

Location by Global Positioning System

Using the NAD83 datum set, the center point of the Port Mansfield Liberty Ship Reef ⁽¹⁾ is located at 26° 25' 35.785" N and 97° 01' 27.607" W (South Padre Island Block 1070). This point can be reached by sailing 15 nautical miles on a bearing of 110° from the Port Mansfield jetties. A buoy marking the reef is located at 26° 25' 33.199" N and 97° 01' 26.556" W ⁽¹⁴⁾. The Smit America Rigs to Reef donation was composed of two 4-pile jackets that were cut in-half, with each section being placed in a standing position on the bottom at four different locations. The Mobil Rigs to Reef donation was composed of four 4-pile jackets from structures "A" (cut in-half), "B", "C" and "D", with the five structures positioned at different locations.

Reef Component	North Latitude	West Longitude
Liberty Ship (east) ⁽²⁾	26° 25' 35.597"	97° 01' 17.224"
Liberty Ship (center) ⁽³⁾	26° 25' 31.665"	97° 01' 30.295"
Liberty Ship (west) ⁽⁴⁾	26° 25' 30.503"	97° 01' 38.520"
Smit America's obsolete petroleum platforms:		
"A" structure - top ⁽⁵⁾	26° 25' 30.304"	97° 01' 22.682"
"A" structure - base ⁽⁶⁾	26° 25' 31.098"	97° 01' 21.644"
"B" structure - top ⁽⁷⁾	26° 25' 30.016"	97° 01' 20.357"
"B" structure - base ⁽⁸⁾	26° 25' 29.663"	97° 01' 23.708"
Mobil's obsolete petroleum platforms:		
"A-1" structure - base ⁽⁹⁾	26° 25' 39.929"	97° 01' 36.087"
"A-2" structure - base ⁽¹⁰⁾	26° 25' 45.089"	97° 01' 36.867"
"B" structure - base ⁽¹¹⁾	26° 25' 47.379"	97° 01' 27.327"
"C" structure - base ⁽¹²⁾	26° 25' 37.639"	97° 01' 13.676"
"D" structure - base ⁽¹³⁾	26° 25' 30.179"	97° 01' 15.916"

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

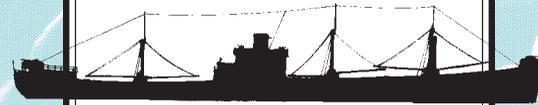
Credits

Historical research conducted by
Texas Historical Commission, Austin



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Port Mansfield 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.

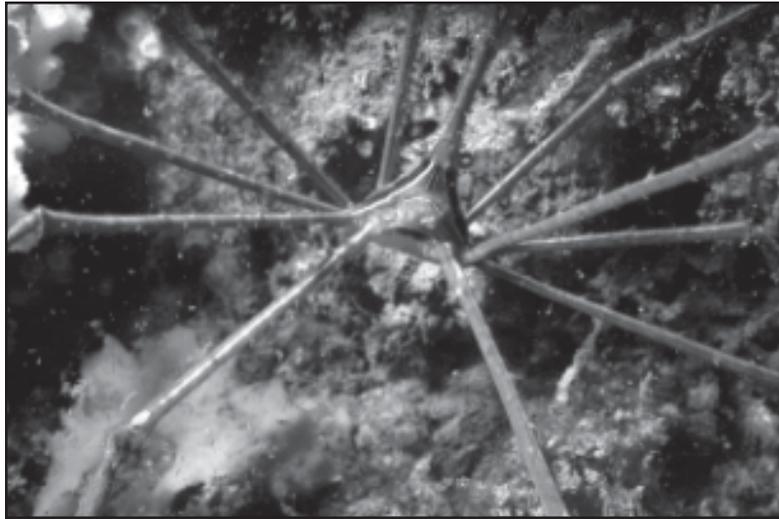
The **Port Mansfield Liberty Ship Reef** is composed of three Liberty Ships, the *Edward W. Scripps*, the *Joshua Thomas* and the *George L. Farley*. Nine other Liberty Ships and

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

The *Farley* brought supplies to the embattled port of Antwerp in early 1945. During that period an armed guard officer wrote that the "sky was black with Anti-aircraft bursts." The *Joshua Thomas* twice made the Murmansk run to the northern Soviet Union in springtime, a particularly dreaded voyage because the twenty-four hours of sunlight made convoys vulnerable to air attack from occupied Norway at any time. The *Scripps* transported Army and Red Cross personnel and vehicles to the Normandy invasion.



Photo courtesy of the National Archives.



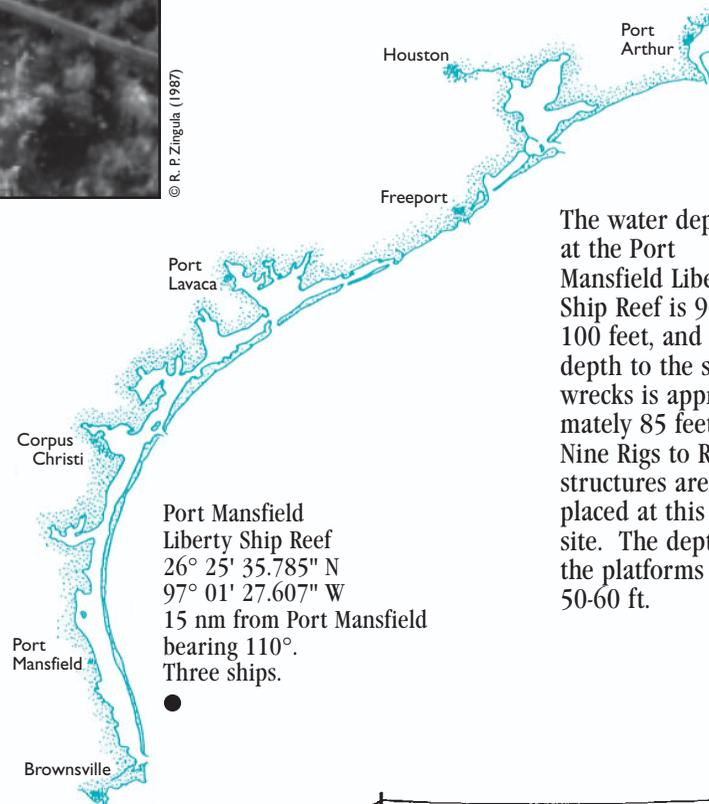
Sunken Liberty ships are home to numerous marine organisms such as this arrow crab.

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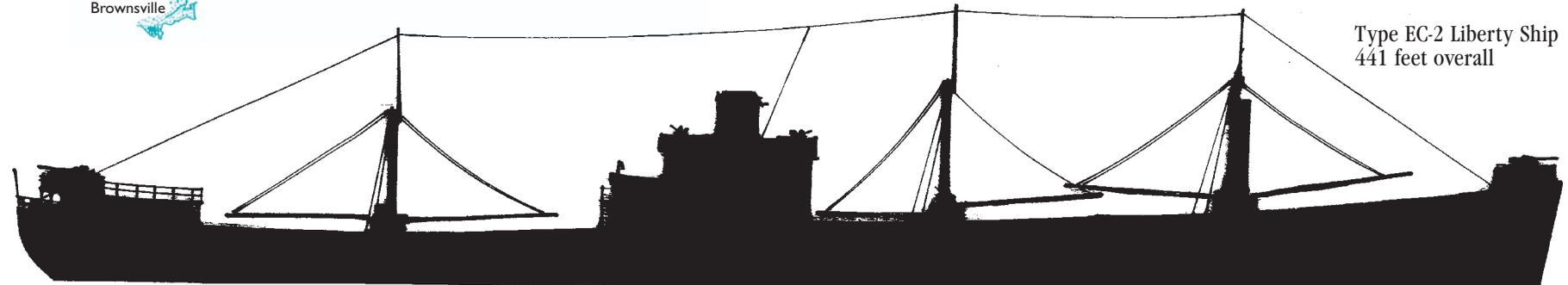
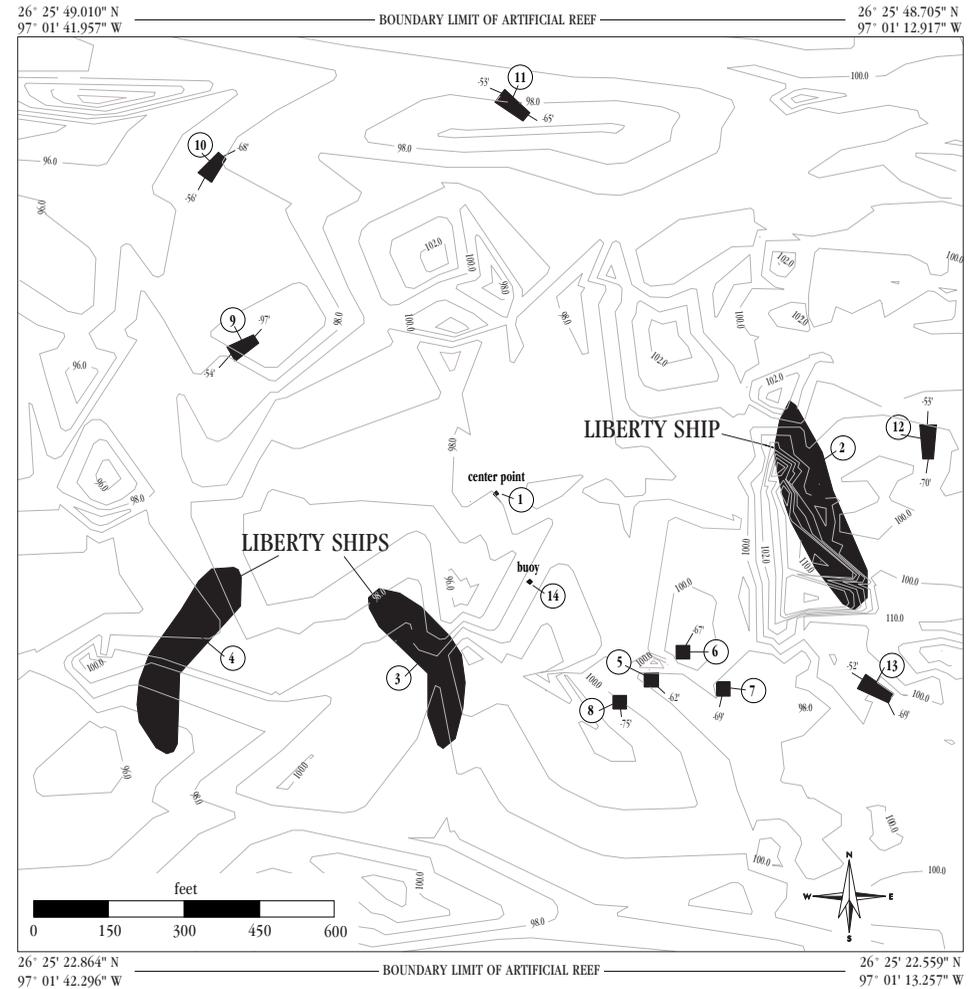
Texas Artificial Reefs A Tribute to the Lone Star State

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 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. 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.



The water depth at the Port Mansfield Liberty Ship Reef is 96-100 feet, and the depth to the ship wrecks is approximately 85 feet. Nine Rigs to Reef structures are also placed at this reef site. The depth to the platforms is 50-60 ft.



Type EC-2 Liberty Ship
441 feet overall

Andrew Hall (1995)