



## President's Log by Steven Trainoff

Last month I pointed out that winter has the best diving on the South Coast, assuming that you dodge the storms. Of course, that is a big assumption. What happens when you don't quite dodge them? On Groundhog Day, I jumped on board the Truth for another "Outer Islands" trip, despite the fact that the national weather service (NWS) predicted.

SAT...NW WINDS 10 TO 20 KT WITH OCCASIONAL GUSTS TO 25 KT IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 2 TO 3 FT. NW SWELL 12 TO 14 FT.

I don't know why the NWS has a penchant for all caps. Perhaps it is a holdover from the Teletype days, but it does lend a certain ominous feel to a swell forecast of 12-14 feet. But hey, this is the *weather report* we are talking about, how accurate is it? Your intrepid diver decided that the worst that would happen is that we would end up in the lea of Santa Cruz testing whether Scopolamine motion sickness patches really work as well as advertised.

Well, that is exactly what happened. After a long and bouncy night, we woke to beautiful vistas of the front side of Santa Cruz, with a nice view of the mainland (and what looked like fresh snow in San Marcos Pass). Fortunately in the lea of the island, the weather was quite nice. The sky was mostly cloudy, but the water was clear. There was a light haze of small sediment that gave the water a gray misty look, much like you might see on a foggy day. The visibility was 30-40ft in places.

The boat was lightly loaded with only 15 divers. It was your typical winter mix of spear fishermen with a couple of photographers. There was one fellow from Germany visiting UCSB for a month who decided to try California diving. He had dove in the North Sea and was familiar with cold water, but had never experienced kelp. I could see that the Truth's laid-back approach to diving was unfamiliar to him, and that he didn't want to dive solo, so I agreed to be his buddy. Normally I avoid diving with people I don't know, because "*instabuddies*" can be more trouble than they are worth. Also,



photographers are notoriously bad buddies. I can't think of

the number of times I have looked up from a shot to find that I have lost my partner. In this case, he did a good job of keeping nearby so it wasn't a problem. He went through his air a bit quickly and was down to 500psi in 28 minutes at 60ft. I had plenty of air left so I signaled to him to ascend. I watched him reach the surface safely and I continued my dive.

Overall it was a beautiful day. A couple sea lions buzzed me, but I didn't get any decent pictures of them. The best photo of



the trip was an image of a moon jelly I found on my last dive. I managed to get the sun framed behind it so that it looked like an x-ray.

The ride back was interesting. The channel was filled with the 12-14ft swell predicted by the NWS. We bounced and bobbed and watched the furniture fly around the galley. Most people went below and hunkered down in their bunks. I am pleased to report that the scopolamine patches *do* work as advertised. I didn't move much, but I didn't get sick. My poor *instabuddy* was not so fortunate. He looked pretty green by the time we reached the harbor. It was a good trip and I got some good photos. It was just another dive day in paradise.

## A hierarchical analysis of trends in common rocky reef fish species: Evidence of reserve effects using the REEF Survey Program Database

Brice X. Semmens<sup>1</sup>, Steve L. Katz<sup>2</sup>, and Christy V. Pattengill-Semmens<sup>3</sup>

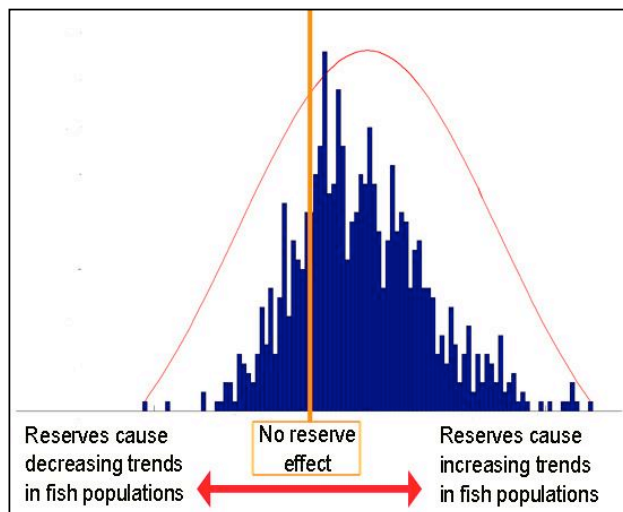
<sup>1</sup>NOAA Fisheries, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, <sup>2</sup>Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary,

<sup>3</sup>Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF)

Volunteer divers conducted fish surveys at sites throughout the Channel Islands since 1996 as part of the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) Survey Program. Between 1996 and 2006, volunteer divers collected 1,595 visual fish surveys from 113 sites throughout the Channel Islands. 767 surveys were gathered before state marine reserves were established at the Channel Islands (1997-2002), while 807 surveys were conducted, both inside and outside reserves, after the reserves were established (2003-2006). We analyzed REEF data to evaluate changes in the density of fishes inside versus outside reserves at the Channel Islands. We adapted methods developed to analyze volunteer bird watching data to detect trends in fish densities. The analysis included 25 species of common rocky reef fishes, including targeted and non-targeted species. Rather than focusing on changes in the density of individual species, our analysis evaluated changes in multiple species to characterize responses of marine communities to protection from fishing in reserves.

### Key Findings:

- On average, fish populations had ~20% higher growth rates inside reserves as compared to outside, although there was a high degree of variability across species.
- In contrast to other survey techniques, we found that both species targeted by commercial or recreational fishing, and non-targeted fishes, responded similarly to protection in reserves. We detected an overall positive response to protection in reserves regardless of a species' status as targeted.
- As the number of volunteer diver surveys increases over time, we can better evaluate the effectiveness of marine reserves because the power of our modeling approach to infer fish population trends increases with sample size.



**Figure 1:** Model output that describes the effect of marine reserves on density and population growth rates of 25 fish species at the Channel Islands. The yellow line (center) indicates the value at which reserves have no effect on density and population growth rates. Blue bars on the right side of the orange line indicate positive effects of marine reserves on density and population growth of fish, while blue bars on the left side of the orange line indicate negative effects. The majority of the model output falls to the right of the orange line, indicating an over-all positive effect of reserves on fish density and population growth.

For more information: Christy Pattengill-Semmens, [christy@reef.org](mailto:christy@reef.org), or Brice Semmens, [brice.semmens@noaa.gov](mailto:brice.semmens@noaa.gov); or visit [www.reef.org](http://www.reef.org).

Many thanks to Carl Gwinn for sending over this article.

# Paradise Dive Club Events

## March



1-2 Kayaking in Morro Bay



29, Rig Dive on Platform Grace, 6am dep. on the Truth

## Local Dive Calendar

### March 2008

Truth Aquatics 962-1127 call for prices, boats, and specific destinations, or go to their website; [www.truthaquatics.com](http://www.truthaquatics.com).

- 1 day dive to Santa Cruz, 6am dep., 3/2, 3/16, 3/22, 3/30
- 1 day Outer Islands, 4am dep., 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/19 (bug specific), 3/22, 3/29
- 1 day Rig dive, Platform Grace, 6am dep., 3/29
- 1 day wreck dive, SM1/Gosford, 4am dep., 3/30
- 2 day dive, 4am dep., 3/1, 3/18 (bug close out), 3/22, 3/29
- 2 day Island Hike, 4am dep., 3/8
- 3 day limited load dive, Cortez Banks, 9pm dep. 3/13

### Underwater Photos Requested



The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History - Ty Warner Sea Center is seeking underwater photos, particularly high-quality images of local, underwater scenes or creatures that would illustrate an exhibit with the theme "Camouflage". They will print them and display them, and give credit to the photographer. They also seek contributions of images of the local underwater environment, for brochures and publicity. For more details, please contact Dana Roeber Murray at [dmurray@SBNATURE2.ORG](mailto:dmurray@SBNATURE2.ORG).

### Check It Out!

[Many thanks to Jerry Sorich for finding cool websites for us to take a look at!](#)



<http://www.sharkbreak.com/>  
[www.divefilm.com](http://www.divefilm.com)  
[www.wetpixel.com](http://www.wetpixel.com)



# PDC Thursday Night Dives!

To find out where the group will be diving, or to be added to the night dive e-mail list, sign up at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PDC\\_midweek\\_dive](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PDC_midweek_dive), or send e-mail to [PDC\\_midweek\\_dive-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:PDC_midweek_dive-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

**Membership**

\$25/year for individuals, \$40 for families. Membership runs May-April and includes a monthly newsletter, free air-fills, and other benefits. For details or to join, contact Noah Philips at [nphilips@gmail.com](mailto:nphilips@gmail.com)

**Newsletter**

Send newsletter items to Gretchen Beckert [gbgreymutt@cox.net](mailto:gbgreymutt@cox.net)

**Website**

[www.paradisediveclub.org](http://www.paradisediveclub.org)

**Dive Club Officers**

President	Steven Trainoff	571-1622
Vice President	Geof McFarland	685-6001
Treasurer	Mark Silva	453-2001
Secretary	Jim Axtell	685-9025
Membership	Noah Philips	<a href="mailto:nphilips@gmail.com">nphilips@gmail.com</a>
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**Join the coolest club in town!**

1. Monthly meetings with entertainment.
2. raffle prizes (we all need new dive stuff)
3. Great dive buddy pool
4. Beach and boat dives, AND weekly night dives
5. Club BBQs, and other activities
6. Free air-fills and gear discounts at local dive shops
7. Right to proudly wear the official PDC T-Shirt (nobody has a logo as cool as ours).



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**Truth Aquatics**

301 W. Cabrillo Blvd.  
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**Anacapa Dive Center**

22 Anacapa St  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
805-963-8917

*Many thanks to our sponsors for their generosity including air-fill donations and gear discounts!*

🚫 **Meeting Place** 🚫

The February 26th meeting will take place at  
Petrini's Restaurant in Santa Barbara.  
14 West Calle Laureles.

Feeding frenzy at 6:30pm, meeting at 7pm