

Connecting and Informing our Neptune
Community with:

Safety, Camaraderie, and Club Legacy

August 2017



Summer is in full swing and the fish are in thick. If you are able to make to the awesome tournaments lined up represent the Neptunes well. I look forward to more action packed stories from the group. Please send me your photos and write-ups. There are rivers of tuna flowing, yt boiling, dorado drifting, and wsb cruising. Get out there and enjoy this amazing year we are being gifted.

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Attention Members:

I need your help to make the newsletter a monthly success. Needing reports, pics, and videos. I'm really happy with this edition and I hope you all enjoy it as much as I have, please send me content for the next. I'm sure there have been many more fish to hit the deck. The bluewater meet was a great turn out. With the Yellowtail Round Up just around the corner this event is going to be one to clear the calendar for on Sept 9th. Cash prize for the first place team and an old school vibe. You don't want to miss it. If you haven't come and seen me yet please stop by sometime and say hi. I'm located just off the 405 fwy at Spear America South Bay. Running a shop has left me very dry, but I was fortunate to get a dive in for the bluewater meet, and I really enjoyed seeing everyone at the weigh in.



Presidents Message

Hey fellow Neptunes,

I hope you all are having a fantastic summer. It's been a killer WSB year and there are a lot of them still around at the islands. And oh, them Tuna! I know some of you have scored on that action as well – I've seen some pics, heard some stories. The 2017 Bluewater Meet is now in the history books. Lots of nice fish were brought to the winners circle at the "new" Isthmus facilities. The Fathomiers threw down the gauntlet this year, lets get em at the next one! Our brother Byron has fought the battle of his life in the past month after a major coronary event. He looked over the edge, but stepped back from it. The love and support of all of us that care so much about him helped work the miracle. We look forward to diving again with Byron and seeing his strong and happy face amongst us. As for your President, I've had better years. As a matter of fact, I think all of them were better than the first half of this one. I'm not complaining, but . . . been extreme skiing, rock & ice climbing, jumping over crevasses in the Alps, paragliding big air from Europe to Aspen, solo ascents in the Sierras, downhill mountain biking, wild river expeditions through the Alaskan bush, & bluewater hunting all my adult life. Never did see an operating room for 56 years. This year I saw two within a 45 day period. At the end of April, while in Panama (after scoring my PB YF Tuna), I took a digger while trotting down the dark staircase to the staterooms on the mothership. Aw just a little ankle sprain. Dr. Strobach taped me up, all good! I toughed it out for the next 3 days, lugged my crap through 3 airports & denied the pain. Two days later, an x-ray showed a fractured and displaced fibula, 3 inches above the ankle. On May 17 I had 7 screws and a steel plate installed on the leg. All went well, I'm a fast healer. My goal was 5 weeks to be officially "healed up". Soon that day came, June 21st. The night before, I noticed a dark shadow effect in the upper inside corner of my right eye. That morning, it was more like a dark curtain, slowly eclipsing my field of view. Weird. I got to an ophthalmologist asap and he immediately diagnosed a severe retinal tear that allowed fluid to leak behind and detach the retina. I had emergency surgery at 5AM the next morning. Around 200,000 cases of this occur in the US each year. The repair technique used on me was to laser the perimeter of the retina back in its proper position, and conventionally stitch up the tear. A bubble of gas was then injected into the eyeball to apply pressure to the retina as it heals. My head had to remain in a fixed, downward position for 1 to 2 weeks after the surgery. For ten days I laid face down. No reading allowed. Watch TV through a mirror. I'm now coming up on 5 weeks. My vision is blurred in my eye as I look through the bubble. The gas will absorb into my system in the next two months, vision should return after that. During this time I cannot fly or go more than 1500 feet above sea level. One thing is for sure, I am bound and determined to get my vision back. One eye (the weaker one) isn't cutting it. As for diving, I'm dying to get back in the water to enjoy this sport I love. Within 2017 I WILL. To see the beauty of a brilliant orange sunrise, to see the approaching island take shape in the hazy distance, to see a wall of yellowtail surrounded by crystalline blue, to see the smiling faces of the best people, my beloved friends and fellow divers – All of You.

"Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore"

Andre Gide (1869-1951)

Todd Norell



2017 Fish Standings

2016 Calico Derby: Scott De Firmian 9.5 lbs.

Biggest Bluefin Tuna (California): Mark Navas 40.0 lbs

Calico: Scott De Firmian 9.5 lbs.

Biggest Yellowfin Tuna (California):

Dorado:

Bonito:

Biggest Tuna (Out of Country/State):

Sheephead:

White Sea Bass: Mike La Riva 69.05 lbs.

Yellowtail: Joe Prola 32.0 lbs.

Biggest Pelagic Fish (Non-Tuna) Out of Country/State: Masahiro Mori 20.5 lbs. Rooster Fish

Biggest Reef Fish Out of Country/State:

Halibut:

Lobster:

Abalone:

Kent McIntyre Award: Mike La Riva 69.05 lbs. WSB/ ? YT

Larry Heinrich 65.7 lbs. WSB/ ? YT

Joe Prola 46.7 lbs. WSB/ 32lbs. YT

Neptunes To Do's:

- Sign up for the Fathomiers Scramble Meet
August 19th
- Show up to August meeting 8/2
- Sign up for the Yellowtail Round Up
September 9th
- Sign Up for the Family Campout 2017

- Get your Club T-shirts/Bluewater T-shirts
- Send me your photos of any successful hunts to (949)945-8930.
- If you'd like your photos on the Neptunes website submit your photos to Brandon. Make sure you choose the option to downsize the pictures' file size.

Long Beach Neptunes First Annual YELLOWTAIL ROUND UP

This meet is held by the Long Beach Neptunes at Santa Catalina Island on **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2017** and is a **TEAM EVENT**. All entries will be verified. To participate, you must qualify under at least one of the following conditions:

1. Any Tentative, Full or Life Member of the Long Beach Neptunes in active standing on the 2017 roster.
2. Any Tentative, Full or active member of the LA Fathomiers, SD Freedivers, OC Spearos, and any other invited clubs.
3. Non-club members: You must be officially sponsored to compete by an active Full or Lifetime Member of the Long Beach Neptunes. Each Neptune can only sponsor one TEAM and the Neptune **MUST** sign and submit the entry form of the TEAM sponsored.

RULES: Divers may begin at dawn on Saturday, September 9, 2017 but must conclude their diving and be on the beach at the **RIPPERS COVE** weigh-in site by 4pm. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** All TEAM fish entries not inside the weigh-in circle by 4pm will be disqualified. The eligible fish are **YELLOWTAIL** only. **ALL team divers must be diving off the same vessel with a minimum of 2 divers per team and a maximum of 4 divers per team. A total of 4 fish per team will be counted for a total team weight. NO SCUBA DIVING IS PERMITTED.** The diving area includes all waters from San Diego to Santa Barbara, including Catalina, San Clemente, San Nicholas, and Santa Barbara Islands. The Cortez and Tanner Banks are OFF LIMITS.

WEIGH-IN AT 4PM SHARP AT RIPPERS COVE!!!

TEAMS PROVIDE: 1) Team Entry Fee. 2) This complete & SIGNED Entry/Liability release for each team. 3) Protein of choice and cooking utensils. 4) Game Fish (*maximum 4 yellowtail per team*).

WE PROVIDE: 1) 1ST thru 3RD place TEAM trophies. 2) Trophy for individual Biggest Yellowtail. 3) **Cash Prize** for 1st place TEAM. 4) Beach BBQ with sides & paper plates. 5) Water, soda, and BEER.

Long Beach Neptunes Yellowtail Round Up Waiver

ALL DIVER SIGNATURES REQUIRED. If under 18 years of age, Parent or Guardian must sign. One entry per application.

I assume entry into this event at my own risk. In consideration of my participation, I intend to be legally bound. I do hereby assume all risk for myself, heirs, executors, administrators, and assign, waive, release, and forever discharge any and all rights and claims for damages I may have or hereafter accrue to me against the sponsors, Long Beach Neptunes or any other individuals and/or groups involved in coordination of this event, for any and all damages and/or injuries which may be sustained by me in connection with participation in the Long Beach Neptunes Yellowtail Round Up spearfishing tournament. I further attest and verify that I am physically fit, enjoying good health, and have sufficient expertise for participation in this event. Parent and/or Guardian agree to indemnify and hold harmless the above sponsors of any and all damages received in the event the entrant is a minor.

ALL REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE EMAILED TO bill.peratt@aol.com. REGISTRATION FORMS WITH PAYMENTS CAN BE MAILED TO THE ADDRESS BELOW AND RECEIVED **NO LATER THAN 9/06/17**. PAYMENTS ARE ACCEPTED VIA **PAYPAL** AT THE ADDRESS BELOW. **PAYMENTS AND FORM SUBMISSIONS WIL BE ACCEPTED AT THE NEPTUNES GENERAL CLUB MEETING ON 9/06/2017.**

[] Team Entry Fee - \$35 per diver (*Specify Club*): _____ Team Name: _____

[] Neptune Sponsor, if applicable (*Print & Sign*): _____

Vessel Name: _____

Name of Divers (*Print & Sign*):

1) _____ 2) _____

3) _____ 4) _____

If any diver is a minor, please indicate age: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Make check payable to, **LONG BEACH NEPTUNES** and mail, along with signed entry form, to: **Bill Peratt, 1607 N Dressage St, Orange CA 92869**. **PAYPAL** payments can be made to: Lbneptunespayment@gmail.com. Include TEAM NAME and YELLOWTAIL ROUND UP 2017 in DESCRIPTION FIELD. Choose the, "I'm sending money to family or friends" option when sending payments. After Paypal payment has been made, scan and email signed application to: bill.peratt@aol.com. 1 application per team. For more info: www.LongBeachNeptunes.com

Long Beach Neptunes Family Campout 2017 Waiver

ALL PARTICIPANTS SIGNATURES REQUIRED. If under 18 years of age, Parent or Guardian must sign.

I assume entry into this event at my own risk. In consideration of my participation, I intend to be legally bound. I do hereby assume all risk for myself, heirs, executors, administrators, and assign, waive, release, and forever discharge any and all rights and claims for damages I may have or hereafter accrue to me against the sponsors, Long Beach Neptunes or any other individuals and/or groups involved in coordination of this event, for any and all damages and/or injuries which may be sustained by me in connection with participation in the Long Beach Neptunes Family Campout 2017. I further attest and verify that I am physically fit, enjoying good health, and have sufficient expertise for participation in this event. Parent and/or Guardian agree to indemnify and hold harmless the above sponsors of any and all damages received in the event the participant is a minor.

Participant (*Print Name*): _____

Parent or Guardian (*Print Name*): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Saturday August 19th, 2017



The Los Angeles Fathomiers
Scramble Meet
 49th Annual Spearfishing Tournament

Location:

The Scramble meet weigh-in and ensuing Raffle & BBQ will be held at 3pm at:
1000 W. Paseo Del Mar, San Pedro, CA 90731.

Rules:

Registration forms are available at www.fathomiers.net. E-mail your completed form to fathomiers@gmail.com. Pre-registration & payment is due no later than Wednesday, August 16th, 2017. **NO** morning registration. The meet is a 3 fish meet, 1 fish per species. All fish must be personally presented by the diver inside the catch circle by 3:00 pm sharp. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Start time is sunrise on Saturday August 19th, 2017. Diving is permitted anywhere in California ocean waters.

Cost:

\$30 entry fee for non-members includes T-shirt and BBQ. No fee for club members. Registration can be paid at the club meetings, PayPal "LosAngelesFathomiers@gmail.com"

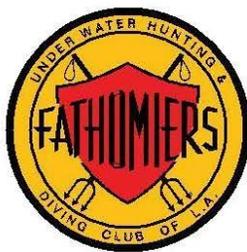
Trophies:

Trophies will be presented for 1st through 5th places and for the largest fish taken. The 1st place winner's name will be inscribed on the prestigious Fathomiers Perpetual Trophy.

Raffle:

Raffle tickets will be available at the event. Must be present to claim your price.





TO REGISTER, FILL OUT THIS FORM AND PRESENT \$30 FEE PAYABLE TO THE LOS ANGELES FATHOMIERS BY AUG. 16th 2017
(Pre-payment and Registration is required, T-shirt is included at the weigh-in)

The Los Angeles Fathomiers proudly present the 49th Annual Scramble Meet on Saturday August 19th 2017.
This spearfishing meet is **OPEN TO EVERYONE. FREEDIVING ONLY.** Rules are below.

1. Pre-registration/payment is due no later than Wednesday, August 16th, 2017. One entry per application. If under 18 years of age, a parent or guardian must sign the application. **NO** registration will be available at the day of the event.
2. You may e-mail your completed entry form to fathomiers@gmail.com. Payments are accepted at the July and August club meeting or with PayPal to “LosAngelesFathomiers@gmail.com” (make sure you select “*Send Money to Family or Friends*”).
3. A \$30 registration fee applies for Non-Members. T-shirt and lunch is included with registration.
4. Diving start time is sunrise on Saturday August 19th, 2017. Diving is permitted anywhere in California ocean waters. Meet ends at 3:00 p.m. All fish must be personally presented by the diver inside the catch circle by 3:00 p.m. sharp at 1000 W. Paseo Del Mar, San Pedro, CA 90731. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
5. Scoring is 1 point per fish, 1 point per pound and is based on total aggregate weight of no more than three (3) fish per diver using muscle loaded speargun, Hawaiian sling, or pole spear. No powerheads. **ONLY ONE fish per species allowed.** All fish must be taken in compliance with CA Fish and Game regulations. Sharks, rays, eels, and mola molas are not permitted.
6. Special limitations: Calico Bass and Sand Bass must be a minimum of 14 inches. Sheephead minimum size is 18 inches. Competitors must possess a valid CA fishing license.
7. Fish may only be taken while freediving. Scuba, hooka, or any other kind of breathing aid is not allowed.
8. The Fathomier’s recorder may disqualify any participant that did not follow the rules. The recorder’s decision is final.

Trophies will be presented for first through fifth places and for the largest fish taken.

The 1st place winner’s name will be inscribed on the prestigious Fathomiers Perpetual Trophy.

Raffle, soft drinks, BBQ, and salad will be available after the weigh-in at 3:00 p.m.

BY VIRTUE OF MY SIGNATURE BELOW I ASSERT THAT I AM IN EXCELLENT PHYSICAL CONDITION AND THAT I AM PARTICIPATING AND DIVING ENTIRELY OF MY OWN VOLITION.

I HERE WITH FORFEIT ALL CLAIMS AGAINST AND HOLD HARMLESS THE LOS ANGELES FATHOMIERS AND/OR ANY INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTING OR ASSOCIATED WITH THAT ORGANIZATION FOR ANY ILLNESS, INJURY, DEATH, DAMAGES, LIABILITY, LEGAL FEES, OR RESPONSIBILITY OF ANY KIND THAT COULD ARISE AS A RESULT OF MY PARTICIPATION IN THIS CONTEST OR EVENT.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

CLUB AFFILIATION _____ EMAIL _____

For further information, contact: Mike Thomas 310-508-9599 / fathomiers@gmail.com

Mark Navas with a King Neptune local Bluefin Tuna weighing in at 40.0 lbs



June 24th Blue Water Meet Results



2017 Long Beach Neptunes Blue Water Meet Final Standings

1.	Mike Raabe	46.55 lb	White Seabass	LA Fathomiers
2.	Bill Ernst	42.50 lb	White Seabass	LA Fathomiers
3.	Mike Thomas	32.65 lb	Yellowtail	LA Fathomiers
4.	Dave Freeman	29.50 lb	Yellowtail	LB Neptunes
5.	Todd Farquhar	29.40 lb	White Seabass	LB Neptunes
6.	Chad Priest	28.70 lb	Yellowtail	Guest
7.	Daniel Baranbo	26.90 lb	Yellowtail	LA Fathomiers
8.	John Johnston	26.30 lb	Yellowtail	LB Neptunes
9.	Lou Rosales	25.30 lb	Yellowtail	LB Neptunes
10.	Randy Weston	23.90 lb	Yellowtail	LA Fathomiers
11.	Jesse Goode	20.45 lb	Yellowtail	LB Neptunes
12.	Eric Huff	20.10 lb	Yellowtail	LA Fathomiers
13.	John Carpenter	16.95 lb	Yellowtail	LB Neptunes
14.	Aaron Deal	19.50 lb	Yellowtail	SD Freedivers
15.	Mark Navas	16.30 lb	Yellowtail	LB Neptunes
16.	Brandon Ward	15.30 lb	Yellowtail	LB Neptunes
17.	Juan Aquilar	13.70 lb	Yellowtail	Guest
18.	Mike Feldman	12.65 lb	Yellowtail	SD Freedivers

OKATIN

AMERICA'S SURF CO.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it's time to recognize a great company that's helping us out. They are producing our Club T's, Bluewater T's, and these amazing Neptune boardies. They donated a bunch of hats , t-shirts, and pins for the club auction. So if you need any other gear, look no further. In addition, they are offering an exclusive deal for the Neptunes. Shop at Katinusa.com and use promo code NEPTUNES25 for 25% off of your order. Still not to late to get a pair of boardies for the summer ask Jesse how to get them.



Mike Raabe 1st Place Fish



Bill Ernst 2nd, Mike Raabe 1st, Mike Thomas 3rd





Attention Tentative Members/Sponsors of Tentative Members/Members!

Board shorts will be available at the August meeting for those that ordered them.

Tentatives: If you haven't already make sure you go around at meetings and introduce yourselves to all of the members. I know it's tough to remember so many faces and names, but members want to know who you are so put yourselves out there and say hello.

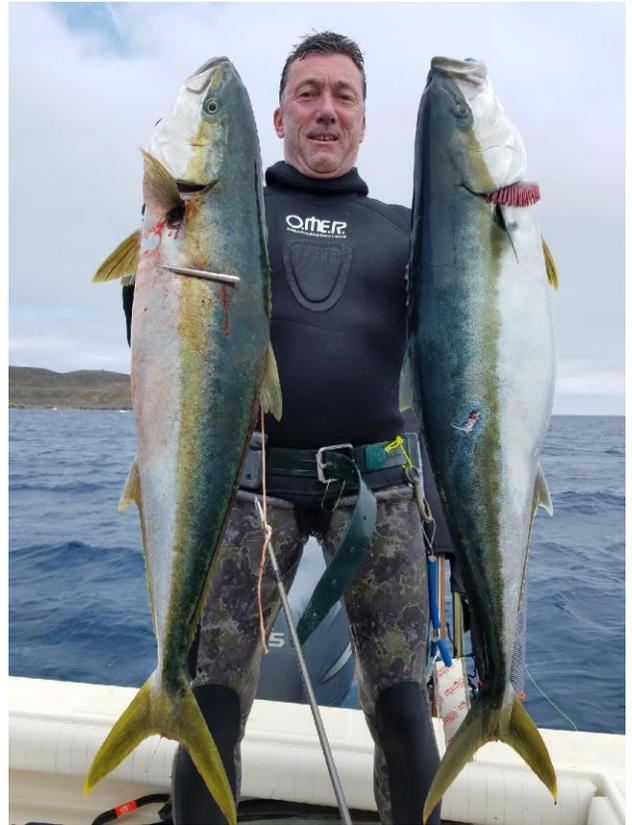
AS ALWAYS SOME FISH COME A DAY EARLY AND SOME COME A DAY LATE. A QUALITY YELLOWTAIL FROM MARK NAVAS A DAY SHY OF THE TOURNAMENT, AS WELL AS JEFF BILLHORN WITH A NICE WHITE SEA BASS THE DAY BEFORE, AND A WHITE SEA BASS FROM TENTATIVE BRIAN YORK THAT DIDN'T MAKE IT TO THE WEIGH IN CIRCLE ON TIME. BEAUTIFUL FISH NONETHELESS AND A GOOD TIME SHARED BY ALL.



John Hughes...Man, Myth, Cupcake Fish Killer!

On top of 60+ days straight at work with hundred plus hour weeks on the clock, my dad recently passed away unexpectedly. Wife is pregnant with baby number two on the way and all the cars were breaking down. Needless to say, life has been happening full speed and my gills were as dry as they get.

I decided to make a healthy choice and take a few days off to reset my head. My first intention was to come hang out with you guys and dive the Blue Water Meet but after thinking about it I just needed a few days away from people to decompress. Decided to



head to Clemente where the water was a little cleaner than SBI. Having been out of the loop for a few months I had no idea what was going on out there but we lucked into a one stop shop at Arch.



My body was physically wrecked and only at about 30% physically so I was very conscious of trying to take it easy and not do anything stupid in the water. Fortunately the fish were stuffed with squid and were the stupid ones. I had five fish on in about two hours of diving and called it quits and slept the rest of the day. After a good nights sleep on top of my three hour nap we woke up and put a few more fish on board in the morning before we pulled the plug and headed home early. Took the wind and swell right on the beam for the 50 mile ride home and then cleaned fish till dark. I was toasted but went back to work the next few days and finished up my long work run with a smile.

I never get to hook up with you guys on the tournaments we have because they always coincide with this big work run every year. I miss the camaraderie but this year especially I had to pick some solitude to process and fortunately the fish cooperated. Hopefully next year the dates will move around a little bit and I

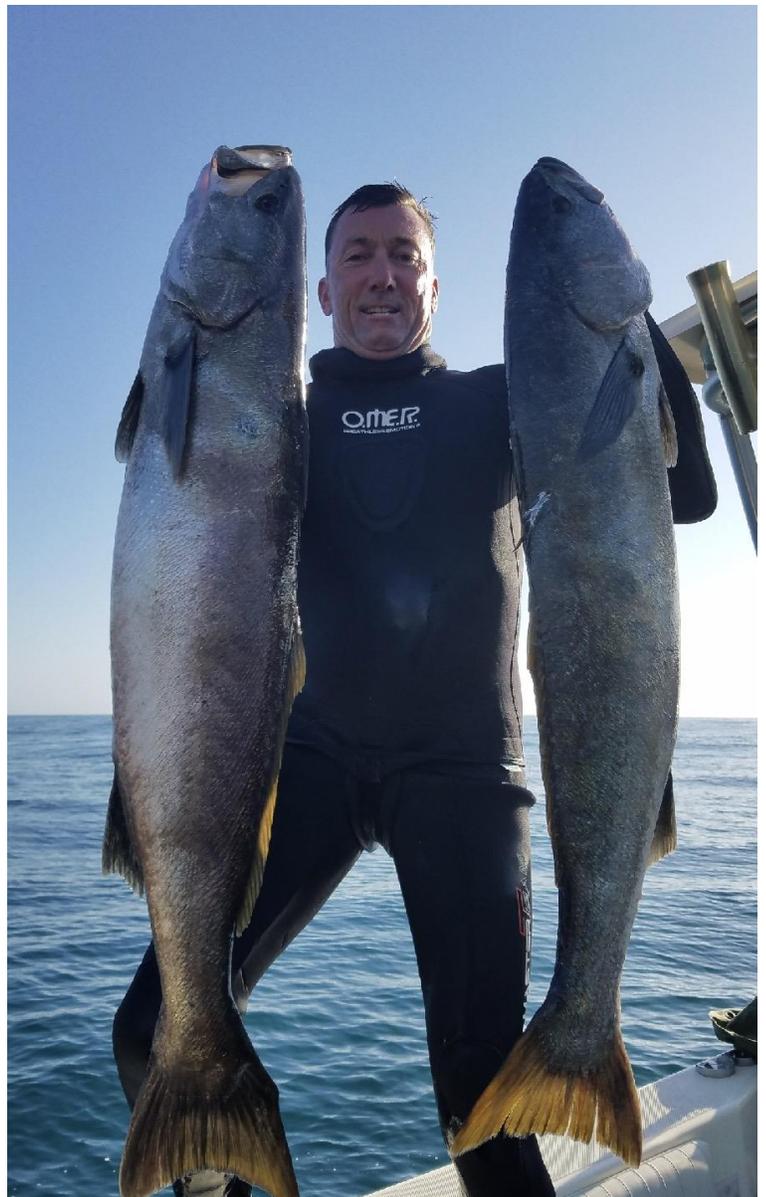


could join you guys out there! It's been a tough year for me on a variety of levels but it hasn't been without its share of blessings as well. Just before and just after a two-month straight work beating I had some of the best trips I can remember. With all the islands blowing up and tuna offshore, being a glutton for punishment I just wanted to dive dirty water for seabass. Picked Catalina on this last trip and it seemed to be a good choice.



visibility was marginal but with abundant seabass to 40 and yellows to 35 you stop worrying about vis quick. I hope you guys take a break

from the tuna fever to enjoy our local islands at their best during this premium El Niño season!



Tentative Joshua Wells Traveling with Friends near and Far...



I just got back from a couple of trips and was thinking that there really isn't too much to report on. After thinking about it, maybe that is exactly what needs to be said.

We have a set group of regulars that dive together quite a bit. It includes our own Jason Taylor, Yu Fukushima and a couple of guys from another club. During downtime on the boat we run out of shit talking and start going through ideas on what we need to shoot and where we should go to do it. The list is long and filled with exotic places that none of us have the time or money for. So instead, we settle for what can be done quickly and has a good chance of big fish without breaking the bank. The last couple of years it has been a trip out to Texas with Keith and this year a week in Panama with DFAC. Both are scheduled for prime time while our fishing is relatively slow. Wahoo in Mar with Keith and YFT in April in Panama are a guarantee, right?

The first trip is out to Texas. We have done the trip before and after 5 days sitting in Surfside, TX last time watching the inbreeding (no offense to anyone or their sister/wife), we knew to watch the weather and not fly until it looks good. Our week quickly approaches and the forecast is turning to shit so we start the Southwest cancel and rebook game. Finally a window appears and with the boat booked the following 3 weeks, it looks like it is our only chance to get out before Panama. So we rally the team and jump on the next flight to Houston. This turned out to be the first



mistake. Winter/Spring in the gulf can be highly variable as the wind kicks up quickly and the forecast changes daily. We end up getting on the boat with 25kt+ winds which were supposed to get better later that day. We head out taking wave after wave over the bow and soon stop the boat waiting winds to lay down. Eventually we work our way to some rigs about 80 miles out late in the afternoon. Diving is great, 100ft vis and the rigs are loaded with the usual suspects with even a few wahoo buzzing around the outside. We tag a bunch of snappers, try unsuccessfully to lure the 100lb+ AJ's out of the middle so we don't wreck our shafts for the next day's wahoo massacre.

You don't really sleep when you are tied up to a rig, pumped up about shooting massive wahoo the next day. For starters, the rig horn goes off every 60 seconds. Right as you are about to nod off, the giant fog horn wakes you right back up. A few hours later (or about 240 horns), I get up to piss and notice that there is a 15kt steady breeze blowing. At dawn it wasn't getting any better but we were on a mission with

another 55 miles to get to the spot. We arrived to the same 25kt wind as the prior morning and 5ft wind swell at 6 seconds apart. At least the water was clear but there were no wahoo and no sharks, nothing but a friendly barracuda following us around. The drifts were fast and we were having a hard time keeping an eye on the boat (and vice versa) and keeping water out our snorkels as the waves broke overhead. Finally we start to see the regular welcome party of bull, hammers, silkies and spinners with a wahoo or two off in the distance. Simultaneously the weather is getting unbearable. The boat has trouble locating a pair of divers (even with their floats) and we have to make the decision that it just isn't worth it. That's a tough call to make when you are on the spot and starting to see fish but this trip is filled with enough risk in perfect weather so I have no regrets. We finished up the day on some rigs inside where the weather was cooperative enough to shoot the rest of our big stupid AJ's and get back in limping along at 18kts.

To add insult to injury, the two trips after us had no delays and perfectly flat weather. Sharks were minimal and they absolutely slayed the wahoo. There were so many fish, they never touched the rigs and had to go back in because they ran out of ice. At least we got to shoot a



bunch of fish including AJ's that closed 3 days after we got back for the year. Of course, we shrugged it off knowing that we had vindication waiting in April in Panama.

Panama was absolutely awesome in almost every way except the big one, dead yft. The lodge was great, the boats seem like they are made for diving, travel was smooth and the group had a bunch of cool divers. We arrived and Terry Maas had been diving for a few days with only 1 fish shot and reports of some tough diving. Like the other group reported at our last meeting, the fish were moving quick down in the murk layer which started at about 35 ft. DFAC has a couple of rules for this trip since



it is based out of a fishing lodge that gives them a pretty good rate, making it cost much less than other options. The lodge is part of a conservation group trying to ensure there will be fish in Panama in the future so they catch and release all their big jacks and pargo and limit the spearing to pelagics only. In addition, there is some local drama between all the commercial, fishing and diving interests so the lodge chooses to

stay off the Hannibal Bank and do all their diving jumping birds/dolphin. Finally, Terry is an absolute purist and encourages everyone to dive bluewater without the assistance of chumming. This program has been successful as they regularly land over 30 fish each year but this time the fish were moving fast and uncooperative. 12 divers spent 5 full days chasing tuna for only 5 fish. However, it wasn't the fault of anyone other than yft that preferred swimming mach 2 in 70 degree jellyfish soup rather than lazily drifting along in the 83 degree blue surface layer.

After 5 straight days of diving and seeing a handful of fish at 40ft+ away, our group decided to detour to Isla Montuosa to look around until we heard a report of radio fish. It was probably a combination of our exhaustion and boredom from 12 hours days that forced us to switch it up and it was an immediate hit. Besides "looking" at a variety of reef fish, we had wahoo start to show up on the edge and show interest in



our flashers. We were able to bring them in and Jason and I tagged a couple with opportunities on a couple more. The prospect of more invisible tuna didn't seem like a good option on day 7 so we repeated. The currents were ripping and the character of the reef had changed so we headed to Isla Ladronez to do some more exploring. Although conditions weren't the best, life on the reef was great and it was awesome to dive an island that looks like it came out of Jurassic Park.

So if I learned anything from all this, it is that there are no guarantees in spearfishing.



Even when you hit the best spot at the best time with the right gear and the best diver (okay, kook), it still all has to come together for the perfect trip. That said, each trip was great and I had a blast. Even if the target species didn't happen, there was a reward of a decent fish or two. I also learned that karma repaid me for the shit weather in TX with a wahoo in Panama so I'm looking forward to karma repaying me a slob yft on my next trip.

Seamus's Birthday Dive Trip

July 9, 2017

Yes, it's true we are all getting older, and my friend Seamus, now 51 certainly is. That being said his diving, breath hold and hunting skills show no signs of retreat. For the last few years, a small group of us use this occasion to go diving. We'll all take any excuse for a dive trip, and I can't think of a better way to celebrate ones birthday. Along with the Birthday Boy, the group consists of the usual suspects, Too Tall, No Deal, Dexter and me AKA One Way. Normally our current club president, Todd, who himself possesses multiple derogatory nick names, was unable to attend this gala event due to being side lined with two injuries. The first of which, he is recovering from, a broken femur. This injury happened weeks ago while in Panama and there is strong speculation that alcohol could have been involved. More recently, Todd underwent eye surgery to one of his retinas. (Get well soon Todd; we miss your comedic fashion and due to the lack of your presence, it has now caused to me to be butt of most of the jokes.)



The 3 day dive trip left San Pedro dock early Saturday morning for Santa Barbra Island. We were to spend a day and a half there primarily targeting White Sea Bass, and then finishing the trip at Catalina. Our first spot was the 9 fathoms where we had a slight downhill current, 40 foot visibility and 63 degree water temp. I believe I was first in, what a shocker. A half an hour passed by before my first sighting of yellow tail blew by. Out of range and wanting nothing to do with me, this small school of 20 pounders escaped the wrath of my Alexander tuna gun. Sometime later, another single yellow appeared. I launched a Hail Mary shot and connected. The fish wrapped up in the kelp 30 feet down. I started to retrieve it but all I pulled up was my empty shaft. It was a total Houdini.

Moments later, the birthday boy swam up to me with a 15 lb. yellow asking if I had a stinger attached to my float. He couldn't be bothered to swim this monster back to the boat. Sure not a problem, I'll be more than happy to swim the ¼ mile back to the boat through the kelp towing a Gannett float, 75 feet of bungee, and your fish dangling behind the mess. He clipped the fish on and disappeared.



Making it back to the stern step, Too Tall had a shit eating grin on his face and a 38 lb. white in the cooler. This was especially annoying to me for two reasons. The evening before, we had selected teams and he wasn't on mine. Secondly, and more agonizing, was that I now had to hear his unabated gloating. The weekend competition went something like this. Seamus, Too Tall and No Deal were on one team and Dexter and I on the other. The weight of the largest catch of each team member would be counted, two fish per team only. Dexter and I had to stop this madness and get a fish on the score board.

The sightings had dropped so we moved the boat to the back side and anchored outside the massive kelp bed. The gloating continued, so in order to escape further injury to both my ears and ego, I was the first in. The visibility was incredible. You could see the bottom at 50 feet. As I swam through the bed, a 4 foot diameter silver ball of micro bait caught my attention. Framed in the center and staring straight at me was a 6 pound calico. My shot was good. It wouldn't help the competition much, but Margaret would be happy, calico is her favorite. Back on board, Too Tall is holding his gun now shaft-less. He had taken a shot at yet another white swimming under him. The fish took off snapping his shooting line at the crimp. Gone were his shaft, tip and the fish. That would cost him, but the gloating didn't subside. In fact it

reached a new level of irritation when No Deal decided to comment about the size difference between Too Tall's white and my calico lying side by side in the cooler. The losing team, by the way, not only has to put up with hurtful, insensitive and abusive comments, but also has to buy these knuckleheads dinner. Its double jeopardy I tell you.

On to the next spot Dexter and I fell further behind when the White Sea Bass Whisperer shoots a second white weighing in at 54lbs. What the "H". Get over it Mike. This is only day one I told myself.



Approaching early evening, we set anchor near our first spot. Too Tall requested an in water photo shoot so team member No Deal obliges. The scenario looks like this; Seamus and I had just got back and we are standing on the aft deck telling stories of missed yellow tail opportunities. Too Tall is in the water staging his 54 pounder, No Deal is gun-less with the Go Pro in hand and Dexter has his gun loaded 15 feet from No Deal. No Deal just happens to look down at the precise same moment a 40 lb white swims just under his fins. He yells to Dexter "Dive, Dive now". Bewildered, Dexter takes a breath and dives on the slow moving target. He fires, missing the fish and in state of disbelief watches as the fish swims off untouched. It seems that our team can't catch a fish or a break. Dexter has one of those Walley Potts Reel. To keep the line from unwinding while out of the water, he places a large rubber band around it. Yep you guessed it, he forgot to remove it. At least this is what he is attributing the missed shot to.

The anchorage was miserable, we were broadside to the swell all night and no one slept much. This day was a blur. Too Tall was on his game shooting a 52 and a 46 pounder within a

relatively short period of time. Seamus, No Deal, and Dexter all shot 15 lb yellows. Thanks to Dexter, we are finally were on the score board but way behind. The evening was upon us and the leading team was busy planning the victory dinner as we headed for Catalina.

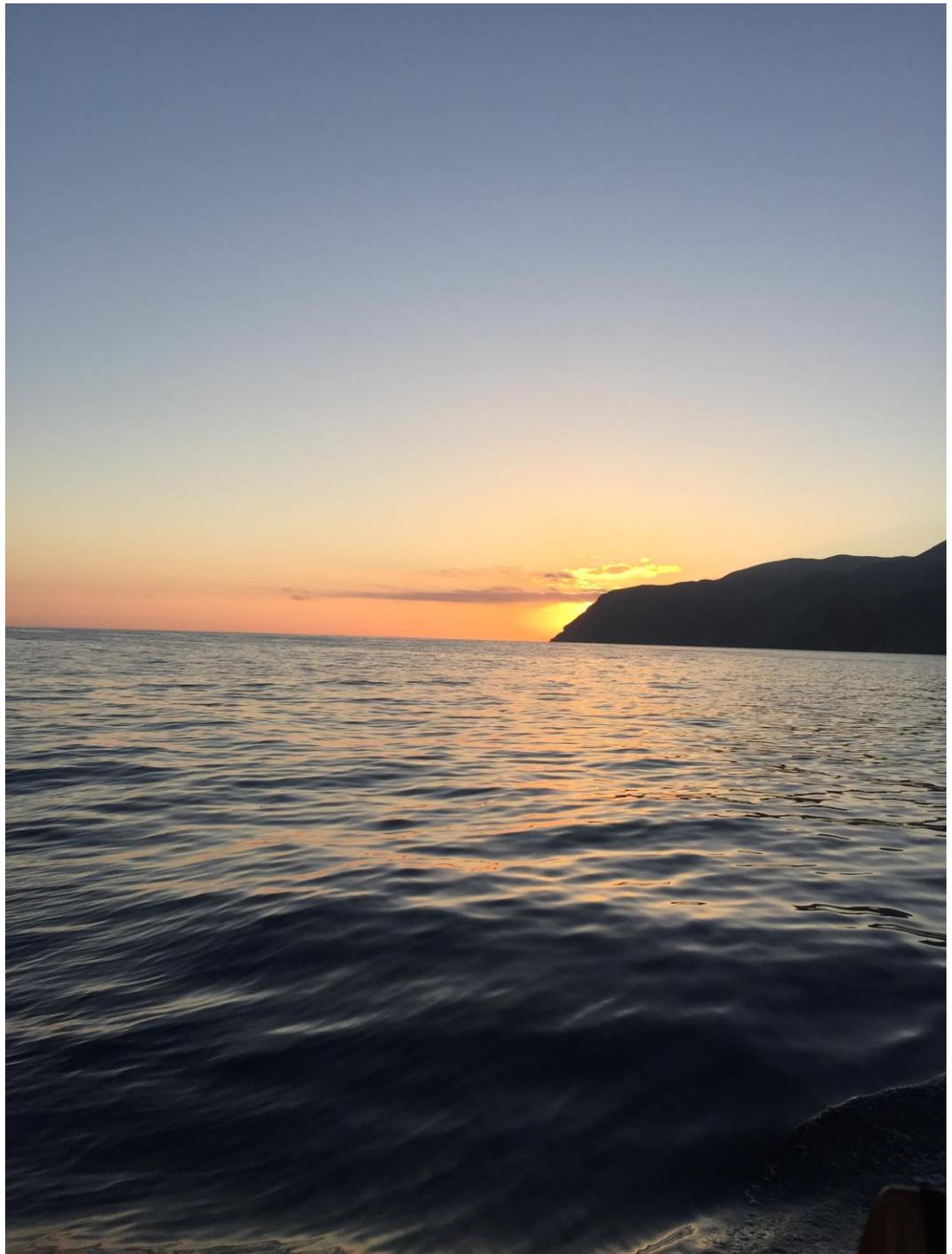
After a great night's sleep at Two Harbors, we decided to dive the back side then head west.

No Deal wasn't in the water 10 minutes when he landed a 22 lb white. Dexter got a 25 pounder and spooked a tanker. Seamus shot a 42 pound white. I shot a white which took half the line off my reel and tore off.

The take away from all this is that our network of divers is extremely completive, and although it is in our DNA to win, it is our desire to share these experiences with this tight nit group of friends -- This is the true driving force.

Happy Birthday
Seamus

Mike Marsh



Seabass Slayin with Paul Zylstra

I had a chance to go dive Santa Cruz Island last month for the first time and it didn't disappoint. My friend from work called and told me his buddy was on the fish and we had an invite. Who could turn that offer down. So we packed up the truck with gear and left for Channel Islands harbor at 3am. We arrived to a beautiful 26' Radon tied up at the launch ramp and Don(the owner)ready



to go and pumped up to tell us he had gone the evening before and saw lots of fish.

We left the dock at o'dark thirty and crossed the channel in calm conditions to arrive just after sun up to 30' viz and a medium current. We suited up and jumped in.

As I swam through the kelp I saw schools of sardines, barracuda chasing them and quite a few nice size calicos. Oh this was soooooo fishy I thought. I know

I'm going to see a seabass any minute. Hey was that a seabass tail I saw go behind that kelp? Yes it was. She was down about 20' just cruising slowly into the current. I swam up to some kelp and dropped in behind her and just to the left. When I leveled off the fish was still swimming slowly but I could see she knew I was there. Damn just out of range I thought. Well, here I go and I started kicking towards the fish. It's a nice one a little bigger than I had thought. I line up as I closed the gap but the fish was now right in front of me and I had no shot. But guess what? Some days it's your day and she turned left right in front of me. Click the shaft was away. The shot was right in the shoulder so I could pull pretty hard.

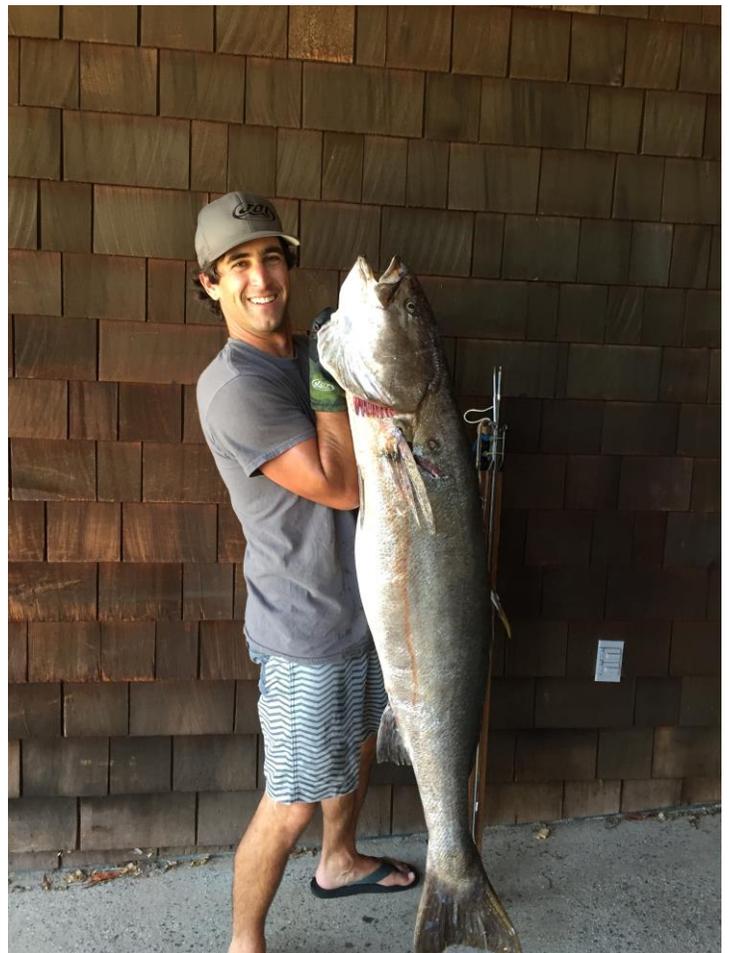
I retrieved the fish and returned to the boat took a couple pictures of my first ever Santa Cruz Island seabass. Just over 40 lbs. The day would yield a fish for everyone. It couldn't have worked out any better. It's good to have friends!

Paul



Kent McIntyre Leader Joe Prola

Joe recently had the honor of completing his King Neptune and the good times haven't ended. First he was dialed in on some yellowtail action and it definitely produced. After a paddle in the yak to the outside of the bed he found murky water, but hoped in and was stoked when big yt decided to come in and take a look at him. The largest of the day went 32 lbs. The fish gods smile upon some of us kindly, but when our friends key us in on fish it's really worth making the effort to get out in the water. Joe was given the dope on some wsb action and took the opportunity once again to make it out and it paid off with a 46.7 lbs wsb. A big congrats to Joe. Keep the run going!



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