Large Area Permit Site "C." The City had never had an artificial reef system designed for us in the past, and Artificial Reefs, Inc. designed this system with species diversity in mind, making our site *very* productive. Artificial Reefs, Inc. provided both a service and a product that we believe gave us the most value for our grant dollars. They backed up their reef system with a very professionally performed deployment and reef-monitoring service.

After the deployment, Artificial Reefs, Inc. worked very closely with Destin in drafting the After Action Report that was filed with your office in late June 2000. Additionally, they provided the City, Okaloosa County, and the Bureau of Marine Fisheries Management with excellent public relations in regards to the Sport Fish Restoration Program Funds by issuing a national press release on the reef deployment and program.

Artificial Reefs, Inc. has been monitoring the reef systems and providing the City with professionally produced digital-videotapes of the progress and development of these new reef eco-systems. We have been very impressed with the amount of biomass development in such a short period of time. There are numerous species of marine life, including large schools of Red Snapper and Trigger, both in and all around the Fish Haven modules. One very impressive shot was a clip with a Fish Haven Junior that was covered with dozens of Snapper, Trigger, and juvenile Gag Grouper. We are very anxious to see the next monitoring report.

The City of Destin is very excited about the progress of these reef systems and the excellent service that Artificial Reefs, Inc. has provided. In fact, the City was so impressed with the comprehensive services provided by Artificial Reefs, Inc., and the successful results of the prefab modules, that the City's 2002 artificial reef project is another modular reef configuration.

We highly recommend their services and products for any reef development projects in the future, due to their commitment for a high-quality artificial reef system and their very professional service.

Sincerely,

Lindey Chabot
Lindey Chabot
Grants Manager