

RRT REEF BRIEF

Volume 99, Issue 4

April 14, 1999

Important Dates

- 4/10** Annual dive season kick-off party @ Nica's home.
- 4/14 7:00 PM** Scubans regular meeting @ Worman's on San Jose
- 4/21 6:30 PM** JAXRRT Officers/Board Meet @ Reid Hall on JU campus
- 4/21 7:30 PM** JAXRRT Regular meeting @ Reid Hall on JU campus

From Your Coordinator

April is upon us and the water temperature has risen to a balmy 70 degrees! By the time we have our meeting this month, our first public "awareness" booth at Earth Day will be history. I can't thank Phil Stoffel and Jim Barnes enough for their efforts in putting together a great looking display board. It really shows the team in a more professional, favorable light

Every team member should take a look at the dive schedule on page three or at our web site. Our first monitoring dive is scheduled for May 8th. Weather permitting, and if the *Native Diver II* is completed (Steve has been doing a lot of repairs during the winter), this will be our first day towards fulfillment of our grant obligations. We need all of the team to sign up for these dives as soon as possible!

A special "Thank You" is extended to Daniel Hughes. Two separate weeknights he hosted a fish ID class at his home. The students did really well and now we have some more qualified fish counters! It is always a good idea for us to attend these "classed" to brush up on our own skills. Thanks, Daniel!

Last, but not least, if any of you would like to participate in renting a beautiful house on the ocean in Marathon (at the end of 75th Street canal) for the entire month of July, let me know. This is a place we have rented every summer for the last five or six years. But now, the owner doesn't want to break the new law and rent by the week anymore. It is really a great house, great location, and you can rent a boat right on the same canal and have it parked at the dock! My idea is to have four couples at \$750.00 per couple. Each has master bedroom for one week! Call me!

Jim Cribb

Public Relations

Well, April is upon us, and Rodale's SCUBA DIVING has been on the news stand with the JACKSONVILLE REEF RESEARCH TEAM's own Daniel Hughes photos in the article on scuba diving in Northeast Florida. Way to go, Daniel!

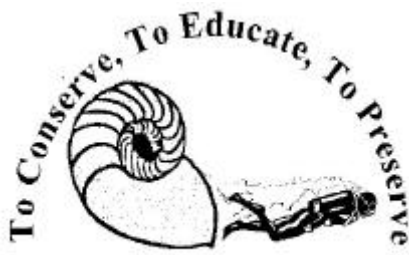
Phyl Stoffel has graciously volunteered to 'run' the booth at Earth Day at the Jacksonville Landing on April 18, 1999. The new booth should be ready and with all new pictures should represent the Reef Research Team in a most favorable manner. Of course the most effective representatives for the Reef Research Team are YOU, the trained and motivated members.

It looks like we will be represented at the Kingfish Tournament and at the Jacksonville Jazz Festival. Alex Waters is our point of contact for the Kingfish Tournament and Rob Rush for the Jazz Festival. They will certainly need the support of all the Team members to bring these events off as successful for the team. So, volunteers call Alex at 262-5001 and Rob at 262-7653 to assist in these events.

The past months' meetings have welcomed back some long lost members ['i.e.' busy with work and family instead of RRT type stuff] ... Wendy and Dennis Short and Michael and Bonnie Barnes. Its nice to see some of the 'older' members becoming active again...but seriously folks the Short's and Barneses' have always worked actively for RRT, and more recently worked behind the scenes to assist the RRT.

See ya at the meetings.

Jim Barnes



Jacksonville Reef Research Team

From your Vice President

Greetings to All:

Just received an email from one of the FMSEA board members regarding krill fishing in the Southern Ocean. Thought some may be interested:

"An outfit in the States called Cargil (a huge agri business firm) is to start major krill fishing. Krill fishing is likely to increase, even as Australian researchers find that krill may be susceptible to severe declines from exposure to ultraviolet irradiation and increased fishing. The internationally negotiated catch limits have been around 1.5 million tons, while the actual catches have been only around 80,000 tons. This catch has been taken mainly by the Japanese. This catch rate could change, as Cargil has indicated they were gearing up for a large fishing effort on krill. They want to use krill as an additive in feed for fish farms. Cargil is a large integrated U.S. agribusiness company, with interests in feed businesses, and in the catfish industry. It also appears that British, East European and Canadian companies are preparing to increase their fishing on krill. Chile is also likely to increase its efforts as well.

The Australian scientists are concerned that a depletion of the krill stocks could have a drastic impact on the food chain in the Southern Ocean, impacting seals, penguins, whales and sea birds." (Richard Radford, Sierra Club).

Additionally: "In 1900, humans were extracting around 500 million kilograms of biomass from the world's oceans. In 1999, we will be taking out 100 billion kilograms! We are now competing on the phytoplankton trophic level. There has been a 70% reduction in sea bird populations worldwide, and that pinnipeds are crashing in various regions around the world" (University of Victoria).

This represents but one article pertaining to food chains world-wide that are showing (or will begin to show) signs of stress or unbalance. I don't know if this is something symptomatic to our region (ie: concern about the depletion of menhaden populations off the east coast), but it may be something we keep in the backs of our minds while we put our data together, so maybe we can come up with some kind of indicator as to the health of our fisheries and environment here off Jax.

Later, Lex

The following two articles are reprints from *The Year of the Ocean* web pages:

Oceanography:

You may think you are surrounded by fresh water in rivers, lakes and streams. However, what you are seeing is only one percent of the total supply of water on Earth. The ocean covers approximately 70 percent of the Earth's surface and contains 97 percent of the Earth's water. Less than one percent of the water on Earth is freshwater; icecaps and glaciers account for the other 2-3 percent. Oceanography then, is the study of 97 percent of the Earth's water and what is in it, under it, around it and above it.

Today's oceanographers investigate the nature and behavior of the ocean from every point of view. In addition to analyzing marine life and mapping the bot-

tom of the ocean, they also collect data on the composition and roughness of the ocean floor, as well as seawater temperature, salinity, pressure and biological characteristics.

Researchers measure currents, waves, and ocean fronts, local variations in the Earth's magnetic and gravitational fields, and even acoustical background noise. While these measurements have traditionally been made from airplanes, buoys and ships at sea, scientists are now using space satellites for a wide variety of observations on weather patterns, sea surface temperature and surface winds, wave height and direction, ocean color and ice cover.

Technology:

The ocean has become our last frontier and we are only now beginning to probe its depths to discover what resources -- beyond fish -- it may yield.

To protect these resources, the U.S. and other nations have declared Exclusive Economic Zones, defined as the seabed and subsoil up to 200 miles off the coast. The U.S. EEZ is one of the largest in the world, measuring more than 2.3 million square nautical miles and including 15 to 20 percent of the world's fisheries.

A number of marine minerals are now recognized to be commercially valuable. Sand and gravel account for about 40 percent of the total value of offshore mineral production; calcium carbonate, tin, and sulfur are also important. Metal sulphide deposits recently discovered at undersea hydrothermal vents may be another source of strategically important minerals in the future. But even today, little is known about the extent and grade of the minerals in coastal regions or about the potential environmental impacts of recovery.

We thought you would want to know!

Editor

1999 DIVE SCHEDULE

Day	Month	Dive Date	Rain Date	M	J	Location
Saturday	April	04/03	04/10		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	April	04/17	04/24		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	May	05/08	TBA	*		BB
Sunday	May	05/16	05/23		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	June	06/06	TBA	*		CR Culverts
Saturday	June	06/19	06/26		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	July	07/03	Open		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	July	07/04	TBA	*		JW
Saturday	July	07/10	07/24		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	July	07/18	TBA	*		EEF Culverts
Sunday	August	08/08	08/15		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	August	08/14	TBA	*		HH Barge
Sunday	August	08/15	08/22		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	August	08/28	TBA	*		TR Anna
Saturday	September	09/04	TBA	*		JW
Sunday	September	09/12	09/19		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	October	10/02	10/09		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	October	10/10	10/17		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	October	10/31	TBA		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	November	11/14	TBA		*	Jaxspots

Notes: M = Monitoring Dives J = Jaxspots Confirmation and Discovery Dives

Meet at Mayport Marine promptly at 7:30 for all dives, unless specified otherwise

Contact Alex Waters at 262-5001 or John Perkner at 273-4562 with questions on the schedule.

Training

The 1998-1999 Training Class is soon to be completed. I would like to take this time to thank all those that assisted in making this year's class a success. Due to the continued collaboration of expertise, I feel that we are ensuring that Northeast Florida will continue to be a leader in reef data collection. It is this that ensures quality in data collection to be of an utmost concern. With the accessibility of the web-site, the data can now be utilized at its greatest potential by non-team members.

We completed the Fish ID training with Daniel Hughes the last part of March. I am pleased to say that all passed and are Fish ID qualified.

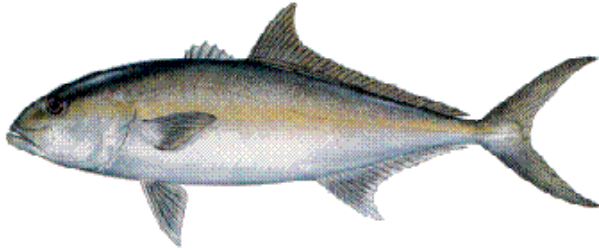
This years' class will be conducting their Expedition in Northeast Florida (when the water temperature gets a little warmer). We will be in need of team members to assist with this final step. I will have more details following the April team meeting. Stay tuned for more details.

Thank you **ALL** for the help with the training class!

Brian Salzman

1999 Officers/Board of Directors

President - Jim Cribb	904-264-1840 (H)	904-264-0520 (W)
Vice President - Alex Waters	904-262-5001 (H)	904-260-3911 (W)
Secretary - Mary Lyons	904-724-0324 (H)	904-708-8456 (M)
Treasurer - Jim Nelsen	904-641-0717 (H)	904-448-0305 (W)
Board/Webmaster - Ray Smith	904-389-9668 (H)	904-854-5990 (W)
Board/Chief Scientist - John Perkner	904-273-4562 (H)	904-791-5064 (W)
Board/Training Officer - Brian Salzman	904-646-3241 (H)	904-641-6611 (W)
Board/Safety Officer - Dennis Short	904-268-0414 (H)	904-332-1849 (W)
Public Relations - Jim Barnes	904-757-1928 (H)	904-778-6089 (W)



Greater Amberjack

Family Carangidae, JACKS and POMPANOS
Seriola dumerili

Description: dark stripe (variably present) extends from nose to in front of dorsal fin and "lights up" when fish is in feeding mode; no scutes; soft dorsal base less than twice the length of the anal fin base.

Similar Fish: other *Seriola*.

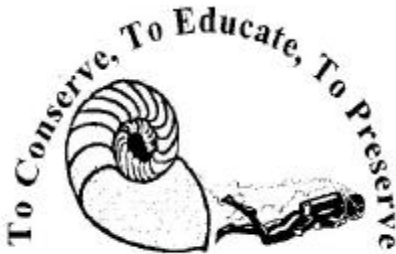
Where found: OFFSHORE species associated with rocky reefs, debris, and wrecks, typically in 60 - 240 feet of water; sometimes caught NEARSHORE in south Florida; juveniles associated with floating objects and may occur in water less than 30 feet deep.

Size: common to 40 pounds.

***Florida Record:** 142 lbs.

In This Issue...

It's almost time to go diving! Don't miss this meeting!



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