

LOCATION BY GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM

Using the NAD83 datum set, the center point of the Freeport Liberty Ship Reef is located at 28° 35' 46.485" N and 94° 48' 41.605" W (Galveston Block A-22). This point can be reached by sailing 36 nautical miles on a bearing of 122° from the Freeport jetties.

**Shaw** (map reference: 2)  
 Reef material: Liberty Ship  
 Located: 28° 35' 52.612" N and 94° 48' 41.782" W

**Allen** (map reference: 10)  
 Reef material: Liberty Ship  
 Located: 28° 35' 38.954" N and 94° 48' 44.295" W

**V.A. Fogg** (map reference: 9,11,12)  
 Reef material: T-2 Tanker  
 Located: 28° 35' 36.600" N and 94° 48' 44.937" W

**HL&P Reef** (map reference: 13)  
 Reef material: 300 one ton fly ash blocks  
 Located: 28° 35' 36.065" N and 94° 48' 45.833" W

**Conoco/Galveston Co. Reef** (map reference: 14)  
 Reef material: Welded pipe structure  
 Located: 28° 35' 35.593" N and 94° 48' 43.358" W

**Star Reef** (map reference: 3-8)  
 Reef material: Cluster of 6 obsolete petroleum platforms  
 Located: 28° 35' 46.485" N and 94° 48' 41.605" W

# Freeport Liberty Ship Reef



## World War II Heritage for Divers, Anglers and the Public

The bravery of America's Merchant Marines helped the Allies win World War II. Now, fourteen World War II ships that carried supplies and oil into the most dangerous fronts of the war serve as artificial reefs off the coast of Texas. Located in six readily-accessible sites, they offer divers and recreational anglers an encounter not only with magnificent reefs, but also with America's maritime heritage.

The **Freeport Liberty Ship Reef** is actually composed of two Liberty Ships, the *William F. Allen* and the *B.F. Shaw*, and one T-2 tanker, the *V.A. Fogg* (previously named *Four Lakes*). Ten other Liberty Ships and one T-2 tanker are located at other reef sites along the Texas coast. Brochures for these reef sites are available from Texas Parks and Wildlife.

The *William F. Allen* received the Philippine Liberation Ribbon for her crew's services in the winter of 1944-5, including their support of the invasion of Leyte Island. For efforts in repelling a Luftwaffe attack while in convoy across the Mediterranean, the *B.F. Shaw* was awarded the Operation and Engagement Star. The *V.A. Fogg* survived several perilous Atlantic convoy crossings during World War II before a disastrous benzene explosion in 1972 caused her to sink in her present location.



Photos courtesy of the National Archives.



For additional information contact:

Artificial Reef Program  
 Texas Parks and Wildlife  
 4200 Smith School Road  
 Austin, Texas 78744-3291  
 1-800-792-1112, ext. 4686  
 or (512) 389-4686

*Credits*

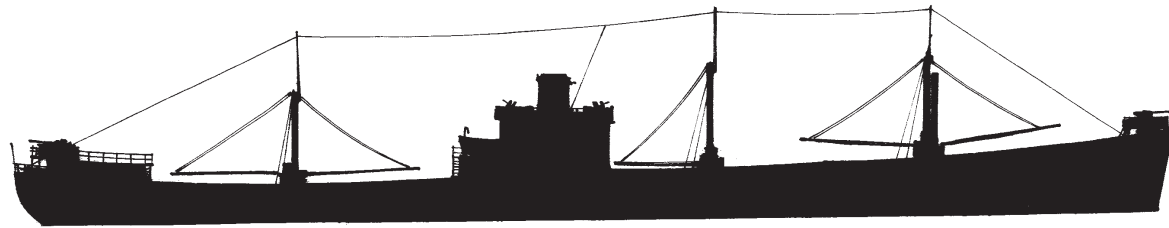
Historical research conducted by  
 Texas Historical Commission, Austin



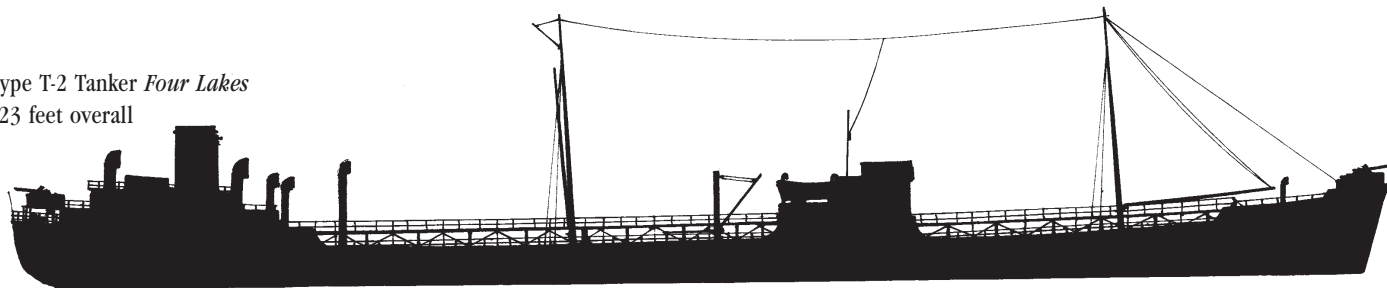


Aerial view of two of the twelve Liberty Ships being prepared for sinking as artificial fishing reefs by the Texas Coastal and Marine Council. The ship on the right has had the superstructure and main deck removed. Deck openings seen here plus large side windows provided water circulation and access for fish. Work was done under contract by Andy International, Incorporated of Brownsville, Texas.

Type EC-2 Liberty Ship  
441 feet overall



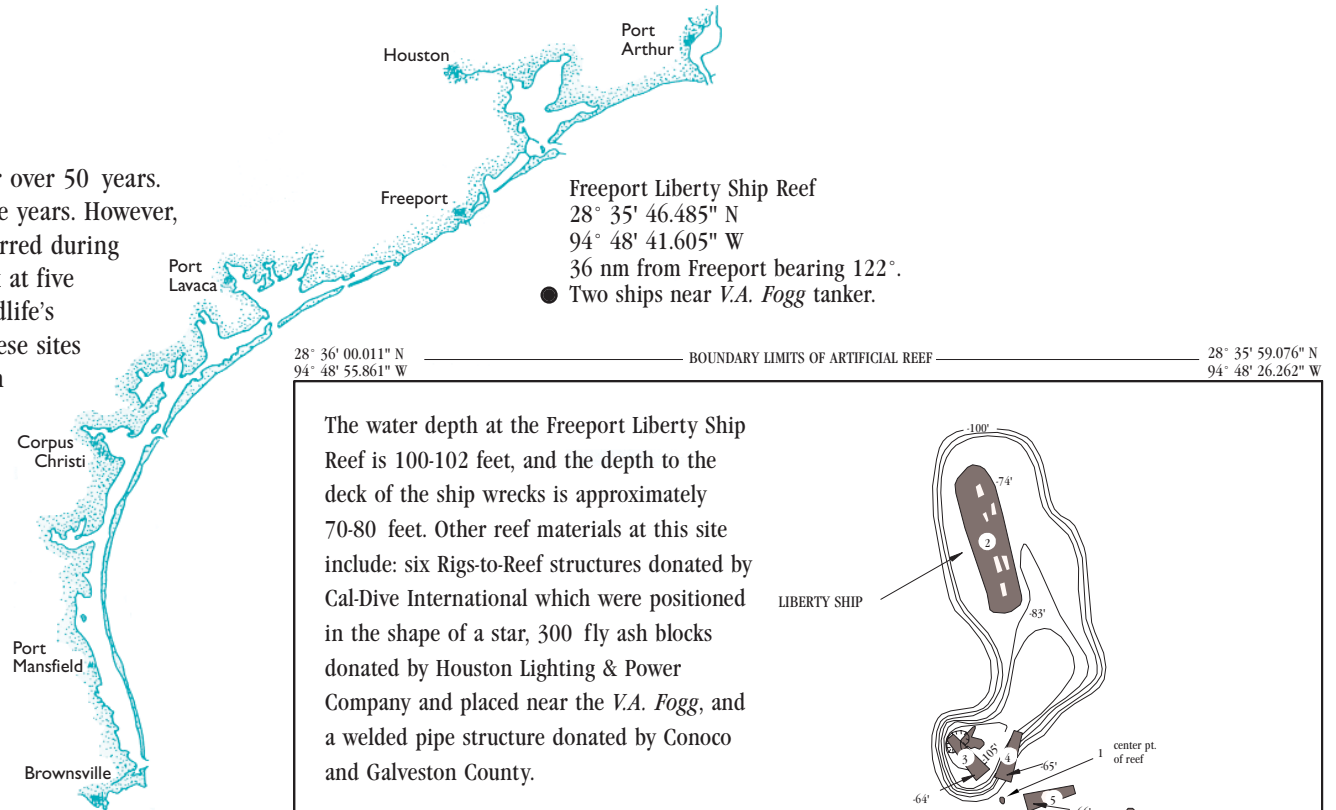
Type T-2 Tanker *Four Lakes*  
523 feet overall



## Texas Artificial Reefs *A Tribute to the Lone Star State*

Texas has been involved in artificial reef development for over 50 years. Numerous reef building materials have been used over the years. However, the first highly successful artificial reef development occurred during the mid-1970's when 12 obsolete Liberty Ships were sunk at five different sites in the Gulf of Mexico. Texas Parks and Wildlife's Artificial Reef Program has added materials to most of these sites and created others through programs like Rigs-to-Reefs, in which petroleum companies donate obsolete petroleum platforms to the Program.

At these sites, anglers may encounter numerous fish species including amberjack, snapper, cobia, Atlantic spadefish, triggerfish, tarpon, sharks (such as the blacktip, tiger, dusky, and hammerhead), and grouper. In addition, divers may see colorful damsel fish, butterflyfish, blennies, and countless invertebrates. As of this printing, 40 artificial reef sites have been established to benefit the environment by creating habitat for marine organisms, and to provide areas for increased fishing and sport diving opportunities.



The water depth at the Freeport Liberty Ship Reef is 100-102 feet, and the depth to the deck of the ship wrecks is approximately 70-80 feet. Other reef materials at this site include: six Rigs-to-Reef structures donated by Cal-Dive International which were positioned in the shape of a star, 300 fly ash blocks donated by Houston Lighting & Power Company and placed near the *V.A. Fogg*, and a welded pipe structure donated by Conoco and Galveston County.

