

**THE LOS ANGELES FATHOMIERS  
CONSTITUTION**

(Revised October 01, 2006)

PREAMBLE

The Fathomiers of Los Angeles was organized on March 4, 1957 as a non-profit organization. The purpose of the club is to promote and encourage the sport of free diving, underwater hunting and to bring to it's members a platform of social interaction through meetings and activities of like interest.

The Fathomiers is at heart a social club and makes no pretense, implied or inferred, at having the ability to educate, protect, or ensure a member, associate, applicant or party thereof against fatal or other injuries incurred while engaged in any ocean activity.

Any person desirous of engaging in Free Diving and Underwater Hunting should make a self-effort to educate him or herself with the inherent dangers including but not limited to shallow-water-blackout, shark attacks, drowning, ear and sinus injuries not to mention boating and equipment accidents.

ARTICLE I - GOVERNING BODY<sup>1</sup>

1. The Fathomiers shall be governed by the following board of directors:
  - a. President
  - b. Vice President
  - c. Secretary
  - d. Treasurer
  - e. Recorder
  - f. Past President
  - g. Newsletter Editor (Volunteer)
  - h. Board Sponsor (Volunteer)
  - I. Conservation Liaison (Volunteer)
  - J. Web Master (Volunteer position)
  
2. The board will meet monthly, or as needed and when possible advise the general membership when those meetings will take place so interested parties may attend. The Board does have the right to have "closed" meetings when they deem necessary.
  
3. The role of the board shall be:

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- a. To define the direction of the club.
  - b. To set and maintain a budget of incomes and expenditures.
  - c. To maintain an interaction between our club, the diving councils and other clubs.
  - d. To define club dives (With input of the general membership) and publish the dates and locations chosen.
  - e. To secure speakers and or entertainment for the meetings, banquet, and special events.
  - f. Secure the usual annual awards and T-Shirts consistent with quality products and competitive prices. (Revised 01-12-06)
  - g. The board is authorized to incur an expenditure of not more than \$500 for any reason not covered in this article. Any expenditure over \$500 shall require a 2/3rds majority vote of the membership at a regular meeting. (Revised 01-12-06)
4. The offices of the Fathomiers may be terminated, added to, or combined by legislative action only.
  5. The succession of officers shall be in the order listed in article I, part 1. The highest officer present shall assume the duties of an officer who is absent.

#### ARTICLE II - DUTIES OF OFFICERS<sup>2</sup>

1. The President shall:
  - a. Preside at all meetings and direct the activities of The Fathomiers.
  - b. Have the authority to call special meetings and appoint committees.
  - c. Assume responsibility for maintaining order at club meetings and functions.
  - d. Assume responsibility for the disposition and care of club assets.
  - e. Assume responsibility for the proper functioning of officers and committees.
  - f. Present all trophies and awards.

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<sup>2</sup> Revised 12-9-96

2. The Vice-President shall:
  - a. Assist the President in any way possible in helping officiate the club.
  - b. Lead the board in securing speakers and/or entertainment for meetings and events.
  - c. Preside at all meetings that the President is unavailable.
  - d. Preside over any impeachment proceedings that does not involve the office of Vice-President.
3. The Secretary shall:
  - a. Keep an accurate record of the proceedings at club meetings. At each club meeting he/she shall be prepared to read the minutes of the preceding regular meeting and of any special meeting held thereafter.
  - b. Keep an account of any special events in the life of the club that are of historical interest and value.
  - c. Develop and maintain a library to preserve written and visual materials of a historical or informational nature.
  - d. Engage in club correspondence.
4. The Treasurer shall:
  - a. Enter regularly in records for that purpose; a full and accurate account of monies received and paid out of club funds.
  - b. Make payments out the club funds, by check or petty cash, only for authorized club business. When necessary the President may make similar expenditures.
  - c. The signatures of the Treasurer and the President shall be required on all checks.
  - d. Keep a complete record of the club membership. The record shall indicate:
    1. The number of meetings and dives attended by prospective members during their probationary period.
    2. Date of admission to the club.
    3. Name, address and telephone number of each member.

4. Status of each member as either active, inactive, associate, or lifetime.
  5. Date of termination of membership.
- e. Collect all dues and special assessments authorized by the club. The Treasurer is authorized to prorate or refund dues in keeping with fair and accepted accounting practices.
  - f. Give a written and or oral financial report at the board meetings.
  - g. Establish and maintain a checking account in the name of the club with a reputable financial institution at the least possible cost.
  - h. Establish, maintain and keep up to date a financial record book/ledger etc. and reconcile regularly with the check book.
  - I. Have above records available at board meetings. The president will have access to the records at all times. Other board members will have access at the board meetings or by special request.
5. The Recorder shall:
    - a. Maintain an up-to-date record of the club individual point system and record catches.
    - b. Receive, record, and have the authority to question the validity of all proof of catch forms.
    - c. Be the judge of in the weighing and measuring of catches during the intra-club competitions. He may be assisted by other members.
    - d. Be familiar with current fish and game laws.
    - e. Possess and maintain the club scales, measuring devices, catch forms, first aid kit, and a copy of the current fish and game laws. The Recorder shall ensure that these items are available for use at each club dive.
6. The Past President shall:
    - a. Based on at least a year of service the Past President has a certain expertise he will be able to lend the current Board. When that Board determines a need they may solicit the Past President for guidance.

7. The Newsletter Editor shall:
  - a. Through the creative process develop and produce a monthly Newsletter keeping the membership abreast of current events of a spearfishing nature, and most importantly the monthly club competitive standings.
8. The Board Sponsor:
  - a. A volunteer position selected by the President who feels a need for additional input beyond the Past President. While the Past President is a "fixed" position by nature the Board Sponsor could be anyone the current President feels has insight to assist him or the Board in a time of need.
  - b. The Board Sponsor will make no effort at directing the Membership but will act in a confidential manner as a personal Aid to the President.
9. Conservation Liaison Officer:
  - a. A volunteer position selected by the President will attend public State Ecology/Fish and Game meetings of a nature that would impact Spearfishing such as "No Take Zones", the elimination of current legal species from the sport catch lists, and other matters of importance to the sport of Spearfishing and keep the organization informed on other important matters concerning Ecology.  
(Revised 01-12-06)
10. Web Master:
  - a. The Web Master is a volunteer position selected by the President. The Web Master will maintain control of the Los Angeles Fathomiers web site and make changes and additions through the creative process or as directed by the President and or the Board of Directors.  
(Revised 01-12-06)

### ARTICLE III - ELECTIONS

1. Only active club members are eligible to election as officers of the club.
2. Nominations for club offices will be taken at the November

club meeting.

3. Club officers shall be elected by a simple majority of the club members present at the December club meeting.
4. Newly elected club officers shall take office and assume their responsibilities in January.
5. Should an officer resign prior to regular elections, a special election will be conducted and a member elected to fill the vacant office for the balance of the term.

#### ARTICLE IV - MEMBERS

1. Membership to the Fathomiers is open to all persons regardless of age, sex, race, religion, sexual preference, or physical disability.
2. Persons under the age of 18 must submit a waiver of liability signed by their legal guardian prior to acceptance into the club.
3. It is recognized that free diving and spearfishing are inherently risky activities. While it is the policy of the Fathomiers to promote and encourage safe practices, each member is ultimately responsible for his/her own safety. The club does not accept any liability for personal loss or injury.
4. Member categories:
  - a. Active Member - Must have completed the requirements for a new member, be voted into the club, and must have paid annual dues within the required time.
  - b. Inactive Member - Members who have not paid annual dues within the required time, will be reclassified as inactive. A member who is inactive may not vote, receive points for club dives, submit fish records, or receive the club newsletter.
  - c. Associate Member - Any person that has interest in receiving the club newsletter and attending club functions. Associate members may not vote, or receive awards other than honorary.
  - d. Lifetime members - Lifetime membership is an honorary membership bestowed upon individuals in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the L.A. Fathomiers or to the sport of free diving. Lifetime Members shall enjoy

all the rights and privileges of active members.

5. Duties of members:
  - a. Uphold and abide by the conditions set forth in the constitution and by-laws.
  - b. Observe common safety practices. (Revised 3-11-04)
  - c. Act in a courteous, civilized, and respectful manner whenever wearing the club emblem or acting as an identifiable member of the club.
  - d. Carry out all assigned duties and responsibilities to the best of their ability.
  - e. All Fathomier members have to observe and comply with all Federal, State, Foreign and Local regulations regarding diving and taking of game.
  - f. Abide by the rules of competition and act in a manner consistent with fairness and good sportsmanship.

#### ARTICLE V - NEW MEMBERSHIP<sup>3</sup>

1. Prospective members must be sponsored by an active member of the club and have a recruit application on file with the Club President and paid \$30 Associate dues or prorated associate dues as specified by the treasurer. (Revised 3-11-04), (Revised 9-14-06)
2. Prospective members are subject to a probationary period. During this time they must attend 3 regular club meetings and 3 regular club dives. These requirements must be completed within a 12 month period. Prospective new members must also make contributions of service to Fathomier Club sponsored events during their probationary period.
3. When the probationary requirements have been met, the probationer will be considered for membership at the March, June, Sept, and December meetings. The probationer DOES NOT have to be in attendance the night of his vote. A unanimous vote of the members present, in secret ballot voting, is required for acceptance into the club. The Probationer will be notified by their sponsor as to their acceptance or rejection

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<sup>3</sup> Revised 12-9-96

for membership. (Revised 01-12-06)

4. Within 1 month of acceptance the new member must pay the prorated full membership dues as specified by the treasurer. (Revised 09-14-06)
5. Newly accepted members shall be credited with all points and records accumulated during their probationary period of that Calendar awards Year. Any points and Records accumulated will "die" in December the same as for all members.

1 & 4 Revised 9-14-06

#### ARTICLE VI - LEAVE OF ABSENCE

1. A member may request to go inactive (Leave of Absence) in situations of need, such as Military, Employment, or Personal obligations by requesting this status through the club President or another Board member in the Presidents absence.
2. The President or Board member contacted will insure that a Board meeting be held as soon as possible. The Board will insure that the requesting member's financial obligations to the club are paid up to date and consider the reason for the request. Where there is no intent or desire to examine ones personal issues the Board will expect that the request be made due to unavoidable circumstances. The Board will then approve or disapprove the request.
3. If approved, the Board will grant a leave of absence from the date of request to the following dues period.
4. It is the member's responsibility to notify a Board member of his/her intentions of either remaining on leave or returning, prior to the month of April each year. Should a member fail to make such notification the member will be subject to termination.
5. A member returning from Leave of Absence will pay his/her dues and resume active status. A terminated member will have to apply for reinstatement in the manner prescribed by this Constitution.
6. A member on Leave of Absence is officially divorced from all activities and benefits.

(\*Included November 3rd, 2002)

ARTICLE VII - LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

1. A maximum of one lifetime membership may be awarded per calendar year.
2. Nominations for lifetime membership will be presented at the October club meeting.
3. Members wishing to make a nomination shall give a verbal presentation in support of the nomination and provide a one page typewritten biography of the nominee. The outstanding nature of the nominee's contribution to the L.A. Fathomiers or to the sport of free diving should be clearly demonstrated in both the presentation and biography.
4. If more than one nomination has been made for the year, a secret ballot vote of the members present shall determine which nominee will be accepted for consideration as a lifetime member.
5. Written notice must be provided to all members prior to a final vote on lifetime membership. The one page biography must be included as part of the written notice.
6. A two-thirds vote of the members present in the November club meeting, in secret ballot voting, is required to bestow a lifetime membership.
7. Lifetime memberships will be formally presented at the annual club banquet in February. (\* Revised November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2002)

ARTICLE VIII - TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Active Members:
  - a. To maintain active status in the club, members must pay their annual dues on or before the March club meeting and have an Active-Member application on file with the Club President. (Revised 3/10/03) and again (Revised (3/11/04)
  - b. Members who maintain active status shall be credited with the points for club dives and fish records for the entire year.

- c. Active members shall receive all privileges and benefits of organized club activities.
2. Inactive members:
  - a. Members shall automatically be reclassified as inactive for failure to pay their annual dues at or before the March club meeting.
  - b. Inactive members shall automatically be reclassified as active members if their annual dues are received by the Treasurer on or before December 31st.
  - c. Inactive members will not be credited with points for club dives and fish records accumulated prior to their reclassification as active members.
3. Termination and Reinstatement of Membership:
  - a. Inactive members shall automatically be terminated from club membership for failure to pay their club dues on or before December 31st.
  - b. After termination of membership, persons wishing to be reinstated must:
    1. Be recommended for reinstatement by an active club member.
    2. Receive an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members present, in secret ballot voting, to be reinstated.
    3. Pay the prorated dues as specified by the Treasurer within 1 month of acceptance.
    4. Must have an Active-Member Application on file with the Club President.
4. Associate members shall pay dues of \$30 a year.  
(Revised 01-12-06)
5. All expenses related to lifetime memberships shall be paid out of club funds.
6. The annual dues for full membership shall be \$40.00  
(Revised 1-12-06)
7. Members must possess a valid California fishing license when diving.

8. Members are required to join The Greater Los Angeles Council of Divers (GLACD) and the Underwater Society of America (U.S.A.) to be eligible to participate in Council dive meets or other sanctioned events. Members are encouraged but not required to join these organizations to participate in club dives.

<sup>4</sup> Revised 1-12-06

<sup>3</sup> Revised 9-14-06

#### ARTICLE IX - VOTING

1. Only active members and lifetime members are eligible to vote.
2. A simple majority vote of the members present at regular club meetings is required to pass routine club business, expenditures or activities.
3. A 2/3 majority of the members present is required to:
  - a. Change the constitution.
  - b. Reinstate former members
  - c. Terminate a membership for cause.
  - d. Impeach an officer.
4. A unanimous vote of the members present is required to:
  - a. Accept a new membership.
5. A secret ballot vote will be taken when:
  - a. Electing officers.
  - b. Admitting new members. (Unanimous)
  - c. Reinstating former members. (2/3 majority)
  - d. Bestowing lifetime membership. (2/3 majority)
  - e. Impeaching officers. (2/3 majority)
  - f. Termination of membership for cause. (2/3 majority)
  - g. When requested by any member.

6. Proxy voting is permitted on specific items when either:
  - a. Written notification is presented authorizing an individual to cast such a vote or . . .
  - b. Telephone notification, authorizing a proxy vote, has been made to the President or Secretary prior to the vote being cast.

#### ARTICLE X - IMPEACHMENT OF OFFICERS

1. Any member may make a motion to impeach any officer.
2. A written notice must be provided to all club members prior to a vote of impeachment.
3. A 2/3 majority of the members present, in secret ballot voting, is required to impeach an officer.

#### ARTICLE XI - TERMINATION FOR CAUSE

1. Any member may make a motion to terminate a club membership for cause.
2. A written notice must be provided to all club members prior to vote to terminate for cause.
3. A 2/3 majority of the members present, in secret ballot voting, is required to terminate a membership for cause.
4. A member is automatically subject to termination for cause for:
  - a. Misappropriation of club funds.
  - b. Willful or chronic violations of fish and game laws.
  - c. In any way capitalizing on the club name without club approval.
  - d. Violation of the club constitution or By-laws.
  - e. Willful cheating or unsportsmanlike conduct during any competition.
  - f. Gross violation of accepted safety practices.

#### ARTICLE XII - CLUB PROPERTY

Property purchased by the club shall be owned outright, in the club name, with each member owning an equal share.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

1. A written notice must be provided to all club members prior to a vote to amend this constitution.
2. A 2/3 majority vote, of members present at a regular club meeting, is required to amend this constitution.

ARTICLE XIV - BY-LAWS

1. The constitution of the Fathomiers shall be used in conjunction with, and supplemented by, a set of by-laws. The by-laws shall govern the administration of club business not specifically covered by the constitution.
2. A 2/3 Majority vote, of the members present at a regular club meeting, is required to pass or amend the by-laws.

ARTICLE XV - MEETINGS AND DIVES

1. Club Meetings:
  - a. Regular meetings shall be held once a month on, or at, a date, time, and place to facilitate the needs of the club. This need will most generally be determined or ratified by a two-thirds majority vote when possible.
  - b. An annual awards banquet shall be held on the Saturday preceding the February club meeting. The banquet may be held in lieu of the February club meeting by a vote of the members.
  - c. Special meetings may be called by the President or by a vote of the members present at a regular club meeting.
  - d. The parliamentary procedure of the meetings of the club shall be guided by ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER REVISED.
2. Club Dives:
  - a. Club dive locations and dates will be determined by vote and Board Leadership in a timely manner allowing for proper planning by competition. There will be 12 club dives per year. Any diver may compete in any or all of the 12 dives and is encouraged to do so. Only 10 of the 12 dives will count towards any

diver's annual points. If a diver is disqualified from two club dives the dives remaining will make up his annual total. Due to this "Ten Dive Rule" there will be no "make up" dives. (Revised 01-13-05)

- b. Club dives shall be scheduled on a Sunday if possible.
- c. The fish limit for club dives shall alternate each month between 3 fish limit and 10 fish limit<sup>4</sup>. This may be temporarily altered by a vote of the members at the time the dive is planned.
- d. Prior to the start of each club dive, a staging area will be determined by consensus of the members present. At the termination of the meet all divers must be present at the staging area and have their fish available for weighing. No person will leave fish with another person for official weigh in.
- e. The duration of club meets are approximately 5 hours. The meet starts at 8:00AM and all competitors must be at the staging area with their fish available for weighing at 1:30PM. (Note) The Charlie Sturgill Meet will end at 2:00PM and the Scramble Meet will end at 3:00PM unless otherwise directed by the meet director. All competitors MUST BE at the staging area at the indicated times or face disqualification.
- f. The boundaries for club dives are limited only by a member's ability to reach an area by foot or human powered watercraft.
- g. One half an hour after the scheduled start of a club dive, that dive may be canceled or moved to a different location by a vote of the majority members present. (Revised 01-12-06)
- h. Special dives or make-up dives may be called by the president or by a vote of the members present at a regular club meeting. (Revised 01-12-06)
- i. In NO CASE shall the catch of an outside club member or tentative member be counted "forward" of a full time member when tallying the scores for the monthly meet.
- j. The Club Recorder is in charge of the meets. His decision will be final as to tardiness or improper catch. If he/she is competing and there is an obvious conflict he should confer with another Board Member for

final decision. (Note: this writing supports and firms the section dealing with the Recorders duties in Article 11-Section 4, Subsection "c")

- k. The Club President or Vice President in the Presidents absence has the right to cancel or change the date of a club dive on an emergency basis. The President and staff shall make every effort to notify competitors of the change in a timely manner. The President should confer with the competitors to set another date and location. If a change is not possible the "Ten Dive Rule" falls into place. (Revised 01-12-06)
3. "LARRY STAAT" Memorial Pole Spear Meet:
- a. A meet, limited to pole spear fishing, shall be held each year in memory of Fathomier Larry Staat who lost his life while pole spear fishing.
  - b. The Larry Staat meet shall be a handicapped event. Prior to the meet, the recorder shall handicap each diver based on his/her average point score for the club dives his/her have attended. (Revised 01-12-06)
  - c. The meet shall be held in the Fall no earlier than September. This will allow for enough club dives to permit each diver to receive a handicap.
  - d. The meet shall be 5 hours in duration. The winner will be determined by the club point system and shall receive the "Larry Staat" Memorial Trophy. To be eligible for the trophy, a diver must spear at least 1 fish and be a member in good standing by the year end.
4. "SCRAMBLE" MEET:
- a. A club sponsored "Scramble" meet shall be held in August of each year.
  - b. A maximum of \$15.00 dollars for each active member in the club will be taken from club funds to pay for the event.
  - c. The entrance fee is waived for active and lifetime members of the L.A. Fathomiers.

- d. The "Scramble" meet shall be open to all competitors and shall have a 3 fish limit with only One Sheephead over 18 inches allowed per diver. (If in Season)
- e. There shall be no dive boundaries for this meet, however, all divers must check in and return to the designated staging area within the time limits of the meet.
- f. The winner will be determined by the club point system and shall have their name placed on the perpetual "Scramble" meet trophy.
- g. The highest placing Fathomier competing in a G.L.A.C.D. meet, P.C.C. meet, National meet or Blue Water meet shall have their entry fee reimbursed out of club funds. This incentive is provided to encourage and support those members representing the Fathomiers in these events.

#### 5. "THE CHARLIE STURGILL MEET"

- a. A club sponsored Charlie Sturgill Polespear meet shall be held in late fall with emphasis on the month of October.
- b. The meet is open to all competitors and shall have a twenty fish limit with no more than three fish per specie. There is a 12 inch size limit for all fish except Sand Bass and Calico Bass, which will be 14 inches when in season. There is a limit of One Sheepshead per diver and must a minimum size of 18 inches. Halibut have to be 22 inches, White Sea Bass 28 inches when in season; all fish must be taken in compliance with California Fish and Game regulations. Sharks, rays, eels, and mola molas are not permitted.
- c. Scoring will be one point per fish and one point per pound.
- d. The meet is of course for Polespears only.
- e. Awards will be given for First through Fifth Place in addition to the largest fish Award. The first place winner will also have his name permanently inscribed in the Charlie Sturgill Memorial Perpetual Plaque.
- f. Divers may use boats, paddleboards, kayaks, body boards or beach dive.
- g. The meet starts at dawn with no check in and there are

no boundaries. However, divers MUST be at the weigh in site at 2:00 PM SHARP or be disqualified. The weigh in site will be set by the meet director each year most often in a cooperative effort with the Sturgill family.

- h. This meet is a celebration in the honor of the 'Late Great Charlie Sturgill'. Divers who gather here will be doing so out of respect for Charlie and his family. A pot luck BBQ festival will follow the weigh in process. Each participant is expected to bring an item or items to make this event a successful one. Those that can not bring food are expected to make a donation of Ten dollars to defray costs. That Donation should be submitted to the ranking Fathomier Board Member present.

#### ARTICLE XVI - POINT SYSTEM

1. Active club members and probationary members may accumulate points by participating in club dives.
2. Points shall be scored on a 1 point per fish plus 1 point per pound with the exception of the "Scramble" meet which is scored on a 1 point per pound only.
3. Only 1 fish per species shall be counted for points during 3 fish meets and 3 fish per species for 10 fish meets. Only one sheephead over 18 inches allowed per diver per meet.
4. Fish counted during club dives must be:
  - a. An edible species of fin fish. Sharks, Rays, Skates, and Mola mola are ineligible.
  - b. A minimum of 12 inches in length. Sheephead must be 18 inches and only one allowed per diver per meet. Kelp bass and Sand bass must be 14 inches in length.
  - c. In season and of legal size according to Fish and Game laws.
5. Before the next regular meeting, the recorder shall convert each diver's point total to a percentage score with the diver having the highest point total receiving 100%.
6. At every club dive, the diver who takes the largest fish shall receive 1 point toward the "Al Schuck" memorial trophy.

ARTICLE XVII - ANNUAL AWARDS

1. Awards recognizing the outstanding achievements of club members shall be presented, by the outgoing President, at the annual club banquet.
2. All trophies and medallions shall be purchased out of club funds.
3. Awards shall be given only for game taken while free diving.
  - a. All fish and lobster submitted for record consideration shall be submitted on a club application and must include a certified weight. This application must be submitted within 30 days of when the fish or lobster was taken. (Revised 01-12-06)
  - b. If no certified scale is available the member may weigh the game on his personal scale. That scale will then be taken to the club recorders location where the recorder will determine the scales accuracy. This must be done within the 30 day filing period. (Revised 01-12-06)
  - c. In the case of applications for the clubs three major awards, the Largest in California fish, the Largest Out of Country Reef and Open Water fish, the fish will be weighed in the manner as described above, AND a photograph of the fish will be taken of a quality that a expert can ID the species, AND measurements will be taken indicating the girth and length of the fish. (Revised 01-12-06)
4. The following awards shall be presented for club competitions:
  - a. Trophies shall be given to the top 5 finishers based on total percentage score.
  - b. The "Al Schuck" Memorial Trophy shall be given to the member accumulating the most points for largest fish taken during the years competition.
  - c. The first place finisher based on total percentage score of the annual Fathomier's competitions will have his name permanently inscribed on the "Ed Gulley Top Annual Competitor Award".
5. The following awards shall be presented for fish taken from California waters, based on fish records submitted by club members.

- a. A medallion shall be given, for each species of fish, to the member taking the largest fish. (Note: The exception to this rule is tuna. The member with the largest tuna will receive a plaque.
  - b. A trophy shall be given to the member taking the largest fish of the year in California regardless of species.
  - c. A Plaque shall be given to the member taking the largest lobster. (Revised 3/10/03)
  - d. A Plaque shall be given to the member taking the largest abalone. (Revised 3/10/03)
6. The following awards shall be presented for fish taken OUTSIDE of California, based on fish records submitted by club members:
- a. A trophy shall be given to the member taking the largest Game Fish outside of California.
  - b. A trophy shall be given to the member taking the largest Reef Fish for the year.
  - c. A Plaque shall be given to the member who gets an "All Time Out Of Country" record PROVIDING that fish is larger than the current "In Country" record for the same fish and is a minimum of ten pounds. (Revised 01-12-06)
  - d. In the case of a member residing in another State, who captures a fish in that state, that fish will not qualify as an "Out of Country" record. Out of Country fish must be taken in a State or Country where the member does not reside.
  - e. In the case where two members capture the same species with the same weight (or measurements in the case of the Lobster or abalone) the member completing and submitting his application **first** will receive the award. No duplicate awards will be given. (Revised 01-12-06)

#### 7. STEVE REDDING MEMORIAL AWARD

The Steve Redding Award is a Memorial Award which came into effect in February of 1999. The award is presented to the Fathomier that captures **in California Waters**, a White Sea Bass of at least 50 pounds, a Yellowtail of at least 35 pounds, and either a Halibut of 25 pounds or more or a Calico of 10 pounds

or more during the divers membership. The diver who accomplishes that feat will be give a replica of the original Steve Redding Memorial Trophy and have his name affixed to the original Perpetual award. (Revised 01-12-06)

#### 8. ED GULLEY MEMORIAL AWARD

The Ed Gulley Award was created in 2006 in commemoration of the club patriarch who passed away in 2004. Annually, the top competitor in the intra-club competition meets will have his/her name inscribed on this prestigious perpetual trophy.

### ARTICLE XVIII - FATHOMIER CATCH RULES

(Revised 11-12-2005)

1. The following catch rules are based on the philosophy of sportsmanship and the excellence of Spearfishing. The spearing of a fish, whether record size or not, requires extensive knowledge of fish behavior to complete a successful stalk. Knowledge of spearfishing equipment, possible hazards, and skill in the water are among important factors in spearfishing. In cases where the divers life comes into jeopardy the organization encourages the member to abort any further efforts in landing his quarry. Divers are reminded and cautioned that Spearfishing is a recreational sport and no risk to human life is worth any record or any fish. The Fathomiers Board of Directors encourages all members to keep themselves physically fit and seek every means of education as to how to successfully enjoy the sport of spearfishing while remaining safe.

For the purpose of a Fathomiers Club Record the definition of "Spearfishing" is defined as; the capturing of a open water fish through the use of a muscle powered spear gun while freediving.

Only fish captured within the club rules will be considered for record. In keeping with the philosophy of ethical and sporting spearfishing practices, freedivers must subdue their catch unassisted.

#### 2. GENERAL CATCH RULES

- a. Divers must be freediving when they spear and land their catch. The use of artificial breathing devises is not allowed at any time including during the retrieval of the fish.
- b. Diver may leave the water to obtain additional equipment but

must reenter the water where exited (allowing for the free movement (drift) of the boat) and continue the pursuit of the fish free swimming. The diver MAY NOT pursue the fish by way of boat.

- c. If a diver loses contact with his floats and can no longer see them, he may enter the boat and "spot" his floats. He then must reenter the water where exited (allowing for boat drift) and free swim in the direction of his floats and regain contact. Under no circumstances may the diver utilize the boat to recontact his floats.
- d. Due to the potentially dangerous aspect of using bait, lures, or other teasing and attraction devices, the Fathomiers do not encourage the practice. However it is allowed in all forms. There is no need to mention or declare the act on the application form.
- e. Fish must be free swimming, unrestricted by nets, traps, fishing lines, or other devices.
- f. The catch must follow all laws and regulations governing the species or waters in which the fish was caught (restricted zones)
- g. Another diver may provide a second or additional unloaded gun/s to the "active" diver.
- h. Fish that have been injured or mutilated prior to being speared are not allowed.
- i. The use of artificial light at night to spearfish is not allowed.

### 3. DEFINITIONS

- a. FREEDIVING; Is defined as the sport of skin diving by which the individual swims on the surface or dives below the surface unencumbered and unaided by artificial breathing devices.
- b. UNASSISTED; Is defined as subduing the catch without the use of a artificial breathing devise, without the benefit of exiting the water to pull a fish not subdued from the shore or water craft. The diver must complete the task without assistance of another individual in subduing, capturing, or securing the fish (such as pulling on the line or "second shooting" the fish). This DOES NOT preclude a second diver from supplying a unloaded gun or guns, additional float lines, (providing the main diver connects the floats himself) or offering food and drink, advise, directions, etc., during a prolonged battle.

- c. MUSCLE POWERED SPEARGUN; Is any speargun that stores potential energy that was provided from the divers muscles only.
- d. ARTIFICIAL BREATHING DEVISE; Is any devise that delivers air to the diver for breathing while under water. This includes but it not limited to SCUBA, Hooka, "Bailout" bottles or rebreathers.
- e. PHOTOGRAPHING AND WEIGHING; Photograph and Weighing requirements for club records are specified in Article XV11-Annual Awards.