

Dear Florida Artificial Reef Colleagues,

It is with great sadness that I am writing to forward the news that our good friend and colleague, Kerry Dillon, passed away on Monday June 12th at home in Stuart, Florida.

Kerry has touched many of us across Florida's artificial reef community during the course of his 32 year career as a commercial diver and founder/owner of Sea Rover Services, Inc. Especially over the past 25+ years, Kerry provided construction oversight and pre- and post- assessments for the majority of artificial reefs deployed off St. Lucie and Martin Counties. A highly experienced technical diver, Kerry took great pride in documenting deepwater reef fish and coral found below recreational diving depths in support of scientific research.

Kerry shared his enthusiasm for diving with many, always excited to share his latest GoPro footage and start planning the next dive trip.

A friend to many, Kerry will be greatly missed. This is all still sinking in for so many of us, and while it's tough to think about artificial reefs along the Treasure Coast without Kerry, Kerry leaves behind an incredible legacy of an incredible system of fishing and diving destinations to be enjoyed for future generations.

If you would like to send a card & condolences to Kerry Dillon's family, below is Kerry's family's (wife Ximena, children Lucas & Isabella) mailing address:



Ximena, Lucas & Isabella Dillon
7361 SE Seagate Lane, Stuart, FL 34995



Please visit the MCAC Reef Fund home page to read more about Kerry and view some of the many projects he took great pride in working on over the years: <http://www.mcacreefs.org>

For those of you who would like to reminisce, here's a 20 minute video of one of Kerry's recent presentations, "The Success of Stony Coral Including *Oculina varicosa*, *Oculina tenella*, and Deepwater Sport Fish Species on Deep Artificial Reefs on the East Coast of Florida" (Florida Artificial Reef Summit, January 2015), please click here (Kerry's presentation starts at 1:20:20): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aE3vgZZQgc&feature=youtu.be>

And in Kerry's own words:

 **A Closing Note** 

At an early age, **Recreational Diving** allowed me the youthful chance to discover the ocean's many wonders beneath the waves. **Commercial Diving** has given me the opportunity to make an exciting, rewarding career of diving adventures from what once was a hobby. **Technical Diving** has taught me the required techniques and opened new aquatic avenues to further explore the underwater world safely. Regardless of which type of diving we choose, it's all about being underwater and exploring. So far there is nothing in cyberspace that can compare. Thanks for your time today and . . .

" Lets Go Diving "

Kerry Dillon, January 16, 2015

Thank you everyone for your kind thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Keith Mille, Biological Administrator II
Division of Marine Fisheries Management - Artificial Reef Program
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
620 South Meridian Street, Box 4B2, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
web: <http://myfwc.com/conservation/saltwater/artificial-reefs/>
office: (850) 617-9633 mobile: (850) 509-2974 fax: (850) 487-4847 email: keith.mille@myfwc.com



Kerry Dillon at the flight deck of the Oriskany Reef, Pensacola, FL. May 20, 2012.
Photo by Keith Mille, FWC.



The M/V Irish Rover providing oversight during deployment of the Hailey Glasrud Reef, Stuart, FL.
(<http://www.mcacreefs.org/p/81/hailey-glasrud-reef>). April 24, 2014.
Photo by Keith Mille, FWC.