



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
MOBILE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 2288  
MOBILE, AL 36628-0001

**CESAM-RD-A**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2015-0360-DEM**

**May 15, 2015**

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND  
STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO CONSTRUCT TWO ARTIFICIAL REEFS IN WATERS  
OF THE MISSISSIPPI SOUND AND PELICAN BAY, MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899 (33 USC 403) and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

**APPLICANT: Alabama Department of Conservation  
and Natural Resources  
Marine Resources Division  
Attention: Mr. Chris Blankenship  
Post Office Box 189  
Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528**

**LOCATION/WATERS: Project Area 1: Mississippi Sound, Center Point Coordinates  
Latitude 30.283316° North and Longitude -88.287194° West, Mobile County, Alabama.  
Project Area 2: Pelican Bay, Center Point Coordinates Latitude 30.239196° North and  
Longitude -88.114514° West, Mobile County, Alabama.**

**PROJECT PURPOSE: The project purpose is fisheries enhancements for public hook  
and line fishing opportunities.**

**WORK: Project Area 1: Mississippi Sound: The proposed reef would constitute 8.26  
acres of water bottoms in the Mississippi Sound and would consist of up to 121  
anchored reef modules (Volume of all anchored reef modules = 182 cubic yards) and  
5,400 cubic yards of limestone, oyster shell, and/or repurposed concrete (culvert,  
junction boxes, piles, etc.). The total volume of reef material to be deployed at the  
Mississippi Sound Reef site would be 5,582 cubic yards. A single anchored reef module  
would consist of numerous 4.5-foot-diameter discs stacked onto a pile that is driven  
into the seabed that would extend to -8.5 MLW. The discs would be constructed of  
concrete with limestone rocks and oyster shells embedded into the concrete. The  
anchored reef modules would be deployed on 50-foot centers. The aggregate/  
repurposed concrete would be deployed around anchored reefs. The vertical clearance  
above the reef would not be less than -8.5 feet MLW.**

**Project Area 2: Pelican Bay:** The proposed reef would constitute 15.84 acre of water bottoms in Pelican Bay and would consist of up to 242 anchored reef modules (volume of all anchored reef modules = 363 cubic yards) and 10,368 cubic yards of limestone, oyster shell, and/or repurposed concrete (culvert, junction boxes, piles, etc.). The total volume of reef material to be deployed at the Pelican Bay Reef site would be 10,731 cubic yards. A single anchored reef module would consist of numerous 4.5-foot diameter discs stacked onto a pile that is driven into the seabed that would extend to - 8.5 MLW. The discs would be constructed of concrete with limestone rocks and oyster shells embedded into the concrete. The anchored reef modules would be deployed on 50-foot centers. The aggregate/repurposed concrete would be deployed around anchored reefs. The vertical clearance above the reef would not be less than -8.5 feet MLW.

**MITIGATION:** As proposed, this project should not result in the loss of aquatic resources; therefore, the applicant is not proposing mitigation for impacts at this time.

The applicant has applied for State Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act. Upon completion of the required advertising and public comment review, a determination relative to WQC will be made by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM).

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) can be based. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The USACE is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the USACE to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above.

Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Evaluation of the probable impacts involving deposits of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requires the evaluation of impacts to Essential Fish Habitat of estuarine species. This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. This project consists of approximately 24.1 acres of Essential Fish Habitat for managed species in the Gulf of Mexico. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or Federally managed fisheries. Our final determination relative to project impacts to EFH and the proposed mitigation measures are subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the undertaking defined in this notice is being considered for the potential to affect cultural and historic properties within the permit area. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the USACE has determined the permit area consists of the approximate 24.1 acres material deployment locations within the Mississippi Sound and Pelican Bay. The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and no properties listed in or eligible for the National Register are known to exist which would be affected by the proposed work. The USACE has made a preliminary determination that there is no potential to affect cultural and historic resources within the permit area. However, we are seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally recognized American Indian tribes, local historical societies, museums, universities, the National Park Service, and the general public regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties, which may be affected by the work. This action constitutes the full extent of cultural resources investigations unless comment to this notice is received documenting that significant sites or properties exist which may be affected by this work, or that adequately documents that a potential exists for the location of significant sites or properties within the project area.

Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicate that the proposed project will have no effect on listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat within the project area. This notice and application will be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the NMFS to assess if the proposed activity will affect listed endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat. Further coordination with the FWS and NMFS will be performed as a result of this notice.

After review of public comments, the ADEM will determine if the proposal complies with and will be operated or maintained in a manner consistent with the Clean Water Act and the Coastal Zone Management Program.

Evaluation of the probable impacts involving deposits of dredged or fills material into waters of the United States will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

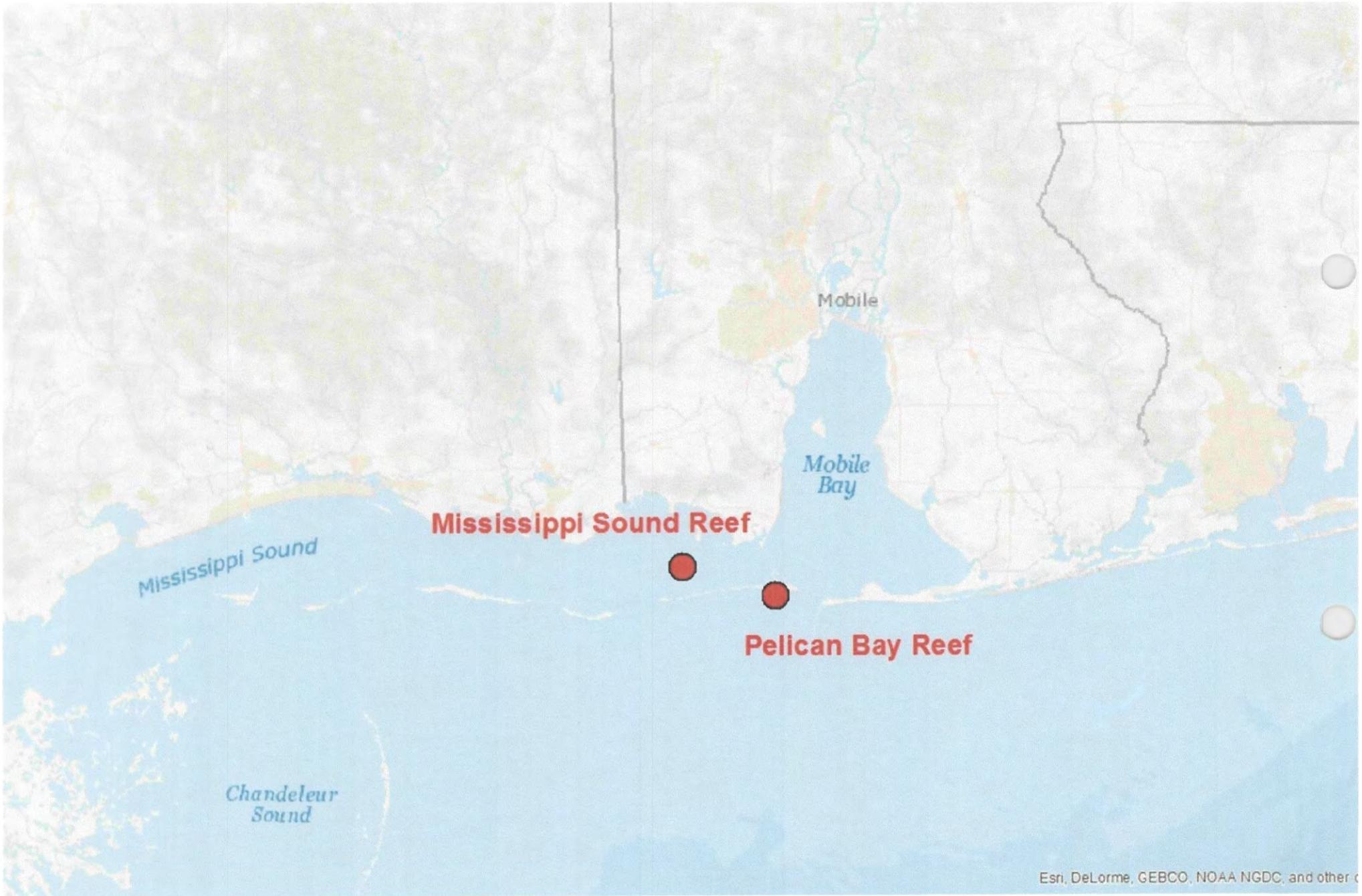
Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2015-00360-DEM** and should be directed to: U.S. Army Engineer District Mobile District, Regulatory Division (RD-A), Attention: Mr. Don Mroczko, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, with a copy furnished to the ADEM, Coastal Section, 3664 Dauphin Street, Suite B, Mobile Alabama 36608.

**All Comments should be received no later than 30 days from the date of this Public Notice.** If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager, Mr. Mroczko at **(251) 690-3185** or by email at [donald.e.mroczko@usace.army.mil](mailto:donald.e.mroczko@usace.army.mil). Please refer to the Public Notice Number **SAM-2015-00360-DEM**.

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at [www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx](http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx).

MOBILE DISTRICT  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

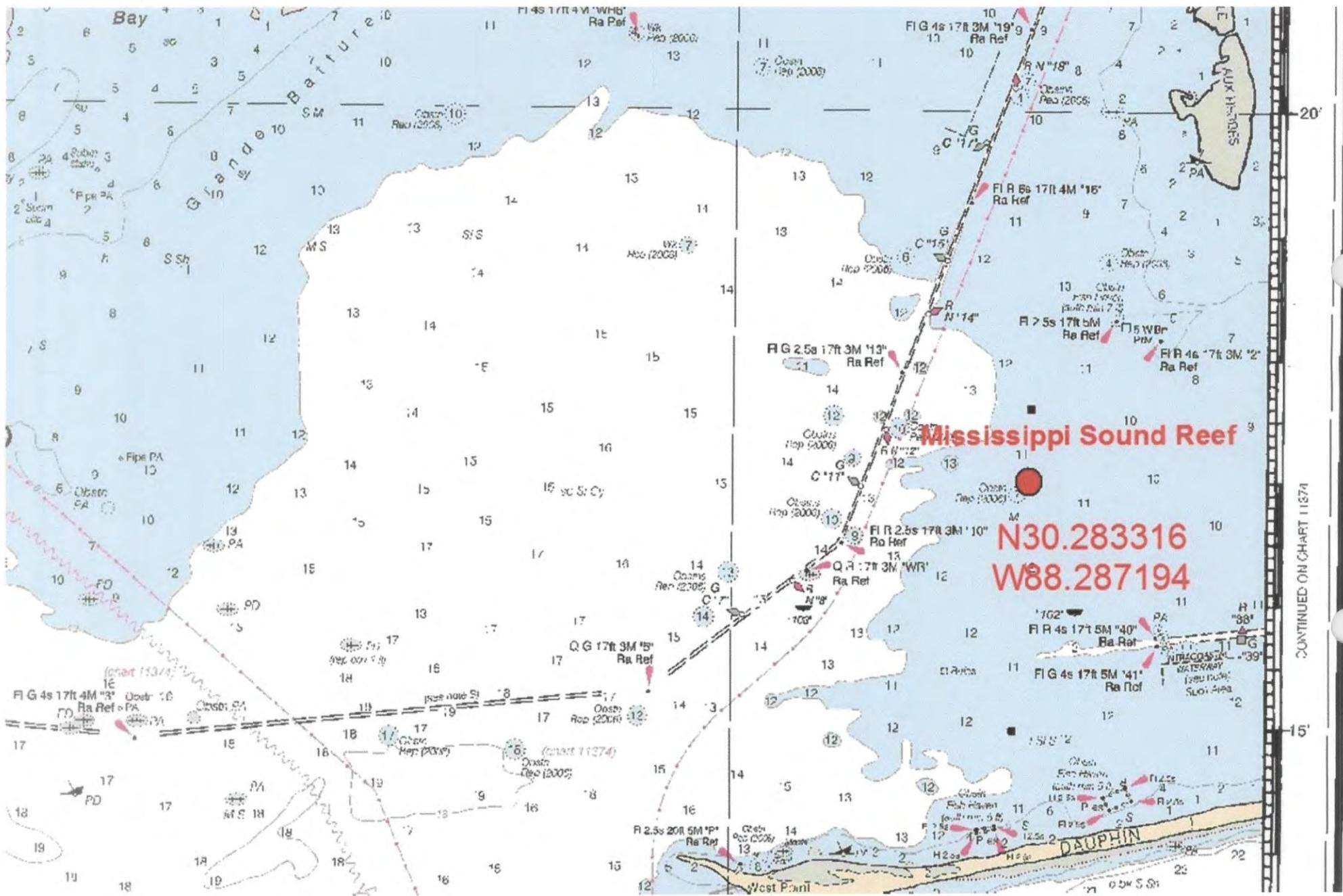
Enclosures



**Mississippi Sound Reef**

**Pelican Bay Reef**

Location of the Mississippi Sound Reef depicted on NOAA Nautical Chart 11373 and the center coordinates of the reef.



CONTINUED ON CHART 11374



N30° 17.0479"

N30° 17.0489"

W88° 17.2893"

W88° 17.1752"



Mississippi Sound Reef Boundary



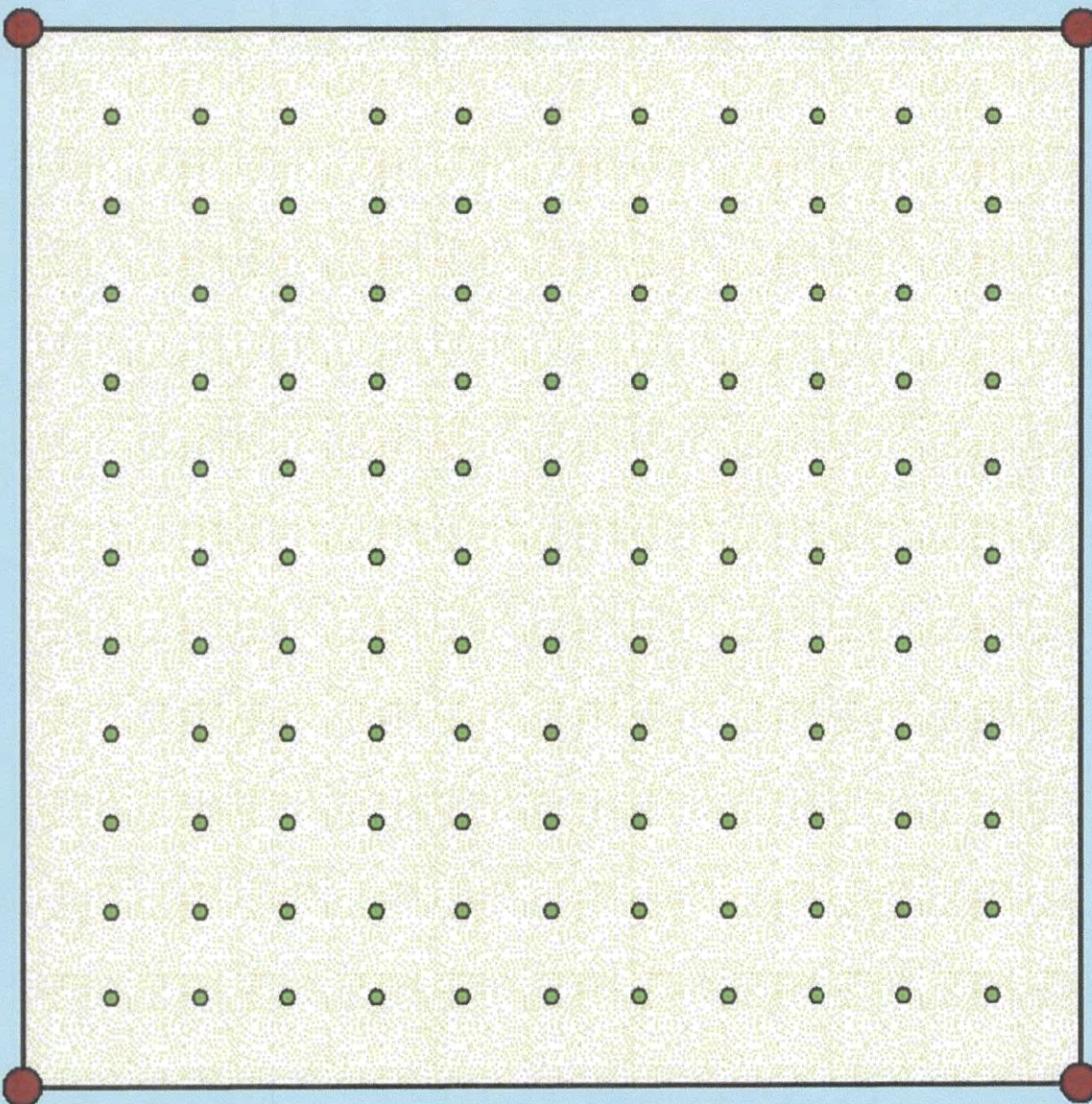
Mississippi Sound Reef Piles



Anchored Reef Modules



Limestone, oyster shell, repurposed concrete

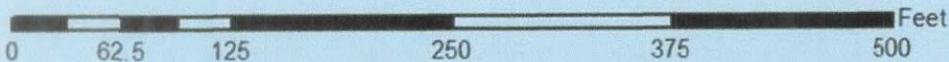


N30° 16.9499"

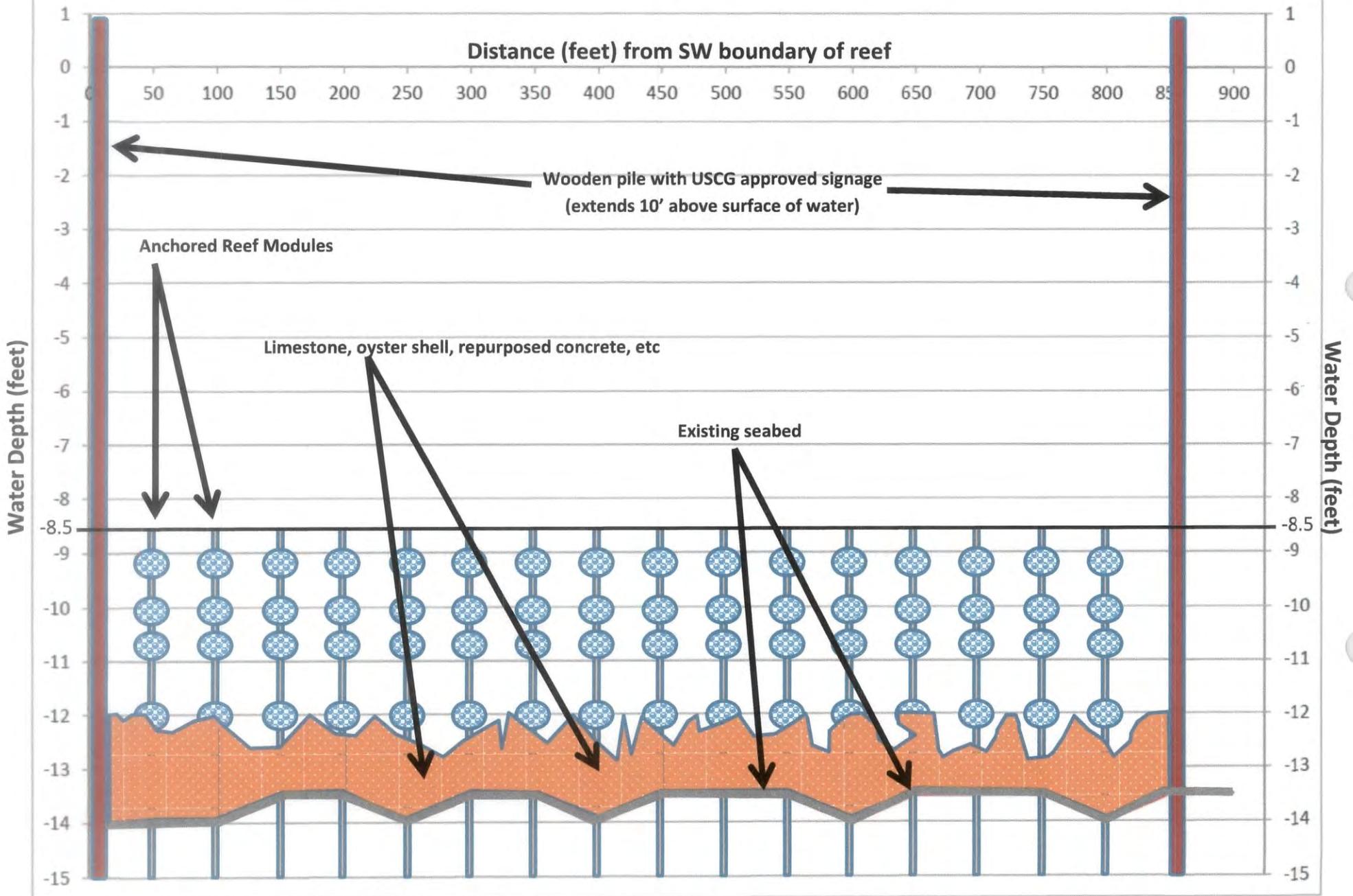
N30° 16.9499"

W88° 17.2880"

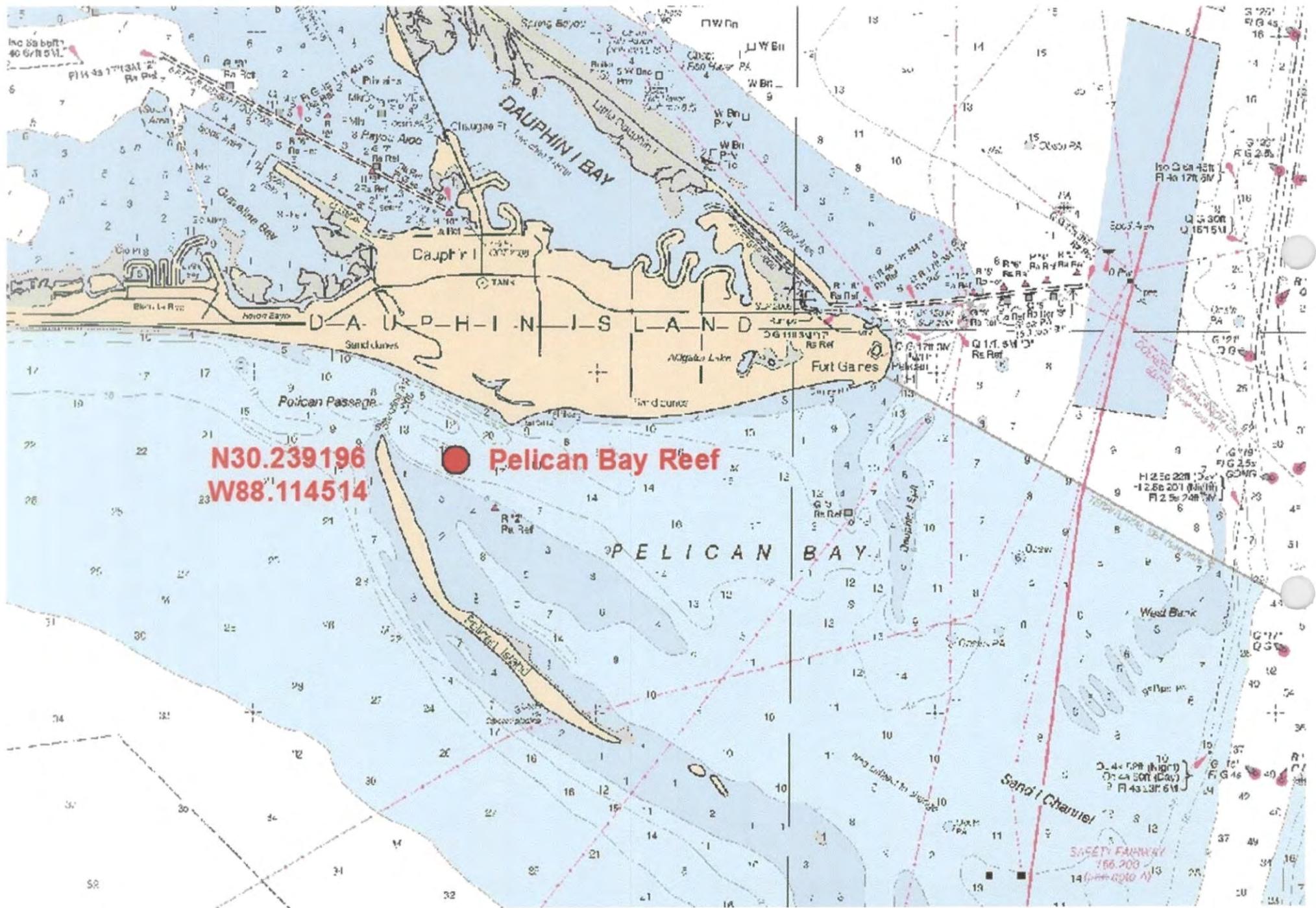
W88° 17.1739"

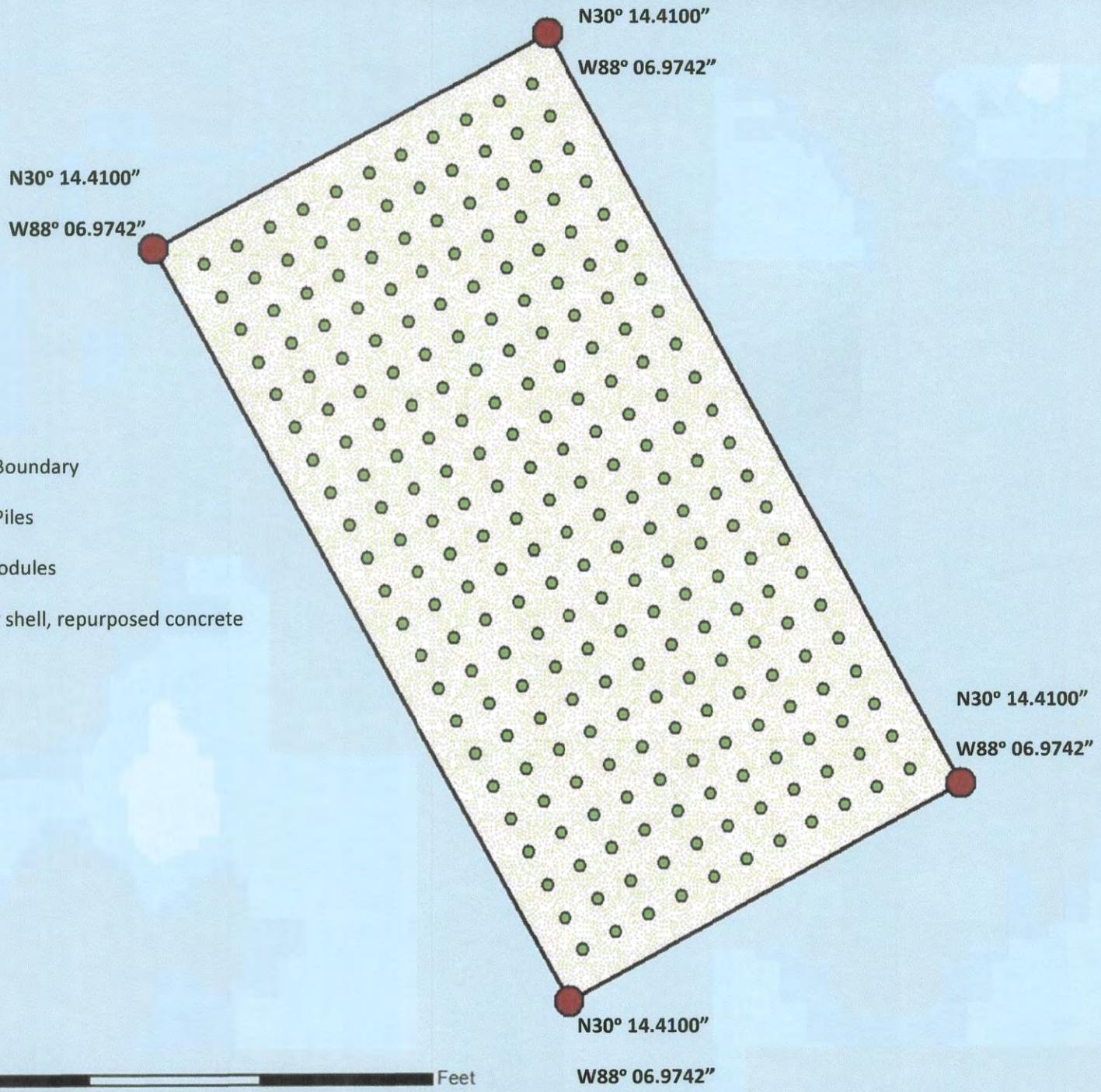


Mississippi Sound Reef Profile (cross sectional view from southwest pile to northeast pile)

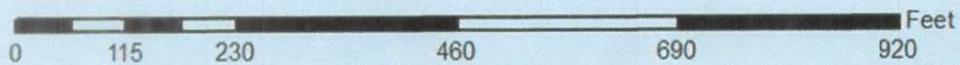


Location of the Pelican Bay Reef depicted on NOAA Nautical Chart 11377 and the center coordinates of the reef.

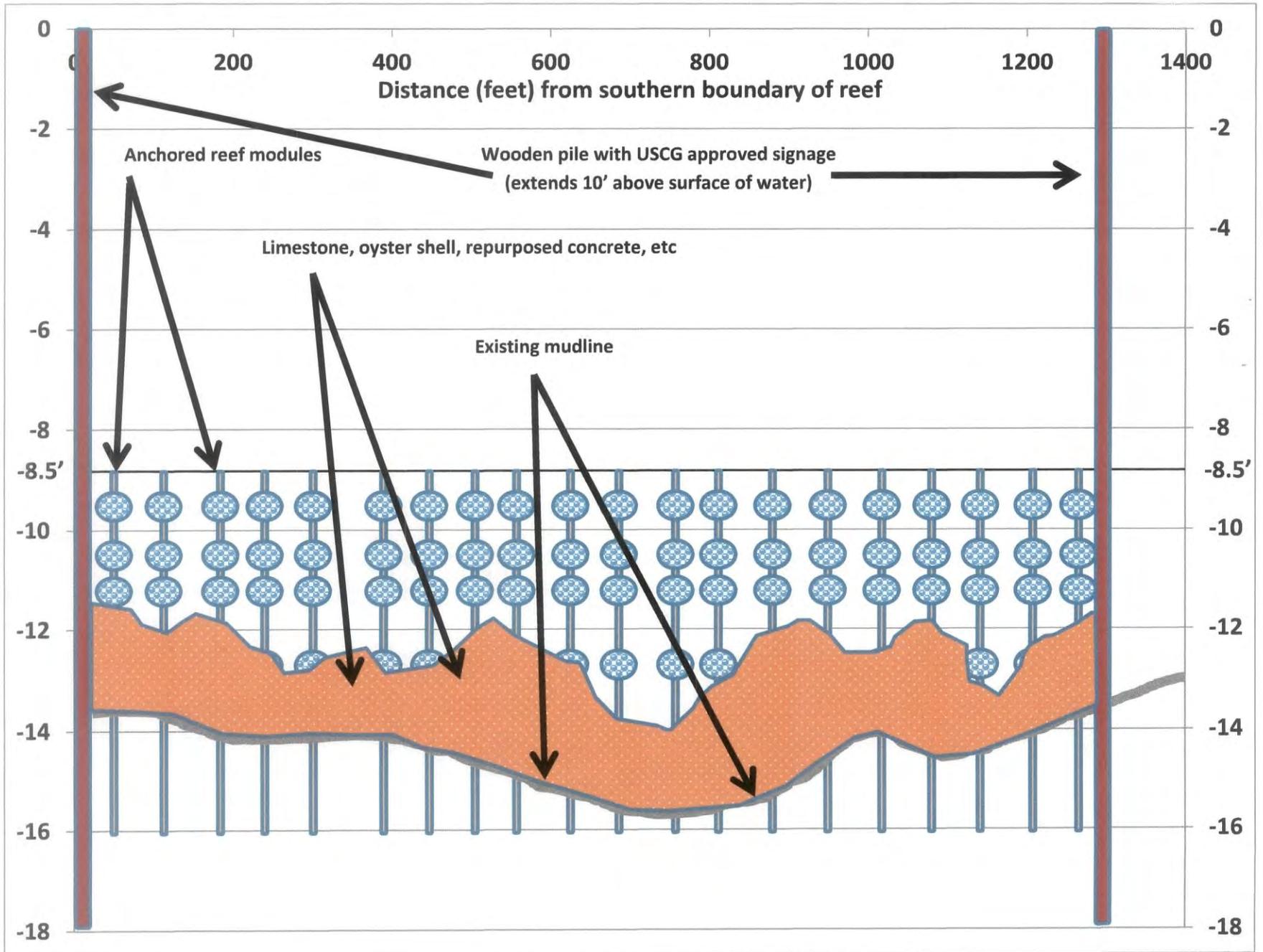




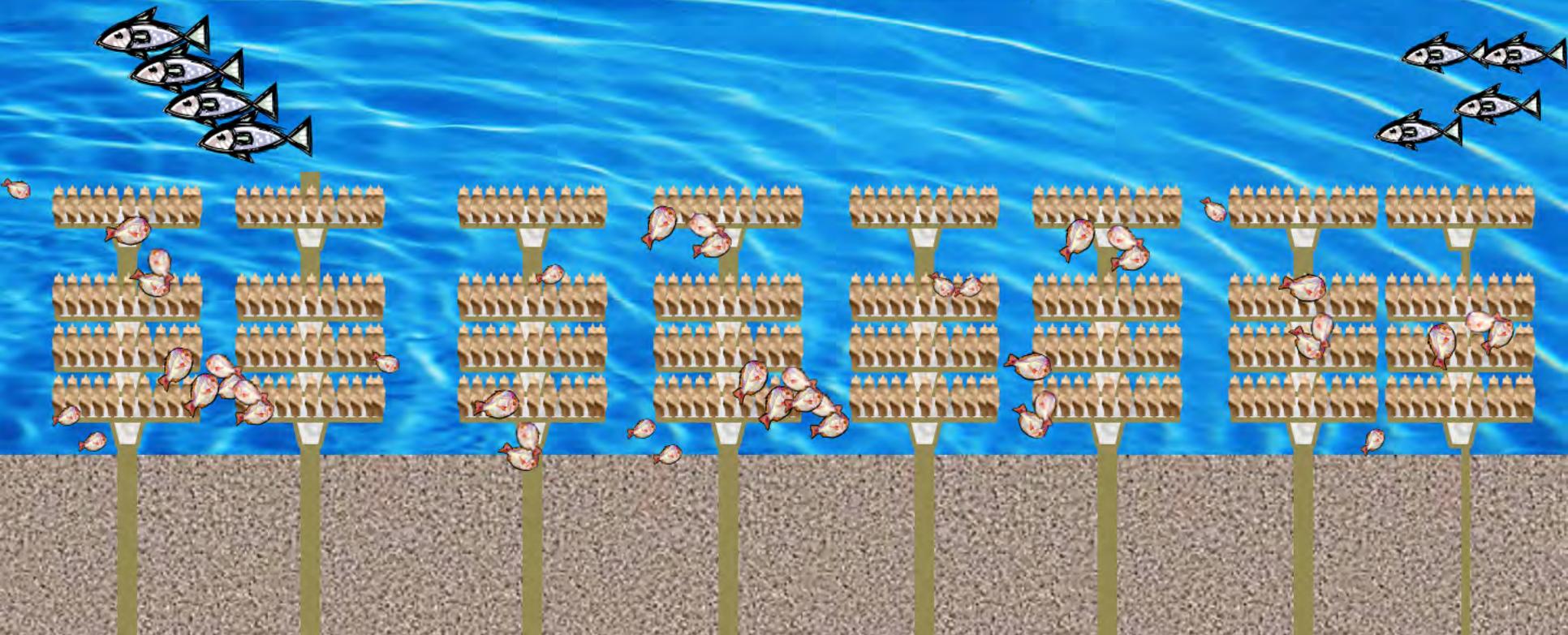
-  Pelican Bay Reef Boundary
-  Pelican Bay Reef Piles
-  Anchored Reef Modules
-  Limestone, oyster shell, repurposed concrete



Pelican Bay Reef Profile (cross sectional view from south pile to the north pile)



Shallow water installation  
Up to 60 ft.



- Discs are 4.5 ft in diameter and 9 inches tall
- Discs weigh 600 lbs each
- 4000 lb Concrete Mix
- Florida Limestone Rock
- Fiberglass #4 (1/2 inch) Rebar
- Height can be varied by adding reef discs and/or spacers between discs
- Height above bottom can be varied by the length of the piling

