

# DEEP STIM III



Built in the 1990s as a 239-foot offshore exploration vessel, the R/V Deep Stim III spent decades supporting oil and gas operations before beginning an entirely new mission beneath the Gulf. Through a rare tri-county partnership between Destin–Fort Walton Beach, Walton County, and Panama City Beach, the vessel was carefully prepared and repurposed to become Northwest Florida’s second-largest artificial reef vessel.

On January 30, 2024, the Deep Stim III was intentionally sunk, coming to rest upright in 135 feet of water with an impressive 65 feet of vertical relief. The wreck rises dramatically from the sandy seafloor to the top of her iconic crow’s nest. Built to provide massive structure and long-term habitat, the site attracts marine life while offering divers a thrilling deep, advanced-level wreck dive.