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# Cold War sub would sink off Jupiter, become Florida's first sub artificial reef



Eliot Kleinberg  
Updated January 4, 2017 | Filed in [environment](#), [Uncategorized](#).



(USS Clamagore Preservation & Memorial Assn)

For decades, a 320-foot Cold War-era submarine has been a floating tourist attraction in downtown Charleston S.C. Now a group hopes to sink it off Jupiter, perhaps as early as this summer, as part of Palm Beach County's renowned [150-plus piece artificial reef program](#) and as an "underwater museum." Organizers said it would be the first sub ever turned into a reef in Florida.

Palm Beach County plans to take possession of the [USS Clamagore](#), the "Gray Ghost of the Florida Coast," and sink it in about 100 feet, according to a memo for Tuesday's county commission meeting.

County Commissioners would vote to approve paying a Miami firm \$1 million. The money will come from a vessel registration fee trust fund.

The diesel-powered Clamagore, built in 1945, just after the end of World War II, ran up and down the Atlantic coast from Key West to Charleston and trained sailors to track Soviet nuclear subs. It was retired in 1975 and since 1981 has been docked since at the [Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum](#) in Charleston.

According to the memo for Tuesday's commission meeting, while the sub has been a popular draw, it has "structural fatigue" so extensive it's not practical to repair it enough for tourists to safely tour it. [Several groups had suggested new homes for the sub](#) but couldn't come up with the money.

The museum decided the sub deserved a better fate than a scrapyard and signed a deal last spring with [Artificial Reefs International-Clamagore](#), a subsidiary of Miami-based [CRB Geological and Environmental Services](#), to find a home for it somewhere in the ocean, ARI principal Joe Weatherby said Tuesday.

To read more, go later to [mypalmbeachpost.com](#).

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