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HUNTING LOBSTERS!
THE ETHICS OF DOING IT AND THE
METHODS OF PERFECTING IT!

AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE, I have been scuba diving for 20 years in Southern California. In that time the lobsters are always difficult to get and never where you happen to be diving. I have had three moments of lobster hunting Nirvana. One of these moments was this Saturday evening at Seal Rock in San Clemente.

PRESIDENT'S
CORNER

BY
Konrad Fry



Some people refuse to scuba dive for lobster with the misguided notion that they will wipe out all the lobsters in a reef. I want to show you what hoop netters do to a lobster population versus scuba divers (once you get beyond the hilarious banter from Bloodydecks.com fishing threads):

Msg 1

Sorry No Pics...you all know what a Lobster looks like!!! I tried a new area in North LA county and.... They Crawled Early and they were Shallow!!!

*We had **double limits (14)** by 8:15pm. and picked up the rest of the nets and culled a few. Picked up about 10 nice size Rock Crabs too.*

Most of the boats at the ramp Had Limits...We didn't get anything really big last night...maybe 4 lbs. The Albie head was a big hit with the BUGGIES!!!

*Msg 2 (This is just how fishermen talk ;-)) he did not get any... Things were going ok when some f**ktard gets the bright idea to start throwing seal bombs at divers because he thought they stealing from his nets. Cops showed up pretty fast, lots of flashing lights, people shouting. I headed to the other end of the wall. Quick message to the doushpickle throwing bombs: Great work genius, hows that lobster gonna taste with a side of assr*pe when you get tossed in jail for assult?*



Msg 3

6 legals for 43 shorts is a good ratio. At the end of last season we were pulling about 100 shorts for 1 legal. no joke. we would get about 200-300 shorts a nite. and go home with 1-4 lobsters. got discouraging. we would get 4-12 shorts in every pull w/ no keepers ugggggggg!

Msg 4

Took the skiff to Cat for the opener. We camped on the Island this year. Getting to old for 48 hours on the skiff. Buggin was ok. **Came home with 28 lobsters** for 3 dudes on a 2 day permit. 14 shorts of limits. Bummer.

I got a late start out of MDR so I couldn't go to the Rocky Point area to drop my nets. It was about 11:30 when I dropped my boat in the water. So I went North, because the break water was a ZOO. I started at 12:00 and set my six nets in about 35-40 ft. of water and when I pulled my first net I had one then another and I could not believe how great it was. This is my third time hooping and I've always sucked ass. But I finally caught some "Bugs" **about 19-21** of them.

Now do you understand that even if you are lucky, you are never that lucky. And to top it off, the lobster cages wipe out

the rest of the legal size bug! So I will reveal my lobster hunting tips and tricks and wish you the best of luck, because for scuba divers, luck is very necessary!

Konrad Fry's 20 year Lobster Method

1. Stay Shallow: Lobsters feed on small snail in eel and surf grass. One of our club members limits out just snorkeling. We were all on a dive boat for bugs going to Catalina and San Clemente. John Doyle limited out while many of us were skunked. He went to two feet of water, we all were in 100 - 30 feet of water. Now you know where they are.
2. Do not put your dive light beam directly on the lobster like it is

escaping prisoner. Their paper clip brain does discern light from dark and your hi-beam is danger. The way I do it is to slowly sweep my light over the top of the reef/grass and when I spot a large looking one I point the light away and sneak up in the semi-dark and use the edge of the light to highlight my quarry then move my hand behind the lobster while moving the light, from in front to the lobster. He is distracted and naturally move back into your hand. Hopefully the antenna are pointed forward. Then you grab and push down onto the reef, spin and measure and prepare the grill because you got one J.

3. Now that you have one, place it in the bag tail first. That way they swim to the bottom of the bag. Your bag should be hooked to your bc with either a clip or carabineer on the D-ring on the bag. They never used to have D-rings on the bag and you would have to unhook the bag each time. Many a bug was lost do to fumbling. Fumbling = turnovers = no lobster = The Chicago Bears 2007 season so far L

4. The secret to getting more lobster is stay up away from the reef/kelp/grass and sweep your light. They may be in the cracks, but you will waste valuable air time trying to reach in. The cracks are an escape route. They will come out to feed.

I hope this helps, it is us against an armada of hoop-netters and professional lobster men. All of us have the right to lobster. All of us toss back the shorts for next season. We have one week to get the big ones and I would rather have divers get them then people on boats with nets.

Enjoy -

- Konrad





*Great Activities &
Dive Boats Schedule*
What's happening at SOCDC
By Wendy Taylor

SOCDC October Calendar

October 1 California Spiny Lobster Season Opened

**October 6 Reverse Night Dive Doheny Beach for Bugs 5 AM!
Dr. Debbie's Chicken Soup for the Diver's Soul at Laguna Sea Sports
Stop by for some soup ;-)**

October 10 SOCDC October Meeting: SCUBA PRO!

October 13 10 AM Dive / Brooks /Cress Street (unless I am up in Mammoth)

October 20 Raftup to a buggy kind of place

October 21 Oil Rigs Lobster Boat Dive Sun Diver. See Wendy's boat dives.

October 27 10 AM Dive Crystal Cove

Sunday Oct 21 dive the Oil Rigs and Catalina with a limited load of 20 divers on the Sundiver. \$115 members, \$125 for non-members includes food and air.

Sunday Dec 16 dive Anacapa Island from the Peace. We have half the boat with 16 spots. \$95 members, \$100 for non-members includes food and air.

Email socdcdiverboat@hotmail.com to signup with Wendy.

Send all checks to:

SOCDC, PO Box 3687, Mission Viejo, CA 92690

Payment is due by the club meeting before the trip

Wendy



THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER **KRISTINE ORVELL** SALES REP FROM SCUBAPRO

By Paul Miller

Kristine will be discussing SCUBAPRO's new Galileo Sol computer along with a new women's BC and line of wetsuits.

Kristine's Bio - "I am from San Diego and have been diving for seventeen years. I was hooked once I dove the beautiful kelp forest at San Clemente Island. I wanted to learn more about the sport after I got certified so I continued through the classes and became a PADI instructor.

I worked as a scuba instructor while in College. When I graduated in 1995 with a degree in Communications I was hired as the Southwest Business Development Manager for Dacor Corporation. I acquired several other lines of products to represent including Pelican and Deep See.

When the Southwest Sales Representative for Scubapro products retired eight years ago I was hired to take his place. This was a wonderful change for me as I always secretly dove their product! While with Scubapro I have had the opportunity to represent them all over the world including Guantanamo Bay Cuba, Japan and Puerto Rico. My current territory includes Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico and Southern Nevada.

I still love to dive on my days off and wish I could spend more time in my two favorite places, Palau and the Bahamas. I enjoy all of the dive stores I visit and all of the people I meet on my travels. Diving has turned from a hobby to a full time career and I am very grateful to work for such an incredible company."



***Kristine will be showing
us some of the newest
from Scubapro including
the Galileo Sol computer
- the latest technical
development in dive
computers.***

Meeting is October 10th at 6:30 - Fudd's

***Get together with the
greatest bunch of divers on
the West Coast!***

***(oh, yea... we've got a great
raffle too)***



**Come join us Wednesday Night
for Good Food and Good Friends!**

