

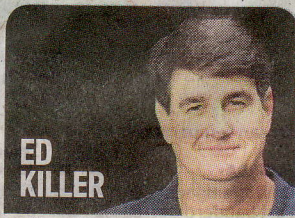
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Anne Sabine, shown here underway in this undated photo, is 207 feet in length, has a beam measuring 32 feet and with the pilot house, has 80 feet of relief. This will be the next and largest vessel sunk as an artificial reef in offshore waters of Martin County.

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Ship to soon become artificial reef off Martin County

Within a couple of months, there could be one more significant artificial reef resting on the bottom of Martin County offshore waters.



OUTDOORS

John Burke, president of the nonprofit MCAC Artificial Reef Fund, announced the reef building organization has acquired a 207-foot long cargo ship to deploy as a future artificial reef.

Martin County officials and the coastal engineering department. He plans to bring the details of the acquisition and deployment before the Martin County Board of Commissioners for its approval at an as yet undetermined meeting, probably in December.

The ship, formerly named the Anne Sabine, will take on a new name chosen by a benefactor who helped the group complete the purchase of the ship. For the past 10 years, the MCAC Reef Fund has enjoyed success selling naming rights to individuals, families, groups, fishing clubs, yachting clubs and others in order to support the construction of artificial reefs in the waters offshore of Martin County.

A large tug boat was named The Kyle Conrad Memorial Artificial Reef and was created in January 2011. Another tug named the Ted Glasrud Reef was deployed in 2010. The Wickstrom Reef, a 168-foot long ship, was sunk in 2003.

For the past seven years the MCAC Reef Fund has produced fishing tournaments and for the past three a lionfish roundup to encourage the connection between artificial reefs and world class sport fishing while generating funds for more reefs.

The Anne Sabine will be the largest ship sunk in Martin County waters for the purpose of creating an artificial reef since the 459-foot U.S.S. Rankin was in July 1988.

Burke said the MCAC Reef Fund works very closely with

For more on the Martin County Artificial Reef program, reef locations and deployment information, visit www.martinreefs.com.

MCAC REEF FUND

Mission: To continue the expansion of recreational boating through the creation of artificial reefs, which are vital environmental and economic resources.

Recent work: In past few years, the organization has funded the sinking of two tug boats, several towers, concrete bridge rubble and much more by selling naming rights and producing fishing tournaments.

Information: www.MCACReefs.org

ANNE SABINE

Original use: Grain hauler

Reef name: Undetermined

Length: 207 feet

Beam: 32 feet

Relief: 80 feet

Location: To be deployed in Sirotkin artificial reef permit area