

Coastal Zone Management of Collier County University of Florida Extension Services

DIVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

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Jan. 9, 2008

MEDIA INVITED TO REEF CLEAN UP

Santa Lucia Reef Clean Up – Monday, Jan. 14

Clean up will begin Monday, Jan. 14 at the Santa Lucia Reef site, following an inspection dive made by Collier County staff.

Last month, Coastal Zone Management and Extension Services Department staff dove the artificial reef site to assess the need for clean up. During the dive, staff noted a significant amount of discarded fishing gear including line, boat anchors and casting nets.

A community team will assist in cleaning up the Santa Lucia Reef site. Team members are Collier County Coastal Zone Management, Collier County Extension Services, City of Naples, Rookery Bay and the Isles of Capri Fire Control District. Additionally, local captains, Will Geraghty of Grand Slam Charters and Eric Alexander of Solo Lobo Charters, will transport team members to the dive site on Jan. 14.

The Santa Lucia Reef is a popular fishing spot for anglers because of its close proximity to the City of Naples and Gordon Pass. The reef is often used by anglers as a location to cast for bait fish, however over the years nets and other fishing gear have become entangled in the reef presenting safety hazards to marine life.

Experts to Interview

Bryan Fluech 239-417-6310 x225 or 438-5594

Pam Keyes 239 601-1130

Knowledge is the logistics of the clean up and dangers of abandoned fishing gear.

Captain Will Geraghty: 239-793-0969

Captain Eric Alexander: 239-290-0532

Knowledge is the history of the Santa Lucia Reef and activity.

MEDIA WELCOME ABOARD

There is limited space for media to go for optimal video and photo opportunities. The trip will last between three and four hours. The Santa Lucia Reef Clean Up Team will leave from the Port O' Call Marina by Tin City, 8 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 14.

To reserve a spot, media members must contact Bryan Fluech at (239) 417-6310 extension 225.

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