

Okinawa Artificial Reef, Pompano Beach, Florida, USA.

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The journal encourages the dissemination of knowledge and understanding of the coastal zone by promoting cooperation and communication between specialists in different disciplines. Natural scientists, for example, are encouraged to collaborate with professionals in other fields to prepare contributions relating to the coastal zone that foster increased appreciation of coastal environments and processes. By means of this journal, with its scholarly and professional papers, systematic review articles, book and symposia reviews, communications and news, and special topical issues, an international forum for the development of integrated coastal research is provided.

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH





Okinawa Artificial Reef, Pompano Beach, Florida, USA. Originally named LT 1970, the Okinawa was manufactured as a U.S. Army tugboat in October of 1953. It has a length of 32.6 m, with an 8.1 m beam across, and was renamed the Okinawa after the Battle of Okinawa in World War II. The Okinawa wreck was sunk on Aug 9, 2017, and became the 18th artificial reef (wreck) in Shipwreck Park offshore of Pompano Beach, Florida, USA. Even though it is a 390-ton displacement vessel, the Okinawa spun 180 degrees on the ocean floor by hurricanes in 2017 and carried over 100 meters away from its original location. The storms also caused the wreck to list heavily to the starboard side. Luckily, most of the structural integrity of the shipwreck was maintained.

As seen in the photograph, an entire underwater community has developed upon the outside hull of the wreck. This includes species of encrusting corals, sponges, tunicates, hydroids, bryozoans, zoanthids, and macroalgae. Schooling fish (such as white and blue striped grunts, *Haemulon plumierii* and *H. sciurus*) use the artificial reef as a refuge area, while rogue predatory fish (such as the great barracuda, *Sphyraena barracuda*) use the wreck as a hunting ground. Overall, this is a balanced, vibrant coral reef community that has taken just over three years to be established. This example of nature's resiliency reminds us what is possible when adverse anthropogenic pressures are removed. (Photograph taken November 2020 by Chris Makowski, Coastal Education and Research Foundation (CERF-JCR), Coconut Creek, Florida, U.S.A.)

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Dr. Christopher Makowski is the Senior Vice President and Co-Executive Director of the Coastal Education and Research Foundation (CERF), the official publisher of the international Journal of Coastal Research (JCR). He received B.Sc. (Marine Biology), M.Sc. (Marine Ecosystem Diversity), and Ph.D. (Coastal Geoscience and Remote Sensing of Biogeomorphological Resources) degrees from Florida Atlantic University of Boca Raton, Florida, USA, and has worked for over 25 years in the coastal research community, holding titles of Assistant Director (Coastal Planning & Engineering's Marine Science and Biological Research Department), Principal Marine Scientist (Collier County, Florida, USA), and Senior Advisor (International Coastal Symposium [ICS]). Dr. Makowski has published numerous peer reviewed papers, authored multiple chapters, and co-edited various volumes in Springer's Coastal Research Library (CRL) Series and Encyclopedia of Earth Sciences Series (EESS). In addition to these accomplishments, he is professionally recognized by the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) and is certified as a Master Scuba Diver Trainer through the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), having logged over 2,000 underwater dives on six different continents. Other professional registrations, certifications, and accreditations include: Coastal Education and Research Foundation (CERF) Board of Directors (Trustees), BioOne Board of Directors, International Society for Reef Studies (ISRS) Member, Florida Association of Environmental Professionals (FAEP) Chapter Member, American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) Registered Diving Safety Officer, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Member, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Certified Marine Mammal and Protected Species Observer, Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) Open Water Scuba Diver Instructor, PADI Enriched Air Nitrox Specialty Instructor, Emergency First Responder (CPR/FirstAid/AED) Instructor, PADI Specialty Underwater Photographer Instructor, and Divers Alert Network (DAN) Sustaining Member.

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