



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NOTE: The July business meeting will begin earlier – 7:30 PM -

Hi Tritons,

It's that time of year again, while we are deep in the diving season (although how many of us have been diving?), it is time to create a calendar for 2010. The first two things that we need are a calendar and volunteers. We have the calendar, where are the volunteers? If you call Dave Vemmer, I am sure that he will let you join the committee. You may even get a slice of pizza out of the deal. Not that I am offering anyone a bribe. I am just trying to get members involved.

Our calendar is divided into 3 categories, Social, Community Service, and SCUBA Diving. How many activities did you take part in? Which activities? Did you enjoy the event? Is it something we should do again? We need to answer these questions in order to schedule events that you will be interested in participating.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Steve Leibovitz
Vice-President – Randy Skiba
Secretary – Pam Romund
Treasurer – David Gross
First Director – Dave O'Malley
Second Director – Renee Tobias

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Audit – Appointed in Fall
By Laws & Rules – Gary Duszak
Entertainment – Dave Vemmer
Equipment & Safety – Board of Ed
Events – Dave Vemmer
Membership – Adolph Habich
Merchandise – Pam Romund
Nominating – Appointed in Fall
Publicity/Web Site – Mike Leibovitz
Director of Training – Rich Schak
Editor of the Trib – Pam Romund
Illinois Council Delegates – Chuck & Margo Miller

DAN SPONSOR #29362

Please join the committee, or email Dave or myself with your input.

Thanks, Steve

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

July, 2009

Our membership is:

74 full members 11 associate members
TOTAL 85 members
Adolph Habich- Membership Committee

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BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

If any member would like a copy of the business meeting minutes to review please send a note to Pam Romund (promund@kraft.com) and she will email them to you before the meeting. Thanks!

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CLUB QUESTIONNAIRE

We need your help. In an effort to plan future events and determine the direction of the club, it is very important that each member of the Tritons respond to this questionnaire. It is not necessary, but would be a help to us if you will provide us with your name and contact information so we can follow up on any questions.. Simply go to the website – www.thetritons.com. Thanks!

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CAPTION CONTEST RESULTS!

Want to know who won? You will have to come to the July business meeting or wait until the August Trib hits the wires.

TRITON 2009 EVENTS CALENDAR

July, 2009		
*Sunday, 7/26	Jim Haigh Memorial Dive Haigh Quarry, Kankakee	Diving, music, raffles, food and more, all for a good cause – Chance to get together with your fellow divers
Tuesday, 7/28	Business Meeting – Presentation Mountain in the Sea (Cocos Island)	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 7:30 PM 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016
August, 2009		
Saturday, 8/1-2	Training Weeked, Pearl Lake, South Beloit, IL	Pearl Lake – Board of Education – contact Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com
Sunday, 8/2	Howard/Etherton Day Pearl Lake, South Beloit	Board of Education, Contact Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com
Tuesday, 8/11	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com
*Saturday, 8/15	Waukegan Area Charter – All Day Diving/4 Tanks!	Dan Balsam Cell-312-502-0098 or danielbalsam@yahoo.com – Only 4 Spots Remain
Tuesday, 8/25	Business Meeting – Live Presentation - TBD	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 7:30 PM 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016
September, 2009		
Saturday, 9/5	Haigh Quarry Dive & Picnic – Kankakee	Needs TIC
Tuesday, 9/8	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com
Saturday, 9/12	Mexican Independence Day Party - Vemmer Home, Park Ridge	Rosana Vemmer (rvmexicana@hotmail.com) Lourdes Alonso (lonso@stepan.com)
Tuesday, 9/22	Business Meeting - Video Wolves of the Sea	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 7:30 PM 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016
October, 2009		
Saturday, 10/10	Lake Geneva Dive, Lake Geneva, WI	Jim Hynan, Jim.Hynan@occ.treas.gov
Tuesday, 10/13	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com
Friday, 10/17	Haunted House Tour	Needs TIC
Tuesday, 10/27	Business Meeting – Member Slide/Movies	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 7:30 PM 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016
November, 2009		
Saturday, 11/7	Community Service	Needs TIC
Tuesday, 11/10	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com
Saturday, 11/14	Dinner & Movie Night	Needs TIC
Tuesday, 11/24	Business Meeting – You Don't Know SCUBA Jack Competition	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 7:30 PM 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016
December, 2009		
Saturday, 12/5	Holiday Party	Board of Directors
Tuesday, 12/8	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com

*Denotes Date Change

We have immediate openings for a few TICs, no experience necessary. Please contact Dave Vemmer if you are interested in running an event. We need to get TICs for all the events on the calendar.

The countdown has begun to the end of our 2009 Events calendar and we are beginning to plan for 2010.

If you have an idea for an event please pass it along – we are always looking for new and fun venues.

WAUKEGAN AREA DIVE CHARTER
Spend the Day Diving
Aboard the Enterprise with Captain Dale
Saturday, August 15

Departure is 7:00-AM CDT, sharp
Waukegan Harbor, Waukegan, IL
Cost: Tritons \$155, Non-Members \$165.00



This will be an all day event, we will dive 4 wrecks leaving Waukegan in the AM with two of the dives on the Straits of Mackinac. Only 4 slots remain, sign up now, first come, first serve!

Dry suits are strongly recommended or > 7 mm wet suits for the strong at heart. Bottom temps are expected to be in the mid-40s and visibility a stunning 50ft.

TIC: Dan Balsam 312-502-0098 or danielbalsam@yahoo.com

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NOTE FROM SUNNY FLORIDA

Received a note from Leo and Sue Krahula. They retired last year and relocated to Florida. Leo writes: "Sue and I do a little diving at Weeki Wachee spring cleaning the underwater theater glass and underwater props for the mermaid show. It's only volunteer work but it's fun to get into the water once in a while." It is always fun to hear from Tritons who have left for sunnier climes, anyone else want to send me a note? I will be happy to let folks know how you are doing.

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JULY MEETING ENTERTAINMENT

At the July meeting we will be viewing *Mountains in the Sea*, a closer look at Cocos Island – and the wonderful underwater world beneath. Come on out, come early and join with your fellow Tritons for dinner before the meeting.

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MARSH HOWARD/JIM EHERTON DAY

Sunday, August 2

Pearl Lake, South Beloit, IL

Hard to believe August is here. Head out to Pearl for a day of diving, fun and great food. We will have the grill going – burgers, brats, hot dogs – what will it be? And tons of sides included to make sure you won't go hungry.

We are very lucky to have reserved the new pavilion and will be under the roof so we can be out of the sun if you don't want to work on that tan. Loads of picnic benches to sit or bring your favorite lounge to have that afternoon nap under the trees.

This is always a fun event – whether you plan to dive or not – come on out, there will plenty to things to do, perhaps bring your bike and bike around the lake.

Here are all the details, sign up at the July meeting:

Sunday, August 2

Time: 10:00 AM

Lunch: About 1:00 PM

Cost: \$20 Entrance to Pearl

TIC: Your Board of Education

Contact: Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com



Photos courtesy of Jean Medina, many thanks!



THE TRITONS AT THE FRONTERA

No, the Tritons didn't make a dash for the border but on Sunday, June 14th 2009, 5 Tritons and 5 Triton guests attended the Frontera Farmer Foundation "Festival of the One True Taste", a "farmers' market" of local artisanal farmers offering their specialties!

We were blessed with a beautiful, sunny, early summer day that allowed the folks of the Frontera Grill/Topolobampo to open their doors to the outside while hosting their annual farmers market within the restaurant. While we waited patiently outside, the farmers and restaurant staff set up over 12 stations of delicious food, wines and tequila.

Once the event began, we unconsciously divided into three Triton teams: 1) the table stakers, 2) the margarita collectors and 3) the food surveyors. The table stakers laid claim to a couple of tables in the bar while the margarita collectors placed the first orders of Watermelon-Cucumber infused margaritas.

When the food surveyors came back to the tables with their first plates and recommendations, responsibilities were exchanged and the second wave of food surveyors and margarita collectors went into action. This process repeated several times until it was announced that our private cooking demonstration was to begin.

Upon arriving upstairs at the Frontera Test Kitchens, we found ourselves within stick-shaking distance of Chef Rick Bayless where he spent over an hour demonstrating how to make homemade chorizo, preparing a wilted spinach salad with chorizo dressing and graciously answering the many questions presented to him.

When the demonstration was over, Chef Bayless took the time to autograph one of the Triton guest's cookbooks and pose for a photo with the Triton members in attendance. We returned to the restaurant below to continue in sampling the food, bidding on raffle items and enjoying the pleasant breezes and conversations on the restaurant's sidewalk eating area.

The event gave us the opportunity to learn about the local farmers and producers that strive to bring healthy, delicious and sustainable foods to our tables as well as try some mouth-watering foods and enjoy each others company. This will be a repeat event on the Triton Calendar so we hope to see more of you and next years outing!
Rosana Vemmer, TIC

Many thanks to John Stepien for sending this one on. Reprinted from:
http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090625/ts_afp/environmentwildlifebiodiversityspeciessharks:ylt=AvdLHvw13DhKKsJavM0QznIzNdF,
Thu Jun 25, 1:52 am ET

THIRD OF OPEN OCEAN SHARKS FACE EXTINCTION: STUDY

PARIS (AFP) – A third of the world's open water sharks -- including the great white and hammerhead -- face extinction, according to a major conservation survey.

Species hunted on the high seas are particularly at risk, with more than half in danger of dying out, reported the Shark Specialist Group at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The main culprit is overfishing. Sharks are prized for their meat, and in Asia especially for their fins, a prestige food thought to convey health benefits.

The survey of 64 species of open water, or pelagic, sharks -- the most comprehensive ever done -- comes days before an international meeting on high-seas tuna fisheries that could potentially play a role in shark conservation.

For decades, significant numbers of sharks -- including blue and mako -- have perished as "by-catch" in commercial tuna and swordfish operations.

More recently, the soaring value of shark meat has prompted some of these fisheries to target sharks as a lucrative sideline, said Sonja Forham, Policy Director for the Shark Alliance, and co-author of the study. The Spanish fleet of so-called surface longline fishing boats ostensibly targets swordfish, but 70 percent of its catch, by weight, from 2000 to 2004 were pelagic sharks.

"There are currently no restrictions on the number of sharks that these fisheries can harvest," Fordham told AFP by phone. "Despite mounting threats, sharks remain virtually unprotected on the high seas."

Sharks are especially vulnerable to overfishing because most species take many years to mature and have relatively few young.

Scientists are also set to meet in Denmark to issue recommendations on the Atlantic porbeagle which, despite dwindling numbers, failed to earn protection at the last meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), in 2007.

Canada led the charge to block the protective measure, supported by Argentina, New Zealand and some Asian countries. Europe is the fastest growing market for meat from the porbeagle and another species, the spiny dogfish.

The demand for shark fins, a traditional Chinese delicacy, has soared along with income levels in China over the last decade. Shark carcasses are often tossed back into the sea by fishermen after the fins are cut off. Despite bans in international waters, this practice -- known as "finning" -- is largely unregulated, experts say.

The report identified the great hammerhead and scalloped hammerhead sharks, as well as giant devil rays as globally endangered. The smooth hammerhead, great white, basking, and oceanic whitetip sharks are listed as globally vulnerable to extinction, along with two species of makos and three types of threshers.

Some 100 million sharks are caught in commercial and sports fishing every year, and several species have declined by more than 80 percent in the past decade alone, according the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).

The IUCN issues the Red List of Threatened Species, the most comprehensive and authoritative conservation inventory of the world's plants and animals species.



Hammerhead Shark being photographed by diver

TEN WAYS A DIVER CAN PROTECT THE UNDERWATER ENVIRONMENT

As divers and water enthusiasts we are privileged to have access to unique underwater environments. In fact, due to our up close and personal relationship with the underwater world, divers and snorkelers are often the first to recognize habitat decline and contribute to solutions.

Be aware of every action when entering the marine environment and take every precaution to avoid any negative impact. In addition, be an ambassador for the protection of our aquatic world and gently remind others to do the same when necessary.

1. Dive carefully to protect fragile aquatic ecosystems

Many aquatic organisms are delicate and can be harmed by the bump of a camera, the swipe of a fin or even the gentle touch of a hand. Some aquatic organisms like corals grow very slowly and breaking even a small piece can destroy decades of growth. By being careful you can prevent long term damage to magnificent dive sites.

2. Be aware of your body and equipment placement when diving

Keep your gauges and alternate air source secured so they don't drag over the reef or other vital habitat. Control your buoyancy, taking care not to touch fragile organisms with your body or equipment. You can do your part and prevent injury to aquatic life every time you dive.

3. Keep your dive skills sharp through continuing education

Before heading to open water seek bottom time with a certified professional in a pool or other environment that won't be damaged. You can also refresh your skills and knowledge with a PADI Scuba Review, Advanced Open Water Diver course or specialty course such as Peak Performance Buoyancy.

4. Consider how your interactions affect aquatic life

Avoid touching, handling, feeding or riding on aquatic life. These actions may stress the animal, interrupt feeding and mating behavior or provoke aggressive behavior in normally nonaggressive species.

5. Understand and respect underwater life

Playing with animals or using them as food for other species can leave a trail of destruction, disrupt local ecosystems and rob other divers of their experiences with these creatures. Consider enrolling in a PADI Underwater Naturalist, AWARE Fish Identification or Coral Reef Conservation Specialty course to better understand sustainable interactions.

6. Be an ecotourist

Make informed decisions when selecting a destination and choose Project AWARE Environmental Operators or other facilities dedicated to sustainable business practices. Obey all local laws and regulations and understand your effect on the environment. Don't collect souvenirs like corals or shells. Instead, take underwater photos and follow Project AWARE's *10 Tips for Underwater Photographers*.

7. Respect underwater cultural heritage

Divers are privileged to access dive sites that are part of our cultural heritage and maritime history. Wrecks can also serve as important habitats for fish and other aquatic life. Help preserve these sites for future generations by obeying local laws, diving responsibly and treating wrecks with respect.

8. Report environmental disturbances or destruction

As a diver, you're in a unique position to monitor the health of local waters. If you notice unusual depletion of aquatic life, injury to aquatic animals or strange substances in the water, report these observations to responsible authorities in your area.

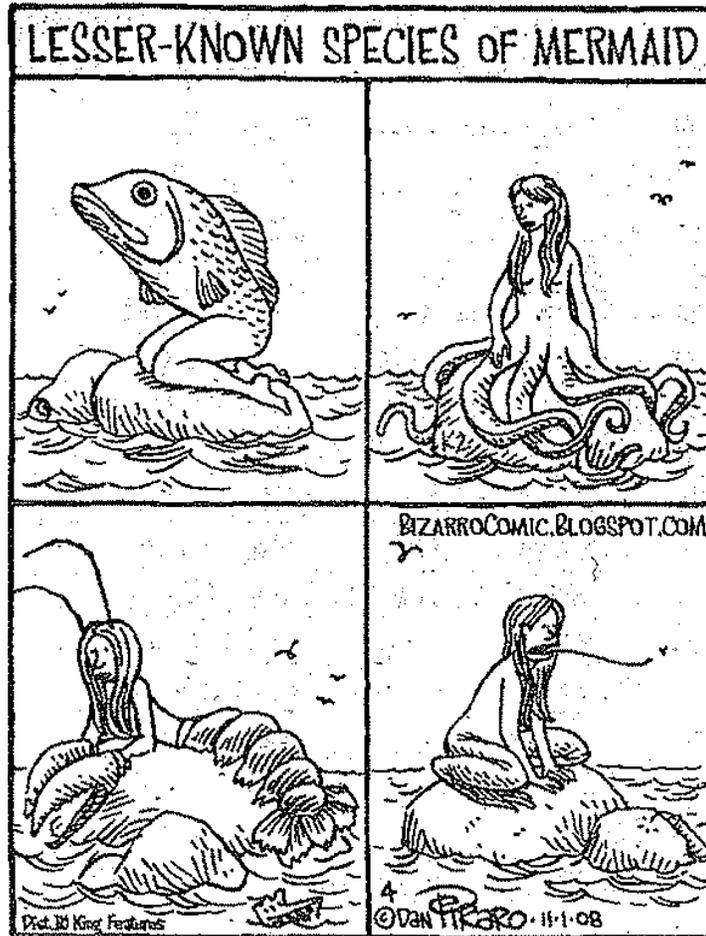
9. Be a role model for other divers and nondivers when interacting with the environment

As a diver, you see the underwater results of carelessness and neglect. Set a good example in your own interactions so that others can learn from you.

10. Get involved in local environmental activities and issues

You can greatly affect your corner of the planet. There are plenty of opportunities to support healthy aquatic environments including conservation and data collection activities like local beach and underwater cleanups and Coral Watch monitoring, supporting environmental legislative issues, attending public hearings on local water resources, conserving water or making responsible seafood choices.

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The following are reprinted from **Undercurrent** -- Consumer Reporting for the Scuba Diving Community since 1975
www.undercurrent.org Dive News July 20, 2009

Poseidon Announces Recall of BCD Part: The Swedish manufacturer is recalling 300 of its Besea W50 Diving Wings because the inner bladder can break, posing a drowning hazard. Poseidon says it received 15 reports from divers and dive shops of the inner bladders breaking, but no injuries have been reported. Bladders marked for recall were sold between September 2007 and June 2008, and have the batch number 5445 on a tab located between the "legs" of the inner bladder. Contact Poseidon USA for a free replacement by calling them at 877-673-4366 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Central, or send an email to info@poseidoncentral.com.

Should You Reschedule That Roatan Dive Trip?: The U.S. State Department issued a [travel warning](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_4526.html) after the military coup ousted Honduras' president, recommending Americans "defer all non-essential travel to Honduras until further notice." However, the Bay Islands are far from the unrest so flights directly to Roatan should be of no concern, but some people change planes in the cities of Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, where there may be potential problems.

Annual Coral Spawn in Florida and Bonaire: Their reefs' "love affairs," synchronized mass-spawning rituals, are traditionally sparked by August, September and October's full moons. Divers' best bets in Florida are on August 5, 6 and 7 (full moon is August 6) and September 2, 3 and 4 (full moon is September 4). Contact any Keys dive shop about coral spawn dives. In Bonaire, spawning times are between three and nine days after the full moon, so the ideal times are September 7 to 13, and October 7 to 13.

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY FOR DIVERS TO EQUALIZE

"Pinch your nose and blow." As scuba divers we've all heard that before. I've said it myself to many students in the past. But with that phrase comes tensed stomachs, bulging eyes and purple faces. All divers know you have to equalize to go underwater and for some it comes easily, but how do you explain it properly to someone who has never done it before?

As I've gotten more and more into the sport of freediving, I've learned a lot more about equalizing, since it's very important to be able to clear your ears reliably and quickly on the inverted descents and rapid ascents of breath-hold dives. But what I've learned from freediving has also taught me a lot about equalizing on scuba.

Two techniques

A little known scuba diving fact is that there are several types of equalization and each uses different technique. Two of the most common in scuba are the Valsalva and Frenzel techniques.

Most new divers who "pinch their noses and blow" use the Valsalva technique. In the Valsalva, divers bear down and clench their stomach and chest muscles to force air from their lungs up into their nasal passages, ear canals and sinuses, thereby equalizing their ears.

The problem with the Valsalva technique is that a diver must use a lot of effort to force the large volume of air from their lungs into their small, delicate ear canals, creating the familiar, tight-lipped, purple-faced diver that's noisily trying to equalize their ears while making strange growly sounds as if they're trying to lift a piano.

The excessive effort required to use this technique often makes it hard to equalize effectively, which can cause damage to a divers' ears and is one of the most common causes of round window rupture, an ear injury that can very quickly end a diving career.

The preferred method of equalization is the Frenzel technique. In this technique divers take a small volume of air from their mouth and using their tongue like a piston to the upper back of their throat, piston air into their nasal passages and ear canals to equalize. By using a small amount of air and a modicum of effort and muscle movement, divers can equalize with ease, even at depth or during a freedive, when available air is limited to the volume in the diver's lungs. In fact, it is nearly impossible to equalize past 15 feet while freediving if you're using Valsalva.

But the real question is this: how do you know which one you're using? A simple way to check is to put one hand on your stomach and equalize. Then put one hand on your throat and equalize. If you felt your stomach move, you're most likely using Valsalva. If you felt only your throat move, you're using Frenzel.

The good news is that if you just realized that you've been using Valsalva all this time, it is entirely possible to learn to switch to Frenzel.

The first step to mastering Frenzel is to practice each step of the technique. To practice get a cup of water and move somewhere that you can make a big mess, probably outside. Take a big mouthful of water, but don't swallow. Try to spit out the water in a strong, steady stream. This messy practice mimics the motion your tongue makes when it acts as a piston, moving from the bottom of your mouth to the upper back of your throat. If you find you're creating an explosion of water from your mouth, you're still using Valsalva. Once you've successfully done this several times, try to equalize using the same tongue technique. It should feel much easier than the Valsalva.

The final step to the technique is to consistently practice it every day, even if you're not diving. The more you practice it, the more you create a habit that will take the strain off your ears and will make your overall diving experience more enjoyable, and if you're into freediving like me, you might find that you can hit some depths that seemed unreachable before.

Reprinted from <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/07/090702-albino-whale-video-ap.html>, go to the site to check out the video of Migaloo heading northward. © 2009 National Geographic (AP), July, 2, 2009

RARE ALBINO WHALE SPOTTED

Migaloo, a twentysomething rare white humpback whale was seen this week along Australia's east coast, where he's migrating northward with other humpbacks.

Migaloo, the rare all-white albino humpback whale, was spotted swimming off the Queensland state this week as he migrated northward along the Australian coast.

Migaloo was swimming with a small group of whales, and watchers set sail from the Gold Coast to get a glimpse of the endangered whale. Humpback whales have been heading north to warmer waters.

Migaloo is the only documented white humpback whale in the world, according to the Pacific Whale Foundation. Whale watchers enjoyed seeing him.

Believed to be about 20 years old, Migaloo has become a regular visitor off Australia's east coast.

Whale watchers must keep their distance from Migaloo by law by 500 meters. Anyone getting closer can draw a 16-thousand Australian dollar fine.

Editor's Note: Humpback whales are known for their magical songs, which travel for great distances through the world's oceans. These sequences of moans, howls, cries, and other noises are quite complex and often continue for hours on end. Scientists are studying these sounds to decipher their meaning. It is most likely that humpbacks sing to communicate with others and to attract potential mates. These whales are found near coastlines, feeding on tiny shrimp-like krill, plankton, and small fish. Humpbacks migrate annually from summer feeding grounds near the poles to warmer winter breeding waters closer to the equator. Mothers and their young swim close together, often touching one another with their flippers with what appear to be gestures of affection. Females nurse their calves for almost a year, though it takes far longer than that for a humpback whale to reach full adulthood. Calves do not stop growing until they are ten years old.

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www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-sharks-killersjun22.0.6414961.story June 22, 2009

DELIBERATE AND DEADLY SCIENTISTS COMPARE SHARKS, SERIAL KILLERS: 'THERE'S SOME STRATEGY GOING ON'

By Seth Borenstein, Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- Great white sharks have some things in common with human serial killers, a new study says: They don't attack at random, but stalk specific victims, lurking out of sight.

The sharks hang back and observe from a not-too-close, not-too-far base, hunt strategically, and learn from previous attempts, according to a study being published online Monday in the Journal of Zoology. Researchers used a serial-killer profiling method to figure out just how the fearsome ocean predator hunts, something that's been hard to observe beneath the surface.

"There's some strategy going on," said study co-author Neil Hammerschlag, a shark researcher at the University of Miami who observed 340 great white shark attacks on seals off an island in South Africa. "It's more than sharks lurking at the water waiting to go after them."

The sharks feeding at Seal Island could have just hovered right where the seals congregated if they were random killers of opportunity, Hammerschlag said. But they weren't.

But there's a big difference between great white sharks and serial killers: motive. The great whites attack to eat and survive, not for thrills. And great whites are majestic creatures that should be saved, Hammerschlag said.

Other animals, such as lions, also reveal strategies in their hunting, Hammerschlag said. But land animals have been observed more easily from the air or elsewhere on the ground.

Thanks to Steve Leibovitz for sending this to our attention. Article by By Michael Kahn Mon Jul 6, 1:04 pm ET, reprinted from Yahoo News
http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20090706/sc_nm/us_oceans_1;_ylt=AshLTYyMfMM6zqqwSU5TFhFllpd4;_ylu=X3oDMTE2bWZsdGExBHBvcwMyBHNIYwN5bl9wcmcludHBhZ2UEc2xrA2JhY2t0b3N0b3J5

REEFS COULD PERISH BY END OF CENTURY, EXPERTS WARN

LONDON (Reuters) – Increasingly acidic oceans and warming water temperatures due to carbon dioxide emissions could kill off the world's ocean reefs by the end of this century, scientists warned on Monday. The experts told a meeting in London the predicted pace of emissions means a level of 450 parts per million of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere will be reached by 2050, putting corals on a path to extinction in the following decades.



The two dozen coral reef specialists and climate change experts represented universities, government research offices and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

"The kitchen is on fire and it's spreading around the house," Alex Rogers of the Zoological Society of London and the International Program on the State of the Ocean, said in a statement.

"If we act quickly and decisively we may be able to put it out before the damage becomes irreversible."

Oceans absorb large amounts of CO₂ emitted by the burning of fossil fuels. But scientists say the oceans are acidifying as they absorb more carbon, disrupting

the process of calcification used by sea creatures to build shells as well as coral reefs.

Researchers around the world have been urging governments to take more account of such threats to the oceans in a new U.N. treaty on fighting global warming due to be agreed in Copenhagen in December.

Coral reefs -- delicate undersea structures resembling rocky gardens made by tiny animals called coral polyps -- are important nurseries and shelters for fish and other sea life.

They also protect coastlines, provide a critical source of food for millions of people, attract tourists and are potential storehouse of medicines for cancer and other diseases.

"If CO₂ is allowed to reach 450 ppm, as is currently widely regarded as being the most optimistic threshold target for world leaders to agree at Copenhagen, we will have put the world's reefs on a path to major degradation and ultimate extinction," John Veron, the former chief scientist of the Australian Institute of Marine Science, told the meeting.

"Such a catastrophe poses a dire threat to the future wellbeing of all humanity."

The scientists agreed that governments should strive for a level of 320 parts per million of carbon dioxide, saying 360 was a breaking point for reefs to survive.

At the current level of 387 parts per million of carbon dioxide, reefs are in serious decline, they said. This will have a future knock-effect that threatens other marine and coastal ecosystems.

Coral covers about 400,000 square km of tropical ocean floor, but needs sustained sunlight, warmer waters and high levels of carbonate to flourish.

The biggest is the Great Barrier Reef, a collection of 2,900 reefs along 2,100 km of Australia's north east coast in a marine park the size of Germany.

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Reprinted from the Planet Earth calendar. Planet Earth is a trademark of the British Broadcasting Corporation

DID YOU KNOW?

Approximately 97 percent of the world's water is salty or undrinkable and 2 percent is locked away in ice caps and glaciers, leaving 1 percent for all our needs.

A big *Triton* THANK YOU!

The following businesses support our organization and we thank them for the generosity. The next time you stop in mention you are a Triton & personally thank them for their support.

BELOW H20

2950 Ogden Avenue
Aurora IL 60504
630-820-2531

BERRY DIVE CENTER

3042 N. Milwaukee
Northbrook, IL
847-358-3848

DD DIVE SHOP

1039 Waukegan Road
Glenview, IL 60025
847-657-3483

ENTERPRISE MARINE

420 Michael Court
Des Plaines, IL 60016
847-640-8113

PEARL LAKE RESORT

Highway 251
South Beloit, IL 61080
815-389-1479

SCUBA EMPORIUM

16336 S. 104th Avenue
Orland Park, IL 60467
708-226-1614

SEA LION DIVE CENTER

1158 Lake Street
Hanover Park, IL 60107
630-289-1680

UNDERSEAS SCUBA CENTER

611 N. Addison Avenue
Villa Park, IL 60181
630-833-8383

BERRY AQUA PARADISE

1620 Pebblewood Lane, # 124
Naperville, IL 60563
630-579-1150

CHICAGOLAND SCUBA

732 S. Rand Road
Lake Zurich, IL 60047
847-540-7211

DJ'S SCUBA LOCKER

7840 W. Ogden, Suite #9
Lyons, IL 60534
708-442-4388

HAIGH QUARRY

2738 E 2000 North Road
Kankakee, IL 60901
815-939-7797

PIRATE'S COVE DIVING

1103 West Oklahoma Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53215
414-482-1430

SCUBA SYSTEMS

3919 Oakton
Skokie, IL 60076
847-674-0222

TOUCAN DIVE CENTER

756 Frontage Road
Lake Villa, IL 60046
847-356-7826

JIM HAIGH MEMORIAL/DIVER APPRECIATION DAY
SUNDAY, JULY 26 HAIGH QUARRY, KANKAKEE, IL

Get together with your fellow divers, enjoy some diving fun for a very good cause. There will be bands, raffles, SCUBA Radio and more! The Illinois Council will be in attendance, come on out and dive, or just hang out and enjoy the topside festivities. You won't be disappointed. Remember no non-divers under the age of 12 and no pets please. For more information you can go to: <http://www.haighquarry.com/>



The Tritons

FOUNDED IN 1957

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July, 2009

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2008 Illinois Council Club of the Year

The Tritons

July Meeting will begin at **7:30 PM**

Come and see *Mountains in the Sea* – Cocos Island

See you July 28, 2009 at

Giuseppe's

1062 Lee St Des Plaines, IL (847) 824-4230

The restaurant is situated on Lee Street, north of Algonquin
and south of Northwest Highway