



# Barbary Coast Bulletin

*The Monthly Newsletter of the Barbary Coast Divers*

## April 2001

**Join Us At Our Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday, MAY 16**

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:

This time, we really do 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:

#### **Our next diving trip is Memorial Day weekend.**

But don't let that stop you! Call one of your BCD buddies today. All our names and addresses are on the password protected part of the site. E-mail [catzan@barbarycoastdivers.org](mailto:catzan@barbarycoastdivers.org) for the user name and password.

#### **May 13 (Sunday): Golden Gate Bridge Paddle**

Kayaking 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.

Read this newsletter on the web at [www.barbarycoastdivers.org](http://www.barbarycoastdivers.org) If you'd like to drop your mail subscription, let Catherine know who you are: [catzan@barbarycoastdivers.org](mailto:catzan@barbarycoastdivers.org).

# Barbary Coast Dive Club Newsletter

Page 2

## Announcements & News

### Upcoming Meetings

**We now meet on **ODD** months at Round Table Pizza**

**Here are our future meeting dates:**

**May 16**  
**July 18**  
**September 19**  
**November 21**

### Going diving in Monterey?

Prior to traveling to the area it is a good idea to contact the Monterey County Health Department for beach closure and advisory information at: (800) 347-6363 or visit <http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/health/beaches/>



**CenCal**  
**and the Barbary Coast Divers**  
**need your dues!** Have you paid yet?

## Monterey Harbor Clean Up Dive Saturday, May 5, 2001

After the forced suspension of the Clean-Up Dive due to high fecal coliform levels in February, the event has finally been rescheduled.

Registration Starts at 8:30 a.m.

C-Cards are Required

Free air fills will be supplied by Monterey-area dive shops (see the [Monterey Harbor Clean Up Information](#) for a list)

**Contact:** David Clayton, Diver Representative, MBNM Sanctuary Advisory Council

drc@ccnet.com or (925) 689-8840

**Directions:** From Hwy 1 going south Take the Del Monte Avenue exit; go down Del Monte Avenue for several blocks. The entrance to Monterey Harbor is at Figueroa Street on your right-hand side. Free parking for divers. For complete information, see: [Monterey Harbor Clean Up Information](#)

For a map and more complete directions, click here: <http://www.monterey.org/harbor/parking.html>

## PADI has new "Tech Diver Certification"

In an effort to cash in on the growing allure of technical diving, PADI has initiated a certification program that will make this hazardous sport accessible to the masses. Technical diving involves using mixed gases to descend beyond 130 feet, into caves and shipwrecks, and advanced gear configurations like rebreathers. As any well-informed sport diver knows, all of these activities can be dangerous if not practiced by an experienced diver who is in excellent physical health. Unfortunately, even top divers can succumb to lethal accidents when tech diving. Nitrogen narcosis, oxygen poisoning, the bends and embolisms have killed some of the most experienced divers. (For an excellent account of a technical diving catastrophe, Richard Fanta recommends the new book, *The Last Dive*, by Bernie Chowdhury, on display at Border's Bookstore.)

Should PADI be making this type of diving more accessible with the agency's "fast food" approach to teaching diving? To take the course, divers will need only 100 logged dives. According to one diving expert, it is like putting a civilian behind the controls of an F-14.

## Nearshore Fisheries Issue Heats Up

### Petition to End Nearshore Commercial Fishing

As you may have read in previous issues of this newsletter, a group of recreational divers and spearfishing types are organizing to stem the depletion of fish in the "nearshore" area. They now have a website, and I encourage all of you to check it out:

<http://www.californiafish.org/>

The website gives an overview of the issue, and suggests ways that you can get involved. Here is a synopsis from the group's petition:

Although the nearshore represents only a tiny part of overall ocean resources, it is also the only and unique access for thousands of recreational divers and fishermen. As involved members of various constituent groups, we have witnessed the rapid erosion of the privileges and rights we have enjoyed to access those resources. We believe this is due, in large part, to the rapid expansion of the nearshore commercial fishery over the last ten years. We believe that expansion has resulted in the displacement of what was once a satisfying and fully utilized recreational fishery. We believe it is time the nearshore be returned to its former status as a fishery that was satisfying to the public which depended so much on it for recreational opportunities.

It is time to end the widespread serial depletion of this precious resource in exchange for the short-term profits of a small number of commercial entities. In order to protect this resource and the recreational opportunities so important to California's recreational population: We hereby declare our support for a legislative ban on all nearshore commercial fin fishing in the State of California. The ban shall encompass all nearshore rockfish species as defined by the Marine Life Management Act and shall also include all non-rockfish finfish species with the exception of halibut and salmon. The area of this ban shall extend from shoreline out to three nautical miles.



## April 2 Fish and Game Meeting -- A Success!

Over 100 recreational divers turned out for the nearshore fishery meeting held by California Dept. of Fish and Game meeting on April 2 in Oakland.

Here is a snapshot:

"One after another the recreational fishermen came up to demand a complete closure of all commercial fishing efforts at the nearshore. What a display. Each speaker drew raucous applause. It kept going and going. This panel was not bored with our efforts the way the Sacramento people were. The speakers, every one of them, kicked butt. Their call was clear, and loud. Your method is flawed, the data are flawed, stop the pillage! Applause. Next. WOW. I thought that one commercial guy (called us commies) was going to get his rifle he looked so pissed and threatened."

--Karl Jacobson, Nearshore Fisheries List

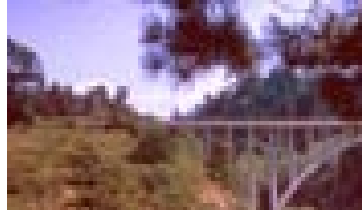
What can you do? Contact your California State senator or assembly-person, or write to:

Mr.. Robert C. Hight  
Director of Fish and Game  
1416 Ninth St, 12th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 653-7669  
RHight@dfg.ca.gov

Mr. Robert Treanor (Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission)  
State of California,  
Fish and Game Commission  
1416 9th Street Room 1320  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 653-4899  
rtreanor@dfg.ca.gov

***Recent Diving  
Adventures:***

**Russian Gulch  
April 1, the first day of  
abalone season**



up

Rick suiting

It was a beautiful day for abalone diving at Russian Gulch.



Don't forget to fill out that card!





## DEATH AT FORT ROSS

TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE... OR ANOTHER DARWIN AWARD NOMINATION by Dan Schwartz

An elderly babushka imitator, in period dress of 18th century Russia, quietly strolled her stockaded environment of what is now known as Fort Ross. It is early April, far too early for the throngs of tourists that will be plying the California coast in search of beauty and the unique. Her's will be a calm day, unlike the crashing ocean outside her wooded gates.

The parking lot is full outside, but she knows they didn't pay the \$6 parking fee to watch her and her tzarist era actors recreate life of a time gone by. She knows that watching the spinning of wool and the cooking of borscht is the last thing on the minds of the folks who have parked outside here. She knows... for she has seen this every year on April first. She knows that this year's first of April will have even more visitors to her parking lot. She knows... about the opening of Abalone Season.



Abalone season opened north of Golden Gate Bridge with greetings of rough seas and a minus tide. BCD enjoyed the diving life of the Mendocino headlands while many people who came from south chose closer destinations to their homes of Hayward and San Jose. With nine-foot swells and choppy surf, almost all chose safe coves from which to do their diving, and Fort Ross, Sonoma county, was one of these coveted safe coves.

It is here we find the story of a diver who didn't bag his limit that opening day. He didn't bag his limit not because he couldn't find any of legal size, seven-inches, or because of any number of other reasons. No, this reason for not bagging his limit is a reason that has plagued 14 other divers in the past five years (according to the Santa Rosa Press Democrat)... they died.



Abalone diving accidents are usually preventable. Often precautions go unchecked due to varying factors . Most of the time it deals with thinking your body can do feats which it cannot, due to poor conditioning and being unskilled, and underestimating the power of the ocean. This year's first floating ab diver was a victim of hypothermia, a.k.a. underestimating the ocean's ability to suck the heat from the human body. Our harvester was wearing a 3 mil "shorty". This is not something you want to be wearing in 48 degree water. This may be adequate protection for someone who is doing serious swimming, but not for someone who is bobbing up and down, then doing occasional dives. Our gent was also not wearing fins, and of course, was found still wearing his weight belt.

So what can we learn from this unfortunate accident? First, know your limits. You can black out if you get too cold and your organs have dropped 5 degrees. Second, there is always the second day of ab season, don't go for the gusto like there is no tomorrow. This also applies to scuba diving. If you are sick, or have a medical condition, wait until you feel healthy. And thirdly, drop the damn weight belt if you start getting into trouble. Don't feel you are "safe" just because you have buddies around . Our diver had his buddies around and was diving in only six feet of water, but where were they to help him in his time of need? No idea. It was a ranger on shore who spotted his lifeless body floating around. Common sense and you being your own best dive buddy should be the golden rule. I know the people I dive with know what I'm saying. This article is for anyone who happens to find our newsletter on the web.