THE TRIDENT

The Monthly Newsletter of The Long Beach Neptunes

September 2024, Vol. 76, Issue 10

Limits for Brian York, Denis Emeterio and Tentative, David Schwier On September 27.

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The Trident is the official newsletter of the Long Beach Neptunes, a non-profit organization. The Trident is published monthly and is provided free of charge to the members of the Long Beach Neptunes and associates.

2024 CALENDAR

- **Oct. 2, 2024 - Monthly Meeting**
- **October 12, 2024 - Annual Fall Classic**
- **Nov. 6, 2024 - Monthly Meeting**

FISH STANDINGS

CALIFORNIA

Calico Derby	Jeff Benedict	7.0 lbs
Calico Bass -	Jeff Benedict	7.0 lbs
White Seabass -	Jeff Bilhorn	69.0 lbs
Yellowtail -	Dr Ivan Sanchez	45.4 lbs
Halibut -	John Carpenter	23.3 lbs
Sheephead		Open
Bonito	Richard Cunningham	9.4 lbs.
Barracuda		Open
Dorado		Open
Bluefin Tuna -	Juan Carlos Aguilar	129 lbs
Lobster	Dr Ivan Sanchez	7.3 lbs

OUT OF STATE/COUNTRY AWARDS

Yellowfin Tuna		Open
Reef Fish		Open
Pelagic, non-tuna -		Open
Kent McIntyre Award	Paul Zylstra	105.7 lbs
Perpetual Big Fish Trophy		Open

STEVE STONES IT!

By Steve Parkford

So, I took my Freedom Boat Club rent-a-boat out of Huntington to Two Harbors and stuck the anchor at Ship. I let the newbie get into the water first as he had not shot a yellow to date. Taking my time I slipped into the water to see a wall of blacksmith banked up facing the East. Solid line of dense bait fish, I decided to follow the edge of the blacksmith. About 50 feet from my water entry I spied a yellowtaail perfectly motionless right on thte blacksmilth line facing the incoming current. Motionless. I moved slowly to get over this large fish which was about 25' down. As I did, it kicked forward and began to move, I dropped down. The fish was only 5 or 6 feet from where it had been motionless and was giving me a broadside view as I continiued to descend. Pulling the tricgger I got ready for a massive fight. Stoned it. No fight. Big fish.

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

By Jeff Benedict

I went to Catalina with Parkford and Stockton in search of yellowtail earlier this month. We bounced around the backside for a while then moved to the East End. It's been noted that a few spots there are considered sharky yet I had never seen evidence of this.... until that day.
1st spot we anchored I saw a nice yellow on the bottom acting strangely, more like a tuna. A single fish moving across the bottom on its side looking up at me. Huh....
Good sign as that was the first yellow I had seen that day.
We moved the boat, further up the line. We all jumped in and proceeded to scatter. I found an active spot with tons of tightly packed bait. Sardines, anchovies, mackerel, micro bait, etc. It wasn't long before a school of yellowtail showed up. The smaller ones in the front, a little larger toward the rear. I waited patiently and shot what was maybe a lower 20lb fish. It was a good shot and I was over sand so I wasn't worried about it getting tangled in anything and I hadn't seen any seals at this spot. I noticed a tangle in my line at the transition from reel line to shooting line and proceed to fix it while the fish dangled. Once cleared I looked down and my fish was gone 🤔

I reloaded and headed out in front of the bait once again. That's when I saw it. On the edge of visibility was the shape of a large shark slowly moving by my left side. I estimated the length to be maybe 12' although what really impressed me was his tail fin. It appeared to be a solid 3' tall. I just stayed still in amazement with my gun pointed his direction although not laid out. He passed by until out of visibility. I stayed still and kept vigilant. Once again he appeared, closer although in the opposite direction. I wanted to yell out as to warn my friends yet I chose to stay still and keep my face in the water. He proceeded past me and began a slow turn tightening his radius. I could now identify it as a white shark. Again neither he nor I exhibited any aggression or fear. It was at this point that the shark turned and started coming straight in my direction, still showing nothing but calm/slow movements. I locked my eyes on him. It seemed as though this was the going to be the beginning of a stare down. Now I know sharks don't blink and I was determined to not lose this challenge. The shark continued his forward movement until he was 4-5' off the end of my gun.

Oddly we both seemed to be completely at ease with the situation. I was taking it in as a very special moment. I felt that if he was going to attack I would most likely not have seen him coming. It was at this point that he turned left and continued out aways yet always within site. He turned around and did a drive by one last time and continued on out of my site. It as at this point that i raised up just enough to yell SHARK and face back in the water. I stayed there for maybe a few more minutes then slowly/cautiously started making my way back to the boat some several hundred yards away. I veered off at a slight angle as I had seen Stockton on the way back and wanted to verify that he was aware of the situation. Steve was in the opposite direction although somehow we all ended up back at the boat at the same time. We stayed on anchor a little while longer while I shared my experience. We then moved further to the front side and dove a little longer before calling it a day. It was maybe a week or week and half later that we headed back to that same spot and dove again.

This sport has been a God given gift to me. Spearfishing and the Neptunes has changed my life in so many positive ways. I've built new friendships, taken on leadership roles, been challenged both physically and mental, experienced the reality of death and a greater appreciation for being alive. I thank you all that have and continue to keep it lite and lively, and to the others that have stepped up manage the details.

Scuba divers have 'once-in-a-lifetime' close encounter with great white shark near Catalina

By Christina Gonzalez Updated October 1, 2024 10:53am PDT FOX 11

LOS ANGELES COUNTY, Calif. - It was the last dive on Sunday afternoon, near Catalina, aboard one of Sundiver International's vessels—until it became one of the most exciting experiences the scuba divers ever had.

"[In] 40 years, I've seen two from far away, but six feet away? I couldn't believe it!" says Seamus Callaghan, who was testing the Oceanic waterproof casing for Huish Outdoors when he felt something over his right shoulder – a white shark – a good 15 feet long.

He began capturing images as the shark calmly made its way around the divers.

Kacy Madigan, who is a safety diver and has plenty of experience overseeing shark video shoots, had just gotten in the water when she spotted the shark beneath her.

"I didn't want to flail or move, but I controlled my descent to get close without getting in front of her path," she says, adding, "I actually started getting too close and backtracked a bit to give it plenty of room, as much as I wanted to get as close as possible!" The shark can be seen on video, seemingly checking out the divers for a while before moving on.

"It's so rare," says an obviously excited Madigan. "I have been hoping for an out-of-the-cage encounter with a Great White all my life, so I feel so blessed."

We reached out to the Shark Lab at Cal State Long Beach, which has several tagged white sharks in the area where the divers were. We couldn't see a tag on the animal's top rear fin, but they are checking their sensors in the area and "can't wait to see the video," says lab director Dr. Chris Lowe.

It goes to show that these animals, while apex predators, are not the vicious hunters attacking humans that they are sometimes portrayed as. The sharks can regularly be seen in videos swimming beneath surfers, but scuba divers rarely see them this close, as they tend to avoid humans. When hungry, their preferred meal tends to be sea lions or seals.

White sharks have come back from near extinction, as laws have changed to protect them, especially in California waters, where they are protected. But these encounters are rare and, for these divers, a most cherished experience.

Go to https://www.foxla.com/news/scuba-divers-have-once-in-a-life-time-close-encounter-great-white-shark-near-catalina.amp for the full story and video

Talk Baja

Chuck Davies · 1d ·

Old School Baja - La Paz airport in 1952-3, Long Beach Neptunes dive club, second couple on left were grandfather-mother, dad (only kid in pic), it was the first dive club to fly into Baja Sur and explore, went as far south as Muertos bay.

Can you imagine the Sea of Cortez, it was pre Cousteau!

Photo submitted by Tom Blandford

NAMASTE PRODUCES AGAIN

By Craig Bond

I was once again honored to get the invite (I may have invited myself) to hunt for bluefin aboard Namaste with Captain Juan Carlos Aguilar, or as I have come to call him, F***ing Juan. Also along for the adventure was my old friend since grade school in Iowa, Dr. Curtis Geyer.

All gear and crew were aboard and pushing off from Cat Harbor by 6:30. The day started off overcast with a manageable chop. Juan allowed me to take the first crack at it, so I suited up, breathed up and attempted to calm my nerves as I sat facing aft in the "jump seat".

It was only a few minutes before I felt the boat change course and Juan announcing surface action. We pulled up on what I would refer to as a weak boiler. It was fairly small and less aggressive compared to some, but I hopped in anyway and proceeded to kick toward the melee. The fish proved to be elusive and just kept their distance from this new threat in the water. I heard Juan yell "Dive! Dive! Dive!" I obediently dove but saw nothing but a few scales. Back in the boat I go.

This process repeated itself twice more. As is common practice for these trips, it's "Three strikes and you're out". I'm beginning to wonder if I'm snake-bit(eel-bit, maybe?), because it was bringing back memories of the last trip where I got zero shots, and Juan and Orion had multiple shots, and Juan got his 130 lb-er. My joy for Juan's success was only slightly outweighed by my jealousy. F***ing Juan!!

We lost the fish for a couple of hours but Juan followed the birds and his fish sense and we were in them again. Juan's turn to dive and the boilers seemed a bit larger and aggressive. Juan jumped in looked down and was greeted by the site of bluefin just below his fins. Within 10 feet of the boat he took a dive and Curt and I watched as the float went for a ride. Fish on!

F***ing Juan!!

NAMASTE PRODUCES AGAIN

By Craig Bond j(cont'd)

Juan went to work taking care of his fish and straightening out the tangle of shooting cable, float line and assorted gear. Meanwhile I'm watching foamers all around us. It didn't take long and I was back in the jump seat and Captain Juan was steaming toward a strong foamer. It sunk out, as did my spirits, as we approached. We idled for a short while when Juan announced that there were strong sonar marks. I slipped into the water, trying to minimize my commotion, grabbed the gun from Curt and took a look down. Bluefin everywhere! Hallelujah!

I punched a dive and when I came vertical I found myself in the midst of the famed tuna vortex. I slowly leveled out my gun and watched as the first couple fish were quartering away and not ideal to shoot. The next one was a bit more distant but had make a slight turn so it was broadside. I squeezed the trigger and was rewarded to see the fish take off and the float line whizzing past. Fish on again!

Two for two and smiles all around. The celebration beers on the return trip were especially sweet.

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

October 2, 2024, 7:00PM

This month's club meeting will be held <u>IN PERSON</u>, at

Me-n-Ed's Pizzeria

4115 Paramount Blvd, Lakewood, CA 90712

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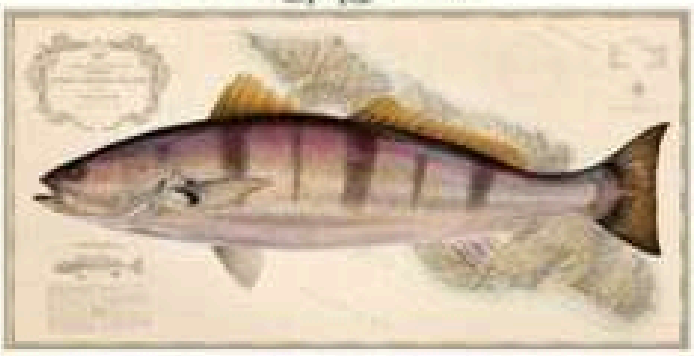

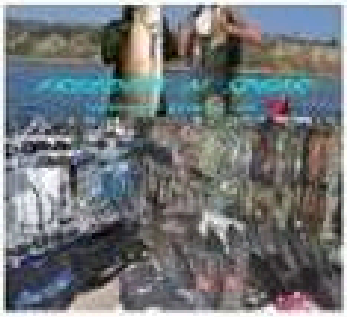

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