



Palm Beach County, FL Field Trip

United Caribbean and Sea Emperor - Artificial Reefs San Remo and Brighton Ledges Reefs

Artificial and natural reefs, offshore of Palm Beach County, Florida, USA

Date: 6 July 2008

Trip Leader: Janet Phipps



Photo by Lin Creel

Field Trip Overview:

This is a half day trip with two dives off of Boca Raton. The first dive will be on the artificial reefs, **United Caribbean** and **Sea Emperor** which are at approximately 70 ft. (21 m) depth. The United Caribbean is a 145 ft. (44 m) coastal freighter that once was used for smuggling human cargo before it was acquired and sunk in 2000. The Sea Emperor is a 171 ft. (52 m) barge that was sunk in 1991 while filled with concrete storm drain pipes. It flipped over and dropped its load while sinking and landed upside down; not what was planned, but it made a much more varied artificial reef that attracts a rich and varied fish and benthic assemblage. A number of dive boats used to feed fish and stingrays at this site and many stingrays still hang around looking for handouts. A limerock boulder corridor was added to connect the two ships, and it provides more variable habitat for marine life.

San Remo and Brighton Ledges are part of the third reef terrace with relief as much as 25 ft. (7.6 m) and incredible diversity of fish and benthics. The ledge drops off from about 45 ft. (14 m) to about 70 ft. (21 m) in the sand

Date: 6 July 2008

Cost: \$50 US per participant (Cost does not include transportation, lodging, meals, or equipment rental)

Field Trip Leaders: Janet Phipps and Carman Vare and Brock Stanaland, Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management Department, and Connie Gasque and L.J. (Pug) Pugliese the Palm Beach County Reef Research Team

Meeting Point: Pennell's Marina
418 North River Drive; Deerfield Beach, FL

at the Dive Vessel *DIVERSITY*
<http://thediversity.com/>

Meeting Time: 0730 (boat leaves 0800) dock side on Sunday July 6, 2008

Transportation: Participants are responsible for their own transportation to the dock-side location Meeting Point. (Roughly 45 minute drive north of Fort Lauderdale)

Lodging: Participants are responsible for lodging and should book an extra day either before or after the conference depending on which trip they select.

Equipment: Diving cylinders (including Nitrox) are available for rent. Air cylinders may be rented from the boat for \$10. Rental of equipment other than cylinders should be arranged by each participant through a local dive shop. ForceE Dive Center, (561) 368-0555, is near and rents all gear.

Other Important Information: Water temperature at this time of year is 80°-84° F (27°C – 29°C) Diving (Nitrox) certification(s) proof is required.

Number of Participants: 4 – 15 people per trip

For additional information please contact:



Photo by Lin Creel

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