

SPANISH SHANTY

The Spanish Shanty is one of St. Andrews Bay's earliest and most storied nearshore reef sites. Formed in the mid-1970s when a 150-foot barge, locally known as the "Tar Barge", sank just north of Shell Island, the site quickly became a magnet for marine life and a favorite spot for early bay exploration. Resting in only about 19 feet of water, it helped shape the bay's reputation for accessible underwater adventure.

Today, the Spanish Shanty remains a popular shallow-water destination for snorkelers and divers, where fish gather around the remaining structure and sunlight floods the seafloor. While much of the original material has weathered with time, the site continues to function as valuable nearshore habitat. Ongoing efforts focus on improving reef conditions while protecting nearby seagrass, ensuring the Spanish Shanty stays a fun, vibrant place to experience marine life up close in the calm waters of St. Andrews Bay.

