

THE **REEF** SEEKER



REEF SEEKERS DIVE CO.
P.O. Box 634
Beverly Hills, CA 90213
(310) 652-4990
www.reefseekers.com
e-mail: kenkurtis@aol.com

April 1, 2019



TRUMP DECLARES OPEN SEASON ON BLACK SEA BASS

Donald Trump has signed an Executive Order declaring open season on Black Sea Bass.

“I saw a guy named Dr. Bill the other day on Fox News,” tweeted Trump, “and he was explaining how they’re seeing lots of Black Sea Bass now in the Underwater Park, in Avalon, California. Unfortunately, Dr. Bill claimed this was evidence of how conservation measures work. SAD!!! I have the BEST environmental record of any President ever and I know how wrong that is. What this actually shows is that they don’t need protection since if you’re seeing them in one place, obviously they must be all over the place. It’s not complicated. So this is one more need-

less government regulation and over-reach that I’m proud to abolish, effective IMMEDIATELY!!!”

Needless to say, conservation groups are up in arms and have vowed to take this to court to try to get an immediate stay of the order. “I don’t see how this can hold up legally,” said Dr. Yu Ben Haad of the HL&S Research Group. “This is a state matter, not federal. This protection has been in place since 1982 and has worked quite well for the recovery of the species.” Dr. Haad pointed out that, contrary to Trump’s claims, Black Sea Bass (also known as Giant Sea Bass) are NOT being spotted “everywhere” but only in certain places.

After hearing of Dr. Haad’s response, Trump put out a second tweet that said, “Fake science!!! Mumbo-jumbo!!!” He also added that they would now be selling on his website special hats about this that read “Make America Fish Again” for \$15.95.

These misguided policies are sometimes swayed by public pressure so if you’d like to call the White House, you can register your disapproval. If you want to try to get through directly, the switchboard number is 202/456-1414. If you just want to leave a comment, that number is 202/456-1111. Make your voice heard!!!



ATOMIC TO MAKE FIRST COMPUTER TO MEASURE ACTUAL BLOOD GAS

You knew this day was coming. Atomic Aquatics, innovators in the dive industry (where innovation is few and far between), has announced they’ve developed the first dive computer that actually measures the amount of dissolved nitrogen in your tissues to give more accurate estimates of remaining bottom time on dives. Amazingly, this computer will retail for \$999. Of course, there are some minor caveats.

The first is that you’ll need to be outfitted with blood-gas-measuring sensors. These will need to be surgically implanted in your body. But the good news is that you can choose from a 3-compartment, 5-compartment, or 9-compartment algorithm, and that determines the number of sensors that will need to be implanted in you and that, in turn, affects the cost of the surgery. Right now that cost is estimated to be anywhere from \$25,000 (3-compartment) to

\$100,000 (9-compartment model). But Atomic says they're in negotiations with DAN to cover this under the DAN diving insurance policy, with just a small \$10,000 deductible.

Once your sensors are implanted, prior to each dive, you'll simply plug in the cables from the dive computer to the various sensor ports inside your body. These ports will terminate at skin level (similar to the charging ports on the back of Sola dive lights) so it's really just like hooking up a strobe to a camera. Also, like with a camera, you'll need to make sure the sensor connectors are thoroughly washed with fresh water after each dive day so they don't corrode over time.

The obvious question is: Why isn't this all being done by Bluetooth, which would eliminate the need for physically connecting cables to the sensors. Atomic says they looked into that, but thought that that would make the price of the computer too high so they abandoned the thought.

But the good news is that, once your sensors are in place, you won't need to see a medical doctor again because Atomic-trained repair techs (which include our very own highly-skilled Robert Stark - who says he always wanted to be a doctor) will be allowed to service the sensors and make sure they're working right, and this includes performing a second surgery to replace any malfunctioning sensors. Rest assured this will be perfectly safe as the repair techs will be required to complete an exhaustive and comprehensive one-hour on-line training program, that will cover such things as making incisions, stopping bleeding, criti-

cal organ location, and what to do if they accidentally nick an artery. Piece of cake.

One issue not yet solved is for those that dive in dry suits because the sensor cables will have to go through the dry suit to attach to your skin. But Atomic feels that small o-ring sealed holes in drysuits should be able to handle this without too much flooding of the drysuit.

The new Atomic computer should be available in retail dive stores shortly and is simply called the "Bend-Me-Not."



**NEW
CATALINA EXPRESS
REQUIREMENT
FOR DIVERS**

Catalina Express today announced new requirements for any divers traveling over to Avalon: For the duration of the ride over, they have

to be wearing their mask & snorkel in their seats.

An official for the Express explained the logic: "We need to make sure we know who the divers are. In the unlikely event that the boat starts to sink, they can be the first ones in the water and then can help evacuate other passengers from the sinking vessel." The official went on to point out that the original plan was to require divers to journey across in their wetsuits as well, but that their insurance doesn't cover them for inducing heat exhaustion.

Dive shops have reacted incredulously. There's a new shop in Hysteria, CA, that put out the following statement: "They can't do this this to us!!! This is nuts!!! Mask and snorkel solves nothing!!! Full gear should be required!!!"

Others shops have taken a more nuanced view. Most feel this will fall by the wayside as it simply seems like a bad joke. But the real test will be next Saturday, when many shops are taking their students over for a day of training in the Underwater Park, and we'll have to see how many of them are wearing mask & snorkel for the journey over.

2019 DIVING VACATIONS

Mid-May • Bonaire

July 6-22 • Indonesia

August 10-17 • Isla Mujeres

October 12-25 • Maldives

HUISH BUYS THE GREAT SALT LAKE

Huish Outdoors has become a major player in the scuba diving industry by purchasing key manufacturers: Atomic, Stahlsac, and Oceanic, just to name a few. And now Huish has taken their strategy of acquisition a step further: They've purchased their very own body of water, the Great Salt Lake.

Since they're located in Salt Lake City, this makes perfect sense because they're literally only a few miles from the southern shores of the Great Salt Lake, which is the largest salt water lake in the Western hemisphere. Details of the purchase were not announced, but the selling price was thought to be in excess of \$1,000.

Although the lake is huge (75 miles long and 28 miles wide at average level), it's not very deep. The average depth at average lake level is 16 feet and the deepest part is about 33 feet. In drought years these numbers will be lower and in flood years a little higher. But Huish likes this because they point out that it allows them to test gear underwater almost certainly without concerns of the bends, given the shallowness of the Lake.

Huish says having exclusive access to this body of water (they've been erecting a fence around the perimeter) will now allow them to more fully and completely test out the various gear that they make. And they promise they will start rigorous testing of the aforementioned Bend-Me-Not computer, just as soon as they can convince someone to get those sensors surgically implanted.

UPCOMING LOCAL DIVES & CLASSES

DAY	DATE	BOAT/SITE	PLANNED DESTINATION	PRICE
Thu.	Apr. 4	Redondo	••• Squid Dive (night) •••	FREE!!!
Sat.	13	Redondo	Navigation dive (single tank)	\$25
Wed.	17	- CLASS -	- FISH ID -	\$25
Sat.	27	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Wed.	May 1	Many boats	Chamber Day/Eve benefit	\$120
Sa/Su	4-5	LB Convntion Ctr	- Scuba Show 2019 -	\$10
Wed.	11	- CLASS -	- Tables & Computers -	FREE!!!



2-FOR-1 TREATMENT OFFER FROM THE CHAMBER

The Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber has embarked on a new marketing campaign under the overall slogan of "Bend-A-Buddy" and is offering 2-for-1 treatment for any bent divers who come in for treatment with a friend. "We want the Chamber to be accessible to everyone," says Chamber Director Karl Huggins, "and we thought this was a good way to reach out to the diving community."

Huggins also feels that April 1 is the perfect time to launch this campaign as it's right in the middle of the annual appeal for Chamber Day. "On March 1 we opened our website for Chamber Day donations," said Huggins, "and the event is May 1. So this is the half-way point and a perfect time to make this offer available to divers."

Huggins points out, though, that divers coming to the Chamber will need to make sure that they have a

2-for-1 treatment coupon in-hand. Without that, regular rates (some of which are covered by insurance) would apply. The coupon can be found within the Chamber Day 2019 website at www.chamberday.org. When you get to the website, you'll need to register that you want the coupon so hit the "SIGN UP NOW" button that's usually upper-left. Then scroll through the page to find what you're looking for.

Just remember that "Bend-A-Buddy" is a great way for our Chamber to double their effectiveness within the community and they're counting on you to be a willing participant.

STARBUCKS TO OPEN ON ANACAPA

The National Park Service announced they will open a Starbucks on Anacapa, right at the top of the stairs at Landing Cove. "We feel this will be a great service to our visitors," an NPS spokesman said. The coffee chain also announced that they'll be changing their nomenclature when ordering at the Anacapa Starbucks to honor resident sea lions. Large drinks will now be known as "Bulls", small drinks will be referred to as "Pups", and if you want milk or cream, the appropriate phrase will be "I'd like that weaned, please."



NEED A TEMP HOME FOR QUEENSLAND GROUPE

The Aquarium of the Pacific is in a bit of a pickle in that there's going to be some work done on the large Tropical Reef Exhibit which requires it to be partially drained, and the water will be too shallow

for the resident Queensland Grouper. So they need to find a temp home for the fish, which is about four feet long and weighs in at an estimated 300-ish pounds.

What they're looking for is someone with a large salt-water swimming pool who can offer to house the fish for about two weeks. Olympic-sized would be ideal. You'll also need to feed the grouper twice a day. He usually gets a couple of sardines or smelt but if you don't have those lying around, you could just make him some sort of a nice sandwich.

If you're interested and have the available pool (you'll need to know the pH level too), please contact V.P. of Husbandry Sandy Trautwein at the Aquarium to make all of the arrangements.

OOOPS!!! I DID IT AGAIN . . .

For those of you who may be new to Reef Seekers, or for those of you who may not have noticed the specific date on this newsletter is listed as April 1, and for those who may have forgotten how in the past the "facts" printed in the April newsletter should be considered carefully and vetted fully, let us just say this: April Fool!!! At Reef Seekers, we believe in having a good time. We try not to take ourselves too seriously. And we've sort of established a tradition that every year when April 1 rolls around, we might just stretch the truth a wee little bit when we put out the newsletter. So we hope you enjoyed reading it as much as we like writing it. And pass it on!!!

PICTURE PAGE - Strange creatures in Yap

(All pix by Ken Kurtis © 2019)



Lazy catfish



P.O. Box 634
Beverly Hills, CA 90213

WWW.REEFSEEKERS.COM



United's Yap-Palau plane



DMs acquiring courage to face tourist divers



Underwater bankers with a recent deposit



Attention span during a Ken Kurtis briefing