

**SEPT. 29, 2011
TOWN MEDIA RELEASE**

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**CONGRESSMAN ALLEN WEST TO TAKE PART
IN UNDERWATER REEF CLEAN-UP IN FLORIDA**

U.S. Rep. Allen West, R-Plantation, is scheduled to scuba dive on the Town's newest artificial reef and then take part in an underwater reef clean-up on Saturday (10-1-11) in the **Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea**.

When he's done diving, West will join dozens of volunteers on land for the **Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Chamber of Commerce's** monthly beach clean-up, which will take place from 9 to 9:30AM in front of the Commercial beach pavilion.

West will dive with 20 scuba divers from **Gold Coast Scuba** on Saturday at 7:30AM for the group's underwater clean-up of the coral reef underneath Anglin's Pier, which is located at the east end of Commercial Boulevard in Town. The congressman will dive for about one hour.

West and the divers expect to pick up tangled balls of monofilament, lead weights, hooks, knives and other debris lost by anglers over the years. The divers won't have to dive very deep. The depth under the pier is 12 to 15 feet. The divers will be in the water for about one hour.

Either before or after the reef clean-up, Congressman West will inspect the Town's newest artificial reef, which utilizes two solar-powered buoys to deliver a low level of electricity to six steel-frame modules in 12 feet of water.

The electric current, which is too low to harm divers or snorkelers if they touch the structure, increases the rate of coral growth. Similar artificial reefs have been built elsewhere in the world, but this is the first reef of its type in the U.S.

The Town's artificial reef was deployed in late September.

For more information, call the Town's public information office at **954-640-4209**.