

THE TRIDENT

V.73 - ISSUE 8



Loreto with Pepe



Last June, shortly after the Blue Water meet, I went on a previously scheduled trip to Loreto with Craig Dockendorf of the Fatthomiers and his dive buddy from the Bay Area. The idea was to fly to Loreto, stay in a hotel every night (Hotel Santa Fe) and run out with Baja Azul's Pepe Urbalejo as our guide. Pepe had been our guide through a couple of Seamus trips on the Pacific side's Mag Bay and had proven not only as a superior guide but also an incredible hunter/diver himself. The plan for Loreto was diving deep reefs so I knew if I got a "holed up" fish, there was always Pepe to the rescue. That gave me some modest relief as I considered we'd be diving in 50-80 feet of water every day, every dive.



The set-up each day was, Pepe picked us up and drove an hour plus north to a small fishing village in sight of Isla San Ildefonso about 10 miles out. Pepe would put us on spots describing to a fine detail what the bottom looked like and the types of fish we could expect.



Water temp was 76-77 degrees so we were in 3mm but the visibility was 12 to 15 feet, sometimes a stretch more to 20 at the bottom. But every dive was 50-60' minimum and many close to 70' which is really over my limit typically. I found it very difficult to get motivated to dive 50-60 feet in poor visibility; diving down into green brown water, the bottom would come up out of nowhere revealing a scattering of reef fish, mostly not targets.

Often Pepe would get in the water, do a dive check spot the fish, tell us what fish were there and other times he would punch down to confirm the pinnacle's position so we didn't waste a dive. With all of his help and it was a lot, we struggled to land fish

First day, however, we all shot at least one fish; couple of Amberjacks and a small cabrilla. Then toward the end of the day, at about 50 feet I saw this monster fish swim by to my right and away from me; I twisted my Riffe No 4 sideways and took a wild shot hitting it in the face. This monster AJ took my float down 20 feet before I could really fight him. But within about 15 min I had the fish on the surface bleeding out. Pepe's guesstimate was 85-90lbs.





The second day, we dove all over the coast hitting high spots only known to Pepe. We saw fish (smaller Cabrilla and Pargo) but nothing obviously big. So out of boredom or something I spied a bigger than usual trigger fish and shot it. Turned out to 18lbs just two tenths of a pound short of the previous world record.



Day three, nobody had landed a Pargo yet, we were near the island with Pepe in the water and he was lining up a Pinnacle when I took a long dive to about 55 feet. When the bottom finally emerged (about 12' viz) I saw a larger fish (Pargo) moving away in a crack, so I took a quick shot at it and headed up putting as much resistance as possible to keep it from getting in a hole. Pulling up, luckily I had nicked it's spine so the Pargo did not have full power otherwise it would have been up to Pepe to retrieve. But alas, got it to the surface! Estimated at 38-40lbs.

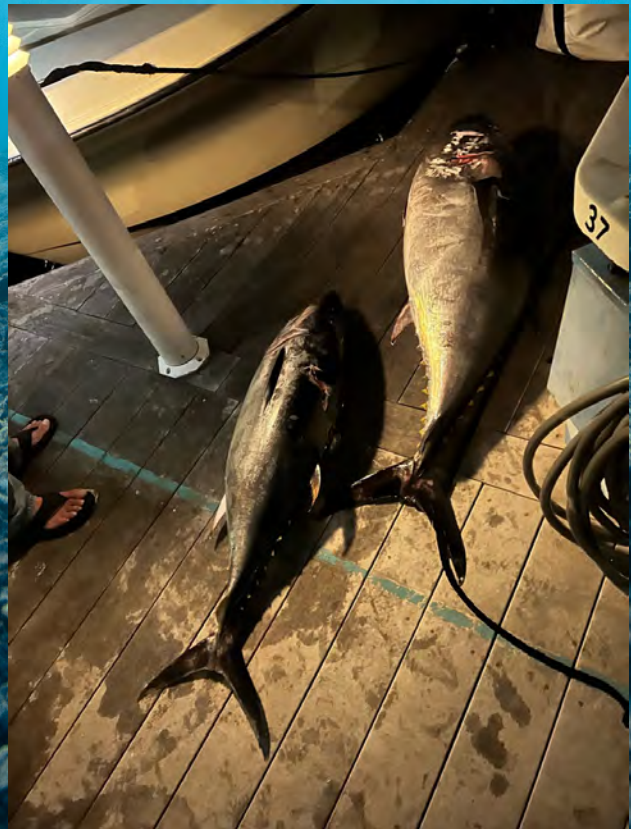


Great trip. Very tough diving.
Great Hotel. Excellent guide!

- Steve Parkford



Got lucky and was able to find the fish. Left out of king harbor and ran behind cat. Lou landed one at 58# and mine was 121#





My buddy from Maui showed up again a little while ago and so of course we headed down to baja again. We powered down to bahia conception , got some sleep then drove down past Loretto. We took my inflatable to the closest island where the last time we went we had the biggest ball of bait I had ever seen. Probably a quarter mile by 100 Yards out from the beach where there were schools of giant yellowtail, but there was no bait at all this time so we swam around the point where there was alot of good structure and found a bunch of pargo to 15 lbs. We shot a few of them and then went out to a high spot that was real fishy. Saw small rainbow runners, small amberjacks and a lot of cabrilla. Shot some cabrilla and a parrotfish and headed in. We drove to a different spot and took the boat

We found a spot we had never been to and found 2 spots that were loaded with nice cabrilla so we spent half a day there and loaded up on cabrilla. On the way back we found a spot with some more pargo and shot some more of them. While I was laying on the bottom I heard some thing to my left and saw a giant school of fish swimming by and could barely make them out. I could see eyes and tails flying past, I took a shot and hit one. It was a roosterfish that only went 22.5 lbs but it was a fun fight. We ended up with a ton of fish and headed home





Then I said let's stop at Gonzaga Bay seeing that we were cutting our trip 2 days short because we had so much fish! We were headed out on the boat and I told my friend, lets just go to the first point by the hotel. I saw there was sargos grass there this time of year there will be nice cabrilla.

We jumped in and coming off the bottom was 5 or 6 feet high sargos grass everywhere! The vis wasnt too good. Kind of a hazy white 6 to 10 feet.

Then I made out a silhouette of a nige size grouper and it took off. I yelled at my buddy, they're here!



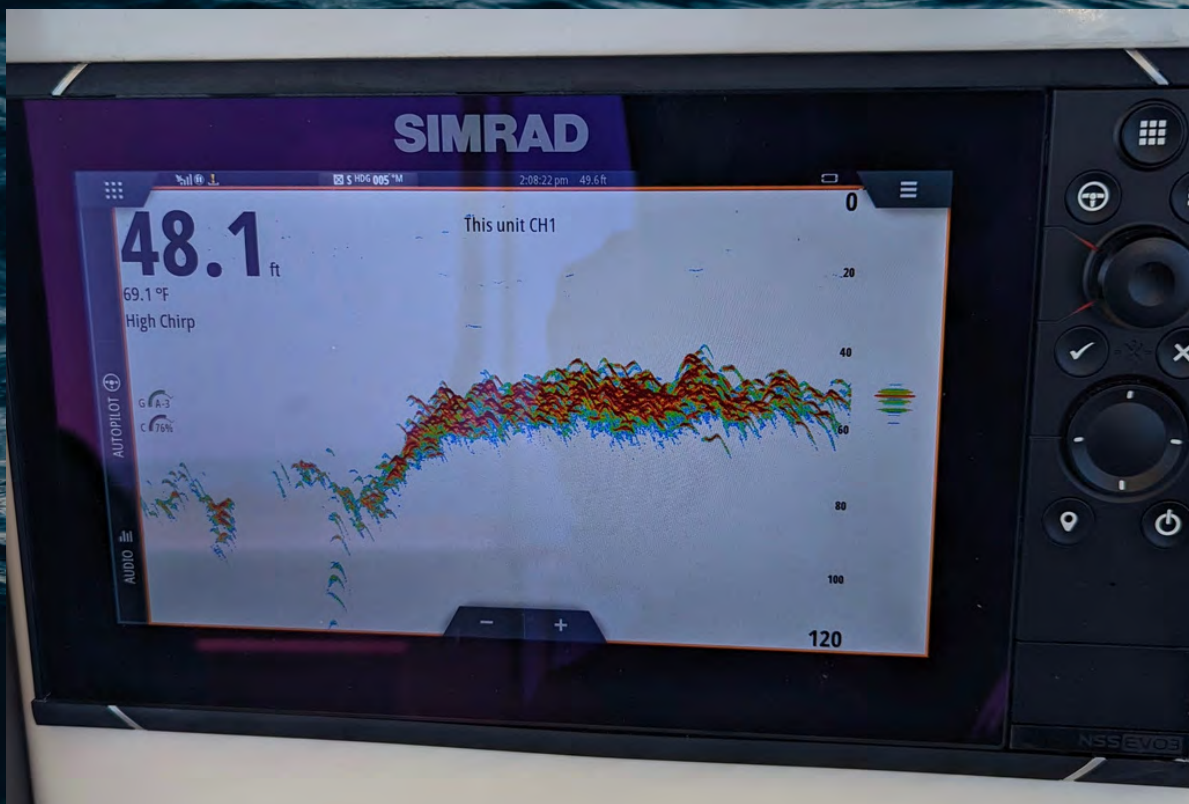
Swimming through the grass, I stopped right over a nice gulf grouper and shot it right behind the head. Then my friend shot one and then I shot another one. We then asked ourselves, how much fish do we need? Headed back to land, cleaned our fish , packed it in the cooler and headed home like Isaid 2 days early! Another super fun baja trip with my best friend! There's just something about baja that is magical!

FV WHISKEY TANGO

By John Carpenter

7-29-22

Bill Peratt, Steve Parkford and I set out last Friday morning for the Osborne Bank area around Santa Barbara Island in search of Bluefin Tuna. The reports indicated a large volume of fish and little swell or wind - perfect conditions for chasing tuna! Well, King Neptune immediately blessed us with calm seas and BF chasing microbait to the surface. However, the tuna were a bit skittish/boat shy, and we had a lot of other fishing boats and some other spearos competing for the action.



Steve and I had the first spearo rotation. I was fortunate enough to see BF on my first or second jump. As I lined up downward on some 80lb fish, a much larger appearing BF sped ahead and I swung my gun ahead in an effort to get a shot on it. I was lucky enough to take a shot resulting in my shaft hitting the fish in the upper back area, but not really deep. After the initial run, I started taking bungee and was almost within 20' of the top of the leader when it made another run and took all the bungee back. It was then that I thought I might have a really nice fish. I let the fish tire awhile before taking back the bungee. I eventually got the bungee back and placed a second shot into its head, ending the battle. I dragged it back to the boat and we gaffed and boated the fish. It taped out to 206.9 lbs, my personal best BF!

Other divers rotated through the lineup, but the fish were just not cooperating - boat shy, sinking out and staying 30+ feet out when we did find them. However, Mike did manage to land a nice BF under 100lbs. that day.

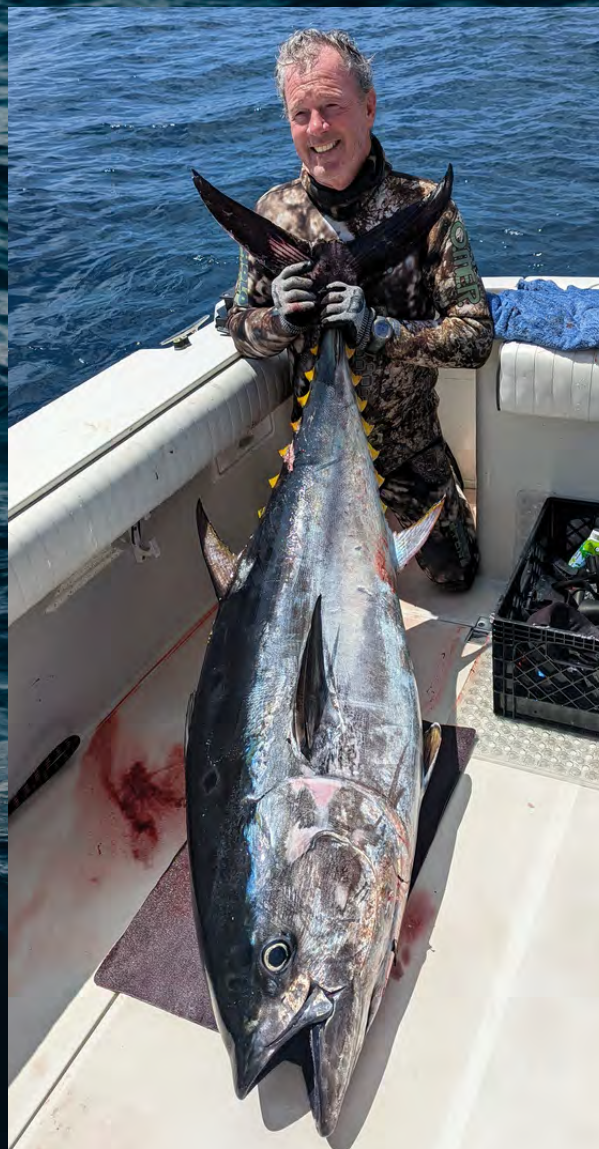
We dived part of the island most of the morning of the second day and went offshore around the first slack tide. The seas were calm, but the tuna were not cooperating with us - we had a couple of missed opportunities as well. That's the way it sometimes goes when old guys like us are chasing tuna! However, part of Saturday's highlight was being greeted by John Johnston's boat along with Eric Schlobohm and Larry Heinrich. As they pulled alongside us, Larry became so excited to be within our fabled company that he haphazardly leaned too far starboard and flopped into the water; fully clothed with his wallet and cell phone! See the picture! It would be negligent not to mention it in our story!



We arose early Sunday morning and immediately headed offshore. It was initially a bit slow, but turned into many tuna sightings. Steve Parkford traded out guns a couple times, but eventually he hit & landed a beautiful BF of around 130lbs. I somehow missed a nice fish! Mike took his turn in the rotation and Bill placed Mike & I perfectly in front of some foaming BF several times, but they quickly sank out. Our efforts and Bill's skills finally paid off when Bill placed us in front of what appeared to be a decent school, but was a huge school of 200 pounders underneath. Bill's tactic was to hang in the area until they circled back through. Mike and I made our drops at the same time and fired almost simultaneously. We surfaced and "high-fived" each other as we watched our floats speed off together.

I thought I had a really good shot on the fish, but my float went limp - I lost it! Mike's fish was on a terror and pulled his float for what seemed like eternity. He wisely let it tire before bringing it to the surface. It taped out within an inch of mine but we kept his fish whole because we were returning later that day and could get a good weight on it. It officially weighed 197.2 lbs!

The amount of marine life in the area was equally amazing. We stopped several times to watch large whales, pilot whales and porpoise feeding in the area.



Anybody that has put time into chasing tuna knows that it's a total team effort. Diving and having the opportunity to pull the trigger on tuna can only occur if the Captain is spotting & maneuvering the boat successfully and the person(s) working the deck are doing so in a quick, efficient manner. It's a mind game as well. Part of that is keeping the divers hydrated and motivated when you're not seeing fish or simply not getting the opportunity for a good shot. Positive enthusiasm and constructive criticism as necessary wins the day!



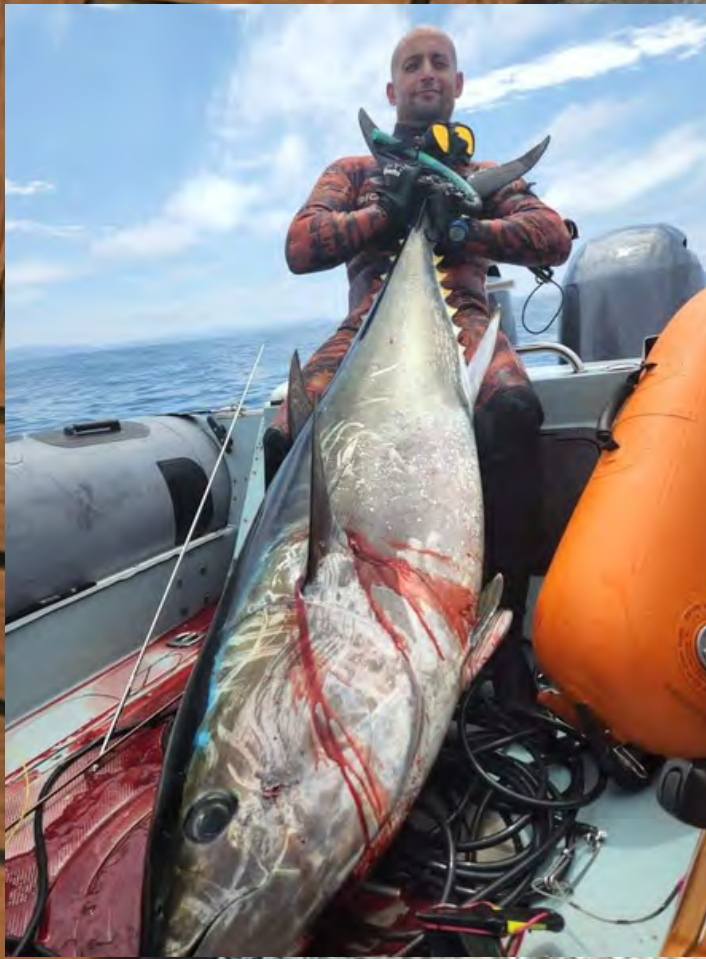
I cannot say enough about Bill's unwavering motivation and skill at finding fish and doing what is necessary to position divers for an opportunity. He also takes as much, if not, more pride in making/watching others be successful than himself. The mark of a true leader, gentleman and friend. On behalf of Steve, Mike and I - thanks Bill for a wonderful trip!

TUNA FEVER

By Richard Cunningham

Went out with my buddy Alex Maldonado in hope of capitalize on a little of this local Bluefin action. Conditions for the day were looking pretty amazing with some reports of fish 17 miles out of Marina Del Rey where we would be launching from. So with that information that's what we decided to hit first. We got in the zone of the report from the previous day and didn't see much life. Decided to make a move at that point to the west end of Catalina. Arriving in the zone we saw plenty of boats trolling, a little bit of bird activity and we started seeing bait on the meter but no Tuna.

A few minutes into metering around we started seeing breezers but they were super skittish. After a couple of attempts at the breezers with no luck we came across some marks at 120'. I slide in, immediately diving and being met at 34' by some very curious bft what I thought to be in the 100lb to 120lb range. Waiting for the right opportunity I took a shot on a decent fish out of the school semi stoning it. After what seemed to be a quick fight I dive down for my second shot and realized the fish was bigger than I thought. Getting it on the boat we were guessing it was around 175lbs. Weighing my fish later it went 185lbs. Pretty stoked with my catch I take over at the helm to put Alex on a fish but the area had gone quiet. We decided to move out to Osborne Bank hearing chatter on the radio people were getting fish there. We started seeing foamers around 530pm and after a few attempts Alex was able to connect with a solid 100lb bft. All in all it was an epic day. Alex is looking for some solid divers who have the gear, experience and want to go chase tuna with him/us so please reach out to me so I can hook you guys up.



***GREAT JOB, KEEP
UP THE SOLID
WORK!***

ATTENTION!

Hello fellow Neptunes,

We have received word that a fellow spear fisher, Mile Thomas, is battling cancer and could use some help. He serves as Membership Adviser of the Los Angeles Fathomiers and has helped their club grow and continue to thrive. Unfortunately his fight with cancer continues, and has been financially burdensome. I ask that you please visit his GoFundMe page, and donate what you can.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/mike-thomas-assistance-please-donate>

Thanks in advance for your support of our community,

Juan-Carlos Aguilar
President
Long Beach Neptunes



GUN FOR SALE



Koah 68" Bluewater gun, includes TWO 5/16 shafts, fresh bands. Has landed Tuna up over 200lbs. Slip tips not included. \$500...\$1,000 brand new!

- John Carpenter

59TH BWM



***Seamus Callashan takes 1st place
with a whopping #52.9 white
seabass***

1ST PLACE - SEAMUS CALLASHAN - #52.9 WSB

2ND PLACE - JEFF BILHORN - #45.1 WSB

3RD PLACE - DAN SELESNICK - #42.7 WSB

4TH PLACE - JOHN JOHNSTON - #36.1 YT

5TH PLACE - BILL PERATT - #35.6 WSB

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

AUGUST 3RD @ 7PM



**This month's club
meeting will be held at
Me-n-Ed's Pizzeria
4115 Paramount Blvd,
Lakewood, CA 90712**

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The Long Beach Neptunes would like to thank the following members for their work in obtaining our 501(c)(7) non-profit organization status:

Jeff Benedict, Brian York, Jon McMullin, Will Wither, Steve Parkford

2022 CALENDAR

- June 16th - White Seabass limit (3)
- October 2nd - First day of Lobster Season
- October 15th - Fall Classic
- December 10th - Christmas Party

FISH STANDINGS

CALIFORNIA

Calico Derby	Todd Farquhar - 6.4
Calico Bass	Todd Farquhar - 6.4
White Seabass	Ron Warren - 70.15
Yellowtail	John Johnston - 36.1
Halibut	Open
Sheephead	Richard Cunningham - 24.9
Bonito	Open
Barracuda	Open
Dorado	Open
Bluefin Tuna	Open
Lobster	Richard Cunningham - 185 Hobie Ladd - 8.2

OUT OF STATE/COUNTRY AWARDS

Yellowfin Tuna	Open
Bluefin Tuna	Dave Freeman - 175
Reef Fish	Open
Pelagic, non-tuna	Hobie Ladd (yellowtail) 31.1
Kent McIntyre Award	Paul Zylstra 102.55

Perpetual Big Fish Trophy Open







The Long Beach Neptunes are proudly supported by the following entities

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AQUATICS**



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FIND REFUGE IN THE SEA

