

Condado Beach Artificial Reef

Below is a succinct description of the proposed project and I also enclose a power point presentation prepared by Alfredo Torruella, PhD, and Fernando Pages, PE presented yesterday (Nov. 4, 2015) to the US Army Corps of Engineers Puerto Rico Office in their monthly Interagency meeting to receive proposals of projects involving the navigable waters of the U. S. in and around Puerto Rico and its adjacent islands. We will soon be preparing documents to complete the permit applications for the artificial reef project which is a pilot project because the rip currents and drownings are taking place in numerous beaches around the island.

Here is the description as set forth by Dr. Torruella:

An artificial reef has been conceptually designed for the Condado beach

- The reef will be some 100-150 meters offshore, and will consist of three segments, each about 150 meters long, with a crest approximately one foot below mean sea level (ok, these are numbers... but no others!)
- Since the reef is submerged, it will not be visible from shore (other than by the waves breaking over it) except for during the very lowest of tides
- The reef has as its main purpose the reduction of dangerous currents and wave action at the shore, in order to save human lives
- The reef will stabilize the beach, reducing the variability caused by both long and short term beach erosion, benefiting both humans and turtles, as well as the economy
- The reef will be constructed of lime stone and will be enhanced with reef balls, lobster and octopus "homes", and corals will be attached to the reef both naturally and artificially (transplants)
- An entire marine ecosystem will result, providing tourism and educational opportunities (snorkeling trails, marine research, etc.)
- The entire vision is contingent on getting the necessary permits and getting the necessary funding
- We are working hard on these last two and will accept any help that will help us obtain either one