

# the trident

july 2020 | issue no. 6 volume 70



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG BEACH  
NEPTUNES

# FISH STANDINGS

- July 1st- **VIRTUAL** Meeting
- July 18th- BWM
- August 1st- San Diego Freedivers Tournament
- August 5th- Meeting
- August 8th- OC Spearos Classic Tournament
- August 15th- Fathomiers Scramble Meet
- September 2nd- Meeting
- October 3rd- Lobster Opener (6am)
- October 7th- Meeting
- **October 10th- FALL CLASSIC**
- November 4th- Meeting
- December 2nd- Meeting
- December 5th- Christmas Party
- December 25th- Merry Christmas!

## CALIFORNIA

Calico Derby	Open
Calico Bass (Scott Defirmian)	10.1 lbs
White Seabass (John Hughes)	68 lbs
Yellowtail (Lyle Davis)	49 lbs
Halibut (Todd Farquhar)	18.6 lbs
Sheephead (Jeff Benedict)	21.66 lbs
Bonito	Open
Barracuda	Open
Dorado	Open
Wahoo	Open
Bluefin Tuna	Open
Marlin	Open
Lobster (Hobie Ladd)	11.2 lbs

## OUT OF STATE/COUNTRY AWARDS

Yellowfin Tuna	Open
Reef Fish (Mike De Giosa)	47 lb Cubera

## Kent McIntyre Award

(Lyle Davis) 50.84 lb WSB + 49 lb YT = 102.8 lbs  
 (John Hughes) 68 lb WSB + 28.4 lb YT = 96.4 lbs  
 (Jeff Bilhorn) 58 lb WSB (boat weight 55.1)  
 (Paul Zylstra) 38 lbs WSB  
 (Tod Norell) 33.2 lb YT  
 (Mike Marsh) 29 lb YT

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## Perpetual Big Fish Trophy

Open



The Trident is the official newsletter of the Long Beach Neptunes, a non-profit organization. The Trident is published monthly and is provided free of charge to the members of the Long Beach Neptunes and associates.



Fellow Neptune Divers,  
It's funny, some have said this has to be the easiest year to be the President. I can see how it may look that way, or even be that way for some personality types. As a life long contractor, my world is about planning. Scheduling, coordinating, and forecasting are key for a successful project. That being said, this year seems to be anything but routine and has challenged me in new ways. I've been hesitant to put information out there until I know it's valid and correct, although flexibility seems to be the theme for this year. We voted to host the 2020 Blue Water Meet without knowing where the fish were to be weighed. As of this moment.....we have a green light to come ashore for weighing fish only. The exact location is yet to be announced although it's planned for the Two Harbors area. Masks and distancing will be required. No food or beer will be provided as picnicking is not allowed at this time. You may BYO and enjoy seeing your fellow divers. I'd like to believe that the loosening of restrictions will continue although at this moment the 2nd phase of new cases seems to be kicking in. Pray for no new restrictions....and please stay flexible as we move forward in hopes that more stars will continue to align. Please stay healthy as I look forward to seeing each and everyone of you at our 57th annual Blue Water Meet at Catalina Island on July 18th!

*Jeff Benedict*

**Presidents Letter** *Long Beach Neptunes  
President 2020*

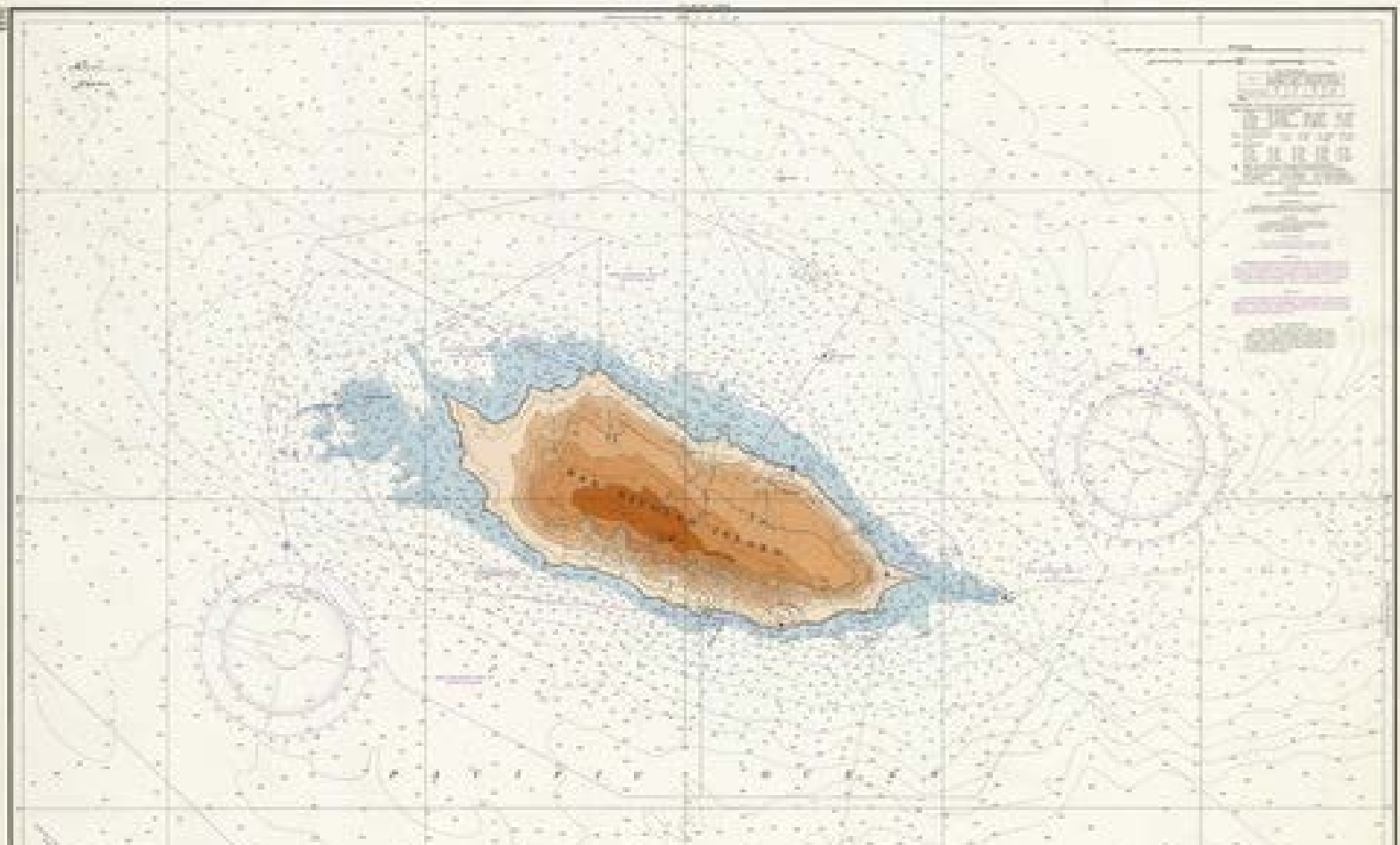
Our virtual monthly meeting will be held July 1st

<https://zoom.us/>

Meeting number: 832 1106 7375

**NO PASSWORD REQUIRED**

Be sure to join as we'll be raffling off two items for those that contributed to the newsletter from January through June!!

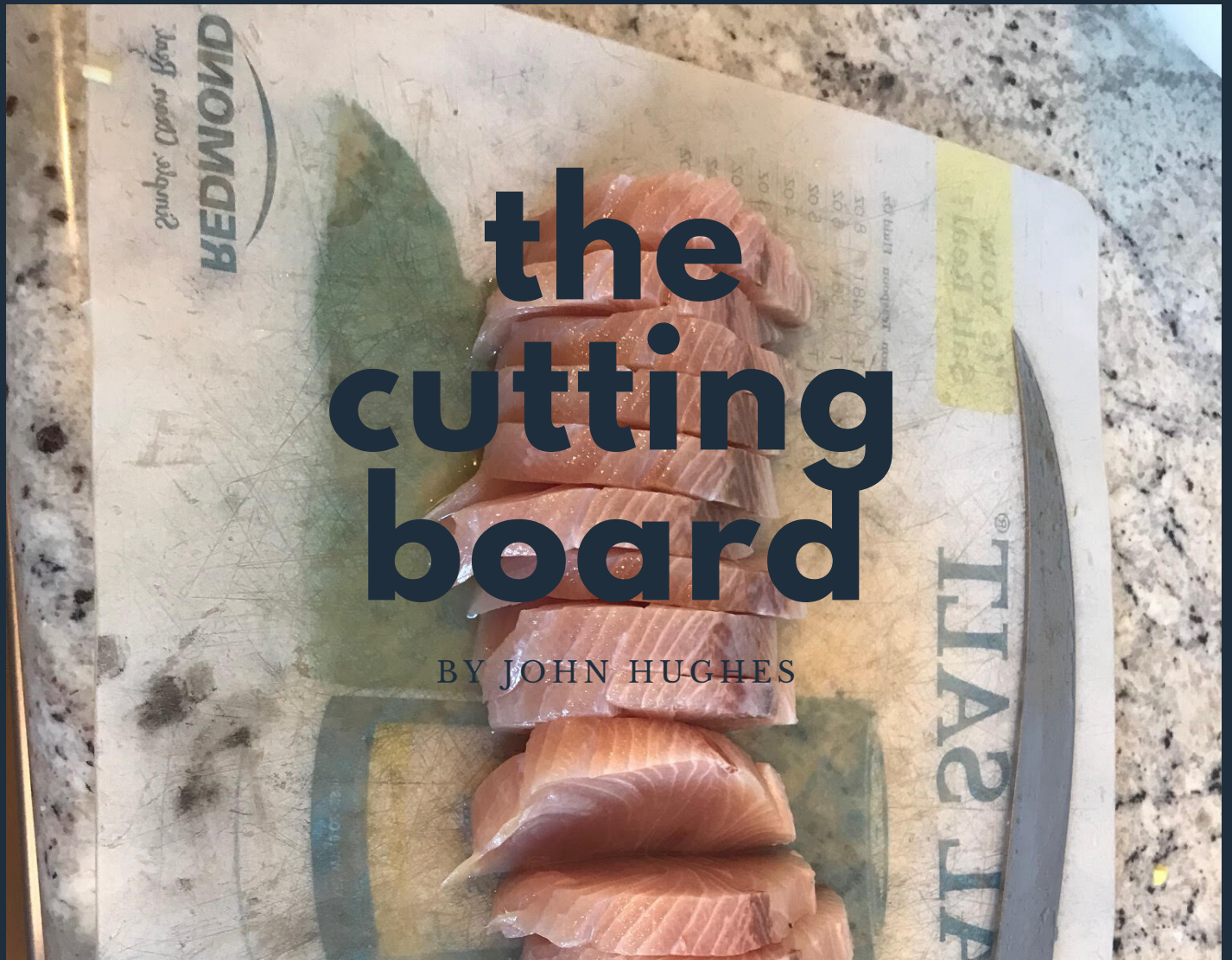




*SERIOLA LALANDI*

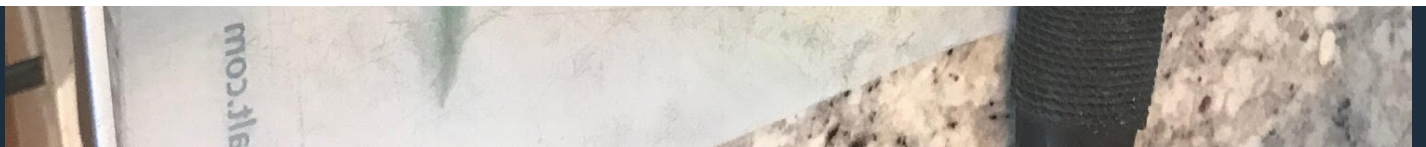
*JOHN HUGHES*





## *Poke recipe*

- *3 Jalapenos, gutted and finely minced*
- *3 Green Onions chopped finely*
- *3 large tablespoons of Brown sugar*
- *1/3 cup Soy Sauce, Do NOT use low sodium*
- *3 tablespoons of toasted sesame seeds, use black if you can*
- *5 tablespoons of toasted sesame oil*
- *1 teaspoon of Chinese hot oil - oil only don't use any seeds*
- *1/2 teaspoon of black pepper*
- *1/2 teaspoon of finely minced ginger, mix all ingredients in a glass bowl then add 2lbs of your fish - diced*
- *Chill for 2 hours in the frig*
- *Serve with lime ponzu, rice, endamame beans, cubed cucumbers and lettuce*



# THE CUTTING BOARD



JOHN HUGHES

# Mixed Bag Kind of a Year

This year has been a mixed bag to say the least.

With all that has been going on with the shutdowns, the pandemic, and the distancing required, I have been lucky enough to get in the water regularly. I have been stuck on Catalina since March. Three months. I hadn't left the Isthmus until early last week, when the wife and I ran to Avalon and knocked out some errands. It was the first time we had a chance to shop at a store other than the General Store here in Two Harbors. Fortunately, I had been able to fill the freezer while still "social distancing."

My quarantine buddy, Josh Rinker, and I spent the first few weeks of the shutdown diving off a small skiff out of Cat Harbor. The front beach in the Isthmus had been closed off to all activity, including diving (which I never understood). So, we made do with what we had, and began the search for the elusive ghost we all know and love. Sadly, we didn't have much luck in early March, but it didn't stop us from trying. We landed some nice calico, and even a couple bonito for sashimi. Having all the time in the world, we tried new recipes, and ended up making some incredible meals, which we shared with the community.







There's something special about giving some fresh fish to friends who would otherwise never have the opportunity. The smiles and appreciation are fantastic, but the feeling of providing for yourself and your neighbors is even better. It was late March. I launched my boat and brought it around to the backside. On the trip, I began hearing some familiar croaking in some familiar places. That's encouraging. The water being 59-60 degrees was not as encouraging. I spent the rest of March and the beginning of April exploring the backside of the island, which I have not done before. I enjoyed the challenge of trying out new areas, and eventually, I got lucky and found some solid fish breezing through.

It wasn't until the end of April that I finally found a school of yellows making their way up current behind me. I was on the way out of the kelp to the surface when I noticed some motion behind me. I stopped my ascent and turned just in time to get a long shot off. It hit mid body, but I didn't know how much it had penetrated. I tried to keep it out of the kelp, but it wrapped up at 50 feet. After a number of dives, I managed to pull the fish to the surface, and was greeted by Josh saying he had just missed a single fish on the outside. My yellow came in above 20 lbs, and was perfectly timed, since I had just eaten my last bag of frozen yellowtail from last fall.

We knew where they were. The next day we went out again, but the spot from the day before was blown out. We moved a bit down the way and found some better conditions. After a long session, I made my way back to the boat and had a smaller yellow come and check me out. Big mistake. Bang. Another one on the board for the year.

This happened again a couple days later, and eventually word got out that the fish were in. I got a call from a buddy asking if I'd like to join them for a dive on the frontside. Heck yeah!





The fish we shot were two 30 pounders and a healthy 20 pounder. As soon as the last fish was on board, the spot shut down. Good timing! On Memorial Day, I had another friend come out, and we took my boat to a place that looked promising. We dove the first spot with no luck and decided to try another area where I had heard croaking recently. I worked the bed for over an hour, and after seeing nothing, began making my way back to the boat. I dove through a thick part of the kelp bed, and nearly ran into a big white seabass, only a couple feet to the left of me. I couldn't even extend my gun fully in fear of spooking it. I took a bent elbow shot, and it vanished into the forest. It ended up being an excellent shot, and after some time, I was pulling all 52 pounds of her to the surface. I've shot a couple other yellowtail, and even got one of the local kids from Avalon his first island fish. Seeing a 17 year old kid land a solid fish, and be more excited than I've been in years was truly a highlight of my spearfishing career.

Even my wife has been getting in on the action. Julie and our neighbor Victoria had some luck recently finding some nice halibut to bring home. In fact, they're going out in a couple hours to try their luck again!

With all this time off work, we were able to make the best of an unfortunate situation. When life gives you lemons, shoot some fish and make ceviche. Hope all the Neptune family stays safe, healthy and comes to visit soon.

Here's a video I made (above) with all the footage from the past few months. I hope you enjoy.

*Juan-Carlos Aguilar*



# FEATURED DIVER

Growing up in London, England, there wasn't much opportunity for diving, but for some reason, I was always fascinated by the ocean and would watch Cousteau and other like programs on TV whenever I could.

It was not till after emigrating to CA in 1984, that I had the opportunity to take Scuba lessons at a store in Downey. It was then, during one of my certification dives aboard an inflatable Zodiac at the LA break wall, that I was first introduced to spearfishing. It was a then young, already full of himself, Todd Norrell, that returned to the boat with a 20lbs halibut that sparked my interest. From that day on to today, I rarely would get in the water without targeting some sort of game!

## seamus callaghan

A year or so later, after multiple Scuba hunting trips with fellow Neptune's to be, T'Man Norrell, Danny Jones and Merle Varner, I came across the Carlos Eyles's book, Last of the Blue Water Hunters, and started my initial obsession with free diving spearfishing. Working at a retail dive store at the time, I became acquainted with a Scubapro employee, Mark Lamonte, whom was already a member of the club and informed me of the then meeting place at the Pizza Eatery by CSLB.



I went to my first meeting and befriended Don "Paul" Gadbury. Other than insisting on being called "Don Paul" and refusing to smile in fish photos, Don was a very good Spearo and was good enough to take me out diving, share spots and information freely. As he already had a sponsee, he had Dale Cote sponsor me, whom I could tell from the look in his eyes every time I spoke to him, could never remember my name. It's the same look I now have in my eyes, when chatting with some of our younger members and tentatives! This was 1986, I was voted in as a Full Member in 1987, Jay Riffe was President, RIP.



My first big White Sea Bass was 36# in 1987, that was big in those days! I remember it tangled up in 15' of water and I was too excited and out of breath to dive down and cut out! After that, the diving came naturally to me, being a swimmer in school; and working in the dive industry had access to good equipment, but the hunting aspect of the spearfishing came slower. I was fortunate enough to become friends and dive buddies with fellow club member, Tom Murray. Tom may have the personality of a very small dead grass hopper, but remains to this day, the best "hunter" I know. He can't dive worth a shit, too cheap to buy good or maintain his gear, yet consistently shot fish, even after a six pack of Bud and a cigar. I learned a lot from Tom as a result, mainly that it was all good and well being able to dive 100 feet, but pointless while spearfishing when the fish were in 30 feet!



My spearfishing tally escalated after developing the hunting aspect of the sport, I've shot trophy fish in pretty much all species I have targeted and won most of the tournaments I have competed at one time or another. But spearfishing and the Neptune's has given me so much more than trophy fish to beat my chest over. It has given me 30 plus year friendships that are priceless to me, and a lifetime of memories that most men would think fabricated! It is great to see the younger members take over to keep the legacy of the club going for future generations to enjoy and benefit as I have. For this, I am eternally grateful and proud to be a Long Beach Neptune! PS - I am not done beating my chest and will see you all July 18th!!

**The Neptunes are putting a hurtin' on the fish!!**



# Behind the Diver

Below- Not sure what Hobie has against them, but anything that lives in the sand dies. Right- This should be enough for a taco, right?



**ATOMIC**  
AQUATICS



**HERRANEN**  
SPEARING GUNS

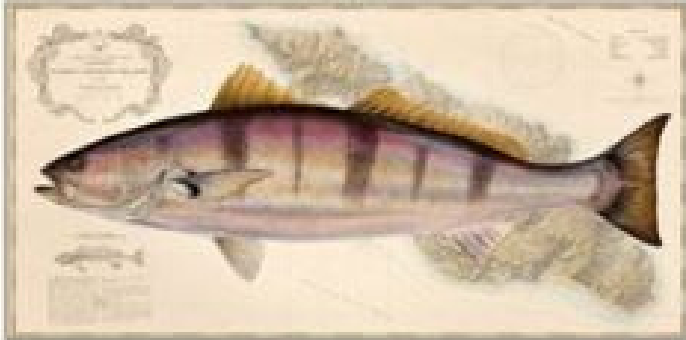


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