

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clean Nova Scotia installs artificial reefs in Halifax Harbour

Dartmouth, N.S. - Clean Nova Scotia is expanding their restoration work beyond freshwater habitat and into marine coastal environments through the launch of the Atlantic Reef Ball Program. The program creates habitat for marine life in shallow coastal waters by placing cement structures known as Reef Balls on the ocean floor. Partnering with Clean Nova Scotia on the inaugural reef installation is Irving Shipbuilding, which has provided support for the construction and deployment of 100 Reef Balls in the Halifax Harbour. The first artificial reef will be installed on Tuesday, October 29, following an 11 a.m. announcement near Black Rock Beach, Point Pleasant Park.

“We see this innovative program as a great opportunity to have a positive effect on Nova Scotia’s natural environment, in collaboration with community partners,” says Chris Morrissey, Executive Director, Clean Nova Scotia. “Currently we are the only organization in Atlantic Canada capable of producing certified Reef Balls, and we are excited to offer this form of salt water restoration.”

Clean Nova Scotia is currently capable of producing two styles of Reef Balls, Pallet and Layer Cake, to increase habitat diversity. They are also the first to install a Layer Cake Reef Ball in Canadian waters.

“Irving Shipbuilding is in the midst of investing \$300M into new facilities, equipment, systems and processes to ready ourselves to build the Royal Canadian Navy’s new combat fleet,” says Kevin McCoy, President, Irving Shipbuilding. “To do that, we needed to repatriate a portion of the harbour for a land level facility on which to assemble the ships. Our roots on Halifax Harbour go back centuries and we feel a real responsibility to our home. Supporting this Clean Nova Scotia habitat restoration project was the perfect way to ensure healthy, growing fish habitats well into the future. We encourage other organizations to do the same.”

“A key component of the fisheries protection regime is offsetting the impacts of habitat degradation where such impacts cannot be avoided or mitigated,” says David Millar, Regional Director of Ecosystems Management for the Maritimes Region of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. “In certain instances, Reef Balls such as the ones to be used in the Halifax Harbour can be an effective tool available to project proponents to help them meet the requirements under the Fisheries Act.”

The program’s first set of Reef Balls is scheduled for installation at 11:30 a.m. on October 29 along the coast of Point Pleasant Park, and will be visible from shore. Parking is available in the [Point Pleasant Park lower lot](#), at the end of Point Pleasant Drive. Interview and photo opportunities will be available with representatives from both Clean Nova Scotia and Irving Shipbuilding.

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Backgrounders:

Clean Nova Scotia

Clean Nova Scotia is a registered charity that provides individuals and communities with the means, knowledge, and opportunity to make responsible environmental choices, through many educational programs, services, and resources. Founded in 1988, Clean Nova Scotia is proud to provide leadership and knowledge in environmental practices and sustainability development.

Clean Nova Scotia recognizes the importance of direct environmental restoration work. The Atlantic Reef Ball Program expands the organization's existing restoration work in freshwater habitat to include the marine coastal environment. For more information: clean.ns.ca.

Irving Shipbuilding Inc.

Irving Shipbuilding is part of the J.D. Irving, Limited Group of companies and is in the business of building quality ships and repairing vessels. The company's primary site is Halifax Shipyard, with three other locations in the Maritime Provinces. Irving Shipbuilding was selected in 2011 as Canada's Combatant Shipbuilder under the merit-based National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy and is in the early stages of a 30 year military shipbuilding program. It is currently working on a number of significant projects for the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Coast Guard.

Atlantic Reef Ball Program

An initiative of Clean Nova Scotia, the Atlantic Reef Ball Program creates, installs, and monitors artificial reefs across Nova Scotia in an effort to restore damaged coastal marine habitat. The structures, known as Reef Balls, are designed to establish quality habitat that will draw a variety of marine species into coastal zones. The inaugural project of this program involves the installation of 100 Reef Balls in the Halifax Harbour in late autumn 2013. For more information: clean.ns.ca/reefballs.

Reef Balls

Developed by the US-based Reef Ball Foundation, Reef Balls are artificial reef structures, approximately 4 feet wide and 3 feet tall. They are made with pH-neutral concrete and specialized surface features that enhance algal settlement and plant growth. They do not leach toxins into the water, and do not contain biologically active compounds.

Clean Nova Scotia is the only organization in Atlantic Canada currently capable of producing certified Reef Balls. The Atlantic Reef Ball Program produces two different types of Reef Balls, to support a more diverse reef system. The Pallet Reef Ball is a hollow structure with holes

throughout, which keeps the Ball stable on the sea floor and provides sea life access to the protective interior. The holes also create eddies in the water, which help circulate nutrients to the species living on and within the structure.

In comparison, the Layer Cake Reef Ball is designed with thin ledges at the top which become progressively larger ledges near the bottom of the dome. This design tends to attract specific species like lobster. Clean Nova Scotia is proud to be the first organization to install the Layer Cake style of Reef Ball in Canadian waters.