



Barbary Coast Bulletin

The Monthly Newsletter of the Barbary Coast Divers

October 2001

Join Us At Our Next Meeting:
Wednesday, November 14th

Note -- We moved the meeting up one week to the second Wednesday of the month

- **7:30 pm - Meeting Begins**
- **8 pm - Special Guest: Ron Gaul, Sea Turtle Restoration Project**
see [page 2](#) for more details

[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.]

Upcoming Club Events:

October 6-7 Columbus Day Weekend

Spend the night at the house in Mendocino to commemorate the imperialist oppressor named Columbus, and to do some scuba and abalone diving too. [See page 5 for directions and details.](#)

November 17-18 (Abalone Season Closes for the Winter on November 30)

Another trip to the little Mendocino house. Stock up on some abalone for the cold winter ahead.

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.

Announcements & News

Reminders

Abalone Cook-Off

*Mendocino, Calif.
October 6-7*

This is coming up! You can attend the Cook-Off while in Mendocino on Oct. 6-7, but to eat abalone you must have purchased tickets in advance. The

Cook-Off is held on Hwy 1 -- just north of Mendocino -- from 12 pm to 3 pm. Phone Number: (707) 937-5397
Our club has booked the Mendocino cabin for the weekend. See [page 5](#).

Upcoming Meetings

- **November 14**
- **December - Christmas Party**
Date To Be Announced

Club Officers!

Start thinking now about who you want to nominate for the positions of President and Vice President. Bring your nominations to the next club meeting.

At our next club meeting, Wednesday, November 14

Our special guest will be Ron Gaul, who will talk about the

SEA TURTLE RESTORATION PROJECT

POB 400/40 Montezuma Avenue o Forest Knolls, CA 94933 PH. 415 488 0370 o FAX 415 488 0372 o EMAIL rgaul@igc.org --
<http://www.seaturtles.org>

The Sea Turtle Restoration Project (STRP) has launched "Reform California's Gillnet Fisheries Campaign" with a speaking tour and media campaign statewide to bring pressure to bear on the state and federal government to reform these wasteful and destructive fisheries. There are 9 different gillnet fisheries in Calif. The three biggest gillnet fisheries target halibut, swordfish/thresher shark and white sea bass.

The California Drift Gillnet Fishery for swordfish and thresher shark presently has more than 80 vessels that fish offshore, primarily from the Mexican border to Pt Sur in Monterey County. Drift gillnets can be over a mile long and up to 158 feet wide, the equivalent size of 16 football fields (or 948,000 square feet). They are attached to the stern of a fishing boat and allowed to drift below the ocean surface during the night. The nets, by law, must be pulled up before 2 hours after sunrise. By then, most captured marine life has drowned.

At our September 19 meeting, BCD members attended a public hearing for the Nearshore Fisheries Management Plan

The Nearshore FMP is a plan to manage 19 finfish along California's coast. These are the fish you see on every dive (or don't as the case may be!) These fish include spearhunting favorites like cabezon, greenlings, sheephead, and 13 species of rockfish.

- **If you enjoy spearfishing and/or just seeing fish, you should know that this plan has the potential to save rockfish or destroy them. Get involved by writing DFG today. (Public comment period ends Oct 5! -- See below for address.)**
- The draft Nearshore Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) is now available for review on the Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game's (DFG) Web site at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/nfmp>.

Dateline September 19: The Fish and Game commissioners looked bored, the commercial fishermen looked tired, and the divers looked frustrated. The Nearshore FMP plan outlines four possible alternatives for managing the resource (ie the fish), and despite CenCal's previous recommendations put forth at a May DFG meeting, the "preferred alternative" does not include those suggestions.

CenCal is the lobbying group for divers' rights in California. They teamed up with United Anglers (a recreational fishing group) to put forth the following platform:

Commercial fishing in the Nearshore Fishery should be banned. If it cannot be banned, gear restrictions should be in place to restrict the efficiency of commercial fishermen.

Instead, the DFG's "preferred alternative" specifies only Marine Protected Areas (areas off-limits to commercial and sometimes recreational divers) and fish quotas. The quotas would be aggregates of several species, not individual species. CenCal argues that this fishery cannot sustain commercial fishing over the long term. In other words, these fish do not reproduce quickly enough to replenish the fish being taken, and these fish are highly territorial, so if you take all the fish from one reef there is no guarantee that other fish will move in to replenish the reef. Managing a fishery can be compared to managing a bank account: Ideally you should not withdraw more than you put in. Instead you should live off the interest. If you withdraw more than you put in, you will soon be bankrupt. As the fish become scarce, the fishermen devise more sophisticated ways to lure them out of the rocks. That is why we must impose gear restrictions to reduce the catch.

Washington State banned commercial fishing in the Nearshore region. Why can't California follow suit?

Write to DFG and tell them: "If closing the fishery is not an option, then gear restrictions should be imposed."

Written comments are invited through Oct. 5.
Mail them to: California Fish and Game Commission
Draft Nearshore FMP, 20 Lower Ragsdale Dr., Monterey, CA 93940
fax (831) 649-2917 or e-mail your comments to
the Commission at NearshoreFMP@dfg.ca.gov
(don't forget to include your name)

Barbary Coast Divers Win Big at the California Picasso Open Spearfishing Competition

held Saturday, September 15th at Ocean Cove, California.



Jean Lundeen and Curt Haney

Ocean Cove -- The contestants were fortunate to have calm seas and lots of enthusiasm, since the visibility ranged from 5-10 feet for the most part.

The divers started the meet by acknowledging the great tragedy at the WTC/Pentagon and by singing a spirited "God Bless America". Then, they mounted a colorful fleet of tubes, kayaks, and boards and paddled out to the starting line. Finally, with the sound of a horn, they started the 6-hour diving tournament.

After all the divers were back on the beach at 3:15 PM, Roger Yazbeck led the weigh-in while onlookers ate hot chili and albacore tuna pate (thanks Dave Clutts!), drank beer and iced tea and applauded the competitors.

The competition was fierce for "big abalone honors" which went to **Curtis Haney** who caught a 9 3/4 inch red abalone and took home a new Picasso 7MM wetsuit.

The top honor for high aggregate score (women's) was won by **Jean Lundeen**, current CENCAL Women's Champion and U.S. Women's Team Champion for 1999. Way to go Jean!

The event was sponsored by Picasso (Roger Yazbeck), the Underwater Society of America (Carol Rose/Mike Gower), and volunteers, as well as Bodega Bay Pro Dive and Stan's Dive Shop.

High Aggregate Score - Women's
1st - **Jean Lundeen**, Saratoga, 23.9 points

Largest Abalone
1st - **Curtis Haney**, San Francisco, 9 3/4 inches
2nd - Bob Christiansen, Santa Rosa, 9 5/16 inches
3rd - Aaron Fessenden, 9 1/4 inches



MENDOCINO

SATURDAY-MONDAY - OCTOBER 6-8

Come celebrate Columbus Day in Mendocino. We've booked the little house for Saturday and Sunday nights. Yes, I realize not many of you knew we had a Columbus Day, since only government workers get the day off. Some Native American groups consider it a day of mourning. Come honor their tradition with a ritual sacrifice of fresh abalone.

If you want to find out more about the history of oppression and why many Americans oppose Columbus Day (no, it's not because they don't get the day off), see <http://www.transformcolumbusday.org/>

What to bring to the little house:

Sleeping bags, pillow, towels, toilet paper, food, beer, and a dish for the potlucks on Saturday and Sunday nights. There is no phone at the house.

Space is limited

so sign up early by calling [Catherine Zandonella](mailto:Catherine.Zandonella) or e-mailing me at catzan@barbarycoastdivers.org

Directions to the Little House in Mendocino: Take Hwy 101 N. Exit at Hwy 128 West to coast. Take Hwy 1 North to Mendocino. Once you reach Mendocino, take a Left on Main St. (at the stop light). Make a Right on Lansing. Left on Ukiah. Go to the end of the street. Make a Right on Kelly.

It is the house immediately to your right on the corner of Ukiah and Kelly. Address is 10531 Kelly.



Map of Mendocino -- the red star is the house.