

Location by Global Positioning System

Using the NAD83 datum set, the center point of the *Vancouver* Liberty Ship Reef is located at 28° 47' 34.817" N and 95° 20' 52.052" W (State Tract 336). This point can be reached by sailing 9 nautical miles on a bearing of 213° from the Freeport jetties. A TPWD buoy is located near the wreck. The Rutherford Well #4, located near the SE corner of the artificial reef boundary can be used as a landmark (28° 47' 23.974" N, 95° 20' 41.428" W).

Reef Component	North Latitude	West Longitude
Liberty Ship (bow) (1)	28° 47' 36.311"	95° 20' 53.329"
(stern) (2)	28° 47' 33.540"	95° 20' 50.974"

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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George Vancouver 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 *Vancouver* Liberty Ship Reef is composed of one ship, the *George Vancouver*. Construction of this ship was completed on July 22, 1942. She brought supplies to Suez for the Battle of El Alamein, where the Allies began to push the Germans from North Africa.

From 1942-45, the *Vancouver* traveled to ports in the U.S., New Zealand, Egypt, South Africa, Australia and other countries. In 1943, two crew members were lost overboard in heavy seas. During the same year the stress of everyday life caused two other personnel to jump overboard, where they were rescued by another ship.

During deployment to the Freeport Liberty Ship Reef site in 1976, the *Vancouver* sank during a storm and settled to the bottom of the Gulf at its present position.

Eleven 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.

Photo courtesy of the National Archives.



Liberty Ship steaming with anti-torpedo nets deployed.

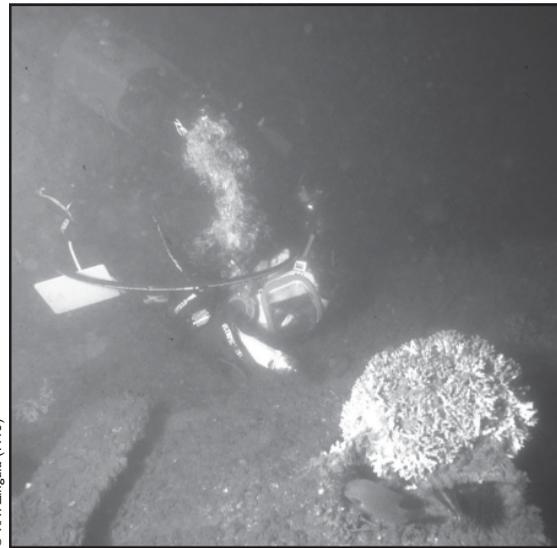
Texas Artificial Reefs A Tribute to the Lone Star State

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, 26 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.



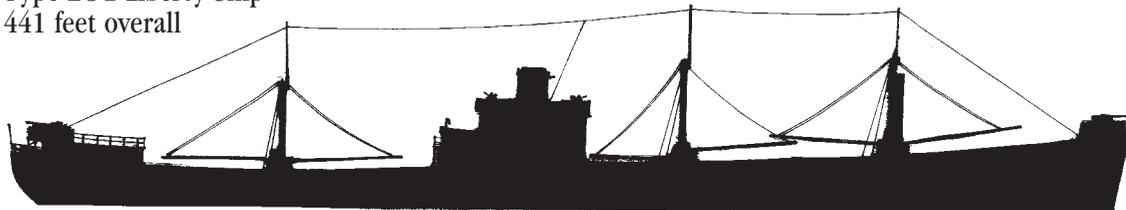
Vancouver Liberty Ship Reef
 28° 47' 34.817" N
 95° 20' 52.052" W
 9 nm from Freeport bearing 213°.



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Jan Culbertson, TPWD Artificial Reef Coordinator, inspects growth of *Oculina* coral, with damsel fish hiding behind it, on Vancouver.

Type EC-2 Liberty Ship
 441 feet overall

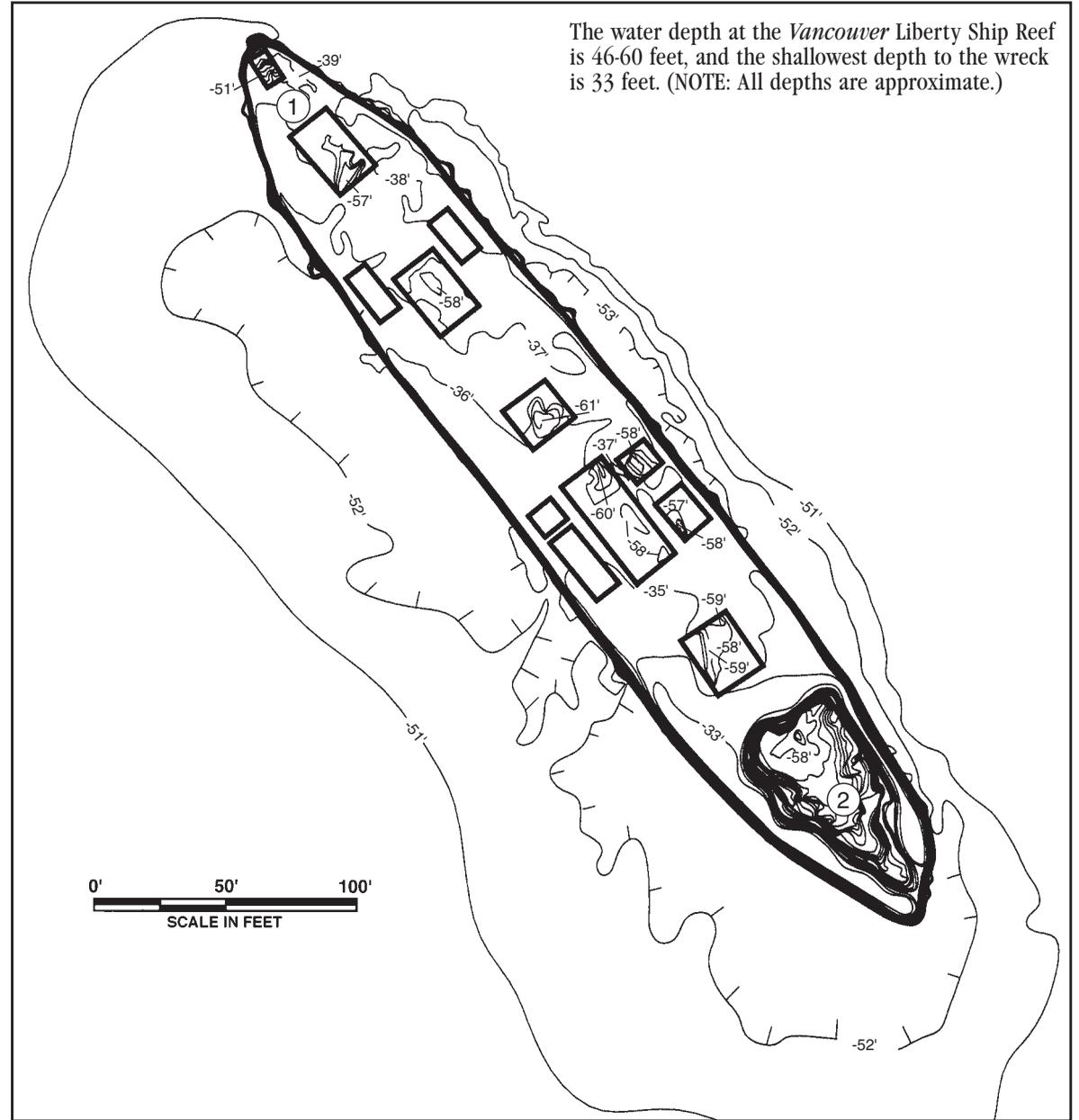


Andrew Hall (1995)

28° 47' 41.351" N
 95° 20' 59.470" W

BOUNDARY LIMITS OF ARTIFICIAL REEF

28° 47' 41.351" N
 95° 20' 44.634" W



28° 47' 28.283" N
 95° 20' 59.470" W

BOUNDARY LIMITS OF ARTIFICIAL REEF

28° 47' 28.283" N
 95° 20' 44.634" W

the
**LIBERTY
 SHIP
 REEFS**