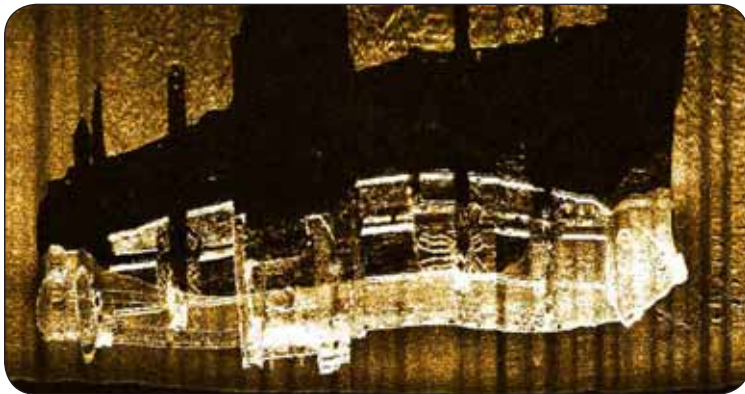


Artificial Reef Etiquette

- ◆ Be courteous. On the reefs, it's first come, first served. Give anchored boats a wide berth.
- ◆ Watch for divers. Stay away from boats displaying a "diver down" flag (see back cover).
- ◆ Release alive all fish and shellfish you are not planning to eat.
- ◆ Don't be a fish hog. Limit your catch to a reasonable number of fish. Save some for the next trip.
- ◆ Observe all State and Federal fishing regulations.
- ◆ Do not litter. Do not throw any trash overboard. Plastic bags and fishing line kill fish, turtles and birds.
- ◆ Do not tamper with commercial fishing gear.



A side-scan sonar image of New Jersey's largest artificial reef, the Algol. The Algol is a 460' Attack Cargo Transport that was sunk on the Shark River Reef site in 1991.

Use Caution When Diving

- Complete all of the dive courses and obtain all of the certifications necessary for your level of diving.
- Divers should proceed with caution when exploring artificial reef structures:
 - * shipwrecks may contain surfaces of sharp, jagged metal
 - * recently deployed reef structures may be unstable, resulting in shifting and falling materials
 - * fishing lines, hooks and net lines fouled in reef structures may snare diving equipment
- Divers should not penetrate into the hulls of shipwrecks; the water inside may be dark and murky.
- Divers should discontinue dives when visibility is poor or there is a strong storm surge, since these conditions magnify the chances of an accident.
- Due to the intensity of boat traffic on artificial reef sites, all diving should be done from an anchored vessel.
- Divers are advised not to dive in "drift fishing areas" on artificial reefs, due to the presence of moving fishing boats and fishing gear.
- Display a "diver down" flag when divers are in the water.
- Follow all appropriate diving safety protocol.
- Dive at your own risk.

For More Information About the Reef Program

Write: Reef Program
 NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
 Nacote Creek Research Station
 P.O. Box 418
 Port Republic, NJ 08241
 Phone: (609) 748-2020
 FAX: (609) 748-2032

BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE
 OFTEN FOR OUR LATEST REEF
 BUILDING ACTIVITIES

www.njfishandwildlife.com/artreef.htm

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

New Jersey Marine

Law Enforcement: (609) 748-2050
 DEP Action Line (24 hours): (877) 927-6377
 Operation Game Thief: (800) 222-0456
 Marine Fisheries: (609) 748-2020

NEW JERSEY MARINE POLICE

Monmouth Station: (732) 842-5171
 Point Pleasant Beach: (732) 899-5050
 Ocean Station: (609) 296-5807
 Atlantic City Station: (609) 441-3586
 North Wildwood Station: (609) 522-0393

U.S. COAST GUARD

Station Sandy Hook: (732) 872-0326
 Station Manasquan: (732) 899-0131
 Station Barnegat Light: (609) 494-2661
 Station Atlantic City: (609) 344-6594
 Station Cape May: (609) 898-6995



NOTES

BOATERS!

DO YOU KNOW THESE FLAGS?



Alpha Flag



Diver Down

The federal government now requires the “A” flag to be displayed from all boats conducting diving operations.

New Jersey state law requires boats to stay at least 50 feet from this flag if displayed from a buoy, boat or float.

ALWAYS PROCEED WITH CAUTION IF ANYWHERE NEAR “DIVER DOWN” FLAGS.
WATCH FOR BUBBLES!!!

This guide was prepared by:



**New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection**

Division of Fish and Wildlife

