



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT  
7400 LEAKE AVENUE  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

**March 6, 2017**

Operations Division  
Central Evaluation Section

Project Manager  
Dirreen Arnold  
(504) 862-2301  
Dirreen.S.Arnold@usace.army .mil

SUBJECT: MVN 2014-01083 CA

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the New Orleans District of the US Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to: [X] Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 USC 403).

**SHIP SHOAL 26 ARTIFICIAL REEF ENHANCEMENT**  
**OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF, GULF OF MEXICO**

**NAME OF APPLICANT:** LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES,  
Attn: Artificial Reef Coordinator, Michael McDonough, Post Office Box 98000, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

**LOCATION OF WORK:** Gulf of Mexico, Outer Continental Shelf, Ship Shoal 26, approximately 22 nautical miles southwest of Cocodrie, Louisiana, off the coast of Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, as shown on the enclosed drawings.

**CHARACTER OF WORK:** The applicant has requested Department of the Army authorization to expand the Ship Shoal 26 Artificial Reef area from three (3) existing 4-acre sites to one (1) 187-acre site by depositing approximately 30,000 tons of limestone or clean, recycled concrete, all to enhance and maintain fishing opportunities off the coast of Louisiana. The reef site is located more than 2 nautical miles from any safety fairway and the charted clearance of 6 feet at the reef site will be maintained. No special aquatic sites will be affected by this project and no mitigation is anticipated. This request is pursuant to Act 100, 1986 Louisiana Legislature and National Fishing Enhancement Act of 1984.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit will close **15 days** from the date of this public notice. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons thereof, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit must be mailed so as to be received before or by the last day of the comment period. Letters concerning the Corps of

Engineers permit application must reference the applicant's name and the Permit Application Number, and be mailed to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH**. Individuals or parties may request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by writing or e-mailing the Corps of Engineers Project Manager listed above. Any request must be specific and substantively supportive of the requested extension, and received by this office prior to the end of the initial comment period. The Section Chief will review the request and the requestor will be promptly notified of the decision to grant or deny the request. If granted, the time extension will be continuous to the initial comment period and, inclusive of the initial comment period, will not exceed a total of 30 calendar days.

### **Corps of Engineers Permit Criteria**

The decision as to whether a permit will be issued will be based on an evaluation of the impact of the proposed work on navigation and national security.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public, federal, state, and local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to make, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The New Orleans District is unaware of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places near the proposed work. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, pre-historical, historical sites, or data. Issuance of this public notice solicits input from the State Archeologist and State Historic Preservation Officer regarding potential impacts to cultural resources.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any species, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of such species, listed as endangered by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal may result in the destruction or alteration of 187 acres of EFH utilized by

various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not violate applicable water quality standards will be required from the Department of Environmental Quality, before a permit is issued.

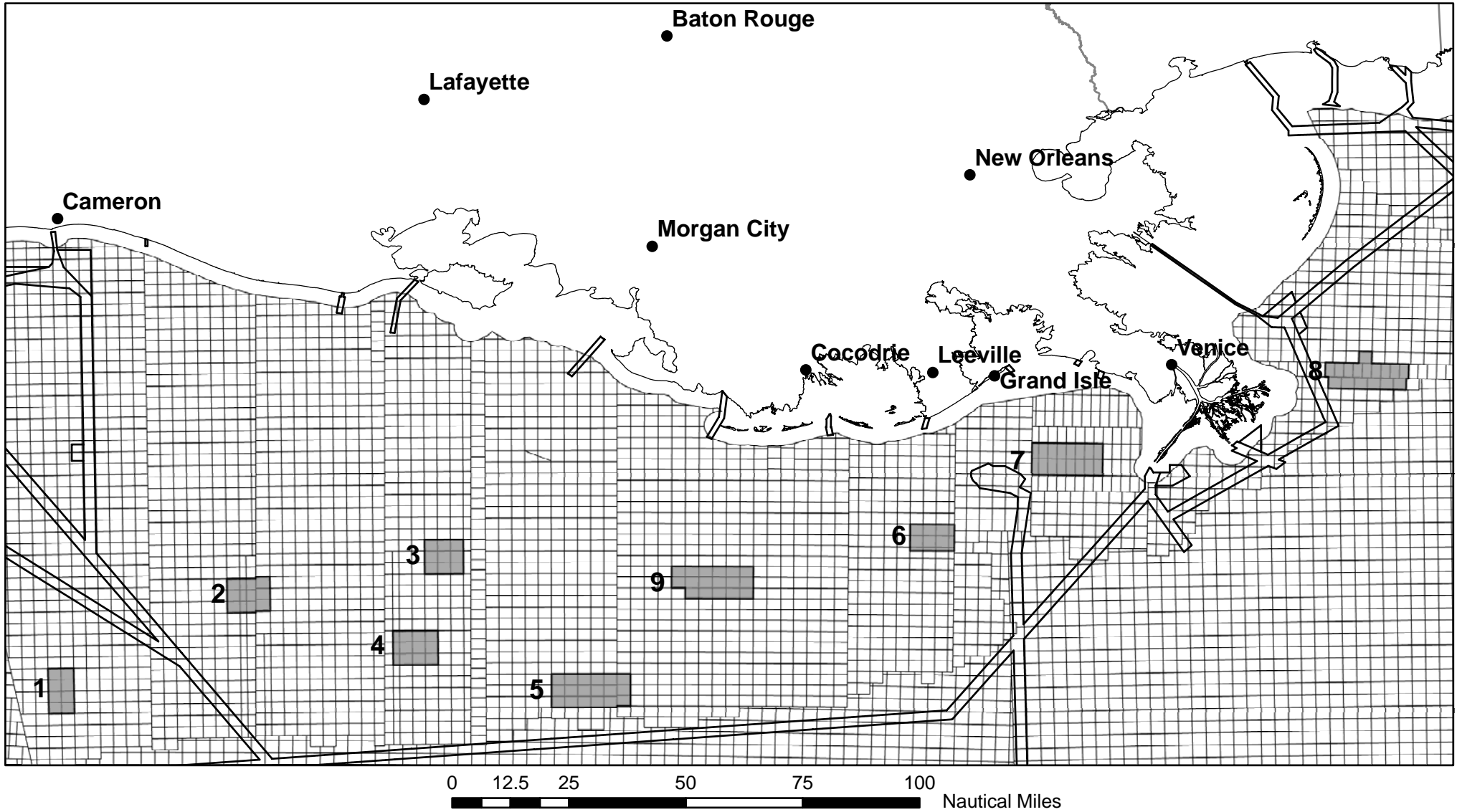
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.




You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

JOHN M. HERMAN  
Chief, Central Evaluation Section  
Regulatory Branch

Enclosure

# Louisiana Artificial Reef Planning Areas



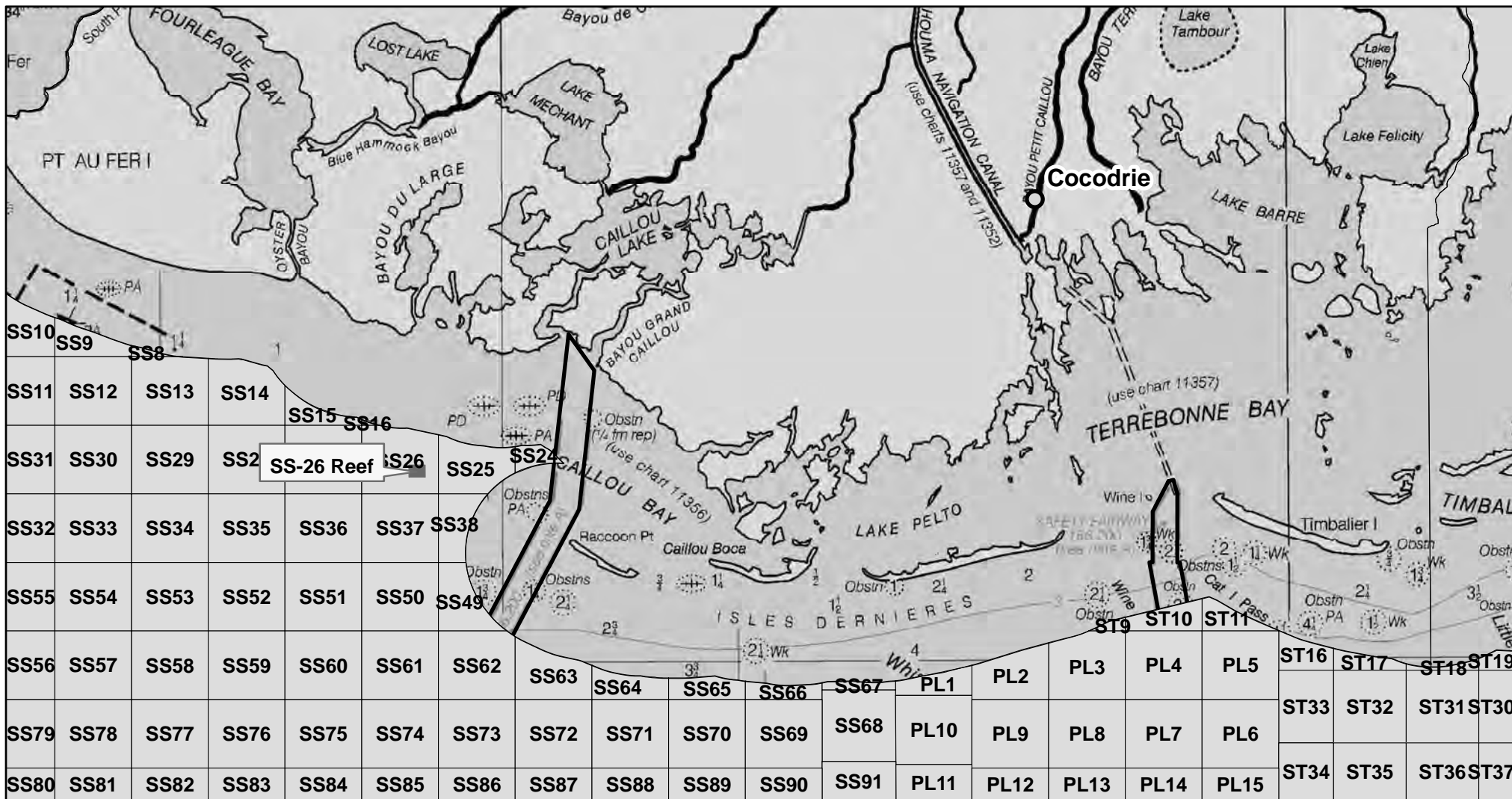
-  **Planning Areas**
-  **Fairways**
-  **OCS Blocks**

## Planning Areas

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. West Cameron Planning Area             | 6. South Timbalier Planning Area |
| 2. East Cameron Planning Area             | 7. West Delta Planning Area      |
| 3. South Marsh Island (76) Planning Area  | 8. Main Pass Planning Area       |
| 4. South Marsh Island (146) Planning Area | 9. Ship Shoal Planning Area      |
| 5. Eugene Island Planning Area            |                                  |



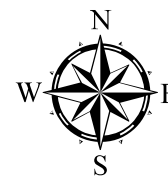
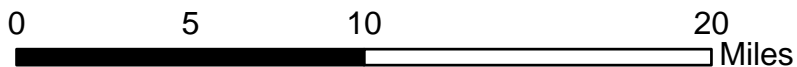
# Louisiana Artificial Reef Program



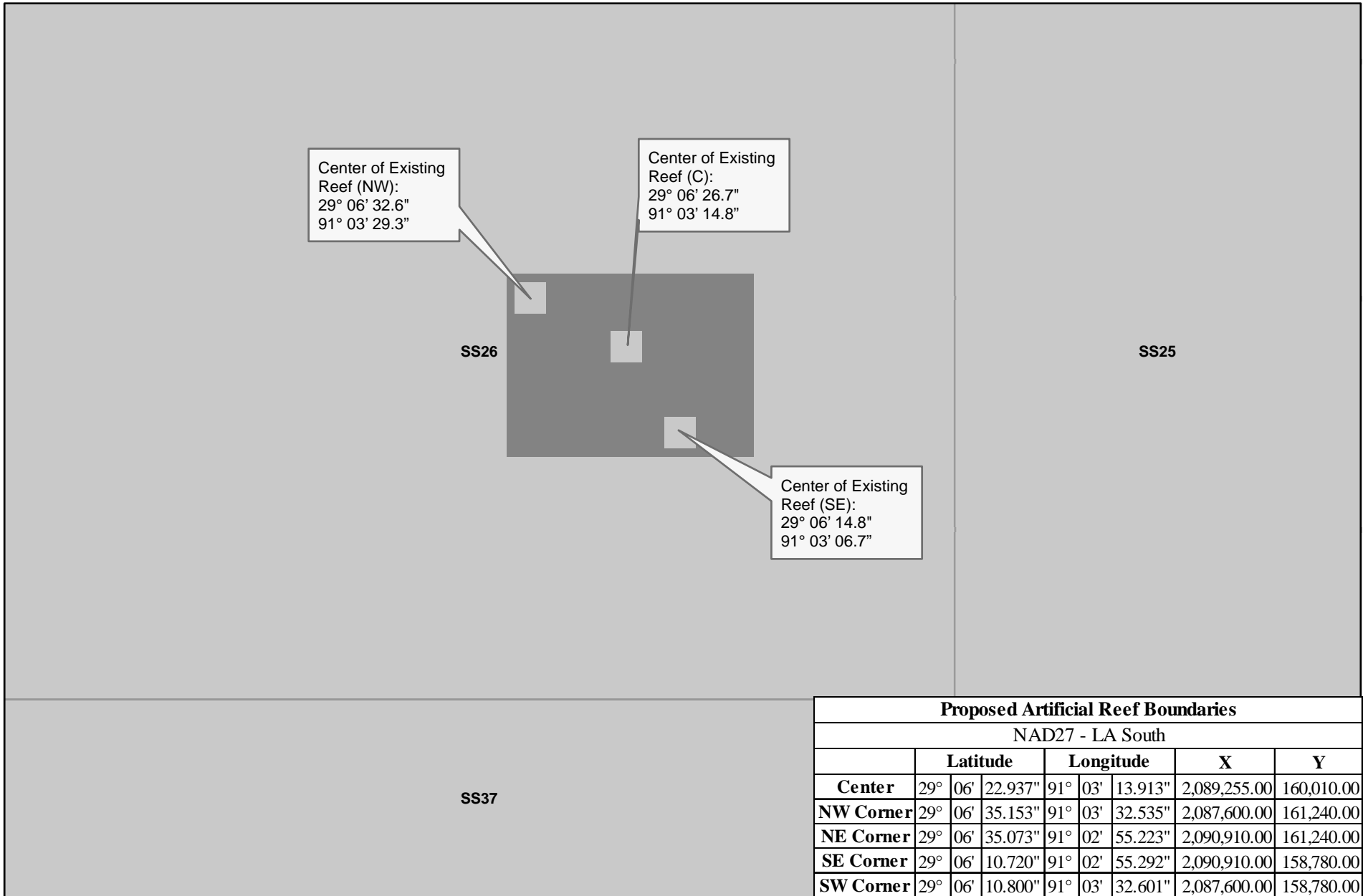
## Legend

- Proposed SS-26 Reef
- OCS Blocks
- Fairways



## SS-26 Reef Vicinity Map



# Louisiana Artificial Reef Program

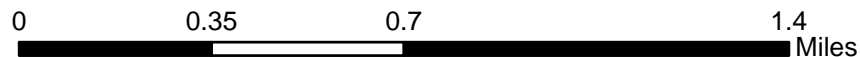


## Legend

-  Existing Pickets Reefs (4 acres each)
-  Proposed Permit Area (187 acres)

## Plan View: Proposed Ship Shoal 26 Permit Area

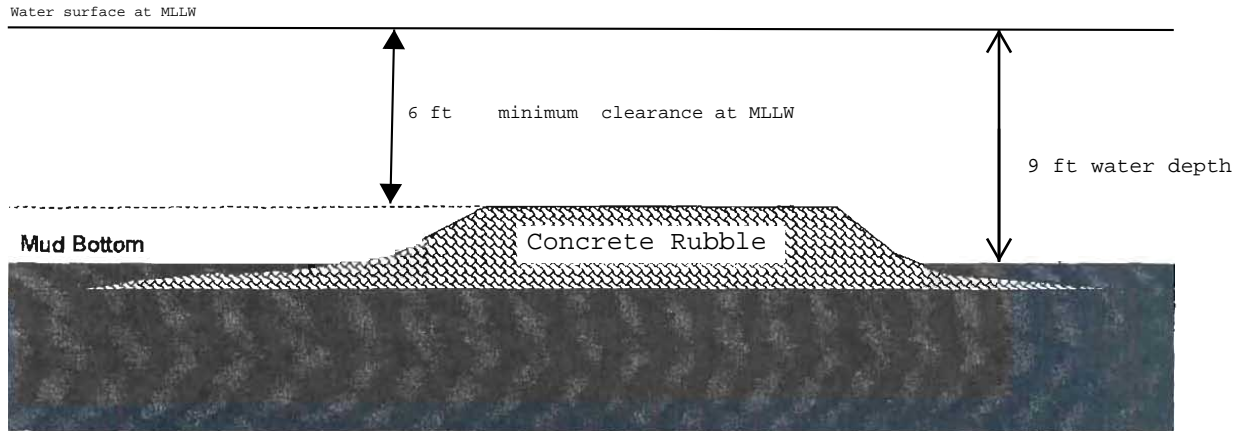
January 31, 2017



Not to be used for navigation.



## General Concrete Rubble Deployment



Not to Scale

**Cross Section View of  
Proposed SS-26 Reef**  
January 31, 2017