

Famed ship *Zuni/Tamara* cleared by EPA, USCG to be sunk by Delaware and New Jersey as artificial reef addition

World War II-era ship set to go down on Del-Jersey-Land Reef

DOVER – Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced today that the *Zuni/Tamara*, a World War II-era ship with a famed history at sea that continued into the 1990s, has been cleared by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Coast Guard for sinking onto the Del-Jersey-Land Inshore Artificial Reef. *Zuni/Tamara* will be jointly sunk by the two states in the near future approximately 26 nautical miles from both Lewes and Cape May, N.J.

Both the EPA and Coast Guard recently inspected *Zuni/Tamara* at the Norfolk, Va. shipyard of contractor Coleen Marine. Extensive environmental preparation for reefing the 74-year-old vessel included removing interior paneling and insulation, and emptying and cleaning the vessel of all fuel and fluids. USCG approved the ship as fit for reefing on the Del-Jersey-Land site, which comprises military ships including the destroyer *USS Arthur W. Radford*, the longest ship reefed on the Atlantic Coast; the minesweeper *Gregory Poole*, and the *Shearwater*, which was in service for both the US Army as a freighter and the Navy as a support ship.

Jeff Tinsman, DNREC Division of Fish & Wildlife reef program coordinator, said plans call for *Zuni/Tamara* to be reefed

when a weather window of 48-72 hours for calmer seas allows for the ship to be towed up the coast and to the reef site. "We are certain that it will happen sooner rather than later," he said. "Optimally, it would be right after the Easter holiday weekend. If that scheduling holds, anglers and divers should be working the *Zuni/Tamaroa* for recreational opportunities that she presents almost immediately."

DNREC is the lead agency on the *Zuni/Tamaroa* reefing project, providing 75 percent of the funding from The Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration program administered by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. New Jersey is providing 25 percent matching funds from The Fisherman Magazine's Sportfishing Fund.

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