



FATHOMIERS NEWSLETTER

FREEDIVING – SPEARFISHING – COMPETITION
SINCE 1957

What fish are Legal to take in 2010?

The 2010 Fishing regs constantly change from day to day. The law reads that: "The Department may modify the seasons, depth constraints, bag limits or size limits for any species of federally-managed groundfish, California sheephead, ocean whitefish and greenlings of the genus *Hexagrammos*. Check this web site regularly or call the Recreational Groundfish Fishing Regulations Hotline ((831)649-2801) for the latest information."

Since the laws change so quickly, the DFG has a website that summarizes all of the species of marine life and tells you what's Open, Partially Closed and Closed. Please go to: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mapregs5.asp> to view the latest changes to the laws BEFORE you go out.

The DFG separates fisherman into three categories. You need to know what category you fall into and know what restrictions you are held to. You are either a "Shore-Based Angler", "Diver" or "Boat Based Angler".

For example if you want to take a Cabazon, currently they are closed to Boat-Based Anglers but open year round to Shore-Based Anglers and Divers. Beware that if you are on a boat dive and Spear fished a Cabazon you still might get a ticket if you are also in possession of a Fishing Rod. Yes, even if the Rod is in the holder and not rigged for fishing, it is up to "The discretion of the officer" to write you a ticket for having the Rod onboard. The safest thing is to have NO Rods on the boat if you plan to take any fish that is on a Partially Closed list (Cabazon, Sheephead, Greenlings, etc). Know before you go!

Dive Safe,
Mark

Issue
February 2010



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Note from the president

I would like to say thank you to the Fathomiers for a great 2009. We are looking forward to building on our already rock solid foundation this year, and we are hoping the membership will be an active part in the club functions, and the functions of our diving community at large. With so much having happened with last year, we saw a great getting together and uniting from ALL the different dive clubs, from San Diego to NorCal. I am hopeful that this momentum will carry through for the future, because it was the solid work that we did as a group that was able to work to protecting our access to our traditional dive spots. We are losing a few, but it is nowhere near as bad as it could have been, and we still have some work to do for 2010. Also, we DO need to help our NorCal friends to protect the ab grounds.

There are some new programs that GLACD will likely be bringing to the table, and I encourage you all to see what Erik has to offer us, and I hope we will be involved. There will be a new meet this year built on the base idea of the Tri-club meet, with a slightly different format that should bring it somewhat closer to the Scrambles meet and Blue Water meet, with an emphasis on high participation and fun, rather than all out winning. The meet will be in May, based in Dana Harbor. BIG BBQ and party!! We will be fielding teams for the National Championships in August, and Erik Banados will be setting us up with the simple logistics and info to get us started.

We got the logistics sorted out for shirts, sweatshirts, and hats/ beanie caps for the club; they will be available at the banquet. They will be the traditional Fathomier logo shirts, we will do the Scrambles meet shirts with separate artwork in June or so.

Saturday, February 6 will be the banquet. Same location as last year, the club website will have updates, as will the newsletter. I hope to see ALL the Fathomiers there, and their families. Bring something tasty for the dinner and dessert!

We had our first serious injury that was diving related this last week. I have ALWAYS told people to be in good shape for the diving they are doing, and to know the ocean they are challenging. I can't stress it enough, I want for everyone to be able to dive well into their 70's and 80's. I want everyone, of all skill levels in our club to be able to shoot fish. I don't want to bury any divers before their time. NOW is the time to start working out a bit and easing into a regimen to get your health in check. The weather sucks, but you can do simple exercises even when it's raining outside. Hell, I have found a bunch of new ways to burn calories indoors while the weather has been crap. Get creative, or just break down and go to a gym. While we can never control all aspects of our dives, we can minimize the potential problems we will have, and that is the key. Get a dive partner, and work together to become more fit and prepared for any conditions you are faced with. Some of your best dives will come from adverse conditions, but only you can make sure you are prepared for those dives.

Here's to a great 2010!!
Paul Romanowski.



No Club Meeting in February Annual Banquet February 6th

Next Club Dive

Sunday February 21st
Point Dume, Malibu 10 fish meet

FATHOMIERS CLUB MEETING MINUTES 1-14-10

(Secretary Report)

I. Introduce 2010 Board Members

II. Fish stories:

Paul Romanowski and Tyson Curtis: Christmas eve dive. Lobster and Scallops
Paul Romanowski and son with Kelsey Albert: Island Rockfishing: Pauls son landed his first lobster with hoopnet and his first Lingcod .(h&l 25 lbs).Group limits on rockfish.
Paul Romanowski and Kelsey Albert: Local Monster Octopi (5 lbs each)

III. Club Business:

Club shirts, caps, beanies and hoodies have been ordered to be available @ banquet.
Awards Banquet Feb 6th. Organize food list and clean up.
Club Dues. Must be Paid by March 2010
Carlos Serret suggested to start planning for Scramble Meet and Auction ASAP

IV. Vote for monthly club dive locations.(dates to be determined*)

FATHOMIERS

Jan . Aliso ,Laguna (Jan 17th)
Feb. Pt. Dume, Malibu (Feb 21st)
Mar. Crescent bay, Laguna (Mar.14th)
April. Malibu Colony*
May. Palos Verdes*
June. County Line, Malibu*
July. La Jolla, San Diego*
August. Scramble Meet (Aug 14th)
Sept. Pt Vicente, Palos Verdes*
Oct. Sturgill Polespear All waters*
Nov. Cress st. Laguna*
Dec .Statt Polespear. Leo Carillo, Malibu*

OTHER CLUBS

Tritons Ling Opener (April 3rd)
AB/ Ling Toumey (May1st)
Watermans Alliance Meet (May 15th)
Neptunes Blue Water (June 5th)
U.S. Nationals (Aug1st- 6th)
SDF Blue Water (Aug 22nd)
Neptunes Fall Classic (Oct 7th)

V. Multiple Club Unification.

President suggested for all clubs to support one another for diver participation.
Vote was held to purchase a club membership of GLACD (vote was unanimous)
GLACD working on new Mission statement .

VI. MLPA update

President suggested filming an additional video at Feb club dive (Pt Dume)
Nate Baker brought samples of the 2010 Spera Calanders to support the CFC.
Next DFG commission meeting. Mar 3rd - 4th Upland ,CA



January club dive, Aliso Beach. Laguna. 1/17/2010.

Welcome to the 2010 Fathomiers club dive season!! We started the day with a very cold wind blowing down from Aliso canyon; making the divers procrastinate about getting into their suits. We had a very good turnout, with 13 divers suiting up. The shore break was heavy, and right on the beach as usual for Aliso. The surf immediately ate Derek Kimball, and broke his carbon fiber paddle in the middle. Derek was forced to hear wisecracks about using oars, and he parked the board for the day and went for a beach dive.

All the other divers got in, and then something not good at all happened: For the first time in a very long time, we had a diver seriously injured entering the surf. Joe Monaco, a former Fathomier who has come back around to the club got twisted up in the surf, and fractured his leg in the shore break. His upper body went with the wave, and his leg did not. The break is not so bad as to require surgery, but he IS off his feet right now, and on crutches. We always stress to our members to be safe, be in shape, dive with partners, KNOW the conditions, and watch your back. **Joe followed ALL those guidelines, and still got caught.** He was starting his dive with Randy Farmer, and Jay breza and his wife Jamie. One vicious wave took Joe out, and Randy was there to assist him on the beach. Mark Fages came up a bit later, and was on his way out. He called the lifeguards, and they were on site quickly.

Kelsey and I had watched the scene from the reef where we were diving, and once I saw others enter the water, and the lifeguard was present I knew the diver was not critical. I went ashore to check on him, and we hung out in the parking lot for a little bit. Joe was in good spirits, and his wife drove down to pick him up and take him to the hospital. Mark was done for the day, and I decided to go back in and whack a couple more fish.

Ocean conditions were not bad, water temp was 57, water was half blue, with lots of particles stirred. Vis was from 3ft to 15ft. Sea was not really rough, but lots of surge and big sets coming through. Lots of rip current along the shore, which is typical for that area. A decent variety of fish were taken, and there were several notably large sand bass seen. The biggest fish was a 10lb sheephead, and a few bigger fish were seen but not taken. The divers did not really take a lot of fish, and many did not even weigh in their 3 fish limit. It was not due to a lack of fish, but more from the conditions. A great little BBQ ensued, and several members and family came down for the weigh in and lunch. Everyone was thankful that we did not have any more serious problems, and all in all, it was a good day.



FATHOMIER COMPETITION POINTS

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Paul Romanowski	100												100
Kelsey Albert	64.97												64.97
Sonny Sethi	36.50												36.50
Steve Schurr	29.52												29.52
Ian Maxton	15.50												15.50
Derek Kimball	12.48												12.48

Al Shuck point: Paul Romanowski Sheephead, 10.65lb

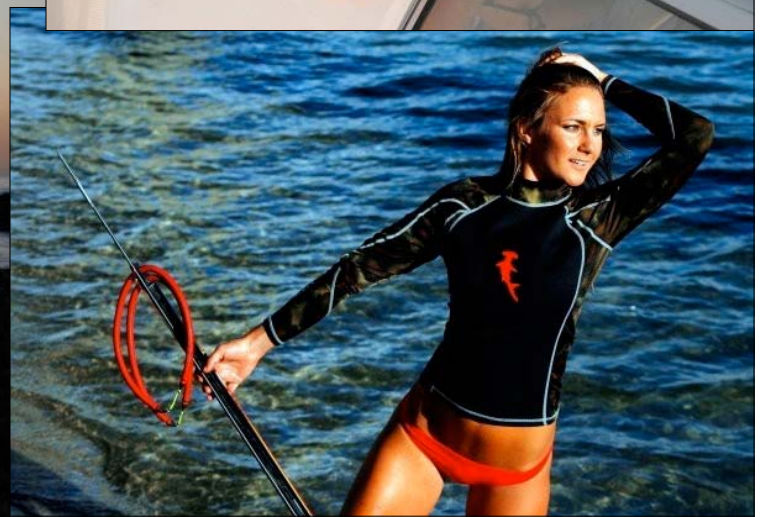
2010 Spearfishing Bikini Calendars For Sale - Fundraiser for the California Fisheries Coalition to save our Fishing Rights! My Fathomier Brothers, the Calendars are ready for you to order via Paypay online through Freediving Unlimited. Calendars will also be available for sale at the Banquet. They are only 12 dollars each. Please visit this site for ordering information:

<http://www.spearboard.com/showthread.php?t=99161>

They are tasteful, classy, work safe, featuring real women spearhunters. You can't get better than that.

Please contact me or Paul Romanowski if you have any questions or specific requests. Cheers and dive safe!

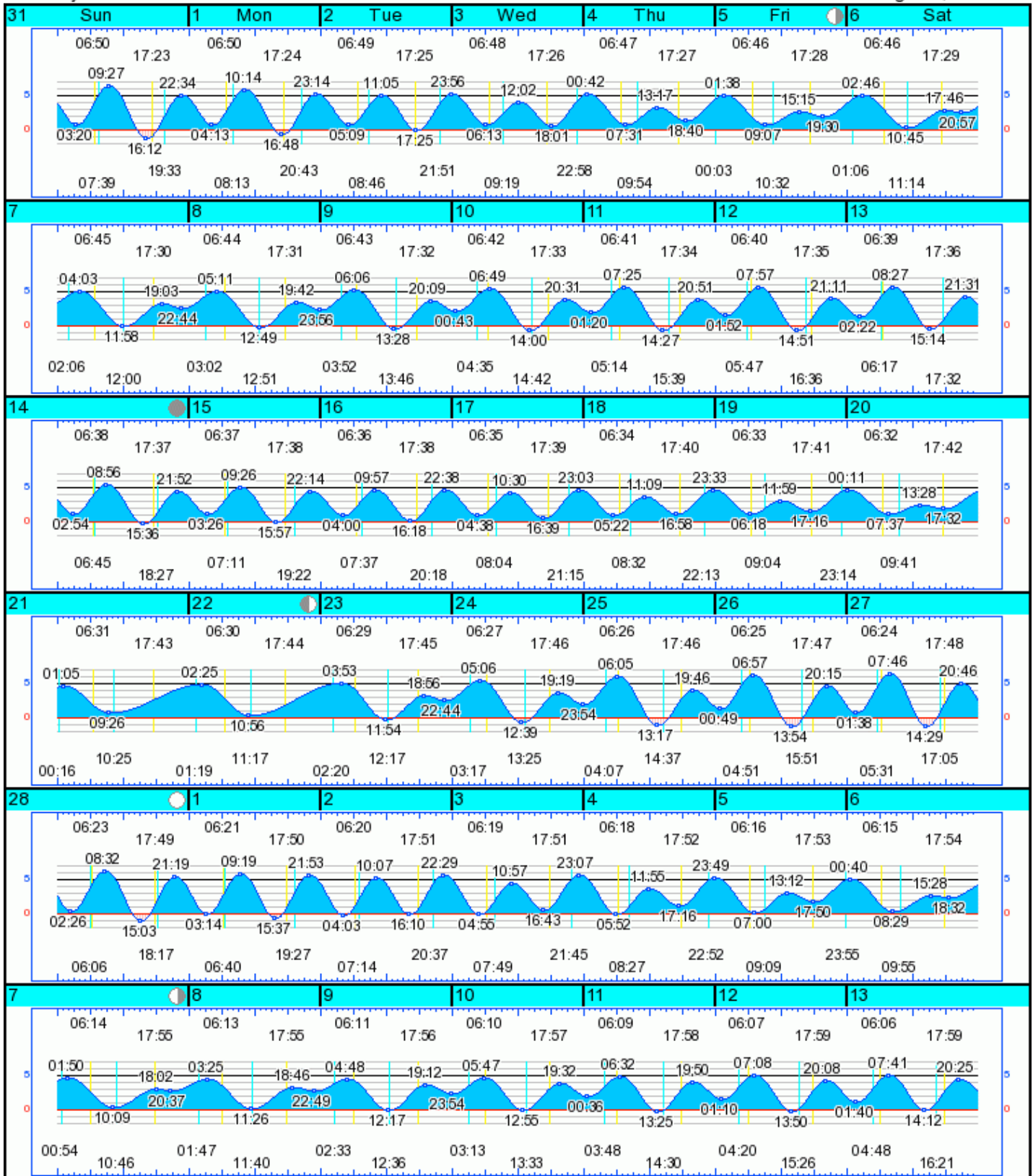
Kelsey Albert



February 2010

February 2010

Los Angeles, California



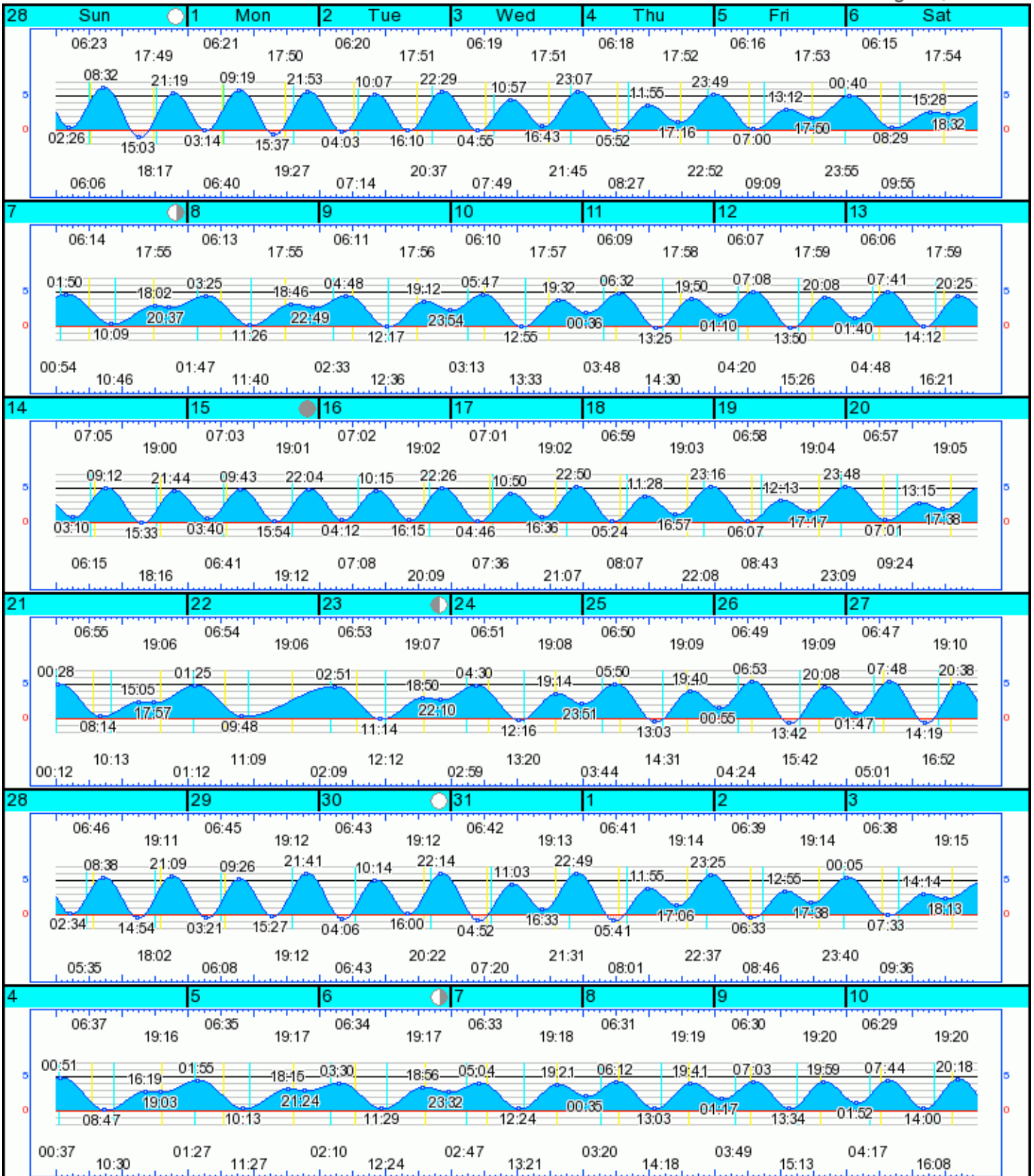
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March 2010

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Los Angeles, California



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