



PRESS RELEASE

City of Pompano Beach

100 West Atlantic Boulevard | Pompano Beach, FL 33060

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The Ship Has Sailed and Soon Will Sink

A 324 foot vessel is poised to set sail on its voyage from New York City making a stop on the Miami River before cruising into Pompano Beach complete with interactive art. The ship will include specific themes, exciting underwater events, artwork and rotating art exhibits to create a unique dive experience for local and international tourists. The ship sinking event is scheduled for mid-July.

In a public-private partnership, the City of Pompano Beach and the Isle Casino Racing Pompano Park have each provided \$312,500 towards this artificial reef project. The Shipwreck Park, Inc., a 501(c) 3 organization has been established for developing and maintaining Shipwreck Park which will eventually include a number of underwater adventures off the coast of Pompano Beach. The foundation has six board members from the City of Pompano Beach, The Isle, Pompano Beach Chamber of Commerce and Tourism/Economic Development Council Chairs.

This vessel is a large tanker ship that is being sold by the City of New York to The Shipwreck Park Foundation at a greatly reduced price. Because it has been a publically owned ship, it requires far less environmental cleanup prior to sinking, which is typically the largest part of the expenditure in these artificial reef projects. Average costs for a project like this would normally be five to six million dollars to purchase a suitable vessel, have it cleaned to meet environmental standards, relocate it to Broward County and sink it in the permitted location. A highly experienced team with a proven track record of sinking ships for artificial reefs has been working with the foundation to help accomplish this project.

The ship sinking will create a scope of diving experiences from 50-150 feet below the surface and about 1.5 miles east of the Pompano Beach Pier. The transformed ship will become a haven for fish as well as scuba divers. Prominent Pompano Beach artist Dennis MacDonald is creating a life sized underwater casino theme complete with poker tables and slot machines to decorate the main deck. Another section of the ship will display other types of fascinating local art creating a unique underwater experience.

The other artificial reefs of this size and scale in Florida are located many miles offshore, requiring lengthy boat rides to get to the site. The Pompano Beach location is much more attractive because it will be located in a flat, deep area, one and one half miles offshore. The unique geography allows for the perfect depth of water with quick, easy access from Port Everglades and Hillsboro Inlet. Additionally, our dive location is easier for travelers to get to by air.

The project will be the largest addition to South Florida's artificial reef system along the Atlantic coast. It is modeled after other artificial reef projects that have all realized far greater than expected returns on investment, helping to further create a year-round tourist destination.

Details about the ship and its sinking will be released as they become available.