



# THE TRIDENT

NOV 2020 | ISSUE NO. 11

**LONG BEACH NEPTUNES**



## 2020 Board Members

### President

Jeff Benedict  
562-743-5442  
dive4sanity@gmail.com

### Ex-Presidio

Jeff Bilhorn  
949-230-5698  
jeff.bilhorn@earthlink.net

### Vice President

Will Withers  
760-522-4542  
wjw0603@yahoo.com

### Treasurer

Jon McMullen  
562-810-7188  
jonathan.d.mcmullen@gmail.com

### Tentative Manager

Hobie Ladd  
562-607-5579  
lbwallbangr@gmail.com

### Newsletter Editor

Eric Bodjanac  
805-231-4017  
bodjanace@gmail.com

### Recording Secretary

Ivan Sanchez  
310-934-3581  
chiroisanchez@gmail.com

### Club Historian

Paul Byrd  
949-500-1459  
pbyrd@argosx.com

### Conservation Liaison

Terry Maas  
805-642-7856  
tmaas@west.net

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.

- November 4th- Meeting
- December 2nd- Meeting
- December 5th- Christmas Party
- December 25th- Merry Christmas!

# FISH STANDINGS

## 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)	(BW)21.66 lbs
Bonito (John Hughes)	(BW)8.93 lbs
Barracuda	Open
Dorado	Open
Wahoo	Open
Bluefin Tuna (Josh Wels)	(BW)131.2 lbs
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

(John Hughes) 68 lb WSB + 36.4 lb YT = 104.4lbs

(Lyle Davis) 53.8 lb (BW, 51.11 lb) WSB + 49 lb YT  
= 100.11 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

## Perpetual Big Fish Trophy

(Josh Wels, Bluefin Tuna)

(BW)131.2 lbs



**ZOOM  
MEETING  
!!!!**

**NOVEMBER 4, 2020, 7 PM  
MEETING ID 774 147 1299  
PASSCODE 121834**



SALTY  CREW



THRILL SEEKERS  
AND RISK TAKERS

N 32° 46' 9.727" W 117° 14' 2.825"

SALTY - CREW - 40 %  
DISCOUNT  
"LBNEPTUNES40"



**DONNY HARRIS' FRIEND INVENTED/MADE THESE HANGERS SOME TIME AGO AND IS WILLING TO SELL THEM TO CLUB MEMBERS FOR \$10 EACH. CONTACT DONNY TO PICK ARRANGE PURCHASE: DONNYHARRIS@GMAIL.COM, CELL: 310-621-3123**





# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

**JEFF BENEDICT, LONG BEACH CA**

Thank you to all that participated in our 2020 Fall Classic Tournament....complete with Covid 19 approved social distancing protocol. Once again conditions were challenging and the long run offshore paid off for the Half Dozen. Steve Parkford moved his way up the podium from 2nd place at the BWM to 1st Place at the Fall Classic. He's been a force to recon with this year! Steve won the \$250 Salty-Crew gift card, Jason Taylor received the \$200 Palapas Ventanas credit as well as all other winners received a Salty-Crew bag. Thank you to the sponsors that stepped up to volunteer these gifts in a rather bleak year of prizes! The Fall Classic apparel sales were brisk with an original design by Brian Callen (LuckytheTattooer@gmail.com). We sold out of the Long Sleeve Sun Shirts and the Hoodies. A few t-shirts remain @ \$15/ea. Steve Parkford has volunteered to manage a one time only 2nd printing of the Hoodies. More information to follow. Me-n-Eds' dining room is still closed (LA County)....BUT Orange County restaurants are beginning to open. That means, as of this exact moment, that we are moving forward with plans for an "in person" Christmas Party at the Phoenix Club in Anaheim. Details to follow....VOTE, VOTE, VOTE! We currently have volunteers for all 2021 Board positions. Nominations will close at the November ZOOM meeting with the vote taking place at our December 2nd meeting. No vote by mail, no extensions to count ballots, no proxies will be allowed. You must be present and show your face in order for your vote to count! Update: Our 501c7 application has been officially received. The IRS has now sent their 1st "Request For Information" package. I have a feeling this may be a very slow process. I am really looking forward to seeing you all in person come Christmas!

Stay well,

Jeff Benedict2020 President







Above- Donny, his brother, and friend Brian got on the bugs at first light. Left- Donny holds his 5.1lb bug, one of 7 that made his 20.5lb limit.

**DONNY HARRIS**





PARKFORD WITH A WELL PLACED SHOT

John Hughes



**THE LUCKY HAT GETS LUCKIER**

**THIS ALL WENT DOWN IN 2015 RIGHT AFTER I HAD MY FIRST CHILD, MY SON EZ.....**



**LET ME PREFACE THIS AGAIN BY SAYING I'M A FIRM BELIEVER THAT GOD IS THE GIVER OF ALL GOOD THINGS (INCLUDING WHITE SEABASS).**

**THE DAY AFTER I SHOT THE 60LBR I DECIDED TO TAKE A DAY OFF AND BOND WITH MY KID AS THAT'S WHAT THE STATE OF CA WAS PAYING ME TO DO. IT WAS GOING REALLY WELL MOST OF THE MORNING UNTIL HIS NAP TIME AROUND 10. THE KID WAS CRASHED SO I LEFT HIM WITH THE WIFE AND DECIDED TO MAKE A RUN TO MORI'S HOUSE TO TAKE CARE OF SOME BUSINESS. ABOUT HALF WAY THERE I GOT A CALL FROM MY BUDDY KEITH ASKING ME IF I WANTED TO MAKE A QUICK LOCAL RUN. THE CONDITIONS WERE CRAP BUT I SAID WHAT THE HECK, LET'S GIVE IT A TRY AND SEE IF ANYBODY WAS HOME YET.**

**IN SPITE OF MY BELIEFS, I RACED HOME AND STOOD IN THE HALLWAY AGAIN PONDERING MY HATS. FIGURING THE DAY BEFORE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THE FACT THAT I'M JUST THAT GOOD, I DECIDED TO SEE IF THERE REALLY WAS ANYTHING TO THE LUCKY HAT THEORY. I GRABBED THE SAME HAT AND RACED TO KEITH'S BOAT.**

**WE DISCUSSED THE PLAN WHICH WAS TO SHOOT LIMITS AND BE HOME EARLY (AGAIN). ON THE SPOT WE WERE GREETED WITH LESS THAN FAVORABLE CONDITIONS BUT THE OUTSIDE LOOKED GOOD. I ASKED KEITH WHICH DIRECTION HE WANTED TO GO AND HE POINTED IN ONE DIRECTION. I SAID HAVE AT IT, I'D GO THE OTHER WAY. AS I SWAM AWAY, THE CONDITIONS GOT WORSE AND WORSE. VIS WENT DOWN TO ABOUT 10' AND THEN 8'. I WAS ABOUT TO TURN AROUND WHEN I SPOOKED THE FIRST FISH WHICH WAS A SCHOOLIE. I FIGURED I'D HANG OUT FOR A MINUTE. MY NEXT DIVE, I SAW A 40LBR I COULDN'T GET A BEAD ON IT THE VIS WAS SO BAD. THE NEXT DIVE, I SAW ANOTHER AROUND 20LBS AND I WAS ONLY 10 MINUTES INTO MY DAY. THERE WERE SOME FISH HERE AND THE STRANGE THING WAS, THEY WERE ALL DIFFERENT GRADES. I RARELY FIND THAT. MAYBE THE LUCKY HAT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT?**

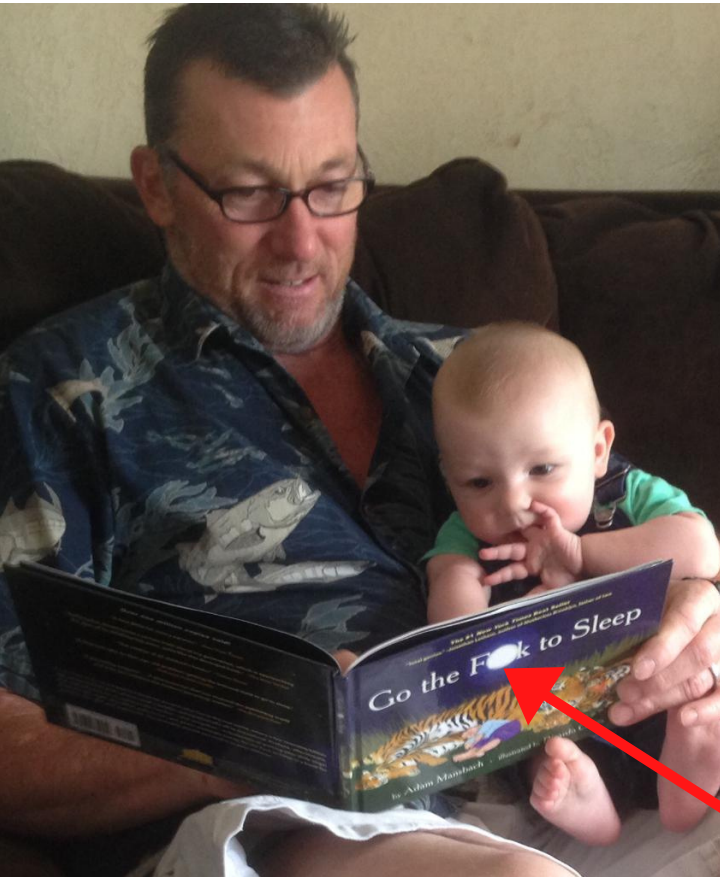




I WAS LAYING ON THE SURFACE PONDERING THAT FACT WHEN QUICK MOVEMENT CAUGHT MY EYE. 3 FISH WERE ALREADY TURNING AWAY FROM MY SHOULDER WHICH THEY ALMOST RAN INTO. IT WAS THE OPPOSITE SHOULDER FROM MY GUN ARM SO I CROSSED MY GUN BELOW ME AND TOOK A SNAP SHOT AS THEY WENT AWAY. I DON'T USUALLY TAKE SNAP SHOTS LIKE THAT BUT IT WAS CLOSE, I HAD SHOT A 60LBR THE DAY BEFORE AND WAS FEELING CONFIDENT AND I HAD MY LUCKY HAT IN THE BOAT SO I LET IT FLY. ZZZZZZZZZZ WENT MY REEL AND I LET IT RUN AS I WASN'T CERTAIN HOW GOOD MY SHOT WAS. I DID A DIVE OR TWO TO FIND MY FISH AND I ENDED UP HAVING A VERY SOLID SHOT. I ACTUALLY DUG THIS ONE OUT MYSELF, BLED IT, PUT IT ON THE STRINGER AND SWAM IT BACK TO THE BOAT. TOTAL ELAPSED TIME ABOUT 20 MINUTES. I DRANK SOME COCO WATER AND LOOKED AROUND AT THE EMPTY BED AND GLOATED. I TOOK A FEW SHOTS OF THE FISH LAYING ON THE DECK AND IT WAS NO MONSTER BUT IT DID GO ABOUT 30LBS, A NICE FISH.

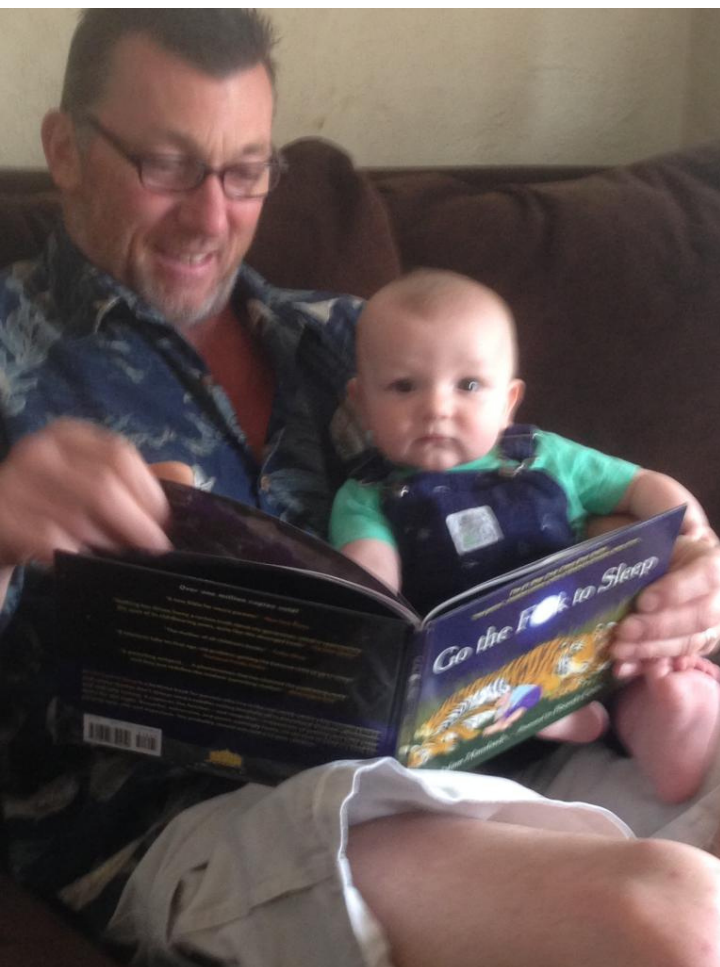


KEITH CAME BACK AFTER ABOUT AN HOUR AND SAID HE HAD DOVE HARD AND NOT SEEN A THING. I TOLD HIM MAYBE HE SHOULD GO TRY THE DIRECTION I WENT AND SHOWED HIM MY FISH. HE GOT ALL BIG-EYED AND SWAM OFF. ANOTHER HOUR OR SO AND HE RETURNED I THINK SEEING A COUPLE BUT NOT BEING ABLE TO CONNECT. WE HAD SCHEDULES TO MEET SO WE SPLIT. AGAIN HITTING THE DOCK WITH ONLY 1 FISH IN THE BAG I HAD TO WONDER IF IT HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH MY LUCKY HAT? I GOT HOME, FILLETED THE FISH AND COOKED UP SOME MORE COLLARS BY JUST PUTTING SOME LEMON PEPPER ON IT. NOTHING ELSE NECESSARY, GOOD TO GO.



**BEING THAT IT WAS EARLY ENOUGH, I EVEN GOT TO READ MY KID A BOOK BEFORE HE WENT TO BED.**

**AS YOU CAN SEE I THINK I WAS ENJOYING THIS BOOK MORE THAN HE WAS AND WHEN MY WIFE WALKED IN THE DOOR, SHE WASN'T ENJOYING IT AT ALL LOL.**



**I WAS THINKING AT THE TIME THAT THIS FAMILY LEAVE ACT THAT CA HAS WAS A GREAT THING. THE FIRST WEEK OFF AND I HAD 79LBS OF BUGS AND TWO SEABASS. EVERYTHING WAS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN. MAYBE THE LUCKY HAT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT??**

**STAY TUNED.....**



# WHERE'S THAT TOOTH FAIRY WHEN YOU NEED HER?

BY MIKE MARSH

For the last few years, a group of us have been going to La Paz in early October to shoot Wahoo and tuna when they're around. The primary group includes Bruce Dardis, Mike Feldman, and myself. The balance of the attendees will vary depending on certain variables. Primarily who we want to put up with. This year Lance Morrison, a Nor-Cal freediving friend, was to be indoctrinated. The 5-day trip was to include 3 days of spearfishing at Tm Hatler's Palapa's Ventana. We requested our favorite Captain Yoni to be with us for the entire trip because he is an accomplished spearfisherman, knows both the spots and the procedures of drift diving. This makes him our number one choice.

## DAY 1

It's an all-day affair of Flying, driving, checking in, and getting our gear ready for tomorrow's boat ride. **This included putting on five freshly made green modulus bands that Mori made me for my Alexander tuna gun.** We got the word that the fishing had slowed down some from a few weeks earlier when several wahoos were shot along with a good-sized yellowfin. No worries, we've all been here before so we had a few beers and remained hopeful.

## DAY 2

Breakfast was at 6 AM and by 6:30 the gear was loaded and we were off. Well, that is most of the gear. Bruce, maybe in all the excitement for Yoni to put us on the Southside before the other divers, discovered that his fins were somewhere other than onboard. Yoni radioed Tim to see if they were on the beach. Negative, crap now we have to head north to chase down the other boats to see who has them. By the time we were approaching the north end, one of the other boats were waving the missing fins. Note to all divers, always bring a dive bag and load your sh---t in it. The water temp was a balmy 89 and I consistently had to flush my 3 mil top to cool down. Tomorrow I will wear a lycra top and drop some weight. The vis. was 40 to 50 feet with a slight current. There were no fish taken on this day and only a few sightings. None of them by me. Time to head back.

## DAY 2

Things looked promising today. There had been several wahoo sightings early this morning and Bruce landed a 25-pound wahoo. I kept throwing my flasher every two minutes or so and diving 30 feet to retrieve it, hoping it would attract something other than needlefish. It was mid-morning as I watched my flasher slowly sink about 5 feet when a nice size wahoo nosed up to it and gave me a broadside view. Diving down, I raised the gun pushing it forward with both hands and pulled the trigger. Simultaneously, there was an explosion of white flesh appearing from the side of the silver skin pelagic and an immense pain coming from my upper and lower jaw. The new green bands were surprisingly more powerful than the black modulus, that I normally use. When I fired the gun, I could not hold back the recoil and the



woodbutt smacked me good. It was like taking a shot in the mouth with the end of a 2 X 6. The shooting line peeled off, but the snubber did not release, so I let the gun go with the bungie and float. I grabbed my mouth and rolled my tongue around to assess the damage. I couldn't taste blood, but my lower row of teeth was hurting and I could feel something was off on my front upper incisors. It was like both upper and lowers were pushed backward. I notice that the float had gone slack and knew the fish was off. I lifted myself into the panga to assess the damage. None of my teeth appeared to be loose but one was broken. I took those green bands off and reinstalled my original black ones. There were some more wahoo sightings, but those disappeared with the current. Time to move south boys.

Heading South, we stopped at Meyer's reef for a look. Everyone was having multiple wahoo sightings but me. I had only one sighting so far for the last two days and that one cost me a tooth. Yoni continued south to a shallow spot, to cast his net, to make bait. With one perfect cast into the bait blackened water, he pulled in the net and loaded the 5-gallon bucket with micro bait. Maybe this will help. Couldn't hurt I thought.

It was now mid-morning, as we approached the south end where Yoni deployed the float over the highspot. We would drift this area as long as there was current or we shot fish. I must have pulled my raggedy ass into that super panga a dozen times without seeing one fish. The other three amigos were seeing multiple fish. There were also plenty of tear-offs to go along with these sightings. On two occasions, Mike Feldman pulled the trigger on two of these silver targets with black strips only

to have them tear out. Needless to say, his frustration level was off the chart. I had made everyone flashers for the trip and they were having great success at least attracting fish. They were all made identical to mine which means only one thing, I suck.

Towards the end of the day, Bruce called out "Fish On". Bruce had had only one dive trip under his belt before this trip and that was also in La Paz a year ago. He did extremely well back then by taking both a nice tuna and at least one wahoo. Now he again is the top-dog on the scoreboard having taken a second wahoo in the 30-pound range. After 2 days of diving, we were all pretty tired and sore. Despite this, we managed to stay awake long enough for one of my bedtime stories, which promptly bored all listening and we fell asleep by 8:30.

## DAY 4

"We are heading to the south end guys so wrap your blisters, we're going to kill something other than time today boys" I am pretty sure none of this was said, but never the less, we were off to give it one final go. Some of the aches and pains, other than blisters from continuous kicking, included a sore chest and diaphragm from loading and unloading our gun without a chest pad which is normally sewn into the wet suit. To help alleviate this, I donated a flip flop and a rubber boat shoe as padding to Bruce and Feldman. It seemed to help. Lance did not complain about this, but I should have stuffed a flip flop into my lycra top as well.





Right off the bat, Lance throws his flasher and a 15 pound Dorado gives him a broadside and he has a fish on. Lance would also spear a 28-pound wahoo that day and dive on a couple of out of range 100 plus pound yellowfin. Mike Feldman was also now on the scoreboard with 23.7 lb wahoo, a 28.5 lb yellowfin, and a 12 lb Pargo. Bruce continued to shoot well by landing a third wahoo in the 30-pound range. It was halfway through the day when I tossed my flasher for what seemed to be the hundredth time, when low and behold a large shape appeared. It was a nice size Wahoo no more than 5 feet below the surface and maybe 15 feet out. This was a total shock after not seeing one since my partial tooth extraction. By the time it took to exhale and dive, the target was moving away. I shot and the float took off. I handed Yoni the unloaded gun and he asked if it was a big one. "I think so" as the float sped past. I kicked towards the float and hoped it would hold this time. I finally caught up to my yellow low volume float and grabbed the bungie. I could feel the weight, but could not see the fish. The thing was still pretty hot, so I waited ever so impatiently for it to tire down. Slowly, I pulled the line to the surface and could now make out the side view of the fish, but could not tell if my tip had toggled through the other side. The wahoo was now getting closer to the surface. I could see that some of its distinct silver colorings had begun to fade away. The fight was over. I dispatched it and placed it in the panga. It weighed in at 54 pounds on dry land which is my personal best.

My birthday was the day before, so we celebrated with a Wahoo dinner and great cake that we shared with Tim and his associates, who helped to make this a very memorable trip. Now back home, I paid a visit to the tooth fairy, AKA my dentist and I am now sporting a new crown.



**CONGRATS TO ALL  
THOSE WHO PLACED IN  
THIS YEARS FALL  
CLASSIC. THANKS TO  
ALL WHO HELPED TO**

**MAKE IT A  
SUCCESSFUL EVENT!**

**That's  
a Wrap**

2020 Fall Classic Results

Big Lobster

1. Jason Taylor	LB Neptunes	3.1 lbs
2. Rusty Deeble	LB Neptunes Tentative	1.8 lbs

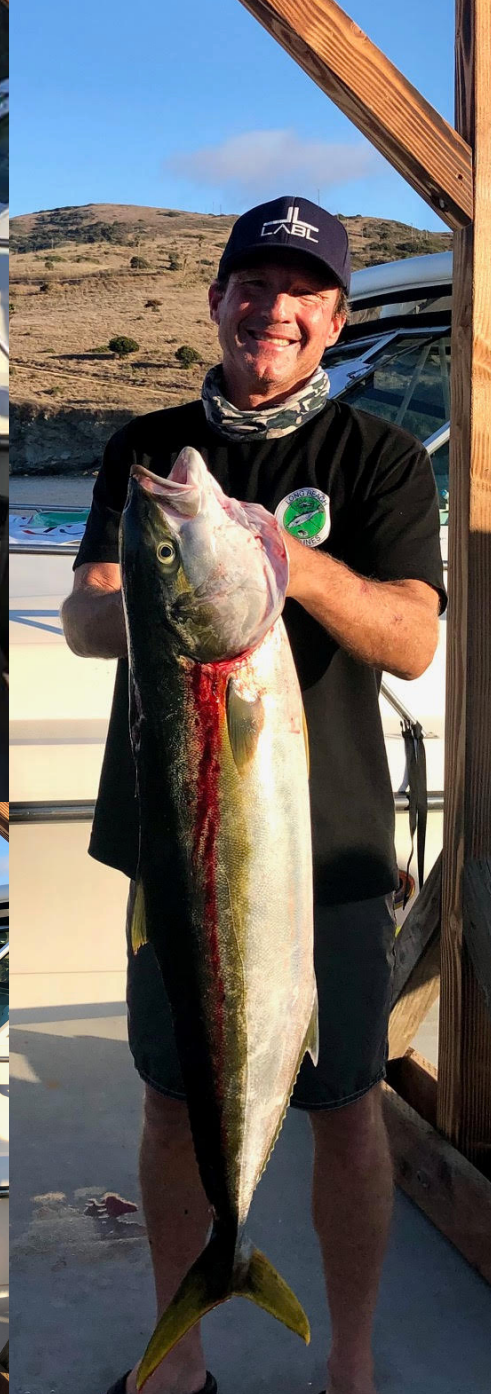
Big Calico

1. Yu Fukushima	LB Neptunes	4.6 lbs
2. Matt Cruz	Guest	4.1 lbs

Big Fish

1. Steve Parkford	LB Neptunes	23.7 lbs Yellowtail
2. John McMullin	LB Neptunes	22.6 lbs Yellowtail
3. Lyle Davis	LB Neptunes	20.4 lbs Yellowtail
4. Jeff Benedict	LB Neptunes	19.8 lbs Yellowtail
5. Paul Zylstra	LB Neptunes	18.6 lbs Yellowtail
6. Lance Ching	Guest	17.9 lbs Yellowtail
7. John Hughes	LB Neptunes	16.7 lbs Yellowtail
8. Rusty Deeble	LB Neptunes Tentative	4.1 lbs Bonita









The Long Beach Neptunes are proudly supported by the following entities

**ATOMIC**  
AQUATICS



**HERRANEN**  
SPEARFISHING



FIND REFUGE IN THE SEA



