

S'NAG-A-NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE COLUMBUS SEA NAGS HTTP://WWW.SEANAGS.COM

Feb 2016

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General Meeting Minutes

Present: Dave Foley, Glenn Mitchell, Ryan Jones, Steve Locsey, Adam Biehl, Gerry Kubatska, John Guegold, Marty Bailey, Donn Ellerbrock, Debra Maxson, Mag Ranft, Steve Ranft. Former member Jack Brown was also present.

Treasurer's Report

\$ 6,420.69

50/50

Debra Maxson won the 50/50 drawing.

Announcements

1. Feb 28. to Mar. 6 – **Dive Trip (Cozumel, Mexico)**. Contact Mag Ranft (magranft@hotmail.com) or Jan Stogner at jan@caribbeandivevacations.com for more information.

2. 2016 Club membership dues are \$30.00, \$40 for husband/wife. 2016 Ohio Council dues are \$9.00.

3. Club logo patches and decals are available to new club members as a part of their membership dues. Returning members can purchase extra decals/stickers at a cost of \$1.00 each—these are plastic/waterproof--and extra patches for \$2.00 each while they last.

Dues can be mailed to:

Glenn Mitchell
120 N. Warren Ave.
Columbus, OH 43204

4. Facebook: You can find the Club Facebook page by going to: <http://en-gb.facebook.com/pages/Columbus-Sea-Nags-SCUBA-Divers-/289276535926?v=wall>, thanks to Andy

Dennis.

5. Twitter page!! Thanks to **Josh Carney**, the club now has a **Twitter page**: <@CbusSeaNags>. Check it out today!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

2016

Feb

4 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: Marty Baileys' Germany trip

18 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

Mar

3 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: Steve Locseys' Tobermory trip

17 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

Apr

7 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: Fish Egg Collection Program at Columbus Zoo's Discovery Reef, Ramon Villaverde

21 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

May

5 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD

19 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

21 Club Dive @ Lakeview RV Park Lancaster, 9:00 AM

June

2 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD

11 Twilight Dive at Circleville Dive Center, 5:00 PM

16 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

July

7 Social @ Planks, 7:00 PM No Program!

8 – 10 2nd Annual Whitestar Dive and Camping Trip with Twilight Dive More details to appear in June Newsletter

21 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

Aug

4 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD

18 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

TBD – Corn Roast, Swap Meet and Twilight Dive

Sept

1 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD

17 Twilight Dive @ Circleville Dive Center, 5:00 PM

15 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

24 – 25 Dive Trip to Pennyroyal Quarry, Pennyroyal Quarry Hopkinsville, KY www.pennyroyalscuba.com

Oct

6 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD

20 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

Nov

3 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD

17 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

Dec

1 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD

15 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

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Executive Meeting Highlights

Jan 21 @ Planks, 7:00 PM **Present:** Dave Foley, Ryan Jones, Glenn Mitchell, Gerry Kubatska, Mag Ranft and Steve Ranft

All members are welcome to attend Executive Meetings

We discussed upcoming dives and events that will be announced in the newsletter, details on logo attire to be presented at the March meeting, the future of ScubaFest (as it appears that there will not be one in 2016) and ideas to involve all the Ohio scuba clubs in it, creating a distinctive email address for the newsletter so that it is recognizable, banner and promotions with Underwater Connections and other items of interest to our members.



Dive Reports

Please send dive reports to
<ColumbusSeaNagsNewsletter@gmail.com>

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Spasms

None reported

Oral Reports

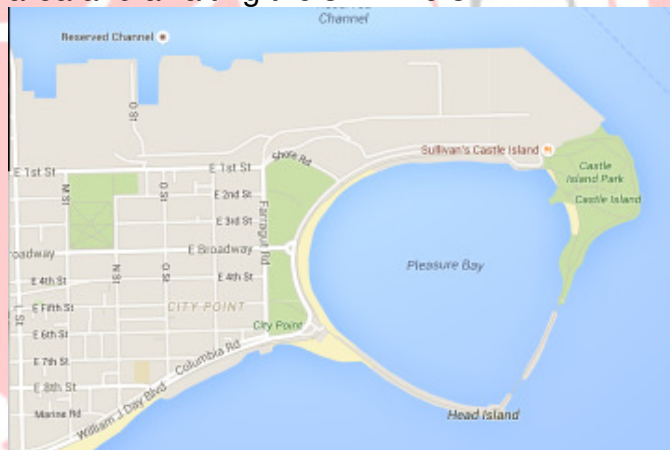
None reported

Written Reports

News from New England

By Rob Robison, January 1, 2016 New Year's Day Dive

Pleasure Bay in Boston Harbor was the scene of our New Year's Day dive, the first plunge of the New Year. I was accompanied by Brian Smith, a South Shore dive buddy of mine. As we exited the expressway and moved from Morrissey Blvd., past the traffic circle, and on to W.J. Day Blvd. around 8:15 AM, spectators and L Street Brownies, psyching up for their annual New Year's morning quick dip into the harbor's icy waters, began lining up near the bath house at L Street and the boulevard. A TV station's van was parked nearby so their reporters and cameramen could record all the action, while a police or harbormaster's aluminum-hulled RIB was positioned in front of the bath house securing the area and awaiting the swimmers.



Map courtesy Google Maps

Meanwhile, further down the road, the lot for Pleasure Bay was nearly empty, ensuring plenty of available parking space. Basically, we had the bay all to ourselves. The air was clear and cold and a few joggers, walkers, and bicyclers coursed the causeway that frames the bay. As we began assembling our gear and suiting up, Peter Ninh, Rich Bower, Rob Vice, Tony Alger, and others began to arrive. Doug Meyer and his son, Matt, and eventually Mike Vaughan made

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their appearances as well. We were preparing to dive, when a state trooper pulled into the lot and tried to tell us we could not shellfish in the bay, but added he was not returning.

Because Brian had a brunch to get to by 11, he and I hit the water right away for a very short 30-minute dive in the harbor's 42° water. Visibility gradually improved to about 5' or so by the time we reached a depth of 20'. Not much was moving except a tiny green crab scurrying across the sandy bottom creating a mini sandstorm in the process. Those who had the time to dive for a longer period than we and farther out in the bay reached depths of 28' – 32.' They found visibility extending up to 10' in places. With one exception everyone recorded bottom temps of 42°. Mike Vaughan recorded 42° everywhere he went on his 61-minute dive, except for a bottom temp of 41°, which he found briefly in one of the holes he was working in while pulling out 6 nice lobsters (one weighed 3.7lbs!) and a plate shard with markings indicating it dates back to the late 1800s. Peter added 4 more to the total haul and also recorded a 61-minute dive. Tony Alger topped off the the morning's haul with one of his own. Rich Bower and Rob Vice returned to shore with a bevy of bottles encrusted with sea growth, one of which contained a live eel pout.

down right balmy for this time of the year." I couldn't agree more: Very refreshing if not bracing.

While we were returning to our street clothes and putting away our gear, a small contingent of adults and a few of their children appeared on the Pleasure Bay beach to make their New Year's Day plunge without all of the folderol that accompanies the L Street Brownie experience. They hopped in and out faster than jack rabbits.



Getting Psyched



Hopping out



The pain of it all



Getting wet



Some lobsters and a bottle

Theresa Czerepica, Steve Bonarrigo, and Paul Alger appeared during the morning as well to watch the proceedings and take photos. My favorite comment of the morning was Mike Vaughan's, who remarked, that "the water was

One child was clearly in pain from the shocking cold experience. I was in pain just watching them.

After the dive we all headed out to Jay Theriault's house in Milton for a great lunch spread of baked ham, shrimp, quiche bites, and

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much much more. A large number of Neptunes dropped into socialize and watch the Bruins flail helplessly against the Canadians at Gillette Stadium, while a few of us college football fans watched the Ohio State Buckeyes bludgeon Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl. THANKS, JAY!!!

Those of you who stayed home missed a wonderful day of activity and camaraderie. It was a great way to kick off the New Year. Regardless, have a great New Year everyone, and start making plans now to dive into it as soon as possible. The water is fine!

Rob

From the President

Hello Sea Nags,
Now that we are in the grips of winter, most people's thoughts are of warm weather and the beginning of our dive season. But if you want to get an early start, it's not too late to join a number of Sea Nags in Cozumel Feb. 28th thru March 6th for diving and activities on the island. The time we will be there is off season so the cost is very reasonable. There are many activities to keep one as busy as they want when not diving. For more information contact Mag at magranft@hotmail.com.

As of this writing, there is still no information on the Ohio Council's web site concerning Scubafeast. In December, we were told it would be a one day show, but with no information to date, I wonder if it will happen at all. It seems there is little interest at Ohio Council to plan and promote this event. The question becomes, is there interest in Ohio for a Scubafeast type event? I think a scuba diving event in late winter could be a success with sponsorship, promotion and participation by dive clubs around the state. Sea Nags can

not do this on our own, but we can reach out to the other clubs, dive shops, equipment suppliers and travel planners and gauge their interest in a future show for winter 2017. I would like your comments and suggestions sent to me at steveranft@hotmail.com and we will discuss this at the April meeting. Make no mistake, a successful event would take a lot of work and commitment by many people from clubs all over the state.

The March 3rd meeting will feature Steve Locsey and Diving in Tobermory. Sounds interesting and not too far away! I hope that a lot of members will attend the March meeting since several of us will be in Cozumel (we'll be thinking of you). Glenn Mitchell will have the honors of chairing the meeting. At that time, we hope to have information on logo apparel embroidery from a local supplier so that you can order items or supply an item you already have.

The Sea Nags banner will be hung at Underwater Connection soon. We hope to look into ways to partner with Underwater Connection and hope that you all will support them.

For a long time, we've been sending our newsletter to many non-members in hopes that they would join or re-join the SeaNags. However, this is really not fair to our paid members. Therefore, the March newsletter will be the last newsletter sent to non-members. We hope that many of you will decide to join our dive club! Of course, information about club activities will still be available on our website www.seanags.com and non-members will still be welcome at all our activities.

Steve

Environmental News

What's This Tropical, Venomous Sea Snake Doing in California?

By Brian Clark Howard, National Geographic, Dec. 21, 2015



A yellow-bellied sea snake like this one was found this week in California, north of its usual range (Photograph by Mark Conlin Alamy)

Highly venomous yellow-bellied sea snakes are rarely spotted in the cold waters off California. But a dead one was found this week on a popular state beach in Southern California.

The specimen was discovered at Bolsa Chica State Beach, located just north of Huntington Beach, during a beach cleanup by the environmental group Surfrider Foundation. The species had only been seen in California two other times: once in October and once in the 1970s.

The snake, which has a bright yellow belly and a paddle-shaped tail, can stay underwater up to three hours between breaths. They can reach a length up to 35 inches in length.

Yellow-bellied sea snakes require warm water and normally inhabit tropical swaths of the

Pacific and Indian Oceans. This rare sighting "could obviously be weather related," says Harvey Lillywhite, a sea snake expert at the University of Florida.

Lillywhite explains that the sea snakes (*Pelamis platura*) are one of few truly pelagic, or open ocean, sea snakes. They are somewhat common around Australia and Central America. But they occasionally drift up to colder latitudes on warm currents, particularly during strong El Niño years like this one.

Still, the waters off California generally remain too cold for the animals to breed there, says Lillywhite, so they can't become established. (See what happens when a sea snake battles a deadly stonefish.)

Sea snake expert and National Geographic explorer Zoltan Takacs says the species "is quite common in Central America, so currents washing them up to California—while apparently infrequent happenings—are not surprising."

Bolsa Chica State Beach is popular with surfers, drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. But experts say there is no reason to fear going into the water.

"There's absolutely no reason to panic," Lillywhite adds. "When these animals are in their natural habitat they don't tend to be aggressive, they'll just swim away. If you pick them up they will tend to bite, but looking at them is probably fine."

Although sea snake venom is highly toxic, the animals have small mouths and they rarely bite people. If they do, they don't usually inject much venom in such "defensive bites," says Lillywhite. Their venom is more adapted to stun

fish, their primary source of prey. (Learn more about the animals.)

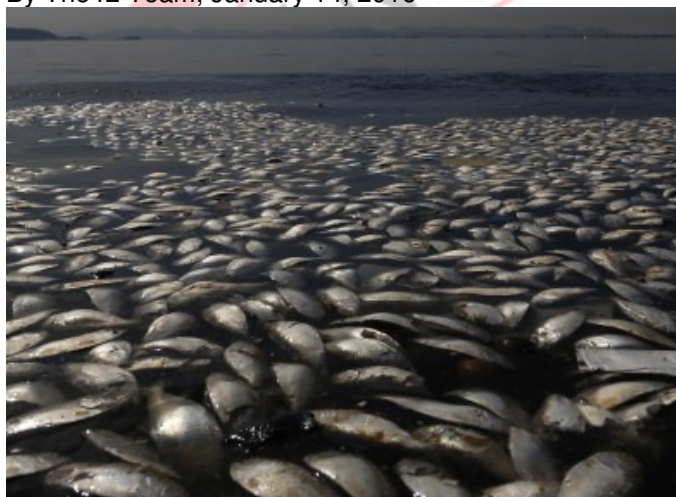
If the snakes do wash up on a beach, they are at much more risk than beachgoers because they will often die, says Lillywhite.

Source:

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/12/151221-yellow-bellied-sea-snake-california/>

Thousands of dead fish found near Rio's Olympic waters

By The42 Team, January 14, 2016



Huge volumes of dead fish were also found in Guanabara Bay in February 2015. Image: AP/Press Association Images

Water pollution concerns are not easing with the Games just seven months away.

THOUSANDS OF DEAD fish were found floating in Rio de Janeiro's picturesque but polluted bay Wednesday, not far from where the Olympic sailing competitions will be held in August.

Bobbing in the waves alongside floating garbage, the fish, mostly sardines, washed ashore near the international airport, about 30 kilometres from where Brazil will hold the 2016 Olympic sailing courses.

Masses of dead fish have previously been found floating in the bay in October 2014 and February 2015, when more than 12 tons were removed.

Authorities have blamed the tropical heat but some residents are doubtful.

"It's because of the contamination of the water, it isn't a natural phenomenon. The water is very, very polluted," said Roger Texeira, a 45-year-old travel agent.

Environmental authorities said they were investigating whether the fish may have been dumped by commercial fishermen who were trying to catch more valuable species.

The Rio state government had vowed a major clean-up of Guanabara Bay for the Olympics, but now admits it will not meet its goal.

But Olympic organisers say the sailing venue will be clean and that competitors will not face any health risks.

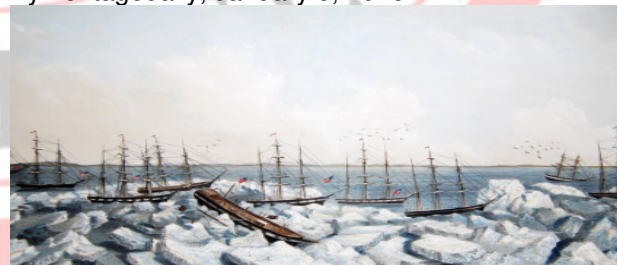
Source:

http://www.the42.ie/pollution-rio-olympics-2547608-Jan2016/?jrn1_af=1

Log Book

Remains of lost 1800s whaling fleet discovered off Alaska's Arctic coast

By heritagedaily, January 6, 2016



Abandonment of the Whalers In The Arctic Ocean

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September 1871." Ships depicted: Monticello, Kohola, Eugenia, Julian, Awashonks Thom Dickason, Minerva, WM. Rotch, Victoria and Mary. Wainwright Inlet is in the background. Credit: Ted and Ellie Congdon, Huntington Library



A small anchor; a chain plate, which held rigging used to tighten masts; and a iron knee, which was likely part of the ship's frame.

Credit: NOAA

NOAA archaeologists have discovered the battered hulls of two 1800s whaling ships nearly 144 years after they and 31 others sank off the Arctic coast of Alaska in one of the planet's most unexplored ocean regions.

The shipwrecks, and parts of other ships, that were found are most likely the remains of 33 ships trapped by pack ice close to the Alaskan Arctic shore in September 1871. The whaling captains had counted on a wind shift from the east to drive the ice out to sea as it had always done in years past.

The ships were destroyed in a matter of weeks, leaving more than 1,200 whalers stranded at the top of the world until they could be rescued by seven ships of the fleet standing by about 80 miles to the south in open water off Icy Cape. No one died in the incident but it is cited as one of the major causes of the demise of commercial whaling in the United States.

With less ice in the Arctic as a result of climate change, archaeologists now have more access

to potential shipwreck sites than ever before. In September, a team of archaeologists from the Maritime Heritage Program in NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries scoured a 30-mile stretch of coastline in the nearshore waters of the Chukchi Sea, near Wainwright, Alaska. Previous searches for the ships had found traces of gear salvaged from the wrecks by the local Inupiat people, as well as scattered timbers stranded high on the isolated beaches that stretch from Wainwright to Point Franklin.

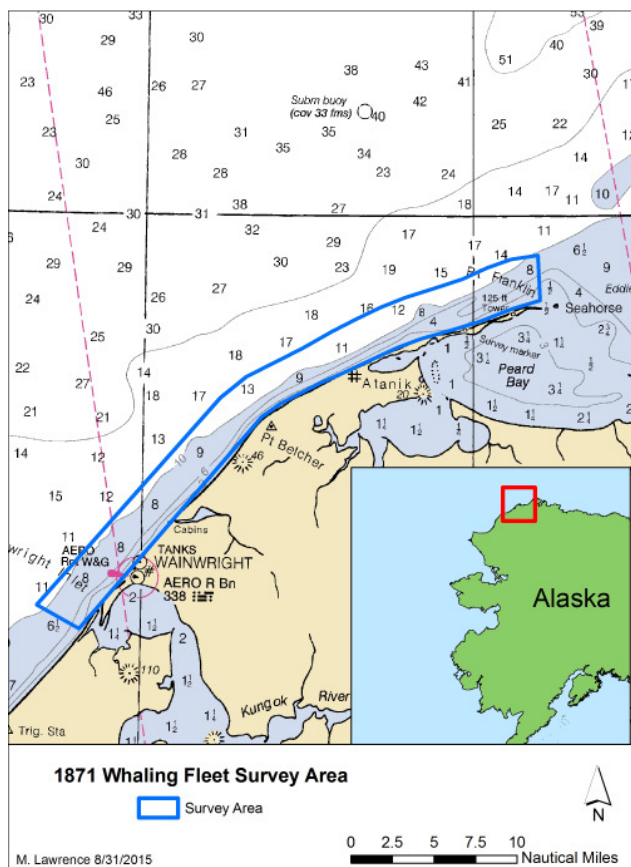
Using state-of-the-art sonar and sensing technology, the NOAA team was able to plot the "magnetic signature" of the two wrecks, including the outline of their flattened hulls. The wreck site also revealed anchors, fasteners, ballast and brick-lined pots used to render whale blubber into oil.

"Earlier research by a number of scholars suggested that some of the ships that were crushed and sunk might still be on the seabed," said Brad Barr, NOAA archaeologist and project co-director. "But until now, no one had found definitive proof of any of the lost fleet beneath the water. This exploration provides an opportunity to write the last chapter of this important story of American maritime heritage and also bear witness to some of the impacts of a warming climate on the region's environmental and cultural landscape, including diminishing sea ice and melting permafrost."

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This map shows the area that was surveyed during the search for the Lost Whaling Fleets 2015 expedition. Credit: M. Lawrence/NOAA

James Delgado, maritime heritage director for NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, said he believes the wrecks were pressed against a submerged sand bar that rests about 100 yards from shore. Working from first-hand accounts of the loss of the fleet, he said the ice opened the hulls to the sea and tore away the upper portions of the ships, scattering their timbers on the beach, while the lower hulls, weighted down with ballast, and in some cases still anchored, stayed in place against the sand bar.

"Usually, the Arctic does not destroy ships if there is a natural obstacle like a sand bar, large rocks or a sheltered cove to partially divert the force of tons of ice," Delgado said.

On Sept. 12, 1871, the captains of the 33 whaling ships caught in the ice convened aboard the *Champion* to consider their options for saving the 1,219 officers, crew, and in some cases, families, from their fate. Although, their situation was dire, there was some small glimmer of hope for rescue by seven nearby ships.

However, to save such a large party, the rescuing whale ships had to jettison their precious cargoes of whale oil, bone and their expensive whaling gear to make room for the survivors. The rescue ships were able to sail safely out of the Arctic and back to Honolulu, where hundreds of native Hawaiian whalers aboard the stranded vessels lived, while others sailed on to San Francisco, New Bedford and other cities.

The search for the abandoned whaling fleet was funded by NOAA's Office of Exploration and Research, in collaboration with the NOAA Office of Coast Survey and the Alaska Region of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. Additional support and expertise was provided by technology partners Edgetech and Hypack.

Source:

<http://www.heritagedaily.com/2016/01/remains-of-lost-1800s-whaling-fleet-discovered-off-alaskas-arctic-coast/109161>

Fearless diver SPINS one ton shark on the palm of his hand – just inches from its razor sharp teeth – after stroking the predator's nose to relax it

By Jake Polden, MAILONLINE December 30, 2015

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© Caters News Agency

Calming influence: The diver relaxes the predator by subtly rubbing its nose before performing the stunt



© Caters News Agency

In a twirl: Eli lets the world's second deadliest shark perform a 180 degree spin in the palm of his hand

Forget the gentle foxtrot or the slow waltz, this daredevil diver has taught a one ton tiger shark to pirouette on the palm of his hand.

Fearless Eli Martinez, from San Juan in Texas, trained the deadly predator - named Emma - to approach him to perform the stunning shark spin.

To make the spectacular stunt possible, the 44-year-old diver strokes the shark's nose - mere inches away from her potentially fatal jaws.

The subtle stroking motion relaxes the predator, allowing Eli to lift Emma up in the water until her powerful frame is vertical.

With the calmest of touches, Eli lets the world's

second deadliest shark perform a 180 degree spin in the palm of his hand before she swims off in the waters just off Tiger Bay, Bahamas.

Eli said: 'I was definitely the first person to do this with a tiger shark.'

'I start by rubbing her nose, which I learned quickly relaxes her. You can palpably feel how much more comfortable she is with me.'

'As soon as I felt her relax I knew I could get her to spin around.'

Eli has been diving with sharks since 2003 and has been working with Emma for more than eight years.

He added: 'I come back to Tiger Bay for two months every year, it's the best place in the world to interact alongside tiger sharks.'

'Emma and I have worked together for eight years now so she recognises and trusts me. For her to allow me to do this is the ultimate trust.'

'It's really surreal because the bigger a shark is the less trusting they become.'

Eli - who started filming the sharks as a way to interact them - first realised this could be possible by accident.

He said: 'While filming one day one of the sharks did a 360 degree spin out of nowhere.'

'I didn't know what to do. I wasn't sure whether it was about to attack so I was a bit scared, fortunately it didn't.'

'Eventually I got to the point where I could get them to do it on command.'

'I still have no idea why they do it though.'

Tiger sharks have been the second most responsible of the species for human attacks - Great Whites take the formidable top spot.

Despite having documented their lives for more than 12 years, Eli continues to work to dispel the myth that sharks are mindless killers.

He said: 'I want to share how beautiful, important and intelligent they are.'

'Like other animals, if they feel threatened they will attack. That's how they have managed to survive for so long.'

'But I try to show they can also interact properly as well. There have been times I've had a bad time with the sharks, but no injuries.'

'At the end of the day, they're wild killers - they can never be domesticated like a cat or rabbit.'

'Sometimes they can get a bit aggressive and remind you of that fact. But that's just the way they are.'

Source:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3378581/Fearless-diver-SPINS-one-ton-shark-palm-hand-just-inches-razor-sharp-teeth-stroking-predator-s-nose-relax-it.html>

Shuttered power plants might evict manatees

By Casey Cumley, WTSP January 20, 2016

Experts say 60 percent of the manatee population uses power plants for refuge when temperatures drop. Here's the problem: there's talk of those plants shutting down.

"Here in King's Bay we're the manatee capital

of the world," said Ivan Vicente, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Citrus County.

The constant 74-degree water in the natural spring resting areas for manatees could become real crowded real quick.

"We expect a big influx of manatees moving into the springs," said Vicente.

That's because indicators lean toward coal-powered power plants could be shutting down in the next 10 to 20 years.

In the near future we're going to see a lot of manatees moving from those artificial sites to spring sites.

After 37 years of documenting the manatees of Crystal River, Cathy Beck has seen the same manatees at power plants now heading to the springs.

"We don't really know what's going to happen over the lifetime of those power plants," said Beck.

With the record number of manatees counted just last week and the experts' concerns about where manatees will go if these power plants go offline, that leads to the question where did manatees go prior to the power plants?

"Before the power plant explosion in the '60s, manatees went to spring sites," said Vicente.

The problem there is there are only a handful of springs left that are still accessible to manatees.

"Some of the spring sites have been developed, dammed by humans for different purposes," said Vicente.

Why don't manatees swim farther south for warmer water?

"Some winters it may be adequate, but some winters even the Everglades isn't warm enough," said Beck.

"It's very critical that the remaining springs that are available that have access are protected correctly," said Vicente.

A manmade problem now needs man to preserve what's left of these beautiful springs for these gentle creatures.

Source:

<http://www.wtsp.com/story/news/2016/01/20/talk-of-closing-power-plants-would-mean-manatee-have-only-natural-springs-for-refuge-not-as-many-as-there-used-to-be/79076780/>

Calypso set to sail again!

By Marcella Silva, Cousteau.org, January 6, 2016



As 2016 begins, Calypso will be getting a whole new life, 20 years after its accident in Singapore!

After having explored the possibility of a future for Captain Cousteau's iconic ship in Monaco, a different solution has finally been found to save Calypso.

Francine Cousteau, president of the organizations he created, has been fighting to

save the vessel for the last 20 years.

The Cousteau Society bought the ship from Loel Guinness in order for it to be a living representative of ecology sailing the oceans of the world.

Thousands of fans from around the world have brought their moral support to The Cousteau Society for the full refurbishment of Calypso. The considerable costs entailed by this project have, on too many occasions over the last 20 years, prevented this goal from being achieved.

Finally, The Cousteau Society has managed to gather a group of generous and highly motivated international sponsors, whose objectives are compatible with those of the Cousteau Society. PHL_2.1-32

At the end of the first trimester of 2016 Calypso will be able to leave the Concarneau's shipyard, to begin its new life.

In addition to the historic hull and ship equipment, Calypso will be fitted with two Volvo Marine motors, which were bought in 2009.

Francine Cousteau adds that « When Calypso will return to the Mediterranean, she will be seaworthy and powered by her own two motors, as was Captain Cousteau's wish. I am extremely happy to announce this great news, after a 20 year long struggle against adversity and various mishaps. I am grateful to those who have helped us, and I invite all of those who share our joy today to join us.

Source:

<http://www.cousteau.org/calypso-set-to-sail-again/>

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Full Page \$30.00

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magranft@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Gerry Kubatska
(614)307-3668
gkubatska@gmail.com

NEXT MEETING: 8:00 p.m., Plank's Café, Thurs., Feb 4, 2016. Program: Marty Baileys' German Trip

The Columbus Sea Nags

