

MCAC Reef Fund tournament hopes to raise more than \$15,000

By Ed Killer

Wednesday, July 7, 2010

PORT SALERNO — Offshore anglers have a chance to be stewards of their environment this weekend by participating in the fourth annual MCAC Reef Fund fishing tournament out of FINZ Waterfront Grill.

Called the Reef Builder, proceeds from tournament entry fees go toward helping the Martin County artificial reef program construct underwater habitat in offshore waters. In the past two years, the MCAC Reef Fund has placed thousands of tons of concrete rubble, four steel towers and a 65-foot-long steel tug boat on the ocean floor as fish habitat.

Tournament organizers have some 20 boats already registered and Saturday's marine forecast — light southwest winds and flat seas — will not be a deterrent.

“Last year we raised \$12,000,” said John Burke, MCAC president. “This year we hope to raise \$15,000 to \$20,000.”

The captain's meeting will take place at 6 p.m. Friday at FINZ Waterfront Grille. The weigh-in is 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday on the dock behind FINZ and is free and open to the public.

Anglers will fish for guaranteed cash prizes in cobia, snapper, grouper, dolphin, kingfish and wahoo categories. Payouts will be \$1,000 for first in each species, \$500 for second and \$250 for third.

Anglers can compete aboard Safari I party boat for \$100 each and need to call (772) 334-4411.

MCAC REEF FUND TOURNAMENT

Species: Kingfish, dolphin, cobia, snapper, grouper

Headquarters: FINZ Waterfront Grille, 4290 S.E. Salerno Rd., Port Salerno

Benefits: MCAC artificial reef fund

Entry: \$275 per boat or \$100 per angler aboard Safari party boat

Payout: \$1,000 to \$250 guaranteed first through third each species

Contact: (772) 708-8881

Online: mccreeffund.org

Marine Forecast: Saturday, southwest winds 5 to 10 knots becoming southeast in the afternoon. Seas 1 foot. A light chop on the intracoastal waters. Chance of showers and thunderstorms