

TRIUMPH GULF COAST, INC. PRE-APPLICATION FORM

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. (“Triumph Gulf Coast”) has created a pre-application process to provide initial consideration of potential ideas for projects or programs that may seek an award of funding. Applicants are required to participate in the pre-application process. Notwithstanding the response from Triumph Gulf Coast on the pre-application form, an Applicant may still elect to submit an Application.

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Name of Individual/Entity/Organization: City of Mexico Beach, Florida

Brief Description of Background of Individual/Entity/Organization: A beach community in Bay County in Northwest Florida on the Gulf Coast. Our City of 1,072 full-time residents swells to well over 10,000 as a popular tourist destination for outdoor recreation such as fishing & diving.

Contact Information:

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Names of co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program: Mexico Beach Community Development Council, Mexico

Artificial Reef Association (a 501c(3) non-profit organization), and St Joe Community Foundation.

REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In a maximum of three (3) pages, please describe the proposed project or program, including (i) the amount of funds being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast; (ii) the amount and identity of other sources of funds for the proposed project or program; (iii) the location of the project or program; (iv) summary description of the proposed program, including how the program will be transformational and promote economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties, and (v) a summary timeline for the proposed project or program.

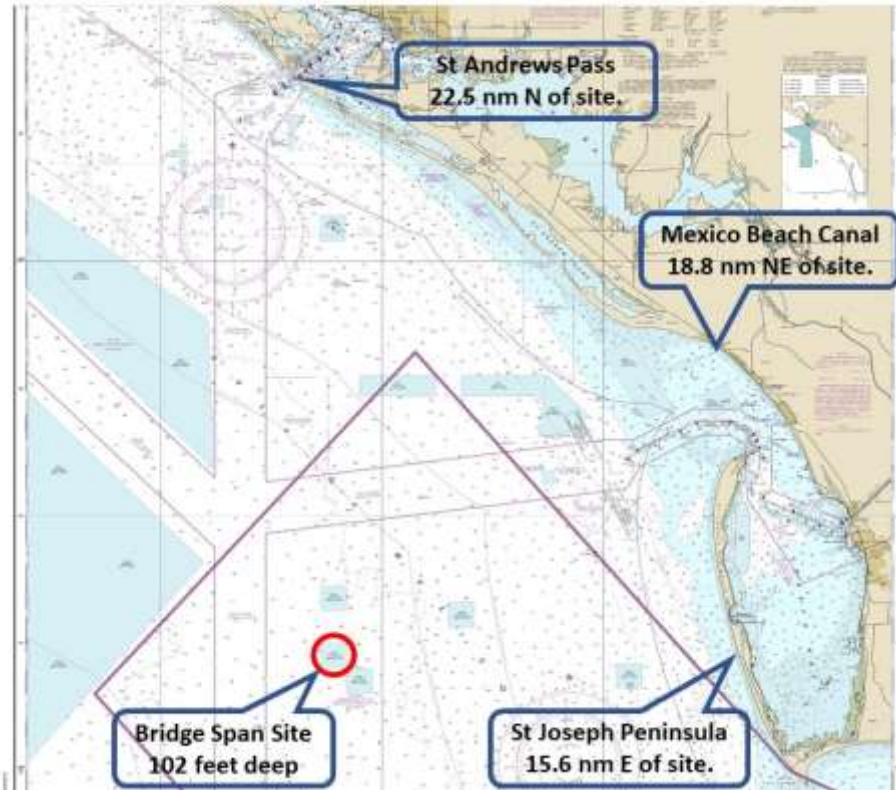
IMPORTANT NOTICE

This pre-application process will **not** result in an award of funding by Triumph Gulf Coast. Rather, this process is designed to facilitate submission of ideas for potential projects or programs before the Applicant expends time and/or resources to complete a full Application. All Applicants for funding are required to complete an Application, which will be scored, and then considered for award in the discretion of Triumph Gulf Coast Board.

**Executive Summary
for
City of Mexico Beach Artificial Reef Project**



1. **Amount of funds being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast:** \$970,000.00
2. **Amount and identity of other sources of funds for the proposed project:**
 - a. Mexico Beach Artificial Reef Association: \$80,000.00
 - b. St Joe Community Foundation: \$50,000.00
3. **Location of the Project** (see map below): Gulf coastal waters off Bay and Gulf Counties 15.6 nautical miles (nm) west of the St Joseph Peninsula (Gulf County); 18.8 nm southwest of the Mexico Beach Canal (Bay County); and, 22.5 nm south of St Andrews Pass (Bay County/Panama City). The location is in the Bridge Span Permit Site (federal waters) issued by the US Army Corps of Engineers at coordinates of latitude N29 44.498 and longitude W85 42.173 at a water depth of 102 feet.
4. **Description of the Proposed Project:**
 - a. Walter Marine/Reefmaker offers a salvaged Casino Boat (see photos above and below) as a candidate for a large scale artificial reef/shipwreck project. The vessel is constructed of heavy gauge steel with dimensions of 215' length X 66' wide X 70' tall. It will be prepared according to the Best Management Practices for Preparing Vessels Intended to Create Artificial Reefs published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency & The U.S. Maritime Administration & the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Guidelines for Marine Artificial Reef Materials to meet US Army Corps of Engineers artificial reef permit requirements.



b. **Purpose:** Provide a new transformational marine habitat for environmental conservation of marine life promoting regional economic trade related to tourism/ecotourism, boating, commercial/recreational fisheries, and SCUBA diving activities. This project will diversely impact and enhance all community services such as hotels, restaurants, marinas, fishing/diving charter boats, tackle shops, dive shops, and numerous other entities supporting both commercial and recreational activities.

c. **Economic Impact:** It has been shown that other artificial reefs create jobs, income and government revenue. Through tourism, research, fishing and diving, we expect that this artificial reef will have very positive benefits for the local area. A recent study, "Impacts of Artificial Reefs and Diving Tourism" (http://www.dgt.uns.ac.rs/turizam/arhiva/vol_1704_2.pdf) confirms the economic benefits of artificial reefs in new jobs, increased wages and millions of dollars of increased spending on recreation. The sinking of the *USS Spiegel Grove* in Monroe County, Florida, created 70 new jobs and led to an income of \$32M for the county. The sinking of the *USS Vandenberg* helped create an estimated 105 new jobs in recreation and other related industries. Recreational revenues were boosted by \$6.5M. Other nearby locations have reported improvements to the local economy thanks to artificial reefs also. For example, "Escambia County Florida invested \$1 million in sinking the USS Oriskany, that \$ was back in the bank 3 days after the sinking. International tourists are now coming to Pensacola. The reef generates \$1-1.4 million per month in tourism commerce. Bed-tax collections up %17 as a result" (Source: Artificial Reefs International). "Travel cost models indicate an average use value of \$1,215 per diver with current Oriskany dive trips. Expected annual use value increases to \$2,596 with the bundling of a second vessel." (Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Center for Environmental Economics).

(1). For leisure and divers, “after the sinking of aforementioned ships, the scuba-diving centers in Florida Keys recorded a 188.9% business increase” according to the study, “Impacts of Artificial Reefs and Diving Tourism”.

(2). For fishing, without healthy reefs, fish stocks decline, affecting the businesses that rely on them. The creation of a reef as advanced and as large as we are proposing will bring new marine life to the area, encouraging the local commercial/recreational fishing industry and creating jobs.



5. **Project Timeline:** 12-24 months for cleaning, preparation, towing, and sinking upon award of contract.