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# Technology and Management of Artificial Reefs: An Update – A Special Symposium of the 127th Meeting of the American Fisheries Society

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## DEDICATED SECTION

### Technology and Management of Artificial Reefs: An Update

#### A Special Symposium of the 127th Meeting of the American Fisheries Society

In 1974, scientists and managers from throughout the United States gathered to discuss issues regarding the science of artificial reefs. Since that meeting, there have been five subsequent international symposia and a special symposium at the 125th annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society in 1995 to continue the dialog. At the 127th annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society, interested and available scientists again gathered at a theme session aimed at providing updates on the management and technology associated with artificial reef development. This dedicated section presents contributions from this theme session and is primarily focused on the Gulf of Mexico region, with one paper from California.

Evident at the meeting was the need for continued communication between managers and scientists about development, implementation,

and monitoring of artificial reefs. The following papers provide an appropriate mix of those various disciplines. The introduction to this theme session, authored by Christian et al., provides an overview of marine artificial reef development. Following the introduction are reports by the Louisiana and Texas artificial reef programs, which have both made significant progress over the past 10 yr. There are three papers discussing the evaluation of potential reef material, and the proceedings end with two scientific papers focused on red snapper biology as it relates to artificial reefs.

It is our hope that efforts to communicate between the various parties interested in artificial reef development will continue well into the future. The next International Artificial Reef Symposium is planned for Italy in 1999.

CHARLES A. WILSON, *Guest Associate Editor*