

## Location by Global Positioning System

Using the NAD83 datum set, the center point of the Mustang Island Liberty Ship Reef <sup>(1)</sup> is located at 27° 34' 11.038" N and 96° 51' 30.911" W (Mustang Island Block 802). This point can be reached by sailing 18 miles on 141° from the Port Aransas jetties.

Reef Component	North Latitude	West Longitude
Liberty Ship <sup>(2, 3)</sup>	27° 34' 06.516"	96° 51' 33.293"
<i>Jackson</i> (stern) <sup>(4)</sup>	27° 34' 04.536"	96° 51' 38.605"
<i>Jackson</i> (bow) <sup>(5)</sup>	27° 34' 04.428"	96° 51' 36.135"
Liberty Ship <sup>(6, 7)</sup>	27° 34' 01.493"	96° 51' 34.482"

Detailed maps of this and other reef sites are available for purchase from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Artificial Reef Program. For additional information contact:

Artificial Reef Program  
Seabrook Marine Laboratory  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
P.O. Box 8  
Seabrook, Texas 77586  
(713) 474-1418

### *Credits*

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# Mustang Island 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 reef sites, they offer divers and recreational anglers an encounter not only with magnificent reefs, but also with America's maritime heritage.

The **Mustang Island Liberty Ship Reef** is composed of three Liberty Ships, the *Conrad Weiser*, the *Rachel Jackson* and the *Charles A. Dana*. The *Rachael Jackson* broke in two pieces when placed at the reef site. Nine other Liberty Ships

are located at other reef sites along the Texas coast. Brochures for these reef sites are available from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Though Liberty Ships were not intended as combat vessels, all three found themselves in the midst of battle. After an escort ship from the *Dana's* Atlantic convoy fired on a U-boat, an unknown object, possibly a dud torpedo or part of the submarine, struck the *Dana* and slid along her side for almost fifteen feet. The *Rachel Jackson* was attacked by enemy aircraft on the way to Alexandria, and managed to hit one of the planes with anti-aircraft fire. For her crew's efforts in repelling a Luftwaffe attack while in convoy across the Mediterranean, the *Conrad Weiser* received the Operation and Engagement Star.

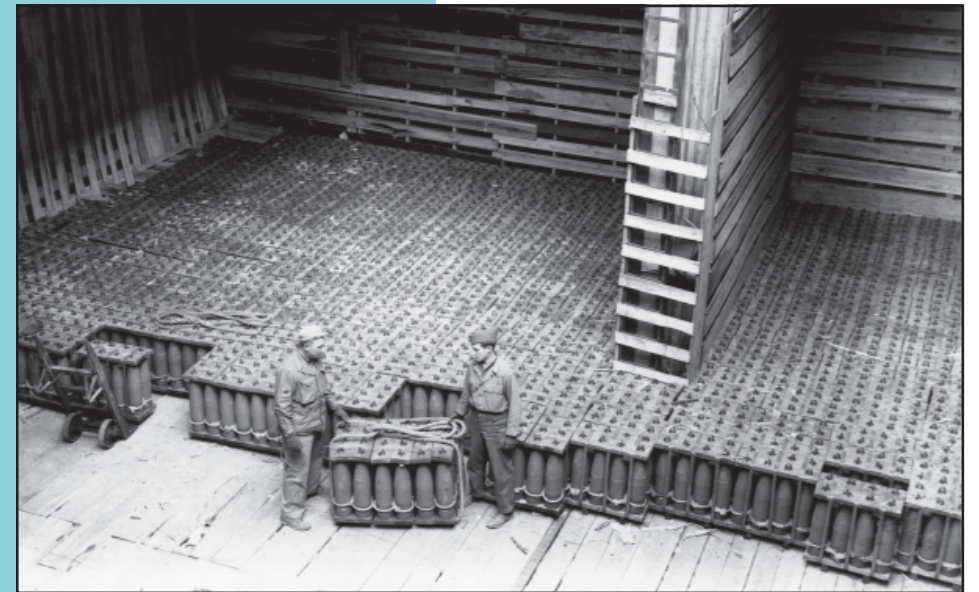


Photo courtesy of the National Archives.

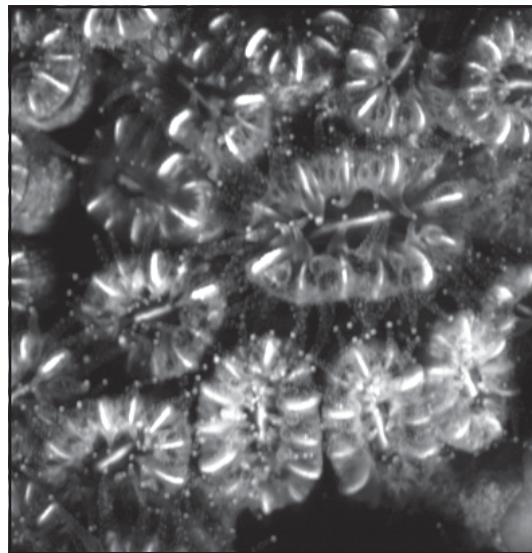
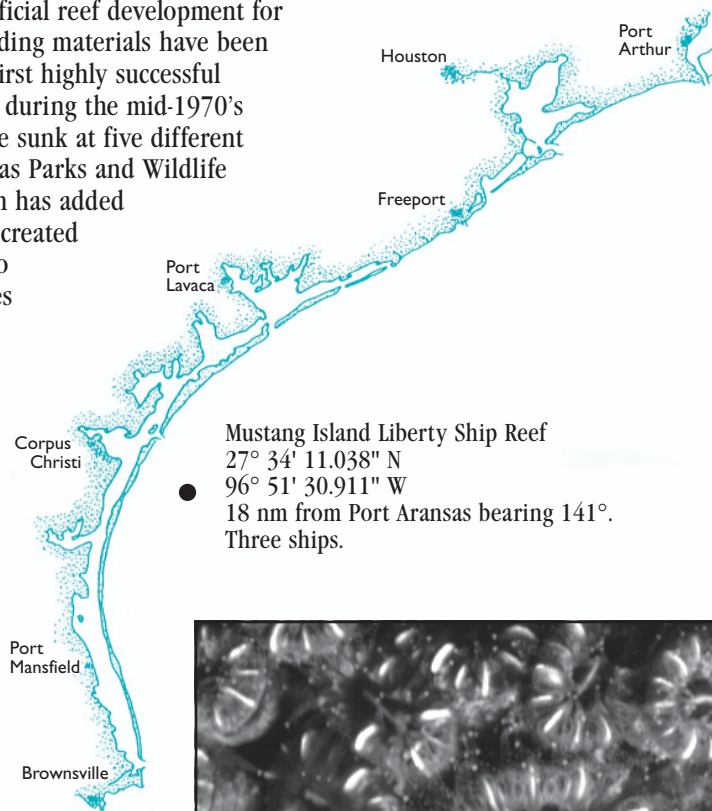
*Stowage of palletized 155mm ammunition in the No. 2 hold of a Liberty ship in Leghorn, Italy, January 8, 1945.*

## Texas Artificial Reefs

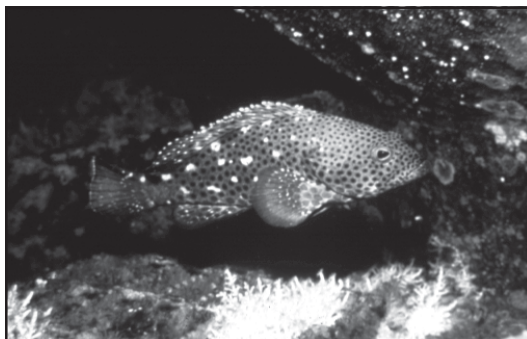
### A Tribute to the Lone Star State

Texas has been involved in artificial reef development for nearly 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. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department'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 spade-fish, 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. To date, 24 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.

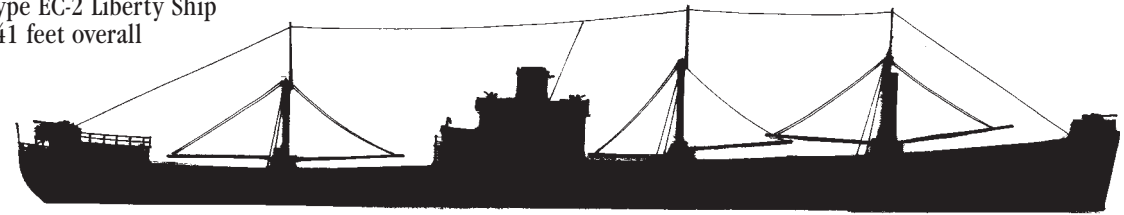


A spectacular colonizer of Liberty ships is the hard coral (*Astrangia*), shown here with open polyps.



Groupers like this Rock Hind appear at home among the wrecks.

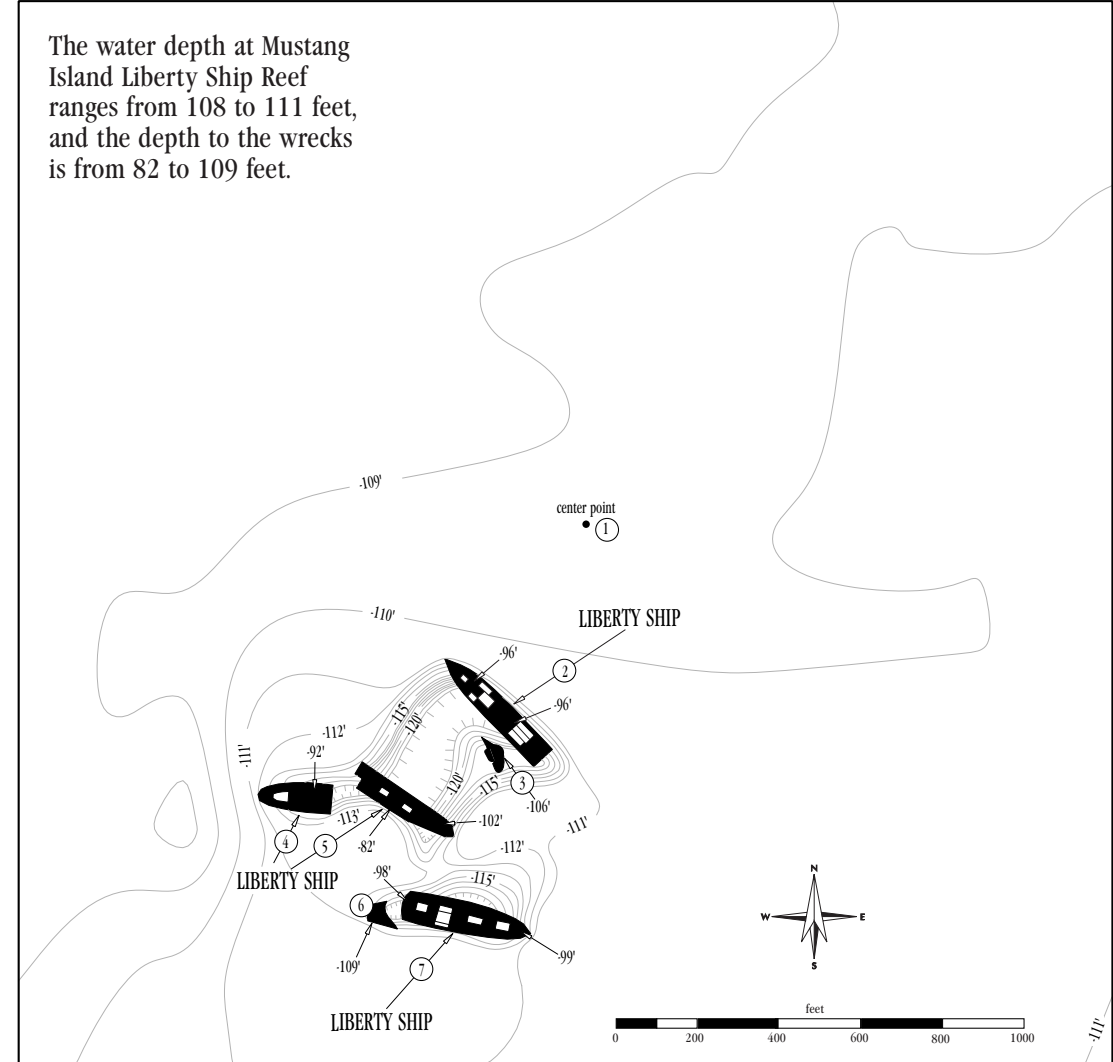
Type EC-2 Liberty Ship  
 441 feet overall



Andrew Hall (1995)

27° 34' 24.278" N ————— BOUNDARY LIMITS OF ARTIFICIAL REEF ————— 27° 34' 23.938" N  
 96° 51' 45.388" W ————— 96° 51' 16.052" W

The water depth at Mustang Island Liberty Ship Reef ranges from 108 to 111 feet, and the depth to the wrecks is from 82 to 109 feet.



27° 33' 58.137" N ————— BOUNDARY LIMITS OF ARTIFICIAL REEF ————— 27° 33' 57.797" N  
 96° 51' 45.768" W ————— 96° 51' 16.435" W