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UNDERWATER NEWS



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COVER PHOTO STORY

Photo By: Tom Ebro

Close student/instructor ratio in the pool is an important safety feature in the County's widespread Public SCUBA Program, currently being offered to local residents. The instructor, Chuck Breslin (15 UICC), is shown emphasizing the importance of the "buddy system" prior to more practice drills underwater. (See story on pg. 5)

EDITORIAL

By Otto Gasser

President, Los Angeles County Underwater Instructors Association

QUANTITY VERSUS QUALITY

The long range goals of any diver certification program are the creation of a safe diving populace through effective diver training procedures. Since 1954, the Los Angeles County Underwater Instructors Association has always played a dynamic role as the leader in introducing sound training objectives designed to make diver training in Southern California the best in the world. Our Association has gained national respect by systematically promoting sound educational philosophy that has been borrowed and quoted by almost every other diver-training organization in existence today. The accomplishments of Los Angeles County Underwater Instructors as leaders in the field of diving instruction are undenied. Unquestionably, this Association stands as the best trained group of instructors operating in the world today!

Programs available to those that avail themselves of courses taught by County instructors range from skin diving for children or adults through basic and intermediate SCUBA classes and specialized programs for advanced divers or instructors. The Underwater News is back in print with L. A. Instructors playing an active role. The Underwater Unit has recently purchased a card embossing machine that will enable SCUBA graduates to obtain their C-cards with practically no delay. In addition, handsome new diplomas, decals and emblems have been made available for the graduates of all our various training programs.

An Association trust-account has been established within the County's Department of Parks and Recreation to help us promote safe diving programs for local citizens. Bumper stickers will soon be delivered free to instructors as an example of increased services planned to continue to keep our L.A. County Instructors safety conscious. The overwhelming diverse underwater program available as public services through Los Angeles County instructors is the best offered anywhere and yet many people either don't know about these programs or their attention is captivated elsewhere by other organizations that spend time "beating their own drum."

In this day of rapidly expanding instructional organizations, it's easy to be led astray by more publicity conscious groups. Further, the competitive nature of man has sometimes led to petty jealousy and misunderstanding between organizations, especially when some of these groups seem to identify with quantity instead of quality in the recruitment of both instructors and students. Cross certification has become a selling point in the race for student enrollment and, in some cases, the card, rather than quality instruction, is sold to the student. Some diver training outlets have turned away from L.A. County Instruction because they don't wish to adhere to County standards or because they have identified with commercial interest associated with other certifying agencies. The amazing thing is that graduates of our annual three month-long Los Angeles County Underwater Instructors Certification Course are recognized as the best trained anywhere and are repeatedly offered cross certification by the other prominent national-type associations, thereby recognizing the superiority of the County course. Again, for us it's remained a quest for quality, not quantity, in the training of L.A. County instructors.

Los Angeles County is the only instructional group currently requiring active in-service training for the recertification of their members. We have

recognized that we must attend seminars to remain abreast of the rapid changes taking place in the area of diving instruction. Further, our Association is an active one, requiring current teaching practice to keep one's educational skills up to date. Incredibly some instructors complain because of these requirements but we all know that, as good as our programs are, they can still be improved. Because we are a small homogeneous group we expect the membership of our Association to actively help us continue to lead in the field of diving instruction, and this requires active participation by all of our instructors. Our organization is dedicated to quality in instruction and, therefore, has not become involved in the current power struggle between other organizations where quantity seems to be the goal.

Although I'm very optimistic about the future of our organization, we do have a problem. Many of our members have considered recertification requirements a "hassle" and have forgotten the benefits and features that have made L.A. County great. It's about time we do more than pay lip service to our programs, we can't exist any longer quietly doing the work while others take the credit. Let's recognize quality and identify with the L.A. County programs! We need you to help us promote our programs. We need you to help continue to make our programs the best diver training courses available in the world today.

LOBSTER FACTS

By: Kim Hill

Sea Sabres Dive Club

Regarding the "take" of lobster in California, the Dept. of Fish and Game Code specifies under Section 8252 that lobster may not be taken if their carapace (rear edge of eye socket to rear edge of back shell) is less than 3-1/4 inches in length (roughly about a 10 year old male or an 11 year old female according to latest research estimates. This estimate, by the way, supersedes a previous estimate of 6 to 8 years of age for a legal sized lobster). The use of any such devices as a spear or hook is prohibited.

Nature of Lobsters - Lobsters are scavengers. They are also cannibals. They are essentially a bottom-living animal, using their powers of swimming only in an emergency. Caught lobsters seem sluggish, but in their natural element, are agile, wary, pugnacious, capable of defending themselves against larger enemies and on occasion for short distances exhibit surprising speed. Where several lobsters of equal size are kept in a tank they will usually live in peace. If one is injured, however, it will quickly be attacked by the stronger and destroyed.

Lobsters are essentially creatures of twilight and explore the bottom in search of food mainly after sundown or at night when it is usually more active than in daylight.

"In the early days of the Pilgrims, lobsters were in unbelievable abundance on the east coast. Those thrown up on the beaches were a nuisance and were used for fertilizer. One historic report is that of windrows of lobsters eighteen inches deep cast up after a heavy storm. In the early Plymouth days any youngster could wade out and capture by hand all he needed and some records indicate that lobsters up to five feet or more in length were caught in New York Bay."

Habitat - Preferably rocky areas with holes and crevices in which to hide; but they are also known to flourish on gravel or sand bottom, especially when covered with larger sea weeds such as kelp. Depth ranges at which lobster are found are extremely varied - from low water to a recorded 225 fathoms for lobster on the east coast. Lobsters are not considered migratory - perhaps to some extent the smaller ones - but there have been only a very limited number of lobsters in "tagged

experiments" known to have travelled distances of up to 10 miles.

The Senses - Sight. The eye of a lobster is a compound eye, as is that of the common house fly and consists of perhaps 10,000 facets or little eyes. Sight is the lobster's poorest sense, and is probably nil in bright light.

Taste and Smell - Lobsters have no taste or smell organs in the usual meaning of the words, and it seems probable that these two senses are blended together, and stimulated either by touch or by a chemical reaction. The process is not understood with any exactness. Nearly every part of a lobster's body is subject to these stimulations. The stimulation, whether of touch or chemical nature, is conveyed to the lobster's nervous system by tiny hairs which cover most of its body. They are its most important sense organs. Thus, it is, that although encased in what seems a solid, impenetrable armor, the lobster can receive stimuli and impressions from without as readily as if it possessed a soft and delicate skin. The dense shell of a lobster is in reality a veritable strainer being perforated by hundreds of thousands of minute passages which lead from the surface to the sensory nerves that lie at the roots of the hairs. On the shorter antennae these hairs are particularly evident, and the mouth parts are more sensitive than the antennae. The hairs on the feet of lobsters are sensitive and are an aid to the lobster as it explores the bottom for food, whipping the water with its long antennae and all objects with them and its feet. Lobster hairs are tremendously responsive to even very dilute evidences of food, and a lobster will react vigorously to the trail left in the water by a finger which has been in contact with meat or fish oil.

Hearing - A lobster has no organ comparable to an ear, and probably does not have a sense of hearing. It does sense noise, not as sound but rather as vibrations.

Touch - Touch is the most primitive

sense of animals and in a lobster it is present in the hairs, which also act as taste and smell organs. The antennae are particularly rich in these hairs to record whatever they touch.

Balance - It is commonly observed that while living fish swim with their bodies erect and poised, a dead one floats on its side. The upright position is maintained in life by compensating movements which are automatically called into play by special sensory bodies called static organs. This is true of lobsters, as of all animals which carry themselves upright in opposition to gravity. In a lobster, these organs are pockets lined with sensitive hairs, many of which have little weights in the form of tiny sand grains glued to their tips. The grains swing about with the least movement of the body and telegraph their position to the nervous system. It is possible also that the large antennae contribute to the sense of balance.

Molting - The molting of a lobster is a somewhat complex but extremely interesting procedure. A lobster molts because its flesh has grown but its inelastic shell has not. A freshly molted lobster will be an inch or more longer than its cast shell. Molting begins the second day after hatching and continues through the life of the lobster or at least as long as it is growing. The first three molts are passed in from twelve to fifteen days. In mature lobsters, the male sheds once a year or until it is older and slower growing. A lobster weighing over ten pounds will probably shed only every three or four years. The female usually molts once in two years if she is fertile, otherwise the same as a male. In healthy young animals, molting lasts but a few minutes, but the process is striking and at all times it is critical and sometimes fatal.

Certain changes occur in the body of a lobster in preparation for the molt. Among these changes is the absorption into the body of the lobster of much of the lime in its shell along a narrow line in the solid part extending from its beak to the after end. The shell becomes brittle along this line in preparation to splitting open. A most important change

is in the flesh of the lobster, which becomes stringy, watery and unpalatable. In the eastern lobster, the large claws shrink due to the fluid in the claws being withdrawn into other parts of the body, leaving the claws virtually free from blood. Without this withdrawal and consequent shrinkage, it would be impossible for the claw to be withdrawn without rupture. They are considerably distorted, as well as some other parts, being compressed and drawn out to an unnatural length. The mass of the main claw is generally more than four times greater than the narrowest point through which it is drawn. As molting approaches, the lobster becomes markedly uneasy and as the critical point of shedding is reached, the back shell gapes away a quarter of an inch or more from the tail. The lobster then lies on its side and bends its body in the shape of the letter V. Presently the old cuticle holding the halves together begins to stretch and slow, steady pressure finally bursts the skin, revealing the brilliant colors of the new shell.

When this stage has been reached, the lobster becomes quiet for a few sec-

onds and then resumes its task with renewed vigor. The doubled-up fore part of the body, with each effort of the animal, is more and more withdrawn from the old shell. The solid part of its shell is still unbroken, yet the two halves of the shell bend as upon a hinge along a line from which the lime of the shell has been absorbed. This part usually splits open as straight and clean as though it had been cut with a knife and the lobster emerges with every part of the old shell down to each microscopic hair, reproduced in the new one.

The newly molted lobster has a very sleek and fresh appearance and its colors are never brighter or more attractive. In this condition, however, it is lean and miserable. It is helpless to protect itself and is eagerly attacked by some fish and other hard-shelled lobsters. The female lobster often has empty egg cases clinging to her abdomen after they have hatched. Molting is the only way she can get rid of these encumbrances.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH . . .

COMMENTS ON INSTRUCTION

Our Underwater Unit Office receives numerous fine comments from newly certified SCUBA Divers throughout the Country. The following have been selected at random for this issue of the Underwater News.

PAUL HEISIG, 21UICC

Recognition should be given to the personal effort and attention which Mr. Heisig gave to the students of the class, which I believe extended beyond the normal considerations required of a competent course instructor. Mr. Heisig is a credit to your organization.

Jay W. Stevens
Los Angeles, Calif.

DON FOX, 14UICC

Very thorough - adequate supervision - excellent instruction - rigid pool discipline - Tough safety regulations, tanks, etc.

Mel Bunnell
Claremont, Calif.

ROSS RAUH, 17UICC

Ross Rauh is a very competent instructor. He instills confidence in his students by making a very thorough and concise presentation. His visual aids and demonstrations are very helpful and appropriate. Outside information and lectures were well researched and comprehensive. The class was difficult, yet it was a pleasure.

Randall P. Davis
Long Beach, Calif.

WILLIAM OWEN, JR., 19UICC

Bill exceeded your course minimums to insure our complete comfort and safety ... he was extremely thorough!

John J. Huetter, Jr.
Los Angeles, Calif.

L. A. COUNTY PUBLIC SCUBA PROGRAM

As you've probably already heard, Los Angeles County has just approved a wide-spread new "Public SCUBA Program" offering direct SCUBA diving lessons at Countywide regional pools and auditorium facilities. We're scheduled to launch into full operation in the Spring, and in the meanwhile our emphasis will be on "getting prepared" with smaller experimental versions of this program. A massive publicity campaign is currently underway on TV, radio and in newspapers encouraging local residents to call or sign up for their Public SCUBA course at their nearest County public swimming pool or park facility. This latest move by our Department represents a major step forward in our public service obligation to furnish appropriate underwater safety training to all local residents.

Here at last emerges the opportunity for all taxpaying residents to fully take advantage of their due public resources...olympic-size swimming pools, lecture auditoriums, lifeguard resources, public safety and administrative personnel...all finally geared to present a top quality public service program in Basic SCUBA instruction. We feel truly fortunate, at last, for the opportunity to expand upon our existing underwater services so far...from merely certifying instructors each year to now actually conducting public instruction in our existing facilities.

Since the very beginning of this sport, Los Angeles County has always set the underwater pace and furnished a worldwide example in safety requirements and instructional standards. For the past eighteen years, however, we've limited our basic SCUBA efforts to strictly training and recertification of underwater instructors. Our approach has paralleled the method used by Red Cross...we've turned out instructors in hopes that they would find employment out in the field where their knowledge could be passed on to the public. And, up till most recently, this indirect public service approach has worked very well...we've trained nearly 700 instructors who, in turn, have certified more

than 140,000 safe divers to date.

In recent years, however, other certification groups have evolved...often falling short of the quality standards set forth by our programs. We know that most of the swimming pools which are currently being used for local SCUBA instruction are totally inadequate...tiny, shallow and unsuited for any swim conditioning or depth skills. Many of the courses we see today resemble an assembly-line method of teaching with students overcrowded, ill-equipped, mechanically hurried and with hardly any actual training in the ocean involved. We suddenly also discover that our highly trained L.A. County instructors today are being denied exposure to the public (i.e. employment) due to their refusal to compromise safety ethics for commercial bias.

We find it appalling that many shops and diving schools today place economics before safety...that they prefer to hire less qualified persons who'll agree to "push equipment" and impose "easier standards" on customers, and who'll purposely omit critical hazard-warnings from lectures. It appears a valuable teaching resource is being overlooked and diving safety is being adversely affected. The public simply isn't being permitted the opportunity to learn under competent Los Angeles County instructors any more...and is forced into accepting marginal instruction instead. It would almost appear paradoxical for the County to continue to train its instructors each year if our evidence shows that those instructors will never gain access to the public.

We feel that the new Los Angeles County Public SCUBA Program will solve many of these concerns...doors will open into previously unavailable public facilities, a top-quality safety-curriculum may be presented without commercial bias, and full employment opportunities will become available to currently-dormant instructors. The public will benefit...as a strictly non-profit public program, our total energies may

be committed exclusively to quality instruction and diving safety...without compromise!

Instructors will enjoy the curriculum criteria...it's thorough and rewarding to teach. Thirty-six total hours allowing the students continuous pool use of full-ocean-gear (including wet suit). There'll be three separate ocean trips including a boat-dive to Catalina. Abundant instructor support will be available as well as County lifeguard personnel and vehicles. There's even a full-time remedial class setup...if someone should require additional watermanship practice, there exist special arrangements to applicants--there are lifeguards assigned at special pools to help bring watermanship skills onto eligibility level. All lectures will be open to the public with encouragement offered to

join the next class.

As public participation increases, it will mean great future advantages to the diving industry in general. From the large numbers of new customers generated...to the opportunities to bid on future equipment-rental contracts. Charterboats will begin to enjoy new "during-the-week" business and shops may capitalize on the forthcoming need for Intermediate and Advanced training. Organized diving club memberships should begin to pick up and an overall boost in the entire diving realm is anticipated.

We invite you to call our Underwater Unit for a complete "Information Booklet"...it'll explain all the details. Tell your friends about the program...it'll all explode into full reality in the Spring!!!

"WHAT THEY OUGHT TO PRINT IS"

By: Bernard G. Boomer (17UICC)

Have you ever read the Underwater News and thought to yourself or said to one of your diving buddies, "What they ought to print is this idea I have," or have you been in a group and sat around after a District meeting and complained about some of the practices of ADP, UICC or the Board of Directors?" Or have you sometime done some research that was included in a school paper or your UICC Class that was shelved and no one but you know about the hours of time and the good that you dredged up for this article?

If any of these things have happened to you and you want to put it down on paper and let people know how you feel,

here's your opportunity. The Publications Committee is seeking information, articles, highlights of programs, suggestions that can be shared with all the Underwater Instructors that read our Underwater News.

The Underwater Board recognizes that these articles take time and that it is a sacrifice above and beyond the classwork you have to do. For this reason they guarantee that your article will get a by-line and that you will get credit for a program assist.

Mail your information to the editor, Tom Ebro. He will see that the Committee receives your article.

U.W. CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Los Angeles County is seeking a full time administrator to fill a vacant position left by Donn Gartrell on the Underwater Unit staff. Title of the position is Underwater Aquatic Specialist and the job entails total management of all the varied Los Angeles County underwater programs and activities. Salary range is \$10,104 - \$12,576 per annum including full Los

Angeles County employee benefits.

Qualifications must include:

- Graduation from an accredited college and two years' responsible administrative experience
- California Driver's License and car
- Thorough knowledge of the underwater field.

It isn't easy...the job is strictly "high-pressure" in nature with long irregular hours of extensive writing, planning detailwork and an endless schedule of evening meetings, etc. Your office would be downtown at the Underwater Unit Headquarters. Overlapping responsibilities would range from continuous administration of all our large public training programs (i.e. Youth

Skindiving, Basic SCUBA, ADP, UICC, etc.) to writing and editing our educational materials (Manuals, Underwater News, Films, etc.) to furnishing complete administrative support to our Underwater Instructors Association, etc.

If interested, send your resume to Tom Ebro, Underwater Unit Director and an appointment will be scheduled for you.

ABOUT GLACD

By: Paul Meister
President, Greater Los Angeles
Council of Divers

This September, Leonard Greenstone resigned from the office of President, and I have been selected by the GLACD Board of Directors to carry out the remaining duties of the Presidential Office.

On Thursday, November 30, GLACD will hold a meeting to discuss specific recreational-diving safety recommendations to become part of the L.A. County Safety Committee Report. This report is to be presented before the County Board of Supervisors.

Meeting Date: November 30 at 7:30PM
Location: Los Angeles County Underwater Unit Auditorium
7th Floor at 155 W. Washington Bl.,
Los Angeles (near intersection of
Santa Monica and Harbor Freeways).

I'd like to see a big turnout for this meeting. GLACD is in a unique position for fostering unity among all the diversified groups that share diving as their common denominator. This position is made possible by two facts:

1. GLACD is primarily an organization of diving clubs with a structure that allows for both individual and associate members, and

2. GLACD is independent from any instructional organization or diving entrepreneur.

By bringing clubs together, via inter-club activity and discussion, coupled with effective communication, GLACD can unify those who diving serves, i.e., the diver. In addition, GLACD can serve as an impartial sounding board, where arguments can be hammered out and conclusions presented in an organized fashion as the voice of Southern California diving.

The current ecological trend today with its consequent legislative focus makes unity among divers a necessity. We live in the diving capital of the world with the highest concentration of divers and diving manufacturers -- a capital that has consistently poured forth an unprecedented amount of diving information, programs, competitive champions, and leaders that have in the past and are currently setting the pace for everyone else. Yet, within the political framework of diving we present a weak and disorganized structure. We fight among and exploit ourselves and by so doing are ourselves exploited.

NEWS QUICKIES

*We regret to announce the recent vacancy that occurred on our Underwater Unit staff...Donn Gartrell, Underwater Aquatic Specialist in our office for the past 10 months has unexpectedly resigned his post to take on a new position as Manager/Co-Owner of

"Sport Chalet Divers," a new dive shop in La Canada. We're certainly sorry to see Donn go...he's been the dynamic force behind the past 21UICC and currently successful ADP...and he'll be sorely missed.
GOOD LUCK, DONN!

*A tip to shell collectors who have had difficulty in removing the animal from the shell...a technique that works is to get a prescription for "Valium" and a hypodermic needle. Simply dissolve the Valium in a little water and inject the muscle with it. Within an hour the muscle is so relaxed you can just pull it out. Try it!

*Attention cigarette smokers... there's additional bad news for you. Both men and women with long histories of cigarette smoking have more severely wrinkled faces than do non-smokers, according to a recent study. Remember, as a diver, beside inviting embolism potential and reducing oxygen-bonding capability in yourself...your mask may not seal too well against facial wrinkles!

*The American National Standards Institute, Inc. (ANSI) "Z86.3 Committee" has just completed its many years of struggle to develop a standard on Minimum Course Content for SCUBA. All of the existing teaching organizations had been solicited for input and advice...and the

"standard" has finally become a reality. Official designation is ANSI Z86.3 - 1972 ...printed copies will be made available shortly.

*An instructor recently wrote us about a student who deserves a vote of recognition. She is Miss Gloria Diane Jones who, during the 6th ocean session of her class, demonstrated clear thinking in an emergency situation and possibly saved the life of a fellow student.

The class was at Bass Rock in medium-heavy surf on SCUBA. Another student became tired just past the surfline, struggling unsuccessfully to inflate her vest. She finally was reduced to panic, flailing and calling for help. Demonstrating exceptional presence of mind, Diane reached her before the assistant or instructor and briefly tried to inflate the vest. Within seconds she had correctly grasped the magnitude of the emergency and dropped her buddy's weight-belt. This quick and responsible action is lauded by the diving community.

LIFE INSURANCE FOR INSTRUCTORS

A victory has just been achieved... finally, an insurance company is writing Term Life Insurance for Underwater Instructors, thanks to the efforts of Paul Tzimoulis through his August SDM Editorial and Ron Young who is the agent that did the leg-work. Most policies so far have discriminatorily excluded all divers or diving instructors from their coverage plans. Yet, statistics prove that "more residents drown in their bathtubs than in SCUBA accidents... and no special rate is ever charged for people who take a bath!

Some facts about the new policy being offered instructors include:

- \$25,000 or \$50,000 amount
- Renewable and Convertible

- No doctor exam
- No diving questions (discrimination)
- Can be paid semi-annually
- Cost is lower than non-divers

The following are the rates we were quoted:

Age	\$25,000	\$50,000
Under 30	33.00	65.50
30-34	35.50	70.50
35-39	46.75	93.00
40-44	69.25	138.00
45-49	104.25	208.00

More information will soon be mailed to all our Underwater Instructors. Meanwhile, if you're interested...simply call Ron Young at (714) 541-5337.

THE PROBLEM WITH FISH & GAME LAWS. . .

Are the existing California Fish and Game Regulations truly realistic as far as local divers are concerned??? And how about the Farnsworth Bank proposal which threatens divers offshore??? These and other concerns were recently aired by divers and presented before the State Commissioners on behalf of the Manufacturers, Sport Diving Boats, Dive Shops, Dive Clubs, Instructor Associations and Individual Sport Divers. In essence, the divers' position was as follows:

"In talking with some of the Fish and Game Wardens, we quite understand that policing of the regulations is a difficult problem. The Wardens tell us they are short handed and have a tough time trying to cover the whole coast. We believe these changes will help aid them in their job.

It will be much easier to measure a uniform size of Abalone instead of, as it is now, 4 different measurements for 5 different species. To count 3 Halibut instead of measuring each fish, this method is much faster and much more fair to the sport diver. We have a unique problem with the Halibut size limit. A Halibut most often is buried in the sand, so that the diver cannot tell the total size of the fish. This, along with the problem of water magnification makes it impossible to determine the true size of the fish.

If a sport diver does spear a Halibut, and later after measuring the fish finds it to be only 20" instead of 22", it's too late. The fish now has a 3/8" stainless steel shaft through it and obviously will not live. The diver does not want to break the Fish and Game regulations, however, and more so does not want to waste the resources. This is why we need your support! To ban the size limit and to set forth a possession limit that can be properly adhered to by the people and adequately policed by the Department.

As for the Abalone of our coast, the diver again finds himself at a loss when trying to adhere to Fish and Game regulations. For the proper size and species the individual diver has to be an Abalone expert or suffer the consequences. We now have 4 different measurements for 5 different

species.

The underwater Instructors do their best to inform the divers of this law. However, the new divers are more worried about nitrogen narcosis, the bends, air embolism, rapture of the deep, buddy breathing and other diving hazards. This is why the complex Abalone laws do not quite sink in. When he is caught with a Green Abalone, which he thought was a Pink (there's 1/4" difference), he's severely fined for this and his whole day of recreation is ruined.

Please think of us as Recreationist and not as Desecrationist.

When two or three guys get together in their small boats and have a combination of Pinks, Greens, Blacks, Whites, or Reds and no one really knows for sure what's what; it is easy to look at a Green and think it's a Pink or some other species. However, frequently they are set straight by the Game Wardens, who kindly meet them at the boat launching hoist or at the top of the beach. Their entire catch is often confiscated for evidence, along with their goodie bag (divers catch bag which runs from \$7 to \$19) plus given a citation which will cost them for not being Abalone experts! These divers are now spending their recreational dollar on unfair fines. We do not see these divers next week on the boats or at the dive shops getting a new Sea-View gauge or decompression meter. The money he was saving for the new dive gear or boat trip has had to pay his fine.

If they spend those dollars on unjust fines, the boats will run less and by running less they put less dollars into the entire economic system. Manufacturers and Dive Shops also feel the same pressures. Please review the problems we have and help regulate our sport

wisely for we desperately need your understanding and the understanding of the committee on the problems the sport diver faces every day he or she dives. In most cases they do not willfully break the Fish and Game regulations. There is no educational program available to the Diving Community, not even a poster is put out to describe the 5 different species of Abalone!

The multiple day bag limit is also a problem. This is the sales tool the charter boats (those boats registered with the Fish and Game Department) need to promote two and three day trips. The passengers are asked to pay premium prices on these trips, only to find they can't take more than one limit, even if the boat is out for a week! Thus, the people do not respond when such trips are scheduled.

The boats in San Diego have built a thriving business; for they somehow can take more than one limit on multiple day trips. The Charter Fishing and Diving Boats in the Los Angeles area are slowly dying and they need help to keep their business going. The Charter Boat Association will be more than happy to cooperate with the Department in any way needed in order to have the opportunity to take multiple day limits.

It is our understanding that a proposal to eliminate the removal of anything physically attached to Farnsworth Banks has been submitted to the Commission. In conversation with Mr. Bob Lavenberg (L.A. County Museum of Natural History), the main reason for this proposal is to eliminate the destruction of *Allopora Californica*, commonly known as Purple Coral. Mr. Lavenberg admits that the sport divers, even though they take the coral (usually only one or two specimens), are not the real problem. The indiscriminate dropping of anchors by all the boats that sport fish, commercial fish, or sport dive the Bank is actually what is destroying the purple coral, not the sport diver!

The passing of the Farnsworth Bank proposal can in no way help stop the destruction of the coral. Only the positioning of moorings can stop the existing situation. Not allowing sport divers to take coral, scallops, abalone, and other game and continue to allow others to drop anchors and nets is not an adequate solution."

The State Fish and Game Commission finally met on October 6-th in Sacramento. In a nutshell, here's what happened according to Roy Hauser:

The first thing on the agenda was the proposal to make Farnsworth Bank an ecological preserve...and the Commission seemed totally in favor. Some aspects of the proposal, however, sound far-fetched and unrealistic. Miss Bergen proposed a law to prohibit anchoring of any vessels; sport, yacht or commercial in less than 25 fathoms (150 ft.) and that nothing except fish to be taken from less than that depth. She went on to say; she was in favor of a buoy to mark the bank, however, after questions from Commissioners, Miss Bergen had no idea HOW a buoy would be maintained, WHO would maintain it, WHO would place it, HOW much it would cost, or even if we would be able to anchor a boat to it etc., etc. She just wants to protect the bank from anchor damage and divers who would destroy the natural beauty. Can you imagine diveboats anchoring in 25 fathoms and deeper! Then pointing to some spot out there and telling the divers to try and find it. Hard to understand the logic. Another meeting has been scheduled to find an adequate solution, so we can see what we are saving.

Last year on more than two occasions, dive boat skippers tried to get the two day limit permits but were told that the rule only applied to Fin Fish. The question was asked if it would be impossible for the 1973 regulations to include Crustacean and Mollusks which the divers are able to take. There was surprising cooperation from Fish and Game on this matter. Looks like we may just get it.

The Halibut size is a big problem with sport fishermen as it is with sport divers. If we can have the support of dive clubs and the individual divers to send a letter in support of our proposed regulation changes, we may be able to reverse last year's decision!

As for uniforming the size of Abalone, there was no real discussion on this matter. However, the commissioners are aware of the problem. Again divers must let the commissioners know we want this changed. PLEASE write a letter to them; let them know that divers are aware of these stupid regulations. I must admit that some divers and dive clubs have voiced their opposition to making the big Red Abalone 6". Perhaps it is not realistic to make Red's 6" throughout the entire state. However, we already have a divided state on the size of clams and the method of taking Abalone in the northern part of the state. Perhaps we can get it so that any Red Abalone taken north of Santa Barbara will still be 7". We do not see enough Red Abalone taken south of that area to warrant any possible damage to the species. Besides we do not know of any diver who would take an Abalone at 6" when he can find one larger. We all will take the larger fish, scallops, bugs, and ab's if we have the chance.

One thing came up that was a real shocker. Near the end of the Ocean Angling Regulation proposals (the category we come under). A gentleman from the far side of the room made a proposal to prohibit the taking of Lobster at night. When the Commissioners seek advice from the

Fish and Game on this proposal I'm afraid Fish and Game will support this view. They will contend, just as they have on taking of the Ab's at night, that it is too difficult to police the night diving activity. They automatically are assuming we will all over-limit, spear bugs, take shorts and in general flaunt all the rules. They just don't want to have to bother with those who night dive. There is NO ecological reason for not taking of Ab's, Bugs, or Fish at night. Please help fight these stupid proposals.

Here is a list of people that you may write to concerning the proposals. If you are going to write, please do it before December 2nd.

Commissioners Names and Addresses

Ransome Pearman
P.O. Box 488
Huntington Park, CA 90255

Tim Doheny
409 North Bristol Avenue
Los Angeles, CA

Peter Fletcher
P.O. Box 936
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

Joe Russ III
Vice President
Oceanhouse
Ferndale, CA 95536

Sherman Chickering, President
111 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA
94104

Less Edgerton, Executive Secretary
1416 - 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 96814

INVITATION TO 22UICC

Go ahead, it'll be a commitment you won't regret...enroll now in our forthcoming 22UICC and earn yourself the coveted title of L.A. County Underwater Instructor...you'll be joining the most exclusive diving fraternity in the world anywhere!. But hurry, our UICC (Underwater Instructor Certification Course) occurs only once each year and the dates of

our eligibility-screening will fall on December 9th and 10th (all-day Saturday and Sunday). Once admitted, you'll receive your materials, team assignments, and course schedule...and your grueling three months of training-weekends will begin January 6-th.

So, let's back up just a bit...what qualifications are involved and how do

you enroll? Our best advice to you is call our Underwater Unit office (749-6911, extension 567) and we'll mail you a detailed "UICC Information Booklet"....it will explain every detail from qualifications, to enrollment procedure, to screening tests, to time-cost considerations, to curriculum, etc. Call us, and we'll mail it out right away!

Don't look for UICC to be easy...the course is intensive and thorough. Unlike the other advertised short-term cram courses or testing weekend programs, Los Angeles County concentrates on training its instructors. Expect step by step coverage and practice all the way exploring every last aspect of modern SCUBA-teaching dynamics; three months of exhaustive reading assignments, repetitious pool practice, homework study and research, also practical field work, teaching internship and unending examinations ...all play a vital part in our UICC training.

Of course, the benefits of graduating under L.A. County are obvious...as a diving teacher you'll emerge simply as "the best," without reservation! You'll suddenly fit as an integral part within a time proven quality-control system...a system that has always kept L.A. County as the world's leader in SCUBA safety programming. Annual recertification and during-the-year in-service training have always been mandatory obligations for all L.A. County Instructors...this feature has always distinguished the L.A. County Underwater Instructors Association from all the others. There's a full-time Underwater Unit office downtown functioning within County-government to support its instructors.

Public pools Countywide are currently being made available as teaching sites for Los Angeles County Instructors (no problem in looking for work anymore) and a multitude of County underwater projects are always in constant need of instructor leadership.

There's history...and there's deep pride within the Los Angeles County underwater program...nearly 20 exciting years of it! Nearly everything we recognize in safety standards and diving programs in the world today originated here from within the L.A. County system. We feel fortunate and proud, today here in Los Angeles County, for still being able to continue to offer the truly unparalleled program of professional instructor training. Our UICC still remains acclaimed as the First and Foremost recognized instructor accreditation program of its caliber in the world and the numerous currently existing national programs have since developed from its example.

Consider our invitation to enroll... the course is aimed at only those individuals who truly possess a genuine desire to become active professional teachers in this sport. It's not a "hero" course and we would like to discourage your application if you foresee only a temporary period of teaching service. As we explained earlier, the course is tough, it involves extensive study and weekly preparation, and it is demanding physically. If "personal sacrifice" is not in your plans, then permit your place in class to someone else -- enrollment is limited.

We hope you'll join 22UICC!!!

DIVING ACCIDENT REPORT

10/7/72; Roger Benjamin (27)

Our records show the victim NASDS certified this year; boat diving for lobsters off San Nicholas Island. Victim was on his second dive with a buddy when the pair became separated underwater. After a brief search and

wait the buddy returned to the boat and announced the missing diver. A mass search by everyone on board followed without success. Los Angeles County Beach Lifeguards were dispatched along with a Coast Guard helicopter...the body remains missing.

11/4/72; Steve Smith (23)

Our records show the victim was L.A. County certified in 1965; diving from a rocky shore off South Laguna Beach. Victim and his buddy were going after lobster on this "opening day." The buddy reported the victim hesitated during the entry, waded back, chose another entry point down the beach and disappeared. The buddy waited 20 minutes on the surface at the pre-arranged

spot but the victim never showed up... later, another witness thought he had observed a diver hanging onto a buoy alone and directed the buddy to the area. The buddy then discovered the victim lying on the bottom with a laceration on his forehead, which led to the speculation that he had slipped, fallen and lost consciousness. The victim's weightbelt was still on...the coroner listed drowning as the cause.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 6, 13, 20, 27

Ford Park Auditorium
8000 Scout Avenue
Bell Gardens
\$FREE ADMISSION

L.A. COUNTY PUBLIC SCUBA PROGRAM LECTURES . . .
Open to the public as space permits. Basic SCUBA curriculum lectures will be presented. An excellent opportunity to review past forgotten material. Invite your friends!

November 10 (7:30 p.m.)

L.A. County Supervisors
Auditorium at Temple & Grand,
Civic Center L.A.
\$FREE ADMISSION

ADP SEMINAR -- UNIQUE DIVING HOBBIES; MARINE LIFE PREPARATION & PRESERVATION; AQUARIUM SCIENCE & SHELL COLLECTING . . . lecturers include Sam Miller (11UICC), Gordon Kahrs (18UICC), June Davis (16UICC), Rill Brand (19UICC), Denis Brand (17UICC).

November 14-17

Quebec City, Canada
Contact: Dr. Frierwood,
CNCA, 51 Clifford Ave.
Pelham, N.Y.

\$31.50 Conference Fee

CNCA-CCCA INTERNATIONAL AQUATIC CONFERENCE . . . A 4-day all encompassing aquatic conference highlighting developments in SCUBA and Underwater Safety. Included on the program are programs and national organizations in Canada and the USA; research, new areas of exploration, Z-86ANSI underwater safety standards, etc.

November 17 (7:30 p.m.)

L.A. County Supervisors
Auditorium at Temple &
Grand, Civic Center L.A.
\$FREE ADMISSION

ADP SEMINAR -- DIVING CAREERS & OPPORTUNITIES; TEACHING, TRAVEL, THE SCIENCES & COMMERCIAL DIVING . . .
Top authorities from these various fields will offer insight and advice.

November 29 (7:30 p.m.)

Underwater Unit Auditorium
155 W. Washington Blvd.
Los Angeles, (7th Floor)
\$FREE ADMISSION

INSTRUCTORS' SAFETY WORKSHOP . . . Board designated Workshop for L.A. County instructors. Dr. John Alexander will discuss practical aspects of emergency medical treatment following a diving accident. Recertification credit will be issued to those who attend.

November 30 (7:30 p.m.)

Underwater Unit Auditorium
155 W. Washington Blvd.
Los Angeles (7th Floor)
\$FREE ADMISSION

GIACD, ANNUAL ELECTIONS & SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS MEETING . . . Officer elections and discussion on safety recommendations to be submitted to the Los Angeles County Underwater Safety Committee. Representation from all clubs is solicited . . . transcriptions will become published document.

December 1 (all-day)

L.A. County Medical Examiner-
Coroner Building, 1104 No.
Mission Rd., Los Angeles
\$COMMITTEE ONLY

December 2 (6:00 p.m.)

Proud Bird Restaurant
11022 Aviation Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA
\$ 7.00 Guest Fee

December 3 (9:00 a.m.)

White Point, San Pedro
(at foot of Western Ave.
by the Pacific Ocean)
\$ FREE ADMISSION

December 9 (8:00 p.m.)

East Los Angeles College
Auditorium
5357 E. Brooklyn Ave.
Los Angeles
\$3.00 Admission Fee

December 9-10 (All-day)

Cal Poly College, Pomona
Zuma Beach, Malibu
by pre-registration

\$100 Tuition

L.A. COUNTY UNDERWATER SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

. . . Annual convocation of appointed member-
ship on the Los Angeles Underwater Safety Com-
mittee. Review of annual diving accidents;
presentation of individual reports; formal
remedial recommendations.

ADP GRADUATION BANQUET . . .

Festive graduation
ceremonies for the current Advanced Diver Pro-
gram class including banquet dinner. Guest
attendance is invited!

PURP URCHIN-CONTROL DIVE . . .

A full morning
of urchin-hammering activity. Bring a hammer.
You'll be assigned an underwater project-corridor
and the task will be to eradicate as many urchins
as possible. It's helping to bring kelp back!

U.P.S.' 11-th INTERNATIONAL UNDERWATER PHOTO-
GRAPHIC EXHIBITIONS . . .

One evening of award
winning underwater films, slides and print
exhibitions. This annual U.P.S. highlight has
become a traditional must for all Southland's
divers. Highly recommended!!!

22UICC PRE-TESTING . . .

Two full days of rigorous
eligibility screening prior to Los Angeles
County's annual Underwater Instructor Certifica-
tion Course. The UICC extends 3-months on week-
ends and represents the epitome in instructor
training anywhere!