

MARI Summer 2016 Activity Summary
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It has been an active summer for the Maryland Artificial Reef Program (MARI) and the MD DNR Artificial Reef Program. With the renewal of our 10-year permit from the Army Corps of Engineers in June we were able to resume reef construction operations. So far this year we've carried out deployments on the Memorial Stadium, Love Point, and Tilghman Island reefs, with planning underway for several other projects by the end of the year.

Memorial Stadium, 11 May 2016

The first deployment of the year was at the Memorial Stadium reef site on May 11. Bill Huppert of MSSA-Perry Hall organized the construction of 55 reef balls by volunteers, and the deployment was carried out by the CBF vessel *Patricia Campbell*. They were placed in groups of four in the southeast corner of the site, at or near 39° 12.464' N, 76° 18.394' W.

Love Point, 20 June 2016

The next deployment was at the Love Point artificial reef site just north of Kent Island. A dock removal project at Hart-Miller Island produced approximately 550 tons of concrete beams, blocks, and pilings which the contractor agreed to place at Love Point at no cost. Most of the material was deployed in an east-west line roughly 150' long, centered around 39° 03.9978' N, 76° 17.5470' W in the southwest quadrant of the site.

Love Point, 13-14 July 2016

In 2014 McLean Contracting agreed to deploy 300 tons of concrete rubble they had generated from a demolition project for \$18,000. Unfortunately MARI's Maryland Wetlands License and Department of the Army expired before the project could be completed. Once our permits were renewed in June 2016 McLean agreed to deploy this material for the originally agreed upon price. As a bonus, they added 220 tons of concrete slabs they had acquired in the mean time to the deployment for no additional cost.

The 520 tons of material was deployed over two days (July 13-14, 2016) in a pile centered at 39° 04.0323' N, 76° 17.3845' W in the southeast quadrant of the site. The pile is located between two previous deployments of concrete beams and bridge decking material.

Tilghman Island, 28 July 2016

This project was a partnership between MARI, the Central Chapter of the Maryland Coastal Conservation Association (CCA MD), and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF). CCA provided 72 "Mini Bay-balls" built by volunteers from CCA and Carroll County Public Schools. The reef balls were delivered to CBF's Oyster Restoration Center at Shady Side, MD, where they were placed in setting tanks with oyster larvae for two weeks prior to deployment. On July 28, 2016 the reef balls were removed from the tanks and transferred to the deck of the *Patricia Campbell*, which

transported them to the Tilghman Island artificial reef site located about 3 miles south of Poplar Island.

The reef balls were placed in groups of four in the southern portion of the site, in a line between $38^{\circ} 41.316' N$, $76^{\circ} 22.757' W$ and $38^{\circ} 41.316' N$, $76^{\circ} 22.691' W$.

Upcoming Projects

We are preparing for several projects to round out the year: approximately 500 tons of concrete material from the Dominion-Cove Point facility to be placed at the Cedar Point artificial reef site in September, pre-cast concrete pipe to be placed at Tangier Sound in September/November, and concrete dock material and steel baffle-walls to be placed at Plum Point courtesy of Exelon. In addition, the fourth annual volunteer angler survey will end this fall, providing catch data on the Memorial Stadium, Love Point, Hollicutt's Noose, and Cedar Point reef sites.



Reef balls deployment on Memorial Stadium reef, May 11, 2016.



Concrete beam deployed at Love Point reef site, June 20, 2016.



Concrete material prior to deployment at Love Point reef site, July 13-14, 2016.



Deployment of concrete slab at Love Point reef site, July 14, 2016



Reef balls with spat, prior to deployment at Tilghman Island reef site, July 28, 2016



Reef balls about to be deployed at Tilghman Island reef site, July 28, 2016.