
Wellwood Reef Restoration



Client/Owner: US Dept of Commerce, NOAA

Project Location: Key Largo, Florida

Restoration of a vessel grounding site offshore of Key Largo. Restoration components included; Setting and maintaining 20 exclusion zone buoys. Preparation of 14 separate sites, placement of 100 tons of limestone boulders, placement of 110 yards of anti – washout concrete. Placement of 22 reef modules. Project difficulties included:

- Vessels draft requirements limited nearest safe harbor to 6 hour sailing time (Miami).
- Concrete quantities ran 40% over engineers estimate.
- Public safety issues – work site required removal of 11 recreational buoys for the popular sport diving reef known as “Molasses Reef”. Recreational dive boats were within 200 feet of work platform during operations. Vandals were removing moorings and exclusion zone buoys.
- Environmental issues included maneuvering heavy construction equipment to complete job within 150’ from reef that is in only 5 feet of water.
- We encountered 38 weather days during the project.

Despite problems encountered, project was completed to client’s satisfaction.