**Artificial Reefs Update**

**Jacksonville Waterways Commission**

**September 2018**

Offshore Reefs

* There has been a lot of recent deployment activity occurring at Floyd’s Folly artificial reef.
  + The U.S. Coast Guard made two materials deployments in July and are scheduled to make two more. The initial two deployments involved 70 tons of materials (concrete blocks and reef balls). The final two deployments have been delayed due to mechanical issues with the deploying vessel, but as of now they are tentatively set to occur in October. This second deployment is being funded
  + Commissioner Brockelman will be accompanying the Coast Guard for one of the October deployments and will report back following it.
  + The Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) also spearheaded two deployments at Floyd’s Folly in August using 640 tons of concrete materials.
* City is beginning process of seeking 10-year renewals for some of the offshore reef permits which are expiring in 2019. At this point, the City has submitted applications for Floyd’s Folly, Harm’s Ledge and Blackmar’s Reef.

River Reefs

* At the Waterways Commission’s direction, City staff are continuing conversations with the CCA to organize a third river reef deployment in the near future. An informal reefs subcommittee consisting of City EQD staff, CCA representatives and Commissioner Brockelman has met and will continue meeting to work through the details.
  + The site selection process is currently underway utilizing the map of current and potential artificial river reef sites on file with City staff.
    - The two current river reefs, the Holt Reef and CCA Reef, are just off the St. Johns River channel near San Marco (south of the Fuller Warren Bridge).
    - Three potential sites had been previously identified as expansion sites for a new reef.
    - Of the three potential new sites, one won’t be considered because of its proximity to Riverfront Park in San Marco (in prior years, there was community pushback regarding this location).
    - The other two potential sites are south of the current reef locations and due west of Emerson Street).
  + Once floor sampling is done to gauge condition of the riverbed, staff can proceed with recommendations on type of materials to deploy and where to source them.
* The reefs subcommittee anticipates formulating a new river reef proposal and accompanying cost estimate by October.