

LC-6

The LC-6 is the only World War 2 type Landing Craft (Medium) that was sank for an Artificial Reef in Martin County. It was deployed in the Donaldson Permitted Area on December 19, 1992 and sits upright in 60 feet of water. It is 13 years old.

This is an interesting site due to its military history but the odd thing about the LC-6 that all of us on the F.O.S. Dive Team who have become familiar with this site over the years all agree that it seems to attract fewer Fish and has less Benthic growth than any of the Steel barges in the same area. This has been the subject of conversation anytime any of us mention this site. As pure speculation we are of the opinion that perhaps it has something to do with the Anti-fouling paint that is used on Navy vessels to hinder marine growth and corrosion. The LC-6 has remained intact and virtually unchanged over the years.

As two points of interest, the LC-6 is only about 175 feet North of the Traffic Barge yet the Traffic Barge is heavily encrusted and attracts a lot of Fish. A few members of the F.O.S. Dive Team did a dive on both sites in December 2004. It was reported that the Pilot Housing on the LC-6 was missing and was likely torn off during either Hurricane Frances or Jeanne. The location of the Pilot Housing is currently not known.

Florida Oceanographic Society Research Dive Team
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Monitoring Grant

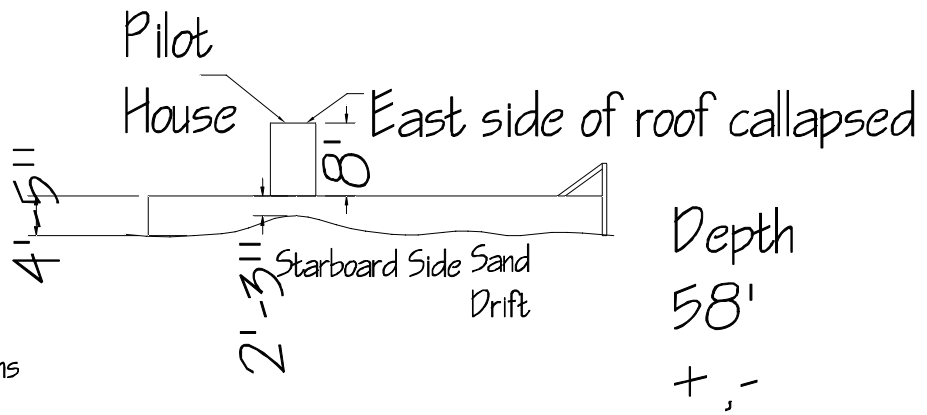
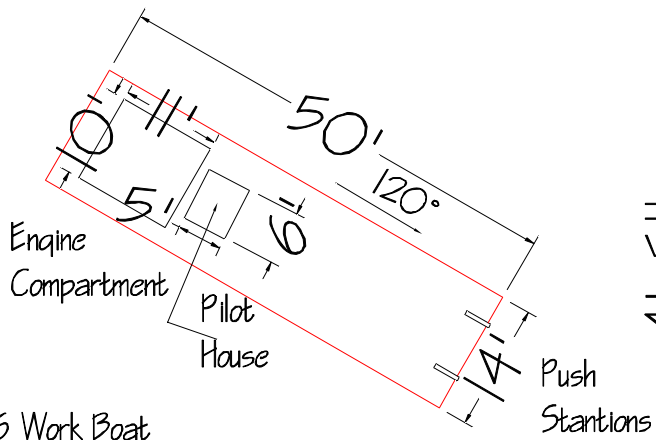
"Artificial Reef Stability Assessment Survey"
Martin County Florida

"LC-6"

Date of Survey: April 24, 2004

Research Divers: Wayne Turner, Bill Scammell, Fran Krawetz, Bob Gilmore

Reef Material: Steel Landing Craft
Orientation: North and South
Bottom Composition: Sand and Shell
General Condition of Material: Very Good
Collapse: The top of the wheel house window frames have collapsed.
Scattering: None noticed.
Disintegration: None noticed.
Additional Observations: The LC-6 is in very good condition with little sign of decay. There is a fair amount of Benthic encrustation but not as much as some of the other steel structures that are nearby.



LC 6 Work Boat
 Mapped 04-24-04
 Drawn by BS 11-27-04

LC 6

Survey Date: 24 April 2004

Benthic species listed below were identified using digital still photographs captured with a Nikon Coolpix 5000. Professionally trained divers spent 18 minutes photodocumenting the benthic community on LC 6. All species were documented (to lowest recognizable taxon) and verified using reference guides. Some of the most relevant guides for Martin County's reefs include: 1) Littler and Littler's Caribbean Reef Plants: An Identification Guide to the Reef Plants of the Caribbean, Bahamas, Florida and Gulf of Mexico, 2) Hendler, Miller, Pawson and Kier's Echinoderms of Florida and the Caribbean: Sea Stars, Sea Urchins, and Allies, and 3) Paul Humann's Reef Creature Identification: Florida Caribbean and Bahamas. Documented organisms were also placed in one of the following abundance classifications for long-term analysis: Single (1), Few (2-10), Many (11-100) or Abundant (>100).

<u>Benthic Species Identified</u>	<u>Abundance</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Green Algae		
<i>Codium</i> sp.	Many	
<i>Caulerpa brachypus</i> (attached)	Abundant	Low relative density all over reef.
Red Algae		
<i>Asparagopsis</i> sp.	Few	Scarlet red tufts of algae approximately 2 cm tall.
Unidentified red	Many	Similar to <i>Gracilaria</i> or <i>Solaria</i> .
Sponges		
Encrusting sponges	Abundant	
Stinker sponge (<i>Ircinia felix</i>)	Few	
Black ball sponge (<i>Ircinia strobilina</i>)	Few	
<i>Holapsamma</i> sp.	Single	
Worms		
Feather dusters	Many	
Cnidarians		
Branched hydroids	Abundant	
Feather hydroids	Abundant	
Regal sea fan (<i>Leptogorgia hebes</i>)	Few	
Unidentified sea fan	Few	Not <i>Gorgonia</i> sp.
White telesto (<i>Carijoa riisei</i>)	Many	
Anemone	Few	
Bryozoans		
Yellow calcified bryozoan	Many	
Tunicates		
Bulb tunicates (<i>Clavelina</i> sp.)	Many	Colonial tunicates joined at base.
Solitary tunicates	Few	
Compound tunicates (<i>Eudistoma</i> spp.)	Many	

