

The

TRIDENT

The official publication of the Long Beach Neptunes



March 2019



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Trading Bluefin for Abalone

The passing of a Neptune Legend :
Bob Stanbery

Tentative Profile : Trevor Krendell

Awards Banquet : Pics and more Pics

Sea Hunting at San Clemente Island

CATALINA ISLAND
MALON, CALIFORNIA

FISH  DATE
BLACK SEABASS 8-1-81
OFFICIAL WEIGHING STATION
ANGLER BOB STANBERY
WEIGHT 425 TIME 1 Hour
TACKLE SPEAR FISHING
BOAT BLUE CORO NET
CAPTAIN BOB BALLEW

IMPORTANT

Important Club Announcements

- To improve communications between the general membership and Executive Board, we will be using LBNEPTUNES@yahoo.com from now on, for **ALL COMMUNICATION, including: Fish Applications, Tournament Applications, Questions, Comments, Compliments, Complaints, Newsletter Articles, Annual Dues thru Paypal, and any other 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.
- **Donations please!!** Our Auction is Wed April 3rd, 7pm @ Me-n-Ed's. If anybody has new or used gear they could donate, please contact Jeff Bilhorn @ 949-230-5698 or email us at lbneptunes@yahoo.com with a short description of items. We really appreciate any help you could offer. Thank You.
- 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.**
- Lobster Season Closes on Wed. March 20th. Please be sure to turn in your Lobster Report Cards by April 30th. If you fail to do so, you'll have to pay a fine of \$21.60 when you buy a Lobster Report Card for the following season.
- March meeting is Wednesday March 6th. Guest speaker will be Paul Byrd with Argos displaying his new dive bags, gloves and other products. Meeting will start 7:00 pm at Me and Ed's
- Family Campout date will be July 12-16th. For more information, contact Lou Rosales @ (310) 469-1639 or Mahtzo1@frontier.com
- The Calico Derby is now in effect thru March 31st. Minimum weight for Calico submissions is 5 lbs. Good Luck !! Tentative members are also allowed to compete in this competition.
- The 11th Annual San Carlos Yellowtail Open is Saturday April 6th. For more information, contact Seamus Callaghan at (714) 742-6326 or email at Acwaman@aol.com
- Starting 2019, the Lingcod Limit has been reduced to only one in possession in waters south of Cape Mendocino, this includes all of Southern California. Minimum Length remains unchanged at 22" .

IMPORTANT

A Message from the President



Neptunes,

I want to take a moment to thank everyone who came to the Awards Banquet on Saturday. It was a fantastic time! Giving out trophies and awards was a treat for me, especially for such incredible fish, and lifetime accomplishments. The room was crowded and the conversation lively. The maximum capacity for the room was 80 people, but with 75 attendees, I can't figure out where they would have put 5 more people.

We honored two brother Neptunes for their lifetime of service and commitment to the club. John Carpenter and John Johnston were inducted as Life Members to cheers and loud applause. In addition John Carpenter (The King Executor) inducted a record 6 new members into the King Neptunes. It was truly an exciting evening and celebration of an amazing year of fish.

I'll have to be honest; the weather is starting to get me down. I've been used to having WSB on the table or at least hearing great stories by this time of year. I'm sure the rain is a good thing, but I've had enough, I'm convinced March will be a good month.

It's time to start looking forward to the Auction. Please bring your donations to the March meeting. We have some great items either already donated or on the way, but we need more. If you are interested in donating a dive trip aboard your own boat and have not yet talked to me, please do so.

Dive Safe!

Jeff Bilhorn #50

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 Associates.

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2019 Neptune's Calendar

- 03/06/19 Wed Meeting / Presenting Paul Byrd of Argos
- 03/06 – 03/10 73rd Annual Fred Hall Show / Long Beach
- 03/20/19 Wed Closing of Lobster Season
- 04/03/19 Wed Annual Auction / Meeting
- 04/06/19 Sat 11th Annual San Carlos Yellowtail Shootout
- 05/01/19 Wed Meeting
- 06/01/19 Sat 56th Annual Blue Water Meet
- 06/05/19 Wed Meeting
- 07/03/19 Wed Meeting
- 07/12 – 07/16 Neptunes Catalina Family Campout
- 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	Kyle Brannon	7.5 lbs
Calico Bass	Open	
White Seabass	Open	
Yellowtail	Open	
Halibut	Open	
Sheephead	Robert Strohbach	16.25 lbs
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

Big Fish Perpetual Award

Open



TRADING BLUE FIN TUNA FOR ABALONE: BATTLING EL NINO AND PURPLE URCHINES TO SAVE THE NORTH COAST ABALONE.

By Terry Maas, Conservation Liaison

Last month on a recent Diving for a Cause trip to New Zealand, Joe Burke our guide said he is seeing long term changes to the ocean down under. New fish are moving in, and others are going adios.

I have been amazed that we are into our fourth year of epic blue fin tuna hunting, something new to our area for almost 100 years. This year, oceanographers are betting better than 50% that we'll have a light El Nino pattern during the next months. But this temperature/ecosystem offset is partially responsible for the abalone die off in Northern California. I interviewed Josh Russo of the Watermans Alliance (WA), which was formed to defend against the MLPA avalanche. The WA has remained active, ready to assist in battling new threats to our sport.

Josh gave me a brief overview of his efforts on behalf of the WA.

An article from 2018 California Senate office of research communication in kelp stated, "Over the last five years, the coast of Northern California has experienced a 'perfect storm' of negative impacts, resulting in the loss of more than 93 percent of the bull kelp forests." The article states that bull kelp, which is the predominant species is in a delicate balance with urchins—not the large black (Uni) variety, but the same pesky purple urchins that devastated our kelps earlier this decade. In 2011, sun starfish began to die off, possible due to a virus which increased in virulence due to warming waters. With these predators suddenly missing in action, the purples began to take over.

First in 2013 off Sonoma, and then next year 2014 off Mendocino a large offshore purple urchin spawning event inundated inshore waters with these kelp killers. With the kelp receding, abalone were forced to forage on algae, but soon the urchins beat them to that too. The result was abalone die off and sever restrictions on the take of abalone where this year their take is prohibited.

This is where Josh came in. He and others, including the WA memgers, theorized if they could strip the urchins from an area, the kelp would return. Many, including me, were skeptical. Undaunted Josh organized a campaign to eliminate the urchins from test areas. After they raised 130k, and after State blessings, they hired 8 urchin boats to clean several "index" coves known well to the department of Fish and Wildlife. Only one year into the study, the results are promising. Kelp is re-growing in these urchine-clear areas and big healthy abs are returning.

The legislature has taken note of the project's success and the hope is they will fund a larger project clearing the urchins from coves spaced roughly 10 miles throughout the 100 mile prime abalone grounds.

Josh explains a longer range plan is to reinvent the urchin harvesting industry based upon reports from Scandinavia. There the similar purple urchins are force-fed a high nutrition diet for just 3 weeks when their row becomes as tasteful as the Uni from the large black urchins they replaced. Keeping the pressure on the smaller purple urchins might just allow bull kelp food source and the abalone to return.

To get divers back in the water, Josh is working with the DFW to develop a "deminimus" fishery where just a few abalone—not enough to matter either way—will be allowed for take. The hope is that while at the same time divers are working to improve the environment, a few can return to the sport they love.

Terry Maas : Conservation Liason



A Tribute to Bob Stanbery : 1940 - 2018

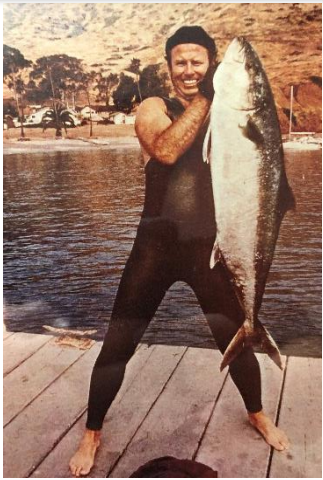
He won the Blue Water Meet in 1971 and 1972. His 1972 winning fish was a 66.5 lb White Seabass, which held the record for 46 years as the largest fish taken in the meet, until it was broken in 2018 by Seamus Callaghan.

He is King Neptune #7, with a 66.8 lb WSB, 41.8 lb Yellowtail and a 497 lb Black Seabass, a combined weight of 605.6 lbs which is the largest combined weight of any King Neptune.

He did not use floatlines or a float, just a speargun with a reel. With this setup, he landed many fish over 400 lbs, including his world record of 545 lbs.

He is the last buffalo hunter. He landed the last buffalo, a 425 lb Black Seabass in Aug. 1981. The following year, in 1982, California put a moratorium on Black Seabass. Bob will forever hold the Black Seabass Record at 545 lb, taken on Sept. 1, 1968.

Bob was Vice President of the Long Beach Neptunes in 1973, President in 1974 and Treasurer in 1977. He is a Long Beach Neptunes Life Member.



Bob Stanbery and 66 1/2 lb. White - Largest for 46





JIM & BOB - POKITIKOS

71# & 68# GROUPER

"THANKSGIVING AT
GONZOGA" AMEN!
JIM WON A \$100 POT
WITH THIS ONE.



Bob John Bob
Stanbery Lockridge Donnell
L.B. BREAKWATER



Here is an interesting Neptunes Fish Story about Bob Stanbery, which is also mentioned in the book "Last of the Blue Water Hunters" by Carlos Eyles.

In the 1970's, Bob Stanbery was hunting at San Clemente Island with Al Schnepershoff. Bob took a shot at a huge Black Seabass, which quickly peeled off all the line off his reel and started dragging him out into the open sea. He could not stop the fish and was using every bit of his strength to keep from being pulled under. He fought the fish several hours and he was dragged several miles offshore as the night fell. Finally, exhausted and unable to cut the line, because he had no knife, he was forced to let the speargun go. Bob swam back towards the island in the dark for several hours through heavy current and heavy seas. Eventually, he made it back close to the island, totally exhausted.

Meanwhile, Al had no idea as to what had happened and was frantically looking for his dive partner. He was lucky that Al was finally able to find him in the dark. Bob was exhausted and collapsed as he came aboard. In Carlos Eyles book, "Last of the Blue Water Hunters", it is mentioned, "Every so often, there is a report of a speargun being towed at a steady pace between the islands of Catalina and San Clemente. There is a belief that the day it is retrieved will mark the beginning of the last days for the blue water hunter."

Neptune's Obituary

Robert Lewis Stanbery, 78, of Gilbert, AZ, passed away on October 6, 2018. He was born June 25, 1940 in Boise, Idaho, to William "Stanley" and Emma (Thompson) Stanbery. He got his undergraduate degree on a boxing scholarship from the University of Idaho in "Little Siberia", Moscow, Idaho, and his graduate degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Arizona. He worked at Hughes Aircraft/Raytheon for 31 years, and enjoyed the freedom of retirement for nearly 25 more. He is remembered with love by his wife Joan of 23 years, as well as by his son, Bret Stanbery, and daughter, Camille (Gary Meyers) Stanbery, from his first marriage to Geraldine (Linderman). He is also survived by granddaughter, Leah Stanbery, great-granddaughter, Liliana Santisteban, and step-daughter, Debra (Doug) Clark. A major passion of his life was competitive spearfishing, which earned him a World Record for the Giant (Black) Sea Bass in 1968, which he still holds. His second great passion of his life was travel, and he was able to spend the majority of his retired years on Maui and in Mazatlan, Mexico. He loved sports, and watched every University of Arizona men's basketball game, and Phoenix Mercury WNBA game. There is a small memorial planned for immediate family in June, 2019, at Silver Strand Beach in Oxnard, CA. Memorial donations can be made to Long Beach Neptunes Spearfishing Club at 1607 N Dressage St, Orange, CA 92869, or to PayPal at Lbneptunes@yahoo.com.

Kent McIntyre Award:

Largest Combined weight of WSB and YT

Year	Name	WSB	YT	Total Weight	Placement
1996	Todd Anderson	28.0 +	62.0 =	90.0	11
1997	Ron Mullins	60.0 +	43.1 =	103.1	4
1998	Jim Russell	54.0 +	19.8 =	73.8	21
1999	Larry Heinrich	62.8 +	21.0 =	83.8	15
2000	Doug Ulmer	43.0 +	43.0 =	86.0	13
2001	Dale Cote	51.0 +	24.0 =	75.0	19
2002	Seamus Callaghan	53.9 +	21.0 =	74.9	20
2003	Ethan Smith	50.2 +	25.0 =	75.2	18
2004	Lyle Davis	60.9 +	27.0 =	87.9	12
2005	Jim Matsukas	57.5 +	28.5 =	86.0	13
2006	Robert Strohbach	59.8 +	41.2 =	101.0	5
2007	John Carpenter	53.3 +	41.7 =	95.0	8
2008	Lyle Davis	60.0 +	32.16 =	92.16	10
2009	Joe Prola	68.6 +	26.4 =	95.0	8
2010	No fish applications submitted for both categories				
2011	Eric Scholbohm	48.02 +	31.2 =	79.22	16
2012	Lyle Davis	67.4 +	38.9 =	106.3	2
2013	Rick Hadley	64.5 +	40.5 =	105.0	3
2014	Jeff Billhorn	63.4 +	37.0 =	100.4	7
2015	Jeff Billhorn	69.5 +	31.3 =	100.8	6
2016	Mike Marsh	35.0 +	38.0 =	73.0	22
2017	Joe Prola	46.7 +	32.0 =	78.7	17
2018	Paul Zylstra	76.0 +	40.51 =	116.51	1
AVERAGE WEIGHTS TAKEN		56.07 +	33.88 =	89.95	



Kent McIntyre

70.0 ----- 79.9	(7 years)	1998, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2011, 2016, 2017
80.0 ----- 89.9	(4 years)	1999, 2000, 2004, 2005
90.0 ----- 99.9	(4 years)	1996, 2007, 2008, 2009
100.0----- 109.9	(5 years)	1997, 2006, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015
110.0----- 119.9	(1 years)	2018
120.0----- 129.9	(n/a)	n/a

Clearly, the combined weights are getting larger according to the records. Who will be the first diver to break the 120 pound mark? Lots of big WSB have been shot this year (make sure you submit your timely fish applications). Good luck finding that 50 pound YT!

Robert Strohbach

Tentative Profile: Trevor Krendell

Sponsor: Scott DeFirmian

In the early to mid 50's my father picked a lot of 14 & 15 lb lobster from Huntington Beach "because they were the easy ones to get". So it was natural growing up on the beach that my brother and I took to the ocean at a very early age. When my mom said to go out and play, the beach was our front yard, so everything revolved around the beach. We had a lot of water sport activities like surfing, skim boarding, boogie boarding and body surfing, but my favorites were fishing and diving. At first we borrowed dad's old gear, weight belts, masks and spear guns and it was a blast, shooting Corbina in the surf, sand bass, calicos and spotted bay bass off the rocks and finding halibut in the daytime. One time very early on we actually shot a halibut simultaneously, 2 spears going into that poor fish at the same time (my brother swears his was first, but they were the same split



second). This would be the only time we would dive together like that, when we were really young. The hunt was much more interesting than wondering what your brother was doing, and we were competitive. I got certified in my mid-teens and this really increased the range. It wasn't that I was diving really deep, but with the very poor visibility locally averaging 4'-7' typically, with a max viz of 10'-12' during summer it made it seem much deeper than it actually was. Scuba opened up all the halibut areas in front of the house with little or no effort. I



loved the hell out of this stuff and went solo almost every time. I wound up with an awful lot of halibut and lobster from night diving and started selling fillets and tails from what seemed like an unlimited fishery that replenished itself almost daily. In the late 80's and early 90's I was averaging 2-3 halibut each beach dive and 5 fish limits were not uncommon. Most halibut (about 80%) were within a couple inches over legal size (22"-25").

There was one California Halibut that has haunted me to this very day, and I think about it all the time. I was about 19-20 years old scuba diving solo at night like always near the end of the jetty about 30 yards off it when I came across the biggest halibut I have ever seen, had to be well over 50 lbs. It was long, yes, probably almost 5 foot, but that wasn't it, it was how damn thick this bastard

was that got me. It would have had to be steaked, way too thick for filleting the traditional way. Normally with halibut I get over the fish and line up behind the head for the shot. With this fish I took the shot at an angle and about everything went wrong: 1. I had the ring on the end of the spear tip holding the toggles of the spear tip together



weeks looking and hoping, but never saw that fish again.

I decided I needed to upgrade my gear after that, maybe my fathers' 40 year old Healthways and Voit spearguns



weren't up for the task anymore and sometimes they would go off on their own, another reason I preferred to dive alone. I drove down and met up with Jay Riffe at his shop and told him I wanted this tiny gun with 3 bands and a reel. He asked what the hell I wanted that for. I told him I wanted it for shooting halibut at point blank range in no visibility. I told him I shot over 200 halibut at the beach where I lived. I'll never forget what he said "TWO HUNDRED HALIBUT?? I've heard of a guy that gets a lot up there, must be you!" If he had heard of a guy that shot a lot of halibut at the north end of Orange County, it probably was me, but doubtful he did looking back, because I sure wasn't boasting about my honey



hole. It was a huge ego-boost though, because I had heard of him too of course!

The selling of mostly halibut fillets & some tails afforded me my first dinghy (actually my second and a little whaler too eventually). This increased my range to freediving the breakwater, thumbs Islands, & scuba diving Esther Oil Platform, Belmont oil island (removed about 15 years ago), and all my dads' old favorite reef spots in Huntington Beach he used to hit when he was a kid. Oh yea, we used to sneak into the naval weapons station in Seal Beach pre-911, now it's just a real bad idea. I went mostly at night freediving the jetties and breakwater for lobster and halibut, but had plenty of daytime lobster spots like Esther and



HB. The daytime spots were more of scuba spots because of the depth, and the boating traffic. I've gotten to know every damn inch of Esther, from the huge boulders in back left to the wall on right middle, to the broken pieces of the island (huge storm of '83) on the inside that form a nice break when the swells get big and start cloud breaking locally, she was sure one of my favorites to dive. Early Jobs kept me close to

the ocean, lifeguarding in sunset beach during high school summers, and working at the bait house on the end of the pier for Seal Beach Sportfishing while going to college. As I got older I still dove locally, the constant source of fresh halibut never has gotten old, and although I wasn't selling it anymore, I would just give it away, the hunt was my favorite part. There was no point of ever putting it in the freezer, there was always more to have fresh when the viz was clear.

I eventually bought my friends 24' c-dory and started Mako Shark fishing off the temperature and current breaks locally with friends and had some pretty good results. None of my good friends dove much, but eventually I really wanted to start diving the blue water kelp paddies. One day I took a friend out that was a swimmer, but not a diver, into Mexican waters from long beach, I think around the butterfly bank, and we caught some Dorado and little yellowtail. I had put a mask and fins and a metal tech on the



boat and didn't say much about it. After we caught a few fish I started heading home, a long way uphill for that little boat and I stopped for a paddy that looked like it was holding. I jumped in kind of apprehensive, and saw a

bunch of yellowtail. The yellows swam up to me, I nailed one, and screamed to my friend about it and told him how cool it was. I eventually turned around to find the fish off my spear and he was gone, it didn't matter, he wasn't huge, but what did matter was I so stoked and all my reservations went out the window, this was the most beautiful environment I have ever seen. I still didn't have really many friends that did this, and then the local blue water diving was seasonal at best, so I continued to long range fish with my dad and some of his best friends like Dick Zylstra, Pauls father, (he was one of the best fisherman I had ever seen and a riot to be with) We went on a lot of the nicer boats like the Excel regularly with Dick on 2-6 day trips. Only went open-ocean diving about 10 times just spearing a handful of yellowtail and a Dorado. I haven't been scuba diving in at least 8 years, weather it was too much of a pain in the ass to get the tanks filled or

hydro'ed or VIP'ed, or keep up with the gear, I just really like doing what I started, freediving. Since a kid, the shore diving at night for halibut has been the only thing that has remained constant, every year. WSB at Palos Verdes has been a focus the last couple years. And I couldn't be happier that I am back in the game with the new 18' RIB I just got. I have not had a boat for the last 7 years while i was fixing up



my starter home and putting an addition onto it so I could sell it and make a little profit and get back close to where i grew up, which I did, and now have a home a few blocks from the one I grew up at, nice to be able to help parents more as we both get older too. Seems a lot has come together since moving back to Seal, finally found some crazy-ass friends that know what I am talking about and are as excited as I am of seeing what is beyond those kelp strands and sharing stories like this. I am sure I've found some people that feel like I do as long as I can remember... even if you haven't been in the water a couple weeks, or a few months, or god-forbid a year, as soon as you get in and under, everything goes away and you are completely taken by the environment and it's just like you went back home.

The End

Panama closed to spearfishing!



Instagram

camkirkconnell End of an Era?! There's been a lot going on behind closed doors over the past two years and it came to a head this past month with a full closure on Spearfishing at Hannibal Bank and Montuosa Island in Panama. (Sportfishing is also banned on Montuosa) Both areas are within Coiba National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site and it has been discussed for years but is now official. This comes as a major blow as the area has become one of the most popular spearfishing destinations for Bluewater in the past 10 years. With Sportfishing, Commercial boats, and Spearfisherman all vying for a piece of the action it's yet another reminder that each of us needs to be a representative for our sport no matter where we are in the world and respect the local boats, fisherman, customs, and limits. The right people are lobbying to try and regain our rights there and I'll keep you updated but for now, the Bank is off limits. #hannibalbank #dolphinschoolsitis



**Frank Sanchez and crew
gets into some nice early
season Local Bluefin Tuna
action**



John Hughes having Winter Fun with his family and grabbing Bugs..

Got to love a quick limit!

"Hopped in after work to check for seabass, crickets on the fish but hopped back in as sun set and had a crazy pic on the bugs. Got these in about an hour" John Hughes



Attention Neptunes !!!

Don't forget to attend this month's general meeting on Wednesday March 6th. We will be having guest speaker Paul "Argos" Bird showcasing his latest products, including their new dive bag, gloves and dry backpack!



Argos Dive Co.
Huntington Beach, CA
info@argosgear.com
Ph # (657) 215-8802



**Wednesday March 6th thru Sunday
March 10th, 2019 is the
76th Annual Fred Hall Show**

Fred HallTM Shows

Be sure to stop by and visit the booths of our sponsors, ...

**Amadeo Bachar Studios, Spear America, Neptonics,
Pelagic, and many more**



A NIGHT WITH THE STARS!

2019 NEPTUNE AWARDS BANQUET





2018 Long Beach Neptunes Fish Competition Results



2018 Fish Competition Awards

2018 Calico Derby Scott DeFirmian 10.95 lbs

California Awards

Lobster	Scott DeFirmian	10.3 lbs
Halibut	Scott DeFirmian,	14.55 lbs
Calico Bass	Scott DeFirmian	10.9lbs
White Seabass	Paul Zylstra	76 lbs
Yellowtail	Seamus Callaghan	45.6 lbs
Bonito	Todd Farquar	10.1 lbs
Dorado	Byron Quinonez	11.9 lbs
Bluefin Tuna	Dan Keeler	217 lbs

Out of Country Awards

Reef Fish	Dave Freeman	Gulf Grouper	109.3 lbs
Pelagic	Mike Marsh	Sailfish	99lbs
Tuna	Mike Marsh	Yellowfin	77 lbs

Kent McIntyre Paul Zylstra 116.5 lbs

Congratulations to John Carpenter and John Johnston, our Newest Life Members



Congratulations to our Newest King Neptunes

- 45. Jason Taylor
- 46. Paul Zylstra
- 47. Ethan Smith
- 48. Will Withers
- 49. Todd Farquhar
- 50. Jeff Bilhorn
- 51. You ?





Recent catches from near and far!

LAST CALL FOR LOBSTERS!

Lobster season closes on Wed. March 20th !!!

Neptune member Josh Wells with a hefty homegrown bug.



Hi Chase,

I just forwarded you some pictures of my son-n-law with a 57# yellowtail in New Zealand. He borrowed my Mori gun and was able to shoot three YT! He saw a 75# one but was not able to get a shot. Jared has been diving with me for the past 4 years and has become quite a good diver! He has also shot a 120# Blue Fin Tuna as well. I am sure that he will be a tentative soon, he has been pretty busy with traveling for business and playing with my 17 month old granddaughter "Everly"!

Thanks,

Robert Strohbach

Hopefully, you can dive with me on Sea Hunt this year!

I look forward to an invite.. Thanks, Chase

Robert Strobach's son-in-law
Jared with a 57lb YT!.



Donkeys in New Zealand

ATTENTION MEMBERS! WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF ANY NEW OR USED DIVE GEAR, ARTWORK, BOAT TRIPS, OR ANY OTHER SPEARFISHING RELATED ITEMS FOR OUR ANNUAL AUCTION. IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO DONATE PLEASE CONTACT JEFF BILHORN @ (949) 230-5698 OR EMAIL US AT LBNEPTUNES@YAHOO.COM ASAP SO WE CAN ADD TO OUR INVENTORY LIST. ANY CONTRIBUTIONS ARE APPRECIATED.



2019 Annual Neptune Auction

Wednesday April 3rd, 2019 7:00PM



Me-n-Ed's Pizza

4115 Paramount Blvd Lakewood, CA 90712

SEA HUNTING AT SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND

BY JOHN CARPENTER

Weekend of 2-23-19

I received a call from Robert Strohbach stating that he wanted to do a SCI trip. But before committing to the trip, I checked the offshore weather and it did not look too good. Friday was calling for 20-25 knot winds and a 5-8 foot swell; lovely! Further, the Navy had the east end of the island closed between 2-10pm. However, the weather was supposed to improve through the weekend, so I jumped aboard the Sea Hunt along with Bill Peratt and Mike Marsh.



set the bar with a nice one at just under 5 lbs. Later in the afternoon, two Navy MH-47 Chinook Spec Op helicopters began doing strafing missions along the island. The show was spectacular, and later included tracer rounds during nightfall and shells hitting the water just 100' away. We were the only boat in the area!

Just before sunset, Mike insisted on diving a particular kelp bed near the area where the Chinooks were doing their strafing training. Again, shells were splashing the water less than 100' away while we were donning our gear - It was pretty entertaining! Initially, only Mike and I jumped the kelp bed and began looking around for possible WSB. After swimming around without any



The trip across the channel was as forecasted, but otherwise uneventful. We arrived mid-island only to find the wind too strong to dive anywhere. We motored up the front side and found some calm spots around the backside of Pyramid. Winter diving is usually uneventful, so we set our minds on chasing those crafty Calico Bass and looking for halibut due to the recent full moon. The water temp was a cool 57-60 degrees!

We hit a few spots around Pyramid and slowly worked our way toward China. We picked off a few Calicos; Bill





sightings, I worked my way back toward the boat and noticed a couple of longer, dark figures passing beneath me that appeared to be Soupfin Sharks. I recalled stories from Duane Smith and Dale Cote of past Neptunes shooting a few, and that they were “good” eating. However, the sun was setting and I was not sure if untangling a snapping, pissed off shark from the kelp was a prudent idea. But...What the hell - Let’s add to the entertainment!

I saw one 20’ beneath me moving through the outer edge of the kelp and took the shot, striking him just behind the head. He began ripping line from my reel as I grabbed the line and tried to “short line” him. I wanted to tangle him in the kelp early and avoid the cluster F that was likely to follow. He was very strong, and even though I was kicking as hard as possible, he initially pulled me backward. However, my tactic worked and the shark tangled tightly about 20’ deep; not much farther from where I shot him.

I looked toward our boat and noticed that Mike was just beginning to remove his gear while Robert and Bill were enjoying the airshow. Without saying WHAT I had, I shouted for assistance and knew that they would think I had a big WSB. Mike donned his

gear and began swimming back my way. I was quietly laughing in anticipation of seeing the look on Mike’s face when he realized what I shot.

Mike showed up, and I hesitated telling him what I shot. My legs were cramping from diving all day and the initial fight with the shark, so I rested while Mike dived to assess the situation. He surfaced with a smile/smirk on his face and said, “You thought it was a white, right?” I said, “Yes, exactly!”

The Soupfin was still active, but the kelp greatly limited his mobility. Mike and I made several dives - Mike hooked a float to the shark, but it did not surface because of the kelp entanglement. I made a couple dives and stabbed him in the head while avoiding his attempts to turn and bite me. We waited for the shark to become more subdued before I swam down and cut the kelp beneath him, allowing the float to raise the shark. We swam the shark back to the boat and noticed that Robert and Bill had donned their gear and gotten back in the water. The sun was setting, and Robert and Bill swam back to the boat once they learned what I had taken. We headed into the anchorage where we prepared the shark and watched the ongoing airshow. If you ever take a shark, make sure to immediately bleed it around the gills and tail AND gut it as well. Sharks urinate through their skin, and the meat must be quickly and properly prepared for consumption. Soupfin sharks are open year-round to divers, but closed Jan-March to anglers.



The weather calmed down the next day and allowed us to work our favorite spots along the front side. Robert took a nice Sheepshead and we added some more Calico Bass to the cooler. Biggest Calico went to Bill, but the “Serial Calico Killer Award” went to Mike! We spent a great night in Northwest Harbor before heading back to the mainland. Another great time on the Sea Hunt!

The End

For more information or entry form,
Contact Seamus Callaghan at (714) 742-6326
email: Acwaman@aol.com



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