

# THE TRIDENT

VOLUME 73 - ISSUE 5



The background of the entire page is a dark, deep blue or black, populated with numerous glowing jellyfish. The jellyfish are in various sizes and orientations, some appearing as bright, circular shapes with visible internal structures, while others are more faint and out of focus. The overall effect is a serene, underwater scene.

**Neptunes,**

**There has been a lot of discussion among active King Neptunes that resulted in some changes to the King Neptune award. First, a bit of history. I was voted to be the manager of the Kings around 15 + years ago. When I reviewed the record keeping, one thing I noticed was that the Yellowtail fish application requirement was raised from 25+ pounds to 30+ pounds several years prior. When I first joined the Neptunes around 1988, a 40 pound White Seabass was a feat; uncommon. That gradually changed through the years and the King Neptunes eventually raised the White Seabass requirement from 40+ pounds to 50+ pounds (2012). The same can now be said for 50 pound White Seabass when you consider all the 60+ pound White Seabass now being taken. Simply put, the current management of this fishery continues to yield increasing benefits.**

**Years ago, taking an in-country Tuna, let alone a 20 pound Bluefin Tuna wasn't easy. King Neptunes had this category and the 30 pound Halibut category to give those unable to take "out of country" trips a chance to complete their King Neptune award. However, big Bluefin Tuna started showing up off Southern California roughly half a decade + ago and changed everything. Therefore, effectively immediately, the King Neptunes adopted the following revisions and requirements to the King Neptune Award:**

**The 50+ pound White Seabass requirement had been raised to 60+ pounds. Any application already submitted under the prior rules is grandfathered/accepted.**

**The 20+ pound in-country Tuna has been eliminated and changed to simply a 100+ pound fish in/out country. The usual fish rules apply such as no sharks, sunfish, etc. The 30+ pound Halibut in lieu of a 100+ pound fish will remain. As with the White Seabass change, any application already submitted under the prior rules is grandfathered/accepted.**

**The 30+ pound Yellowtail requirement and all other King Neptune requirements remain the same. Changes to the online King Neptune fish application will be coming in the near future.**

**As a side note - IF any of the current fisheries takes a drastic turn for the worse, the King Neptunes will consider making necessary changes to the requirements.**

**Dive Safe and Good Luck!**

**John Carpenter  
Life Member/King Neptune #35**

# Spring

In the Zylstra house we celebrate the seasons with the food that comes with each one. In the spring we look forward to the day we eat fresh white seabass.

Like other seabass divers, I had been putting my time in diving the cold and murky kelp beds and coming home to my wife saying "Nothing again". Ouch! But she does understand the difficulty and reward that comes with bringing home a fish to signify spring in the house. So, for me, April 2 was the day I speared my first fish of 2022.

I had looked in a couple of beds that morning for nothing and at the third spot my mind was wandering as I swam through some kelp thinking about my wife's famous quote when a seabass swam past me to my right. I swung my gun and pulled the trigger. It felt so good to have the line start pulling off my reel. I let the fish run and made my way through the kelp to find it. I returned to the boat, iced the fish down and went home to proudly show my wife the fish. We fired up the BBQ that night and ate fresh seabass and had some good wine in celebration. The fish weighed 48.9 pounds.

Six days later and two more trips under my belt, I was able to get lucky again. After swimming around for about an hour in the stringers hoping a stupid fish would swim by me again, I decided to poke my head into a section of thicker kelp. I settled on the bottom just inside the edge of darkness. The look of dark to my right and the emerald green glow of light to my left was beautiful as about a 50# seabass began to appear in front of me. It came into shooting range and turned to my right. As I swung my gun in its direction the slip tip caught a little tiny kelp stringer. That was just enough hesitation in the swing to not allow me a good shot so I watched the fish swim into the darkness. I came to the surface and I think I said damn it about a dozen times in a row. I guess into the dark I go.

A few dives later, I settled on the bottom again. As my eyes adjusted to the dim light, I saw something moving to my right. A large seabass was gliding by right on the bottom. My head was moving from right to left watching the fish. When it got directly in front of me it swam past a small clump of kelp stalks which was exactly where my gun was aiming at the moment so I shot right through the kelp hitting the fish. Not sure of how good the shot was I let the fish run. It took a lot of line off my reel before stopping. It took a few nervous moments to get to the fish knowing it was a good one and hoping it didn't tear off. Fortunately for me that was not the case.

Byron saw me swimming the fish back to the boat and he headed back to see the fish. He was so excited for me when he saw it. We took a few pictures and decided to head in and weigh the fish. It says a lot about your dive partner when it's more important to get the fish weighed than letting it sit in the cooler for hours. I greatly appreciate that. The seabass weighed 69.7 pounds.



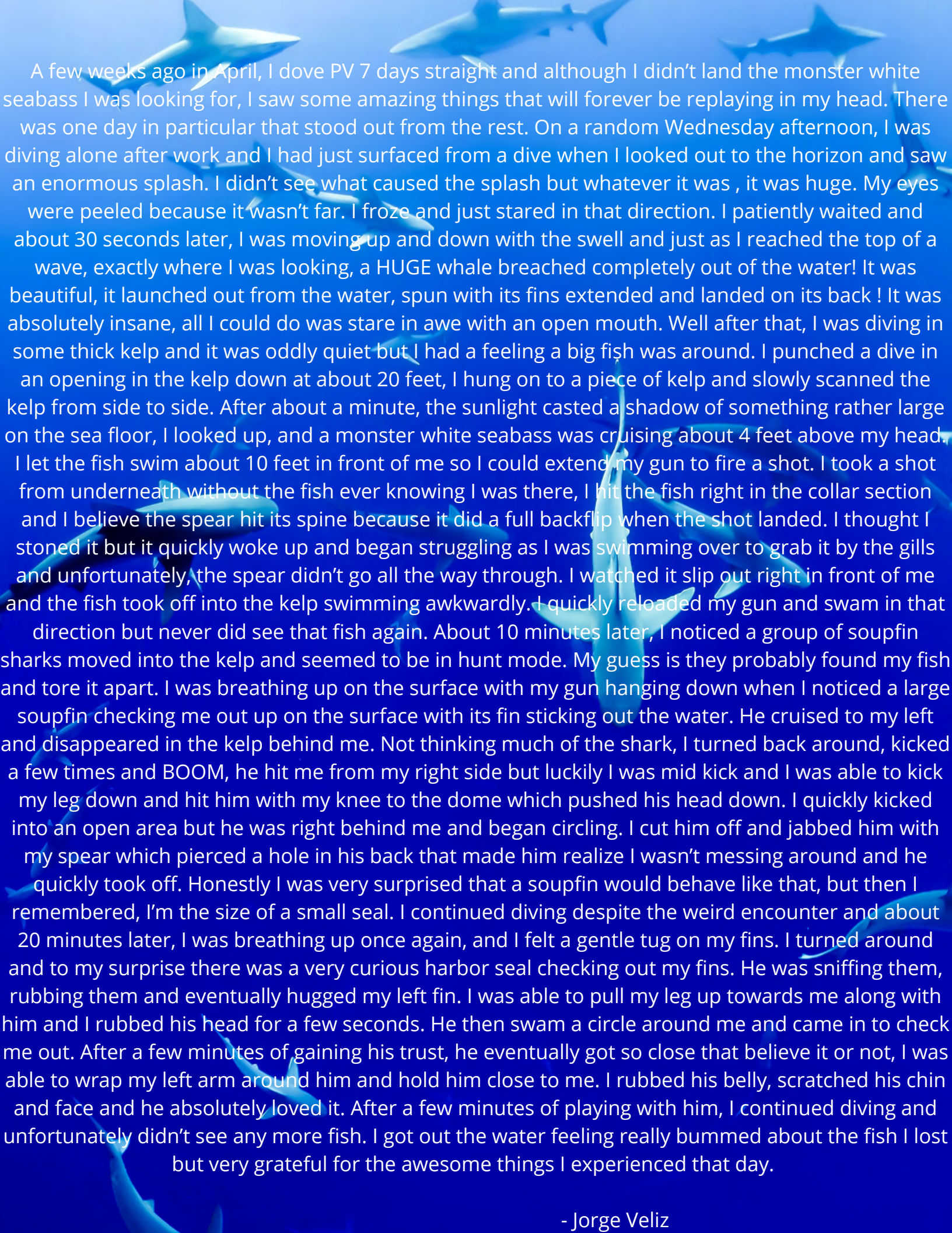


Thank You!

Fellow Neptunes, I received a gift from the club for being the 2021 president. I love them dearly and want to thank all of you for your support.

Sincerely,  
Paul Zylstra





A few weeks ago in April, I dove PV 7 days straight and although I didn't land the monster white seabass I was looking for, I saw some amazing things that will forever be replaying in my head. There was one day in particular that stood out from the rest. On a random Wednesday afternoon, I was diving alone after work and I had just surfaced from a dive when I looked out to the horizon and saw an enormous splash. I didn't see what caused the splash but whatever it was, it was huge. My eyes were peeled because it wasn't far. I froze and just stared in that direction. I patiently waited and about 30 seconds later, I was moving up and down with the swell and just as I reached the top of a wave, exactly where I was looking, a HUGE whale breached completely out of the water! It was beautiful, it launched out from the water, spun with its fins extended and landed on its back! It was absolutely insane, all I could do was stare in awe with an open mouth. Well after that, I was diving in some thick kelp and it was oddly quiet but I had a feeling a big fish was around. I punched a dive in an opening in the kelp down at about 20 feet, I hung on to a piece of kelp and slowly scanned the kelp from side to side. After about a minute, the sunlight casted a shadow of something rather large on the sea floor, I looked up, and a monster white seabass was cruising about 4 feet above my head. I let the fish swim about 10 feet in front of me so I could extend my gun to fire a shot. I took a shot from underneath without the fish ever knowing I was there, I hit the fish right in the collar section and I believe the spear hit its spine because it did a full backflip when the shot landed. I thought I stoned it but it quickly woke up and began struggling as I was swimming over to grab it by the gills and unfortunately, the spear didn't go all the way through. I watched it slip out right in front of me and the fish took off into the kelp swimming awkwardly. I quickly reloaded my gun and swam in that direction but never did see that fish again. About 10 minutes later, I noticed a group of soupfin sharks moved into the kelp and seemed to be in hunt mode. My guess is they probably found my fish and tore it apart. I was breathing up on the surface with my gun hanging down when I noticed a large soupfin checking me out up on the surface with its fin sticking out the water. He cruised to my left and disappeared in the kelp behind me. Not thinking much of the shark, I turned back around, kicked a few times and BOOM, he hit me from my right side but luckily I was mid kick and I was able to kick my leg down and hit him with my knee to the dome which pushed his head down. I quickly kicked into an open area but he was right behind me and began circling. I cut him off and jabbed him with my spear which pierced a hole in his back that made him realize I wasn't messing around and he quickly took off. Honestly I was very surprised that a soupfin would behave like that, but then I remembered, I'm the size of a small seal. I continued diving despite the weird encounter and about 20 minutes later, I was breathing up once again, and I felt a gentle tug on my fins. I turned around and to my surprise there was a very curious harbor seal checking out my fins. He was sniffing them, rubbing them and eventually hugged my left fin. I was able to pull my leg up towards me along with him and I rubbed his head for a few seconds. He then swam a circle around me and came in to check me out. After a few minutes of gaining his trust, he eventually got so close that believe it or not, I was able to wrap my left arm around him and hold him close to me. I rubbed his belly, scratched his chin and face and he absolutely loved it. After a few minutes of playing with him, I continued diving and unfortunately didn't see any more fish. I got out the water feeling really bummed about the fish I lost but very grateful for the awesome things I experienced that day.

***Great job guys,  
solid start to the  
season!***



LONG BEACH PERTUPLER



59<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
BLUE WATER MEET  
JUNE 4, 2022 CATALINA ISLAND



MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

MAY 4TH @ 7PM



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

# 2022 Board Members

## President

Juan-Carlos Aguilar

310-569-3316

juanmilliondollars@yahoo.com

## Ex-Presidio

Paul Zylstra  
562-254-7717  
zflattie@gmail.com

## Vice President

Seamus Callaghan  
714-742-6326  
acwaman@aol.com

## Treasurer

Kyle Brannon  
562-397-5959  
kylebrannon@gmail.com

## Tentative Manager

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

## Newsletter Editor

Jorge Veliz Ramirez  
310-977-8259  
jvsc\_sp@yahoo.com

## Recording Secretary

Taylor Yates  
714-747-6807  
taylornyates714@gmail.com

## Club Historian

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

## Conservation Liaison

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

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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 4th -Blue Water meet
- July 16th - White Seabass limit (3)
- August 5th-7th Neptunes Family Catalina Campout
- October 2nd - First day of Lobster Season
- October 15th - Fall Classic
- December 3rd - Christmas Party

## FISH STANDINGS

### CALIFORNIA

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

### OUT OF STATE/COUNTRY AWARDS

Yellowfin Tuna	Open
Reef Fish	Open
Pelagic, non-tuna	Hobie Ladd - 31.1 (yellowtail)
<b>Kent McIntyre Award</b>	Open

**Perpetual Big Fish Trophy** Open





The Long Beach Neptunes are proudly supported by the following entities

**ATOMIC  
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FIND REFUGE IN THE SEA



