

# General Meeting Minutes of April 11th, and March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011



Meeting held at La Jolla Brew House. Called to order at 6:30 pm by Scott Anderson.

## **NEXT GENERAL MEETING:**

The May 9<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday General Meeting will be 6:30 pm at La Jolla Brew house.

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** First speaker was Sandy Armstrong, Conservation Officer of the Sport fishing Conservancy. She spoke about the on the different types of events they sponsor such as a “no motor” fishing event held twice a year held in Santa Barbara. She brought some Warden Stamps, which are large decals that sell for \$5 each. <http://www.sportcon.org/news.php?item.4.1> All proceeds either go to buy equipment or warden training.

Second speaker was David Sickel, Department of Fish and Game Warden (DFG). He was kind enough to supply us with a stack of the newly released 2011/2012 fishing regulation booklets. Dave works La Jolla and Mission Beach areas, but as he explained, Fish and Game Wardens are tasked with different assignments and locations to meet the requirements of the State and in support of other Law enforcement organizations. Presently DFG has no directives about the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) and the implementation is still a while away. Dave provided great stories about nailing poachers; follow the link for a more detailed example. <http://www.signonsandiego.com/sports/outdoors/20081011-9999-1s11outdoors.html>

There were numerous questions about lobster measuring and when a lobster can be “tailed”. (Not until consumption) And yes, if you hoop net off a pier you still need a lobster card though not a license.

**3Rs.** The 3Rs program, Rocks, Rips and Reefs schedule will be released shortly. The locations and dates have been decided, we just need to finalize our sponsoring Dive Clubs. We will be trying a new site this year which will be in the area of Point Loma.

## **UNDERWATER EASTER EGG HUNT AT THE SHORES:**

The annual pancake breakfast and underwater Easter egg hunt at the Shores will be April 23. Breakfast 8 to 12. Egg hunt 9 am. <http://www.dive-club.org/club/events/Pancake/Pancake-Breakfast-2011.htm>

## **DIVE COMMUNITY UPDATE:**

1. Assemblywoman Diane Harkey introduced Assembly Bill 206 to exempt municipal fireworks shows from being a “development” under the Coastal Act. This allows July 4<sup>th</sup> permits to not be prohibitively expensive.
2. The Catalina Chamber Day is May 4, 2011. This event pays for about half of the operating fees of the Chamber. If you have never attended and are able to do so, please make the effort.
3. Scuba Show 2011 is scheduled for June 4 and 5 at the Long Beach Convention Center.
4. The momentum continues to build in opposition to shark finning with the introduction of Assembly Bill 376 California.

## **OCEAN ACCESS: South Casa Beach**

San Diego Parks and Recreation found the bottom few stairs to South Casa beach had broken loose and fallen a few inches. So on December 15, they filed a local coastal permit to repair those stairs and closed them pending permitting and funding. Generally when you close access to a public beach, it should be done with an emergency permit and the work scheduled within 30 days. The permit which park and recreation took out has a 3 year time limit to complete the work. The Council of Divers pointed out the violation to Parks and Recreation in February, and we are continuing to monitoring the situation. Parks and Recreation have stated that the stairs will be closed the entire summer. Access to South Casa Beach is limited to climbing down the bluff. The Council is working with Parks and Recreation, Councilmember Lightner's office, the La Jolla Community Planning Association, and our Coastal Commission Office and Development Services to ensure access to the beach.

**OCEAN ACCESS: Children's Pool**

The City applied for a permit to barricade the Children's Pool stairs from December 15 to May 15 in perpetuity rather than try for the legal closure the City Council had requested. The required change to the Local Coastal Program is estimated a year of effort or more. The notice of intent is posted at Children's Pool on the fence.

Another City measure we thought dead was to establish the advisory rope across Children's Pool 365 days/year. The Planning Commission had rejected the permit application unanimously but APRL has sued the City to bypass the Planning Commission and do it anyway. We shall see if the City allows APRL to dictate a revision to its land use permit procedures to inhibit access to a beach. If so, we battle it with the Coastal Commission again.

**SAN DIEGO COUNCIL OF DIVERS INFORMATION TABLE ON THE SIDEWALK:**

SDCOD continues to maintain a permitted information table on the sidewalk above Children's Pool. The City Attorney still has not made a move against the Animal Protection and Rescue League (APRL) which refuses to get a permit. APRL has stepped up its shouting at people to get off the beach and deriding us as "seal-haters", which could not be further from the truth.

**FREEDIVERS EVENT AT THE CHILDREN'S POOL:**

San Diego Freedivers scheduled a beach cleanup and spear fishing meet at Children's Pool on April 9. There were prizes for the biggest fish. Their presence made a whole lot of other folks realize the rope is not a barrier and seals and people are able shared the beach.

Submitted 4/19/2010

John Leek, Secretary