

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Reef Arches Partners with Marine Resources Council to Complete Ais Lookout Point Project

#### *Innovative Breakwater Installation Enhances Coastal Stability and Biodiversity*

West Palm Beach, Florida — March 21, 2024 — Reef Arches is thrilled to announce the successful completion of our collaborative project with the Marine Resources Council (MRC) at Ais Lookout Point, a federally protected archaeological site in Palm Bay, Florida, that was severely impacted by hurricanes and in dire need of restoration. This partnership has been a tremendous opportunity to implement a breakwater system recognized for its bank stabilization benefits.

The project took place at Ais Lookout Point, which is not only significant for its historical context but also vital for the ecological health of the surrounding area. The damage from recent hurricanes created an urgent need for effective shoreline stabilization solutions. Thanks to the swift teamwork between Reef Arches and MRC, we completed this project in record time, deploying thirty-seven Reef Arch units between March 25-28, 2024.

“We are incredibly excited about the speed and collaboration that made this project possible,” said Nicholas Bourdon, Co-founder of Reef Arches. “The success of this initiative demonstrates the power of partnerships in tackling environmental challenges and enhancing coastal *resilience*.”

Mara Skadden, Director of Science at MRC, expressed her enthusiasm for the project: “MRC permitted this living shoreline/shoreline stabilization project through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Both permitting organizations were thrilled with the design and effectiveness of Reef Arches’ product. The U.S. Army Corps even reached out to me personally to thank me for using this product and for creating new habitat within the Indian River Lagoon.”

Remarkably, we were able to submit permit applications and receive authorized permits within just one week, a significant improvement over the usual 120-day turnaround on environmental regulatory permits. Reef Arches’ innovative deployment method eliminated the need for a shallow water barge and crane operation, allowing for a more efficient installation process.

Within days of deployment, the Reef Arch breakwaters demonstrated impressive results, building up feet of horizontal sediment and over half an inch of vertical sediment accretion. The structures have already outperformed coquina breakwater structures deployed on the same shoreline. Additionally, we are observing an increase in wading birds, fish, and rays around the breakwater structures, indicating a burgeoning marine ecosystem.

Looking ahead, we plan to plant mangroves and other native vegetation behind the breakwaters in the coming months. Ongoing quarterly research monitoring will track the efficacy of the breakwaters and their impact on the local environment.

Reef Arches and the Marine Resources Council are excited to continue this vital work, demonstrating the effectiveness of innovative solutions in coastal restoration and habitat enhancement.

For more information about the project and future initiatives, please visit [Reef Arches Website] and [Marine Resources Council Website].