THE TRIDENT

The Monthly Newsletter of The Long Beach Neptunes

November 2024, Vol. 76, Issue 11

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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

- **Dec. 4, 2024 - Monthly Meeting**
- **Jan. 8, 2025 - Monthly Meeting**

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 7, 2024, 6:00 PM
Calico Fish House
16600 Pacific Coast Hwy.
Huntington Beach, CA 92649

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	Bill Withers	10.14lbs

OUT OF STATE/COUNTRY AWARDS

Yellowfin Tuna		Open
Reef Fish (Broomtail Grouper)	Dr. Ivan Sanchez	25.5 lbs
Pelagic, non-tuna (Striper Marlin)	Dr. Ivan Sanchez	139.1 lbs
Kent McIntyre Award	Paul Zylstra	105.7 lbs
Perpetual Big Fish Trophy		Open

Journey To Magdalena Bay and Beyond

By Mike Marsh

As In all journeys, there is a beginning middle, and end. This adventure was initiated by Ivan Sanchez to gather 4 divers interested in a seven-day spearfishing trip to Mag Bay. The foursome included Ivan Sanchez, Joe Shuster, Mike Feldman, and me. The Key to one of these trips is to be flexible, not one of my strong points. We had booked this week months in advance with Palapas Ventana as it is a good time of year for Wahoo and hopefully, the weather would hold.

However, this was not to be the case. The water temp. was dropping and the wind made both Mag Bay and most of Cervalo not diveable. At the last minute, Mike Feldman reached out to Pepe, our contact south of the border to arrange diving in Cabo. Mike made arrangements for a 5-star resort which was way beyond my pay grade, and the next morning were off with Pepe and a hired captain to dive areas near San Jose Del Cabo. Our score was zero for the day with missed shots on both wahoo and tuna. I saw only jellyfish the whole day.

On day 3 Ivan and Joe took a drinking tour of Cabo while Mike and I had a less-than-romantic stroll along the beach. Around noon, Pepe drove the four of us, gear included to Palapas. The wind had subsided only allowing diving along the protected west side of Cervalo. The Wahoo reports were further north at the lighthouse.

It is now day four of our trip and our captain Yoni dropped us off for our first drift our half day. The second half was dedicated to traveling to Mag Bay. The current here was strong passing over the reef. Joe was next to me as he witnessed a wahoo pass by him heading balls to the wall to my suspended flasher. I was at the surface when I noticed its unmistakable strips caressing the flasher 25 feet below. Taking a breath, I kicked down and landed a shot. I hadn't been in the water for 15 minutes and the sea was alive with bait, bonito, milkfish you name it. Feldman also shot a wahoo before things slowed to a halt with only a few sightings to finish the day.

Journey To Magdalena Bay and Beyond

By Mike Marsh cont'd

The rest of this day was spent driving 5 hours across Baja to the Pacific side where a ponga was waiting to carry us with gear a short distance. There, a vehicle so salt corroded it was unidentifiable, trailered us a mile or two past a graveyard of even more abandoned rust buckets. The driver backed the trailered ponga which we had been riding in for yet another boat ride. Finally, after another very scenic car ride, We made it to our destination, Mag Bay. We were introduced to the staff and shown our sleeping accommodations. The beds were comfortable but it was a far stretch the 5-star we enjoyed the first night. The staff was fantastic and the meals we some of the best I have ever enjoyed.

The next morning our captain and guide motored the ponga through the surf into open water for the 2-hour boat ride to Thetis Banks. The wind was calm, the air was chilly, and the water temp. had dropped to 68 degrees. During our boat ride, we were visited by whales, marlins, dolphins, and sharks all swimming at the surface. Once at the bank, a float with a flag was set on the high spot some 80 feet down providing a visual marker during our drift.

Joe was the first to land a yellowfin tuna. All of us would have tuna sightings of yellowfin ranging in size from 20 to 60 pounds. Joe's was about 28 pounds. It was his first and would be the only one speared on the trip. Schools of tuna in the hundreds would swim by all of us but pushed out of range as soon as we dove. These fish were often only 20 to 30 feet from the surface and though they kept their distance the sight was amazing.

Journey To Magdalena Bay and Beyond

By Mike Marsh cont'd

The afternoon was upon us and no wahoo had been sighted. However, during one of my drifts, I spotted a large brown shape just below the surface. It was a marlin swimming perpendicular to me some distance off. I threw a flasher and tried to close the gap to no avail. The fish disappeared. Ivan had better luck. Ivan, Joe, and Mike were close to the ponga and the captain yelled Marlin. Ivan had the best shot and took it landing a 139.1-pound striped marlin.

Throughout the day we saw schools of smaller grade yellowtails but nothing big. Our English-speaking guide informed us that on the reef there were large yellowtail, lots of them. Ivan dove and and shot a nice one 35 to 40 pounds. He did not have a watch so did not know his depth but said they were just above the high spot. Crap Thas 70 to 80 feet. Not to be outdone by a young friend half my age, I breathed up and down I went.

I could make out the top of the high spot. It was fairly flat and black in color with all kinds of fish hovering above it but no yellowtail. Now recovering at the surface, I checked my watch,66 feet. I gave myself 10 minutes to breathup and kicked down again. This time I saw them just off the high spot. I tagged one and kicked to the surface. It was fighting hard and once near the surface you could see my tip had only threaded through the skin. Ivan dove on it and stoned it The fight was over and for me so were any more dives to 66 feet.

This is now day 6, and the only thing I caught was a cold. But not to be outdone by Ivan, Mike landed a 122.2 Marlin which took him for a ride while holding the float line. We headed back a bit early to investigate some shallower reef diving closer to the exit point. Ivan got in the pee green water and landed a 25.5-pound broom tail grouper.

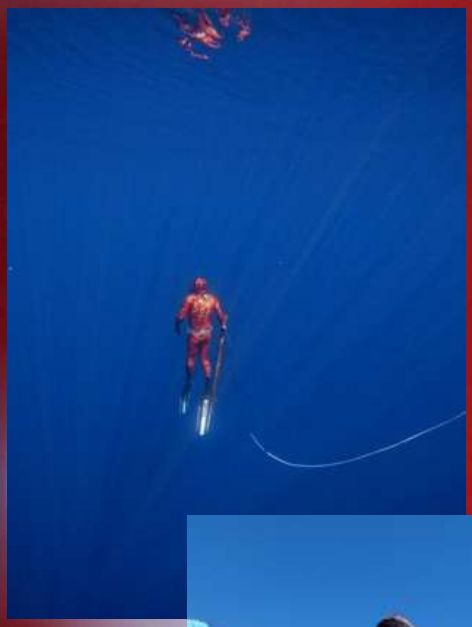
Journey To Magdalena Bay and Beyond

By Mike Marsh cont'd

Day 7 Was all about reef diving for a half day mostly in green water Joe and Ivan both brought smaller guns just for that porpose and did well in the grouper and snapper categories. Feeling congested, I passed on this day of diving. The rest of the day was dedicacted to traveling back to Palapas Ventana.

Our adventure ended on day 8 traveling to the Cabo airport and flying home.

Although this was not the fishes trip I have been on, it had a lot of firsts. Joe's first time spearfishing in Mexico, and his first yellowfin. Mike and Ivan both landed Marlins, The first time Tim Halter's crew ever had Speros land a marlin let alone 2.



My First Foray into ChatGPT

By Craig Bond

I'd never tried ChatGPT before, and since I was short on articles this month (special thanks to Mike Marsh for his submission) I thought I'd try it out for this, my final, newsletter.

Specifically, I typed in "write a 500 word article about spearfishing including 10 photos". This is what I got back:

Spearfishing: A Thrilling and Sustainable Way to Fish

Spearfishing is one of the most ancient and exciting methods of fishing. In this technique, individuals use a spear or a similar handheld weapon to capture fish and other marine life. Unlike conventional fishing methods that rely on hooks and nets, spearfishing is more direct and often considered a more sustainable way to fish. It requires skill, patience, and a deep understanding of the underwater environment. For many, spearfishing is not only a means of procuring food but also an exhilarating sport that connects participants with nature.

History and Evolution of Spearfishing

Spearfishing dates back thousands of years, with the earliest known evidence found in prehistoric cave paintings. Early humans used simple spears or sharpened sticks to catch fish from rivers and coastal waters. Over time, spearfishing evolved with advancements in tools and techniques, including the development of the speargun, which allowed for greater distance and precision. Today, spearfishing is practiced worldwide, from the crystal-clear waters of the Pacific Ocean to the temperate seas of the Mediterranean.

Techniques and Gear

Spearfishing requires minimal equipment compared to other types of fishing. The essential gear includes a spear or speargun, a wetsuit, fins, mask, snorkel, and weight belt. The spear, often made of stainless steel or other durable materials, can be a simple hand spear for shallow water fishing or a more advanced speargun for deeper dives.

In terms of technique, spearfishing can be done either while free diving or while using scuba gear, though many purists prefer the challenge of free diving. When free diving, the spearfisher must hold their breath while descending underwater in search of fish. It requires a great deal of skill and fitness to hold one's breath for extended periods, as well as the ability to move silently through the water to avoid startling the fish.

My First Foray into ChatGPT

By Craig Bond

Sustainability and Conservation

One of the key advantages of spearfishing is its minimal impact on the environment. Unlike commercial fishing that uses large nets that can accidentally trap non-target species, spearfishing allows the fisherman to target specific fish, reducing bycatch. Additionally, because spearfishing typically occurs in shallower waters, it can help conserve deeper, more vulnerable marine ecosystems.

Spearfishing enthusiasts often adhere to local regulations regarding catch limits and protected species. Many also practice "catch and release" to help maintain fish populations for future generations. Sustainable spearfishing not only benefits the environment but also encourages a deeper respect for marine life.

Spearfishing as a Sport

As a sport, spearfishing attracts individuals who enjoy both the physical challenge and the meditative aspects of the activity. The pursuit of fish while submerged in the sea requires a blend of patience, focus, and agility. In some regions, spearfishing has become a competitive sport, with divers competing to catch the largest or most challenging fish in designated areas.

The sport is often accompanied by a deep sense of camaraderie, as many spearfishers share tips, techniques, and dive locations. It is not uncommon for participants to join organized spearfishing groups or take part in events to improve their skills.

Conclusion

Spearfishing is a thrilling and sustainable way to fish, combining skill, adventure, and environmental consciousness. Whether practiced for food, sport, or both, it offers a unique and intimate connection to the underwater world. As with any outdoor pursuit, it's essential to respect local regulations and take measures to protect the health of our oceans for future generations.

It was not able to return any photos, but referred me to other various websites.

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

December 4, 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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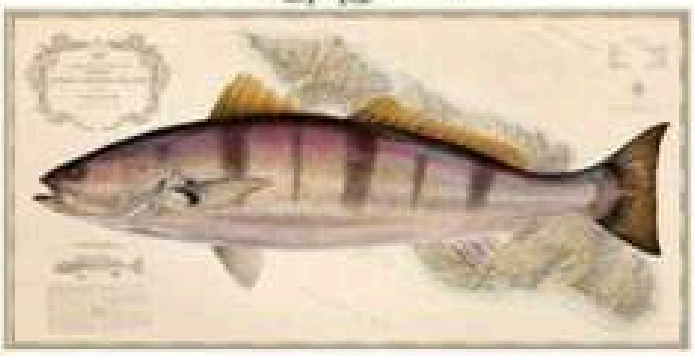

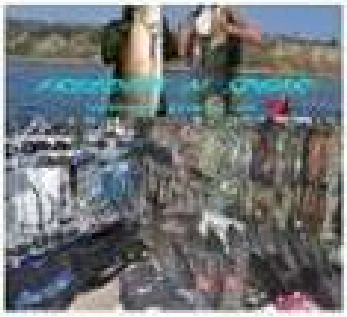

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