



FEBRUARY 2011

# TRIDENT



## Collateral Damage

### In this issue:

- Standings
- President's corner
- Announcements
- Neptune fish pix

2011

### Neptunes Calendar:

Wednesday March 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Awards Banquet**

Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup>

**Meeting - Auction**

Wednesday May 4<sup>th</sup>

**Meeting**

Wednesday June 1<sup>st</sup>

**Meeting**

Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup>

**Neptunes BWM**

Wednesday July 6<sup>th</sup>

**Meeting**

I hope you like fish stories because a lot of members generously contributed plenty and there is no shortage in this month's newsletter.

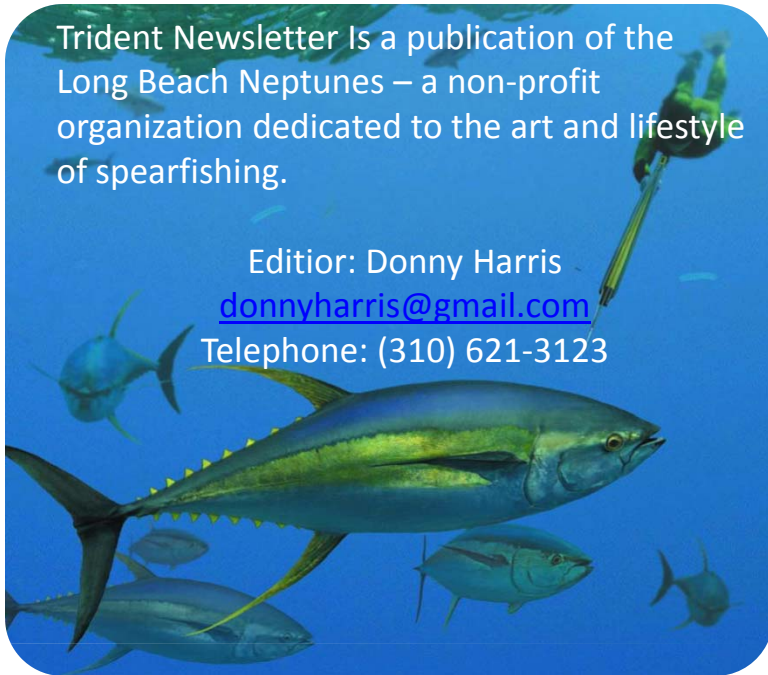
The calico derby is really heating up as we near halftime and we have a new leader but I am guessing you can't stop looking at the picture to the left... the story on it's origin is foggy but what I can tell you is that the picture was submitted along with the monster calico pictures published in this issue. Maybe we will get the full story at the next meeting.

About the next meeting; you don't want to miss this one, it's going to be a little out of the ordinary as it will be a combined awards banquet slash March meeting with hosted pizza and beer. See the announcements section for details. Also check out the photo section for some pictures and stories about last year's award worthy fish.

Please make sure you are up to date with club dues, get your gear donations ready for the auction, etc. and let's hope for a great season out on the water.

Trident Newsletter is a publication of the Long Beach Neptunes – a non-profit organization dedicated to the art and lifestyle of spearfishing.

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2011 Calico Derby –  
Seamus Callaghan (7.5#)  
Calico Bass of the Year –  
Seamus Callaghan (7.5#)  
Halibut – open!  
Sheephead – open!  
Yellowtail – open!  
White Sea Bass – open!  
Bluefin Tuna – open!  
Lobster – open!  
Big Tuna Out of Country  
(Yellowfin) – open!  
Big Fish Out of Country  
(Pelagic) open!  
Big Fish Out of Country (Reef)  
open!  
Kent McIntyre Award - open!





## The one that got away....

I know there has been some WSB taken lately and it's just a matter of time before the stories come out from this season. I figured I'd get the season started with a quick story from 2 years ago when I had the best and worst dive all occur in about a span of 40 seconds. It started off as a nice day in July of 2009. I had another late start to diving as my daughter made the all star team in softball which screwed my weekends from May until the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. I got out the week before with my dive buddy Mark Wakefield and we headed for SBI. We had a few mishaps with my buddy's boat and didn't see a whole lot on the paddies or at the Island for that matter, but it was nice to get into the water after a late start to the WSB run. We planned our next trip on the way back from SBI and figured we'd head down south as it was more happening then our local area at the time. We launched my buddy's boat out of Dana Harbor after a tow down from the So. Bay and had nice glassy conditions with almost zero wind. We had a plan to hit all of the kelp beds down south and if that didn't pay off; we'd turn it into a paddy hopping mission. We dove a bed just north of the Barn and had decent viz but didn't see much other then a few Black Sea Bass. We decided to head SW and try to get some YT off of the paddies that had been producing for quite a few of my buddies a few days before us. We headed out and found numerous beautiful meatballs floating in the bluest water you could imagine, loaded with bait, but nobody was home. We both jumped on the paddies and let the boat "ghost ride" while we looked for fish. (Not the smartest thing to do, I know, but we paid attention and stayed close to the boat). After checking what seemed like 20 ideal paddies with tons of bait we decided to abort the mission and switch back to plan A and hit the shoreline kelp beds.

We ended up right where we had left and the viz seemed to change to about 20' from the surface with a haze below that opened up once you dropped down below it. We dove for approximately an hour and a half with no sightings of YT or WSB. I was on my way back to the boat and maybe 30 yards from it when I had to adjust my mask after the strap slightly catching on a kelp stalk on my way up from a dive. I popped my head out of the water and adjusted my mask and then popped my head back in.



When I looked below me, I saw what at the time I believed to be another big BSB swimming below me right at the point to where the haze was. Its head was massive and it slowly glided from my right towards my left as it swam under me 20' below. When it was directly under me, I couldn't believe my eyes as I noticed the tell tale signs of the yellow pigment to the dorsal fin and tail and realized that this fish was no BSB but an enormous White.

As the fish passed me to my left, I immediately ducked down and slowly and quietly dropped down on the fish. The fish began to slowly glide to the left and in a downward path as I slowly raised my gun ahead of the fish in hopes that he would continue on the same path. As I leveled off at about 25', he was maybe 15 feet away from me and possibly 5 feet below me. The fish had no idea I was there, or could give a rat's ass as I lined up on this fish. I was in awe at the size of this fish as he was the longest and more noticeably fattest WSB I had ever seen. I would estimate this fish in the range of 75-80+ pounds (Which is extremely modest as I believe he could have given Ernst a run for his money) but damn well know he was bigger. As I lined up the shot I couldn't wait to pull this beast onto the boat and show my buddy.

I pulled the trigger and it was in slow motion as I watched my shaft fly out towards the fish and stop dead in its tracks about 10' out. Instead of seeing the fish twitch and bolt off or even just quiver, I saw the fish continue on its path as my shaft began to sink parallel to the ocean floor. The fish didn't even budge and swam on its merry way probably chuckling inside.

I couldn't believe what had just happened and sickly chuckled myself as I began kicking towards the surface in disbelief. What I hope was not a once in a lifetime occurrence, but a WSB of that magnitude don't swim in your crosshairs everyday. I broke the surface and in astonishment cursed and laughed at the same time. I looked over towards the boat and told my buddy Mark that I just missed an enormous white only to hear him say that he had just boated a slug YT. In all of the years that I had my gun, I have not once experienced the problem of the bands wrapping the shooting line after a shot and stopping the shaft dead in its tracks. I have since heard of similar stories, but of course none of them involved the giant WSB that I had lined up and put on ice before I pulled the trigger.



I wrap my line the same way every time before and since that day and have yet to duplicate the misfortune. The fish gods were not obviously on my side at that particular moment. I returned to the boat and saw Mark with his 34 pound YT that looked like a 50 pounder with him holding it (He's vertically challenged and makes fish look huuuge).

I took his picture and we headed back towards Dana as it was getting late. We stopped on one last spot before Dana and jumped in. The water was green and the viz was about 15' but it looked promising and it was getting to be that magical time at the end of the day. I worked the outside of the bed hoping for some YT, while my buddy Mark looked for whites. About 15 minutes into the dive I was on a dive patrolling the outside edge of the kelp when I saw movement in my peripheral vision to my left. I looked left and saw a nice WSB cruising by at the same level I was at. He crossed in front of me and I lined up on his right cheek and let the shaft fly.

This time my shaft didn't wrap but I couldn't see if I had hit the fish due to the haze and sun's reflection as I shot. What seemed like two seconds had passed and nothing and I figured this is getting ridiculous. All of a sudden my float line started zipping through my hands and the fight was on. I was pretty confident with my shot placement and put the brakes on fast.

The fish was strong and pulled me under before wrapping up in the kelp. I called to Mark and told him I was on and then dunked my head back in to try and locate the fish. As Mark was swimming over, I saw what I thought was another nice WSB swimming by me and I started yelling for him to hurry up and shoot this fish before I realized it was my fish and he had broke free of the kelp and was now swimming up near the surface. He made another run and wrapped up about 25' down. I retrieved him and we got him back to the boat where he was weighed (40.1 pounds) and photographed. This fish was skinny and spawned out as it was 54" long but only a tad bit over forty. It just made me realize how big the earlier fish was as the length was much longer and the actual girth paled in comparison to the One That Got Away.....Happy diving and lets go get um cause as Drew Barrymore said in Poltergeist "They're here!"

*Mark Hultgren*

Long Beach Neptunes President 2011



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## The votes are in...

If you missed the last meeting or were just not paying attention make sure you take a moment to review the current rules for the 2011 fish application. All the changes proposed last issue were adopted by club vote and the new revised fish app can be found at [longbeachneptunes.com](http://longbeachneptunes.com) Also confirmed by vote was the location of the Blue water meet which will be held at the Isthmus this year, this does not have to be a permanent change and we will see how it goes. Many of the members offered pros and cons of the change in a great discussion and per the vote the majority of the membership decided it is going to be .

## Fathomiers Awards Banquet

The Fathomiers have graciously invited our members to their awards banquet this Saturday, detail can be found on the next page.

## 2010 Awards Banquet

It's official! The 2010 Awards Banquet will be held at Me and Ed's, the same place as our typical Wednesday night meeting. We have combined the March club meeting with the awards banquet this year to see how it works and we expect a great turn out. Check out the best of 2010 section of this months newsletter for a preview of the tales the winners will be telling first hand and put it on your calendars now, come out and celebrate the contest winners of last year's spearfishing and lobster grabs. The club will be providing pizza and beer for all members and thier guests as we celebrate the most successful hunters of 2010.

## Oye, Como va!

Don't forget to make it to the San Carlos yellowtail open on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011. This tournament is the hot ticket for big fuerte" yellowtail. Get out the big gun and come join the fun in old Mexico! See <http://yellowtailopen.com/> or talk with Seamus Callaghan for more details.

## Legends of Spearfishing event in San Diego

detail can be found on the page following the Fathomiers flyer.



# 53rd Fathomiers Awards Banquet

**SPECIAL ELECTION**

**CANDIDATES**

***PRESIDENT***

Carlos Serret & Derek Kimball

***VICE PRESIDENT***

Eric Sochin & Kelsey Albert

**\$40 CLUB DUES**

**Will Be Collected**

***BRING a CHECK***

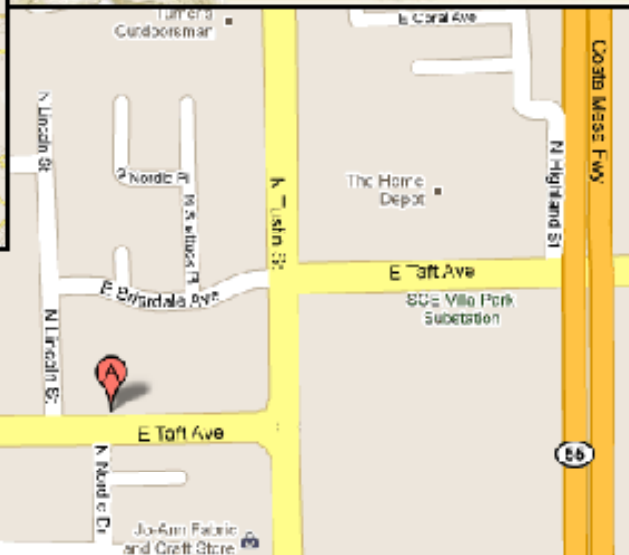
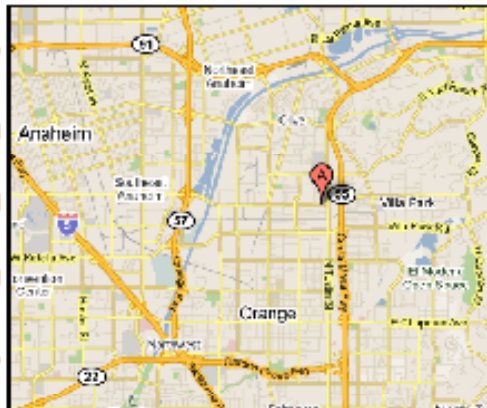
Doug Van Mullem

will be collecting

**DATE:** Saturday, February 12, 2011

**LOCATION:** St Mary's Syrian Orthodox Church  
1515 East Taft Avenue, Orange, CA 92865

**EVENT TIMING:** 3:30 pm – set-up  
5:00 pm – event start  
6:00 pm – dinner begins



**BRING CASH**  
**CASH BAR & SWAG**  
T-Shirts \$7 & \$10  
Beads \$10  
Baseball Cap \$15  
Sweatshirt \$25



**Legends:**

This will be a great opportunity to meet and hear stories about the history and heritage of spearfishing from first and second generation watermen.

The speaker list confirmed as of today:

- Art Pinder** -The most important living treasure of our spearfishing tribe
  - Del Wren**- In Attendance
  - Bottom Scratcher **Marty Pasos** -Tales and never before seen images of Jack Prodanovich spearing tuna
  - Jay Riffe** - Hunting the early Californias
  - Dr. Daryl Wong** – Master Gun Maker, PFI presentation & Freediving Safety
  - Sheri Daye** - World Record Holder , PFI presentation & Freediving Safety
  - Neptune Don Paul** - Hunting our Local Banks
  - Fathomier, **Skip Helen** - White Sea Bass Whispering Addict, **Barry Wagner** - Blue Water Safety Pistolero, **Bill Wagner** - Hunting Yellowtail
  - San Diego Freediver, **Jan Vafis** - Hunting Wahoo , Memorable Dives
  - Hector Escalante** - Showing his custom guns and reels
- We will be adding other legends and their discussion topics as we receive their confirmations.

## J&J Legends of Spearfishing and Art Show

**When: Saturday February 26, 2011**

**Where: James & Joseph Spearfishing Shop, Harbor Island, San Diego, CA**

**Guest Speakers and Food/Beer - 1pm-6pm**

**Art Show/Beer – 1pm-Closing**

Note that the Legend Speakers segment is held from 1pm-6pm outside on the covered dock area so "seating capacity" and "food" is limited to 150 people. ((The RSVP list is currently full.)) BUT ALL OTHERS are very welcome for standing room to watch, listen and view all the other exhibits. You just wont have a chair and food is all...

The Art Show is 1pm to Closing (about 8pm) and is open to all spearos and customers. Please feel welcome to come to the art event at any time!!. ((NO RSVP is necessary for the Art Show.))

Art Show:

We will also have a spearfishing art show featuring the artwork of Jimmy from Spearo Art, Amadeo Bachar, Ken Okutake and more artists to be announced.

[www.spearoart.com](http://www.spearoart.com)

[www.abachar.com](http://www.abachar.com)

[www.okutake.com](http://www.okutake.com)

Also there will be a vintage gun display including:

11 Prodanovich guns

2 Wally Potts Guns

1 Sampson gun

1 homemade San Diego gun with Wally Potts Parts



# Raising the bar!

Seamus Callaghan puts a new mark of 7.5# on the board for the Calico Derby



# February Tentative, Ivan Sanchez

Hello Fellow Neptunes,

Some of you may know me, but many of you may not. My name is Ivan and I have been spearfishing for a couple of years now. Luckily, I have been able to take my First white sea bass last year and first Yellowtail in this years fall classic, I have been very privileged to have met and dove with some of the more familiar names out there like Scott de Firmian, Louis Rosales, and Mark Hultgren. Let me tell you, if any of you have never been on a boat with these names, your missing out! Well, the purpose of this write up is to tell you the story of my first yellow tail and fall classic experience.

We left the night prior to the classic with high hopes for calm seas and blood on the deck. Personally, I have never dove for bugs at Cat nor done a night boating trip. Thankfully the ride over had grease calm seas and a beautiful night. Once the hook was set we suited up for a bug dive which produced nothing major but a couple of nice legal's. As we put our bugs in the bait tank we watched the beautiful Catalina sunrise over the California coast. We now continued with our game plan and decide to hit spots from the east towards the west. In our first few spots we were very selective in our shots in order not to scare any game fish. The action did not really pick up until our second to last spot in the day. As we cruised towards the west end we spotted familiar boats flying dive flags for other competitors in the fall classic. As we arrive to our spot I see a familiar boat pulling away. Hell, we thought there is probably no fish here. We were wrong.



As I cruised the reef looking around I noticed the larger calico's weren't out to play but the water was beautiful which made me drop the hunting mentality and just enjoy the sea life. As I came to the outside of the kelp I notice a small albino sheephead which catches my eye from its abnormal appearance.



Now, I am sure many of you can attest when you are focusing or in the zone, time seems to slow down. All of a sudden I see a very light blue fish in the upper water column above the sand and immediately know this is my first decent size yellowtail. Although he was just a loner, the sheer sight was something I will never forget. At this point, with my smaller flopper reef gun and thinking he may be out of range. I try and line up as the yellowtail starts to swim away. At this point I think to myself, "Should I risk a long shot?" Of course, like anyone in there right mind seeing a lack of fish during the day, I pull the trigger. What happens next is the excitement all of our junky spearfishing mentality's desire. I begin to feel a tug on the gun and the reel starts spinning. My adrenaline starts pumping but I do realize I am using a flopper and not my bigger game gun. The fish decides to start diving down and I allow him to take line because I do not know my shot placement. With no buddies in sight for a secondary shot I tango with the fish a little longer than normal because I don't want to rip him off. As the fish tires out and I bring him to the surface and realize the flopper had completely deployed and it is a solid shot. Quickly I subdue the fish and brain him and in my hand is my first yellowtail. The excitement felt is something only other divers can relate too.



Soon after my buddy Will shoots a personal best calico (6lbs) and takes second place for the calico category. With high fives around the boat we quickly moor and take our game ashore.

One thing I will never forget is falling for the old, "eat your first heart trick". At least the taste was fine and we end the beautiful day with good friends, cold beer, and memories for a lifetime.

Neptune Tentative,

*Ivan Sanchez*



## Neptunes 2010 Fish Awards

### Robert Strohbach: Halibut



I had just heard that Scott De Firmian had recently shot a 21 lb halibut and I remember congratulating him at a meeting. I told Scott that I have never shot a halibut in the 20 pound range and hopefully he could give me some tips on how to find these fish. Basically, I wanted Scott to dive on Sea Hunt to share with me his super secret halibut hunting techniques that have proven to be so successful for him. Scott's demeanor was less than enthusiastic about sharing his hard earned secrets. I believe that his only comments were: "Study the bottom very carefully". Well, I obviously tried that technique many times in the past without success. I knew that Scott was holding out on me and I would have to do some more research and obviously "study the bottom very carefully".

Fortunately, I spoke with another top halibut diver who had recently slayed some big halibut. He gave me some very important advice: Look out in front of you and then look down and "study the bottom very carefully as you move slowly thru the water". I knew Scott De Firmian was holding out on this top secret halibut hunting information. Scott clearly did not tell me to "move slowly" and "look forward". This must have been Scott's secret that he would not share.

Father's day weekend I headed out with Captain Bob, my son Mark, my nephew Michael and my "lucky charm" Joe Prola. Joe, Mark and I recently dove together in Maui so we were all dialed in to kill some fish. We ran a live boat as Joe checked out some "top secret" WSB spots.

Unfortunately, the WSB were gone but Joe made one last dive and found two large halibut next to each other. Joe quickly shot the larger of the two fish and broke the surface with a "yah baby" which got everyone excited. We quickly weighed the fish and were ecstatic that it weighed 23#, clearly wiping out Scott's 21# halibut. I congratulated Joe and quickly got my gear on hoping to find the other halibut Joe saw. Captain Bob was also in the water looking for halibut as well. I decided to use my new hunting technique and to my surprise a large halibut saw me first and quickly bolted away.

I immediately told myself that if that happened again, I would quickly point and shoot in the same direction. The fish gods must have heard me, five minutes later another large halibut spooked me and started to bolt off...I quickly just pointed and shot. To my surprise I hit the fish and was elated that I probably just shot my largest halibut of my life. The fish peeled off thirty feet of line on the reel and settled back down on the sandy bottom. I thought I would just swim right down to the fish and pin him to the sandy bottom while I grabbed his gills. He obviously saw me first "again" and took off swimming so I grabbed the reel line and thought I would stop him immediately. It was like flying a kite in 30 knot winds, he wasn't going to give up easy. I kept thinking that the slip tip was going to tear out any second. Finally, fish in hand, I quickly stuck my head out of the water and barely got a "yah baby" out. Joe was back on the boat and quickly realized that his first place halibut (for less than one hour) had been beaten by my 27# halibut (my personal best).

Of course, Joe wasted no time getting back into the water as did the rest of the group. It was clear to me that every old dog has his day! This was my day! After all, it was Father's day weekend! Joe isn't a father (at least he is not admitting to it). Fearful, that the little lucky leprechaun would squash my 27# halibut, I decided that I better get back in the water just in case. I swam around with everyone for another hour and one by one, I watched all of them head back to Sea Hunt empty handed. I looked up one last time to make sure that no one was secretly hiding a giant halibut and waiting to yell "yah baby" and decided I would take one more look along the shoreline. I swam in about six feet of water looking ahead and slowly studying the bottom. I saw nothing but sand and small rocks ahead of me. I stopped swimming and just laid in the water and slowly brought my vision from ten feet in front of me to looking straight down. I suddenly realized that I was looking at the end of a very large tail in the sand. My eyes quickly looked back over the area I just swam over, somewhere between saying "holy shit" and pointing my gun backwards and squeezing the trigger...

## Neptunes 2010 Fish Awards

### Robert Strohbach: continued



I knew that this was my day! The fight was not as difficult as the first halibut but my heart was definitely pumping twice as fast. I wanted this fish real bad....fish in hand, I lifted my head up and yelled out “yah baby”. It was another personal best for me, the fish weighed in at 33#. I certainly appreciate Scott’s advice, basically spend a lot of time in the water and you will eventually figure it out.

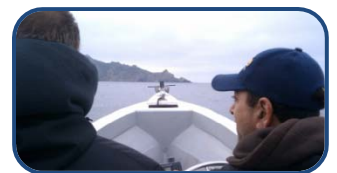
Robert Strohbach

### Donny Harris: Sheephead

Okay, full disclosure: I shot a sheephead and it wasn’t my first, in fact I tend to shoot a couple a year... I just felt like I needed to get that out there for some reason. This sheephead was a personal best and not just by a little but that is not the only reason I will remember this fish.

It was one of those great days on the water last fall, spent with a couple friends; fellow neptune and my former sponsor, Scott D. and newly registered tentative Lou Rosales. I don’t think Lou was a tentative then but he *was* the captain of a super sweet super panga that was racing us across the channel at joint jarring speeds, the waking sun at our back and our eyes straining to make Santa Barbara Island appear out of the dreary fog at our front. I would say we were 20 miles from port when the adjacent west end of Catalina started to look pretty darn good. I’m not sure if it was the pounding oncoming swell and unexpected wind chop or the eerie uncertain nature of spearfishing conditions at SBI but at about 25 miles from port the wheel was spun toward the south and we wrapped around the backside of Cat. I was soon cruising the shallows for halibut. I was frantically trying to cover as much virgin sand as possible before Scott but I couldn’t keep my eyes away from all the critters which were dancing across the nearby reef. I passed Lou, he was making use of the cove’s protected conditions to do some target shooting, prepping for the yellowtail we hoped to find at he next stop . Another 30 minutes passed and nothing. If you don’t know, Scott is a real fast swimmer and has a decent eye for halibut so I figured if there was sand that might have had Halibut on it before, it certainly didn’t now and I also figured I would to try and track down a certain sheephead that I had previously “marked for later”.

I had taken an 8 foot shoot at 8 pound fish seconds after I had loaded my bands an hour back and... whiff!!! missed the side of the barn. Now I was chasing that dumb shephad for a long time, too long, over half an hour. Scott passed by and I filled him in on my doings. It turns out he had seen the marked sheephead and me swimming all over the place and already figured it out. He also let me know that he had marked his own sheephead and if I recall correctly, he claimed it was, “the biggest sheephead I have ever seen at Catalina”. He then pointed off toward the end of the reef when I asked him, “where!?!”, then he headed back to the boat. Well... its obvious what happened next. Seriously, what would you do? Ten minutes later I was struggling to tread water with 26 pounds of red, black and mangled teeth over my head while shouting, “HEY SCOTT, DID YOU LOSE SOMETHING OVER HERE!” at the top of my lungs through the biggest goofiest grin you ever did see.



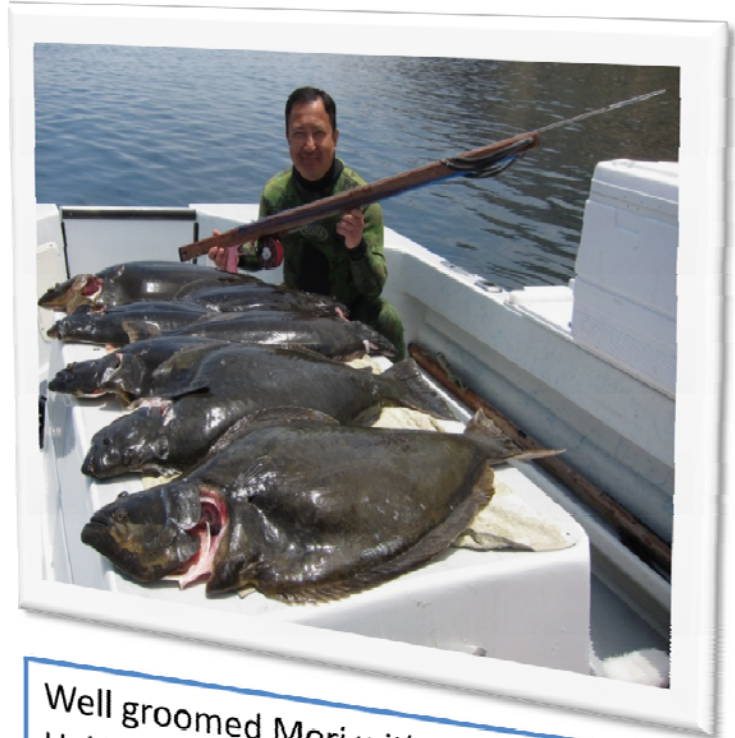
Donny Harris



# Neptunes Fish Pictures



Mori with a 2010 Halibut



Well groomed Mori with more 2010 Halibut and his weapon of choice



Three amigos riding into limit city





## Thank you for the donations...

Neptunes,

I have gotten a whole bunch of pictures and stories, more than I expected so a big thank you to the guys who are sending them in and I am counting on many more so keep them coming guys. The season is just starting and I can't wait to see what shows up in my inbox as the water warms and the fish get ready to do their thing.

In case you are curious what to expect in the future newsletters, I plan to showcase the other tentatives with their own full page in the newsletter just like Ivan in coming months . Hopefully it will break the ice and lead to great things for the Neptunes and current tentatives. Also the goal for March's newsletter will be to have the remainder of the fish stories and pictures featuring the winning fish of 2010. To tell you the truth, I was planning that for this month but I don't think there is any shortage of quality reading here. I guess my point is there should be some good stuff to come.

Now for some important business, we need your gear donations! Any of that old gear that still has some use left in it, new gear you never use, boating supplies, heck even rod and reel gear. Please bring it to the auction at the April Meeting so we can raise some funds. If you happen to know of any manufacturers who would be interested in donating gear please put them in touch with the board. This auction can only be great with your support and besides, we have a reputation to keep up, I might be reaching here but I think the neptunes auction may just be be more famous than the Blue water meet so lets not disappoint. Start getting that gear out and squared away now.

Lastly, the board is trying to put together a corrected roster of members which includes the correct email addresses as well as other contact information. Several members have asked about an updated roster and I am not sure if we will be making that available or not but please do forward to me or any other board member your thoughts as well as any updated info like revised addresses, phone numbers or emails that you would like to be included in the roster. I plan to send out our best attempt at the current email list soon to all those that are on it for your use in sending club related emails to other members. Look for that soon.

I'm really looking forward to the banquet this year and hope to see you all there March 2<sup>nd</sup> at Me and Ed's.

*Donny Harris*

# Neptunes Classified:

## For Sale 2001 Pro-Line 250 Walk

Located in Stanton (Covered/In-side storage)

2001 Mercury Saltwater Series 225XL EFI (2 Stroke) w/ 265 hours. Overhauled in March 2010 by Dick Sherrer Marine in Norwalk. Compression test @ that time was 140,140,138,133,135,130

Custom 3-sided Eisenglass cockpit. Full Sunbrella canvas cover (2-Piece). Has both straps (Trailering) and snaps (Docking).

Furono GPS/Fishfinder/VHF radio/CD w/ I-Pod input

Cuddy Cabin sleeps 2 and has a sink, portapoddy, table and ample storage

2 large fish boxes behind helm seats, bait tank w/ circulating pump in transom

Saltwater washdown with hose

4 matching fenders/dock lines/Anchor w/ chain/rope

New seat pads/coaming bulster pads

**Asking \$27,000 obo**

Contact Todd Kusserow @ 310-906-8203 or  
[tkusserow@gmail.com](mailto:tkusserow@gmail.com)



Additional photographs @ <http://gallery.me.com/kuss334/100200>

The Long Beach Neptunes wish to thank each of our contributing sponsors for their generous donations!



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