



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

Get Grabbing, It's Lobster Time!

There is nothing quite like the anticipation of the Lobster opener and finally getting out there to wrap your hands around some of the best eating game So Cal has to offer. Weather you make a run for the islands, patrol some of our great local spots, or work a break wall, you can't help but feel like your next personal best is just waiting to be found.



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Neptune To Do's:

- Line up your crew for Fall Classic
- Make your plans to Attend the Christmas Party

2015 Neptunes Calendar:

September 2nd – Fish Stories
October 7th – TBD/Fall Classic applications due
October 24th – Fall Classic
November 4th – Fall Classic Awards
December 2nd – Announce new board
December 5th – Christmas Party at New Fortune Restaurant in Long Beach (same location as last year)

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

LongBeachNeptunes.com

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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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:	John Carpenter : 15.8 lbs
Halibut:	Open
Lobster:	Jeff Benedict: 10.8 lbs
Sheepshead:	John Hughes: 22.8 lbs
Tuna:	Open
White Sea Bass:	Jeff Bilhorn: 69.5 lbs
Yellowtail:	Mike Marsh: 37.7 lbs

Kent McIntyre: Jeff Bilhorn:

69.5 WSB + 31.3 YT= 100.8 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

October 2015 President's Message

Hello, Fellow Neptunes!

Well, it's that time again! Fall is upon us, and lobster season has begun! Lots of late night dives ahead of us, seeking out those elusive cockroaches that make such a great delicacy. Hooray for bugs!

October, of course, is also the month of our Fall Classic tournament. A bit lower-key than the Blue Water Meet, the Fall Classic is mostly attended by Neptunes, and is one of my favorite tournaments of the year. Thanks to our generous sponsors, this year we have some great items at the raffle as well, so don't forget to bring your \$\$! The board is once again providing quality beer (thank your treasurer Bruce Dardis for the upgrades!) What will win it this year? More slug yellowtail? Or perhaps one of the recent exotics, including Yellowfin, Dorado, or even a Wahoo? We'll look forward to the weigh in on the 24th to see...

Speaking of fish (aren't we always?), the Summer of 2015 will go down in the books as one of the most memorable El Nino years on record! How many of you have shot your personal best Yellowtail? I've seen lots of great fish applications submitted, including Parkford's tuna, Carpenter's dorado, and lots of 30-40+ lb yellowtail! Don't forget to turn in your applications right away, as your fish may help you qualify for your King Neptune award.

It was great seeing a large turnout for the suturing class last week! Thanks again to Keith and Dr. Nakagawa for making this happen! I know several of you have already got a head start using your kits, with even Robert Strohbach helping a fellow diver recently. Feel free to reach out if you missed the class, as you never know when you'll need to stitch someone up! (right, Wardo???)

This month's meeting will be a fun one, as we work toward the end of the year. We have a few constitutional discussions to address, and a few Fall Classic items as well. We look forward to your big bug stories, and of course sharing good times with friends. It's also time to start thinking about the end of the year, and what should be in store for the club and its leadership for 2016.

So, I'm looking forward to hearing your lobster stories on the 7th, and to seeing everyone at the weigh-in on the 24th! It's going to be a fun Fall Classic, so don't miss out!

Dive safe, and good luck at the tournament!

Your President,

Byron Quinonez



Thank You to Dr. Nakagawa and Team for their instruction at the Suture Training Special Event

Pigs Feet Anyone?

The well attended suture class was a follow up to the awesome first aid kits that were made available to the club. How many of those swine feet made it into a deep fryer anyway?

A big thanks to Dr. Nakagawa and team for volunteering to provide instruction.

Thanks also to Keith for all of his work with the first aid kits and coordinating the event and to Danny for lining up the meeting location.

Like the other Neptune events I have been unable to attend, I missed out big time and wish I could have been there. For all of you in my shoes, Mori dug up this video to get us by:

[Duke Suture Skills Course \(Click Link\)](#)



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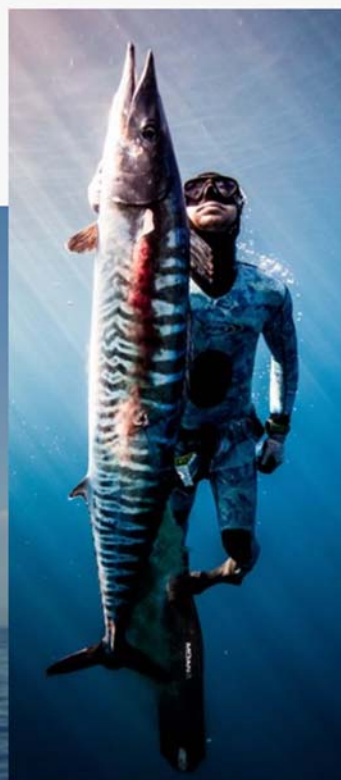
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To grab em

Road to the King Neptune

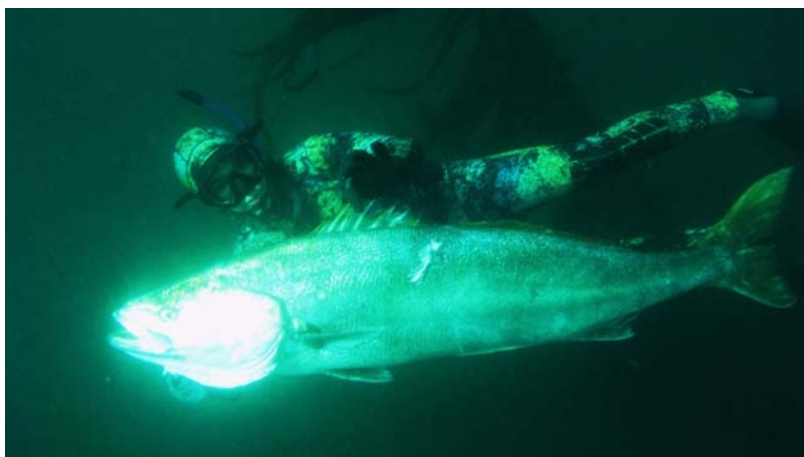
By Ivan Sanchez

Here is a summary on my journey in receive a place in history as #38 King Neptune.

The first fish I took was in 2013 and was the mythical White Sea Bass. The previous season I had landed a fish in the low 40#'s and was excited to start another WSB season. It all started one early morning doing my usual hand launch with my first boat (a 10.8ft Avon Inflatable w/ 8hp Johnson). That boat was definitely not the fastest or prettiest but never left me stranded. The plan was to meet up at my place at 4:00am and Will Withers convinced his wife to carpool up with him so our girls could hang out while we dove. We both were excited and get to our spot, suited up, and slipped into the depths. The kelp was so thick you could almost walk on it and all the signs were present (bait, energy in the water, and stoke). About 15 minutes into the dive I see the biggest sea bass to date and take a long shot that falls short. The fish just turns and looks at me and swims away. At this point I stick my head out of the water yelling, " they are here- I just saw one". Will responds, " I KNOW, DIVE HARD". Another 15 minutes passes by and I see another SLOB and take a solid 15ft shot that penetrates the fish in the upper shoulders. The fish feels the shot cocks back and takes off like a train. Quickly I notice my 100ft float line is getting shorter and I need to put the brakes on. This fish is not having it and drags me into the kelp. After an exciting battle I stop the fish. I trail my float line and notice the yellow line is bending



all the stalks of the kelp forest downwards. I find the fish and see the mori slip tip is perfectly toggled. At this point... Will has come for back up and we realize the fish is big and there are high fives and celebration. I swim the fish back to the boat and Will continues to dive more. After a while Will comes back to the boat and we realize that the wet kelp on the fish in the



game bag isn't doing anything for coldness. Will says, "lets go inside so the fish does not go bad and we can get a weight". On the way in we see Scotty De Firmian and he says, "Hey! that's a nice fish! Its prob mid to high 50's". Well he was right. We get our girls to bring us ice and we get an official weight of 56.2lbs

Fish 2 GAROPA aka Grouper :

2013 we had decided it was time to expand our horizons and go south to Mexico. We actually left on July 5th after Americas birthday and went to some uncharted territory down in Baja. We left at 5am so we could make the gruesome 16hr drive. Successfully we made it one day with a bitchen treasure map from John Hughes. Prior to the trip I read a lot of Baja literature but what it comes down to is anything is possible and who really knows what you need. We took 3 guys total on this trip and barely had enough room in Wills 4WD Xterra. We picked up a second spare tire and a bunch of other stuff that you think you may never need and packed the car. The ride down was pretty straight forward until we got to the 3 hour drive to the town that only has washboard and large pot holes with just sticks for notice you are about to fall into one. We arrived to the small baja town and quickly tried to find our hotel as it was already almost 8pm. We walked into the first hotel and it did not feel right. We checked another hotel a few blocks down and there it was... A large Neptune sticker on one of the windows... "AHHH", what a relief we were in the right place. Now we needed to find the guy who



knew the panguero. With a lot of Spanglish and some walking around a panguero showed up with the head CO-OP to ask us our details. Apparently there was another set of divers there and they had dibs on the panguero we wanted for the first 2 days. With all the talk about big grouper down in mex... my main target was to get a grouper. Any size would be nice but if we got into big ones it would only be a plus. To summarize this story I will summarize our trip leading up to the Garopa... Day 1: plentiful YT (my PB at #38lbs and everyone scoring over #30), Day 2: First attempt to Grouper with 5ft vis and the panguero unsure of the spot (We salvaged the day by doing a quick last drift and all landed nice YT). Day 3: BIG YT: Will holds a clinic and shoots 3 YT over #40). Day 4: More YT and some random high spots for more YT. Matt Stewart shoots an almost 9lb Calico. Day 5: Grouper attempt number 2: This is where it happened... We had the panguero we wanted starting on Day 3 and he knew the spots. He knew how to handle the guns, float lines, and also was able to drive the panga like a true panguero... We took a solid almost 2 hour drive south with a trustworthy Enduro outboard which looked to be from the 60's. We get to the first spot and it looks as if we are 3-5miles offshore with no kelp and the water is warm. He says this is the spot... Get in. Unsure of the depth, current, and likelihood of fish I am the first one in the water. Visibility was a lot better than before but it could not have been better than 15ft. I am breathing up and slightly nervous. My first drop I drop quickly past 40 ft and think to myself...this is really deep- I still have not got to the bottom. At about 50ft I start seeing structure on the bottom. Then I see some large figures materializing. They look dark and light but I know they are fish and they have got to be grouper. I get close and some turn and swim away. I take aim at the closest one realizing the ones behind are bigger and shoot downward at an angle. I hit the fish hard and he turns. I am trailing a 50ft float-line with a neptronics float and grab the float line and am getting pulled down.



There is no stopping this fish. Racing to the surface almost out of the breath my float is tombstoning and getting pulled 10ft underwater. With all the commotion the other divers come over for help. I start pulling against the fish and I start feeling less resistance. I must have turned the beast away from his hole. My theory is due to the depth and length of float-line I had enough leverage to keep the fish out of his hole. I bring him up and this fish is so big. By far biggest fish I had ever shot. I quickly try and put my hands in his gills... Big mistake as the fish feels my hands he closes his gill and I cannot get my hand out. I think what if he makes a run than I am a goner. I pull my hand so hard out of the gill I tear my glove open from his gill rakers. The panguero is there in quick fashion to grab the fish. I am in shock and don't really know what just happened. When I get in the panga I am starring down at this massive grouper. Will says its over 100lbs and the panguero says 50 kilos. The slip tip had toggled in his throat and the panguero made me stick a gaff in the fish mouth to keep it from closing down on the pangueros hands as he tries to remove the slip tip. Now everyone is fired up on the boat. Will say he wants one and he dives the spot for another 30 minutes. It is deep and we try another spot where



Will lands a solid 80lb. Our third guy shoots a fatty that holes up deep. The slip tip pulls out and he ends up ripping a second one off. He almost blacks out from diving so deep and asks if we can try another spot. The panguero takes us to a different spot where the "small ones" are at and he shoots a 20lb grouper. We are all in a state of bliss and head back. We try and find a scale but the grouper is just breaking ropes, scales, and causing a scene. We get a weight and some measurements - it comes out to 126# Gulfie...

Fish 3: California Yellow

It was 2014 and I jumped on the sand dollar for a Cortes trip. As we all know Capt. George puts on a great charter with a solid crew. We pushed off at mid night on Thursday and Capt. George begins driving. Unsure to where we were going we find ourselves at Clemente. Very quickly people start boating big YT. The next day we are at 9 fathom spot where we are greeted with epic top to bottom vis and yellows. Tuna are in the area but they are being very shy and stay out of range. We dive there all day and push over to Cortes which did not have as much life but I see what must have been a 60# yellow that just stops and looks at me as if it were trying to intimidate me. The last day of the trip we drive over to Tanner and I am one of the first in the water. Again, I am shocked at the



top to bottom visibility which was about 80-100ft. I see 2 big yellows that I spook. Thinking I have blown my shot I swim in the general direction and on a drop these two big yellows come back in. I am trying all the tricks to bring them in. Finally they turn and come slightly closer as I wait for a solid shot I let the shaft go on a downward angle. THUNK... I hit it and I know it's solid. Another diver from the sand dollar had come by to see the commotion and I am horsing the fish. The fish is not having it and it is swimming in circling almost wrapping my long DiveR fins. As I swim back to the sand dollar Capt. George is yelling off the bridge asking what I got. When I jump on the swim step I realize the fish is big but I did not expect



it to go over 30. We leave it whole in the cooler to get an official land weight. It went 33# on the dock and I sit back and take in that I just landed my 3rd and final King Neptune fish.

As times goes on it is not about the fish stories but about the friendships and camaraderie we develop in the club. As Gentlemen of the Long Beach Neptunes we develop lifelong relationships that only benefit with exciting journeys on the sea.

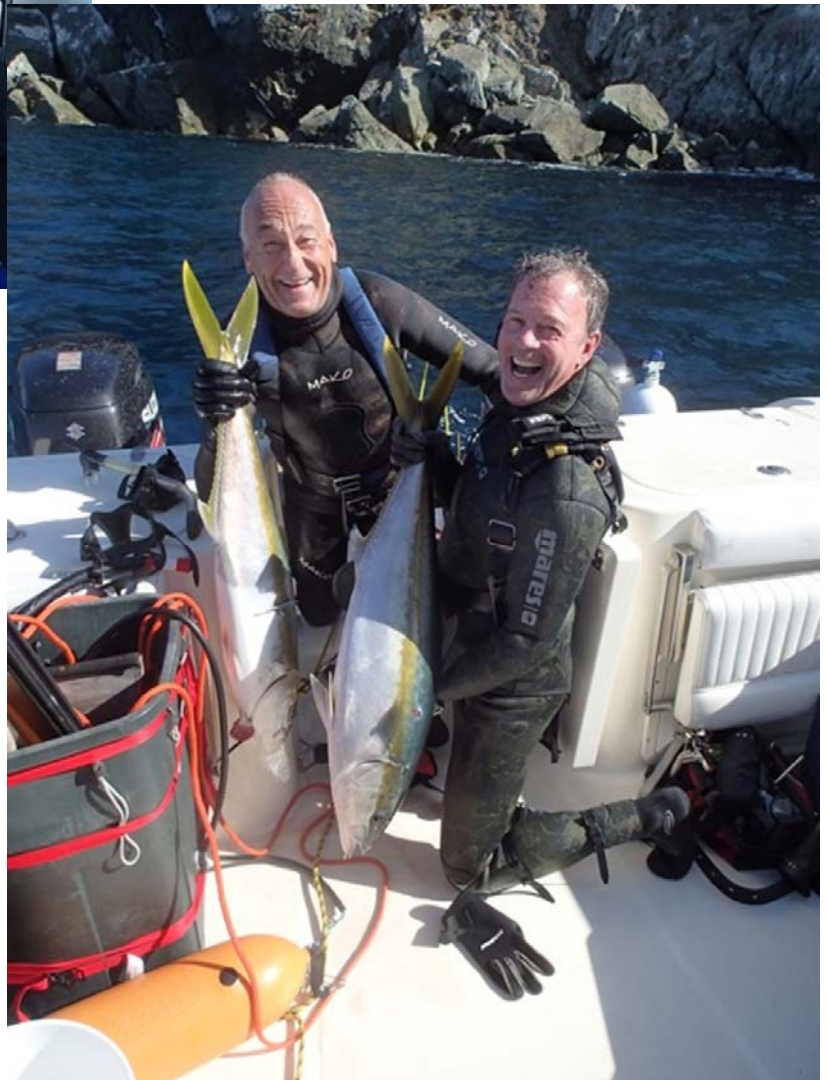
Time for the Photos...



Time for the Photos...



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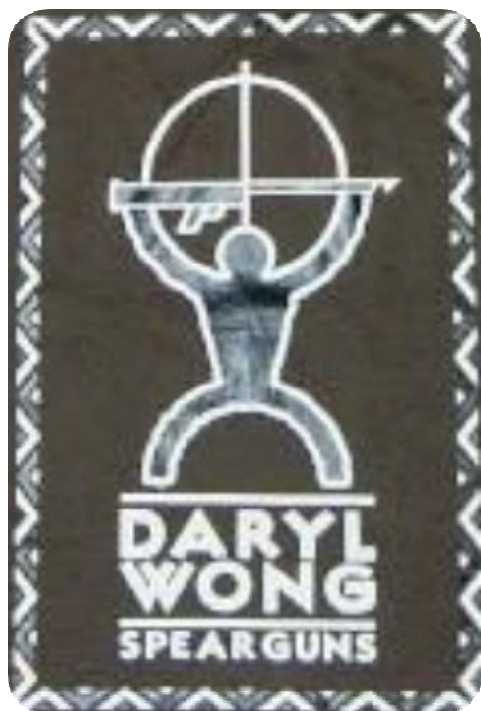


This large, very dangerous mammal weighed 1,600 lbs. As you can see in the one picture, I took her with a long-bladed cutting instrument and it was one hell of a barbecue. Her hind quarters were especially delicious!

Beef, I highly recommend it, but only on occasion.

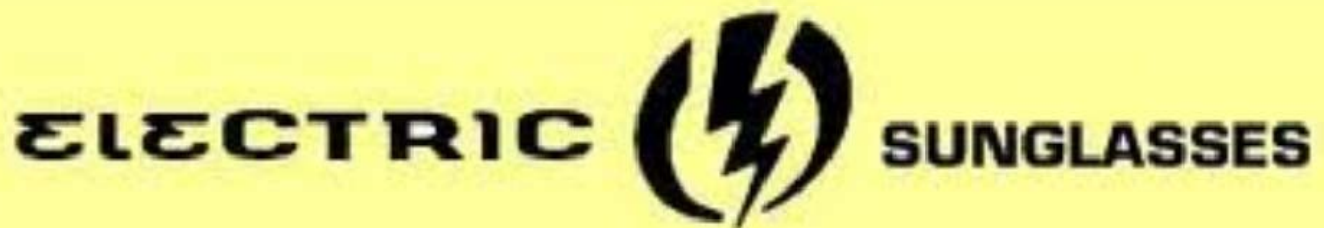
John C

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Thanks for your Contributions!

I would like to thank all of the contributors to this edition of the Trident.

Hers's to getting out there together to enjoy this time of transition and re-discover the greatness of our fall conditions, opportunities and quarry.

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

