THE TRIDENT

The Monthly Newsletter of The Long Beach Neptunes

September 2024, Vol. 76, Issue 9

SHOT OF THE MONTH: Yours truly offloading his gun into this unsuspecting jack smelt from about 10'. Stoned it.

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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

- **Sept. 4, 2024 Monthly Meeting**
- **Oct. 2, 2024 Monthly Meeting**
- **October 12, 2024 - Annual Fall Classic**

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		Open
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

A FISH FIT FOR A KING

By Juan Carlos Aguilar

I've been trying to get my final King Neptune fish for 4 years now. When I was made a Member in April 2020 I was lucky enough to land two qualifying fish in quick succession, a 48.81 pound yellowtail, and a 52 pound white seabass (this was before the minimum weight for white seabass was raised to 60 pounds). Ever since then, I've been chasing the final fish, literally. I had a close call with success two years ago when I shot a 99.2 pound bluefin tuna. This was, of course, after the 20 pound tuna category was removed, so the fish needed to be heavier than 100 pounds to qualify. I shot that fish early in the day, and it was likely over the needed weight, but when it was on the scale, it came up short. I considered it great motivation to get out there and find another one!

Heading to the grounds in the twilight of the morning, with the reports telling us that we were going to go further offshore than I had ever taken my 1970 20 foot Skipjack open, I was a bit anxious. Nearly two hours of motoring later we began to see signs of life. It was our fearless Newsletter editor and skillful maneuvering for a drop-off into a foaming mass of tuna captain, Craig Bond, as well as the lively and always positive, get everything on the boat ready in a heartbeat with a smile, Orion Castaneda as the crew. As we milled about, looking for signs of fish, I began to get the feeling we were in the right spot. Sure enough, I said out loud, "We should probably stick around here, I think the fish are near" (or something to that effect). Sure enough, less than a few seconds after saying that, the fish popped up within 50 yards of the boat. I was suited up and ready to dive, so I slid in after Craig said they were directly under the boat.

I immediately saw fish as I jumped in, and punched a dive. There were big tuna running in all directions around me, and I picked what I thought was a close enough fish for a shot. Pulling the trigger, I saw my shaft come up short and realized the fish were larger than anticipated. I reloaded while Craig was telling me they were still under the boat. I took another dive, leveling off at 48 feet in the middle of a tuna vortex. I picked another fish out of the crowd and promptly missed another shot! Discouraged, I climbed back into the boat, and we headed off to chase a foamer in the distance. This began the day of run and gunning.

A FISH FIT FOR A KING

By Juan Carlos Aguilar (cont'd)

We began trading turns hopping in, with a few opportunities missed. Eventually we saw a familiar boat out there, and realized we were in the presence of the venerable Terry Maas. I guess we were in the right place! We kept finding fish, and kept pushing further out than I had ever been. There were whales, birds, and all sorts of life out there, truly a sight to behold. Eventually we ran across Terry again on the other side of a huge foaming mass of fish and cetaceans. I hopped in as the fish were headed towards our boat and dove quickly.

A few fish buzzed by, and I picked one within range. I shot and hit it solid. I watched as it veered off and grabbed my float as it scooted by. Taking a little sleigh ride was a feeling of exhilaration that was beyond compare. I asked for the second shot gun, loaded it and punched a dive to secure the fish. Unfortunately, the float line was tangled, and only allowed me to get about 15 feet away before stopping my downward progress. I took the shot, and luckily had good aim. The fish took off again, this time nearly breaking the surface before stopping and slowly sinking into the abyss. I pulled it up slowly and dispatched it.

On the count of three we pulled it over the rail, and onto the deck. Many high fives and expletives later we took the requisite pictures and stuffed it into the kill bag. We continued trying to get another fish on board to no avail. We were nearly 45 miles out from home when we turned back. It was a beautiful ride home with celebratory libations flowing. When I put it on the scale I knew I had succeeded in landing the final fish for the title of King Neptune.

129 pounds of glory.

Expansion of California's Marine Protected Area in Santa Barbara Channel under consideration

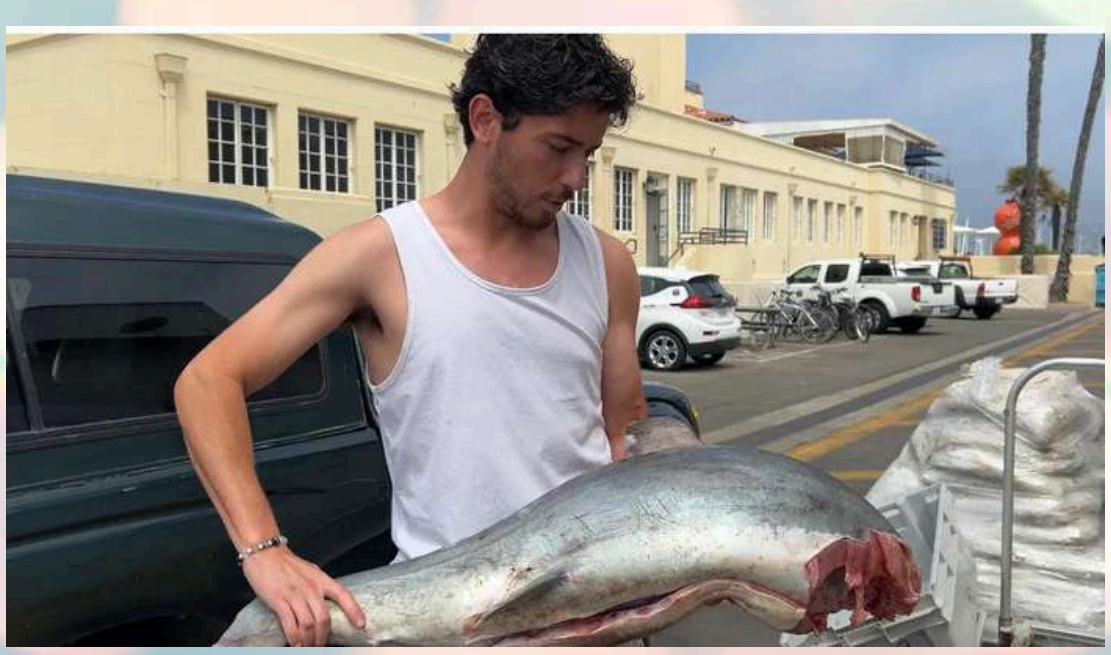
Taken from online article at keyt.com

By Beth Farnsworth
August 28, 2024 3:17 pm
Published August 27, 2024 3:07 pm

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. - A proposal to expand 'no fishing' zones in the Santa Barbara Channel is creating a slow wake of controversy.

Word is getting out across the Santa Barbara Harbor.

"This would feed like 20 people, 30 people," said Nathan, an employee at the Santa Barbara Fish Market, as he held a more than 40 pound chunk of thresher shark..



Thresher shark is among popular seafood items caught by local fishermen and sold at the harbor market.

A growing number of people say expanding a fishing ban in the Santa Barbara Channel would have major, negative impacts on both commercial and sport-fishing Industries.

"There's a bunch of different environmental groups that are pushing for expansion of our current marine protected areas," said Ava Schulenberg, Assistant Director for the Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara. "This would mean that there are no fish zones for sport and commercial fishermen. Unfortunately, that would lead to a higher dependency on foreign fish, which is not something we ever want to promote."

Expansion of California's Marine Protected Area in Santa Barbara Channel under consideration

cont'd

Courtesy: Santa Barbara Freedivers

Schulenberg confirmed that the proposal -- years in the making -- would add more than seven square miles to the current no-take zone off Anacapa Island, expand the zone off Santa Cruz Island by nearly two square miles and, restrict fishing access to Santa Rosa Island by another 26 square miles.

"I don't think that people realize how much it means when they are proposing these spacial loses because it has an enormous impact on every single commercial fisherman and sport fisherman in this harbor," said Schulenberg. "Commercial fishermen depend on these zones to provide for their families."

She said this latest proposal encompasses data collected over the past 10 years and is linked to the opening of a petition process, which makes the issue even more complicated.

A Marine Protected Area (MPA) collaborative meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 4 at 3:00 p.m. at the Hendry's Watershed Building at Hendry's Beach, behind the Boathouse Restaurant.

Fishermen and women and, those interested in the proposed fishing ban expansion, are encouraged to attend.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST (AND YOUNGEST) TENTATIVE - EZ HUGHES

By JHohn Hughes

Hi my name is Ezekiel Hughes. Call me EZ. I just turned 10 and I just started the 5th grade. It's supposedly the hardest grade in elementary school. My sponsor is this kook named John Hughes. I chose him as my sponsor because he's my Dad and I want to teach him how to be a better diver.

I really love spearfishing. I like spearfishing because I love the water and the feeling of gliding through it. I also like the being with all the animals and big fish in the water. I've been using and Rob Allen 110 and Picasso 75cm, Mako Wetsuit, Argos booties and Spear Pro fiberglass fins. My Dad got me really good gear so I'd be comfortable. Diving is so much better when you're comfortable. My dad always says, "when you're comfortable, you're confident and when you're confident, you shoot more fish."

I've been diving for about a year and a half. My first dive was in Catalina and it was amazing! We were hanging out with Juan and Julie, they are the best. It was warm and clean, a perfect combo. But when I dove back on the mainland, I thought I was swimming in trash. When I'm not hunting Pelagics, I shoot dog food. It's fun to pull the trigger a lot on the reef. I give the fish to my dog (his name is Bozo) because we don't kill fish just to kill fish. My dog loves fish and we freeze it and give it to him whole, bones, scales and all. He also eats all the scraps when my dad fillets his fish. But he's already getting tired of Perch and he hates Sheephead. I think only the OC spearos eat those. Now Bozo only wants Yellowtail and WSB. He's a fish snob like every one else in our family.

And don't get me started on WSB diving. So far it's miserable but that's probably because I haven't landed one yet. I have had a couple close calls though and I saw a lot of fish this season. I even tore off a 30 pounder after a 60 came right in on me.Recently I was at Santa Cruz Island and that was fun and super clean. It was awesome seeing so many fish in crystal clear water. My dad said I could use his gun while he was reloading mine but told me not to shoot the slip tip into the rocks. The next thing I know a 35lb Seabass is 4 feet from me just cruising in the rocks. It wasn't that fun.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST (AND YOUNGEST) TENTATIVE - EZ HUGHES

By JHohn Hughes cont'd

WSB diving isn't all bad though. I love eating WSB and that's why I think it's so cool. I also think WSB diving is rewarding because at the end you get to take a rad pic with your fish. My dad is a kook, but he's got a lot of rad pics for some reason.

I've been out for Yellowtail twice this season. The first time, we went to the frontside of Catalina. We went with Richard Cunningham. Conditions were amazing, definitely better than Seabass diving. I think because it was warm and clean, like I said a perfect combo. I saw some Bonito, Barracuda, Calicos, Black Seabass, a lot of different kinds of bait and even some Yellows. I loved that it was warm, clear and fishy. I didn't shoot any fish but my kook dad shot a Yellow right in front of me. He's a kook but for some reason he shoots a lot of fish. He should get better the more I hang out with him.

The second time, we went to the Backside of Cat with Tyler who is another Tentative in the club. Ron Warren was cool enough to let us use his boat while he was on vacation riding his motorcycle in Europe. The conditions were 70 degree water temp and vis was a hazy 50 but up to 80' in some spots. I get really gassed out diving in the current so I stayed in the boat for the second half of the day. While Tyler and Dad were in the water I kicked 2 boats off the spot because they almost ran the guys over. Lots of Yahoos out there right now.

I didn't shoot a Yellowtail that day because Dad scared them away by missing some little 10 pound fish when I was lined up behind him on a fish that was around 20. He blew my opportunity. Tyler saw his first Yellows and a few big Black Seabass. I shot some little Zebra Perch and an Opeleye just to have something in the fish bag and feed the dog. It was a really sad fish bag, 40 pounds of ice, a barely legal Calico and two tiny Perch. It was an awesome day though over all. It's really cool getting to dive all over the islands like that.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST (AND YOUNGEST) TENTATIVE - EZ HUGHES

By JHohn Hughes cont'd

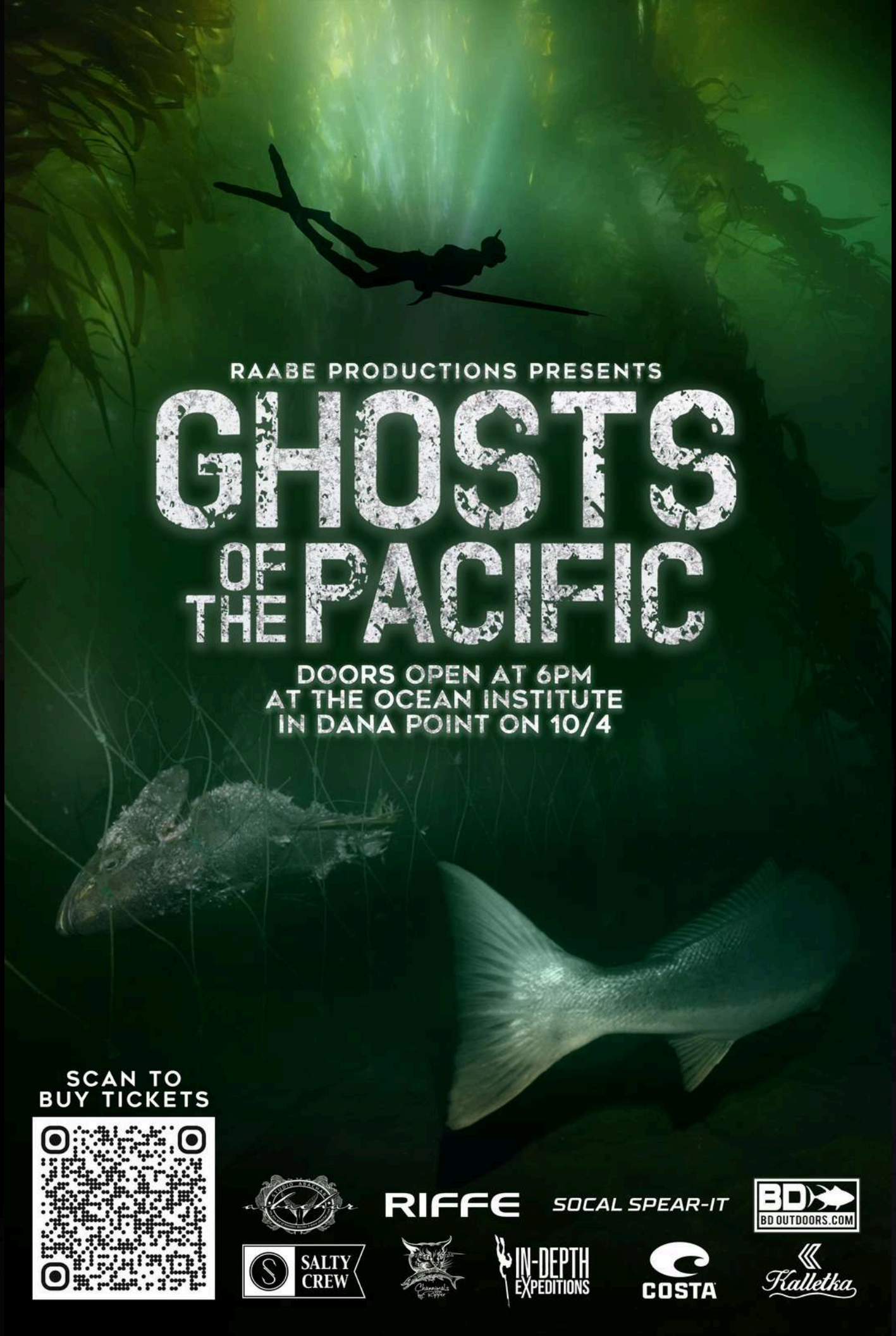
In the las year and a half, I've learned a lot about spearfishing. In shore diving I've learned to keep track of your stuff and never turn your back to the waves. I lost an expensive mask and snorkel one day. Also, definitely keep track of the shore and where you got in so you don't end up a mile from your entry. In boat diving, I learned to never ever put your stuff on the rail of the boat. I lost a S200 fin that way. Afterwards, we went to Dave Freeman's shot and they just happened to have a single foot pocket in my size and a single fin that was the same kind I lost. It was so lucky. Also, keep your stuff neat especially on small boats. And be considerate of the captain and other guys. In kelp I learned to make sure and not panic so you don't get tangled. Blue water diving I'm learning it's harder because you have to swim against the current and you always need to pay attention to the boat and not getting swept away.

Every time out I learn something new. I am learning a lot about safety. My Dad is teaching me about shallow water blackout. I'm also learning about what gear and guns work best for me. I want to be a Neptune because I want to learn from all the great divers. Everybody has been really cool so far. Also, I want to teach my Dad how to be better so we can get more boat rides.

JUSTIFIABLE ROAD RAGE

By Vance Carriere

Back in the '80s...Returning from a multiple day trip on the "Red Boat" while Dale Cote and I were trailering his boat down Seal Beach Blvd we stopped for a red light next to a young woman in a convertible. Our bilge pump kicked in and pumped out a heavy stream of sea water, fish blood, fuel (and possibly urine) dousing the woman and her car's upholstery. We all screamed in horror but neither car could move until the light changed. Just one of many unbelievable stories of diving with Dale.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MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

July 3, 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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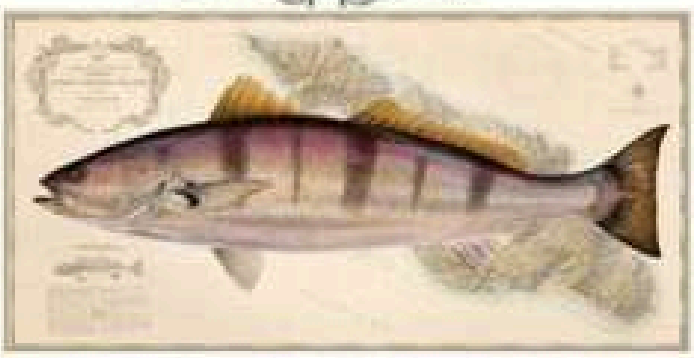

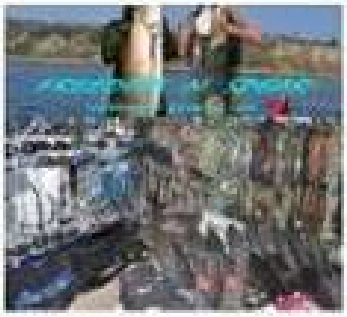

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