

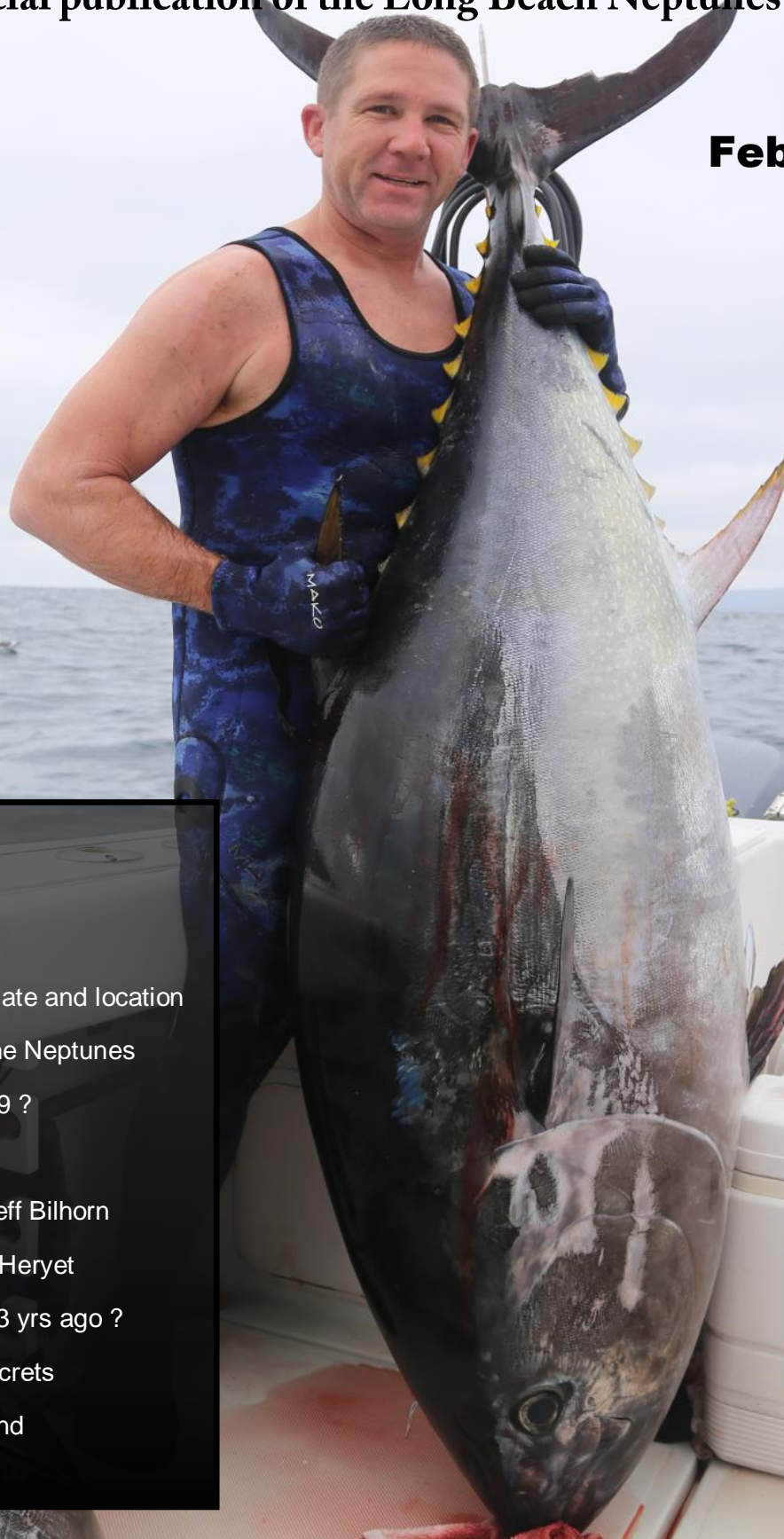
# The

# TRIDENT

The official publication of the Long Beach Neptunes



**February 2019**



## *In this Issue ...*

- 30 years of The Trident
- Awards Banquet : New date and location
- New Contact Email for the Neptunes
- Will Bluefin return in 2019 ?
- Duck, Duck, Elk, Goose
- Letter from President : Jeff Bilhorn
- Tentative Profile – Evan Heryet
- Did I Spear Deep Blue 33 yrs ago ?
- Mel Mitchel's Lobster Secrets
- Neptunes Hunting on Land

**Dan Keeler's  
217 lb. Bluefin Tuna**

**IMPORTANT**

## Important Club Announcements

- To improve communications between the general membership and Executive Board, we will be using [LBNEPTUNES@yahoo.com](mailto:LBNEPTUNES@yahoo.com) from now on, for **ALL COMMUNICATION, including: Fish Applications, Tournament Applications, Questions, Comments, Compliments, Complaints, Newsletter Articles and Paypal Payments.** This will make it convenient and easy to remember rather than having to use separate email for each board member or separate event.
- The Blue Water Meet date has been changed by popular demand to Saturday, June 1st, so it does not interfere with Father's Day. Please mark this on your Calendar.
- Annual Dues are due January 1st. If you have not paid, please do so. You will not be allowed to participate in the Annual Fish Competition until your dues are paid. There is a \$25 late fee if you pay dues after the March meeting.
- The Awards banquet will be held on Saturday March 2nd at the Bucca di Beppo Restaurant in Huntington Beach. The cost of the dinner will be \$20. Location and time is on the next page. Payment will be collected at the February meeting.
- There will be a members only vote at the February meeting, regarding Life Memberships.
- If you have not done so, please purchase your 2019 California Fishing License.
- The Calico Derby is now in effect thru March 31st. Minimum weight for Calico submissions is 5 lbs. Good Luck !!

**IMPORTANT**



# 2019 Neptune's Awards Banquet

Saturday March 2, 2019



Time 6:30PM

7979 Center Ave

Huntington Beach, CA 92647

Tel. 714-891-4666



# A Message from the President



Fellow Neptunes,

Only a month and a half left in bug season. Usually this time of year I only have White Seabass on my mind. But stories of Bluefin between here and Catalina have me distracted. I have been holding my breath hoping this year would be a repeat of last year's epic tuna numbers, could be....

The January meeting was a lot of fun with a good turnout, a great slide shows by Todd and an excellent raffle. I'm excited about what we have to come! The February meeting will be good for me, as we have a presentation from a true Lobster expert, and I'm a marginal lobster diver at best (with delusions of adequacy).

The results from the Awards Banquet survey showed that many of you miss the separate event that we had in the past. So this year we'll give it a try. We will be meeting on March 2nd at Buca di Beppo's Italian Restaurant in Huntington Beach at 6:30 PM. I encourage everyone to come and bring their families for an evening of good food and trophies. Please come and support your fellow Neptune's. The meal will be subsidized by the club and will only cost \$20 per person. There will be a ton of good food! Please RSVP to Brian York.

We will be sending out an updated Neptune roster, please take a look and make sure your information is correct. Don't forget to pay your dues so you can compete for the 2019 fish awards. Remember dues go up next month.

I hope to hear some WSB stories at the February meeting and look forward to seeing you all there.

Dive safe and often!

Jeff Bilhorn

The Trident is the official newsletter of the Long Beach Neptunes, a Non-Prophet organization. The Trident is published monthly and is provided free of charge to members of The Long Beach Neptunes and it's associates.

Any inquiries or any questions regarding the Newsletter should be addressed to :

[LBNeptunes@yahoo.com](mailto:LBNeptunes@yahoo.com)

## 2019 Long Beach Neptunes Board

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### Conservation Liaison

Terry Maas  
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## 2019 Neptune's Calendar

|          |     |   |
|----------|-----|---|
| 02/06/19 | Wed | Meeting                                 |
| 03/02/19 | Sat | Awards Banquet @ Bucca di Beppo         |
| 03/06/19 | Wed | Meeting                                 |
| 04/03/19 | Wed | Annual Auction / Meeting                |
| 05/01/19 | Wed | Meeting                                 |
| 06/01/19 | Sat | 56 <sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Water Meet |
| 06/05/19 | Wed | Meeting                                 |
| 07/03/19 | Wed | Meeting                                 |
| 08/07/19 | Wed | Meeting                                 |
| 09/04/19 | Wed | Meeting                                 |
| 10/02/19 | Wed | Meeting                                 |
| 10/12/19 | Sat | Fall Classic                            |
| 11/06/19 | Wed | Meeting                                 |
| 11/30/19 | Sat | Xmas Dinner @ The Phoenix Klub          |
| 12/04/19 | Wed | Meeting                                 |

## Fish Competition 2019

### California Awards

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| Calico Derby  | Open |
| Calico Bass   | Open |
| White Seabass | Open |
| Yellowtail    | Open |
| Halibut       | Open |
| Sheephead     | Open |
| Bonito        | Open |
| Barracuda     | Open |
| Dorado        | Open |
| Wahoo         | Open |
| Tuna          | Open |
| Marlin        | Open |
| Lobster       | Open |

### Out of State/Country Awards

|           |      |
|-----------|------|
| Tuna      | Open |
| Reef Fish | Open |
| Pelagic   | Open |

### Kent McIntyre Award

Open



## A Few Words from The Editor

As your new newsletter editor I must thank Lou for all the hard work as the newsletter editor, and for stepping up and getting the January issue done while I struggled to set up my computer and software. I also give a special thanks to John Johnston for donating additional software that made all this possible. Thanks to all those who responded with articles and pictures. Without them, this newsletter would not have been possible. Thank you!! I hope you all enjoy the new format. If your content didn't make it into this month's issue I apologize. Don't worry, it will most likely be in the next issue... probably... OK, maybe even one after that...

CHASE

A large, vibrant California lobster is shown in its natural habitat on a rocky seabed. The lobster's shell is a mix of red, orange, and brown, with some white spots. Its long antennae and legs are spread out across the rocks.

**Mel Mitchell**

Mel Mitchel will be giving a presentation at the February Meeting. He will be sharing some of his secrets regarding diving and catching California Lobsters.

Be there or be square





# Did I Shoot “Deep Blue” 33 Years ago ?

Probably not, but the possibility is interesting .....

By Tom Blanford

I was reluctant to put this incident into print—again—as it could be construed as self-serving. I didn’t want it to appear to say: Look at me or this is what I did. And to be honest, the incident is an old story that’s probably been told too often. But there is a new twist to the event, and Chase needed material for the newsletter.

The incident I am referring to occurred 1986, while diving at Eagle Reef, Catalina Island. I was diving with my son, Ron, and a very good friend, Tony Mitchell. A large and probably pregnant white shark swam by me from right to left, made a hard right turn and faced me nearly nose to nose. It was about ten feet away. I shot the shark because I was afraid and feared it would mount an attack. Although it was not aggressive. This incident occurred after Harry Ingram was attacked by a great white shark at Guadalupe Island a few years earlier. An attack I witnessed from the water. I bring this up now because it was the primary reason I shot the shark at Eagle Reef. By the way, I was soundly criticized by a shark expert and alleged scientist for shooting the shark. His reasoning: it probably would only have nibbled on me to determine if I was edible. (This statement supports my theory that bright people can have really bad judgement.)

To recap Harry’s incident: A group of us had chartered the Bottom Scratcher for a week or so to dive Guadalupe and hunt for Bluefin tuna. We were anchored at the south end of the island outside Melpomene Cove. Moments before the attack, Harry, while on the surface, saw the shark on the bottom in about forty feet of water. The shark turned toward Harry and rapidly accelerated. A clear and obvious attack by an aggressive shark. Harry is a little unclear about this, but he believes the shark was beginning to open its jaws as it neared him on the surface.

Harry extended his arm, locked his elbow and fired into the head of the shark. Because of its momentum, the shark continued toward the surface and probably collided with the front end of Harry’s gun. The only injury Harry sustained was a bruise to his left shoulder. This is speculation but we think the cocking stock was driven into Harry’s shoulder by the shark. I can still see Harry on the back of the shark as he was eclipsed by its dorsal fin.

The shark did not return for a follow-up attack. No one, of course, knows why. But I firmly believe it was because Harry shot the attacking shark. I believe shooting the shark probably saved Harry’s life.

As a result of that incident, I convinced myself that I would shoot a shark that posed a danger. And that’s why I shot the white shark at Eagle Reef. But to be honest, the shark at Eagle Reef was not aggressive, just very curious, and big. Very big. And It scared the crap out of me.

But here’s the new twist: By this time I think we’ve all seen the footage of the free divers who were diving with a very large white shark off Hawaii. Someone apparently identified the shark as Deep Blue, a very old and very large GWS, which was probably pregnant. I have some serious doubts about anyone who would purposely dive with a white shark, but that doesn’t relate to the story.

When I viewed the footage, over and over again, I noticed what appeared to be scar tissue above and behind the shark’s right eye. In the exact same spot—I believe—where I shot the shark at Eagle Reef. Tony, however, who was right next to me when I fired, thought I shot the shark directly in the nose. Tony’s memory is just as valid as mine, so who is to say which one of us is correct.

I believe shark at Eagle Reef and the one off Hawaii were both females, although I’m not positive about the Eagle Reef shark. Their demeanor was similar: they were not aggressive or agitated but appeared to be curious, and big. Very big. The time frame almost fits. It’s estimated that Deep Blue is over fifty years old. So the question is: did I shoot Deep Blue thirty-three years ago at Eagle Reef? Nah, probably not. But if I did, I’m glad she’s still alive and thriving.



# got tuna ?

The big question that seems to be on everybody's mind is, "Will the Bluefin Tuna will be returning to So. California again this year?" Well, so far the news has been very good. There has been reports of tuna spotted off almost every port from San Diego to LA Harbor. Large schools have been spotted along the Mexican border. Private boat owners have been braving the rough seas during the rainstorms for some very productive tuna action. CJ Conrad speared and landed the first Bluefin of the year in mid-January. Hopefully, we will be looking at some very good Tuna action this year. So, now is the time to get all your big game spearguns rigged and ready to go. They always seem to show up when you least expect, so don't be caught unprepared. Luck is the combination of opportunity and preparedness.



CJ Conrad with first speared  
Tuna of 2019

*Photo by Terry Maas*



Hello everyone. Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Evan Heryet. Many of you have met me through the monthly Neptune's meetings that I have been attending infrequently since late 2016. I was honored to be asked by my sponsor, Brian York, late last year if I would like to try to become a member of the Long Beach Neptune's and of course I jumped at the opportunity.

I am originally from North County San Diego where I lived until my late 20s. I grew up surfing and skateboarding as did a lot of kids in that area. Surfing eventually took me to many destinations around the world as did rock climbing, a sport that I would get into in my mid 20's. I have always had a deep love for the ocean as I assume many, if not all, of the Neptunes do. I have been around it all of my life and have very rarely lived more than a mile or two from its edge. I only got into spearfishing about eight years ago which is surprising to me looking back at where I grew up and with whom. Getting into spearfishing was a slow process for me but I eventually decided that I wanted to fully commit to this amazing sport roughly six years ago. I bought all of the essentials that I did not already have plus a kayak and would frequent offshore kelp beds. Occasionally (as often as I was invited) I would head offshore on friends or friend's boats to go for tuna and other pelagic fish. I only had a speargun for smaller fish so I would have to beg and borrow to use bluewater setups.

During an extended surf trip abroad I decided to take a freediving course since I really had no idea about my breath holding limits and what types of risks I was taking when I went spearfishing. They had me diving to 25 meters my second day and I was hooked. I went back a year or so later and took a 2<sup>nd</sup> course and was able to get down to 35 meters before losing the ability to equalize. I look forward to going back to continue to further my abilities and push my limits.

Two and a half years ago I moved to Long Beach to work on the Gerald Desmond Bridge Replacement Project and had planned to start diving the fabled kelp up on the Palos Verdes peninsula. Two days after moving up here I experienced complications from a freak surfing accident that had happened a week before in Indonesia, and ended up in the hospital. There I underwent a bypass of the main artery in my arm. I was told that I would not be able to rock climb or spearfish again with surfing being a maybe. Anything that could put a large strain on or had the potential to jerk my arm away from me was off limits. This is about the time that I started popping my head into the Neptune's meetings. After a few months of recovery I started testing out my arm by gingerly loading my speargun. From there I slowly made my way back into the sport and a few months later I shot my first White Seabass. After shooting that fish in 2017, I started getting decent fish on a semi-regular basis. 2018 would turn out to be an even better year.

At the end of 2017 I knew that I wanted to seriously go after tuna so I decided to make my own tuna/bluewater gun. I started the project in early 2018 and finished it seven months later. I of course chose to build a double roller gun which was not so simple of a task. Living next to Long beach state I was able to finagle my way into their wood shop to use their table saw, jointer and table router. Many 6 packs of beer later I had the workings of a gun. This long trail of researching how to build a speargun and asking questions to anyone who would listen ended up landing me in Mori's Shop. There I would spend many hours of my life buying parts, discussing different aspects of speargun design and learning everything I could. My gun turned out better than I had imagined it would and I ended up landing my first two tuna with it in 2018.

Some of my accomplishments spearfishing include:

- 8.5 lb Calico
- 210 lb and a 65 lb Blue Fin Tuna
- 7 White Seabass including 3 in the 50 # class
- 35 lb Yellowtail



## Tentative Profile

# Evan Heryet

Sponsor : Brian York





*Oh, Hell Yeah...*  
**It's COLD !!**

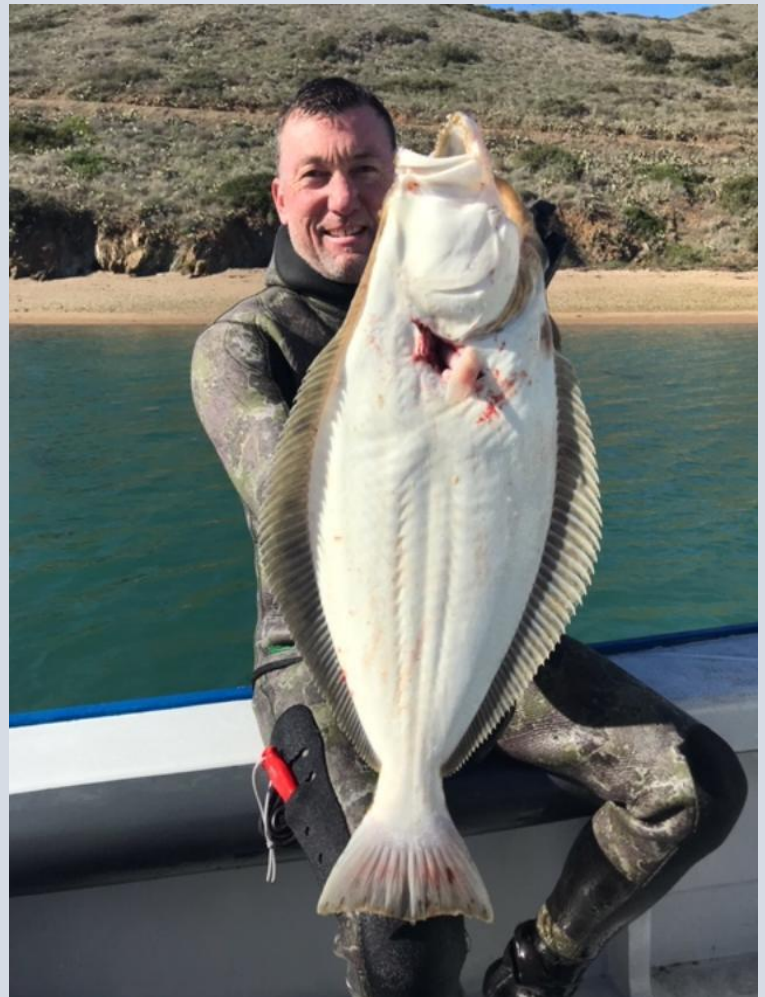


## Cold and slow Catalina run

By John Hughes

Beautiful poking around the coves with nobody around in winter but it was a bit frigid popping in the water at 4 AM in the offshore wind to hunt lobsters

Here's Paul a few hours later at sunrise





Larry and Ethan ....

# STOCKING UP THE FREEZER !





# It's DUCK SEASON !!







# 30 Years of The Trident



**1990** Alan Drexler was president of The Long Beach Neptunes. Vance Carriere became editor of the newsletter and gave it a facelift, with better graphics and even a comic section. He renamed it **"The Trident"**, a title we still use 30 years later. He also re-designed the Long Beach Neptunes logo into something more modern and realistic. This is the logo we use today.

This year we celebrate 30 years of "The Trident". We commemorate this year by giving the old newsletter a fresh new look, resembling an E-Magazine. Each month, we will feature a new cover. We want The Trident to be something that all members can be proud of, and to have their pictures and articles in.

The newsletter might be the most important thing in the Neptunes, because it records our history. The Neptunes have a longer history than any other spearfishing club today. It is always interesting to pick up an old newsletter and read about members long ago diving the same spots as we do today and shooting the same fish. I hope that one day, the future generation will read this newsletter and see what it was like for us in our generation.

Here are some interesting events that happened back in 1990.

- Yas Ikeda passed away January 1990. He held world record for White Seabass a long time after he passed away.
- Bud Flowers passed away in March 1990. He was one of the original 14 charter members who broke away from the L.A. Neptunes and founded The Long Beach Neptunes back in February of 1952.
- Terry "Mad-Dog" Maas, as he was nicknamed, broke his own Yellowfin record with a 255 lb Yellowfin.
- In April 1990, "The Pizza Eatery" where the Neptunes held their meetings, went out of business and the meetings were moved to a pizza joint named "Me and Ed's".
- A young Larry Heinrich is a tentative member.
- Mark Barville was accidentally shot in the ass by another diver with a 3-prong speartip.
- Vance Carriere became the 20th King Neptune.

Please keep sending us your stories and adventures, so we can share them with the rest of our community.

I hope you enjoy this issue of "The Trident", and I wish for another incredible 30 years.



# FISH ALES

By Vance Carriere

Hey, I've got one for 'ya.

One day last summer Dale Cote and I were diving at Ship Rock and, as usual, not exactly being over-run by fish.

Finally, on a 50' dive (about as deep as I go) I spotted a white seabass below me. I dropped down and speared it as everything started to get a wee bit fuzzy.

I let the fish run as I bolted for the surface.

After a few gulps of air I started to slowly lift the line. Feeling a weight on the other end I could tell the fish was still on. My reel was empty but if I could take my time bringing in the 200' of line I'd have him.

Very slowly, inch by inch, I brought it up. I finally got the fish in sight and began to assess how well placed the shaft was, when something started to appear below the fish.

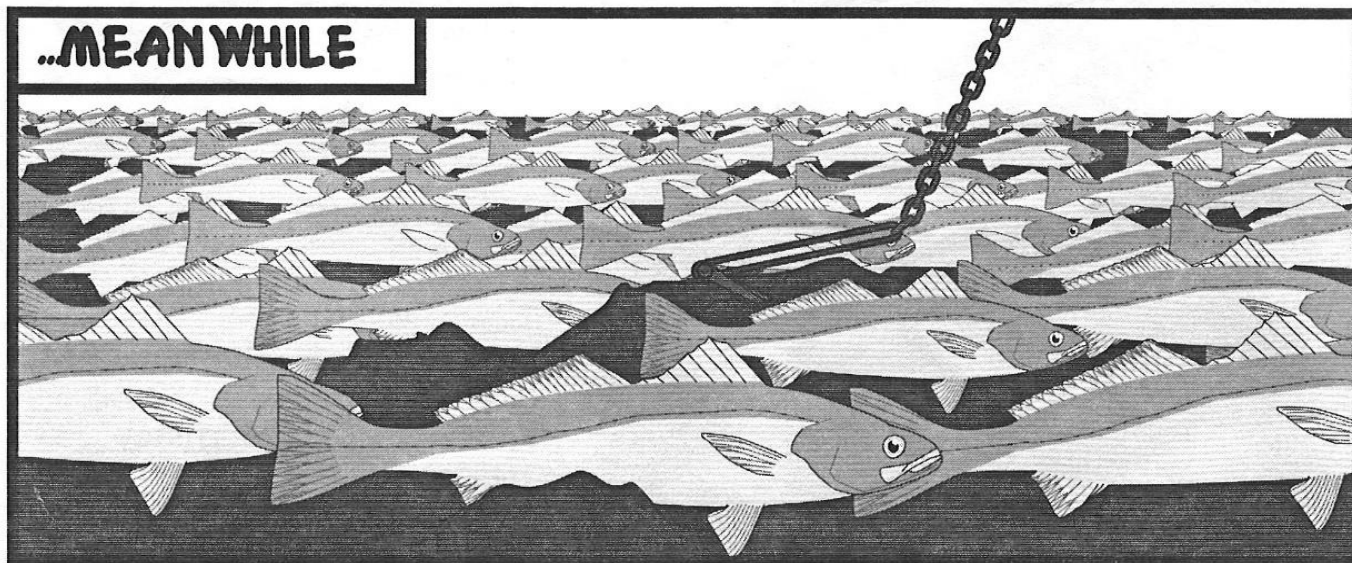
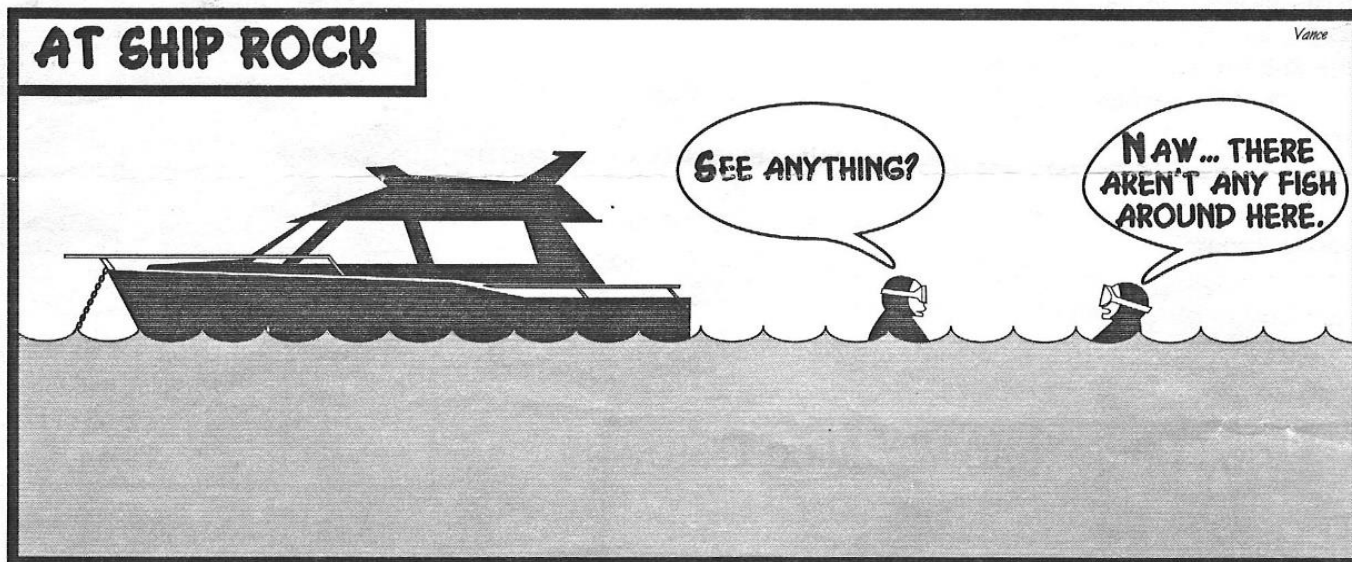
First just a dark mass, then it took shape.

It was the school of whites that mine belonged to. Only not 20 or 30 fish but **hundreds**. It was as though I had lifted every white at Catalina off the bottom. As far as I could see in every direction I was surrounded by fish from 25 lbs. (the size mine weighed) to twice that.

**Over a thousand white seabass!**

As I struggled to untangle my line they lazily swooped and swirled under me, over me.

Makes 'ya wonder how often this happens...





# **For Sale**

## **2013 Custom Zodiac 750 Pro**

**Don Radon Custom Pilothouse added 2015**

**Twin 115 HP Yamahas 400 hrs**

**Furuno Touch Screen Electronics**

**Designed and built to Bluewater Spearfishing the Channel Islands Safely and Efficiently in all conditions.**

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*The Long Beach Neptunes would like to thank our sponsors*

