

Der Stammtisch

By Pierre Hurter

It's a funny thing about going on vacation, in the days leading up to your departure the anticipation builds to an almost unbearable moment of exquisite excitement, it's like being ten years old again and hankering for that Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas and then, bam!, it's over and you're back in your cubicle under the flickering fluorescents. The George Hamilton tan peels or washes off, the credit card bill appears to be off by at least one decimal point, possibly more. The only souvenirs that really last are the five pounds you put on despite regularly working out by hoisting all of those umbrella drinks.

Since we've been back I've been slowly re-acclimating to the cooler local waters. In March we headed to Monterey for some Sunday morning diving aboard the *Sanctuary*. The boat holds a total of six divers and was positively luxurious with only the four of us, Norm, Jim, Gerda and me onboard. With Mike as our captain and Paula our able-bodied crewperson we slipped from K-dock and headed south for adventure and our first dive at Flintstones.



With its twin turbocharged 375 horsepower diesels, we made short work of the run to Lobos and beyond. I had barely settled into my ritual nap position when Gerda elbowed me back into consciousness. To tell you the truth I think she's just envious of my napping skills. I worked hard to hone this particular skill to the point of being able to cat nap almost anywhere. Anyway, back to the

twin turbocharged diesels, reminds me of the Peter, Paul and Mary song;

*Take me for a ride in your car car
Take me for a ride in your car car
Take me for a ride, take me for a ride
Take me for a ride in your 3.2 litre Ferrari
With torsion bar suspension
And those ported venture carburetors!*



Our first dive was to 111 feet, (not the 11 feet in the post) water temperature a balmy 49 degrees, with some current at the surface and a fair bit of surge near the top of the wall. We spent most of our time in the 100 foot zone; the visibility was good there and the surge largely disappeared, we poked about in the nooks and crannies for 35 minutes or so, headed back towards the anchor line and headed up.

After a surface interval mostly spent exploring all of the great snacks onboard, I particularly like the Goldfish crackers, we headed for the Inner Outer or Outer Inner ... Pinnacles. This time we stayed in shallower waters, around 80 feet for the majority of the dive.

Continued on page 4

GENERAL MEETING

APRIL 21TH, 2010

AT SINDBADS

Pier 2, Embarcadero Street, San Francisco

MEET at 7:00p.m. for socializing, DRINKS & FOOD
and 7:30p.m. for CLUB BUSINESS

Reefer's Rap 2010		
<p>JANUARY</p> <p>01 - New Year's Day - Breakwater Dive ??? 02 - Club Dive: Beachhopper II 06 - Officer's Meeting 22 - General Meeting - Sinbad's 23-31 - 41st International Boat Show - Dusseldorf - www.boot.de</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>03 - Officers Meeting 03 - 07 - SF Ocean Film Festival 13 - Club Dive: Beachhopper II 17 - Meeting - Sinbad's 19-21 - Our World Underwater - www.ourworldunderwater.com</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p>03 - Officers Meeting 05-07 - The Boston Sea Rovers - www.bostonsearovers.com 24 - Club Dive: Sanctuary 17 - Meeting - Sinbad's 26-28 - Beneath the Sea - New Jersey - www.beneaththe.sea.org</p>
<p>APRIL</p> <p>03 - Abalone Opener - Fort Ross - CenCal 07 - Officers Meeting 16-18 - Ocean Fest - Fort Lauderdale - www.oceanfest.com 21 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p>	<p>MAY</p> <p>01 - Bay Area Dive Show - San Jose - www.divechronicles.com 05 - Officers Meeting 08 - Club Dive: Beachhopper II 15 - 16 - Scuba Show - Long Beach - www.scubashow.com 19 - Meeting - Sinbad's 21-23 - Dive & Travel Expo - Tacoma - www.diveandtravelexpo.com</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>02 - Officers Meeting 12 - Club Dive: Beachhopper II 16 - Meeting - Sinbad's TBD - Abalone Closer</p>
<p>JULY</p> <p>07 - Officers Meeting 10 - Club Dive: Beachhopper II 21 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p>	<p>AUGUST</p> <p>TBD - Abalone Opener 04 - Officers Meeting 08-11 - Channel Islands - Jim Vallario - 415.566.0784 11 - Channel Island Extension TBD 18 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>01 - Officers Meeting 10 - 12 Lake Tahoe - Norm Knutson 15 - Meeting - Sinbad's 11 - Club Dive: Beachhopper II</p>
<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>06 - Officers Meeting 09 - Club Dive: Beachhopper II 20 - Meeting - Sinbad's - Officer Nominations !!!</p>	<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>03 - Officers Meeting 13 - Club Dive: Beachhopper II / 17 - Meeting - Sinbad's - Officer Elections !!! 17 - 21 - The Dema Show - Las Vegas - www.demashow.com TBD - Abalone Closer</p>	<p>DECEMBER</p> <p>01 - Officers Meeting 11 - Club Dive: Beachhopper II 15 - Meeting - Sinbad's - Christmas Party !!!</p>

2010 SFRD OFFICERS		
President	Gene Kramer	(650) 359-2785 genekramer@pacbell.net
Vice President	Open	Gone Diving
Treasurer & Secretary	Pierre Hurter	(415).810.6851 sfreefdiver@comcast.net
Webmaster	Curt Degler	91-94442154 (India) cdegler@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor	Gerda Hurter	(415) 810.6851 sfreefdiver@comcast.net
Entertainment Committee	Ken Gwin	(415) 648-7046 artfxsf@aol.com
AMCR Representative	Gene Kramer	(415) 339-2785 genekramer@pacbell.net
CenCal Representative	Debra Gilmore	gilmored2@yahoo.com

THIS SEASON'S SUNNY ABALONE OPENER

By Ken Gwin

We tried to remind everyone that the annual spring abalone opener and picnic would be happening again this year. And, just like it says, there's diving and then there's eating.

Many traditions have faded or

slipped away into distant memories over the years. Times change. But, we are fortunate in Northern California to have the opportunity to revisit one of the few remaining traditions kept alive and well, in part, because of us divers.

Ab divers have been instrumental in conservation efforts that have helped protect this rare mollusk, leaving healthy stocks and the

predicted future sustainability of abalone along our Northern California coastline.



The spring abalone opener is a celebration.

In the preceding week, the weather reports were terrible. There had already been a rescue at sea two days before. However, I refused to believe these nay sayers. In years past, the clouds had always parted, the seas had always calmed, and the picnickers had enjoyed their afternoon meals in

sheltered peace behind a mighty stand of trees.

So, as I predicted, it was a beautiful day up on the Coast. For all of those that stayed home after listening to the

ominous prognostications of end times, Apocalyptic conditions, and monsters at sea: ha, ha, ha; shoulda been there. No Armageddon. No one died. There were no reports or any witnesses to a single death by shark, sea, or Kelp Monster.

It was slightly overcast early, but easily sunny by mid-morning. Conditions in Fort Ross Cove had the occasional rogue

swell, but entries were easy and without event. Officers from the California Department of Fish and Game were highly visible and remarkably friendly. There was constant air support from a DFG helicopter, which seemed to be

observing, monitoring, or looking for divers in distress.

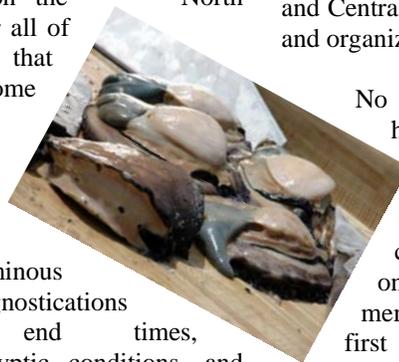
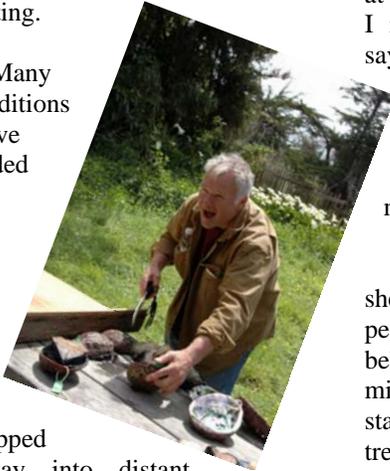
As the day progressed, there was the typical breeze, but, as usual, the picnic area and rose garden were sheltered and warm. An army of slicers and dicers prepped abs, dished out salads, breads, beans, beer, popcorn, cakes, and pies.

There were many familiar faces. Of course, there was the contingent of Reef Divers and members of many other North and Central California dive clubs and organizations in attendance.

No one went home hungry.

And, as part of the opening day celebration, Charlie, one of our new members, went out on his first ab dive and successfully got his limit of abalone, helped cook and prepare part of the communal lunch, ate his share, taking home plenty for himself, and making abalone ceviche.

That sounds like a good tradition.



Stammtisch from page 1

We swam around for a good 45 minutes, never managing to find the anchor line; instead we spent ten minutes hanging in the water column counting down our deco obligation and then headed back to the boat, which was pretty much where we had left it. Once on board we had the usual discussion on the Suunto's propensity to stop the countdown every time you dip below 19 feet or so in depth; can make for very long safety stops, particularly if you are well hydrated.

I know that there are those who counsel that you should never go into deco, but the whole dive is a process of saturating your fatty cells with nitrogen to within some mystic limit and then doing a "safety stop" before getting out. I suppose a three minute deco stop would put some people off, but, that's really what you are doing, off gassing for three minutes. Algorithms are wonderful tools, but it's always wise to keep in mind the *Entscheidungsproblem*, or "decision problem".

David Hilbert in 1928 posed the problem or challenge if you will. The *Entscheidungsproblem* calls for an algorithm that will take a mathematical description of a situation and produce a true or false output. Like your computer, you're in deco or you're not. The problem goes back at least to Gottfried Leibniz who had constructed a mechanical calculation machine in the seventeenth century. The challenges you run into are manifold, but boil down to two basic issues, first, what is an algorithm. Take a look and you'll see that definitions vary and tend to run towards the esoteric. I like the notion of "effective calculability" The

second problem revolves around the language used to frame the question. It seems obvious, but anyone who has ever had a discussion with a child or spouse, knows that clarity of meaning is lost the minute there is more than one person involved.

So when your hanging in the water column watching your Bedomatic dial, readout or colored gauges go through their motions, remember, it's a guide based on some theoretical levels of perfusion, dispersion and gas laws that I didn't fully understand the first time I took physics.



This dive was a twist for us; I'm used to driving down on Friday or in the wee hours of Saturday morning. This time we moseyed down on Saturday afternoon after a leisurely morning hike to the waterfalls on Mt. Diablo. We checked into the Lone Oak Lodge, freshened up a bit and headed off to investigate the local tourist hotspots.

Cannery Row was packed with vacationers, fellow travelers and mendicants of every stripe. Like dazed children wandering the land of corn dogs, UGGs, candied apples, piercings that

should never see the light of day, flip flops and fleece in every hue of the rainbow, my kind of place.

I wanted to check out the Thomas Kincaid National Archive on Lighthouse Avenue. This is after all the same man that was inducted into the California Tourism Hall of Fame for his influence on the public's perception of tourism in our fair state, through his images of California. It was not to be, Gerda had other ideas. The archive by the way is housed in the Harry A. Greene Mansion built in 1886. Seems Harry Ashland Greene was instrumental in developing early Monterey. He devoted his time and money in projects such as starting the area's first electric power company, a trolley system, the Monterey Hotel and the harbor's breakwater. He also sought State protection for the Custom House and First Theater.

Maybe next time, I'll get to tour the place, but on this visit I dug out a semi-clean hoodie from the back of my truck instead, scrapped the stubble from my chin with my trusty and slightly rusty Leatherman and headed for Pacific Grove and Passion Fish. We met with Jim, Norm and their lovely spouses. Dinner was as usual great, between us we had Monterey squid, grass fed rib eye, seared scallops, stripped sea bass and a glass or two of Blau Fränkisch.

Last month I wrote a blurb about our Australia trip, the Great Barrier Reef, Salt Water crocs, Vegemite, beer and mates bonding, this month it's on to New Zealand, the land of nervous sheep and Marmite. You have to be a little leery of a product produced by the

Continue on page 5

Stammtisch from page 4

Sanitarium Food Company. Who would have thought that there would be three versions of the savory spreads. In addition to the more commonly seen Vegemite and Marmite there is also Promite. All of these concoctions are made from used brewers yeast, a by-product of beer making. The stuff is chock-a-block full of vitamin B. Each has its fans and you can get into lively discussions on the variations, British, New Zealand or Australian, each with a slightly different formulation, the nuances lost on the faint hearted. In short, it's natural, vegetarian, but not quite kosher (it's not manufactured under rabbinical supervision). Try it on a bit of cheese with some crisps, or the classic recipe, spread thin on buttered toast with sliced avocado. I still haven't worked out the wine pairings. Will have to enlist Ken's help and arrange for a blind tasting.

*We're happy little Vegemites
As bright as bright can be.
We all enjoy our Vegemite
For breakfast, lunch, and tea.
Our mummies say we're growing
stronger
Every single week,
Because we love our Vegemite
We all adore our Vegemite
It puts a rose in
every cheek.*

We left Sydney behind after one more round of the airport shops, packed to the gills with genuine made in China, Australian chachkas and headed for Auckland. I noticed that before we were allowed to board for New Zealand they definitely checked to make sure



we had a ticket back out, on the borderline of being unfriendly. The Aussies didn't seem interested if we ever left. After our latest airport tour I was starting to feel like the old line about traveling in Europe, "It's Wednesday so this must be New Zealand", more specifically Tutukaka, 30 minutes from Whangarei on the northeast coast.

We landed in Auckland, the gateway to New Zealand, with a population of 1.3 million, it represents almost a third of the country's total, pausing just long enough to gather our luggage, exchange the last of our Australian Dollars for Kiwi bucks and promptly piled aboard a van for a three and a half hour drive north on Highway 1. The countryside looks like a combination of Point Reyes, Sonoma County and the dairy country outside of Zurich and over the pass to the Albis, except for the palm tree look alikes along the way.

The final stretch into Tutukaka, once you pass through Whangarei, is through the Glenbervie countryside. The farms are neatly divided by stone walls stretching as far as the eye can see. Almost like driving through parts of New England, or old England for that matter.

Thursday morning, coffee cups in hand, was spent sorting out



our kit for the first day's diving at The Poor Knights. A rocky area off the coast, the Poor Knights are currently being considered for World Heritage status. No less of a diving luminary than Jacques Cousteau called the islands one of the world's top ten dive sights (number seven to be exact).

There is some debate about how the islands were named; some claim they were named by Captain Cook after their resemblance to Poor Knight's Pudding, what we would call French toast and a dish popular at the time of discovery by Europeans. The other thought is that the islands look like a knight at rest, his arms folded across his chest. Either way a modern Kiwi breakfast is still likely to include French toast along with bacon, eggs, kransky sausage, stewed tomatoes, mushrooms and at the local restaurant, Schnappa Rock, some rösti. There must be some Swiss influence in the neighborhood somewhere, I noticed the dinner menu at the Schnappa Rocks Restaurant featured spätzle, as well from torch to snorkel for those who would rather not schlep their gear halfway around the world. The water here was a little brisker than Australia ranging from the mid to high 60's for most of our dives.

Continue on page 6

Stammtisch from page 6

We dove with an outfit called Dive! Tutukaka, great bunch. They have a shop on the marina in case you forgot something or like us want to rent wet suits. They offer complete dive setups



The trip to the dive spots takes about half an hour. Our skipper was Ben with Dawn as our Divemaster. We had calm seas while there, along with lots of clear sky and sunshine. The islands themselves are a nature reserve and the seas around the islands are a marine reserve. The islands have been uninhabited since being declared *tapu* after a bloody massacre. In their heyday there were 400 Maori living on the island.

Local oral history suggests that sometime around 1820 the local warrior chief, Tatua, left the island along with his warriors to join with another tribe on a fighting expedition. In his absence Chief Waikato, who had been insulted by Tatua, (apparently over trading for pigs) gathered three large war canoes and landed on the defenseless island where he and his warriors promptly slaughtered everyone they could find.

Chief Tatua upon returning to his home gathered the survivors and declared the islands *tapu*

(sacred) and never returned. The islands have remained uninhabited ever since.

The diving reminded me of our Channel Islands. Largely volcanic the waters around the islands are home to over 125 species of fish, along with soft corals, encrusting sponges, anemones and kelp. There is something about a kelp forest that just can't be beat, especially when you're swimming along with streamers of sunshine piercing the canopy like some majestic cathedral.

Our first dive was at the Great Wall, kelp, lots of fish and visibility up to 100 feet. Our second dive was at Rikoriko Cave. It's a huge cave, rumored



to have been used by a Japanese sub during the war as a hideout while being repaired. Try as we might we couldn't fine any artifacts to back up that story.

After a good night's sleep and day two of the New Zealand vs. Australia Cricket match, these things go on and on, the Energizer rabbit has got nothing on a cricket match, they just keep going and going and ... going, we headed out to the islands again. We splashed at Northern Arch and Crystal Cave. Crystal Cave was definitely more of a cave experience than Rikoriko. After the third twist in the ever



diminishing diameter passage way, I couldn't see daylight behind me or Frank's video lights ahead. Time to turn around and head for the entrance, you've got to know you're limits. We did four dives here in two days, pausing to celebrate Gerda's birthday with champagne delivered via zodiac, party favors, noise makers and chocolate fish. It's a great place to dive and well worth a visit if you're in the neighborhood.



On our last night we had a surprise; Gerda still thinks it was just for her. The fire alarm went off and we all dutifully evacuated to the front parking lot where we got to watch the local volunteer force spring into action. As a general word of caution, hanging your wet gear in the bathroom and turning on the heat and fan generates a lot of steam. Apparently hotel smoke detectors can't tell the difference between smoke and steam.

We rounded out our trip back in Auckland where we spent a few days in the Sky City Hotel.

The Sky Tower adjacent to the hotel dominates the downtown skyline complete with several

Continue on page 7

Stammtisch from page 6

restaurants, one of them slowly rotating about the towers axis, bars and the ever-present souvenir shop. I'll leave it to others to evaluate the esthetics of the structure, but it certainly made it easy to navigate back to the hotel after a days wander.

Naturally we headed to the top of the Sky Tower, all 220 meters (722 feet) of it. The view of Auckland's twin harbors, Waiteata to the east and Manukau to the west are spectacular. It's also funny to see how some folks handle heights, the grip of death on the handrails was quite common and we were inside. I will confess that no one in our group did the jump from the top (192 meters or 630 feet). The most interesting



fact about the construction was the number of meat pies consumed and tea drunk by the workers. That factoid was tucked away next to how much concrete poured, the tonnage of steel girders and the number of rivets riveted, I wrote it down in my little black notebook so I wouldn't forget the numbers and as soon as I the notebook I'll let you know.

In the meantime here's a thought in passing ... "We know there are known knowns: there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns: that is to say we know there are things we know we don't know. But there are also unknown unknowns - the ones we don't know we don't know." Donald Rumsfeld or more succinctly... "What is now proven was once only imagined." William Blake



4TH OF JULY 2010 CELEBRATION AT POINT LOBOS

The Beach Hopper II has booked the Reserve and will shuttle divers to and from various locations within the Reserve. Food and Drink will be provided. Contact the Beach Hopper II at <http://www.beachhopper2.com> for further information and/or to book your spot.

**2010 CHANNEL ISLANDS TRIP
PEACE DIVE BOAT**

August 7th through 10th

1. **Price: \$400** - Please send a \$100 deposit (per spot) to our esteemed and beloved Treasurer (Pierre Hurter, 515 Diamond Street, San Francisco, CA 94114). Receipt of check by the Treasurer adds your name to the list. **Final Payment due July 1st, 2010**
2. **Boat departs the dock at 10PM on Saturday, August 7th.**
3. Bring all of your dive gear, including one full tank. They can refill tanks with air or 32% Nitrox.
4. Unlimited Nitrox fills will cost \$75 for the trip. If you want Nitrox, please bring your Nitrox certification card and separate check for \$75.
5. The bunks have a pillow and a blanket. Anything more (sleeping bag, extra pillow, etc.) is your responsibility.
6. Boat supplies all food, snacks, drinks (non-alcoholic). Wine, beer, etc. may be brought on board, but please remember the homily about your 1st drink and your last dive.
7. For additional information, such as directions to the boat, please check out their website, www.peaceboat.com.

For any other questions, please contact Jim Vallario at 415-566-0784 (res) or 415-819-1159 (cell)

SCUBA Show 2010 - May 15-16, 2010



Long Beach Convention Center, Long Beach, CA

The *SCUBA Show*, America's Largest Consumer Dive Expo, will take place May 15-16 at the Long Beach Convention Center in Long Beach, California. This is the 23rd year of this popular event. The show will consist of 76,000 square feet of diving related exhibits including new and revolutionary dive gear, travel pros (many offering show discounts), and diving experts. Several exhibitors also offer free drawings for valuable prizes. The first 1,000 people in attendance on Saturday and Sunday will receive complementary tote bags, and door prizes will be taking place throughout the day. Over \$38,000 in door prizes will be given away.

Highlighting the exhibit hall will be a personal appearance by world famous artist Wyland. On Saturday he will be interacting with attendees while painting a new piece of art and on Sunday will be painting with over 200 children who have pre-registered in advance.

Legendary underwater filmmaker Stan Waterman will be headlining a weekend of seminars that include some of the most popular dive experts around. Some of the presenters include Jack and Sue Drafahl, Bruce Watkins, Dale Sheckler, Ken Knezick, Ken Kurtis, and many more. Subjects covered include underwater photography and video, marine life, dive travel, and more.

A continuous underwater film festival will be running in the exhibit hall on a three-story high screen and will feature films from around the world by over a dozen underwater imaging experts.

Exhibit hall hours are Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$12 and includes admission to exhibit hall and film festival (seminars are an additional charge). Discount coupons are available at California dive stores, on California dive charter boats and through California dive clubs. Age 13 and under are admitted free. For information on *SCUBA Show 2010* call (310) 792-2333 or visit the web site www.scubashow.com. Advanced registration online at ScubaShow.com is strongly encouraged to save time and money.

Japan Charges Whaling Activist



Japan is charging Peter Bethune, the New Zealand anti-whaling activist, over his boarding of the *Shonan Maru II* in the Southern Ocean. He has been accused of trespassing, possession of a weapon, injury to persons, damage to property and obstructing the passage of a vessel.

The leader of the Australian Green Party, Senator Bob Brown, says "it's unjust that Bethune is facing up to 15 years in a Japanese jail. It is Japanese whalers who should be facing charges under Australian law for endangering lives, not Sea Shepherd captain Pete Bethune. It is absolutely unjust that Captain Pete Bethune is facing up to 15 years in prison in Japan."

Senator Brown said the Australian Federal Police are investigating an official complaint by Sea Shepherd over the ramming and sinking of protest vessel *Ady Gil* by the Japanese whaling vessel *Shonan Maru II*. "Under Australian law the captain of the *Shonan Maru II* should be tried and face life imprisonment for his actions, which endangered the lives of six people,."

Britain has approved the creation of the world's biggest marine reserve but not everyone's happy



The reserve will protect a quarter of a million square miles in the Indian Ocean archipelago which many have compared to Australia's Great Barrier Reef for marine life. The reserve will effectively double the area of the world's oceans under some sort of protection.

The decision is not going over well with the islanders who were evacuated four decades ago to allow construction of the US military base on Diego Garcia. The islanders are concerned that the creation of a marine park will effectively bar their return.

The original Chagossians were removed between 1967 and 1973 to make way for the US base which is currently populated by an estimated 1,700 US military personnel, 1,500 civilian contractors and around 50 British personnel. They have been fighting a legal battle to return for decades but have been blocked by the British courts, citing US security concerns.

Fishing banned on the Sea of Galilee

It is the site where Jesus told his disciples: "I will make you fishers of men." Four of the Apostles, James, Andrew, John and Peter worked as fishermen on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

If they were to drop a line nowadays, the Apostles might find themselves standing before a judge in court. Officials of Israel's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

announced a two year fishing ban, claiming that stocks have fallen to a dangerously low level.

The most common catch is known as St Peter's Fish, named after the Bible passage in which Peter hooks a fish with a coin in its mouth. There has been a dramatic decline in fish stocks in recent years, with the government blaming overfishing, and the use of illegal nets. Other factors include falling water levels following years of drought. The locals, well they blame the government.

Ship runs aground on the Great Barrier Reef



Officials in Queensland claim that the oil slick from the *Shen Neng I* is under control and has been dispersed. The *Shen Neng I* carrying coal hit a reef inside a restricted zone within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The Chinese coal freighter was at least 12 kilometers (over 7 miles) off course when it hit a reef, Opposition parties are using the incident to highlight what they view as inadequate efforts to protect the environment and defend Australia.

The Chinese government and the ship's owner, Cosco, a state-controlled company have been silent in response to the grounding of the *Shen Neng I*, which occurred in a section of the reef designated as a marine park and subject to extra environmental protection.

Australia is a leading coal and iron ore exporter and a major supplier to Asian economies, particularly China's.

Deep Diving Shark



In New Zealand a tagged Great White shark nicknamed Shack has set a record for the deepest dive by a shark. Great Whites are common in the waters surrounding New Zealand, and have been protected since 2007. A bit of information not mentioned by the local dive operators.

Shack along with 24 other Great Whites was tagged with an electronic tag between Stewart and Chatham islands. The tags record the location, depth and water temperature and self release after a predetermined length of time, usually between six and nine months. The released tags download their data via satellite.

The tagged shark swam as far as 90 miles a day and dove to depths between 1,000 and 1,200 meters (3,280 to 3,937 feet) with temperatures ranging from 3 to 27 degrees Celsius (37 to 68 degrees Fahrenheit).

The Ghost Fleet closer to disappearing for good



The US Maritime Administration, or MARAD, settled a lawsuit involving state water quality regulators as well as several environmental groups and will resume removing the armada of ghost ships rusting away in Suisun Bay.

The settlement calls for 25 of the worst polluters to be removed by September of 2012 with a further batch gone by the same time in 2017. That would leave about a dozen ships, including the *USS Iowa* left in Suisun.

The Ghost Fleet is more correctly part of the National Defense Reserve Fleet, or NDRF, under the custody of MARAD. The fleet's stated purpose is to serve as a source of basic Merchant ships that could be activated within 20 - 120 days to meet the shipping needs of the United States during national emergencies.

There are three NDRF fleet sites - James River, Virginia, Beaumont, Texas and Suisun Bay. In addition Naval auxiliaries are maintained at the fleet by MARAD on a retention basis for the Navy.

Catch and Release at the Farallones

Last November, a San Diego shark researcher Michael Domeier did something most of us thought couldn't be done, at least no one else has in more than 10 years: He hooked a great white shark at the Farallones.

Domeier received permission from the Farallones Sanctuary to capture Great Whites in order to tag them for research. The National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, has guidelines prohibiting anyone from getting closer than 50 meters to a Great White in the Farallones. It is also attracting sharks by using food, bait, chum, or decoys.

The sharks are caught with hooks baited with whale meat and then once the shark has tired itself out, hoisted onto a platform where they are tagged, and have blood and tissue samples taken.



The hook used to catch great whites. (Courtesy of [KGO](#))

As is usually the case, there is considerable controversy around the efficacy of the technique. On the one hand the tags are said to be effective for up to five years providing invaluable information of the movements of the Great Whites. On the other hand there are charges of self aggrandizement, pseudo science, and cruelty. You be the judge.



We encourage you to also support the other organizations listed below when you pay your annual dues. (Please indicate your membership options with the checkboxes below.)

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco Reef Divers (SFRD) | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central California Council of Diving Clubs (CenCal) | 15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sonoma County Abalone Network (SCAN) | <u>10</u> |

Show your support for all three! \$50

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____
Email: _____
How would you like your newsletter delivered? (Choose one):
Online at the SFRD website (preferred)
Mailed to my home address

Please make checks payable to “**San Francisco Reef Divers**” and mail to: Pierre Hurter, SFRD Treasurer, 515 Diamond Street, San Francisco, CA 94114



SINCE JANUARY 1ST 1973

ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO REEF DIVERS (SFRD):

The *Reef Diver Times* is the official newsletter of the San Francisco Reef Divers, a not for profit community organization dedicated to safe sport diving and the preservation of our ocean resources. Membership is \$25 annually, dues payable to "SFRD". The General Meeting is held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Sinbad's, located at Pier 2, Embarcadero Street, SF, CA 94111. Meet at 7:00pm for socializing, drinks and food and 7:30 pm for club business and entertainment. For more information, visit <http://www.sfreefdivers.org/>.

SAN FRANCISCO REEF DIVERS
Reef Diver Times
C/O Gerda Hurter
515 Diamond Street
San Francisco, CA 94114