



FATHOMIERS NEWSLETTER

FREEDIVING – SPEARFISHING – COMPETITION
SINCE 1957

Rules Navas Has Spoken...

This year there seems to be a lot of confusion about the DFG regs for 2005. If you go to <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mapregs5.html> you will see "What's Open" and "What's Closed" from Pt. Conception to the Mexican boarder. This is the first year the DFG has separated fisherman into categories. You can either be a "Shore Based Angler", "Boat Based Angler" or a "Diver" when taking fish. I emailed the DFG to see who I was if I was diving from a boat or kayak. The reply read "Divers are not Anglers. Anglers are defined in section 1.15 as someone who fishes with a pole and line and the fish Voluntarily takes the hook in his mouth". Reading that reply absolutely made my year!!! I'll email you the DFG reply if you want to print it as a "Get out of jail free card". I keep a copy on the boat and in the car! Email your requests to me at navas@aerovironment.com

Currently, If you're a Shore Based Angler or Diver, the season for Rockfish, Cabazon, Greenling, Sheephead, Sculpin and Whitefish, plus all the others not regulated, **are Open Year Round!** They are closed to "Boat Anglers" until March 1st. Lingcod are still Closed to ALL until April 1st, Sculpin are weird, look it up.

I just emailed the DFG again with this question: I'm diving Santa Cruz Isl. off my boat and get a Sheephead, Olive Rockfish and Cabazon. Then on the way home through a line out for Sanddabs, Shark or what ever is open to Boat Based Anglers. Then I get to the harbor and the DFG guy sees a fishing rod, spear guns and 3 fish that are not allowed to be taken by Boat Anglers. DO I GET A TICKET for these Boat Based out of season fish? Stay tuned for the answer....

Please check the Regs at the above website every time you go diving. The regs change often without notice and "Ignorance is NO excuse of the law", right LC? The above mentioned is my interpretation of the regs. You are responsible for knowing the regs so don't rely on hear say from others. Know your rights to keep Barney Fiffe from wrecking your day!
Dive Safe,
Mark

FINNERTY'S TUNA- CORAL SEA

In 2002 I lost a Doggie by shooting it in the head from too far a distance. The slip tip failed to penetrate and my dream was gone!!! I have relived that moment many times and I am drifting in 150 Ft visibility water near Keen Reef in the Coral Sea when I see two Dogtooth Tuna coming up from the deep blue leveling off at about 80 feet. They are cruising in my direction and they are the largest open water fish I've ever seen. There is no question they are both a minimum of 250 pounds. As I dive quietly to head them off, I am disappointed to see them glide downward disappearing into the depths.

Breaking the surface I can hear the other four divers screaming in excitement at seeing

February, 2005

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Special points of interest:

- Thank you for the help, and the input from several divers. I WILL publish your stuff, as fast as I can. I am learning, and it is interesting to see how this develops. It is still good, because you have helped me make it good!!!! 'CAUSE I AM HOPELESS!!!

**THE FATHMIERS NEWSLETTER IS THE
OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
LOS ANGELES FATHMIERS**

**The Fathomiers is a Southern California club dedicated
to Freediving and Competitive Spearfishing.**

Membership is open to the public. To become an Active member, you must fulfill obligations and conditions. You can also become an Associate Member for \$20. Contact the Fathomiers for further information.

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The editor reserves the right to make spelling and grammatical corrections to submissions, and may rewrite sections for purposes of clarity and/or space considerations. The intent and meaning of submissions shall be maintained as closely as possible. Anyone who has submitted an article may request a preview of their article as it will appear in the publication. At that time the submitter may request changes or withdrawal of the article. The editor and the club officers will determine which submissions to include and which to exclude. While reasonable effort is expended to ensure accuracy of the information in this newsletter, we do not guarantee it. The editor, and the Fathomiers and it's officers, shall not be held liable for errors in this newsletter. The Fathomiers do not accept paid advertisements.

Submissions are needed. Articles or information may be mailed, emailed, or communicated over the phone. Photographs submitted will be returned to the owner after publication. Please take the initiative to contact me or to send me materials. If you have information for the newsletter, do not depend on "word of mouth" to get it to

January 2005 Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm by president Erik Banados.

Visitors introduced themselves. Officers gave their reports.

The fathomiers website has moved to a new web address: fathomiers.net. Cisco will be the official Webmaster of the club. The club has bought the new domain name.

The banquet is scheduled for Feb. 19th at the Elk's Lodge in Redondo. A potluck list was circulated to members.

Carlos presented a proposal to make all club dives three-fish meets.

Club membership dues will be determined shortly, so please do not send the check until asked to do so. Club decals will be printed and made available to members.

Paul's proposal to be able to drop the two lowest scores from club dives was voted and passed.

Shane Slaughter of the "Islander" dive boat in San Diego, presented his forthcoming multi-day dive trips. There were several interesting gear presentations from Louis, Skip, and Mark.

We heard some exciting fish stories from Erez, Brandon, Paul, and Tim. We watched an exciting Italian UWH video.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Dive Schedule, 2005

Our Feb. dive is scheduled for Feb. 27, at Malaga cove. Jan. was a BUST. We could have dove it, should have dove it. Oh well. The break wall will have to wait.

This is a 10 fish meet. We are only closed from LING COD, and only until April 1. 3 per species, one sheephead, min. 18". Start time is 8 am, finish at 1:30 p.m. Meet at the Malaga cove park by the school. Bring your cold water gear, it will not be toasty.... Hopefully the conditions are clear enough to give us a shot.

January 2005 Fathomiers Competitive Results

The first dive of the year started PERFECTLY. My cat stepped on my alarm clock, and reset the time. I left HB at 5 am. Thanks, Patches.... The surf was up, the wall was toast. We went to PV, and ended up passing on it, though it looked fair. Had a good time, we are motivated to go to baja to get some diving in. Conditions are naturally up & down, and we basically wussed out. Oh well.

**Al Schuck
Memorial**

Los Angeles Fathomiers 2005 Club Schedule

January

01/30 *Club Dive* / Redondo Break Wall / 8:00am

February

02/02 Neptune's Annual Auction

02/19 **Fathomiers Awards Banquet**

6:00 pm Elks Lodge 315 Esplanade

Redondo Beach CA 90277 310-372-8488

02/27 *Club Dive* / Malaga Cove Palos Verdes / 8:00am

March

03/09 Club Meeting 7:30 pm Round Table Pizza

03/15 WSB One per day limit

03/17 Lobster Season Closes / St Patrick's Day

03/13 *Club Dive* Aliso Beach, South Laguna / 8:00am

April

04/13 Club Meeting 7:30 pm Round Table Pizza

04/02 **Neptune's Awards Banquet**

16278 South Pacific Coast Hwy

Huntington Beach, Ca 92649

(562)592-1321

04/10 *Club Dive* / PV / 8:00am

May

05/08 Mother's Day

05/11 Club Meeting / **Annual Club Auction!**

05/22 *Club Dive* / (to be announce)

05/30 Memorial day

June

06/04 (Sat) **Blue Water Meet. Catalina Island**

06/08 Club Meeting 7:30 pm Round Table Pizza

06/11-12 *Club Dive* / **Camping at Leo Carrillo State Park**

06/15 WSB one sea bass limit ends

06/19 Father's day

(Continued on page 4)

TENTATIVE CLUB SCHEDULE 2005

July

07/04 Independence Day

07/09-10 *Club Dive / Camping at San Onofre State Park*

07/13 Club meeting/ Assign Scramble meet duties / 7:30 pm Round Table Pizza

07/16- 17 Sat/Sun / 2 day Charter Boat trip / Santa Barbara or San Clemente Islands

??? **Nationals Spearfishing Tournament**

August

08/10 Club meeting 7:30 pm Round Table Pizza

08/14 Club Dive / Scramble Meet

??? **GLACD Dive meet**

September

09/05 Labor day

09/10-11 Sat/Sun / 2 day Charter Boat trip / Santa Barbara or San Clemente Islands

??? **GLACD dive meet**

09/14 Club Meeting 7:30 pm Round Table Pizza

09/25 Club Dive / (to be announce)

October

10/01 Lobster Season Opens

10/09 Club Dive / Charlie Stugill Memorial Pole Spear Meet *

10/12 Club Meeting 7:30 pm Round Table Pizza

??? **GLACD Meet**

10/22 Neptune's Fall Classic

10/31 Halloween

???? **PCC (Pacific Coast Championships)**

November

11/09 Club Meeting 7:30 pm Round Table Pizza

??? **GLACD Meet**

11/11 Veterans day

11/20 Club Dive / Larry Staat Memorial Pole Spear Meet *

11/24 Thanksgiving day

December

12/04 Club Dive / (to be announce)

12/14 Club Meeting 7:30 pm Round Table Pizza

12/17 Neptune's Dragon Swim

12/25 Christmas Day

* Pole Spear Only

CURRENTS

Feb. 6, two fishermen/ boaters hit the Long Beach break wall at speed. One was KILLED, the other seriously injured. I did not get the full details, or names at the time. It was at night, and one person was ejected. I do not know if the pilot or the passenger was thrown out, or who was killed. But, it is a STIFF reminder, that running at night should be taken seriously, and extra caution is a MUST. So many of us have either hit something, or almost run into something, or almost been hit by someone else at night. Remember to keep visual bearings on big things like unlit rock piles, and don't get target fixation while using lights to guide you. Use your radar, and reduce speed accordingly. And remember, they are called BREAK WALLS for a reason; you will break if you tangle with them. Hopefully, we have a safe boating season.

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these monsters. I'm in great company with Doctor Adam Smith a three time Australian Spearfishing Champion, Andy Ruddock a four time Auzie Champion, our First Mate, Adam Houghton, and Nick Lopez from the United States. I've been around for a while winning the New York State Spearfishing Championships twice (1961 & 1962) and somehow managed to capture a 112lb Amberjack in La Paz Mexico in 2001 for a IUSA World Record.

This is my third Blue Water trip with Rob Torelli and Captain Bruce of the Kanimbla and as far as I am concerned the Coral Sea trip is the Mount Everest of Spearfishing. As we climb back in our little chase boat we all agree those were the largest Dogtooth ("Doggies") we have ever seen. It was certainly the most beautiful sight I have seen in my many years of diving.

We make four more drift dives in the heavy current and each time we see two Dogtooth traveling in pairs. Every one of them are easily 200lbs. Unfortunately they keep their distance and slip away when we attempt to dive on them. We have been in the water for about four hours and we agree that we have time for one more drift. I suggest we move out into deeper water away from the reef and trap the tuna between us and the reef and cut off their escape route into the deep water. Everyone agrees and we move out into the blue.

We drift for about ten minutes when Andy makes the first dive...The water is about 120ft deep and he levels off at 70feet. Eventually he breaks his dive and starts for the surface. I dive and stop kicking at 30feet starting my free fall as my weights take over. I see two large tuna swimming away in the distance. They are about 120feet down. I remember Andy telling me that they are a curious fish and will sometimes come and check you out. The fish see Andy ascending and it looks like two big Mack Trucks making a U-Turn coming back in his direction. I continued falling and extended my Steve Alexander Tuna gun, backing it up with my left hand. The Tuna see my movement and turn towards me. One is smaller than the other by about twenty-five percent and he's slightly ahead of the other. I have told myself if I ever got another chance, I'll shoot the fish in the body. The two fish keep coming and I'm about at the end of my dive. I'm at least 60feet and have been down over a minute. We've seen eight tuna today and I'd have to rank this lead fish about sixth in size. **But.....any tuna is a great tuna!!!!...**

The two tuna turn away from me and I have no choice but to shoot the "little" one. As I fire I see the shaft hit him mid back. It seems to me I can hear all the other divers screaming and yelling in celebration. My two Rob Allen buoys fly by and I am scratching for the surface. I lose sight of the floats in the chop and the divers are all yelling so much I can't determine which direction the floats are going. I have no choice but to get in the unmoving boat and see the floats come to the surface quite some distance away. I jump back into the water and start swimming them down with the chase boat catching up and following along giving directions.

In about ten minutes I catch the floats and hang on catching my breath. The floats don't seem to be moving any longer but I can feel weight and know the fish is still on. As I get my strength back I start pulling on the line and am shocked to feel it unmoving and solid like an anchor. If the fish is under a coral head, I'm done!!! Another great fish lost!! After a few more pulls, I'm relieved to feel the fish give and start up. As the fish comes into view, I can see my shot is good but the slip tip is not toggled on the outside of the body. I clip the fish off and someone hands me an unloaded gun which I load and kill the fish with a brain shot.

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BRANDON'S HAMMER

Feb 5, went to PV to look for some calicos; checked some spots. Settled on my last *resort*... Picked off a few nice calicos, and was working between rock piles when I crossed a sand pocket. Up out of the sand lifted this *BIG* halibut.... Right in front of me. I swooped in, and center punched it! I was thinking this one would SURELY go 25lb, for my Redding fish . Lugged it up the hill, and made it to a scale, where it weighed in at 39.5 LB!!! WHOO HOO!!!! Now, who has a boat to get me to Cortez for my Yellowtail??? **Brandon Wahlers.**

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Editor's note: This is exactly what we dream of, and this is what I am hopeful of putting here. The fish of the month. Congratulations, Brandon. One trophy for the year down, so many to go.... Who's next??

39.5lb Halibut!!!

Next Club Meeting Our annual Banquet.

Feb19, 2005

315 Esplanade
Redondo Bch.

March meeting

Tentatively set for 2nd
Monday/ Wednesday .

Exact date TBA..

Next Club Dives

Jan 30

Redondo BKW

8am-130

Feb.27

Malaga cove

Palos Verdes



(continued from page 5)

Pulling the fish to the surface I am surprised to see he is as large as I am. The other fish must have been an absolute **monster!!!** It took two divers to pull the fish in the boat with me pushing from the water. After a bunch of whooping and “high five’s” we went back to the Kanimbla. Captain Bruce who has been fishing those waters for twenty-five years said he had never seen a Dogtooth this large. Adhering to the IUSA rules governing weighing fish at sea, the Weigh Master declared the fish to weigh eighty-one kilos or one hundred and seventy-eight pounds and six ounces...**a new IUSA WORLD RECORD!!!**

I might add to this that I am now sixty-one years of age and less than a year ago survived open heart surgery. I am blessed with a good mental outlook and wonderful loved one’s who are always quick to support me and my crazy notions of diving in the Coral Sea. I am also a “Grandpa” who will take great delight one day in telling my new grandson the Great Adventure of the Fish That Didn’t Get Away!!!!

Bernard “Bernie” Finnerty

The Board Members of the IUSA give a Hearty Congratulations to Bernie and wish him many more Trophy fish.... Larry Carter, President IUSA.

