

# Snook Brushed Off to Clean North Jetty

The divers said the snook were so thick along the North Jetty that they literally had to brush them aside to conduct their underwater cleanup on Sunday, May 20, 2018. It was a beautiful morning for everyone involved, a total of 41 volunteers, 20 divers, 3 paddlers, and 16 "topsider" support.



It's so much fun to get together with good people and spend a little time making one of our favorite places better for fish, wildlife and people too.







Ken Lackmann got everybody organized. Ronda Ryan and Susie got filthy measuring and weighing all the crazy things that were pulled up. This underwater cleanup was a friendly collaboration among the Suncoast Reef Rovers of Venice, Sarasota Bay Watch, Reelcycle and the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office.



As usual, there was a shocking amount of marine debris down there. About 400 pounds of waste included traps, nets, fishing line, rods & reels, ropes, an anchor, masks & snorkels and much more. Some of the weirdest things found were a driver's license from Illinois, a traffic cone and a plastic cover for a navigational beacon.





After 20 years of cleanups, the Suncoast Reef Rovers continue to find so much trash here. The take home lesson seems to be that we need to clean the oceans like we clean our homes - regularly and forever. Thank goodness it is fun.



Special thanks to the Sheriff's Deputy who brought the patrol boat to keep everybody safe and who also provided a Public Service Aide on the land side. Devin Sanderson of Reelcycle.org picks up the waste as part of their Fishing for Energy partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Check it out online.





The divers really had a good time. The snook followed them around, a goliath grouper was so close you could almost touch it and a manatee startled one diver who turned around to find it up close and personal. Sarasota Bay Watch brought their trashy mermaid, just for a laugh.