



TWO BUSTED FOR ABALONE POACHING

Two Mendocino County suspects remain under investigation, said Lt. Kathy Ponting, with the Department's Special Operations Unit (SOU). Arrested were John Quinliven, 26, of Ukiah, and Dung Le, 24, of Santa Rosa. The two men were charged with felony conspiracy to take an over limit of abalone for commercial purposes, and sell abalone taken under a sport fishing license. Both were booked into Sonoma County jail.

In addition to the 29 abalone, wardens confiscated \$1,100 in cash and seized two vehicles used in the transportation of abalone taken illegally for commercial purposes. The legal possession limit for each abalone diver is three.

The arrests represent the latest by SOU wardens this year that involve

the illegal commercialization of red abalone along the north coast.

Because of the increased number of cases, DFG has been successful through the Legislature in strengthening Fish and Game penalty sections involving illegal commercialization of abalone.



Some convicted abalone poachers have paid fines of up to \$40,000, served substantial jail time, and forfeited vehicles and equipment used in the commission of crimes against the resources. Additionally, some convicted poachers have had their fishing privileges permanently revoked.

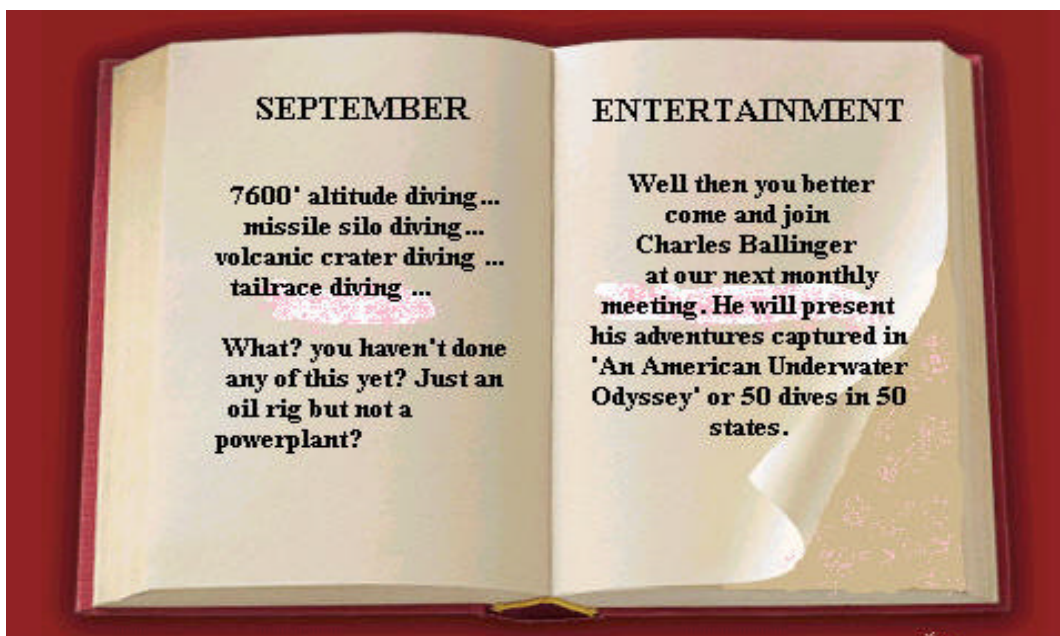
The recent case came to the attention of wardens by a caller who used the

CalTIP (Californians Turn in Poachers and Polluters) program. The confidential secret witness program, a toll-free number at 1-888-DFG-CALTIP (334-2258), encourages the public to call and anonymously report illegal killing of wildlife or incidents of pollution that they have witnessed. The caller is eligible for a cash reward for information that leads to the citation or arrest of a poacher or polluter.

Since it began in 1981, the CalTIP program has paid out \$152,400 in rewards. All reward money is through private donation; no state funds are used.

In 2001, the Department received 3,729 CalTIP calls. Only 46 callers, or 1 percent of all calls received, requested a reward. Of the 46 cases made from callers who had requested a reward, 17 resulted in arrests.

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PRESIDENTS CORNER



Monday afternoon and I'm sweltering in Room 007, the Jury Assembly Room for Superior Court of California, for the City and County of San Francisco. It's a beautiful room, complete with data ports for laptops and etched glass panels displaying largely eligible excerpts from the Constitution. I can just make out ... "without just compensation." The other noticeable feature of the panels is that the figures representing the signers of the Constitution are all faceless. I'm sure it's idle speculation on my part, and not some sort of dark conspiratorial message, probably has something to do with artistic license. I'll have to ask Ken to explain what it all means sometime.

A quick update on the August 3, beach cleanup. There were 68 divers, 14 people participating as shore help, plus VIPs for a total of 82 people. In all 5,680 pounds of trash were brought up from the ocean floor. For a look at some of the junk collected and the folks who collected it, visit:

<http://www.jadecarver.com/cleanupdive.htm>

Among the more unusual finds this year were a child's tombstone and the whale's skull Tim found. This year I followed Kharmen's advice from last year and wore a mask with prescription inserts. I definitely found more junk than last year although nothing to match the skull or tombstone. Dive shops which provided prizes were; Aquarius, Bamboo Reef,

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REEFERS RAP

JANUARY 02	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<p>01 - <i>New Year's Day Dive</i> Point Lobos</p> <p>13 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i></p> <p>16 - <i>General Meeting</i></p>	<p>16 - <i>President's Day Dive</i></p> <p>20 - <i>General Meeting</i></p> <p>23 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i></p>	<p>20 - <i>General Meeting</i></p> <p>23 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i></p>
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<p>12 – 14 <i>Abalone Opener at Russian Gulch</i></p> <p>17 - <i>General Meeting</i></p> <p>18 – <i>Point Lobos Boat Dive</i></p>	<p>15 - <i>General Meeting</i></p> <p>18 – <i>Beach Dive – North Coast</i></p> <p>25 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i></p>	<p>08 – <i>Monterey Clean Up Dive</i> moved to August</p> <p>19 - <i>General Meeting & Swap Meet</i></p> <p>22 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i></p> <p>28 - <i>Great Annual Fish Count</i></p> <p>30 - <i>Abalone Closer/Picnic – North Coast</i></p>
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<p>06 - <i>Great Annual Fish Count</i> www.fishcount.org</p> <p>17 - <i>General Meeting</i></p> <p>27 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i></p>	<p>03 – <i>Monterey Clean Up Dive</i> drc@astound.net</p> <p>18 - 20 <i>Channel Island Trip</i></p> <p>21 - <i>General Meeting</i></p>	<p>02 – <i>Lovers Point Monterey</i></p> <p>14 - <i>Alcatraz swim/paddle</i> Coordinator: Pierre Hurter (415) 285-6293</p> <p>18 - <i>General Meeting</i> BOATHOUSE</p> <p>22 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Sunday - 3 dives Coordinator: Jim Valario (415) 566-0784</p> <p>Beach Dives – for details check: Yahoo Internet site postings or call Pierre Hurter (415-285-6293) or Curt Degler (707-570-0457)</p>
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p>13 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Sunday - 2 dives Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784</p> <p>16 - <i>General Meeting</i> BOATHOUSE</p> <p>TBD – <i>Beach Dives</i> – for details check: Yahoo Website postings or call Pierre Hurter (415) 285-6293</p>	<p>02 - <i>Salmon Swim</i> Coordinator: Frank King</p> <p>20 - <i>General Meeting</i> 2003 OFFICERS ELECTIONS BOATHOUSE</p> <p>24 - <i>Cypress Sea Boat Dive</i> Sunday. - 3 dives Coordinator: Jim Vallario (415) 566-0784</p> <p>TBD - <i>Annual Sea Ranch Weekend</i></p> <p>TBD – <i>Abalone Closer</i> Coordinator: Robert Miché (415) 661-5540</p>	<p>18 - <i>Christmas Party</i> at the BOATHOUSE !!!</p> <p>TBD – <i>Beach Dives</i> – for details check: Yahoo Website postings or call Pierre Hurter (415) 285-6293</p>

Reefer Rap ... need to know more



ALCATRAZ Paddle

Have you ever herded sheep or cows? Does not matter, HERE is your opportunity to learn how it is done. Aid the Southend Rowing Clubs swimmers to safely return to the SF shore. Lunch and T-Shirts provided.

*Coordinator: Pierre Hurter
415.285.6293*

President from page 2

Monterey, Captain Aqua's, Glen's Aquarius II, Manta Ray and Monterey Dive Center. In addition Anchor Shack and Original Steele's provided free air fills. The next cleanup is scheduled for sometime in March of 2003.

The Channel Islands trip was great fun as always. Conditions were generally good, the water flat and the visibility descent. Jim, the Iron man, Vallario managed to make all thirteen of the available dives. When it came time for a shore excursion to Avalon, he was noticeably absent. He begged off, muttering something about an evil twin named "Skip". I've heard rumors about the mysterious "Skip" before, so at the *Chi Chi Club*, I decided to ask a few questions. The bartender clammed up and started to polish the bar

when I tried to bring up the topic. There was a grainy black and white photo pinned to the dart board, but it was too dark inside and the patrons were starting to give me hard looks while stroking their pool cues and crushing beer cans against their foreheads. So there you have it, lots of leads, but no hard facts.

Bill Galarneau had competition in this years "best legs" competition. Normally Bill is the only one diving in a three quarter length wetsuit, but this year after several salt-water rinses, Jim Radkey decided to abandon his damp suit and join him in the "shorty" wetsuit category. There was also an attempted boarding of a neighboring dive boat, the *Conception*. We won't mention any names, but the 'Navigator' and his dive buddy came swimming back to the *Peace* muttering about underwater silhouettes, crossed anchor lines, thermo clines and other advanced underwater navigational techniques. Finally you may have noticed that I am partial to a bit of retro chic, being particularly enamored of to my *Kirby Morgan* regulators. I'm afraid that Frank Onstine managed to completely dominate the historical division on this year's dive. Mike Nelson of 'Sea Hunt' would have been proud of Frank's *Aqua-Master*" two hose rig, complete with hard backpack, no BC and a tank with a "J" valve. There were a total of 27 divers on the boat, including 12 'Reefdivers'. All told, we had a great time. Now if only we could do something about the drive back.

For those who missed the last general meeting, Pat Lovejoy, Marc Shargel and Doug Obeji gave a

presentation discussing what is going on in our waters. I think the turnout was a fair indication of the interest, which is out there. I counted 45 people in the audience, about half 'Reefdivers', the rest visitors. 'The Marine Life Protection Act', State Parks Department, reserves, preserves, its difficult to keep track and I think we have a tendency to think that is nothing that we can do anyway. Here are a few sobering thoughts, reefs make up just 0.09 percent of the area of the world's oceans. According to a report released by UCLA today there has been more damage to those reefs in the last 20 years than the last 1000 years preceding them. On our own shores we are witnessing the collapse of the offshore fisheries. The closure of the offshore shelf, from 120 to 900 feet to commercial fishing will inevitably put tremendous pressure on the near shore fishery. We are confronting a very real choice, enjoy the oceans today and forget about future generations or become active now. There are actions we can take, whether it's changing our seafood consumption habits, check out the Monterey Bay Aquariums Sea Food Watch program at <http://www.mbayaq.org/cr/seafoodwatch.asp>. or writing a letter to support reserves:

Governor Gray Davis
State Capital
FAX (916) 445-4633
www.governor.ca.gov

Robert Hight, Director
Dept of Fish & Game
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd

Robert Treanor, Executive Director
Fish & Game Commission
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
www.dfg.ca.gov/fgcomm

I'll get off my soapbox in a minute, but before I do I'd like to thank Ken for having arranged the presentation, Pat, Mark and Doug for their time and

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President – from page 4

efforts and people like Curt Degler, Bill Galameau and Gene Kramer for representing us in AMRC, CenCall, The Sonoma Count Abalone Alliance and the Marine Life Protection Act working group.

Labor Day weekend, the sound of it conjures images from my youth. The last big weekend before going back to school, no more dirt clod fights in the hills around Riverside. No more hitchhiking to Laguna Beach or the “Wedge” in Newport with towel and *Voit Duck Feet* or *Churchill* swim fins in hand. Some of you will probably remember that you could buy either of those fins singly, just the thing for body surfing at the “Wedge” or flushing through Laguna’s Blowhole. On a good day, there would be a large warning sign at either end of the beach and an ambulance standing by.

The biggest storm of my high school years saw waves come cresting in tight tubes completely over the breakwater. Best ride of my life, but back to this weekend. Gerda was chomping at the bit to try out her new backplate and Pam had organized a beach dive, so ...

The *South End Rowing Club’s* Alcatraz swim is on again this year. This will be the seventh time for this event and the third time that Gerda and I have herded swimmers towards shore. Pedro Ordenes, the organizer of the event has made the swim to or from Alcatraz over 100 times. When I think of the distance, about a mile and a half, and the water temperature, it literally takes my breath away. Hopefully I won’t fall off my kayak this year.

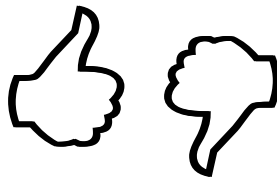
In the words of Mike Nelson, at the wheel of the *Argonaut*, “You know, three-fifths of the world is covered by

the sea, and how little most of us know about that underwater world. Go below with us again next week, uh, for another thrilling adventure in *Sea Hunt*.”



Abalone Poaching – from page 1

Fish and Game's SOU is a specialized unit comprised of wardens primarily responsible for investigating the more complex cases involving illegal commercialization of fish and wildlife throughout the state. The unit often investigates cases where long-term covert operations and surveillance is necessary.



During our last Club meeting we were presented with information on and heard various opinions regarding Fishery Management and Marine Protective Areas. In the course of the presentation we were asked to sign a resolution to support marine reserves.

That's where you come in, we would like the Reef divers to give it some consideration and vote either 'Yea' or 'Nay' at the October meeting.

Resolution in Support of Marine Reserves

Our organization, **S.F. Reefdivers**, supports the creation of a network of marine reserves that will help restore, enhance and protect the diversity and abundance of California's marine life and underwater habitats, and to educate the public on the values of marine reserves and healthy oceans.

We recognize there is broad scientific consensus that:

- (1) Marine reserves are effective at protecting the abundance, diversity and productivity of marine species;
- (2) Full protection (no extractions) is necessary to achieve the full range of benefits reserves provide; and
- (3) Networks of reserves are necessary for marine conservation.

We believe a network of reserves should be established in both state and federal waters, should protect both nearshore and offshore areas, and should encompass a wide range of habitats. We support including diverse public input into reserve establishments and believe that marine reserves are focused on limiting extraction. not limiting access.



SHARK FIN SOUP?

The Whale Shark is the world's largest fish, but its size may prove to be its downfall. A large fin from a Whale Shark can sell for as much as \$10,000 in the Chinese market. The growing trade in shark fins, estimated at 7,000 tons a year, is threatening the existence of the Whale Shark as well as other species.

The rising affluence through Asia has caused a skyrocketing demand for shark fins. Eating shark fin soup is a conspicuous way of showing off that affluence.

The European Commission is considering a ban on finning within its members fishing zones and on boats flying European flags. Recently Spain became the first European country to outlaw finning. Spanish exports of shark fins to Hong Kong are nearly 1,000 tons a year.

In related news, the Coast Guard seized a ship with at least 12 tons of illegally harvested shark fins. The King Diamond II, was stopped and searched by the Coast Guard about 350 miles southeast of Acapulco. The ship, along with its five-member crew, was towed to San Diego.

The crew, based in Honolulu, is suspected of having bought the fins from other fishing vessels while at sea in violation of U.S. law. The fine for violating the ban on the harvest of shark fins can reach up to \$120,000 and seizure of the vessel.

TOMB RAIDER STAR LEARNS TO SCUBA DIVE

Angelina Jolie is learning scuba diving for the underwater scenes in her upcoming Tomb Raider film. For those who don't know who or what Tomb Raider is, just ask any teenager; they ought to be able to clue you in.

JAPAN'S ITO FISHING COOP TO RESUME DOLPHIN HUNTS

The Ito fishing coop has announced that they will resume dolphin slaughters utilizing a fast-kill method that they claim will eliminate pain to the animals.

The fishers stopped dolphin slaughters two years ago after strong criticism from conservation groups in Japan and around the world.

Nobu Suzuki, president of a Tokyo-based marine conservation group, says the "quick-kill" is just an excuse to resume dolphin slaughters, a practice most Japanese oppose. "The so-called 'quick-kill' method of slaughtering dolphins is not acceptable to the vast majority of Japanese people who oppose any and all killing of marine mammals," said Suzuki. Suzuki added, "The only thing most fishermen do exceptionally well is get drunk on taxpayer subsidies—they should continue doing exactly that and leave our dolphins alone."





The San Francisco Reef Divers is a not for profit community organization dedicated to safe sport diving and the preservation of our ocean resources. The San Francisco Reef Divers general meetings are open to the public and are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Boathouse Sports Bar and Grill, (415) 681-2727, located at 1 Harding Rd, San Francisco, CA 94132 (For driving directions and a map for this location, visit our club web site: <http://www.sfreefdivers.org/>.)

We highly encourage you to also support the other organizations listed below when you pay your annual dues. (Please indicate your membership options with the checkboxes below.)

- | | |
|--|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco Reef Divers (SFRD) | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abalone Marine Resource Council (AMRC) | 10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central California Council of Diving Clubs (CenCal) | 15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sonoma County Abalone Network (SCAN) | 10 |

Show your support for all four! \$60

Name:	_____
Address:	_____
City:	_____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: (____) _____	Work Phone: (____) _____
Email: _____	Birthdate (year optional): ____/____/____
Diving Certification Agency: _____	Level: _____ Number: _____
SFRD Membership:	<input type="checkbox"/> New member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
Are you a member of Divers Alert Network (DAN)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Please select the method of delivery of your monthly club newsletter (Choose one):	
<input type="checkbox"/> I will download the newsletter via the Internet from the SFRD website (default)	
<input type="checkbox"/> I want the newsletter mailed to my home address	

Please make checks payable to "San Francisco Reef Divers" and mail to: Bill Donnelly, SFRD Treasurer, P.O. Box 151223, San Rafael, CA 94915



ABOUT *SAN FRANCISCO REEF DIVERS* (SFRD):

The *Reef Diver Times* is the official newsletter of the San Francisco Reef Divers, a not for profit community organization dedicated to safe sport diving and the preservation of our ocean resources. Membership is \$25 annually, dues payable to "SFRD". The General Meeting is held 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Boathouse Sports Bar and Grill, (415) 681-2727, located at 1 Harding Rd, San Francisco, CA 94132 in Harding Park on the shore of Lake Merced. Meet at 7:00pm for socializing, drinks and food and 7:30 pm for club business and entertainment. For more information, visit <http://www.sfreedivers.org/>.

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