By Hugh Carberry, Reef Coordinator

Network Expands New Reef Site Under Way Off Townsends Inlet

he New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife last fall received the necessary permits and approvals to construct a new reef site 3.8 nautical miles southeast of Townsends Inlet, Cape May County. The site measures 0.52 square miles and has a depth range of 49 to 65 feet. It can be further identified as being approximately two nautical miles northwest of Avalon Shoal. The Townsends Inlet Reef will be a welcomed addition for anglers and divers from Sea Isle City, Avalon and Stone Harbor.

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To best accommodate reef users, the site will be delineated into two areas. The shallower inshore portion will be reserved for drift fishing while the deeper offshore area will be utilized for vessel deployments to accommodate divers and



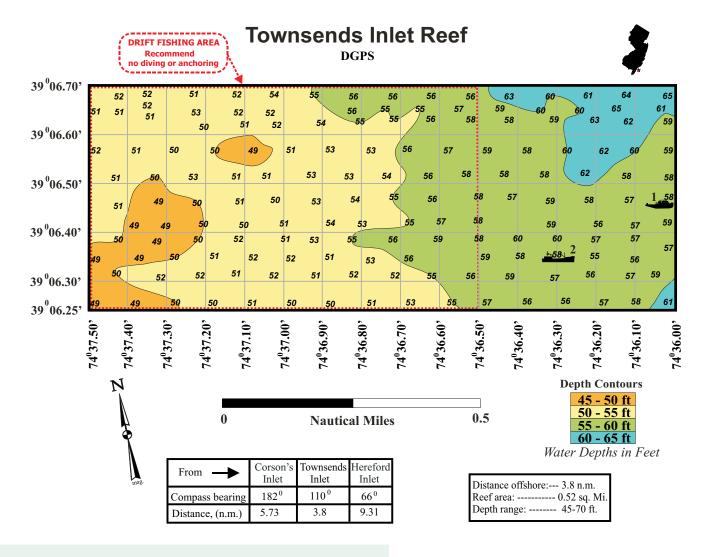
This vessel, the 82-foot Donna's Star along with a tugboat (next page), form the foundation of a new reef site off of Townsends Inlet, Cape May County. Donations are needed to grow this reef into prime underwater real estate for marine creatures.

Large Photo Above: Retired Reef Program coordinator Bill Figley supervises the sinking of an oil tanker barge on the Wildwood Reef site. Enjoy your retirement, Bill! wreck fishing enthusiast.

Recent reef construction activities include the sinking of a 62-foot tugboat and an 82-foot trawling vessel. Although these vessels are a good beginning, much more is planned to create another reef site teeming with marine life.

Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Marine Fisheries plans to deploy 800 reef ball habitats within the drift fishing portion this summer. Fishing and diving clubs throughout New Jersey provide financial assistance to make scheduled reef-material deployment a reality. Divers, anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts interested in helping to enhance fishing grounds in the Garden State are encouraged to learn about the DEP's Adopt-A-Reef Program.

For more information on the Artificial Reef Program, visit www.njfishand wildlife.com/artreef.htm. Or call the



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Artificial Reef Program at (609) 748-2020 or write to the Division of Fish and Wildlife at P.O. Box 418, Port Republic, NJ 08241, Attn: Reef Adoption Program. For details on how you can adopt a reef, contact: Reef Program NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife P.O. Box 418 Port Republic, NJ 08241 (609) 748-2020 or Fax: (609) 748-2032

This 62-foot tugboat joined Donna's Star in their second lives as part of the new reef site off of Townsends Inlet, Cape May County.