

The

TRIDENT

July 2023
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60TH BLUE WATER MEET
LONG BEACH NEPTUNES



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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.

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

2023 CALENDAR

- **July 5th** - Monthly meeting IN PERSON at Me 'n' Ed's Pizzeria
- **August 2nd** - Monthly meeting IN PERSON at Me 'n' Ed's Pizzeria
- **September 6th** - Monthly meeting IN PERSON at Me 'n' Ed's Pizzeria
- **October 14th** - Long Beach Neptunes Fall Classic

FISH STANDINGS

CALIFORNIA

Calico Derby		Open
Calico Bass -	Todd Farquhar	7.8lbs
White Seabass -	Paul Zylstra	71.6lbs
Yellowtail		Open
Halibut -	Jacob Seto	20.9lbs
Sheephead		Open
Bonito		Open
Barracuda		Open
Dorado		Open
Bluefin Tuna		Open
Lobster		Open

OUT OF STATE/COUNTRY AWARDS

Yellowfin Tuna		Open
Reef Fish		Open
Pelagic, non-tuna -	John Hughes	Yellowtail - 47.8lbs

Kent McIntyre Award

Perpetual Big Fish Trophy



MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

July 5th, 7:00PM



This month's club meeting will be held IN PERSON,
at

Me-n-Ed's Pizzeria

**4115 Paramount Blvd, Lakewood, CA
90712**



The 60th annual Long Beach Neptunes Blue Water Meet was one not to be missed. There were 67 participants looking to get lucky and secure a spot on the podium. The morning started out a little slow for Nolan Yates, our Captain Craig Bond and myself. Unlike some of the other competitors who made the crossing Friday evening, we had decided to get up at the butt crack of dawn and head over Saturday morning. The crossing took a little longer than expected as we were towing a dinghy behind our boat so we had to take it slower than usual; We didn't let that stop us though as I believe we were all happy to be heading to Catalina and we were all looking forward to doing some hunting in cleaner water.

We arrived at 2 harbors about an hour and a half later. We made the decision to drop our bags off first where we were staying as it would significantly open up space on the deck of the boat and make life a little easier with everything out of the way. With the deck cleared, and the dinghy safely secured to a mooring we were off. Where, your guess was as good as ours. I had anticipated diving Catalina all week and now that the time was finally here, I had no idea where we should go. We all decided it would be good to head east. It was pushing 8am by the time we were just getting in the water. The skies were overcast and even though there was wind in the weather report the ocean was calm and the viz in this particular spot was looking good.



I made a drop to warm up the lungs and get acclimated. As I was back on the surface I pulled on the spectra to release my slip tip. Lifting my head out of the water to see if Nolan and Craig had made it in the water I pulled on my first band to load my gun. Once I had the 3 bands of my gun seated I went to pull my slip tip tight and tuck the spectra under one of the bands. That's when I noticed my brand new slip tip was gone. I could make out the bottom but it was too deep to see anything from the surface. Breathing up and making a quick drop I swam around scanning the bottom from about 15ft above. I wanted to maximize my time in the water so I pinpointed my location according some land points and went off in search of something to shoot. I swam around and hunted around the kelp beds. We had swam around for about 30 minutes and the only thing that I managed to find was a brand new iPhone in a waterproof case that someone in a kayak lost. Since this first area wasn't that big, between the 3 of us we managed to cover all of the huntable area pretty quickly. Swimming back to the boat I caught movement below me. I made a drop and was contemplating on if I really wanted to shoot a fish with no slip tip and no flopper. Thankfully as I got closer I realized it was 2 black sea bass cruising the bottom. It was an awesome sight to see the fishes eyes move around and watch me as I came in very close proximity to them. Heading back to the boat I decided since I was fully warmed up I would go do a drop and see if i couldn't get lucky and find my slip tip. Hitting 50' I slowly scanned the bottom looking for any sign, success sitting in 44' of water I could see my spectra waving around. Jumping back on the boat I went to put my slip tip back together and that's when I realized that even though I had found the tip the base had unscrewed from the shaft and my gun was pretty much useless. I was kicking myself in the ass because of course I decided to leave my backup gun in the truck after some not so great thinking. Thankfully Craig had a backup and all was not lost.

Moving spots we went to check out another popular spot. At the time my watch was showing it was guaranteed that at least one person, probably more had swam around this area by now. The viz in this spot though was a lot different. It was a hazy murk down to about 8ft and then it opened up to viz of almost 60'. Just like the last area there were a lot of fish but not the one's we wanted to shoot. I did however manage to put the hurt on 3 smaller Calico bass, so I wasn't going home empty handed.

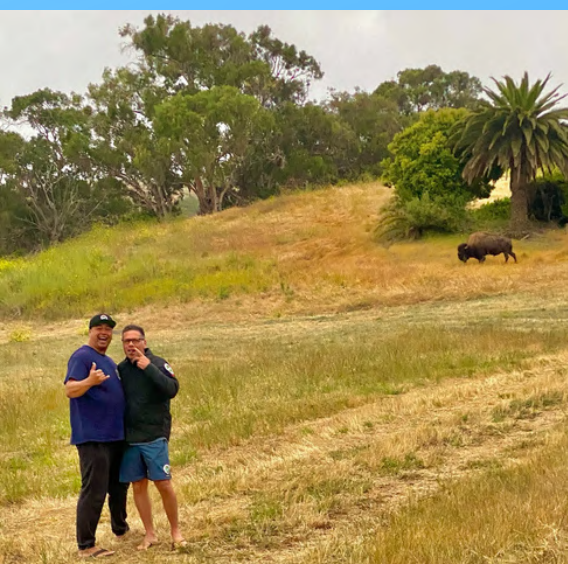


We started heading back towards Two Harbors as Craig Bond is a tentative and we didn't want him to be late to help setup for the weigh in. We decided we would drop in one last time at the high spot. Seeing a school of mini-macs I thought for sure when they started making erratic movements the yellowtail would be coming in., Unfortunately though nothing ever came about and after watching and following the bait ball for about 30 minutes I reluctantly gave up and called it quits.

As always the weigh in brought stories of success and of heartbreak. It was good to see a variety of fish being weighed in with of course yellowtail being the most popular. Ivan Sanchez and his 24.9lb White sea bass ended up taking first place. Next came Jon Carpenter with his 24.4lb Yellowtail. In 3rd place and I think one of the biggest surprises to the competition came from Joe Garcia with his 20.6lb Halibut. The Halibut fishing and hunting has been epic this year! 4th place brought in a 19.7lb Yellowtail by Eric Martin and last we had Alex Vangelos in 5th place with an 18.9lb Yellowtail and Todd Farquhar managed a decent size Calico Bass of 7.8lbs







After the weigh-in as always we were all ready to get dinner started. The variety of meat that get's cooked on the bbq pit is phenomenal. We had the salad, beans, rice, and Potato salad as always. This year we had it all your typical Ribeyes, New York T-bones, Chicken, a couple Tomahawks, but I think the best thing to come off that bbq pit was the homemade sausage that Jason Taylor had brought with him. I was lucky enough to try a piece that had duck/goose in it and it was next level! No dinner would be complete without the visit of Two Harbors own "Max" the lone Buffalo making an appearance. I will say that I was glad he showed up before the beer really started flowing because I could definitely see bad things happening. We were already halfway to making some decisions we might regret, haha!





After dinner brought about the usual goodbyes to fellow Neptunes and friends who were headed back home. Tonight was my first time staying back on the island to hang out and also to catch a dive the next morning. As the sun set and the beer flowed the craziness began. Somewhere during the weigh-in the topic of dancing came up and before you knew it there was a "Dance-off" that was going to go down. Migrating down to the bar you found Jewelry, Juan's wife doing her thing on the dance floor. She quickly called out Craig and before you knew it the whole dancefloor was going wild. By this time I was too tired to really keep track of what was going on but I can tell you that shirts came off, and the upside down headstand twerking from Chad began and a lot of laughter and fun was had by all! About this time I was throwing in the towel and decided it was time to hit the sack.

Up the next morning Craig, Nolan, and myself were back out on the water getting it in before heading home. Making a drop in about 60' of water I caught movement behind a 5' wide bundle of kelp stringers as I leveled out. I looked ahead and saw an eye and the surrounding color appeared to be light in color so I thought for sure I was moments away from shooting a nice White Sea bass. As I swam forward and extended my arm getting ready to take a shot I was greeted by a pair of Cow nose rays and another let down.

Though the conditions were great and the viz was great the only thing missing for our group was the fish! We couldn't of asked for a better weekend though Fun was had by all and memories were made that will last a lifetime!





LONG BEACH NEPTUNES



BLUEWATER
MEET

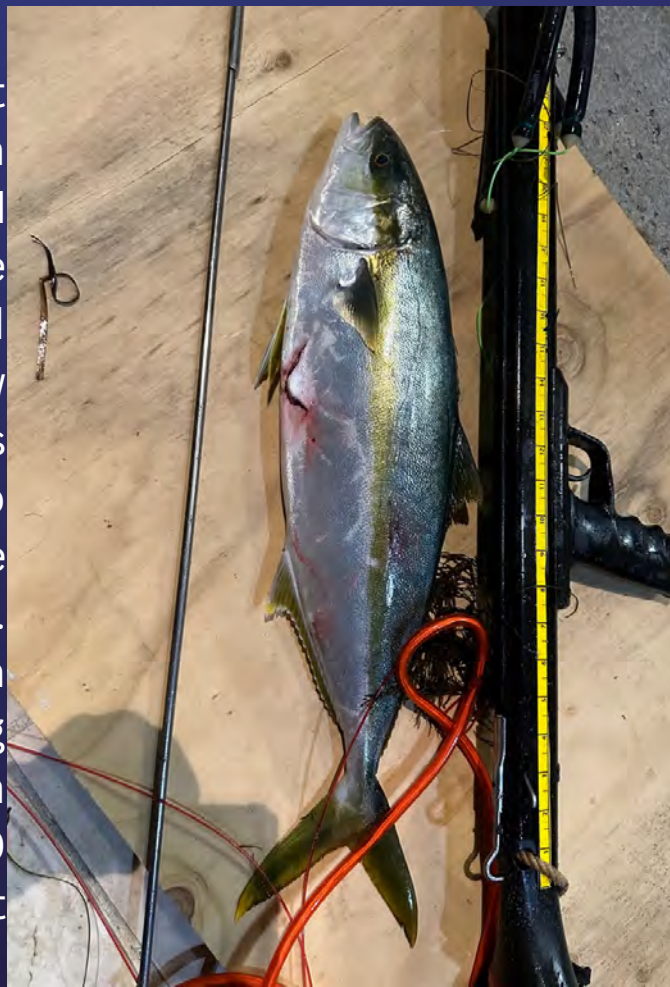
Jacob Seto

"Milestone Fish"

This fish story will probably mean very little to most of the people in this group, and even less if the yellowtail break wide open between when this occurred (June 10th) and when you read this as I think it will. This story is mostly for a few members in the club that consistently dive the dirty less desirable waters from Newport to Long Beach & maybe Santa Monica Bay that average 4 - 7 foot visibility on a good day.

I grew up on the beach in north Orange County solo night diving these areas as a little kid, and have been since for about 98% of my dives. No sense trying to dive them during the day, you will not see anything before it scatters after seeing you at this visibility. The dive started out as all the others, in the water a little after sunset, start in the inside working my way out as far as the visibility would hold scouring the bottom for halibut which are few and far between these days, not like it used to be in my youth.

Viz was an exceptional 8 foot tonight. I do get spooked sometimes as there aren't even fishermen around to hear you yell should something go wrong. Halfway thru the dive something brushed off the top of my head while I was surfacing, oddly i didn't jerk as I saw a sea turtle disappearing in front of me. I was almost a quarter mile out and about 30 ft deep and damn, I'd seen not one legal halibut before turning back to try some other areas inside. Closer to shore I started my up and down again hitting other spots on the way in with nothing to show for my efforts, but seems the norm these days, very different from my first 20 years diving here, but hell the love for the hunt is still there, strong as ever.



When I get to shore I was going to parallel it, seeing if there was anything in the trough or just outside it. I tried to steer clear of this big sargasso type seaweed I managed to avoid on my way out, but not paying too much attention I found myself in it. It was in about 5 feet of water, in the surf, almost on shore. Still looking for halibut but trying to make my way out of this paddy I saw what appeared to be mullet, a trio, in tight formation moving quickly. No way could they be what I really thought they were, yellowtail !!

I fired a shot into that tight trio a half a second after I saw them & hit one, and it went bananas of course, tangling up my line and the paddy hopelessly. I grabbed the fish and stood up. My eyesight isn't that great so I reluctantly decided to put the fish in my little float boat/game bag and some of the seaweed as well. I really wanted to find the other two, but the tangle was much more than I could straighten out at night with my handheld light. In 40 years of diving this area, I have speared hundreds of halibut, alot of big Sand Bass, Calicos, and a few White Sea Bass at night, but this was my first Yellowtail here. Although very small, it meant a ton to me & I am sure my dad (who I shared every story of every adventure with right after every dive) that I lost a couple years ago had something to do with this fish, if nothing else, he was right there with me.



TREVOR

KREDELL

TENTATIVE INTRODUCTION

My name is Joe Shuster, I'm born and raised in Huntington Beach, CA. I've been a diver since approx 2010 after being introduced to it by a dive member. Father of 3 teenagers, my oldest son also spears with me on our boat.

Couple of my main dive buds are LBN members and I have been around with them to many auctions, dive meets and meeting events.

To share a memorable fish story I'd like to tell the story of my first BFT. This was in the summer of 2021, was out with Josh W. and Jason T. on fv Gold Digger. We spotted loads of birds and gave chase starting very early in the day. After just a few short hours they had both put a fish on board. I didn't want to break for lunch, instead really wanted this to be the trip. After a few more attempts finally was able to achieve a clean level off and got vortexed. My fish went 108lb. This was my 5th year diving for them before I was able to secure one. Later that day we processed our fish at Mori's shop. Totally stuffed, what a memory

Looking forward to meeting more members and friends on my path

Thank you,

JOE
SHUSTER



ANNOUNCEMENT

Greetings free-divers/spearos! The PEACE is offering a few open boat single day free-dive trips this year - June 30, August 18 and now July 28! We hope you will join us. Game to be focused on will be white sea bass, unless we get lucky and see some yellowtail! Tickets available here!

We also have some tickets left for our open boat free-dive trip July 13-15, destination: Rosa/Cruz/Anacapa. Tickets available here!



PEACE
DIVE BOAT

Loren Story

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