



Diving Kauai and Ni'ihau Islands, Hawaii

By Jacob Rosenstein

It took some research to figure out where to go for a dive vacation. Tahiti has terrific pelagic activity, but it's very expensive, especially with the dollar in the tank. The Phillipines has interesting marine life, but summer weather is unpredictable. So after reading divers' experiences in Kauai in the "Undercurrent" web site, this option seemed exciting, especially with the attraction of Ni'ihau. This smaller island is only accessible in the summer months, as the crossing channel can get very rough. Ni'ihau diving is famous for diverse marine life, especially the Hawaiian Monk Seal, and crystal clear water. It was a special dive experience for me and my dive buddy and daughter, Hannah.

The dive operator chosen was Fathom Five Divers, whose dive shop and staging area are located in Koloa, on the south part of Kauai. I decided to stay in Po'ipu, a 10 minute drive south. This is the second driest part of the island, getting an average of 36 inches rain per year. Compared to Mt. Wai'ale'ale, which sees 432 inches per year, this

area is dry! Fathom Five operates two boats: a 25 footer and 35 footer. Both take a maximum of 6 divers. They provide Nitrox, rinse your gear after diving and store it overnight. The dives are done in groups, so everyone swims with the Dive Master. Holly and Anthony were both very competent and friendly Dive Masters. They use a slate to write the names of the marine animals we encounter. Both give detailed pre-dive briefings.



There was no shortage of marine life on any of these dives. Green Turtles were seen on almost every dive, along with Raccoon Butterflies, Moorish Idols, Bluestriped Butterflies-an endemic specie to Hawaii, Sharpnose Butterflies, Lionfish,

Triggerfish, Trumpetfish, Surgeonfish, some type of Scorpionfish, and Morays. At "Three Fingers", we saw a Dragon Moray, so named because of its distinguished tubular nostrils above the eyes resembling horns, Devil Scorpionfish, Leaf-Scorpionfish, Spiney Lobster and a large Crab that Holly picked up from its rock, and later placed it back. At "Turtle Bluffs", our D.M. Anthony took us to several ledges inhabited by Grey Reef Shark.

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This month's entertainment will feature
Your Adventures and Elections 2008
-Reef Diver's Elections that is ...
If you don't want to hold an office -then show up!!!



Der Stammtisch

By Pierre Hurter

We started September's meeting with a DVD of our recent dive trip to Alaska aboard the *Nautilus Explorer*. Between the shared memories and flashbacks of Gerda, Ken and me, we had a lively discussion around the diving, the single malt Scotches available on board, the scenery and the exceptional hardware stores to be found in our 49th state. When we first planned our trip to the north who would have thought that Alaska or its governor would come to feature so prominently in the headlines?

I wanted to explore the San Francisco / Alaska convergence more closely; Alaska's population for example, 670,000, San Francisco 744,041, the percentage of homes where a language other than English is spoken, 14.3% for Alaska, 45.7% for San Francisco, the tourist shops, all run by people with distinctly foreign accents and aside from the fur bikinis selling pretty much the same chachkas. But my attempts at investigative journalism were quashed, my discoveries censored by the editor of this very [redacted] mainstream, liberal [redacted] biased, drive-by media [redacted] rag. I'll have to wait for the judgment of history like everyone else.

So, it's back to diving news. September was a good month for it, we started out with the annual Lake Tahoe dive and dine extravaganza. After throwing everything including the kitchen sink into the back of our new dive-mobile we set off, making our way east on 80, through historic downtown Richmond, Vallejo, Sacramento, Placerville and on to Lake Tahoe. We pulled off the road in Placerville, or Hangtown, to dawdle at some of the wineries that have been popping up over the years. The area between Motor City and Camino is connected by a winding narrow road that roughly parallels Highway 50. Depending on the time of year the area is rife with celebrations of the apple or the grape

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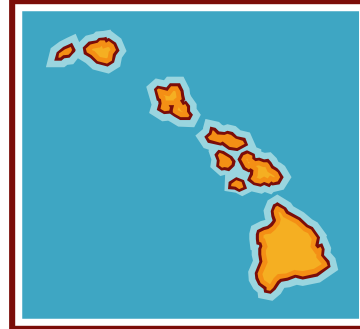
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<p>01 - New Year's Day - Point Lobos Dive 02 - Officers Meeting 12 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat - Pierre - 415.810.6851 16 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p>	<p>06 - Officers Meeting 09 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat - Pierre - 415.810.6851 * 20 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p>	<p>05 - Officers Meeting 08 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat - Pierre - 415.810.6851 19 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p>
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<p>02 - Officers Meeting 05 - Abalone Opener - Fort Ross - CenCal 12 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat - Pierre - 415.810.6851 * 16 - Meeting - Sinbad's 19 Dive into Earth Day -Del Monte Beach 19 - Historical Diving Society Meeting - Monterey</p>	<p>07 - Officers Meeting 10 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat - Pierre - 415.810.6851 21 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p>	<p>04 - Officers Meeting 14 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat - Pierre - 415.810.6851 * 18 - Meeting - Joint meeting with Marin Scuba Club 21-22 - Scuba Show - Long Beach Convention Center TBD - Abalone Closer</p>
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<p>02 - Officers Meeting 12 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat. - Pierre - 415.810.6851 16 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p>	<p>TBD - Abalone Opener 06 - Officers Meeting 09-12 - Channel Islands - Jim Vallario - 415.566.0784 20 - Meeting - Sinbad's</p>	<p>03 - Officers Meeting 05 - 07 - Lake Tahoe Dive - Norm Knutson 13 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat - Pierre - 415.810.6851 17 - Meeting - Sinbad's!</p>
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p>01 - Officers Meeting 11 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat. - Pierre - 415.810.6851 * 15 - Meeting - Sinbad's - Officer Nominations !!!</p>	<p>05 - Officers Meeting 08 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat. - Pierre - 415.810.6851 19 - Meeting - Sinbad's - Officer Elections !!! TBD - Abalone Closer</p>	<p>03 - Officers Meeting 13 - Cypress Sea - (3 Dives) - Sat - Pierre - 415.810.6851 * 17 - Meeting - Sinbad's - Christmas Party !!!</p>

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The first ledge had 5 juveniles, the second the mother, and the third contained a sleepy father. True to its namesake, there were a couple of Green Sea Turtles having their shells cleaned of parasites by small Wrasse. We dove "Sheraton Caverns" a couple of times. This site is located across from the Kauai Sheraton. It has several swim-thru arches formed by lava tubes. Under the ledges, Green Sea Turtles catch their siestas away from any predator. They should call it Turtle Motel. You pass by several rooms, with one turtle after another relaxing under the overhang. We also saw Whitemouth Moray and Yellowmouth Moray, as well as an nocturnal moray under a rock. At "Fast Lane", there was a school of Polani Surgeons with a lone Pufferfish going for the ride. Also, a school of Chromis was at this site, as well as a school of Bluestripe Snapper.

As if this wasn't enough, diving Ni'ihau was the topper. The boat left the Small Boat Harbor in Po'ipu as the sun was rising through the swaying Palm Trees. Breakfast consisted of bagels and cream cheese, pineapple, honeydew, apples, bananas, juice and coffee. We entered the 78 degree F water at 8:45 AM for our first dive called "Vertical Awareness", just off of Leiahou Island. It was a vertical wall with a 3000 foot drop. Two Hawaiian Monk Seals met us on our descent, and kept us entertained throughout our dive. Word has it that there are only 100 of these playful intelligent seals remaining. Where's the outcry to save them? A couple of huge Ono Tuna were skimming the surface. There were also a couple of huge Trevally Jack in the distance. In

the plateau portion, we saw a Blue Dragon Nudibranch, and another Nudibranch with an orange body and purple border, probably Kunie's Chromodoris. Cole, one of the divers, spotted a small Lionfish in the rocks. The next morning dive "Ni'ihau Drive Thru" was in terrific



topography. It was a series of four caves: 2 chimney swim-thrus and a couple of large caves with air pockets and lots of Black Coral. There was Orange Cup Coral growing on top of one Black Coral clump, and a shrimp living on another Black Coral. The large caves were like a drive-in movie, and the chimneys were a tight squeeze. It was interesting to see the mirror-like effect of the air pockets, and fun to swim through large dark caves with flashlights leading the way. A hearty lunch of sandwiches, chips, and fruit was provided during the surface interval. The boat then went to the fissure in the rock formation of Leihou for some sightseeing.

At 12:30, the water temperature increased to a toasty 81 degrees F for our third dive. This site was "Pyramid Point", and my max depth was 68 feet. There was current between the wall and the rocky plateau. We saw a Hawaiian Monk Seal throughout the dive. These seals are known to travel individually, so I doubt if we'd seen him/her before. Regardless, it took offense when our attention was focused on a pair of juvenile Grey Reef Shark. "Hey, look at me," it wanted to say. But not far off, swimming close to the surface was a pod of Spinner Dolphin circling above us. There were over three dozen

dolphins, before I stopped counting and just watched in awe. It was a marvelous sight. This definitely capped off the dive week. There were also the usual

tropicals: Pyramid Butterflyfish, a school of Longfin Bannerfish, Lined Butterflyfish, Unicornfish, Sergeant Majors, Trumpetfish, and Black Surgeon, a type of Surgeonfish. The trip back to Kauai

resembled bronco busting, as I did a lot of unexpected bouncing. The sun shone throughout the day, so getting a little sea spray even felt good. We were back at the Small Boat Harbor high on diving, and thanking our dive crew for a marvelous time, under and above the water.

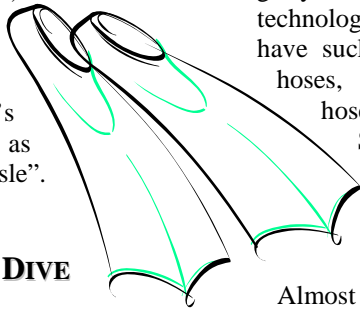
I kicked back the following day, as Hannah tried her hand at surfing. The waves were small, not even challenging to novice surfers. On Saturday, we drove to Hanalei Bay in the northern part of the island. This is where our Na Pali cruise boat was berthed. We stopped at Wailua Falls on the way to gawk at this magnificent drop of 173 feet. It's actually taller than Niagara Falls, but doesn't have the same water volume flowing. There were some adventurous folk on the bottom who had hiked in. We just drove up, like the rest of the tourists. The Na Pali coast of Kauai is like nothing I've ever seen. It's mountainous, hilly, cavernous, spooky, and beautifully colored in red, green, and orange.

The boat was small enough to fit inside a cave, where it quickly darkened and the only light came from the entrance. If you're ever

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in Kauai, go with Na Pali Catamarans! The guides are very knowledgeable, and fun. We snorkeled at Miloli' where there's even a small beach, and watched a Green Sea Turtle below us. The Na Pali coast is a must see if you're ever in this neck of the world. There are even helicopter tours, as well as motorized hang gliders that can take you on a tour if you're brave enough. Other attractive natural sights are the Allerton Gardens in the National Botanical Gardens, where you can see giant Ficus trees that were in "Jurassic Park", and the Waimea Canyon. The latter is a long drive on steep 2 lane roads. I saw the Kalalua Valley from the top lookout, as well as the Pacific Ocean. The weather changed quickly at the summit, 4000 ft. elevation, but I felt at home in the misty fog. There are plenty of hiking trails in the Waimea Canyon that take you down to the Na Pali coast, or to the wettest spot on earth, Mt. Wai'ale'ale. Kauai was beautiful and wild, worthy of it's designation as the "Garden Isle".



OUR CLUB DIVE AND THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF MR. WHEEZY THE CYPRESS SEA--9/13/08 by Kenneth Gwin

Over the years, the ghosts of Jacques Cousteau, Mike Nelson, Peter Gimble, and all the rest, have constantly hummed the melody of their communal song in my ear as I made my regular drives down to the sea.

Diving is a triumph of backyard and garage technology; a primal dream, a simple idea, some spare parts machined for some other purpose, some tinkering, and the nerve to strap the whole contraption on and take the plunge.

I have tried to relive the dream and join in their song whenever the opportunity presented itself.

Mr. Wheezy started making reports after diving Cortez Banks and other Southern California locations, recapturing the thrilling days when men were men, and scuba was a tank, a valve, and two corrugated hoses.

And so, various equipment reports have been made to this end. We have revisited the Mistral, the Aqua Master, the Royal Aqua Master, the Voit 50 Fathom, and the new Aqua Lung. We have strapped on single 72s in various incarnations attached with a variety of straps and backpacks, and shouldered the crowning glory of 1950's art and technology: the triple 30s. We have sucked air through yellow hoses, grey hoses, and black hoses. We've taken out the Submariner, the U.S. Divers Pro Depth Gauge, and the Bend-o-Matic.

Almost all of these dives were made with a wetsuit and no BC.

Recently, Mr. Wheezy took his newly refurbished rig out for another dive into the past, reliving the dream that brought us all to this point in time. And times have changed since analogue was king.

But, it hasn't gotten any better.

On September 13, after two normally aspirated dives off the Cypress Sea, Mr. Wheezy once

again made a surface dive and slipped below the waves, free and unencumbered by the tinny rattle of exhaust bubbles pinging against his ears. The gasps, the sound and feel of real levers and valves, the various pained crepitations, and the purr of a duck-billed flapper valve gave steady reassurance that bubbles were faithfully flowing from the "alarm clock," proving once again that the dream is alive, that all is well, and Nemo is the Prophet.

Yes, the thing still breathes like a pig. It moans and honks under mechanical stress. There is a strange harmonic created in the breathing rhythm that lulls the brain into an altered state. But, yes, air still comes out and Mr. Wheezy still lives.

Off Outer Butterfly, this flight was made. Accompanied by Pierre and Joerg, Mr. Wheezy pirouetted through the kelp, spiraling downward to the rock strewn forest floor, free and alive among the fish; the arc of kelp fronds overhead, a reminder that heaven might be in the skies, but paradise can be found while here on earth, and what better place than floating just above the sands.

This dive was made with a modern drysuit and argon bottle for inflation and buoyancy control. Tank was a standard issue steel 72 with J-valve mounted on a single tank adapter and steel backplate. The regulator was a mint condition DW Mistral (Cousteau-Gagnan process, 1 stage regulator -- use compressed air only) bright yellow, two-hose regulator. Pressure gauges are for weenies.

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THE CYPRESS SEA--9/13/08
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Tim saw it.

Tasks accomplished included the successful team salvage of approximately 40 pounds of lead left recently by some person using yellow pouches. This required the deployment of a marker buoy with a spool and the youthful assistance of Mike and Corey.



Maximum depth: 83 feet
Water temperature: 55 degrees F.

Then, to make things worse, I loaned the rig to Pierre for a little spin around the kelp.



Hell, I'll try anything.



Gads!

But, diving isn't the only thing that makes the dive day great. To those that know, the Cypress Sea is also known as the Love Boat.



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I felt like an early pioneer, who after having made my way west and checking out the local real estate market decides to head back east.

There's something appealing about pulling into small local wineries where you can spend a couple of hours talking to the winemaker / owner between sips of their latest offerings. We stocked up on a few Zinfandels, some Syrah, a few Pinots and a surprising Chardonnay, not the usually butter saturated monsters, but subtle with the glorious color of sun drenched hay. Turns out

the owner of one of the wineries we visited, Findelton, is also a diver.

The great thing about wine and small wineries is the variety in styles and tastes. I don't mean the ongoing battles among oenophiles concerning who makes the "best" wines ala the Paris Wine Tasting of 1976. No, what appeals to me is how two vintners can take the same grapes, harvested at the same time and depending on their preferences and the angels sitting on their shoulders produce completely different results.

I'm reminded of Benjamin Franklin's comments on wine;

"We hear of the conversion of water into wine at the marriage in Cana as of a miracle. But this conversion is, through the goodness of God, made every day before our eyes. Behold the rain which descends from heaven upon our vineyards; there it enters the roots of the vines, to be changed into wine; a constant proof that God loves us, and loves to see us happy."

"Before Noah, men having only water to drink could not find the truth. Accordingly ... they became abominably wicked, and they were justly exterminated by the water they loved to drink. This good man, Noah, having seen that all his contemporaries had perished by this unpleasant drink, took a dislike to it; and God, to relieve his dryness, created the vine and revealed to him the art of making *le vin*. By the aid of this liquid he unveiled more and more truth."

To be fair, Ben apparently never meet an alcoholic libation which he didn't think was proof of God's love of mankind, he said

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much the same about beer.

Lake Tahoe, our dive-mobile loaded with wine, bread, cheese and Jambalaya fixins we finally pulled into our campsite at D.L. Bliss State Park mid afternoon on Friday. For those of you who have never been, this is a great campground, not one of your "primitive" sites, they have a solar shower and flushing toilets. The weather turned out to be exceptionally warm and sunny. Spent most of our two nights sleeping on top of my sleeping bag, way to warm to have to crawl inside.

Saturday we rolled out of our bedrolls and fueled by espresso, eggs over greasy, bacon and biscuits, made our way down to Lester Beach, getting there early enough for one of the close-in parking spots. Since we were shaking down our new dive-mobile, we brought our kayaks this year. It makes it a lot easier to get from Lester Beach to Rubicon Point and after our dive; we took a long leisurely paddle around Rubicon Point and beyond. No crawdads this year, but lots of food and drink all the same. Afterwards with the campfire roaring and the twins, Maya and Jasmine, flambéing countless marshmallows we told tall tales and watched the stars overhead. Besides Tim, Norm, Lupe and the twins, Loretta and Debra were on hand, two faces I haven't seen in awhile.

Marshmallows, one of those quintessentially American delicacies, familiar to all of us who have ever spent an evening around a campfire, ever wonder where they come from? Turns out that they date back to ancient Egypt where they began life as a honey-based candy flavored and thickened with the sap of the root

of the Marsh-Mallow plant (*althea officinalis*). Marsh-Mallow grows in salt marshes and on banks near large bodies of water. It is common in the eastern United States and until the mid 1800's, marshmallow candy was made using the sap of the Marsh-Mallow plant. Today's marshmallows are a mixture of corn syrup or sugar, gelatin, gum Arabic and flavoring.



Originally, the juice from the marsh mallow plant's roots was cooked together with egg whites and sugar, then whipped into a foamy meringue that when hardened, was used as a medicinal candy used to soothe children's sore throats. With advances in the manufacturing processes the need for root juice disappeared, unfortunately, that eliminated the confection's healing properties as a cough suppressant, immune system booster and wound healer.

So beside incinerating marshmallows and diving Lake Tahoe, we also managed to squeeze in our monthly dive aboard the Cypress Sea. We had Captain Mark at the helm and Mike and Corey as the able bodied crew. We also had some new members onboard, Nathan and Scott, ready to make the plunge into the murky waters of Monterey. Our first plunge was at *Que Passo*, the plan had been to drape the anchor over the pinnacle around 60 feet so that everyone could dive whatever

profile they preferred. Didn't quite work that way, but we had a great time wandering around at 120 feet exploring all of the nooks and crannies.

For dive two we motored northwards to Honeymoon. The surface conditions were as flat as the proverbial mirror. Ken had come on board with two vintage steel 72's complete with "J" valves; one was fitted with an "H" valve, the other was capped with a minty looking Cousteau-Gagnan twin hosed regulator, complete with brand new yellow corrugated hoses. There is something intriguing, almost elemental about this sort of gear. To me it's like manual typewriters, hand sewn leather hiking boots and ice axes with wooden shafts and hand forged heads. I don't advocate turning the clock back, the Ludites had it mostly wrong, but sometimes you can't really appreciate where you are without some sense of where we came from.

Our third dive was at Butterfly House. Gerda decided to stay topside so I dropped below with Joerg and Mr. Wheezy. No sooner did we get to the bottom than I found a weight belt, one of those pouch designs with close to 40 pounds of lead. Under the watchful eyes of Mr. Wheezy I threaded the loop from my reel through my surface marker buoy (SMB), gave it a squirt of air and launched it to the surface. We paddled around a bit more and headed for the surface. Once topside, Ken gave me a shot at trying out Mr. Wheezy's rig. Sliding off the rear swim step was like entering another world, a time when man took the first tentative steps into the liquid unknown. It's quit a difference from modern regulators, for one thing, you can feel and hear the

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mechanical bits behind your head, hear the spring loaded single stage diaphragm move back and forth as you breath. I felt like Mike Nelson or maybe more like Ned Ludd, I loved it, all that was missing was some evil miscreant whose hose I could cut, sending him to the surface in a torrent of bubbles. I'd like to try it again, but in a wetsuit, no BC, just a couple of cotton straps and maybe a hard plastic backpack, the way man was intended to dive.



There are a surprising number of people out there who are hooked on diving vintage gear. I'll admit that I understand the appeal. It's like reaching back for a piece of our near past and once again living that bit of history. My personal goal is to take a plunge in full dress, hard hat, rubber coated canvas, brass boots, the works, preferably in a Mark V helmet like those used by the US Navy starting in 1916 and with minor modifications until 1984.

A number of companies still make the Mark V, so if you hanker after some heavy metal, don't despair, but you better have your check book ready, because they don't come cheap, DESCO will sell you one for \$5,800 or if you prefer the Helium Helmet it's going to set you back \$10,500. Morse Diving, since 1837, bills itself as the oldest surviving dive gear manufacturer in the world. One of their MK V's will set you back \$10,000, with a 50% down payment upfront and a 180 day delivery period.

In the meantime, I'll settle for some splash time in local waters with modern recreational gear. Until then, I'll be swirling and sipping a delightfully precocious little claret that I found tucked behind some moldering bottles in my cellar and thinking about the *Phylloxera* infestations in Bordeaux during the late nineteenth century that led to the industry being rescued by grafting native vines to their more pest-resistant American cousins rootstock. What does it all really mean? Hope to see you in the water soon. To quote the late great Frank Sinatra "I feel sorry for people who don't drink. When they wake up in the morning, that's as good as they're going to feel all day."



A US Navy MKV helmet

Flotsam & Jetsam

SARDINES ARE MAKING A COMEBACK IN MONTEREY

It's good news for sardine fishermen in Monterey. There are three sardine seasons a year on the Pacific Coast, with a total allowance of 90,000 tons of sardines. Some of you may have noticed the activity on the

fisherman's wharf; so far Southern-Cal Seafood has brought in 14,000 tons on this year's second harvest.

So if you're in the mood for some fresh sardines, don't wait, try some fresh grilled sardines, or maybe a nice fresh sardine escabèche, all you have to do now is pick the right wine.



AROUND THE WORLD ON BIODIESEL

If you remember reading Jules Verne's, *Around the World in 80 Days (Le tour du monde en quatre-vingts jours)* you'll appreciate the news that *Earthrace*, a tri-hulled boat running on biodiesel, has beaten the world speed record for a powerboat to circumnavigate the globe by 14 days.

The boat traveled 24,000 nautical miles in 60 days, 23 hours and 49 minutes. I wonder what Phileas Fogg and his faithful man Paasepartout would think about this.



KOSHER CAVIAR?

You don't normally associate Israel with caviar, but with its large population of Russian - Israelis, Farmed caviar seemed to make sense. Now that over fishing and pollution have decimated the traditional caviar breeding areas in the Caspian, it's turned into a goldmine.

Caviar Galilee is expecting to harvest upwards of three tons of the coveted fish eggs from its 7,000 female sturgeons. Each fish can carry as many as four pounds of eggs and at \$2,800 per kilo wholesale, that adds up to a tidy sum.

Turns out that a sturgeon has to be about four years old before its sex can be determined, males are destined for the fish market, while the best females are artificially inseminated and kept as caviar producers.

Now here's the catch, most rabbis say that sturgeon and the caviar they produce are not kosher. The fish appears to the naked eye to have no scales, which would make it a forbidden food under Jewish dietary laws. There are those who argue, that the fish does have scales, they are just very small. Either way, keep your eyes open for "made in Israel" the next time you have the urge for some fish eggs.



No, these guys are not Israelis, but you get a sense of how big these fish can get.

SUSTAINABLE SUSHI GUIDE

Sushi has become so popular that it threatens certain species

with extinction. I love sushi, but you can't help but notice that it has become available almost everywhere and that is beginning to have a negative impact on certain fish stocks.

On October 22, three leading ocean conservation organizations, Blue Ocean Institute, Environmental Defense Fund and the Monterey Bay Aquarium will make available to the public color-coded consumer guides ranking popular sushi selections based on whether they are prepared using seafood that's caught or farmed in ways that harm the ocean or pose a health risk to people.

If you're a sushi fan, you'll be in for some surprises as well as disappointments. Popular items like bluefin tuna (maguro) and freshwater eel (unagi) are firmly on the "red" list, as is farmed salmon (sake). These species are either overfished, farmed with aquaculture methods that pollute the ocean, or caught using methods that destroy ocean habitats or kill large amounts of other sea life.

Items like wild-caught Alaska salmon (sake), farmed scallops (hotate) and Pacific halibut (hirame) are more sustainable choices, in part because they come from abundant, well-managed fisheries or in the case of scallops are raised using sustainable aquaculture methods.

For more information take a look at; www.blueocean.org ... www.edf.org ... www.montereybayaquarium.org

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF DIVE CLUBS NEWS

At the Central California Council of Diving Clubs, Inc. (CenCal) September's board meeting, Steve Campi announced that he would be resigning his position as President at the next CenCal Board meeting, currently scheduled for December 3, 2008.

PEACE DIVE CENTER TO SHUTTER ITS DOORS

The Peace Scuba Center will be closing its doors on November 30, 2008. According to an e-mail from Eric Bowman, the main reason for closing the shop was the time commitment required to run both business (the retail shop as well as the Peace Dive Boat).

Eric was quick to clarify that there would be no changes to the Peace Charter Boar business. If anyone is interested in a Nuvair 9.6 cfm air / membrane NITROX compressor system contact Eric directly at www.peaceboat.com

NEW SUBMARINE RESCUE SYSTEM JOINS THE FLEET



The Submarine Rescue Diving and Recompression System (SRDRS) Rescue Capable System (RCS) has become the US Navy's official submarine rescue asset, replacing the older Deep Submersible Rescue Vehicle (DSRV).

During the recent multinational submarine rescue exercise Bold Monarch, conducted in Norway in May of this year; the SRDRS system practiced the rescue of personnel from three NATO submarines. More recently a successful practice run was conducted with a Chilean submarine.

The program is a three phased operation. The first phase was the Atmospheric Dive System 2000, a one-atmosphere dive suite capable of inspecting disabled submarines and clearing debris from escape hatches.

The second phase is the RCS (Rescue Capable System) which is a tethered, remotely-operated Pressurized Rescue Vessel called the Falcon.

The third phase is the Submarine Decompression System (SDS) scheduled for deployment in 2012. The SDS will allow rescued submariners to remain under pressure during their transfer to a rescue vehicle.

CALL FOR FEDERAL PROTECTION FOR THE ATLANTIC WOLF-FISH

The Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) has filed a petition with the federal government seeking endangered species protection for the Atlantic Wolf-fish.



The wolf-fish (*Anarhichas lupus*) has, according to the CLF's petition has been in steady decline for the past 20 years. According to federal statistics, the number of wolfish taken by fisherman has declined by 95%, from 1,200 metric tons in 1983 to 64.7 metric tons in 2007. The decline is blamed on the destruction of the New England seafloor by large scale commercial trawling during the mid 80's.

The wolf-fish is found in waters between 250 and 400 feet deep and is equipped with natural antifreeze to cope with the chilly waters. The fish can live as long as 20 years and weigh in at 40 pounds.

NAVY CONFIRMS LOST WWII SUB HAS BEEN FOUND



Sometime back we had a news piece about the search for a missing WWII submarine. The *USS Grunion* disappeared off the Aleutians and was reported lost on August 16, 1942.

The sons of the commanding officer, Lt. Cmdr. Mannert L. Abele, had financed an expedition to locate the wreck. Using the underwater video footage and pictures captured by that expedition the Navy was able to confirm the discovery, Rear Adm. Douglas McAneny said in a news release.

The *Grunion* was last heard from July 30, 1942. The submarine had reported heavy anti-submarine activity at the entrance to Kiska, and that it had 10 torpedoes left with which to engage the Japanese ships. The *Grunion* was directed to return to Dutch Harbor Naval Operating Base. It never made it home.

Abele's son's, Bruce, Brad, and John, began working on a plan to find the sub after finding information on the Internet in 2002 that helped pinpoint *USS Grunion's* possible location.

In August 2006, a team of side scan sonar experts hired by the brothers located a target near Kiska almost a mile below the ocean's surface. A second expedition in August 2007 using a high definition camera on a remotely operated vehicle yielded video footage and high resolution photos of the wreckage.



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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/>.

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