

Southsea divers help create hit TV show in waters off Bahamas

Stunning scenes on documentary are work of team from Southsea

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TV VIEWERS will tonight marvel at stunning underwater scenes which were made possible by a team of Southsea divers.

The groundbreaking BBC1 documentary *Life*, which focuses on animals across the planet, tonight includes the fruits of a four-year project between the BBC and diving company Triton Scuba, based in Highland Road, Southsea.

David Jones, diving instructor and Triton Scuba's owner, explained: 'I did some work with *Blue Planet*, helping with some underwater features, and I was approached in 2005 by the team working on *Life* because of that.

'They thought I could help them and I jumped at the chance.'

Tonight's show centres on a sunken ship-wreck and the creatures which colonise it.

Mr Jones said: 'Originally, they wanted to blow the boat up, I think to show that even sea-battles can create new places for animals to live.

'But I used to be a bomb-disposal expert and knew an explosion wouldn't be easy to control, especially as we had to sink it in a pinpointed spot, and upright for the cameras.'

Instead, Mr Jones and his team went to the US, found a



SINKING The wrecked vessel is scuttled off the Bahamas so it could be filmed as sealife took it over

wreck, cleaned it and scuttled it in the Bahamas.

He said: 'We chose the Bahamas because there's a coral nearby, so wildlife was in the area to colonise the wreck, and it's protected from hurricanes, so it's a relatively safe place.

'Of course, no-one complained about the loca-

tion.'

The Triton team helped with dives, and made return visits to see the 'habitat project' progress - as well as teaching a youngster who presents an accompanying CBBC show, *Inside Life*, to dive at their Southsea centre, so he could tell younger viewers how the episode was put together.

Mr Jones said: 'They used time-lapse cameras, the first time they've been used underwater, and we helped them by showing how to use flares to light divers underwater.'

But despite his flare expertise, Mr Jones is only slightly more enlightened than other viewers about tonight's show. He said: 'We've seen clips

and we went to party in Bristol to know a great deal

'We know their spectacular footage watching the same one else. Just a little nervously.'

Life is on BE tonight. *Inside Life* on December 8, at

CAMERA Trident Scuba in action making the documentary series *Life*

