

RRT REEF BRIEF

Volume 99, Issue 2

February 9, 1999

Important Dates

- 2/9 1999 Training Class - Fish Counting
- 2/10 7:00 PM Scubanuts regular meeting @ Worman's on San Jose.
- 2/13-14 Training Class Fish ID @ Crystal River
- 2/17 6:30 PM RRT Board meeting @ JU's Reid Hall
- 2/17 7:30 PM RRT regular meeting @ JU's Reid Hall
- 3/10 7:00 PM Scubanuts regular meeting @ Worman's on San Jose

From Your Coordinator

The January/February issue of Divers Alert Network's *Alert Diver* had an excellent article by Dr. Peter Bennett. The article refers to a December, 1997 article published in the South Pacific Underwater Medical Society called "Drowning Syndromes with Scuba" and points out that if an accident occurs when scuba diving, drowning is the likely result. The authors point out that there is often a strong demographic similarity between U. S. and Australian recreational diving deaths and accidents.

The authors "... reviewed 100 Australian scuba diving deaths due to drowning. Of these deaths, 89 percent were male and 11 percent were female. Surprisingly, 38 percent of the Australian data indicated no training certification. However, about half were experiencing new situations—which seems to correlate with the fact that over one-third of the victims appeared to show signs of panic. Panic reported was as high as 50 percent in incident reports by survivors." The author continues by saying that "the inference is obvious; new divers in new environments are more vulnerable to accidents that might result in panic and drowning."

The pertinence of this article to our Reef Research Team is that recently, as has happened many times in the past, inquiries come up as to the possibility of having "guest" divers dive with the team. No diver knows better than Team members the challenges, such as thermoclines, low visibility and even unexpected currents, that offshore JAX diving can bring to the party. Offshore JAX is different than diving in 85 degree, crystal clear water, 25 feet in depth in Pennekamp Park! However, there is a procedure that has been in place for many years to assess the qualifications and needs of visiting divers participating on team dives. Let Don Stadler know if such a need

arises.

As for you, the members of the Reef Research Team, you represent a group of the most experienced, most highly trained divers in the country. But as we approach the spring diving season, let us not forget the basics that we have learned and practiced for years. Always dive in visual or tactile contact with your buddy, monitor your air supply, etc., etc.

Because of our training and experience levels, we have had many years of accident free diving. Let us do our very best to have another one of the same this diving season. As Beth Strawbridge has said many times: don't ever, ever sacrifice safety for data!

Jim Cribb

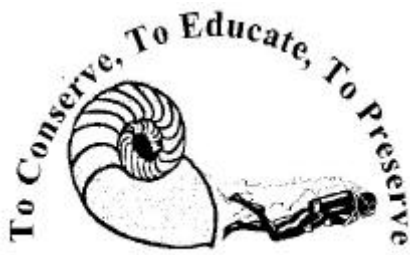
Team Boat

Phil Harville says that the weather interfered with testing out the team boat the last weekend of January. Mike Ellis is looking forward to getting the final kinks out the first weekend of February, though. Phil is going to go out and fill the fuel tank this week.

If anyone would like to go "test" boating, contact Mike or Phil. It is almost diving season!

Phil Harville

SUPPORT YOUR NEWSLETTER – CALL UP THE "EDITOR" AND GIVE HIM AN ARTICLE OF INTEREST FOR



Public Relations Update

We have three "booth events " on the schedule so far this year. The first one will be " Earth Day" at the Jacksonville Landing on the 18th of April. We need at least six Reef Research Team volunteers to make this easier on everyone. This booth is always fun to do as we meet so many interesting people over the five or six hours at the 'Landing.'

The second booth will be at the "King fish Tournament" July 12-17. For this one we will need multiple 'shifts' which will mean up to eight or ten RRT volunteers per day for three or four days. That's a lot of reef research volunteers so we need to start planning our commitments now. Give this one a lot of thought folks, it's really a lot of fun.

The third booth will be the "Jazz Festival" around October. We will need about ten or more members depending on where we want to work. If you have never worked the Jazz Festival ask those that have. Its really a 'not to be missed' event!

Anyone having any questions or comments please feel free to contact me at any time. Sign up sheets and point of contact personnel will be available at the February Team meeting on February 17th.

New improved 'booth' pictures should be available at the Feb. meeting.

See Ya

Jim Barnes

The Jacksonville Reef Research Team's website has been updated to include the following:

* Added the new 1999 JAXSPOTS Loran/GPS Guide front cover to our Homepage

* Revised the Dive Schedule webpage to show the 1999 dive dates and locations

* Added the January, 1999, Reef Brief Newsletter to the Newsletter webpage in .PDF format. The .PDF format requires the Adobe Acrobat Reader to be able to read the newsletters.

* Modified the Reef Brief Newsletter webpage to be able to download the Adobe Acrobat Reader from the Adobe website.

* Revised the JAXSPOTS webpage to include the following:

Graphics of the new 1999 JAX-SPOTS Loran/GPS Guide added

Included text to tell the readers that the JAXSPOTS Guide has been revised and made other minor text changes to the webpage

Added the dive shops and boating supply stores where the 1999 JAX-SPOTS Loran/GPS Guide can be purchased

Other changes/additions made include the following:

* Added a completely new section on Training that currently includes the syllabus for the first two modules

I am looking for volunteers to help with the following website additions:

* Continue work on training section that was added to site

* History of Team webpage information

* Additional Artificial Reefs for the Offshore Jacksonville reef section

Thanks to all who have logged on to the site and notified me of typographical errors, or made constructive criticism! If you are interested in helping with our website, please call me at 904-389-9668 or send me an e-mail at:

raysmit@mediaone.net.

Ray Smith

Science Officer Update

Well, the diving season is probably closer than we think this year. The current water temperature is in the low 60's. That is about 10 degrees OVER the normal water temperature for this time of year. At this rate we will be diving in a few weeks!

Why am I so optimistic? Well, we finally seem to be over all of the hurdles pertaining to the monitoring grant. It seems the insurance issues and contract issues have all been settled without us having to do any added work or signing extra forms.

The other good news is that the contract period has been extended to June 30, 2000. This will make it a lot easier to get the work done.

The only bad news is that it looks like there will be no "placement" grants for this year . . . so we can focus all of our efforts on the monitoring sites (the Coppedge, East Fourteen, the Anna, Haddocks Hideaway, JW and Busey's Bonanza).

Oh well, that's all the news that's new for now. Start tuning up that dive gear and brushing up on our methods. It's about time to get wet!

John Perkner

From the Vice President

First off, let me remind everyone that sign-ups for the dives will be passed around at the meeting soon, so be thinking about the dives you will be able to make. As in the past, both the monitoring dives (on the Native Diver II), and the "Jaxspots" dives are listed. Our Jaxspots dive dates are flexible, based upon the individual captains schedules and the weather. However, lets try to have the approximate number as scheduled during the dive season.

It is also time to get your gear checked out (especially your regulator), and have your medical ready to go when Don hands them out. Lastly, Jim Barnes is going to need folks to sign up for manning the booth for PR purposes, so be thinking about when you would like to help out with that.

I would also like to let the membership know about the generosity of the BellSouth Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament who, for the second year in a row has funded the Mandarin High School National Ocean Sciences Bowl team to go compete in the regional competition. This year, the team will be headed to Ft. Pierce to compete at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute. Last year, the Kingfish Tournament paid for the students to go all the way down to Miami, when the competition was held at the Miami Rosensteil School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences. So thanks to another organization that supports marine education!

See you at JU and remember, the water temperature is getting closer to what most of us would consider diveable.

Lex Waters

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.

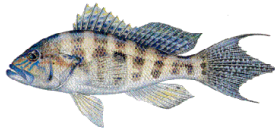
1998 Officers/Board of Directors

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| President - Jim Cribb | 904-264-1840 (H) | 904-264-0520 (W) |
| Vice President - Alex Waters | 904-262-5001 (H) | 904-260-3911 (W) |
| Chief Scientist - John Perkner | 904-273-4562 (H) | 904-791-5064 (W) |
| Safety Officer- Don Stadler | 904-384-2534 (H) | 904-354-3278 (W) |
| Treasurer - Jim Nelsen | 904-641-0717 (H) | 904-448-0305 (W) |
| Secretary - Allison Rogers | 904-751-4513 (H) | 904-260-6369 (W) |
| Public Relations - Jim Barnes | 904-757-1928 (H) | 904-778-6089 (W) |
| Training Officer- Brian Salzman | 904-646-3241 (H) | 904-641-6611 (W) |
| Webmaster - Ray Smith | 904-389-9668 (H) | 904-854-5990 (W) |

Bank Sea Bass

Family Serranidae, SEA BASSES AND GROUPE

Centropristis ocyurus



Description: pale olive or brassy brown in color with indistinct black blotches that form vertical barrings (the blotch above pectoral fin darker); wavy blue lines on

head; lips purplish-blue; caudal fin tri-lobed on adults; edge of nape unscaled.

Similar Fish: rock sea bass *C. philadelphica*; other *Centropristis*.

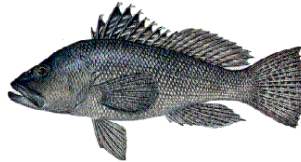
Where found: OFFSHORE in deep water with rocks and reefs.

Size: usually 0.3 pound (8 inches).

Black Sea Bass

Family Serranidae, SEA BASSES AND GROUPE

Centropristis striata



Description: basic color dark brown or black; dorsal fin has rows and stripes of white on black; large males have iridescent blue and ebony mark-

ings, and fatty hump in front of dorsal fin; females may have indistinct vertical barrings; topmost ray of caudal fin much elongated in adults; caudal may be tri-lobed; sharp spine near posterior margin of gill cover.

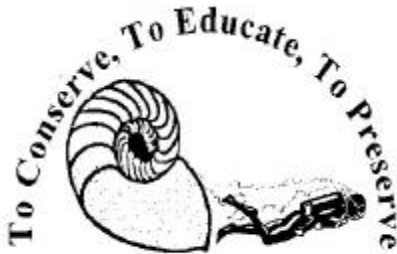
Similar Fish: bank sea bass *C. ocyurus*; other *Centropristis*.

Size: common to 1.5 pounds (13 inches).

***Florida Record:** 5 lbs., 1 oz.

In This Issue...

Nominations for Officers. Don't miss this meeting!



Jacksonville Reef Research Team

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Website: www.JAXRRT.ORG

**One fish, two fish; red fish,
blue fish . . . Gee, fish
counting is fun!!!**