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- ➤ The Fish of a LIfetime
- ➤ Three fish in a week
- Animals...both of them!



We're now entering fall. Fall has always been one of my favorite seasons. Game fish still around, the water is still warm and the crowds usually thin just a bit.

Tuna have been on everyone's mind this year. After being almost nonexistent for many years, the tuna have been showing up in full force the past few years and this year looks to be one of the best yet. Seveal Neptune's have shot California Tuna in the 200 lb range. Read about some exploits inside.

The annual Neptune family and friends camping trip was not as well attended as some in the past but once again it was a resounding success. Bottom line....it was fun.

Be sure not to miss the Riffe 40 year Anniversary celebration. Jay Riffe and family invite all to celebrate 40 years in business at a red carpet semi-formal event. Live music, killer food, craft beer and raffle tickets. \$20 per person and a portion of the proceeds goes to the Mares foundation.



Fish Standings 2018:

2018 Calico Derby – Dan Keeler 6.10 lbs
Lobster – Open
Halibut – Scott deFirmian, 14.55 lbs
Calico Bass – Scott de Firmian 10.9lbs
White Sea Bass – Paul Zylstra 76 lbs
Yellowtail– Seamus Callaghan 45.6 lbs
Kent McIntrye– Paul Zyulstra, 116.5 lbs
Tuna (Ca) – Dan Keeler 200.5 lbs
Tuna (other) – Mike Marsh: Blue Fin 77 lbs
Reef Fish (out of country) – Open
Pelagic (out of country) – Mori: Amberjack 61.2 lbs
Bonito – Todd Farquar 10.1 lbs
Dorado – Byron Quinonez 11.9 lbs



2018 Neptunes Board

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August 2018 Presidents Message

I hope the Ocean Gods have been looking at all of you kindly as these warm days progress. We're right in the midst of some of the greatest California spearfishing in the history of our sport. Perhaps the greatest year ever. Those of us who have laid eyes upon these monster bluefin that now grace our waters have been treated to something we'll never forget. Up until about 3 years ago, the last time Bluefin Tuna in this size range and in these numbers showed up, it was the era of Zane Grey in the 1920's. So those of you that haven't had a crack at them, I hope you do. I for one will be going after them cows every chance I get. At the upcoming meeting, some Tuna shooting pros will discuss some of their successful tactics. That's one not to be missed! The summer hasn't yet reached full bloom, and we all know how great August can be. And of course, some great memories are about to be created at our upcoming Neptunes family campout! We're expecting a great turnout once again. Hope you all can make it. So, this one is short and sweet. My gear is packed and we're boarding the boat tonight at 8. Two days beyond San Clemente Island. There's fair weather in the forecast, calm winds at sea, mellow swell on the horizon, I'm envisioning a school of big boy BFT coming right in close. The stoke is high. Lets go get em!

"I need this wild life, this freedom. My love of it grows more tremendously full, swift, & poignant, as the years multiply. I arise each day full of eagerness and energy, knowing well what achievement lies ahead of me. That's the nature, the meaning, the best of life itself".

Zane Grey (1872-1939) Long Life Ahead - TN

Trident Hyperlinks

Each year we depend upon donations from various sponsors who we feature in the newsletter. Please visit them first. Clicking on their logos will take you directly to their website.

In addition to the sponsors, hyperlinks have been added to the dfw pages for regulations, licenses and other announcements. Clicking on the headline above the "Club Announcements and Calendar" page or on the link in the body will take you to the Neptune 2018 calendar which has been shared to all members. All you need is a gmail account.





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September 5, Meeting: Me'n Ed's 7:30. Members bring personal scales for calibration using club scale.

<u>September 29, Riffe 40 year Anniversary and Fundraiser:</u> Tickets \$20. Riffe International HQ 5:00-10:00. 1214 Puerta Del Sol, San Clemente, Ca 92673

October 3, Meeting: Me'n Ed's 7:30. Manufacturer's night.

October 13, Fall Classic: Annual Neptune Fall Classic.

December 9, Christmas Dinner: The annual Neptune Christmas Dinner is scheduled for Sunday December 9. Location will be the King Harbor Yacht Club located at 280 Yacht Club Way, Redondo Beach, Ca. 90277.

For a complete listing of Neptune dates click on 2018 Neptune Calendar:



2018 Abalone Season Closed!

As many of you already know, the 2018 Abalone season has been closed. The California Fish and Game Commission voted unaminously to close the season due to concerns about declining abalone populations. They cited evidence of mass starvation and mortality among red abalone over the past several years. A decline in Kelp growth, combined with a rise in purple sea urchins has been blamed for the decline. For more information click here

2018 DFW Dates to remember

The DFW has published the new Sport Fishing Regulations for the seasons. Download the regs by clicking here

2018 Fishing License:

If you still don't have a 2018 fishing license, it can be purchased at many sporting goods and hunting stores as well as online at the Ca DFW website. Click here for DFW website

White Seabass:

The limit for white seabass is currently three per person, per day until March 15, 2019. Beginning June 16 2019, it will be 3 per person until it changes back again March 15

Spiny Lobster:

Lobster season is now closed. Remember to turn in your report card by April 30. Report cards can also be submitted online. Submit report cards here

First Day of 2018-19 season Saturday, September 29 at 0600. Last Day of 2018-19 season Wednesday, March 20, 2019.



The bluefin been showing up here in so cal last few months. A lot of big ones been landed and everyone is getting tuna fever. I was even able to get one. It's also bringing in some nice size sharks that feed of the tuna. My buddy got buzzed by one when he was diving a patty and was attracted to the commotion. Good thing humans don't taste good to sharks.

Anyways, I hope all is well with you and best of luck.









Another midnight swim, bad vis. I didnt see any halibut over 6 inches, and I wanted to leave and go home but I kept hunting and went super shallow and there she was!! Perfect shot on pectoral fin from the front and she swam right up the shaft and strung herself! KEEP LOOKING!!!!

Neptune's Annual Family and Friends Campout





























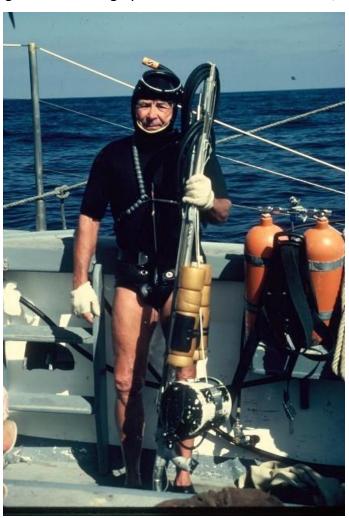
JACK PRODANOVICH

By Tom Blandford

There are a lot of hard-charging young studs in the club today; a few of them, however, may not be aware of men like Jack Prodanovich, Wally Potts, Bill Johnson, Marty Pasos, Glen Orr and a few more old-timers out of San Diego. All these men were members of the Bottom Scratchers, a free-diving club whose genesis began before WWII. They were dedicated spear fishermen, watermen, conservationists and good people that were fun to be with. I didn't know any of them well, but I was privileged to spend a fair amount of time with Jack and Wally in their respective workshops and I met Bill Johnson when he skippered the *Sand Dollar* on a trip to Guadalupe Island.

The first "addict gun" I saw was beautifully made by Wally; it was laminated with alternating layers of dark wood and light wood and highly varnished. If not a work of art, it was close.

Diving with Jack at Guadalupe Island—when he was in his late seventies or early eighties—was an experience I will always cherish. In my office at home I have a photo of Jack standing on the deck of the Sand Dollar, anchored at Guadalupe, wearing a wetsuit top—short sleeved—and no wetsuit pants. The muscles in his legs were well defined; clearly Jack had spent a great deal of time in the water. The barrel of his gun stood above the top of his head. His weight belt was a string of lead balls that wrapped around his torso; it gave him better balance in the water and was easier on his back. Though blind in one eye—an accident with a spear gun— Jack shot his fair share of yellows and whites on that trip.



Jack and his 8 band Tuna gun! On the Sand Dollar.



When Jack and Glenn Orr, co-founders of the Bottom Scratchers, began diving, masks and snorkels were not commercially available; Churchill fins were rare and hard to find. Believe it or not, Jack began spearing fish before fins were available. I can't imagine spearing fish, prying abalone off rocks or grabbing lobsters without fins. Wetsuits. What was a wetsuit? This obvious lack of essential equipment had little effect on him. He made his own mask out of a large rubber hose and a piece of cut glass. Pole spears were not available unless you made your own, and Jack did. He used his pole spear effectively, occasionally landing a small white seabass or young yellowtail, but it was obvious to him that a bigger, more powerful spear was needed.

Jack's solution of course was to make his own spear gun. The final version of his gun was nearly indestructible. It had an aluminum barrel, 3/8 inch stainless steel shaft and a spring-loaded spear head that was bullet proof. The trigger mechanism was unique: a pin was inserted into the trigger; to fire the gun the pin had to make contact with the release point of the mechanism. If your finger was not on the trigger, it would not fire.

Jack designed and made the first reels used on spear guns. The reel had a built-in brake, also unique in reels. He gave the design to Wally Potts, a close friend, who had experience in plastics. Wally built a huge reel out of PVC end caps that incorporated the brake. The reel was five inches in diameter and eight inches wide. Once perfected, Jack and Wally began producing and marketing the gun. It was wildly successful. Divers from all over California beat a path to Jack's garage—I was one of them—to buy equipment, learn about the sport and just hang out with Jack and Wally.



Sand Dollar loaded for Guadalupe 1985



A FEW TALES ABOUT JACK

Jack was a kind, wonderful person incapable of bragging and never glorifying his accomplishments. He once told me that if he saw two white seabass or yellowtail swimming together, he would pass on the shot. Even if they were big. He believed the two were probably mates, and he didn't have the heart to separate them.

Harry Ingram told me that he had a *new idea* about modifying a spear gun that would improve its accuracy and power. He ran the idea past Jack hoping the old master would approve. Jack soothingly and without being too officious, told Harry that he tried that "new idea" twenty years ago and it didn't work. Jack was a little ahead of his time.



Leaving Port



On September 11, 1984, in a futile attempt to win the "Big Fish Out of Country" trophy, Harry Ingram shot a large white shark at Guadalupe Island. He was using one of Jack's big guns. The shark, which had to weigh at least three thousand pounds, ran off with Harry's gun and float, never to be seen again. Harry didn't get the trophy that year, but he had one hell of a story to tell.

A few weeks after the incident and without being asked to do so, Jack called Harry and told him he made a new gun for him and it was ready to be picked up.

Jack was a conservationist before the term became popular. He and several other Bottom Scratchers speared quite a few broom-tail grouper off Boomer Beach in San Diego. Jack was the first one to notice that the population of this slow-growing fish was declining. Without any pressure from state authorities, he got together with all the local big-game shooters and they decided to place their own moratorium on spearing this magnificent fish. Clearly he loved and respected the animals he hunted.

Jack was bright, hardworking, and competent. Qualities that would allow him to excel in so many different walks of life. He chose, however, to work as a janitor at the local school. He told me he really liked working at the school at night because it gave him so much more time to dive and build spear guns.

Jack was a devoted family man, the antithesis of a party animal, quiet and shy. I was surprised when Harry Ingram related the following story: While attending a party, he would find the hottest babe in the room, approach her, tell her what a fox she was and ask her to kiss him on the cheek. He turned his head at the same time and presented the side of his face. Just before she kissed him, Jack would quickly turn toward her, face to face, and engage in a tight lip-lock. It was atypical of Jack's normal demeanor, good for a laugh but never offensive.



Bill Johnson was owner and skipper of the *Sand Dollar* and *Bottom Scratcher*. Bill, Jack, Wally and Marty were all members of the Bottom Scratchers. The oldest spear fishing club in the U.S. and possibly the world. At some point the club decided not to accept any new members. I don't believe the club still exists as most of the members are no longer with us; they are, however, with us in spirit. I haven't done the research, but I believe the Long Beach Neptunes is now the oldest organized free-diving club in America, if not the world. If you want to learn more about the Bottom Scratchers and the history of our sport, Terry Maas has written an excellent and detailed article about the Scratchers and its members. You will find it on the net under Bottom Scratchers.



ATOMIC AQUATICS

Blue Fin on the Brain

The end of June, Robert Strobach, Michael DeGiosa, and myself hopped on my boat "A Salt Weapon" for our first Blue Fin hunting trip of the year. It didn't take us very long once we hit our numbers before we found the fish. They were the smaller models but they weren't shy. We would find the birds crashing in the binos and we would quietly slip in front of them. Almost immediately we would begin to mark fish. On our first school we had Robert up first and on his first dive and he had one hanging. Oh, and it was his birthday and we neglected to wish him a happy birthday up until this point as we were saving it for that right moment. Birthday boy with his first Blue Fin of the year.

We proceeded to trade off taking turns as we each were shooting our way to an easy limit on 35-45# Blue Fin. The fish were not shy and gave us plenty of opportunities to line up for good shots. By noon we had our first day limit. We actually handed a fish off to

another boat not as fortunate and we were sure some good Karma would follow.

We started our next day out at 7:30am and went back to the same numbers that produced for us the day before. We made it about \(\frac{3}{2} \) of the way to the spot when I ran over some meter marks. Robert got suited up and once again on his first dive he had another fish hanging. We continued to take turns in the rotation and by noon on day 2, we had another easy limit. There were times where one of us would shoot a fish and the entire school would hang out, giving another diver an opportunity to hop in the water and allow us to have two fish hanging at the same time. Great trip and one that we surely won't forget.

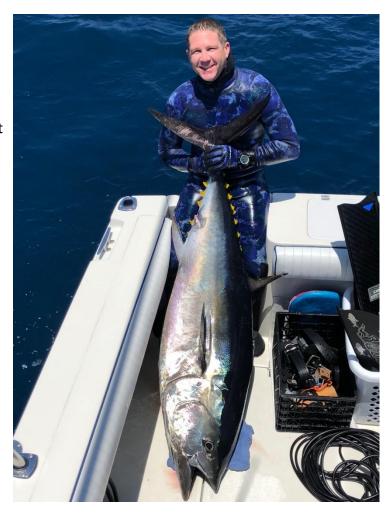




Fast forward a couple of weeks later and now myself, Tod Norell, Jared Koenig, and Robert are on "Sea Hunt". This was a 2.5 day trip and day one consisted of a lot of time motoring around until we were finally able to find the fish. About 4:30pm we came into a zone where we found multiple half football sized schools of cow tuna crashing bait balls, birdnado's could be seen in multiple directions. Unfortunately, Jared had one tear off and we weren't able to score that day.

Day 2 of our trip started out diving SCI and we headed back out the ridge and got to the numbers right on the slack tide. I was suited up and ready to go when a school of fish were spotted crashing bait. Robert told me to get ready and I didn't hesitate. I began breathing up on the swim step and as soon as he shut the motors off and told me fish were at 50ft, I jumped in and punched a dive. I leveled off at about 40ft and initially I didn't see anything but a few seconds later I noticed the school of fish below me so I kicked down and leveled off with them. I lined up what appeared to me to be a 100-150# fish, that was about 15 feet off my spear tip. I aimed at it's eye and pulled the trigger and figured I center

punched the fish. On my ascent, in about 30 feet of water, I saw my Riffe 3ATM float go zipping by me into the depths and knew this fish was larger than I thought. After a 5 minute wait the float popped back up and I hitched a ride for 30 minutes or so before going to work on the bungee, I wanted to make sure that fish was good and tired in case the shot was not as good as I thought. When I dropped down and put the second shot in the fish I realized it was already dead and that it was tail shot. At this point I was extremely happy with the decision to let it play out. My assumption of a 15 foot shot was probably more like a 25 foot shot and I should have led the fish a bit more.





We threw the fish in the 72x30 Reliable and weighed it the next day in Avalon. Fish went 200.5#'s on the green pier for a new personal best. Super stoked and the weighting that fish on the pier was an experience I will never forget. It's always a team effort and I couldn't have done it without the rest of the team.















Riffe 20 Year Anniversary Celebration

Join the Riffe's as they celebrate 40 years making and selling qualiy dive gear to the freediving community. For information, visit their website by clicking on their logo.



20, 2018

Mike Marsh

That's the question Todd Norell and I asked each other as we returned to the Ocean Dancer after kicking around for an hour plus. Not only were we one of 3 boats on the entire island, but the kelp bed and surrounding area was void of all life form. That is, no bait, blacksmith, calico, or game fish. Well, there were maybe two sightings that morning. Todd saw a 15 pound Yellow Tail that breezed by him as if it was lost, frantically looking for his buddies. Possibly around the same time, but at the opposite end of the bed, I came across a small ball of bait less than 10 feet below the surface. I didn't have to wait long, when a train load of yellows came through to devastate the only remaining bait in the entire bed. First the juvenals, then the 25-pound adults pushed through encircling the trapped bait ball. I took a breath, kicked my fins into the air, took the shot and promptly missed. The fish disappeared as I reloaded my gun, of course, reprimanding myself beyond all recognition.

Later that morning, we hit "Todd's Honey Hole". This was a sure bet. We typically have multiple sightings here and have been blessed by taking several yellows and even a bluefin or two. This spot had both rivers and giant balls of micro bait that would engulf you as you dive through. Although mesmerizing, only the calico and bonito were occasionally attacking this bait. With no sightings, we moved on.

We circumnavigated the island twice. By this time the swell and wind picked up reducing our option to anchor and hunt. Finding cover behind Sudal Rock, we jumped in for another try. After a long ass swim, I decided to head back to the boat, partly out of boredom and also to check on the anchor. Two yellows in the 25-pound range appeared to my right just feet below the surface. Dammit, I missed again. Totally frustrated, I did what any Neptune worth his salt would do in this case, I made a sandwich and took a nap.

This day was coming to a close with one last dive before we called it and here we find ourselves back to where we started this morning. Todd and I split off into two different directions to double our coverage of this enormous kelp bed. Disillusioned with the void of everything that moves, with the exception of the waving kelp stocks, it was time to head back to the Ocean Dancer. The least I could do is to hunt a different route and hope a game fish would present itself. I have yet to miss three times in a row.



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I was close to the boat near the leading edge of the bed when the back of something appeared 25 feet below me and swimming in the opposite direction. Holy "S" it's a white seabass of decent size. I lowered my Alexander and kicked to descend just below the surface, aimed, pulled the trigger. Bam, fish on. It wasn't much of a fight as the 3/8" shaft drove through its back and toggled out its jaw.

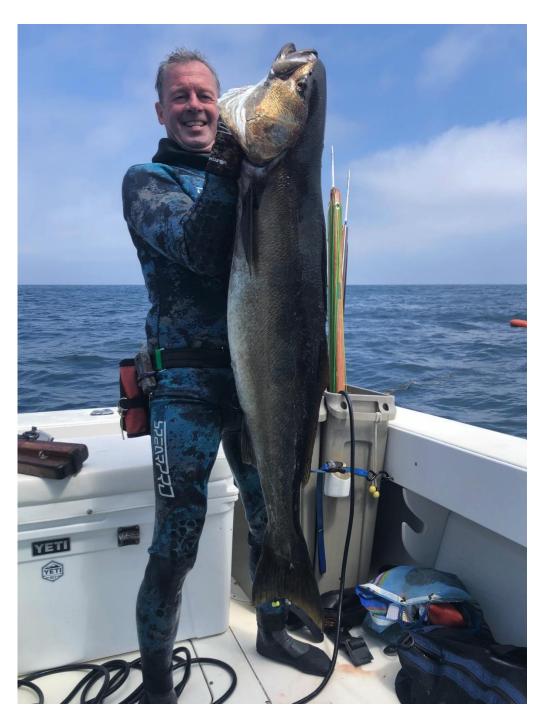
Swimming the short distance back to the swim step, all I could think about is how lucky I was to be at the right place at the precise moment when the only white in the entire neighborhood swam directly beneath me. Todd prepared an awesome meal that evening and after a piece of pumpkin pie, we called it a night. It was 8:30.

Barely daybreak, we gave it another go. The wind had blown most of the night and the conditions worsened. We again circled the small island impressed with massive bait balls and endless rivers of micro bait surrounding us at every dive. I had the only one sighting of a 20 pound yellowtail that morning which was cruising at Mach speed behind several barracuda. It was time to call it and head to port.

All and All it was a memorable trip with my best bud Todd. Full of laughs, Todd's less than short stories to past the time and another opportunity to be at sea, were we the Neptunes all long to be.

Mike Marsh







2018 FALL CLASSIC - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13TH

The 2018 Fall Classic entry forms are now available. Saturday, October 13th. See entry form for rules and details. This years participants will receive a official tournament high quality long sleeve Cool Dri moisture wicking, UV protective sun shirt.





FALL CLASSIC SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2018



This meet is held by the Long Beach Neptunes at Catalina Island and is OPEN TO ALL QUALIFIED FREE DIVERS. Divers may begin at dawn but must conclude their diving and be at the Isthmus by 4:00 PM (Lobster may be taken the evening before [Friday, October 12th] starting at dusk). Any fish and/or lobster not in the weigh-in circle by 4:00 PM will be disqualified, NO EXCEPTIONS! The eligible fish are: Yellowtail, White Sea Bass, Dorado, Barracuda, Bonito, Halibut, Tuna Family, Calico, and Lobster. "NO SCUBA DIVING IS PERMITTED". The diving area will include all waters from Mexico Border to Point Conception and include Catalina Island, San Clemente Island, San Nicholas Island, and Santa Barbara Island. The Cortez and Tanner Banks are OFF LIMITS. THE WEIGH IN AND WINNERS CIRCLE WILL BE LOCATED AT THE PICNIC AREA BEHIND THE HARBOR REEF RESTAURANT AT ISTHMUS COVE, CATALINA ISLAND AT 4:00 PM SHARP.

YOU PROVIDE: 1) Entry Fee; 2) Signed Registration Form/Liability Release; 3) Your own transportation; 4) Steak, Fish, Chicken, Lobster or other protein; 5) Game Fish/Lobster

WE PROVIDE: 1) 1st – 4th place trophies for largest fish taken the day of the meet (Only one fish per person); 2) Biggest lobster trophy; 3) Largest Calico Bass trophy. The winner's name and club affiliation (If applicable) will be inscribed on the trophies. 4) On the beach BBQ and charcoal, fire pit, grandstand, green salad, rolls, side dishes, BEER, soda/water, and paper plates, napkins, utensils. (BBQ Utensils not provided)

"ALL ENTRIES MUST BE INDIVIDUALLY LANDED WITH NO ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER DIVERS"

LONG BEACH NEPTUNES FALL CLASSIC 2018 WAIVER

DIVER'S SIGNATURE REQUIRED. IF UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, PARENT OR GUARDIAN MUST SIGN AS WELL. I assume entry into this event at my own risk. In consideration of my participation, I intend to be legally bound. I do hereby assume risk for myself, heirs, executors, administrators and assign, waive, release and forever discharge any and all rights and claims for damages I may hereafter accrue to me against the sponsors, LONG BEACH NEPTUNES or any other individuals and/or groups involved in the LONG BEACH NEPTUNES 2018 FALL CLASSIC MEET. I further attest and verify that I am physically fit, enjoying good health and have sufficient expertise for participation in this event. Parent and/or guardian agree to indemnify and hold harmless the above sponsors of any and all damages received in the event the entrant is a minor.

"REGISTRATION FORM & ENTRY FEE MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 11, 2018"

[] PARTICIPATING DIVER ENTRY FEE (\$20) [] NON-DIVER (\$10)

"ALL PARTICIPATING DIVERS RECEIVE A TOURNAMENT LONG SLEEVE SUNGUARD TEE WITH ENTRY"

NAME OF DIVER (Please Print):

ADDRESS:

SIGNATURE:

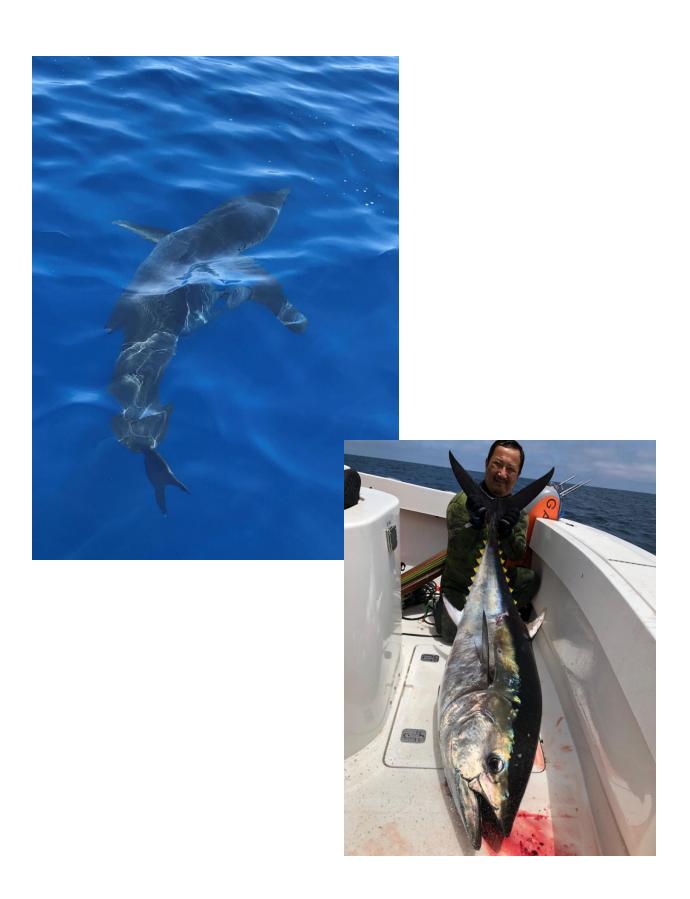
DATE:

IF DIVER IS A MINOR, INDICATE AGE:

PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE:

Make checks payable to **LONG BEACH NEPTUNES** and return to: Bill Peratt, 1607 N Dressage St, Orange, CA 92869. You can also send forms by email to, bill.peratt@aol.com. **PayPal** payments can then be made to: **Ibneptunespayment@gmail.com**. Include Full Name and "Fall Classic 2018" in description field. Please choose the, "I'm sending money to family or friends" option when sending payments via

PayPal. Direct any questions regarding your entry form & payment to, bill.peratt@aol.com.







The guys an animal!!

I've been very fortunate this season. 3 fish under my belt all while Lyles been traveling and Steve is boat less. I've been diving with these 2 guys season after season and not pulling my weight, so this year I just keep sending photos to Lyle to rile him up.

Lyle had been back from Europe for less than 2 days when I got the call. Let's go tomorrow! YES!!

We get to a spot where we had both shot fish in previous years.. Water was green, vis was terrible and he says it's "perfect". Ugh.

We were in the water a couple of hours+ and I keep looking to see him climb on the boat, the sign it's time to leave but no sign of him.

I decide to cut through the center of the bed and start working toward the boat. Vis was maybe 8-10. I found some bait and decided to make a drop. I was only down about 15-20' watching the bait through a perfectly framed window in the kelp when she swims across on the far side. She had no idea I was there. I had plenty of time for the shot. I lined up just behind her head and pulled the trigger. Boom! She just rolled over, which makes me nervous because I know once the shaft pulls out she's gonna go ape shit. I surfaced and very gently pulled her up. The tip was barely sticking out the opposite side of her head. I grabbed her and cut her gills, being careful not to be too rough. I proceeded to brain her but it's hard to tell if she's dead while being paralyzed. Lyle was at the boat when I got there so I handed her up and told him where I had found her.











See that smile? That's the smile of a new King Neptune! Eating King Neptune Sushi on a life member platter? Priceless! A 51 lb wsb? Icing on the cake!

Please use our sponsors: To access their websites, click on the logos.













Please use our sponsors: To access their websites, click on the logos.



















Summer may be almost over but it won't be forgotten soon! Personal best fish! Too many to count!

I want to thank the members that sent in photos and articles. Mori, and Jeff Benedict each sent in articles and Mike Marsh sent in two! You will have to wait for the second in the October issue to see what Mike said about Tuna. Congratulations to Dan Keeler for his cow and to Ethan for shooting the last King Neptune fish on his list.

Soon we will be diving for bugs and the Fall Classic looms near. Be sure not to miss this one! It'll be a doozy!

Louis Rosales

Long Beach Neptunes Newsletter Editor