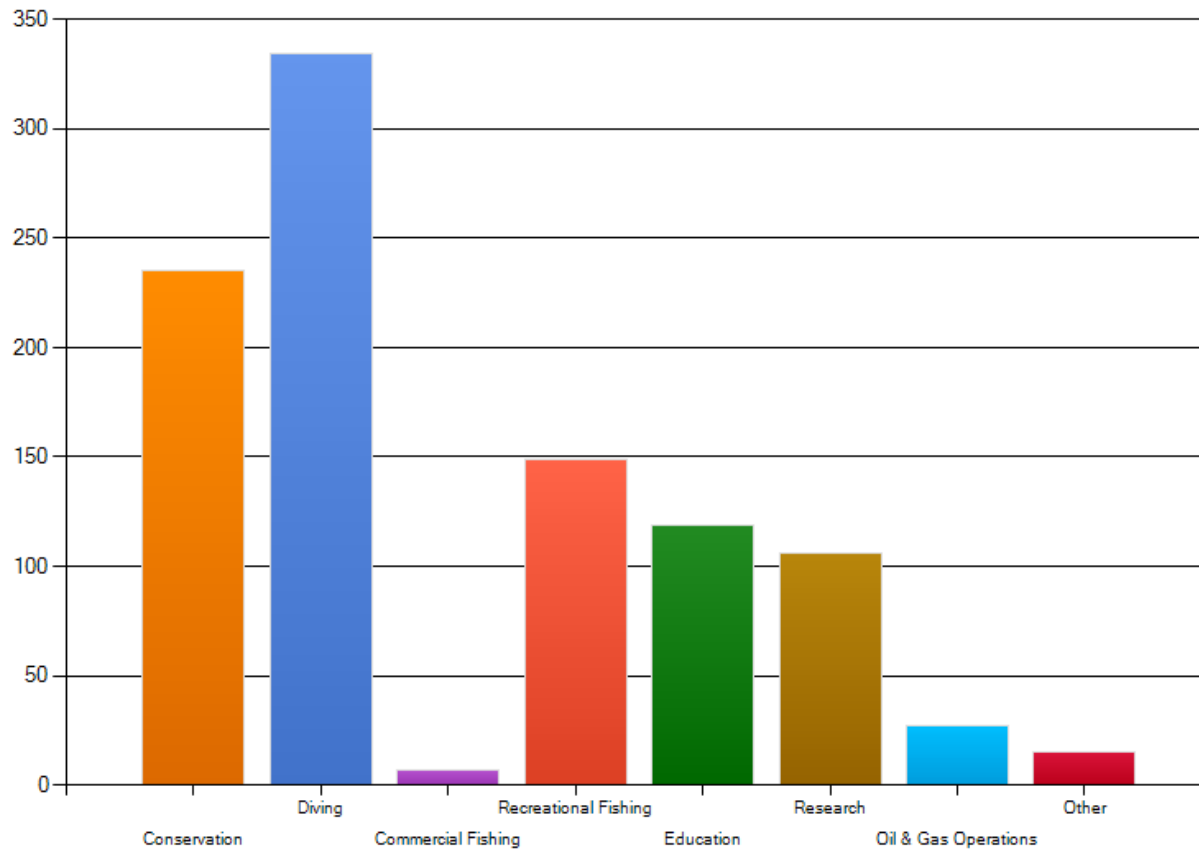


Artificial Reef
ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS
Nine Questions in Survey

(432 Participants over 27 day period, Sept 5 to October 1, 2012)

Question 1 - Interest/User Group

Which of the following best describes your interests? (You may choose more than one.)



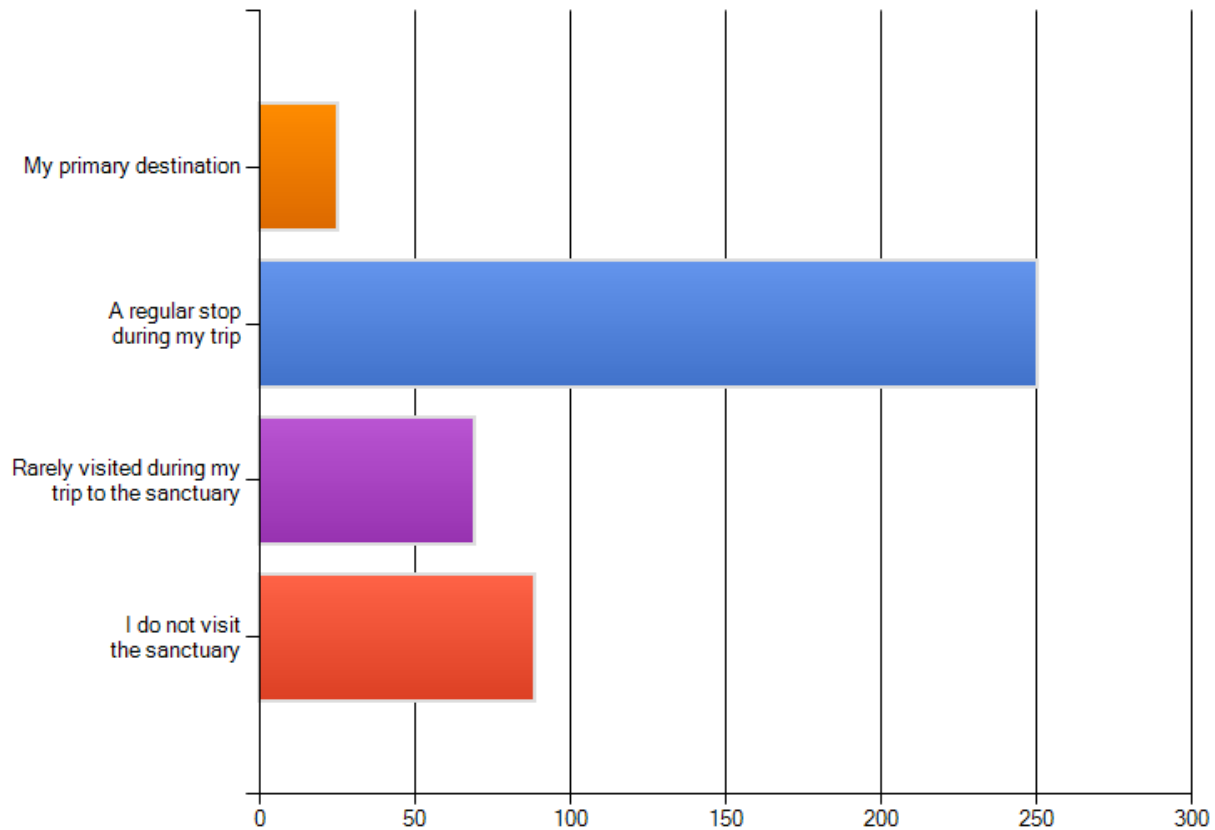
Question 1 - Interest/User Group

Which of the following best describes your interests?
(you may choose more than one)

- Conservation – 235 responses
- Diving – 334 responses
- Commercial Fishing – 7 responses
- Recreational Fishing – 149 responses
- Education – 119 responses
- Research – 106 responses
- Oil and Gas Operations – 27 responses
- Other – 15 responses

Question 2 – Use of HI A-389A

Which of the following best describes your use of the HI-A-389-A platform when visiting Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary?



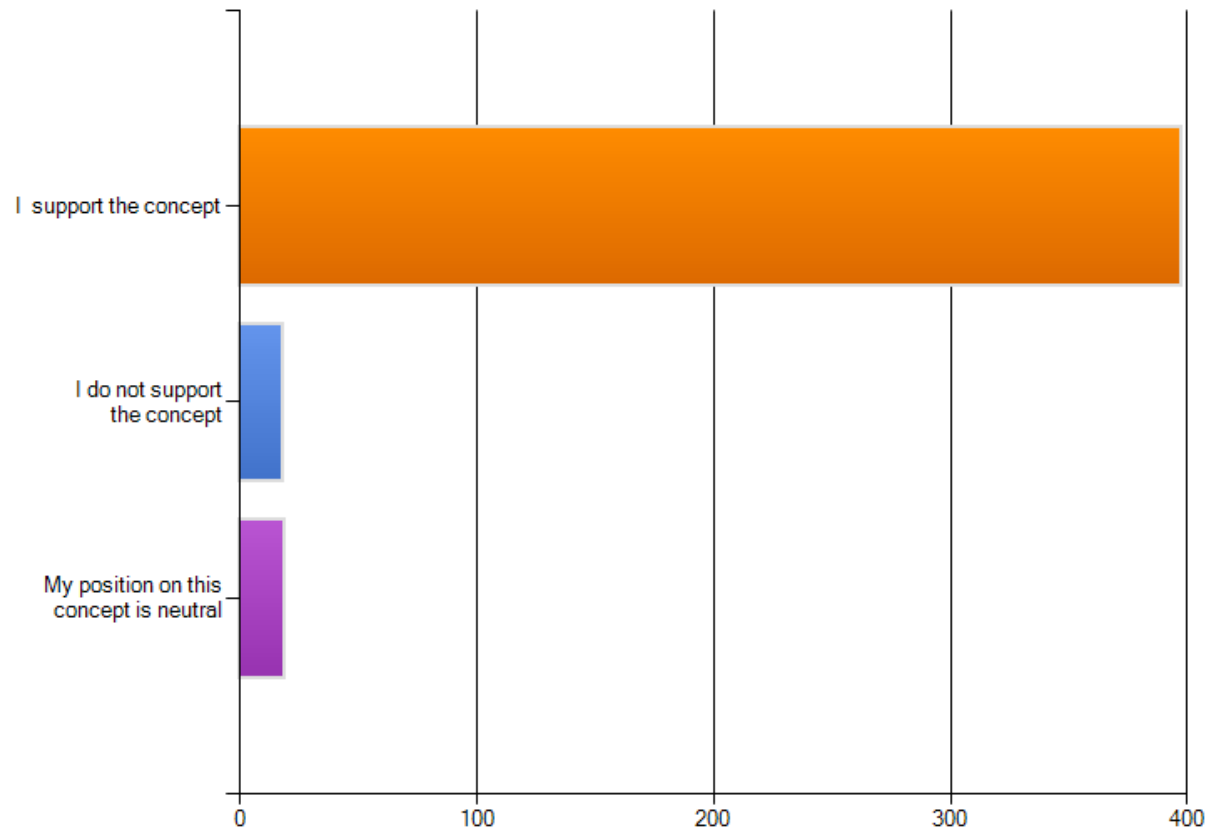
Question 2 – Use of HI A-389A

Which of the following best describes your use of the HI-A-389-A platform when visiting Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary?

- My primary destination – 25 responses
- A regular stop during my trip – 250 responses
- Rarely visited during my trip to the sanctuary – 69 responses
- I do not visit the sanctuary – 88 responses

Question 3 – For Retaining AR in Sanctuary

Which of the following best describes your position regarding the concept of retaining a decommissioned oil/gas platform within the sanctuary as an artificial reef?

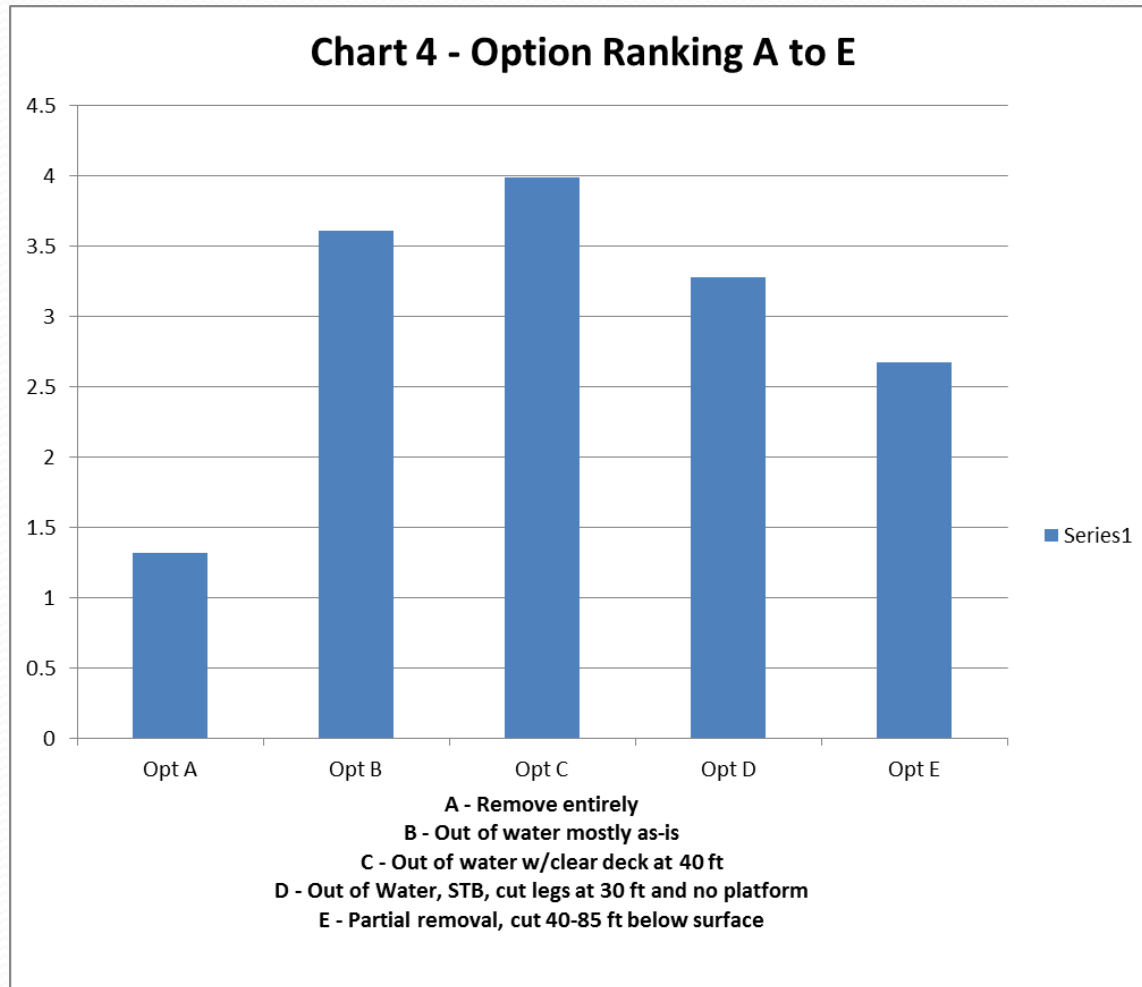


Question 3 – For Retaining AR in Sanctuary

Which of the following best describes your position regarding the concept of retaining a decommissioned oil/gas platform within the sanctuary as an artificial reef?

- I support the concept – 397 responses
- I do not support the concept – 17 responses
- My position on this concept is neutral – 18 responses

Question 4 – Option Ranking



Question 4 – Option Ranking

Rank the following list of possible dispositions of a platform within the sanctuary by assigning a number from 1 through 5 to each statement (1 being your most preferred and 5 being your least preferred choice). In all cases, wells would be plugged by the owner and all gas and oil production equipment and piping would be removed.

- Remove the platform in its entirety from the sanctuary – 4.68 average score
- Platform standing in place mostly “as is” with living accommodations, utilities and pad – 2.39 average score
- Platform standing in place with clear deck about 40 feet above sea level for visitor day-use; no provisions for living/overnight stays – 2.01 average score
- Structure standing in place with legs cut off as stubs approximately 30 feet above the surface; no decking but with required navigational aid equipment – 2.72 average score
- Structure left in place beneath the surface only and cut off at a minimum depth allowed by regulatory agencies including the U.S. Coast Guard, with the top of the structure at 40-85 feet deep – 3.33 average score

Question 5 – Option Ranking

If you ranked “A” (full removal) as most desired option, explain why (46 responses)

- Leave natural/Clutter concerns – 11 responses
- Invasive species threat – 3 responses
- Cost and liability – 3 responses
- Hazard to natural reef – 1 response

Note: numerous “leave in place” comments were left in this section

Question 6 – Option Ranking

If you ranked “B”, “C”, or “D” (all out-of-water) options as preferred, explain why (276 responses)

- Best for marine life – 95 responses
- Safe have/Tie-off boat/Point of reference/Day or overnight stay – 44 responses
- Research and Education potential – 38 responses
- Emergency evacuations – 30 responses
- Dive destination – 14 responses
- Best for users/divers/fishermen/tourists – 12 responses
- Take pressure off natural reef – 2 responses

Note: other reasons included NOAA weather station and place for migratory birds

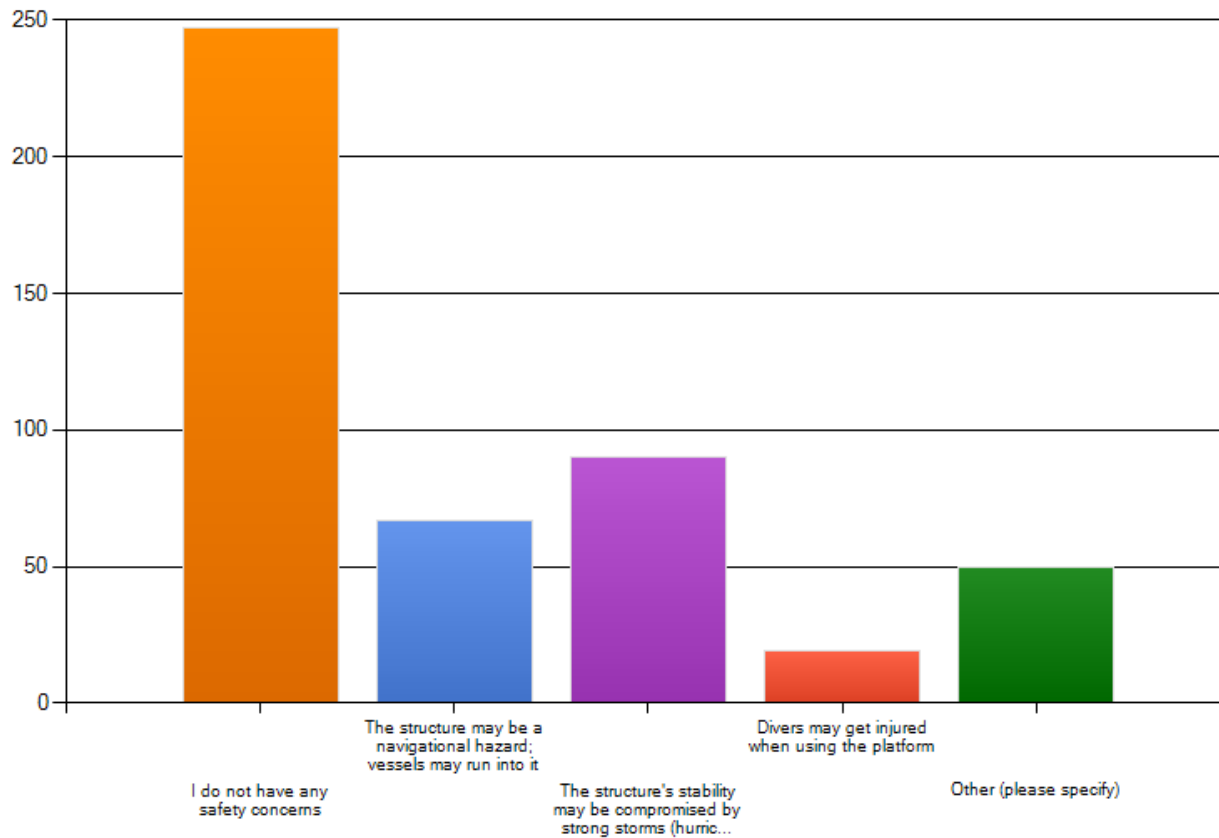
Question 7 – Option Ranking

If you ranked “E” (optimum depth) option as preferred, explain why (59 responses)

- 30-40 feet – 19 responses
- 50 feet – 4 responses
- 85 feet – 2 responses
- Leave in place fully – 2 responses
- 12 feet, 60 feet, and 75 feet – 1 response each

Question 8 – Safety Concerns

What safety concerns, if any, do you have about maintaining an artificial reef structure within sanctuary boundaries?



Question 8 – Safety Concerns

What safety concerns, if any, do you have about maintaining an artificial reef structure within sanctuary boundaries?

- I do not have any safety concerns – 247 responses
- The structure may be a navigational hazard; vessels may run into it – 67 responses
- The structure's stability may be compromised by strong storms (hurricanes) – 90 responses
- Divers may get injured when using the platform – 19 responses
- Other – 50 responses

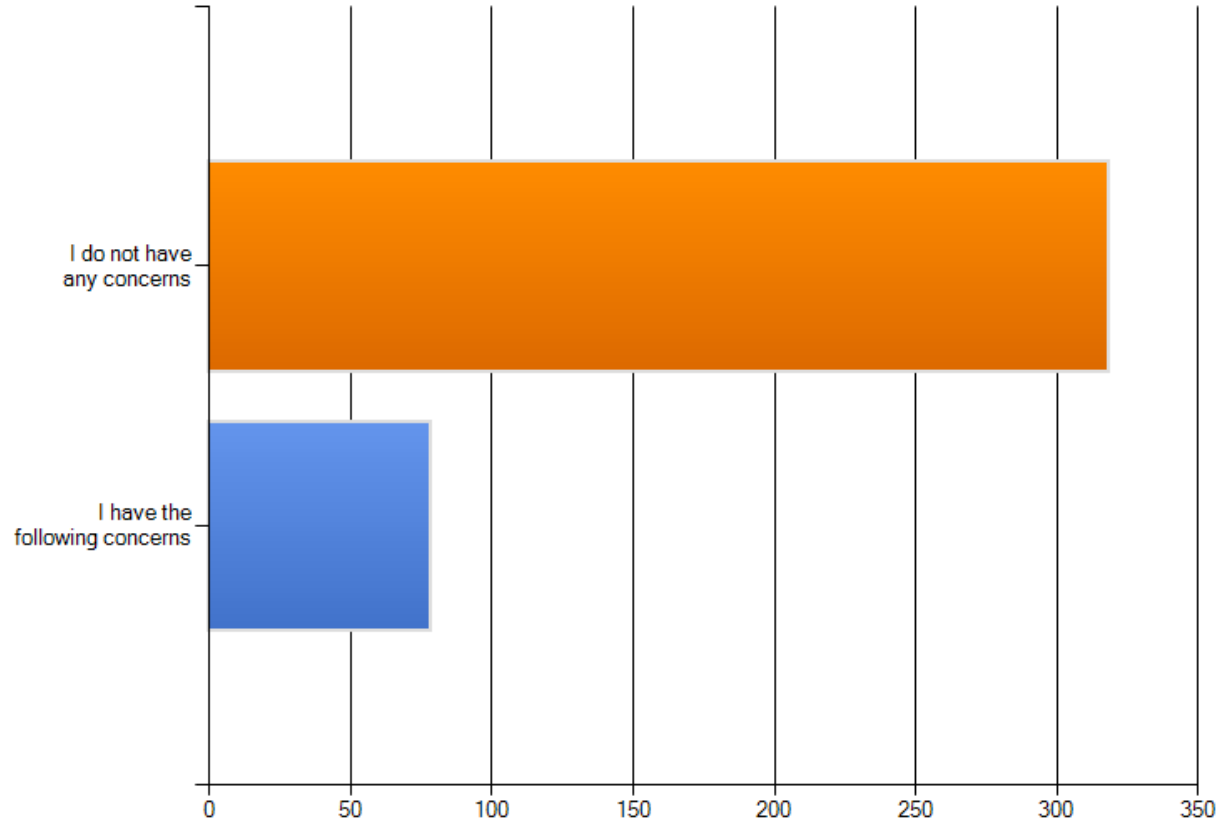
Question 8 – Safety Concerns

Other Safety Concerns (50 responses)

- Navigational hazard/Lighting and buoys – 12 responses
- Structural deterioration – 7 responses
- Cost/Liability – 3 responses
- Invasive species – 2 responses
- Waste/Trash – 2 responses
- Other – divers, threat to natural reef, fish community, etc. – 1 response each

Question 9 - Other Concerns

What other concerns, if any, do you have about maintaining an artificial reef structure within sanctuary boundaries?



Question 9 - Other Concerns

What other concerns, if any, do you have about maintaining an artificial reef structure within sanctuary boundaries?

- I do not have any concerns – 318 responses
- I have the following concerns – 78 responses

Question 9 - Other Concerns

Other concerns (78 responses)

- Cost – 20 responses
- Structural integrity/Deterioration – 12 responses
- Invasive species – 8 responses
- Removal destroys life – 7
- Hazard/Risk for accidents – 5 responses
- Trash/Waste problems/Environmental hazard – 5 responses
- Burden on sanctuary or law enforcement – 2 responses
- Lost dive site – 2 responses
- Vandals/Poaching – 2 responses
- All others (sediment contamination, disrupt tidal pattern, need safety standards, too many visitors, etc.) – 1 response each

SURVEY CONCLUSIONS

**92% Responded to keep Artificial Reef
in the sanctuary**

**Most preferred option “C” - out of water
with a platform ~ 40 feet above surface**