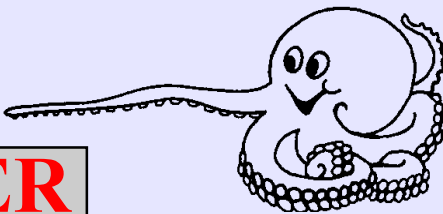


THE REEF SEEKER



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April 1, 2020



GOVERNOR NEWSOM CANCELS GRUNION RUN

California Governor Gavin Newsom announced on Wednesday that he is canceling upcoming grunion runs which are scheduled for April 7-10, April 22-25, and May 7-10. Decisions about runs later on will be made down the road.

Newsom emphasized that this is because of the Coronavirus pandemic, but has nothing to do with people. He's acting because of the behavior of the fish.

"We've made it quite clear that California beaches are closed, yet these fish refuse to abide by that order and instead are showing up in the tens of thousands. This is simply unacceptable. The law is quite clear that when we close a beach, it includes the waters going out one thousand feet from the closed beach," the Governor said.

"In addition," he continued, "Grun-

ion refuse to practice social distancing. It's bad enough that they insist on coming up on our beaches, but do they stay six feet apart like everyone should and as we asked??? No!!! They insist on curling up around one another in defiance of practices that we know work in fighting this Coronavirus. Again, this is unacceptable."

When an out-of-state reporter asked why the Grunion come up on to the beaches, Newsom simply replied with, "They're having sex!!! And unprotected sex at that!!!"

Newsom said he'd already received complaints from Abstinence for Fish and the Christian Coalition about sex on the beach and tried to explain to them that it is an alcoholic cocktail containing vodka, peach schnapps, orange juice and cranberry juice, but to no avail.

Newsom explained that enforcing his order on the fish is difficult because with humans, they issue a \$1,000 fine. But fish don't have money so they had to come up with something else.

"We decided that the penalty," he explained, "would be that if they came up on to the beach, people could grab them by hand and eat them. We hope that's enough of a deterrent. But they're slippery little devils, so we'll have to see how

that works out."

If you'd like to weigh in on this issue, you can contact the Governor's office in Sacramento at 916/445-2841.



KELP MAKES GREAT TOILET PAPER

Who needs Charmin??? Don't let the Great Toilet Paper Shortage of 2020 get you down. It turns out that kelp makes for a GREAT toilet paper substitute and it further turns out that you can even make it yourself quite easily.

All you need to do is go down to almost any beach (or at least ones that are still open) and look for where kelp has washed up on the shore. Or, if you're out diving, you could simply grab some stalks on your own. (If you're doing this, leave the holdfast in place.)

Obviously, only an idiot would try to use oozing, soggy, wet, stinky kelp right away (unless you REALLY had to go) so what you do when you get your kelp home is dry it out. There are two ways to

do this. One is to pre-heat your oven to 450° and then toss the kelp in there for about 30 minutes until it's nice and crisp.

You can also do this in your microwave. Stick the kelp in and start by using a REHEAT setting or something like that. After about 10 minutes, kick the microwave to HIGH for another 3-4 minutes and you should be good to go. In both cases though, you want to make sure the kelp doesn't dry out too much or it will become brittle and will break easily, let alone using it might be a little... uncomfortable.

It's also a good idea if you can keep the stipe intact. That's the stalk of the kelp where the leaves all attach. The reason is that instead of using an individual leaf, you can use the stipe to help drag the leaves back and forth to clean yourself. It's sort of like flossing your butt.

It's not available in stores but quite abundant in the ocean, so don't worry about running out of TP ever again. Just go out and get yourself some kelp and leave your bathroom worries behind you.

BEND A FRIEND

As we're sure you understand, these have been lean times for our Chamber lately. Even though they make absolutely no money off of any Chamber treatments (any insurance payments actually go to County USC, under whom the Chamber's doctors operate), they're simply lonely out there and looking for something to do.

Enter a new special offer and one

that is unique to our Chamber: Bend a Friend.

That's right. For a limited time – and we're actually not sure of the ending date – if you AND your buddy manage to get bent on the same dive, only one of you will get charged. That's right, it's a 50% off sale. But you will both receive a full Table 6 treatment (assuming that's what's called for), all for the price of one.

This is the perfect solution for people who insist on diving without DAN or other dive insurance. Just make sure you're diving with an insured diver and, when you both arrive at the Chamber, and assuming you're actually conscious and not in cardiac arrest, let the Chamber operators know you want to be part of the "Bend a Friend" special and make sure they understand that your buddy is the one who needs to be billed.

The only caveat to all of this is that since it's a 2-for-1 special, you'll have to double-up on a couple of other items during your treatment, which include the rolling gurney to get you up to the Chamber hanger, and you'll have to share a cot inside the Chamber itself during treatment (but they're fairly

roomy). There may need to be some sharing of oxygen during the treatment but that aspect is still being worked out.

But make sure you take advantage of this special. To do so, the Chamber asks that you pre-register by sending an e-mail to chamberday@aol.com. You might possibly get accommodated if you don't pre-register but part of the idea of pre-registration is to get an idea ahead of time who all of the careless divers out there might be. And, for all of those who pre-register and are subsequently treated, you and your buddy will each get specially-designed souvenir t-shirts. One of them will say, "I Got Bent and All I Got Was This Lousy T-Shirt" and the other one will say "I Got Bent With Stupid."

And while you're at it, you can also give some thought to making sure the Chamber stays well-funded by making a donation to www.chamberday.org. Unlike the rest of this story, that's legit.



2020 DIVING VACATIONS

**LIKE WE CAN FLY
ANYWHERE
IN THE
NEAR FUTURE???**

LAX TO START TAKING PASSENGER TEMPERATURES

One of the criticisms about the government response to the Coronavirus outbreak is that, despite assurances to the contrary, no one is getting health screenings when they fly back into this country. That is changing.

The TSA has announced that effective immediately, ALL passengers, both those leaving from LAX and those arriving, both domestic and international, will have their temperatures taken before being allowed into the terminal area and to board a plane (or to go through Immigration/Customs when returning). This has proven very effective in other countries where they've been doing thermal scans, as one of the early symptoms of COVID-19 has been a fever or elevated body temperature.

There is one small problem though. Although they received the 10,000 thermometers they requested, LAX was mistakenly sent rectal ones.

"It's unfortunate," says TSA Lt. Cmdr. Ben Dover, "but we have a mission and we intend to fulfill it. No ifs, ands, or butts about it."

The TSA is erecting short half-walls, about three feet high, so passengers can easily drop their pants and be checked. And while the thermometer has to be left in for three minutes (just like when we were kids), L.C. Dover assures the public that a uninformed, gloved TSA office will keep a clamp on their buttocks at all times.

"Your health is our primary concern," said Dover, "as well as mak-

UPCOMING LOCAL DIVES & CLASSES

DAY	DATE	BOAT/SITE	PLANNED DESTINATION	PRICE
Wed.	Apr. 1	- CLASS -	- FISH ID -	\$25
Thu.	9	Redondo (Vets)	••• Night Dive •••	\$25
Sat.	18	Catalina Express	Avalon U/W Park (3 dives)	\$150
Sat.	25	Redondo (Vets)	Navigation dive (single tank)	\$25
Wed.	29	- CLASS -	- TABLES & COMPUTERS -	FREE!!!
Wed.	May 6	Many boats/AOP	Chamber Day/Eve 2020	\$120
Sa/Su	30/31	Scuba Show	LB Convention Center	\$15
Wed.	June 3	- CLASS -	- PHOTO WORKSHOP -	\$25

ing sure you're not bringing in contraband which is also our primary concern. And we want to make sure it's a good experience which is our third primary concern. Not to mention hoping you leave something useful behind – no pun intended – for us to take home, which is also our primary concern."

The program has been dubbed "Your Butt's in Our Hands" and if you have any comments one way or the other, they can be directed to Lt. Cmdr. Dover at 866/289-9673.



GIANT SEA BASS RELEASED – DEMAND TO COME BACK

You may have read a few weeks ago that there was a release of roughly 200 juvy Giant Sea Bass. They were part of a large breeding aggregation that was overseen jointly by Cal State Northridge, the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, and the Aquarium of the Pacific. The

200 youngsters were let loose in what was presumed to be a safe area, and then left to fend for themselves.

But a weird thing has happened in the ensuing days since their release: They all swam back to where they started and are demanding to be let back into captivity.

In some ways, this should not be unexpected. Gen Z and the new Gen Alpha kids are notorious for not wanting to be out on their own and moving back in with their parents, many times refusing to contribute to their own well-being. That seems to be a similar case here. When you think about it, why forage for food on your own when you can jump back into an exhibit where the water temp is controlled, there are filters keeping it clean, you're fed every day, and there aren't any predators? Sounds like a no-brainer.

Officials are still deciding whether or not to allow the fish back in. Director Ima Fishman summed it up this way: "There are pros and cons to this. The pros are in favor the cons are against and it's hard to compete with that type of logic."

In the meantime, the fish have set up a little picket line complete with signs, as you can see. But the situation has the potential to get so out of hand as to be unbelievable. We'll keep you posted.



BEUTNER ORDERS SCHOOLS OF FISH TO CLOSE

Perhaps a little unclear on the concept, LAUSD Superintendant Austin Beutner has ordered schools of

fish to close and disband for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“When I said, all schools would close,” said Beutner at a hastily-called post-midnight press conference, “I meant ALL schools.” When asked what exactly he expected the fish to do Beutner said they should be home-schooled, just like everyone else. When it was pointed out to him that the ocean IS their home and they were there already, Beutner said, “That’s an unfortunate circumstance. But they have to observe the social distancing guidelines just like everyone else.”

When a reporter for Fisherman Daily at the press conference pointed out that this would make the fish more vulnerable to preda-

tion and, in fact, that’s why they school, Beutner added, “That may just be the price we have to pay to get this thing under control. Some fish are going to die but they’re usually older fish and as long as it helps us get the economy going again and get us back on track, that’s a small sacrifice to ask them to make.”

The No-Schools-of-Fish order goes into effect today.

HMMM . . .

Notice anything unusual, almost unbelievable about this newsletter? You might want to check the specific date on page 1 for a hint as to what’s what.

PICTURE PAGE - These are real . . .

