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FISH STANDINGS

CALIFORNIA

Calico Derby
Calico Bass
White Seabass
Yellowtail
Halibut
Sheephead
Bonito
Barracuda
Dorado
Bluefin Tuna

OUT OF STATE/COUNTRY AWARDS

Yellowfin Tuna Reef Fish

Lobster

Pelagic, non-tuna

Kent McIntyre Award

Open

Perpetual Big Fish Trophy

Open

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 the members of the Long Beach Neptunes and associates.

2021 CALENDAR

- March 3rd Monthly Club Meeting 7PM <u>IN PERSON</u> at Me 'n' Ed's Pizzeria
- March 15th Limit on White Seabass (atractoscion nobilis) drops to 1 per day
- March 17th Spiny Lobster Season Closes
- April 30th Deadline for Lobster Card Submission
- June 5th Blue Water Meet
- June 15th Limit on White Seabass (atractoscion nobilis) increases to 3 per day
- September 29th Spiny Lobster Season Opens
- October 9th Fall Classic

Open

Open Open

- November 25th Thanksgiving
- December 25th Christmas

<u>Click here for the Long Beach</u> <u>Neptune Contact List</u>



MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

MARCH 3rd 7:00 PM



This month's club meeting will be held <u>IN PERSON</u>, at Me-n-Ed's Pizzeria

4115 Paramount Blvd, Lakewood, CA 90712

We have reserved 50 seats outdoors, social distancing and masks are REQUIRED

Let's get together and have a good time!



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hi everyone,

It feels a lot like Spring to me. Breezy afternoons and my orange tree is getting blossoms. Soon we'll be swimming around for hours in cold murky kelp beds looking for that split second of time we all wait for.

I can't wait!

I know everyone has heard about the loss of another diver in our community. I feel so sad about this. As a father I feel for the parents who will never get to enjoy the happiness of their son anymore. I hope everyone takes this time to reflect on their own abilities and mortality.

Sometimes we may think one thing but our bodies may tell us another. Pay attention to that little voice in your head. It's usually right. No fish is worth your life. Ask for help, use a tank to get a fish but come home so you can go back out and do what we love again.

I look forward to getting back to Me-n-Ed's for our club meetings with our first one in March. I'm not sure how it will work but we will do our best and be respectful of each other.

Safe diving everyone!
Paul Zylstra



Editor's Note

As February dissolves into March, I start to notice bits of spring peeking through the cold winter days. Storms are fleeting, bringing new masses of water and new opportunities for success. Daylight Savings begins in a matter of weeks, and summer will be upon us in the blink of an eye. White Seabass will soon be hitting the decks of our boats. Yellowtail slapping us in the face as we try to subdue them. All the things we come to cherish about our beloved sport are on the horizon, let's set sail towards the future and embrace the unknown with minimal trepidation.

-Juan-Carlos Aguilar

THE WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHEN, WHERE, AND WHY'S OF SPEARFISHING SAFETY



Spearfishing is a dangerous endeavor that is not to be taken lightly. The Long Beach Neptunes Spearfishing Club is dedicated to promoting safety among its members and spearfishing community. Mentorship is one of the best ways to pass on the knowledge gained over years of diving, hunting, and boating. A good mentor will educate the inexperienced diver in all aspects of diving, with safety being of utmost importance.

The following advice is not all encompassing; it can be used to gain a better knowledge of many common hazards we face as we partake in our sport.

WHO

Buddies are the core of our diving experience. We rely on our fellow spearfishers for assistance, camaraderie, and in case of an accident, emergency first response. As a diver we must train ourselves to be completely self-contained, and at the same time be aware of our buddy's actions so that we may assist promptly and efficiently.

To this end, we must be sure that ourselves and the persons we dive with are knowledgeable in safety. Taking a first aid, CPR and O2 certification course is something all divers should do. They are widely available, and reasonably priced. A freedive certification course is highly recommended. Part of the curriculum of these courses involves the recognition of symptoms of shallow water blackout, loss of motor control (SAMBA), rescue techniques and safe breatheup techniques. These skills are paramount to safety in and on the water. A good buddy should be near your level of diving, competent, and able to make sound decisions in the event of an accident. A dive buddy that can not dive deep enough to perform a rescue must be considered when planning your dive.

Years ago, I went on a fellow Neptune's boat for the Blue Water Meet. When we boarded, he gave us a rundown on all the safety equipment and its location on the boat. Following that, he had us all sign waivers, which included emergency contact information. This is something that is often overlooked. When the emergency is over with, its important to let the family of the person(s) involved know as soon as possible.

WHAT

Safety equipment on a boat is vital. All boats have compulsory safety equipment, but this can be supplemented to provide an extra layer of safety for spearfishing needs. Of all the safety equipment on board, the VHF radio is arguably the most important. Being able to call for assistance is vital to the lives of everyone on board. Learn to use the radio of every boat you board. This includes how to change the channel to 16, proper transmission procedures, learning how to set up a relay, using DSC, etc. GPS and chart plotters are useful tools in the event of an emergency. They provide a latitude and longitude so you can relay the information to emergency responders. Familiarize yourself with each vessel's electronic equipment so you will be prepared when the time comes.

Equipment specific to diving and spearfishing include: current line, tourniquet, blood clotting sponges, oxygen tanks and signaling devices. A current line is a buoyant line that is attached to the stern of the boat which will provide divers with a means to reach the boat in the event of strong currents. Tourniquets are used in case of serious injury involving significant loss of blood. Train on the use of these life saving devices and keep them readily accessible. Blood clotting sponges can be used in tandem with tourniquets to prevent loss of blood in many situations. Oxygen tanks are invaluable for divers but must be properly used and maintained to prevent further danger to persons involved in the rescue. Safety courses are widely available and should be taken by anyone who ventures into the ocean. Signaling devices are often overlooked but can be the difference between a rescue and a person lost at sea. Such devices include mirrors, whistles, flares, and safety sausages.

There are many stories of divers being unable to signal their buddies, and boats not able to locate divers. Making yourself visible is essential, especially since most spearfishers wear camo suits which can hinder the ability to be seen.

Marking all your equipment with contact information will make it easy to identify any gear that may go missing, or in the event of an emergency, provide a clue to search and rescue personnel.

A ditch bag is something we hope to never have to use but should be carried on board and easily accessible. The bag should be able to keep the contents dry and ideally placed in a spot that will float free of the vessel in the event of sinking. The ditch bag should at minimum include a VHF radio, signaling devices, water and non-perishable food items.

EPIRBs are not required on recreational vessels but are extremely useful in serious emergency situations. Alternately, a personal locating beacon is a worthwhile investment, and can be sourced at a reasonable price. Binoculars can be a helpful tool when searching for a lost diver, be sure to carry a pair on board.

WHEN

Read the forecast for the area you will be operating in, learn to interpret it, and use multiple sources of information to put together a good idea of what conditions you will encounter. Talk to experienced boaters, harbor masters, fellow spearfishers, and keep your own record of experiences to reference in the future. Tidal movements can have a significant impact on diving conditions, as well as fish activity. Be conservative and realistic when choosing to dive a particular area. Take into account entry and exit points, current, swell, wind and visibility when selecting a dive site. Have a realistic appraisal of your ability to deal with adverse conditions.

Ask yourself – Have I dove in these conditions before? What is my mental readiness? How long has it been since I dove last? Is my buddy comfortable diving in this type of situation? Is my gear adequate?

WHERE

Diving in Southern California is amazing, but the risks involved can be compounded by the location of the area in which you are diving. Shore diving has its own level of expertise that must be learned to be safe. Entry points vary, having a good knowledge of safe ingress and egress techniques will help keep you and your buddies safe. Diving off boats offers a wider variety of areas to dive, though some areas are highly trafficked, and should be approached with caution.

The use of dive flags, dive floats, and live boating can help reduce risk when diving a busy area. Using a float line and float system can help with visibility of divers in the water. Live boating has inherent risks that must be addressed by the divers, and a plan of actions should be thoroughly discussed before anyone gets in the water. The operator of the vessel should be competent in their actions and have the safety of all divers in the water be their priority. Divers should be responsible for making their intents known to the boat operator and signals clear and concise to reduce the chance of misinterpretation.

Universal signals include: Boat operator verbalizing when it is safe to enter the water as well as approach the boat, boat operator verbalizing directions to divers in the water loudly and clearly, divers holding spearguns vertically out of the water when requesting a pick up, divers verbalizing when approaching the boat.

WHY

Safety is what all divers should strive for. Being able to come home after a day on and in the water is what we all strive for.

Dive Safe,

Remember, NO FISH IS WORTH YOUR LIFE.

Juan-Carlos Aguilar

I got a call from "El Presidente" Paul Zylstra asking if I'd like to hop aboard the Flattie and try to fill the freezer. Of course I said yes, and soon we were on our way around the island in search of some tasty treats. The first spot we hit was quiet, and it reminded us quickly that it was still February. 57F° water temps, but at least the 30 foot visibility made it diveable. Fortunately, Paul knows about the cold, and has unlimited hot water, so we filled our suits up and managed to stave off hypothermia for the rest of the day.

ADVENTURES ABOARD THE FLATTIE



The next spot was absolutely beautiful, though just as quiet as the first area. I did come across a massive giant seabass napping in the middle of the kelp. It boomed off, likely scaring every fish for a mile in all directions. Oh well, still a gorgeous dive.

In addition to the clearish water, we had a bright sunny day, with hardly a breath of wind. We couldn't ask for much more, except for fish of course.

We hit a number of other spots, and eventually Paul found the honey hole we'd been looking for all day. He pulled three halibut, including a fatty flattie!

With the skunk off the boat, we felt a bit better as the sun went down.

I was first in the water after dark, and managed a single bug for my bag. Better than doughnuts! We decided to move to a new area, and shortly after hopping back in, I limited out with a sizeable bug as icing on the cake. Paul managed to grab a nice one to bring back home to the wife, and we called it a night.

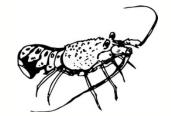
Early the next morning, we hopped in with hopes high, only to find a whole lot of nothing in that spot. We decided to give it another go somewhere else, and 10 minutes after dropping anchor there, I spotted a familiar camo shape in a trough of sand. I did a quick measure, and aimed for the head. I pulled the trigger on my 36" MAN midhandle, and hit a perfect gill plate shot.

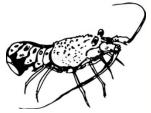
The fish started to flutter, and then just swam away. WHAT?!?! No way I missed. Turns out I hit a rock right below the fish, which didn't allow my flopper to toggle on the other side of it. Dejected, I looked around in vain for my wounded fish to no avail.



I ran into Paul a few minutes later and told him my sob story. He was sorry to hear it, and said he'd keep an eye out.

I did find a weird jellyfish-squid-octopus looking thing floating about, and grabbed it to show to Paul. I am just bummed since I didn't have my GoPro! Oh well...







A couple minutes later, I see Paul swimming towards me, with another flattie in his hands. I congratulate him, and he says "This is your fish!"

Sure enough, he shows me the massive hole in its head, and tells me the he saw one of the leopard sharks trying to munch it.

Thanks Paul!

It's the first halibut I've shot in probably 8-10 years, so I was super stoked to be able to bring it home. It wasn't the biggest ever, but it meant the world to me.



It was a wonderful way to start the year, and the first time I've had a chance to really get to hang out with Paul. He's a super nice guy, and hopefully this will be the first of many trips to come!

Cheers,

Juan-Carlos Aguilar



have seen a COOL STUFF

My wife and I have seen a lot of really cool things while diving and boating through the decades.

What follows is not about spearing fish.

It's about interesting incidents we've observed or experienced while cruising from San Francisco to Panama.

Circa 1980 San Clemente Island

Harry Ingraham shot a nice YT that was about to get off the shaft. A second shot secured the fish. eventually, wrapped itself around the base of several stalks of kelp. It was a bear to recover because the two shafts had penetrated the fish forming a huge X. While attempting recovery, saw a two-hundred pound black seabass trying to eat the YT but couldn't because of the long shafts that formed the X. You could tell the big bass was pissed and frustrated. Harry doesn't remember the incident, be kind, he's getting old, very old.



About the same time frame - Cortes Banks

A single, frustrated YT found itself in a school of small tuna. It was trying as hard as it could to keep up with the fast-moving fish. Fat chance.

On that same trip during flatcalm conditions, we "heard" tuna chasing bait fish at the surface, one-hundred yards from our anchored location. Hearing fish feed was a first for me.

Crossing from Baja to the Mexican mainland - 2015

Fifteen miles from San Carlos we began seeing turtles, scores and scores of them, all on the same general compass course heading for Baja. While underway, we observed this caravan for over thirty minutes, probably at least 100 turtles.

Baja California - 1985

A fellow Neptune made a nice gun using mahogany. After a dive and not wanting to unload the gun, he placed it in a rack onboard the boat. As I pulled myself aboard, the gun exploded—a very loud bang. A small screw hole allowed fresh water to permeate the wood. "Dry rot" weakened the wood causing it to snap in half. I really like teak.



Fort Bragg - 2016 - abalone diving

Saw three abalone on one dive. Not too unusual, but these three were stacked one on top of the other, two were legal.

San Simon, CA - 2003

Anchored and having a morning cup of coffee in the cockpit of Imagine. I heard a tapping sound, repeated over and over. Curious, I looked over the side and saw a sea otter on its back, in the kelp, trying to crack open a clam with a rock. Best cup of coffee I've had.

Anchored at San Carlos, upper Pacific Baja - 1996 midnight

Strong Santa Ana-like, offshore winds, approx. knots. Stood on foredeck and watched a 3/8 inch SS "S" hook on anchor bridal snap in half due to strain. Eventually had to run boat in gearwhile anchored—to avoid dragging. Wind was incredibly loud but died around 0600. Departed 0601. I learned that a galvanized, pelican hook is much stronger than stainless steel.

Anchored in estuary at Pedregal, Panama, rainy season - 1999

Heavy rains caused a huge tree to fall into estuary and float downstream. Branches snared anchor chains approx. 10 boats. Up all night cutting tree limbs.

Same place

sea snake tried to climb into small croc take a seagull near our inflatable while we were the same dock. Lots of interested in us, it apparently wanted to get out To be honest, the crocs there of the strong current.

Same time and place -Restaurant dock

On scuba, I dived to recover my wife's brand-new glasses.

approx. time and Zero vis and hard to find. Next day, while eating A venomous, yellow-bellied restaurant, we observed a waiting to tie up. Snake was squawking and feathers flying.

> didn't bother kids playing in the water not far away. But being in the zero-vis water with crocs was spooky.





Isla Coronado, Sea of Cortez, North of Loreto - 2015

Anchored in 30 feet of clear water. Heard whale blowing very close. Walked to foredeck and saw a blue whale with calf sliding by our anchor chain, within spitting distance!

San Blas, Mexico - 1998

Anchored in estuary. Powerful tide change. Observed rider-less horse attempt to swim across channel. Within seconds, the horse was sucked underwater out of sight. We launched our inflatable but were unable to locate or help the hapless critter.

San Diego Transit Dock - 1996

Having coffee in cockpit. Voice says, "Good morning," I respond with GM. Voice again says GM, I respond with GM. Voice for third times says GM. A little annoyed, I respond again with GM. Discovered later I was "talking" to a parrot on a boat in the adjacent slip.

La Paz anchorage - 2015

Bait fish schooling under Imagine. Watched porpoise blowing bubbles to curtain off school of bait. Other porpoise would dash in and pick off fish. This lasted until no more bait fish, 60 min.

Attempting to round Punta Mala (the name should have been a clue) Panama, Pacific side - 1999

Hurricane Mitch churning in Caribbean, we were exposed to outflow. Saw adult and juvenile hump back whales breaching. Adult would breach followed by a perfect mimic from juvenile, 4 or 5 jumps. Rough passage, never made it around the point to the Canal.

Puerto Don Juan anchorage, Bay of LA, Baja, preparing for hurricane Nora - 1997

Quiet before the storm. A fifty-foot fin whale entered anchorage. Our dogs onboard went nuts barking at them. It turned toward us, swam under the boat and snagged its tail on the painter securing the dinghy. It scared all of us including the whale, who made a B-line for the open sea. When Nora hit us with 50 knot winds, I realized how important radar was. Up all night, we could clearly see if we were dragging anchor by distance reading displayed on the scope. Radar also helps, even during daylight, to find an open spot in a crowded anchorage. It's a great tool.

Ensenada Grande anchorage, 9 miles north of San Carlos - 2017

Flat calm and very silent, absolutely no wind with clear skies. A full bottle of bacanora (a bootleg-type of tequila) was being emptied, and we were looking for the Green Flash at sunset. A person on one of the boats in the anchorage

started to play the bagpipes... a beautiful anchorage, absolute silence

and the sound of bagpipes.

Pedregal anchorage, Panama. Stern of Gracias - 1999

We would swing under jungle canopy at slack tide. This really pissed off white-faced monkeys. They'd screech, hoot and beat their chests in protest.



Amazing.



Cruising to Mexico and Central America was an incredible adventure.

We had a unique retired Australian SAS special forces member—who could have easily kick my 250 pound ass—was especially impressive, as were his stories.

It was a great learning experience that taught us to become self-sufficient. If you can do it, head south and keep the dirt to your left.

Tom Blandford

A message from the Bouma Family

Dear Friends and Family,

As many of you may have heard by now, our 28 year old son, Joshua Michael Bouma, went missing freediving for lobster with his best bud Daniel Burke Saturday February 13th around 9:45 pm at El Morro State Park. Josh was a very experienced freediver, surfer, and waterman, and must have dove the same spot a hundred times before. In deteriorating conditions with increasing swell size and a strong south current, Josh was separated from his dive partner in heavy surf. Unable to find his partner, Daniel called me, then 911 immediately after Josh went missing. Although the conditions were difficult, we knew with Josh's experience and equipment he had a great chance to make it through the night and were hopeful we'd find him with a bag of lobsters in one of the neighboring coves asking us what all the fuss was about. Chief John Rose from the US Coast Guard along with Ranger Paul Andrus from California State Park Service coordinated a heroic multi-agency search for Josh along with the Laguna Beach Lifeguards, Laguna Beach City Fire & Police Departments, OC Sheriff's Department, and other agency lifeguards. People and resources were arriving on scene within the hour with a rescue helicopter, response boats, and multiple lifeguards in the water following soon thereafter hoping to find Josh safe. They searched well into the night and into the morning and until dusk the next day. They covered 138 square miles and 21 hours of continuous searching by sea, land, and air.

I greatly appreciated Chief Rose taking the time to listen to my reasoning of why Josh had the experience, equipment, and knowledge to have a real chance to make it through this crisis and he told me this was in part the reason they extended the search until dusk the following day. The amount of time, personnel and resources everyone coordinated for our son, gave Josh a real chance. willingness of every member of every team to put themselves in harm's way in very rough conditions to save one soul truly makes them heroes.



Daniel Burke did a great job of reaching out to the OC Spearfishing community to ask them to watch out for any sign of Josh, but most importantly please be safe. From the time the Coast Guard and local authorities suspended their search for our son, our friends and family were not just there to offer their support but took immediate action to help in the search. Paul Caputo and Morgan Hill coordinated to take my son Evan and I out on Morgan's boat first thing the following morning to search the coves. By the time I stepped off of Morgan's boat, Hayden Socci and Ryan Miller were there to pick me up on Ryan's boat and we were scanning the coast with high-powered binoculars. I visited with Perry Boyer from Beach Cities Scuba, Laguna Beach to ask if he could put the word out to the Scuba Dive community to please look out for any signs of equipment that may have washed up into the neighboring coves. I also asked if he had any master level recovery divers that could help, and he said I may be getting a call. Within an hour of leaving the shop I received a call from Chuck Hudson, a scuba instructor that runs privatized rescue company who offered to organize his 4 man team within hours. We picked up Chuck's team from Ryan's boat and had the first dive going that day. Chuck and his team were an amazing group and again we were blessed to have these guys sent to us. Chuck's team dove again the next morning as well but did not find any signs of Josh. This was bitter-sweet as we were fearful of what we may find but we had to bring Josh home. As I came in off the boat Tuesday, Jeff Mitchell reached out and helped me search around the point at E-bay. Mitch Zehner arrived as well and just as we were going to head to another cove, I received a couple calls - one from Hayden and the other from Daniel that said they heard through the community that a diver had been pulled out of the water at Church surf spot just below Trestles about 20 miles south. Although the authorities could not verify anything, we headed straight down, and many more family and friends followed as well.

I had enough info from the community to know that we had found Josh before I even arrived. To the surfers that pulled Josh out of the water and the friends in the community that made the calls, thank you from the bottom of my heart. Although we were absolutely heart-broken of finding our son lifeless, you helped give our family a tremendous amount of closure to see him as he lay. Josh looked truly peaceful, and from what we could surmise from his condition he was likely knocked unconscious in the heavy surf and did not suffer. Most importantly, our family believes he went in peace.

For those of you that have not seen Josh for some time, you may know in the past he was going through some personal struggles and mental health challenges. Josh overcame these tremendous struggles and these past several months have been a Godsend. He was happy, optimistic about the future, with a new job, new car, and back to the old Josh. Spearfishing, surfing, and fishing every spare moment he had and re-engaging with friends & family. I'm attaching a few recent photos of Josh from the past couple months including two from a last minute trip we took up to Rincon where scored epic surf and a wonderful spearfishing trip to Catalina. The last dive I had together with Josh was with him and Daniel just last week. Within 15 minutes Josh shot his halibut and he was so excited he speared a fish that he could take home and cook for his Grandma and Grandpa.

Josh passed diving and doing what he loved, and was found by his surfing brothers. Although this doesn't make the loss of Josh any less tragic, what we take most comfort in is that these past several months we were all back together as a family and Josh was reconnected with old friends. He loved everyone and knew he was loved by all of his family and friends and for this we truly believe he is now at peace.

Thank you again for all your love and support and apologize if I haven't been able to respond to many of you. We plan to have a celebration of life for Josh that we'll announce at a later date, but the next day or so we just need to catch our breath, be with our closest family members, and grieve for the loss of our son. I pray you all will be safe in what you do and when the opportunity to get together with a friends or family member comes up, you take it.

With Love, Mike, Christine, Corrin, and Evan Bouma



An Outdoor Celebration of Life event will be held on March 7th 2021 for Josh Bouma.

To celebrate the good times of Josh's life and to honor the memory of a fellow OC

Spearo.

10:30am --- Paddle-Out Bolsa Chica State Beach - Lifeguard Tower 17 18769E Pacific Coast Hwy, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

12:30pm --- Outdoor Reception (food and drinks)

Huntington Bay Club

4121 Warner Ave, Huntington Beach, CA 92649

SPEARO INVITE:

This is not a closed family event, every OC Spearo member and the extended spearfishing community is invited to attend. The OC Spearos meant a lot to Josh and it would mean a lot to the family if you could show. Josh was a long time spearfisherman who was very passionate about the sport. This passion runs strong in all of us and connects us together. If you felt that connection with Josh, as a fellow spearo, or in his passing, please come. This event is for you to join.

DONATIONS:

Instead of flowers, the family is asking for donations to the NAMI charity organization in the name of Josh Bouma. NAMI had a direct positive impact with the family and wants that feeling of help to be shared with others in remembrance of Josh.

https://www.namioc.org/joshua-michael-bouma

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

BRING FREEDIVE GEAR your wetsuit, dive float, and/or bodyboard to the paddle-out if you don't want to bring a surfboard. The family wants to see both surfers and spearfishermen join in the water.

If you cannot attend the paddle-out, please go to the reception.

DRESS CASUAL - and don't worry about being salty from the ocean swim (Josh would approve)

BRING MASKS (face masks - Covid is still around unfortunately)

RECEPTION PARKING - may be limited at the Huntington Bay Club. Consider car-pooling to the reception or being dropped off.

HAVE A GOOD TIME - it's what Josh would have wanted

Editor's note: Please contact me if you are planning to attend the service. Estimate of reception attendance would be appreciated. Please reserve closer parking for the elderly. Juan-Carlos Aguilar 310-569-3316 juanmilliondollars@yahoo.com



The Long Beach Neptunes are proudly supported by the following entities

ATOMIC































