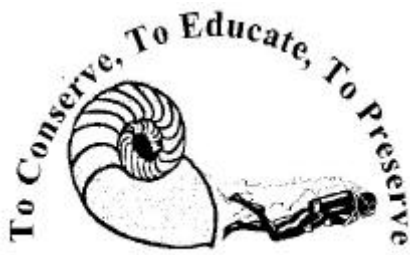


# ◆ RRT REEF BRIEF ◆

Volume 99, Issue 6

June 9, 1999

<h2>Important Dates</h2>	<h2>From Your Coordinator</h2>		
<p><b>6/5-6</b> Annual Training Class "Expedition" – sign up for Saturday's JAX-SPOT dives and Sunday's Monitoring Dive</p>	<p>It finally happened! We finally got the opportunity to dive offshore Jacksonville this year and the wind and the seas cooperated (sort of). For all of you that haven't been diving yet, the bottom temperature was 78 degrees and the surface was 80 degrees. Not too shabby. The water's fine, Mary! Come on in!</p>		<p>the novice diver. For those experienced divers who have ventured into its waters, they know very well that conditions can go from good to bad in a matter of minutes. For divers who are prepared and well trained, the waters off Jacksonville provide a challenge. For those divers who are not prepared it provides a threat!!!</p>
<p><b>6/9</b> 7:00 PM Scubanuts regular meeting @ Worman's on San Jose</p>	<p>The weekend before Memorial Day, we dove one of our regular monitoring sites, HH. We completed nine fish counts. We estimated the visibility to be between 35 and 40 feet. There was a slight current. Participants were Rob Rush, Jim Otis, Dennis Short, and Mark and Joanne Dillon. Truly, a good time was had by all!</p>		<p>In the next several issues of the <i>RRT Reef Brief</i> we will be reviewing various safety tips that you learned years ago but may not have thought about after hundreds of successful and safe dives. So lets dust off the old training manuals and take a step back to revisit the basics ONCE AGAIN.</p>
<p><b>6/16</b> 7:00 PM JAXRRT Special meeting @ Baptist Hospital for tour of Hyperbaric Chamber facilities. (Regular meeting immediately after tour)</p>	<p>The weekend of June 5-6, 1999, was scheduled to be the Expedition, but because of illness and WORK, it turned out to be monitoring dives. It was a little rough, but we accomplished a lot of data collecting!</p>		<h3>The Buddy Line</h3> <p>When water conditions produce visibility near or at zero, you should consider using a buddy line (a ten foot length of line attached to both buddies or hand-held by both). This will enable buddy divers to remain in direct contact and signal each other by a pre-arranged series of tugs or hand squeezes. You should be aware that the use of the buddy line introduces an additional potential entanglement hazard and you should take appropriate precautions to avoid underwater difficulties. Practicing use of the buddy line in good visibility will greatly enhance your success in using the line in actual low visibility conditions. Finally, use of buddy lines in confined underwater spaces is unwise because of the danger of entanglement or the line becoming ensnared with a fixed object.</p>
<p><b>6/19</b> JAXSPOTS dive</p>	<p>Mark your calendars for June 16th for our special meeting at Baptist Hospital (across the street from the Prudential building). Dr. Bozzuto is going to come in on his day off and give us a tour of their hyperbaric facilities. I don't know about you, but this is the <u>only</u> time I want to see the chamber! Note the time change for the meeting as well—7:00 PM.</p>		<p>Have fun and dive safe!</p>
<p><b>6/23</b> 6:00 –10:00 PM Great American Fish Count – Fish ID training</p>	<p><i>Jim Cribb</i></p>		<p><i>Dennis Short</i></p>
<p><b>7/14</b> 7:00 PM Scubanuts regular meeting @ Worman's on San Jose</p>	<h3>Safety Tips</h3> <p>As many of us have experienced in the past, and no doubt will experience in the future, water conditions off Jacksonville are often not as pristine as we would wish. Jacksonville diving is not for</p>		



Jacksonville Reef Research Team

**From your Vice President**

OK, folks, things are now in full swing for the upcoming dive season.

Expedition is scheduled for the first weekend of June, and it looks like we have a good number of divers for both days. We are scheduled for Saturday, June 5th, with private vessels (and hopefully the Team boat as well), and with Steve Parks on Sunday. By the time you read this, I hope the seas have calmed down and everything went well so we have another one "in the bag".

Additionally, I have heard that some folks have already been hitting the reefs with Captains Rob Rush and Marc Dillon. I'm not sure who made the dives other than to just know that the dives were made. I heard this from Jim Otis and Marc. It's good to know that we are already making headway along these lines to help fulfill our obligations for the grant.

Hopefully by now everyone is up on their methods on radial strip maps and fish ID. However, I am still in need of a medical release (anyone seen these things, Dennis?). As of the last meeting, President Jim got the dive flags for the private captains and for Steve's boat to help promote diver-down safety as well as to showcase the efforts of the team while on site.

We are gonna need people for the Kingfish Tourney to man the booth to highlight the team to a huge number of people who are directly interested in who we are and what we do

(ie: the non-diving, fishing community). I am taking on willing volunteers to sign-up for some booth-time, so let me know if you can accommodate a couple of hours out at the Sister's Creek facility. If you didn't make it out there for last years "shakedown", you should get out there just to see it. This year it is supposed to be bigger and better as improvements have been made for parking and other details since last year's event.

Finally, there is a lot going on and things that you can do to help out that will really benefit the team (in addition to the upcoming Kingfish event). One of these is the planned survey of the area boat ramps to see who is aware of our JAXSPOTS book to see if we can't stir up some more sales. This is our biggest source of revenue, so check with Jim Cribb or John Perkner to find out what you can do to help with this effort.

See you at Baptist Hospital on the 16th!

*Lex*

**Training?**

The Training Class of 1998-99 needed to postpone this years' Expedition. However, we were able to make use of the assembled Team members to collect data at two of the six grant sights. We went to the Anna on Saturday by means of personal vessels. Then on Sunday we went to BB Culverts by means of the Native Diver II.

With some quick phone calls on Friday and some group planning on Saturday, we made the 23 mile boat ride to the Anna. Mark Dillon and Rob Rush were gracious enough to allow the use of their personal vessels for the trip to the Anna. Mike Ellis was the captain of the Team boat. The three vessels left Mayport Marine about 9:00 AM. A total of eleven divers were assembled to do both mapping and fish counting. Bob Riddle was gracious enough to be Safety Officer. We had safety issues that were of concern. The greatest concern was the

use of mixed gasses. Most of us had Nitrox II which limits the diver to 102 feet. Well, the Anna rests at 110 feet. Therefore, we broke the wreck into sections to be mapped by those that had an oxygen mix that would enable them the utmost safety factor. The next concern was with three boats rafted together how would we do the time keeping. The decision was to have each vessel have its own time keeper. This meant only one buddy group in the water at a time. Mark Dillon was Chief Scientist. Mark and I did a lot of phone calling on Friday to pull off both days of data collection. Thanks Mark! On Friday, Mark called John Perkner, the Team Chief Scientist, to inform him of our plans.

Buddy groups rotated in and out of the water very smoothly. We had about 60 ft visibility and 78 degree water temp. Rob Rush and I were the first group in. We checked the anchor placement and then measured the distance between the two parts of the wreck. Bob Riddle and Nica McAnany were the next group in. They mapped the stern's upper deck. Jim Cribb and Jim Otis rotated in and mapped the lower portion of the bow section. Mark Dillon and Frank Black mapped the upper portion of the bow. Alex Waters had his video camera and filmed both in water and surface team action. Lastly, Phil Harville and Billy Taylor mapped the lower stern. Those that did a second dive did fish counts or visibility measurements.

After the dives some of us went to Mark and Joanne Dillon's home for what was planned to be an Expedition data reduction "party." However, we did not see any reason to cancel the party just because the Expedition was cancelled. Thank you Mark and Joanne for your hospitality!

Sunday we dove from the Native Diver II with Steve Parks. Our destination was the 1986 culverts at BB. We did

*See page three column one*

SOCA's at this site. There were eight divers. Beth Strawbridge and I dove together. Dennis Short and Jim Otis were another dive group. Rusty Thomas and Phyllis Stoffel were the next dive group. Lastly, Jim Cribb and Frank Black were the forth dive group. Everything went well. The water conditions were not as nice, however, but we still had great diving. A small hammerhead shark was seen on the surface at the stern of the boat. Beth and I saw a pod of six bottlenose dolphin while we were doing our safety stop. The dolphin gave us a brief show. They paused almost long enough for Beth to pet one. Then they did a surface dive in unison and were gone. As I waited my turn to do a proper ladder exit, they returned to say hello, and were gone for good.

We will try to reschedule the Expedition for some time in July. I will update everyone regarding the new plans at the next meeting.

Lastly, congratulations go out to John and his family (especially his wife) as he is the father of a new baby girl. The last word was that mother and baby are doing well (daddy also, I guess).

A well deserved "thanks" to all that helped to make this last, busy weekend successful. See you at the meeting at Baptist Hospital.

*Brian Salzman*

## Hear ye, Hear ye, Hear ye!!!

Once again, Daniel Hughes and Beth Strawbridge have agreed to do their fish identification program in conjunction with Reef's annual "Great American Fish Count". This will no doubt be the **last opportunity** for Team members to brush up on their skills or to finish their initial fish qualifications so that they can help out with fish ID's this summer. Mark your calendars—June 23rd at Reid Hall on the campus of Jacksonville University. The time will be 6:00 to 10:00 PM.

## 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	*		<b>BB</b>
Sunday	May	05/16	05/23		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	June	06/06	TBA	*		<b>CR Culverts</b>
Saturday	June	06/19	06/26		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	July	07/03	Open		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	July	07/04	TBA	*		<b>JW</b>
Saturday	July	07/10	07/24		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	July	07/18	TBA	*		<b>EEF Culverts</b>
Sunday	August	08/08	08/15		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	August	08/14	TBA	*		<b>HH Barge</b>
Sunday	August	08/15	08/22		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	August	08/28	TBA	*		<b>TR Anna</b>
Saturday	September	09/04	TBA	*		<b>JW</b>
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.

# 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)
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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)
Board/Public Relations - Jim Barnes	904-757-1928 (H)	904-778-6089 (W)



**Description:** a deep-bodied amberjack; sometimes darker in coloration; front of soft dorsal and of anal fins high and elongated; body more flattened than banded rudderfish or greater amberjack; no scutes.

**Similar Fish:** other *Seriola*.

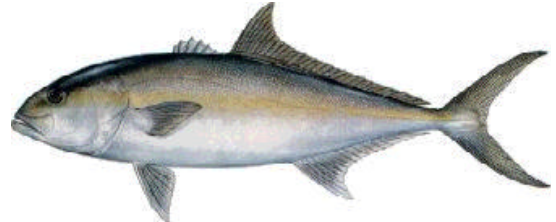
**Where found:** wide-ranging in OFFSHORE waters, not a common catch; young are associated with Sargassum.

## Almaco Jack

**Family Carangidae, JACKS and POMPANOS**  
*Seriola rivoliana*

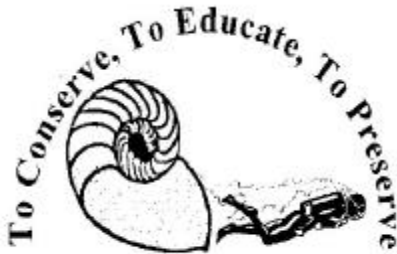
**Size:** usually less than 20 pounds.

**Editors note:** Sometimes identified incorrectly as a Greater Amberjack (on right).



### In This Issue...

June meeting features tour of Baptist Hospital's hyperbaric facilities!



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