

RRT REEF BRIEF

Volume 2000, Issue 3

March 8, 2000

Important Dates

Next Classroom training dates:

3/1 Training Class
Second half of Fish ID-Daniel Hughes

3/31-4/2 Kelly's on the Bay training class – Fish ID and Fish Counting

Meetings:

3/8 Scubans regular meeting @ Wormon's!

3/15 6:45 PM Board Meeting @ Southeast Branch Library.

3/15 7:30 PM Regular Meeting @ Southeast Branch Library

From Your President

Well, this is an auspicious occasion to address you as your new president. It is my hope that the coming year will be as productive as the past. There is much to do in the approaching months, so we're just waiting on the water temp to begin to reach the tolerable level to get back in. This has been one of the mildest winters I can recall, so maybe that bodes well for rushing the season a little. We will need to concentrate our efforts on getting the grant fulfilled, so make sure you are up on your methods. Thanks need to go out again to all those who have helped us in these efforts: Daniel Hughes for the fish ID work; Brian Salzman for the training classes, with the able assistance of Billy "Wild Man" Taylor and continued support of Beth Strawbridge; Frank and Linda Black for the photo shoots; and Mary Lyons for the invert ID. Additionally, "Thanks" should go to all of the other Team members who work continually at the chores that make it all happen. I know John Perkner has done a great job of putting the data collected to date together with the reports he has to submit to DEP to keep the government boys happy. Jim Barnes has really cranked up the PR, and of course Jim Nelsen is doing his usual top-notch job of keeping tabs on our funds. Mike Ellis and Phil Harville have to get praise for their persistence on their attempts at getting the boat in shape. Our website is one of the premier sites relating to artificial reefs, thanks to the efforts of Ray Smith.

I would like to get your input as to where you would like to see the team go in the coming months. Marc Dillon mentioned at the last team meeting that maps are something that go a long way towards making what we do more appealing to the folks we are attempting to assist, namely the non-diving, fishing community who rely on our work to be their "eyes in the ocean." I think that is a great suggestion and can't help but think that there must be other ideas out there that would add to the effectiveness of the Team. So, take a min-

ute or two to think about where you would like to see more of our effort directed, and we'll see if it is something we can work towards.

Don't know if you caught the Kelly's on the Bay article, but it just goes to show that even the best of organizations can stub their toe if they are not too careful. Maybe we can use it to remind us of how we need to maintain our vigilance. Safety first, right, Rob?

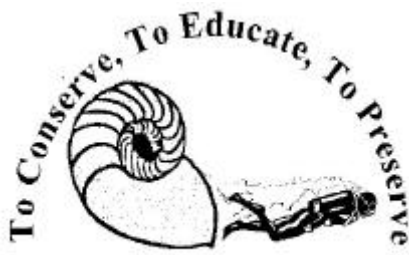
On a personal note, I found out today that I was one of only 8 teachers in the country to receive an award from SeaWorld for the 2000 Excellence in Environmental Education Award. I submitted a proposal that I worked on during Christmas break concerning the Reef Ball project at Mandarin High School and the committee in Washington liked it enough to select me as the winner in the Ocean Awareness category. They are sending 2 of my research students and me to SeaWorld of San Diego in the middle of April, so when we meet in April, I will have all the details for you right after I get back.

See you at the library!

Lex Waters

Party, Party!!!

Jo Ann and Marc Dillon have volunteered to host a dive season kickoff party at their home on April 29th. Everyone is asked to bring a covered side dish. The Team will furnish Bar-B-Que or something like it! Don't miss this, and "Thanks" to Marc and Jo Ann!!



Jacksonville Reef Research Team

Science Officer Update

Ok, it is March . . . the water is warming up and it is time to get down to diving and fish counting. We have four months to finish the requirements of our monitoring grant and we still have a fair amount of work ahead of us. It is critical that we have our team out there doing fish counts as part of the "Jaxspots" dives and to have as many divers as possible on the Team dives aboard Native Diver . . . and we need to do as much of this as possible before June 15, 2000. Jim Cribb and Alex Waters have modified our Team dive schedule (on Native Diver) to have an extra dive before June 15. I am hopeful that we can get a lot of folks out there diving and fish counting off of their own boats as well. We need counts from all locations, except from JW. We do not need any more counts from JW. This leaves the following sites: the Coppedge reef at NSS site; Paul Mains (PM); the Anna (TR); Haddock's Hideaway (HH barge); and Culverts at Busey's Bonanza (BB).

If anyone needs captain's packages and/or the special fish counting sheets, please give me a call ASAP (work 791-5064 home 273-4562). Anyone who has completed fish counts and/or dive logs, please fax them to me ASAP as data input is very time consuming and complicated. My fax number at work is 791-5416).

Thank you all for helping out!

John Perkner

Public Relations

The next PR event the RRT will participate in will be Earth Day at the Jacksonville Landing. The date is Saturday, April 22. The time we need volunteers is from 11:00 to 5:00PM. The number of volunteers needed, at least two and preferably four or more. This is a fun event as the volunteers will be able to visit the many exhibits presented by other ecology minded groups like ours.

I will be needing someone to take charge of setting up the booth and taking it down as I will have to work that Saturday. I will do all the preliminary set up work but I will not be able to man the booth on Saturday. Anyone interested in helping please give me a call at H 757-1928 or W 542-5962. RRT Trainees are also welcome. Proper dress for the booth is a new Jacksonville Reef Research Team shirt or an Earth Day T-shirt if you have them. Other neat casual apparel is also acceptable. Earth day T-shirts are available for \$8.00 each. Sizes are S, M, L, or XL. Payment must be made at or before the March RRT Meeting. Please order through Jim Barnes at or before the March meeting. I'm looking for a good response to this event as it is always popular, so don't wait long before giving me a call.

Jim Barnes

Training

First of all, I have a correction to last month's news letter with regards to the training dive weekends. As reported last month, the training class will be heading to the Key's to do the "Fish ID & Counting" module the weekend of March 31 and April 1. Well, that was incorrect. That will be on the weekend of May 6th & 7th. The "Scientific Photography" module will be the first weekend. I hope that this will not be a problem with anyone.

As mentioned above, the training class will be heading south for training the next two months. The first weekend is full. However, there is still room on the May 6 & 7 weekend. Again it will be on a first come first serve basis. The cost is still \$165.00. A deposit of \$50.00 will be due at the March team meeting.

The next item of importance is the April training meeting. As a result of an illness, the Fish ID test was postponed to the April meeting. So, study real hard and come to the meeting to test your skills. As we all know the ability to quickly and accurately ID the fish off shore is critical to the grants that we receive.

That is all for now from training. I'll see you at the library.

Brian

Miscellaneous

The April issue of *Rodale's Scuba Diving* had a great article titled "Safety Stops—Beyond the Basics" that reiterated the fact that safety stops work. They gave a list of "do's":

- Strictly follow the routine outlined in the divemaster's dive briefing, including the use of hang bar, hang line or hang tanks.
- Remain aware of those around you, especially divers below you. Remember that your fins extend well beyond your feet.
- Position yourself so you don't interfere with other divers or their equipment.
- Always remain in the off-gassing range, 10 to 30 feet.
- Before ascending, check for propeller movement or noise and remain clear of the boarding ladder until it is your turn

From Your Vice President

Reflecting on the many changes in the RRT since I became a member 1988, I have to pause and take a deep breath when I think how we have grown into an internationally known and respected TEAM. This was not done by any one of us but by all of us. Each member of the TEAM, trainees and “mossbacks” alike, has contributed the skills and talent that molded the TEAM into what we are today. It is exciting to think about what this year’s class has to offer. With that said it is time to get ready for another dive season. I’d like everyone on the team to get in touch with one of our members that they haven’t seen in a while and get him or her back on the team. We have some really exciting projects this year! It would be great to have the support of everyone who has ever gone through the training. Reef balls anyone?

You will note that on this page the new, 2000 Dive Schedule is posted. Now you can start signing up for the dives. Please note that we are attempting to have our first monitoring dive on April 16th. That is earlier than normal, but we have a lot of fish to count! We all know how fickle the weather can be and one never really knows until you are at the site if you can actually get in the water. At any rate, we will try to complete a dive that day!

There will, as always, be sign-up sheets at each team meeting. If you miss a meeting you can e-mail me or call me at home to sign up. One of my goals is to get captains and divers together a week or so before a scheduled dive. This will avoid last minute confusion.

Boat captains, let me know what you need for team equipment. Each boat should have a Captains packet with logs, including the special fish ID logs, and a copy of the dive manual, safety equipment, monitoring equipment and an RRT flag. Let me know what you need.

I can hardly wait to start absorbing nitrogen again. See you under water.

Mary Lyons

2000 DIVE SCHEDULE

Day	Month	Dive Date	Rain Date	M	J	Location
Saturday	April	04/08	04/15		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	April	04/16	TBA	*		HH Barge
Saturday	May	05/13	TBA	*		BB
Sunday	May	05/21	05/28		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	June	06/03	TBA	*		CR Culverts
Saturday	June	06/10	06/17		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	June	06/17	Open		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	June	06/25	TBA	*		PM
Saturday	July	07/08	07/15		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	July	07/16	TBA	*		Reef Balls
Saturday	August	08/05	08/12		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	August	08/13	TBA	*		HH Barge
Saturday	August	08/19	08/26		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	August	08/27	TBA	*		TR Anna
Saturday	September	09/09	TBA	*		JW
Saturday	September	09/16	09/17		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	October	10/07	10/08		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	October	10/15	10/22		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	October	10/28	TBA		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	November	11/12	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 Mary Lyons at 724-0324, or John Perkner at 273-4562 with questions on the schedule.

2000 Officers/Board of Directors

President – Lex Waters	904-262-5001 (H)	904-260-3911 (W)
Vice President – Mary Lyons	904-724-0324 (H)	904-708-8456 (M)
Secretary – Billy Taylor	904-757-8230 (H)	904-219-8117 (M)
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Board/Past President – Jim Cribb	904-264-1840 (H)	904-264-0520 (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 – Rob Rush	904-262-7653 (H)	904-636-9700 (W)
Board/Public Relations - Jim Barnes	904-757-1928 (H)	904-778-6089 (W)
Webmaster – Ray Smith	904-389-9668 (H)	904-854-5990 (W)

SUPPORT YOUR NEWSLETTER BY SENDING AN ARTICLE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE TEAM!



Almaco Jack

Family Carangidae, JACKS and POMPANOS
Seriola rivoliana

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.

Size: usually less than 20 pounds.

***Florida Record:** n/a

Remarks: spawns OFFSHORE, apparently during spring, summer, and fall.

In This Issue...

Earth Day coming up real soon. Volunteer now!!



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