



Connecting and Informing our Neptune Community in: **Safety, Camaraderie, and Club Legacy** July 2015

52nd Blue Water Meet: Great Event and Neptune Takes It!

With a turnout of 90 contestants representing 7 dive clubs the BWM was a resounding success.

13 Yellowtail were weighed in and props to the Neptunes that came in with three of the top five fish.

Big Thanks go out to all of the contestants that turned out to make this a spectacular event, to those that contributed to organize the event and to our Sponsors.



Congratulations to Jeff Bilhorn, Winner of the BWM with a 31.3# Yellowtail!!!

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Neptune To Do's:

- Make plans for the Catalina Campout
- Line up your crew for Fall Classic

2015 Neptunes Calendar:

July 1st – BWM Awards/ Speaker Mike Shane of Hubbs
WSB Research Institute
July 23rd-26– Annual Catalina Campout
August 5th– Speaker Jim Billotti of Coastal Conservation
Agency
September 2nd – TBD
October 7th – Fall Classic applications due
October 24th - Fall Classic
November 4th – Fall Classic Awards
December 2nd – Announce new board

Be sure to see what is new at our web site at:

LongBeachNeptunes.com

T-Shirt Contest: What year was the First Blue Water Meet held and who won it? (Hint: Check “Docs and Info” on the Website)

The first email sent to tfarquhar@me.com with the correct answer wins a Neptune tee shirt.

Trident Newsletter is a publication of the Long Beach Neptunes – a non-profit organization dedicated to the art and lifestyle of spear fishing.

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• <http://www.longbeachneptunes.com>



Photo by Terry Maas

2015 Fish Standings (updates since last newsletter in [Blue](#))

California

Barracuda:	Open
Bonito:	Open
Calico Bass:	Keith Kaufmen: 6.9 lbs
Calico Derby:	Keith Kaufmen: 6.9 lbs
Dorado:	Open
Halibut:	Open
Kent McIntyre:	Open
Lobster:	Jeff Benedict: 10.8 lbs
Sheepshead:	John Hughes: 22.8 lbs
Tuna:	Open
White Sea Bass:	Jeff Bilhorn: 69.5 lbs
Yellowtail:	John Carpenter : 32.0 lbs

Out of Country

Reef Fish: [Todd Bersuch, Pargo: 34.83 lbs](#)

Pelagic (non tuna):

Michael DeGiosa, Amberjack: 53.0 lbs



Photo by Terry Maas

July 2015 President's Message

Hello, Fellow Neptunes!

I hope this letter finds everyone and their families well. I'm sure you're full swing into summer, with the kiddies out of school, everyone enjoying your beach time, and all the Neptune's out chasing monster local bluefin!

We have a great summer planned for the club, but let's begin with the big kick-off: the 52nd annual Blue Water Meet! For those of you that couldn't make it, we had an epic turnout. Approximately 90 divers from 7 quality clubs across the Great State of California! It was such a phenomenal turnout, with certainly a fair share of comedy along the way. Proudly, I'd like to congratulate Jeff Bilhorn as the winner of the tournament! Jeff has probably submitted more fish apps over the last 2 years than any other member, so it was only befitting to see him atop the leader board. It was great to see Lyle Davis and Mark Navis also in the top five, leaving the Long Beach Neptunes as the grand prize winner, and taking 3 of the top 5 places. Way to go Neptunes for your achievements in such a competitive dive meet!! Please join me in honoring our brother Neptunes!!!

July is our annual Family Campout Month! Thanks again to Lou Rosales for all his hard work and dedication to make this happen! Last year's event was such a blast, so I hope all the families can make it to this one! And rumor has it the board will have a few surprises for the kiddies... Don't forget to check out the information in this newsletter and on our website, as well as our meeting this Wednesday.

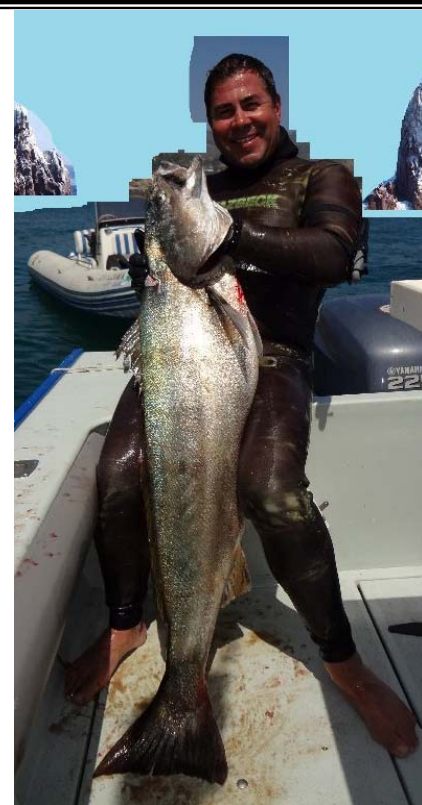
Speaking of July's meeting, July 1st we welcome guest Mike Shane of Hubbs Seaworld White Seabass Research Institute. Hubbs is responsible for the White Seabass grow-out pens in almost every harbor. To date, over 1 million juvenile white seabass have been released into embayments and near-shore locations, thanks to the work of Mr. Shane. I'm looking forward to hearing about his hard work to keep this precious resource flourishing in our ocean!

As you can see, we have a full meeting packed! This is the beginning of what should be an epic El Niño year, with plenty of warm water exotics on the horizon.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting and in the water! Dive safe!

Your President,

Byron Quinonez



Second Annual Neptune Family & Friends Catalina Campout

This summer, July 23-26 (Thursday-Sunday), we have two campsites at Little Harbor on the backside of Catalina, reserved that can hold approximately 40 campers. The campsites are site #2 and site #6. The camping trip is for Neptune members, their families and friends. If you are not a Neptune, you must be a guest of a Neptune (family or friend). If your schedule does not permit you to stay for the full four days, you are welcome to come for however many days that you can stay.

Little Harbor is a beautiful campsite and you can find more information about the site by visiting <http://www.visitcatalinaisland.com/camping-and-boating/two-harbors-camping/little-harbor> on the web.

Transportation to the campsite will be up to the individual camper. If you do not have a boat and cannot get a ride, the Catalina Express makes daily runs to two harbors from San Pedro. From Two Harbors, you can take a van to the little harbor campground.

If you are planning to attend, please contact me at long.beach.neptune@gmail.com, so that you can be kept informed of any information or planning that you should be aware of. In addition, you will need to take care of your own reservation by following the instructions in the next paragraph.

The cost is \$22/night for adults 12 and older and \$12/night for children under 12. You can reserve a spot by email, telephone or in person. To reserve a spot by email, include the reservation #11001203, the number of people in your group, the specific dates that you will be staying and a callback number. (The reservation is under my name) Visitor services will then call you back or email with the amount and take your credit card number. Their email is visitorservices@scico.com. To pay by phone, call (310) 510-4226 with the reservation number and the number of people to add and number of nights. Especially as we get closer to summer, it may be difficult to get through and email may be the best option. Last minute adds (if there is space), can be made with the onsite ranger on arrival (cash only), or at visitor services at Two Harbors. If you have questions or suggestions, let me know at long.beach.neptune@gmail.com

Lou Rosales



Blue Water Meet Tees and Sweatshirts

Okay guys, we still have BWM gear for you! Be sure to clean up at the July Meeting:

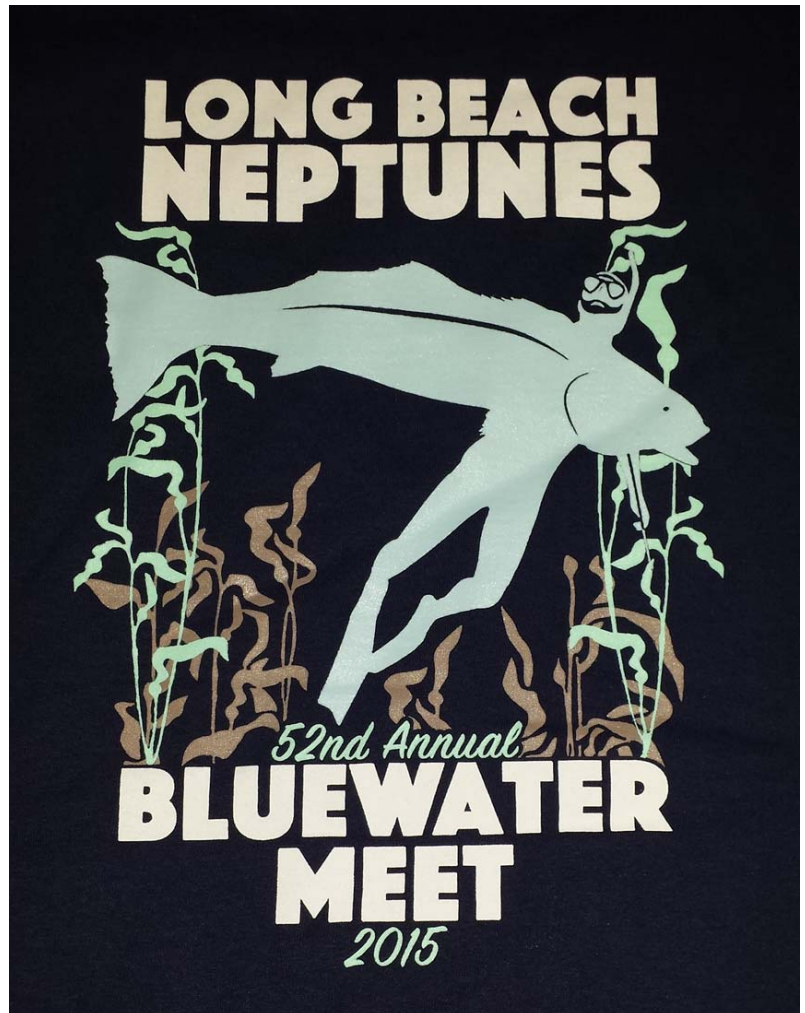
Short Sleeve T's: \$10.00

Long Sleeve: \$15.00

Hoodies \$30.00 (Pullover or Zippered)



Front



Back

Guest Speaker at Club Meeting July 1st

We are honored to have **Mike Shane of Hubbs Seaworld White Seabass Research Institute (HSWSRI)** presenting. HUBBS has recently achieved over 2mm white seabass released into the wild since its inception, so let's hear what the latest science has to say about the state of our most storied gamefish.



If you drop-off a white seabass head at any of these locations please include your name, phone number, date you caught the fish, and the location (latitude and longitude would be the best) where you caught the fish.

Santa Barbara

Calif. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Sea Landing

Ventura/Oxnard

Eric's Tackle Shop
Channel Islands Sportfishing Center

Marina Del Rey

Marina Del Rey Sportfishing

Torrance/Redondo Beach

Redondo Beach Marina Boat Hoist

San Pedro/Long Beach

22nd Street Sportfishing
L.A. Harbor Sportfishing
Long Beach Sportfishing
Pierpoint Landing

Santa Catalina Island

Avalon Seafood (at the end of the green pier)
Two Harbors (harbor patrol office on the pier)

Los Alamitos/Huntington Beach

Calif. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Huntington Harbour Fuel Dock (Mariner's Point)
Mako Matt's Marine
Pacific Edge Bait & Tackle

Newport Beach/Irvine

Angler's Center
Balboa Angling Club
Davey's Locker
Newport Landing Sportfishing

Dana Point

Dana Wharf Sportfishing
Hogan's Bait & Tackle
Jig Stop Tackle & Tours

Oceanside/Carlsbad/Solana Beach

Helgren's Sportfishing
Leon Raymond Hubbard, Jr. Hatchery
Blue Water Tackle

San Diego

Dana Landing (Mission Bay)
Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute
Calif. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Here's a special last minute price for Neptunes - killer event at a killer price!!

- Arrive SJD July 7 depart July 13
- 5 days of diving
- 6 nights accommodations and all meals
- Minimum 1500 usd cash purse plus great prizes
- Entry fee was 1550 plus tax per diver, **slashed to 1100** + tax for last week of sign ups!!

In interested contact: Tim Hatler, Palapas Ventana, www.palapasventana.com

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Fish and Wildlife Information and Updates

Seasonal Fish and Wildlife Dates to Keep Track of

- ♦ June 16: WSB limit changed from 1 fish to 3 fish
- ♦ June 30: Abalone Closes
- ♦ August 1: Abalone Re-Opens

Fish and Wildlife Regulation Changes

The below Lingcod Reg from DFW includes the limit change from 2 to 3 fish.

Lingcod: The recreational fishery for [lingcod](#) (*Ophiodon elongatus*) is open year-round to divers² and shore-based anglers. The fishery is open to boat-based anglers from March 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 (see important NOTE at the end of this section). Lingcod may only be taken or possessed³ in waters less than 360 feet (60 fathoms) deep. The daily bag and possession limit is 3 fish, with a minimum size limit of 22 inches total length.



ATOMIC
AQUATICS



52nd Blue Water Meet

Let's start off the coverage with the official results from Weighmaster Mori:

Here is the official results of the 2015 Long Beach Neptunes Blue Water Meet.

We had almost 90 contestants from 7 different spearfishing clubs. A total of 13 fish were weighed in, all were Yellowtail.

Congratulations to Jeff Bilhorn who came in first with a 31.30 lb Yellowtail, followed by Richard Balta, who came in a close second place with a 30.95 lb Yellowtail.

Although not part of the meet, a very impressive 10.15 lb Calico was taken by tentative member Wyatt Stahling, which brought on great applause.

The big winner was Zoilo Velazquez, who won a brand new Riffe 120X euro in the raffle.

A great time was had by all who attended. The meet was extremely well organized and well enjoyed by all who attended.

I like to thank all those who participated to make this event very special. Special thanks goes out to the organizers of the meet and especially to our sponsors.

M. Mori
Weighmaster, Long Beach Neptunes

Standing	Name	Weight (lb)	Fish	Club Affiliation
1	Jeff Bilhorn	31.30	Yellowtail	Long Beach Neptunes
2	Richard Balta	30.95	Yellowtail	L.A. Fathomiers
3	Lyle Davis	30.60	Yellowtail	Long Beach Neptunes
4	Eric Banados	28.45	Yellowtail	L.A. Fathomiers
5	Mark Nava	25.55	Yellowtail	Long Beach Neptunes
6	Larry Heinrich	21.90	Yellowtail	Long Beach Neptunes
7	Mike Marsh	20.15	Yellowtail	Long Beach Neptunes
8	Eric Schlobohm	19.15	Yellowtail	Long Beach Neptunes
9	Charles Lakamp	16.55	Yellowtail	Red Traiangle Spearfish- ing
10	Chad Priest	14.50	Yellowtail	Invited Guest
11	Paul Zylstra	13.70	Yellowtail	Long Beach Neptunes
12	Leo Mercado	13.00	Yellowtail	OC Spearos
13	Keith Kauffman	12.40	Yellowtail	Long Beach Neptunes
Honorable Mention	Wyatt Stahling	10.15	Calico Bass	L.B. Neptunes Tentative

A group of people are participating in a community cleanup activity under a large, open-sided wooden structure. In the center, a man wearing a blue t-shirt, a blue baseball cap, and a blue shirt tied around his waist is smiling and holding a megaphone to his mouth. He is also holding a small white object in his other hand. To his left, a man in a dark blue hoodie and a black cap is focused on cutting a red ribbon. Next to him, a man in an orange t-shirt is also cutting a red ribbon. On the far right, a man in a grey polo shirt and blue jeans is smiling and looking towards the group. In the background, another person is visible, and various items like bags and equipment are scattered on the ground. The structure has a wooden frame with a corrugated metal roof.



52nd Blue Water Meet



52nd Blue Water Meet



5th Place: Mark Navas



4th Place: Eric Bonados



3rd Place: Lyle Davis



2nd Place: Richard Balta



1st Place: Jeff Bilhorn

52nd Blue Water Meet



52nd Blue Water Meet



Safety Corner: Shark Fin Soup

I'm driving home from the motocross races and I see that Capt. George is calling me. I answer and he says, "do these medical kits have a needle and thread?" I told him where the stuff was and he located the suture kit. One of his deckhands had the butt of a speargun slip off his chest while loading and he took a shark fin across his arm.

I guess they were 10 miles offshore and Capt. George gave it a go. Here are the results:

He did a really nice job.

Keith K.



Safety Corner: More Shark Fin Soup!

So I made a mistake, actually a number of them. I'm writing this with the hopes that it may help someone stop.....and not hurt themselves as I did. Humbly I am sharing this experience with the hope that others will learn from it.

We were heading back into Newport Harbor after a successful day of diving South County. As usual, all the guns were secured in the rack and I was giving them a fresh water rinse when I came across a loaded gun. My gun. (mistake #1)

This is not about whether or not to have loaded guns on a boat. This is about "we are in the harbor, showered and in street clothes, on a busy Sunday afternoon and I have a loaded gun".

I pulled the gun from the rack and put the butt in my gut, with the muzzle supported by the gunnel, until I realized the arrow was now horizontal to the water right at about the same elevation as all the other boaters, SUP's, etc. I changed direction and now put the butt in the middle of my chest with gun pointing at a very sharp angle up to the sky. (mistake #2-wearing a T shirt)(mistake #3-not wearing gloves) Right about now Lyle turns and says "be careful". How I hate that. For me, more times than not, that seems to be the precursor for an accident about to happen.

Right on cue as I pull the first band back the butt slides right down my chest and I feel one of the shark tabs rip through my hand between my two end fingers. Damn it, I know its cut but I don't want to admit it to myself. I kept the two fingers tight together and finish unloading the other 2 bands, put the gun back in the rack and walk up to the helm. I looked at Lyle and told him I cut myself. Of course he wanted to see it but I wasn't quite ready to look just yet. After a few minutes of just looking at him in disbelief i opened it up. Lyle says, "OHHH, you need stitches for sure, let me see that again, oh ya, you need inner and outer stitches".

Good thing was we were in the harbor almost at the end of a good day of diving. We could have been off-shore and I would have been at the mercy of either Woody, Steve or Lyle deciding which one was going to learn how to sew, on my hand none the less.

I'm sharing this experience with the hope that no one else has this same experience, or worse. If you find yourself in this situation you may just want to take the 5-10 minutes and gear up to get back in the water, even if it is in the harbor.

Dive safe, Jeff Benedict



McRIB'in By Chris Malloy

Keith and I ran over to the island last Friday on his RIB and found some yellows. I started out slow and watched Keith swimming back and forth stuffing fish into the kill bag. I was like.....what am I doing wrong here?

Finally one of a pair swam too



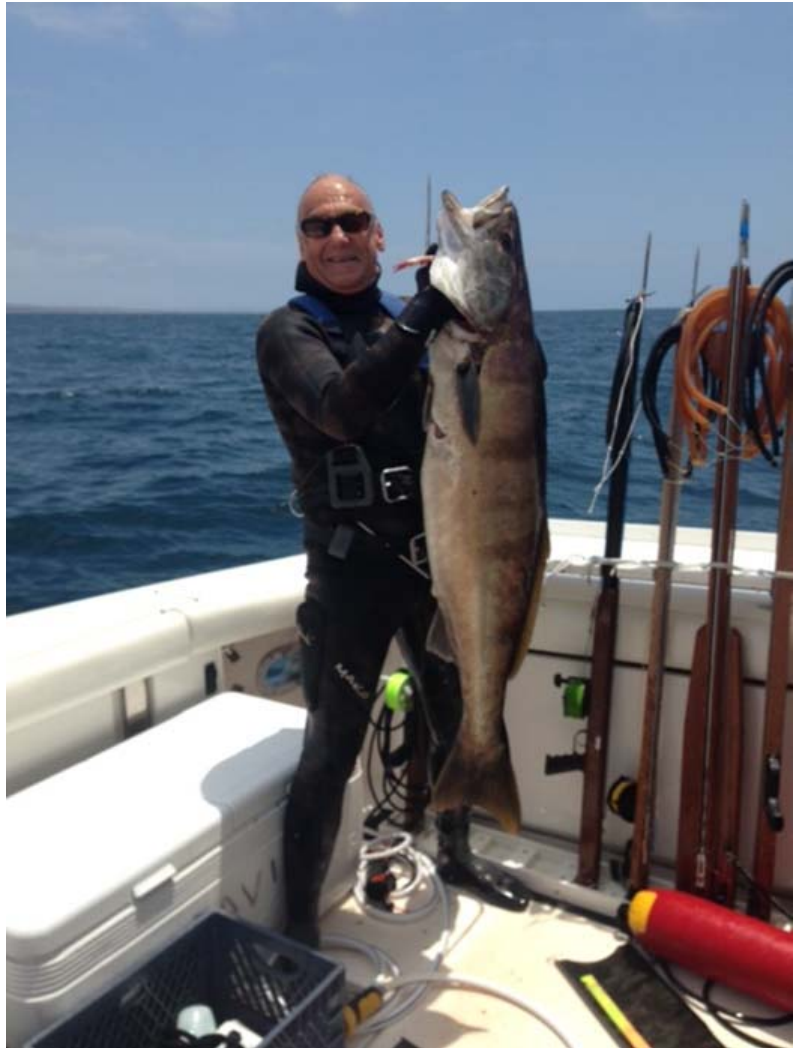
close. Blamo got one on my new gun. Keith ended with Three, I ended up with one. Lost a filling on the way home it was so rough. Great day on the water with a good bro.

200 Miles By Jeff Benedict

Captain George had recently returned from a scouting trip and the report was "walls of yellows, thousands!" at Tanner.

I had been struggling this season with a new gun, missed shots and not seeing fish. The Blue Water Meet was a few days away and our Team captain was bound and determined to put Brandon Davis and myself on some fish!! It was going to be an over night trip and Lyle was willing to do whatever it took to help me get my confidence back.

Not surprising, there was a last minute change to our itinerary as we headed south in search of Whites. Fresh info was that they were in. When we got to the spot there was already some "not so happy to see us" familiar faces to greet us. We anchored up at on another bed and began to hunt. Conditions were good! Wasn't long before Lyle had a fish on the boat. Brandon had seen fish and so had I. Over the next few hours I had 2 good opportunities and missed both times. At one point I came back to the boat and professed that I'm once again thinking about changing my focus.....to CYCLING! What the hell! Dejected.



If you've never dove with Lyle your missing out. The forever optimist never gets a chink in his armor. "Come on, I know where there's dumb fish, Tanner!" So off we head. It's mid afternoon and both the winds and seas are picking up. Water is draining off the roof as we head off-shore. Its getting rougher and rougher to the point of nearly burying the bow as we beat our way toward Tanner. Now passed the East End of Cat I hear on the radio that water temperatures are dropping at Tanner. No one else seems to have heard that so we continue on as we listen to the entire list of reports over the next 30 minutes, all the time beating our way against Mother Nature. Finally, thankfully the report comes around to water temps off shore and we agree to change course and head for front side Catalina. The new plan is to look at the East End and spend the night at the Isthmus, check Eagle and Ship in the morning and work East, maybe continue on from there for some paddys and always the hopeful tuna.

The wind blew almost all night and it turned cold. We checked Ship in the morning. I saw one, nobody else saw any. We continued across the front diving at multiple spots for nada. Even the bait was gone. East End, same scenario.

So now we head south, looking for birds, paddys, jumping fish, whatever we can find, which wasn't much. We did see a little tuna action and drug a lure through to no avail. Now what, back to where we KNOW there were fish. South County.

Lyle pulls together a pep talk on how he KNOWS we are going to get fish. I'm trying my hardest to believe him, it's just been so damn long. There's no such thing as throwing in the towel, just gotta get back in there. I'm a believer, it's going to happen right now!

I'm listening, all ears, "you're working too hard, spending too much time in one part of the bed, just drift across the top of the kelp, same level as the bait, about 15' down, all the way through the bed and beyond, then swim back to the front on the outside."

Ok, got it. Working too hard.

Sure enough, 1st drift, about 3rd or 4th dive, 40 lb fish swims below me. I close some of the gap from above and behind, lined up and the fish turns enough to give me the shot I'm looking for. Boom, nailed it and off he runs. Yes! I'm on. I'm so stoked although now I have to go get him.

Vis was pretty good which always helps on the retrieval. I'm taking my time, 2 dives to follow the line and get it straight up and down. Breath up for my 3rd and final dive and come up with my prize from 45'. YES, the drought is officially over! He's in my hands as I see the Half Dozen heading my way. Of course when I get on the boat Lyles got his fish for the day laying on the deck as well. High 5's and smiles all around

We did at least 150 miles, maybe 200, and I ended up getting a fish right back where we started from. Thank you Lyle!

Went on to shoot a 30+ yellow a couple of days later and I'm feeling like I'm back!!

Dive Safe,
Jeff



Yellow Tail Vortex

By Dave Freeman

The day didn't seem different than any other. I woke up groggy from a full nights rest of 3 hours and headed to the launch ramp. As I cruised down PCH I formalized the game plan. If it was green grab the polespear if it was blue the gun. Fast forward a hour and we pulled up to the spot and it was blue. As we set anchor a large boat approached us...low and behold I'd be on Lyle and Jeff's spots again.

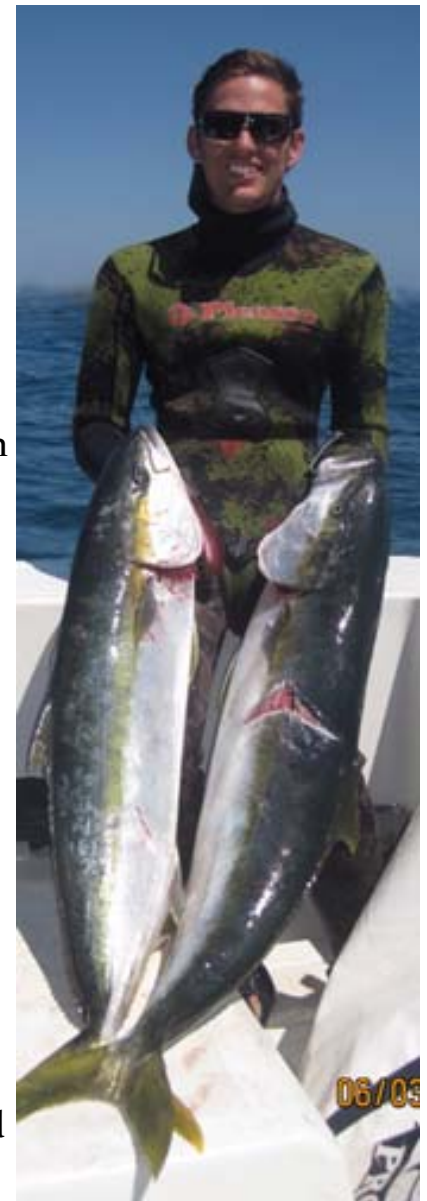
I scrambled into my suit realizing I'd be competing for a fish with an additional three other divers. Made sure the captain got into the water and then slid over board. Vis was good but not as great as I anticipated from the boat and I stopped for two seconds wondering if I should grab the polespear. I said screw it and started looking for kelp. The entire bed was either non existent where we had anchored or laid out on the bottom. So I swam up current and eventually found one patch that came up to about 15ft under the surface. This was it I told myself. I'll dive this patch until I find a fish or head back to the boat. Low and behold about thirty feet away one of the guys off my boat pops up and yells to me asking if I've seen any. He had already passed on a small one and missed one through the kelp. I realized I was late to the party and started kicking harder to the very front of the patch of kelp. I got ahead of the kelp and punched my second dive of the morning with the current. As I leveled off at thirty feet the current gradually pushed me into the kelp. Within the first five feet of entering there she was swimming at me about four feet away. I looked to my left, hoping to not spook her with a death stare. Slowly pulled my gun out from the soldier at arms position. Of course at this point I'm already cursing myself. I haven't landed the fish and I'm already worried about the fact that it would've been the perfect shot with a polespear. I clear my mind for a second and look to my right as my gun is coming out from under me. She turned to her left away from me and at eight feet out she turned broadside to head back into the bed. There wasn't a petter opportunity and I slowly pulled the trigger. I missed the stone shot behind her gill plate by a hair but she was hurt. I had grabbed the shooting line before she could



give any last kicks to tie up at depth. When I hit the surface she lazily rolled around the kelp at fifteen feet. It was an easy dispatch and I was stoked to have one so early in the day.

The captain had swam over as I grabbed my fish and decided he wanted to move the boat do to the lack of kelp. This was a blessing in disguise. I had already been thinking about what a dreadful swim it would be to the outside for yellowtail. The captain must have read my mind. He had me drop anchor where he thought the outer edge of the bed was and he turned out to be right. I sat back and drank some water for a couple of minutes while they jumped in. My mind was racing with how lucky I'd have to be to shoot a yt on the same day as the beautiful wsb I'd just landed. Ten minutes had passed by in a dreamy state and I decided to get back in. No longer in stealth mode I plop over the side of the boat and immediately notice the captain had picked a good spot. The kelp is down but thick and it's even a bit clearer in this spot. I drift a bit behind the boat as I load up my gun and decided to dive to clear my suit. I release a bunch of bubbles as I kick down and as I approach the top of the kelp I see six nice mid forties wsb. I stare at them amazed that they are literally swimming under the boat, right after I had jumped over the side, bubbles erupting from my suit, and calm as ever as I come down on them.

That's when I knew the day was a special one. I didn't need to experience anything else, but it was only about to get better. I let the fish casually swim away and made it to the surface with the intention of calling my buddies over, but it looked like both had let the current get the best of them and they were an easy hundred plus yards away already. I needed to get in front of the boat by twenty yards or more so that I'd be in front of the kelp. So I began kicking like a mad man. I made my way in front of the boat, but still on the edge of the kelp. Watching the bait dancing around I looked and there's a yellowtail swimming around. Alarms went off in my head THAT'S A YELLOWTAIL! Took a gulp of air and dove down. I couldn't believe it as I lined up on the fish swimming away from me and hastily pulled the trigger. I watched the shaft travel a wrap and a half before catching the fish behind mid body. I was stoked out of my mind. A yt and wsb in the same day. I pulled the fish in quickly and was beside the boat thanks to the current by the time I had bled the fish. After dropping the yt in the bag I had the



opportunity of swimming out and helping my buddy retrieve his wsb for the day. Back at the boat I didn't want a good thing to stop, so I swam out in front of boat again. I found another yt and this time when I took the shot my handle broke. The front screw still held but the back two no longer held the handle in place. My finger got jammed in between the trigger and trigger guard and the trigger penetrated my finger to the bone. It was quite the shock as I pulled my finger off the trigger, a trail of fat was dangling out. I packed the fat back into my finger and figured I'd be fine. Another yt would be too good to pass up on. Well with that thought I breathed up and flicked out my flasher. When I dove to retrieve it, I was schooled by a couple hundred, thirty pound yt. A complete vortex surrounded me. After taking it in for a minute or so and realizing I couldn't find one much bigger or smaller than the others. I deliberated on how I'd shoot one. I decided to brace the back of the gun firmly while very lightly placing my finger on the trigger. I wasn't going to grab the handle and risk the same thing happening again. I shot the next one to swim in front of my shaft. It's better to be lucky than good. The shaft went into the fish center mass and I horsed it immediately. Once again I drifted back to the boat. Threw the fish into the kill bag and yipped and hollered in excitement. The captain had been greeted by a similar school of yt in the kelp and swam back to the boat shortly after with another beauty. We moved on after that point leaving Lyle, Jeff, and friend to have the bed to themselves. It was one of those days I'll never forget, and hope I always appreciate.



Thanks, Dave

Time for the Photos...



Successful scouting Friday for the BWM

Joe and Mike eating well on Eric & Craig's boat Playground before the BWM.



Time for the Photos...



Steve and Todd with Playground in background, needing a cutting table...

Time for the Photos...



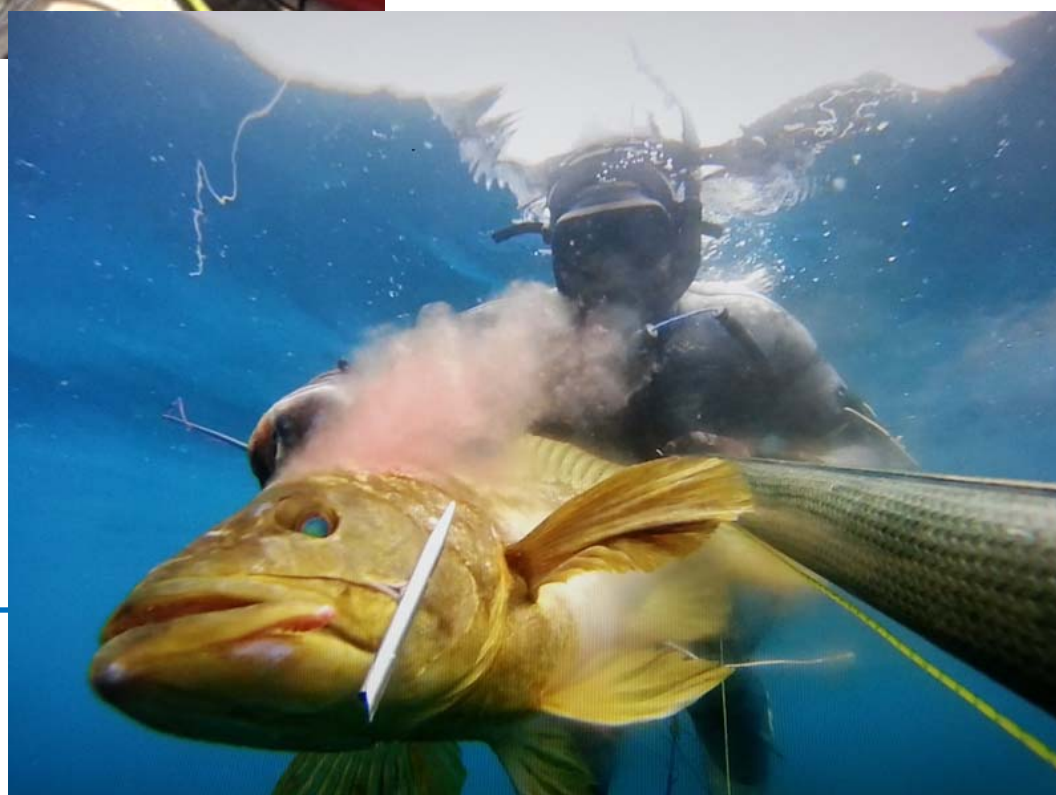
Nice PB for Ivan! And
appetizing disposition
for that Toad



Time for the Photos...

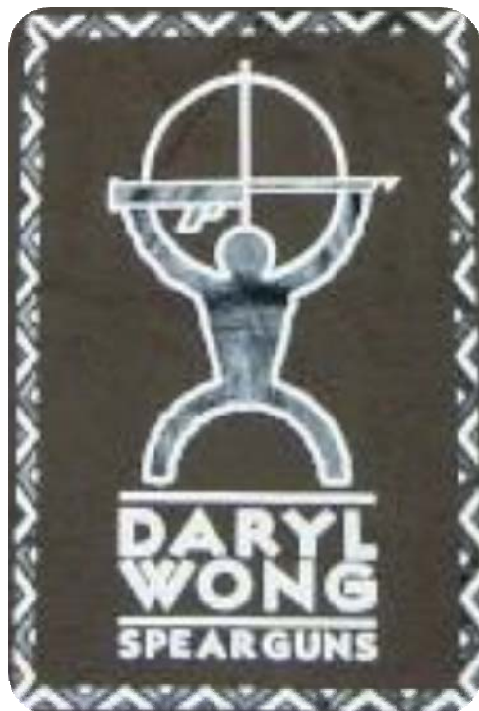


Mori's buddy tags a BFT on a SkiDoo



Great shot Hobie

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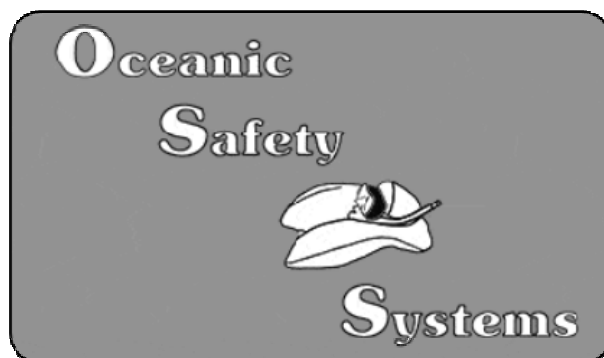
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Thanks for your Contributions!

I would like to thank all of the contributors to this edition of the Trident. With each issue it seems that there is more and more quality material submitted and too many contributors to list here.

Wishing all in the Neptune Community meaningful connection with one another, fulfilling adventures, and safe diving.

Best Regards and Dive Safe,

Todd Farquhar,

Newsletter Editor



Tenacity!

My son caught this calico on rod and reel Fathers day. It fought as hard as any of the others of its size, even with a massive chunk of missing flesh down to its back bone, that was only just beginning to heal.