



Barbary Coast Bulletin

The Monthly Newsletter of the Barbary Coast Divers

March 2001

Join Us At Our Next Meeting:

Wednesday, March 21

Club meetings are held in sunny San Francisco on the third **Wednesday** of every "ODD-numbered" month (example: January, March, and so on) at **ROUND TABLE PIZZA** - (415) 668-4300, 5160 Geary Blvd. at the corner of 16th Ave. Our Meetings in "EVEN" months will be held at that month's Club Dive.

At the Next BCD Meeting:

We will have a special presentation of the new video on diving in Monterey. One of the filmmakers is driving up from Monterey for this. We need a big turnout so please come!

Next Club Event:

March 4 (Sunday): Monterey Day Dive

March 31 - April 1: Abalone Opener (The First Day of Abalone Season is April 1)

We've reserved the little house in Mendocino. Join us for abalone or scuba diving. Sign up for your space today by contacting [Carol Reed](mailto:Carol.Reed@barbarycoastdivers.org).

Read this newsletter on the web at www.barbarycoastdivers.org

If you're ready to read this newsletter on the "World Wide Web" (come on, you've heard of it), we the editors would be happy to quit lickin' stamps -- just let Catherine know who you are: catzan@barbarycoastdivers.org.

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Announcements & News

Year 2001 Dive Club Events:
(To sign up for events, contact [Carol Reed](#))

NOTE: CHANGES ARE MARKED IN RED

A Few Ground Rules on Weekend Trips:

- To sign up, call or write to Carol Reed at seareed@barbarycoastdivers.org.
- If you sign up to go on a weekend dive and then find that you cannot make it, **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE** for either finding a replacement, or paying the per-person cost of your accomodation. May I repeat, **PLEASE DON'T FLAKE ON A TRIP WITHOUT MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO EITHER FIND A DIVER TO REPLACE YOU OR PAYING THE PER PERSON COST.**
- Per person costs usually range from \$10 - \$20 per night.
- For any of the single day dives, you can always make it a Sat-Sun trip--call one of your BCD dive buddies and make arrangements)
- **March 4 (Sunday): Monterey Day Dive**
- **March 31 - April 1: Abalone Diving in Mendocino**
Sorry! All the spaces are full for this weekend.
- **May 13 (Sunday): Golden Gate Bridge Paddle**
We'll put our kayaks in at Kirby Cove near the Golden Gate Bridge and paddle out along the Marin Headlands. NO, you don't need to have a kayak--you can rent them in Sausalito and launch from there.
- **May 26 - 28 Memorial Day Weekend**
We have four camp sites reserved at Caspar Cove.
- **See the rest at**
http://www.barbarycoastdivers.org/2001/2001_Dives.htm



WHY ARE WE CALLED THE BARBARY COAST DIVE CLUB?

- To find out take this quiz:
- a) Because we are barbarians who like to spear fish
- b) Because we like to get drunk and rowdy and have a good time
- c) Because we cruise the undersea depths of California's Barbary Coast, the name given to San Francisco in the gold-rush days, when the city teemed with fortune seekers, swashbucklers, prostitutes, and thugs.
- d) Because we like the French cartoon character, Henri Barbar.

Done? Now, print this sheet out, circle your answer, crumple the paper up into a ball and shove it into an empty wine bottle, cork it, and throw it in the sea.

The winning entry will be selected from the first note I find during my weekly run at Aquatic Park.

Grand prize...A new spear gun!*

*Winner must recover said prize from Gerstle Cove where Roy Coto lost just such a spear gun in 1998.

Too much work? Then tune in to KQED TV to watch [Sin, Fire & Gold!](#) The Days of San Francisco's Barbary Coast The series takes a walk through old San Francisco along the Barbary Coast Trail (yes, following those inset bronze sidewalk markers you step on when you visit downtown).

Saturday, March 3, 7 pm (repeats Sunday, March 4, 2 PM and Monday, March 5, 8 PM)

Announcements & News continued

Upcoming Meetings

Upcoming Events:

Fishing for Our Future

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Symposium Sanctuary
Friday, March 16 and Saturday, March 17, 2001 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Hyatt Regency Monterey (Monterey Grand Ballroom), One Golf Course Road, Monterey

A free two-day event.

Researchers, educators, students and the public are invited to learn about salmon, steelhead, and marine fisheries conservation and management issues in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Share your ideas with leaders in marine science, education and conservation.

No pre-registration is necessary.

For more information, call Liz Love at the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary at (831) 647-4255, or email liz.love@noaa.gov, or check the web site at <http://www.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/special/currents2001.html>

Bridging the Gulf between Fishermen and Scientists

Wednesday April 4th from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Monterey Bay Aquarium

A free seminar by author David Dobbs

For information or to RSVP, contact Aaron King, 831-647-4257 or aaron.king@noaa.gov.

We now meet on **ODD** months at Round Table Pizza (see [page 1](#))

Here are our future meeting dates:

March 21

May 16

July 18

September 19

November 21

New web site on how to dive in Monterey Bay

The Monterey Bay Sanctuary has a new web site just for divers.

Weather forecasts, tide tables, dive sites, and "Cousteau's Tips for Responsible Diving in Kelp Forests" are some of the goodies you will find at this site:

<http://www.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/Visitor/dive/diveindex.html>

Care about coral reefs?

Think about joining REEFKEEPERS INTERNATIONAL

This Miami-based non-profit organization coordinates campaigns to end wire-mesh fish traps, protect reefs from destructive fishing gear, and help create marine parks. Advocacy on behalf of coral reef conservation is RKI's mission and its web site is a good source of information on how to get involved in the fight for reef conservation. Go to: <http://www.reefkeeper.org>

**Split Fins:
Love 'Em or Leave 'Em?**

Pick up a diving magazine (tech-diving rags excluded) and chances are good you'll see a glowing review of one of the few significant changes in fins to come down the pike since diving began: Split fins.

Don't ask me why it took so long to figure out, but a split down the middle of one's fins allows water to sluice through the slit, reducing drag and making kicking more effortless. Check out the reviews at <http://www.scubadiving.com/gear/2001gear/2001fins.shtml>

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Scuba Trading Post

For Sale (from a guy in southern California)

- B C - Sea Quest "LIBRA". Brand new, never wet. Medium size, black, has optional integral weight system. Asking \$325 Wet Suit -
- Mans 1/4" full farmer john custom made by Mark Kettenhoffen for a 6 ft, 220lb. man. Blue with gold trim. Full matching hood included. Used, but in "good as new" condition. Asking \$125.
- Ikelite 225 Wide Angle Strobe -. Just back from factory for full upgrading. This model has TTL, manual and slave modes and also a modeling light. A charger is included. Asking \$350.

Allan Jones 714-974-1617 abjones@pacbell.net



CenCal
and the Barbary Coast Divers
need your dues!

Where is my money going?

\$15 goes towards our monthly web site hosting fee and for use as a down payment on campsites and rental houses.

\$20 of the dues goes to CenCal diver's club (<http://www.cencal.org>), which lobbies for diver's rights. CenCal has come to the rescue in a number of cases, including:

- Telling those uppity Pacific Grove folks that divers are not cheapskates who sop up parking spaces. (We are cheapskates who carpool.)
- Demonstrating to the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary that the "diver's kelp study," which sought to show that divers had a bigger impact on kelp than commercial harvesting, was all wet.
- And most recently, negotiating with the California Department of Fish and Game to enact fishing regulations that protect the nearshore fishery.

Send your \$35 check to: Carol Reed, 150 Sadowa, San Francisco, CA 94112 Questions? Call Carol at 415-668-6662 (work) or 415-333-8820 (home).

Annual "stay out of the water day" ...May 20, 2001

DIVERS SET TO BREAK
WORLD RECORD IN MAY
FOR 3RD ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL DIVE-IN
DAY. San Diego,
Calif.--They're back! Despite
possible hurricanes, frigid
waters and downright
unpredictable conditions,
thousands of scuba divers across
the world will invade beaches,
rivers and lakes on May 20,
2001, in a bold attempt to break
the world record for the largest
group dive for the 3rd Annual
International Dive-In Day. For
more information on Dive-In
Day, go to:

<http://scubadiving.com/feature/news/diveinday01.shtml>

This just in: Yet again, somebody out there is trying to make divers look bad, or at least resemble small animals that like to throw themselves off cliffs. For the third year in a row, a group of rah-rah types are attempting to coax thousands of California divers into the water on the same day.

On a part of the coast where diving is sometimes seen as environmentally damaging, parking-hogging, cheapskating, and narcissist, it strikes me as politically unwise to engage in this massive group activity. Already, coastal residents complain about too many divers on summer weekends flashing their bare bums as they change out of their wetsuits. And we've all seen environmental degradation due to careless, buoyancy-challenged divers. My guess is a group diving day would just exacerbate these problems.

If the thought of alienating coastal residents is not cause enough, I also have a problem with group diving in general. Diving is an individual sport, made all the more enjoyable and safe by a close rapport with one's buddy. The sea is a place to get away from others, not a place to be overwhelmed by clumps of divers that are kicking the reefs and elbowing nudibrachs. If I want crowds, I'll hit a sports bar on SuperBowl Sunday.

Catherine Zandonella, BCD Editor

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Fish in peril: The demise of the nearshore fishery -By C. Zandonella

Move over, spotted owl. The new generation of endangered species are neither cute, soft, furry, or fuzzy. Instead they are scaly, slimy, and generally make for uninspiring Sierra Club Christmas cards. In the past few years, environmentalists have petitioned to protect two marine species under the Endangered Species Act. Red snapper, also known as bocaccio, could become the first commercial marine fish to be protected under the federal Endangered Species Act. Last year, white abalone were nominated for consideration to the list.

Once thought limitless, supplies of marine organisms are in serious decline, subject to overfishing and, for some species, onshore structures like dams. Nowhere is this struggle more relevant to divers than in the nearshore fishery, the 1,100 mile-long ribbon of shallow habitat that hugs the coast from Oregon to Mexico. Over the past two decades, this diver's paradise has metamorphosed into a slaughterhouse. Commercial fishermen discovered a lucrative hunting ground, one where fish delivered alive could bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars in profit. The demand for live fish is driven largely by Asian restaurants and shops, where customers relish the ability to choose fish guaranteed to be fresh.

Scuba and free divers have been witness to the 20-year-long decline in the populations of rockfish, cabezon, sheephead, lingcod, leopard shark, greenlings, halibut, and others. Divers are also the most vocal supporters of saving this fishery. Commercial fishermen, on the other hand, argue that plenty of fish still roam the waters.

In early February, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDF&G) hosted public meetings throughout the state to map out a strategy for saving the fishery while maintaining some level of harvest. Several BCD members attended the Monterey meeting, including Jean Lundeen, Peter Fong, Rick Fanta, and myself. The largest and most vocal group at the meeting were the commercial fishermen, followed in size by the recreational fishing charter boat folks, and then a small contingent of divers, and exactly one conservationist and one onshore angler.

At the Monterey City Hall, commercial fishermen testified that the supply of fish was still robust along many areas of coastline. They complained that many of the interim regulations, which the CDF&G set up to stem the crisis while deciding on a long-term management plan, were unfairly harsh. To their credit, they suggested that the CDF&G limit the number of fishermen that can fish in the nearshore zone, and that the agency strengthen permitting and enforcement. On the opposite side of the issue, spearfishing diver Jean Lundeen told of being bullied by a commercial fisherman while diving at Van Damme State Park, a decidedly recreational area of the coastline. She suggested that certain stretches of coastline be designated "no-fishing" zones.

To the CDF&G, the creation of a successful fishery management plan is not only desirable, it is imperative. The nearshore fishery serves as a crucial testing ground for a new state approach to managing marine resources. Under the Marine Life Management Act, for the first time the California Fish and Game Commission (acting on the recommendations of the CDF&G) will be responsible for setting regulations that govern the fishery. Prior to the enactment of the MLMA in January 1999, the California State Legislature had sole authority to set such regulations. The MLMA ceded two fisheries (Nearshore and White Sea Bass) to the Commission, and if the Commission succeeds, it is likely that the Legislature will relinquish its role in regulating fisheries.

This is good news for fish, because the MLMA emphasizes science-based management and an ecosystem perspective. The Legislature in the past has been more responsive to fishermen's pleas than they have been to science. (Read more about the MLMA at the web site, <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlma/index.html>.)

CDF&G has mapped out a schedule for creating a fishery management plan by January 1, 2001. And while hopes are high for a science-based approach that stimulates population rebounding and sustainable harvests for decades to come, the CDF&G faces some serious hurdles. One is the tradition of deference to economic needs of fisherman, who are seen as the family farmers of the sea. These hardworking men and women command much sympathy from legislators and CDF&G staff alike. From what I observed at the Monterey City Hall, the CDF&G caters to them much more than they do to the sport divers. Why else would the CDF&G scientists breeze over the importance of ecosystem effects and habitat considerations when presenting the method they planned to use for drawing up the fishery management plan? The method that the CDF&G presented, which requires calculating the maximum amount of fish that can be taken from the fishery on a "sustainable" basis, ignores many of the factors that only now do biologist recognize as playing a tremendous role in regulating fish populations. These factors include predator-prey relationships, habitat degradation, reproductive cycles, temperature effects and more, the very types of factors that by law must be considered under the MLMA.

Over the next year, divers will have numerous opportunities to express their views to the CDF&G and to the advisory panel which is made up nearly equally of commercial fisherman and recreational users. To monitor the issue, join the CA Nearshore list-serv by pointing your browser to <http://groups.yahoo.com>. Type "nearshore" into the search engine and follow the instructions for signing up. The survival of the nearshore fishery affects all divers, whether we like to spear fish, take photos, or just look around. More important than our own enjoyment however, is the rebuilding of long-term sustainable populations of these species and the continued health of the entire nearshore ecosystem.