

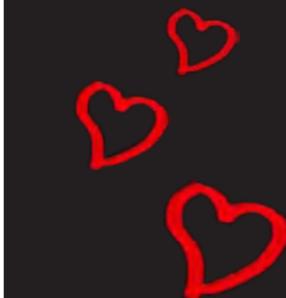
THE FACTS AND VIEWPOINTS IN THIS SECTION ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE VIEWS OF X-RAY MAG. EQUIPMENT PRESENTED IN THIS SECTION HAS NOT BEEN TESTED BY X-RAY MAG STAFF, NOR ARE THE ITEMS WARRANTED. INFORMATION PROVIDED IS CONDENSED FROM MANUFACTURER DESCRIPTIONS. TEXTS ARE USUALLY EDITED FOR LENGTH, CLARITY AND STYLE. LINKS ACTIVE AT THE TIME OF PUBLICATIONS

POINT & CLICK
ON BOLD LINKS



Gifts for Sea Lovers

for the special seastar in your life...



Edited by
Gunild Pak Symes

ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF THE MANUFACTURERS



Cajun Papa

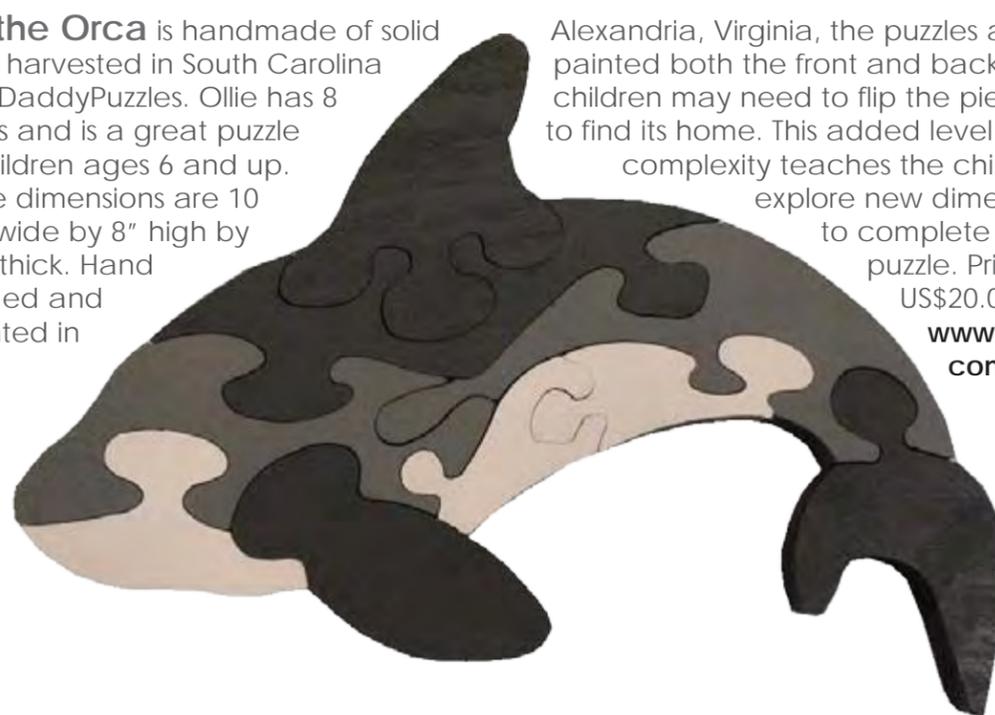
Seahorse

is an original handmade design by stay-at-home mom, Erin Lee, for Snaukter. This squishably-soft yet durable seahorse toy is safe for babies. It is made from a prewashed ribbed wool/nylon blend recycled sweater with a special pouch on his belly for his two little babies made from a recycled linen/cotton blend dress. Size: Pappa 13"/33cm; Babies 6"/15cm long. Price: US\$40.00 www.etsy.com



Fishy Lollipops

Each fish has a flavor to match its color: Green for Green Apple, Pink for Strawberry, Yellow for Lemon, Purple for Grape. Sweet!
www.candywarehouse.com



Ollie the Orca is handmade of solid poplar harvested in South Carolina by MyDaddyPuzzles. Ollie has 8 pieces and is a great puzzle for children ages 6 and up. Puzzle dimensions are 10 1/2" wide by 8" high by 3/4" thick. Hand sanded and painted in

Alexandria, Virginia, the puzzles are painted both the front and back, so children may need to flip the piece to find its home. This added level of complexity teaches the child to explore new dimensions to complete the puzzle. Price: US\$20.00
www.etsy.com

Dexterous Dolphin

This lovely ceramic dolphin sculpture is an original design handmade by Daga Design in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. Sculpting, moulding, casting and glazing are all done by hand at the studio. Even the glazes are made in house. No two pieces are alike as the glazes react and set differently on each piece. Eco-conscious, Daga Design studio is 100% powered by wind. Size: 7 inches.
www.etsy.com



South Sea Pearl Pendant

Pure luxury, this sparkling starfish South Sea pearl pendant is donned with .13 carats of diamonds graded at GH/SI2. The pearl is a true South Sea pearl of AAA quality, which is blemish free and has excellent luster. Loaded with 20 diamonds the setting is solid 14k white gold as is the chain. Size of pendant: 11.5mm. Sale price: US\$595.00 www.thepearloutlet.com



Nudibranch Bangles

This bangle-style bracelet is handmade entirely from polymer clay by Dee Wilder of Maladoro based in Mississippi, USA. An original design, each piece is truly one-of-a-kind. The bracelet is flexible, strong and lightweight. It will expand to fit tighter on a larger wrist, and spring back to its original size of approximately 7.5 inches when removed. The bangle is durable and lightweight, smooth and silky to the touch. Signed on the back by the artist, it also makes a nice small sculpture on your desk or table. Price: US\$60.00 each.
www.etsy.com





Sea Lovers *...Gifts*

Edited by
Gunild Pak Symes

Chocolate Fish

Can chocolate fish be cute? These are. Made in Vermont from all natural gluten free ingredients, these solid milk chocolate fish are hand decorated with white and dark chocolate elements. Individually gift wrapped in a ribbon bow tied bag. Dimensions about 4-1/2 x 3 inches. Price: US\$11.50



Lakechamplainchocolates.com



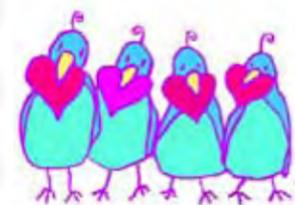
Tattoo Octopus T

Hand screen printed "Polynesian Tattoo Octopus" designed by PhippsArt is printed on an organic basic crew t-shirt, which is lightweight, comfortable, ultra soft, and made of 100% organic cotton. Black ink on Ocean. Price: US\$19.00

www.etsy.com



For Sea Lovers Only



Manatee Heart Ornament

Valentine's Day gifts for divers & sea lovers of all ages...



Get any design on any product!

t-shirts & teddy bears
greeting & note cards
framed prints & calendars
coffee mugs & coasters
aprons, caps & tote bags
stickers, ornaments & buttons
wall clocks & throw pillows
keepsake boxes, undies & more!



Seahorse Hug Greeting Card



Polar Bear Hug Long & Short Sleeve T-Shirt's and tanks are available in black & more colors for men, women & kids too!



Dolphin Hug Babysuit



Kissing Fish Mug

International shipping available!
www.cafepress.com/xraymag



Lovable Soapy Sea Creatures

Originally designed for school projects, dioramas, and desktops, these realistic hand-painted miniatures of sea creatures are hidden inside handmade soaps by Good Karma Soaps in Raleigh, North Carolina, and include octopus, starfish, dolphins, stingrays, sharks, sea turtles and more! The added bonus is clean hands for the whole family, because to claim the hidden creature inside the soap, kids have to wash their hands. They are made in small batches

with the finest glycerin to produce a smooth, creamy bar of soap with lots of lather. Glycerin moisturizes the skin and will not leave that dry itchy feeling that many commercial soaps do. Price for a set of two different ocean life animal soaps: US\$7.00. Set of three shark soaps: \$9.00. www.etsy.com



Scuba Diver with Mermaid

This whimsical model of a scuba diver carrying a mermaid is individually hand-crafted in the UK from 100 percent silicate glass. Very popular as wedding gifts or cake toppers, these models

measure approximately 14 cm plus plinth. Other models such as 'MkV Diver with Mermaid' and 'Scuba Diver with Bride' are also available. Price: GB£60.00-80.00 www.diversgifts.com

Jim Bram

A talk with NAUI's president

Text by Peter Symes
All photos courtesy of NAUI

Where is NAUI heading?

NAUI turns 50. Are the founding principles still valid half a century later, have they changed, and how does the organization plan to evolve in the next 50?

NAUI was formed 1959 in support of its members training the public to safely dive anywhere in the world. That is a goal that will be valid as long as there are people who desire quality training when learning to scuba dive.

What do you see as the main challenge lying ahead for the dive industry?

Surviving the current economic downturn will be the most significant issue for each of the diving community stakeholders, i.e. retailers, resorts and live-aboards, manufacturers, training organizations and publications, to address in the short term. I am pleased with our financial position and brand strength as there is always a flight to quality during tough economic times. I believe we will do well as the corrections in the global markets work themselves out.

In the longer view, the diving community should look to rekindling our "adventure" reputation amongst the younger generations that we once enjoyed. When divers were viewed as explorers and risk takers, the diving community competed well with mountain

biking, skiing, and other outdoor pursuits. I believe the community is being disserved by promoting the perception that scuba diving is something anyone can do as one of many distractions while on a tropical vacation. While it may be true that anyone can learn to dive, passionate divers are the engine driving the growth of the community. These are the people we should be celebrating and courting for the future of our sport.

How is NAUI going to address these issues and work with the industry?

I believe I've answered the first challenge, and as to the second, we are excited to be celebrating our 50th anniversary of "diver development" rather than just certifying course completers. We're excited by our continuing corporate alliances with Walt Disney World Resorts and NASA's Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory and their environmental and youth outreach programs. We are proud to work with groups like Scubans International who are also partnering with NASA, NOAA and the National Marine Sanctuaries Program cooperating in outreach to middle and high schools here in the United States using NAUI scuba diver training to foster a love of science and the aquatic environment and produce future generations of diving leaders and scientists.

There is also a newly formed program called Oceans for Life with the US Government, NASA, National Geographic and NAUI using a similar concept with NAUI scuba diver training to foster aquatic awareness and respect to many visiting families of the coalition partner nations of the Middle East. Our corporate offices

in the Pacific Rim have conducted many marine enrichment programs for youth in Hong Kong, Palau and Malaysia to name just a few. Members in Kuwait were celebrated recently when they were awarded the NAUI Environmental Enrichment Award for their successful completion of the largest artificial reef ball installation in the world.

The population of scuba divers seems to have gotten pretty gray in the top. We are evidently facing a generation gap and recruitment challenge. How do we best reach out to the younger generation and get them engaged in diving?

This is not a new or significantly unusual observation that each generation in a community inevitably faces. The founding generation of the diving community began retiring from leadership positions as little as a decade ago, and many are still in ownership or senior management positions, which is not surprising in a community that formed only 50 years ago. It is not unusual to see elders in top management positions in any business community and can just as easily be characterized as a sign of a healthy maturing business that can support participants into their retirement years. As I said

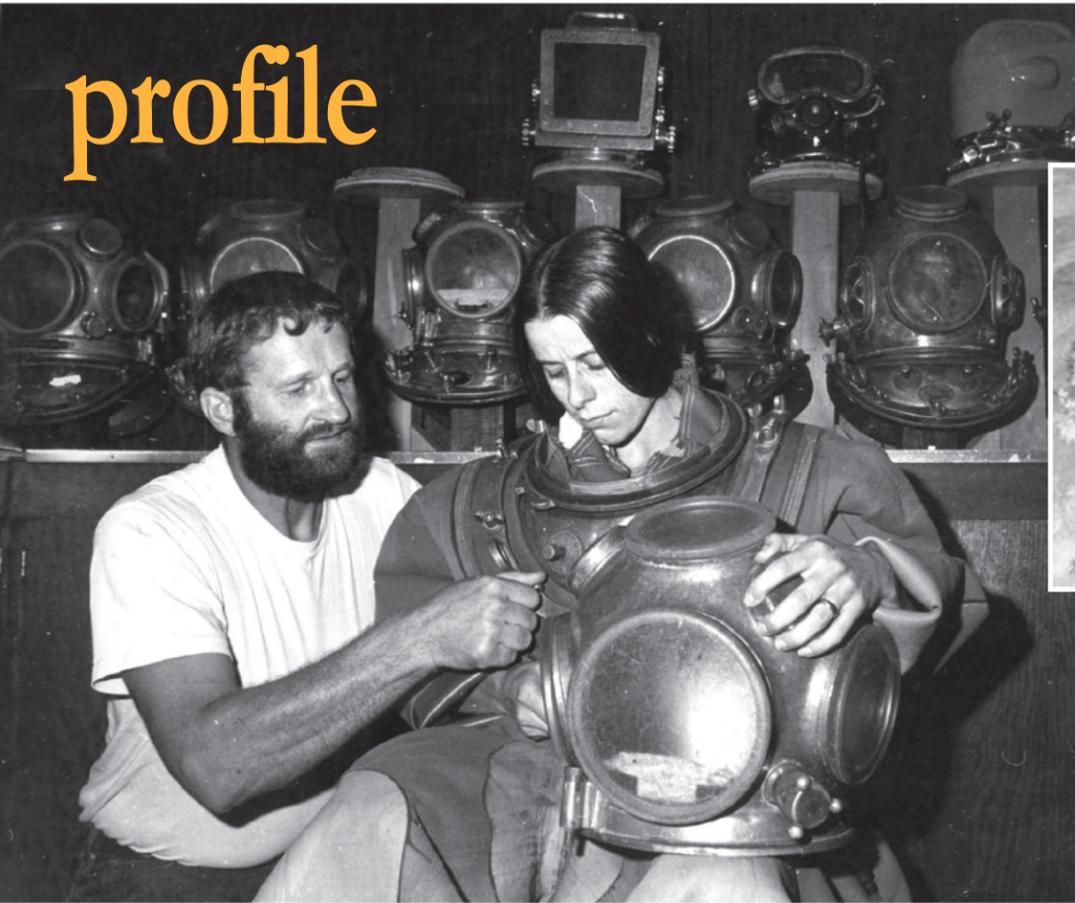
We are excited to be celebrating our 50th anniversary of "diver development" rather than just certifying course completers.



NAUI President, Jim Bram at his desk



Jim Bram



THIS PAGE: Historical images from NAUI archives

before, there is no shortage of focus or effort on reaching out to younger generations.

Does the recreational diving industry have enough competitive strength on today's frantic market?

There will be some casualties, and no brand or company can be considered immune. However, as long as there is an interest in learning to dive, or vacationers looking for something extra in their adventures, there will be a diving community to support it and a need to be trained to safely participate.

What do you see as the main competition or threats?

This may seem like a theme but

I believe that if we continue to dilute the image of scuba diving as an adventurous pursuit, then younger generations will start seeking other activities that are perceived as being more "out on the edge." The proliferation of training companies and dilution of quality training as they compete for a shrinking piece of a contracting market is worrisome because of the desperate measures some will resort to, and all too often, educational shortcuts can fuel frustrated participants at best and produce a negative word-of-mouth advocate at worst.

What is so great about

diving anyway?

For those who are adequately trained, it is a serene experience of weightlessness in a wild environment with alien-looking creatures doing strange things and new wonders around every outcropping. It is a shared experience with dive partners and fellow divers who, in their everyday lives, may be scientists, CEOs, university students or carpenters chattering about the most

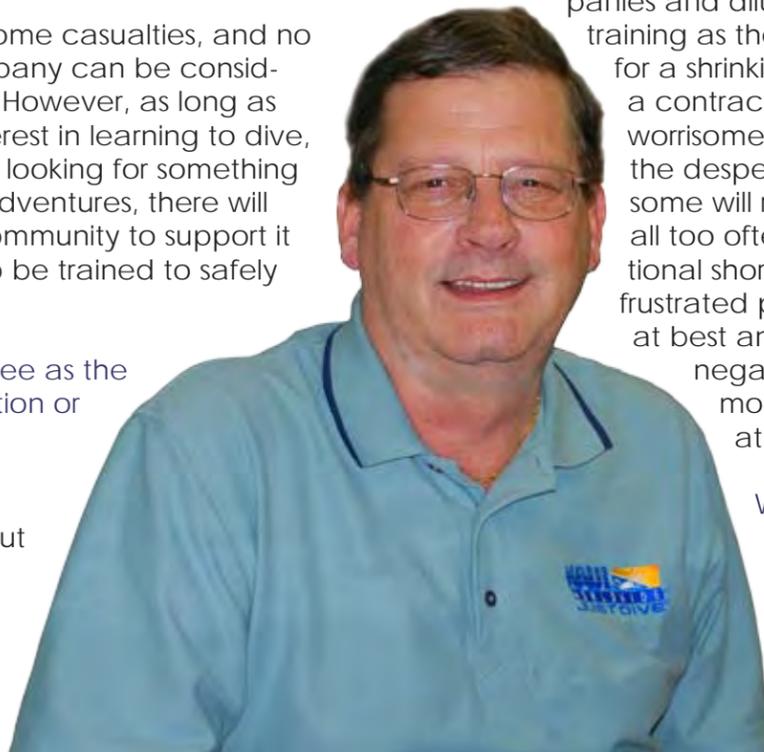
amazing sights just witnessed on the most recent dive. It is the ride aboard the dive charter that can be a wonderful sunny day or a night ride in wild seas pitching to and fro until the lee shore of an island is reached and anchors are set in preparation for the day's diving. It is all those things and

If we continue to dilute the image of scuba diving as an adventurous pursuit then younger generations will start seeking other activities that are perceived as being more "out on the edge."

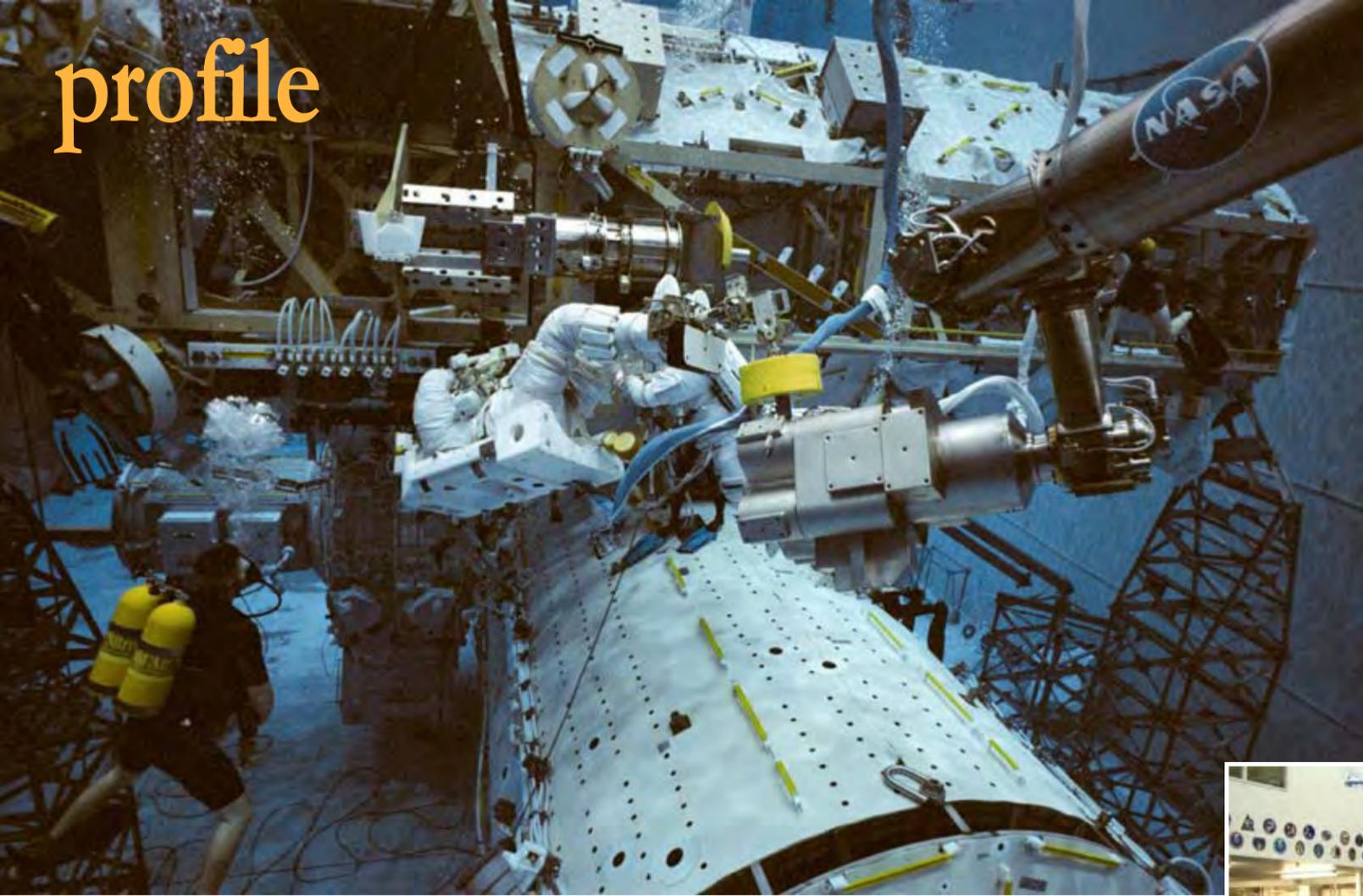
more with every adventure worthy of a journal and memories that last a life time.

What is the best experience diving has given you?

I have to say that it was being introduced to the NAUI family of members around the world, the friendships formed and colleagues met along the way.



Jim Bram



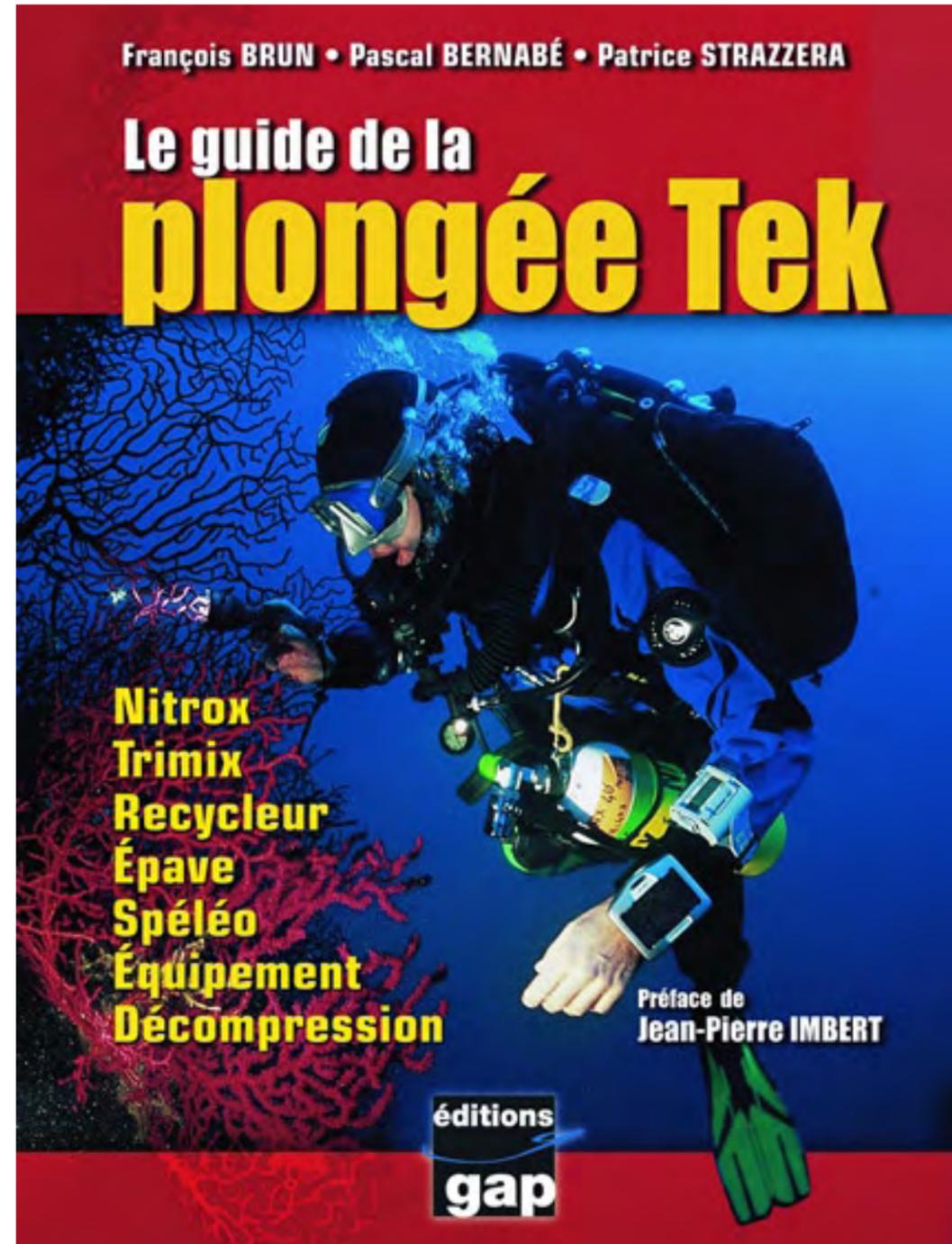
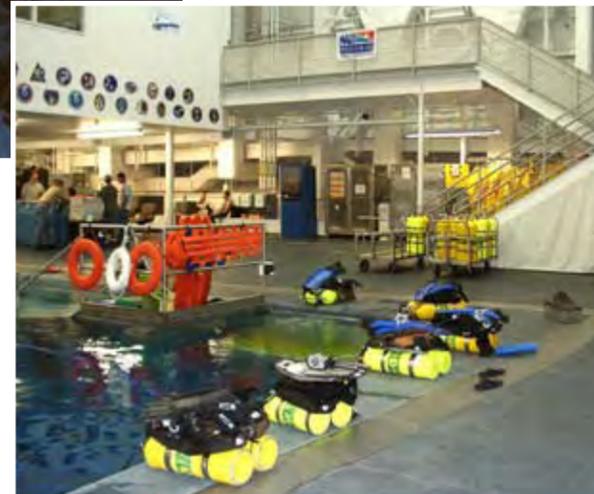
THIS PAGE:
Scenes from
NASA's Neutral
Buoyancy
Laboratory

Jim Bram

This message is carried throughout our educational support materials describing our role as stewards of the aquatic environments and ambassadors of good behavior to those fellow users above and below the surface of the water. ■

marine ecosystems?

Climate change is a constant and will continue to change long after humans are no longer present on this planet. However, NAUI's mission includes not only educating the public to



There is much more to come, I'm sure.

What sets NAUI apart from other diver training agencies?

NAUI is the only non-profit organization whose members can directly affect the

future of the organization. We are reminded every day, and I insist that our staff in each of our offices around the world remember that we can only be successful if our members are successful.

What is the next development? What new technologies do you plan to embrace in

terms of marketing/communication, education/learning and diver training/equipment?

There are exciting things forthcoming, but you'll have to wait and be surprised just like everybody else—especially our competitors.

How can divers and training agencies, like NAUI, play a role in tackling the challenges from climate change and the deterioration of

safely dive, but to preserve and protect the world's aquatic environments. To that end, each of us as a resource user can work to leave a dive site in better shape than we found it and certainly no worse off for us having visited.



Astronaut Michael L Genhardt and NAUI President Jim Bram



Edited by Peter Symes

Operation Leatherback 2009

A Conservation Project in West-Papua, Indonesia

SOS-Seaturtles and SOLO (Save Our Leatherbacks Operation) will start joint protection measures in West Papua, Indonesia, in favour of Leatherback sea turtles, these extremely endangered marine animals.

the Galapagos or Seychelles. In contrast to the other sea turtles the Leatherback does not have a hard shell or scales. Instead, its carapace is covered with a leathery skin, from which it gets its name. Leatherback turtles are great divers capable of holding their breath for hours and going as deep as 1200m in their hunt for jellyfish upon which they feed.

Plastic

Another big threat comes from plastic bags. Our seas are becoming increasingly polluted with an alarming quantity of trashed plastic drifting around in them. Leatherbacks feed almost exclusively on jellyfish, and as drifting plastic bags can look very much like jellyfish, they are therefore often eaten by turtles who mistake them for food. The result is blockages in their digestive tracts, starvation and ultimately death. Studies of dead Leatherbacks have found that half of the deceased animals had plastic in their digestive tract.

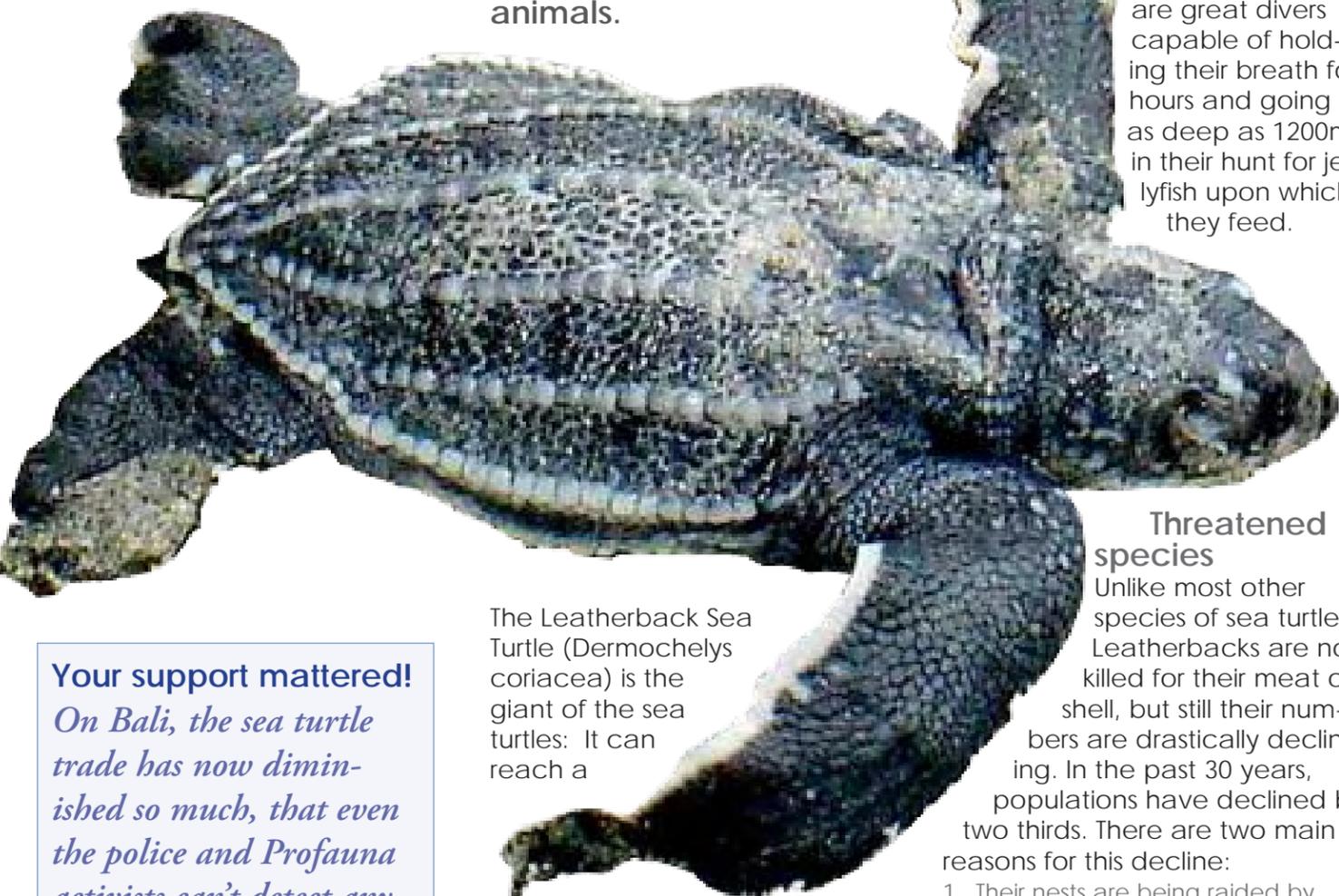
Other problems include the degradation and loss of nesting beaches, increasing levels of unknown diseases and a rise in sea level, which causes some nests to be flooded at high tide.

The more animals that reach the water safely, the more will return to reproduce in the future. There are many threats to female turtles during nesting, and we have to do something about it. A piece of driftwood or litter can block an exhausted sea turtle's way back to the sea, leaving it to die from heat stroke during the day. Sea turtles have braved natural threats for over a hundred million of years—but they are powerless against manmade threats!

The decrease in leatherback numbers is also upsetting the balance of the ocean. As we said before, Leatherbacks mostly feed on jellyfish, and an adult can eat about 100 kg of jellyfish per day. It's easy to see that a decrease in the number of Leatherbacks will lead to a rise in the numbers of jellyfish.

What you can do to help
While the problems of overfishing and ocean pollution ultimately need to be addressed and solved on a political level, there are a number of other things that we can do to help. As consumers, we have a lot of power, and if enough of us choose to buy and eat fish only from ecologically sus-

Text and photos by Kurt Amsler



The Leatherback Sea Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) is the giant of the sea turtles: It can reach a

length of up to 2.5 meters and a weight of up to 900 kg. This does not only make it bigger than all other sea turtles but also bigger than its terrestrial relatives such as the giant tortoise from

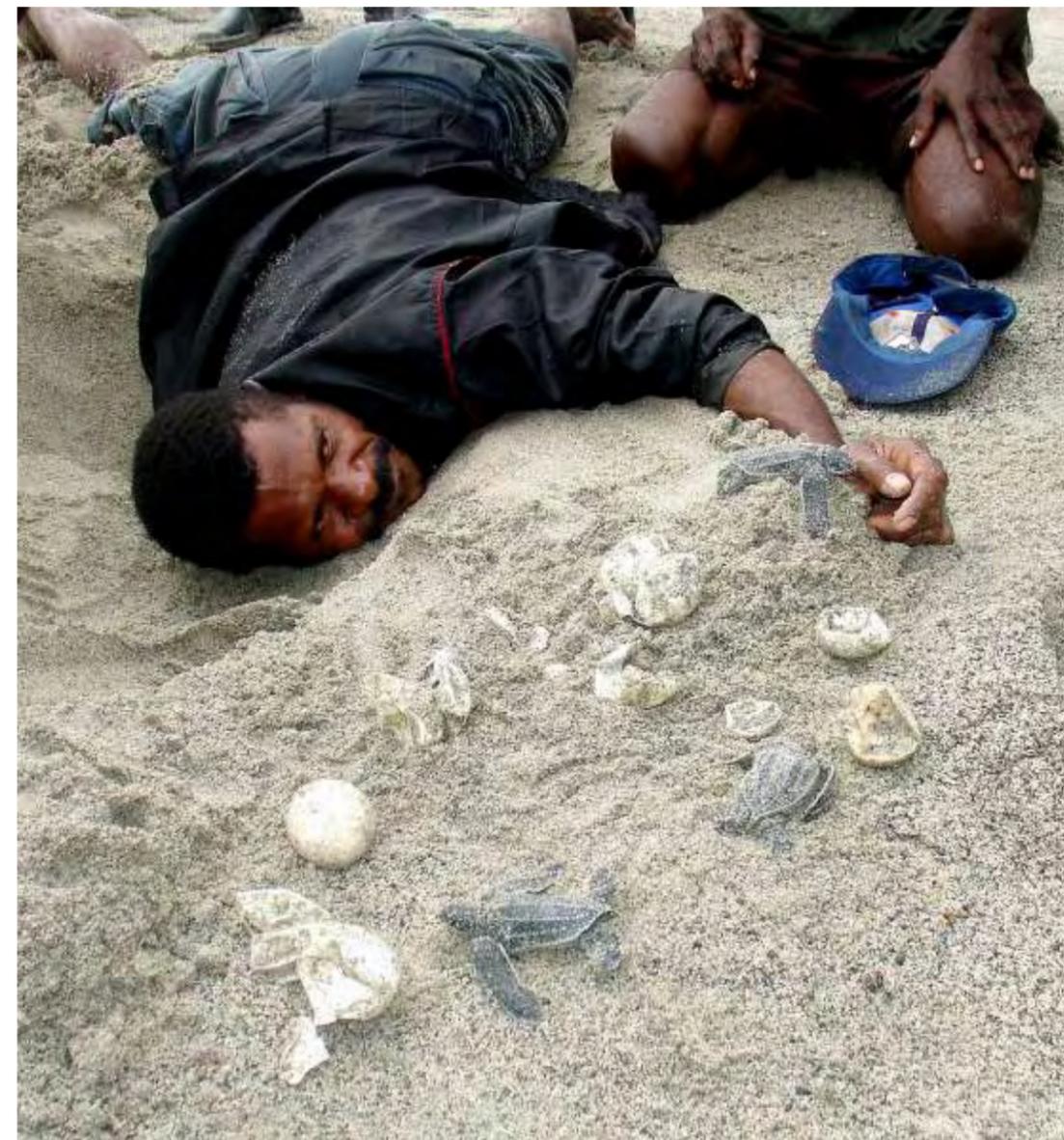
Threatened species

Unlike most other species of sea turtle, Leatherbacks are not killed for their meat or shell, but still their numbers are drastically declining. In the past 30 years, populations have declined by two thirds. There are two main reasons for this decline:

1. Their nests are being raided by poachers who can make a lot of money from selling the eggs as aphrodisiacs on the Asian black market.
2. Accidental by-catch by fishermen who use drag nets, drift nets and long-lines.

Your support mattered!

On Bali, the sea turtle trade has now diminished so much, that even the police and Profauna activists can't detect any suspicious activity anymore. We can therefore declare a significant battle won!



Making sure that the newly hatched baby turtles will make it to the sea

tainable fisheries using methods which do not harm turtles, then this will

force a change. Similarly, choices that we make as individuals about litter can effect great change when the same choice is made by enough people. We can choose not to drop litter, to attend beach clean-ups

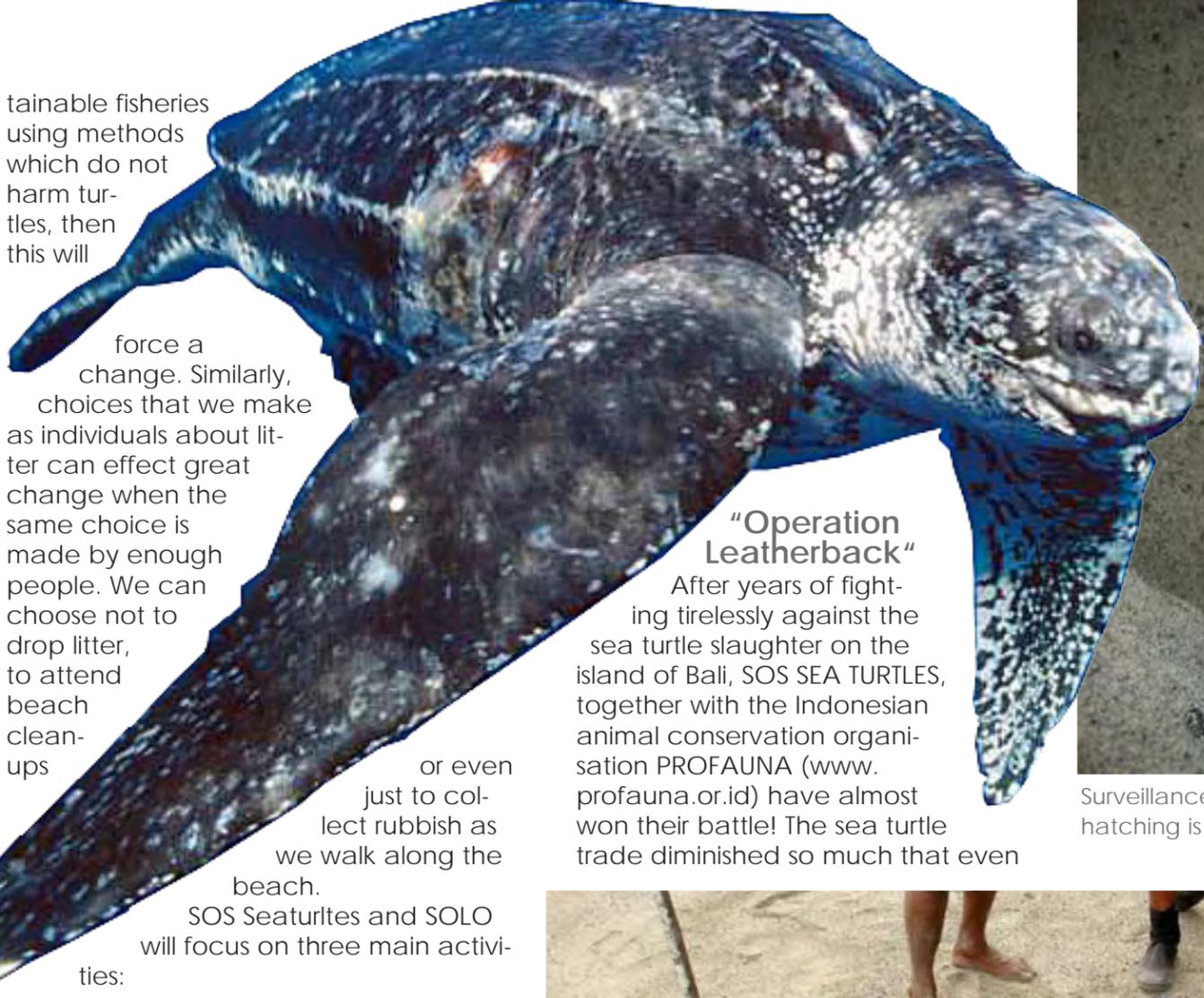
or even just to collect rubbish as we walk along the beach.

SOS Seaturtles and SOLO will focus on three main activities:

- Protecting nests from poachers and predators
- Relocating nests to safer places and surveillance during incubation and hatching
- Active support of females during nesting and on their way back to the water



One of the focus points is relocating nests to safer places



"Operation Leatherback"

After years of fighting tirelessly against the sea turtle slaughter on the island of Bali, SOS SEA TURTLES, together with the Indonesian animal conservation organisation PROFAUNA (www.profauna.or.id) have almost won their battle! The sea turtle trade diminished so much that even



Surveillance during incubation and hatching is another main activity



In parallel to the ongoing campaign to stop the illegal sea turtle hunt in WAKATOBI National Park in East Sulawesi, we will attend to a new project in 2009: Helping the Leatherback sea turtles to survive.

Partnership

In "Save Our Leatherbacks" (www.saveourleatherbacks.org), we will have a partner, who is already successfully performing preliminary work in Irian Jaya.

the police and PROFAUNA activists can't detect any suspicious activity anymore. We can therefore declare a significant battle won, remembering that just 20 years ago over 20,000 sea turtles were slaughtered there annually! www.sos-seaturtles.ch

leatherbacks.org), we will have a partner, who is already successfully performing preliminary work in Irian Jaya. This organization was founded by **Larry McKenna (link to Interview)**, an award-winning retired US Airforce colonel. During the last nesting season, they got the local population of the nearby village involved with the protection work and were able to save hundreds of sea turtle nests.

Aims of the project

- To develop efficient means to protect sea turtle nests from being raided or destroyed by humans or animals until the baby turtles hatch
- To relocate eggs if they are in danger of overheating or flooding
- To educate and instruct the villagers in becoming rangers, who will patrol the coastline by boat in order to protect the nesting beaches from poachers and natural predators
- To improve the living conditions in the village, which includes the channelling of spring water, supporting school children by providing educational books and helping adults to create crafts. We will also be pushing for the local people of this area to be supported politically.

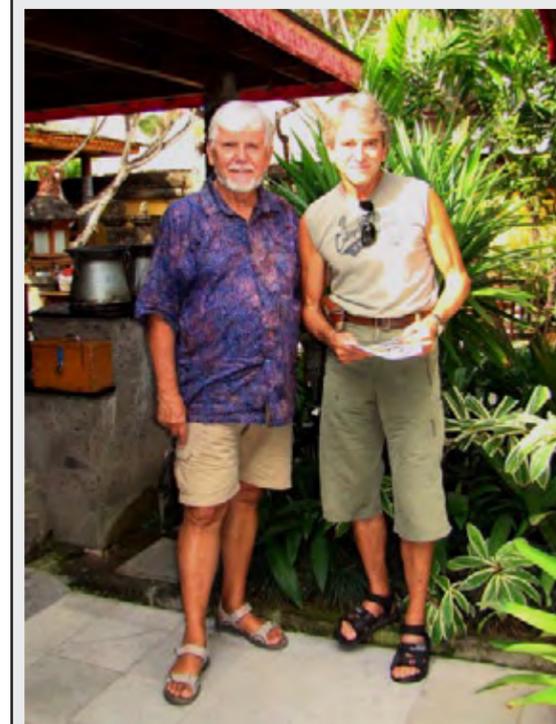
Financing

These protection activities—like all projects from SOS-Seaturtles and SOLO—are being supported by donations from the dive and travel industry as well as from individuals. All donations will be fully used for the sea turtle protection project. None of the donations will be spent on administration. ■

Larry McKenna is the founding director of Save Our Leatherbacks Operation (SOLO), which had its beginnings in the spring of 2005.

McKenna is a former United States Air Force aviator with a chest full of combat decorations. He served for 26 years in uniform while flying and designing new planes and helicopters before going onward to enter the commercial sectors of business as an International banker, real estate developer and hotel/resort operator in the USA, in Central America and the Pacific region of islands.

McKenna is now a dedicated environmentalist helping to save the Leatherback sea turtle from its rapid spiral into extinction. In 1984, he founded his own production studio to make his promotional films. McKenna's base of operations is Kingwood, Texas (close to Houston), but he is rarely there because of his work and can usually be found in the Pacific/Asia region. He is currently involved with conservation efforts to save the Pacific Leatherback sea turtles from a rapid extinction. ■



Larry McKenna (left) with Kurt Amsler on Bali in 2008



Are loggerhead territories defined by ocean salinity?

The salinity of sea water seems to act as a “barrier” preventing sea turtles from moving between the areas of the Western Mediterranean.

Spanish researchers concluding a 15-year running tagging experiment in which more than 1500 juvenile loggerhead turtles were tagged and repeatedly recaptured have demonstrated that loggerhead turtles from the south and north of the Western Mediterranean do not mix. The majority of the turtles were recaptured in the same region where they were tagged. The study, which was recently published in *Scientia Marina*, reveals only limited exchanges between the immature turtles.

In terms of origin and place of birth, the Atlantic turtles tend to stay within the southern Mediterranean, while the Mediterranean ones establish

themselves in the northern area, although the occasional individual does move from one area to the other, with some even traveling as far as the Caribbean. “This limited exchange between the north and the south means the populations do not interbreed,” says Mónica Revelles, lead author of the study and a researcher with University of Barcelona, Spain.

Oceanic

The study shows that the immature individuals are oceanic (unlike the adults, which remain close to the coast), but that they do not stray beyond the areas they are used to. For this reason, the experts believe that water salinity could play a significant role. Maps of ocean currents and

salinity show that salinity is lower in water masses moving around the southern area than in those circulating around the northern part of the Western Mediterranean.

Same species, different genes

The researchers say the different origins of the loggerhead turtles mean those from the south and north of the Mediterranean exhibit “slightly” different behaviours. They are the same species but with genetic and morphological differences between the Atlantic and Eastern Mediterranean populations, with the Atlantic animals being larger, while the Mediterranean ones grow less but become adults earlier. ■



This pewter sea turtle box is part of the Grant Dawson Collections representing endangered and threatened species. Committed to sustainable products and practices, the company won an award from the Sustainable Furniture Council in 2008

NOAA publishes new plan for the Northwest Atlantic Loggerhead Turtle

NOAA’s Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have announced a revised recovery plan for the Northwest Atlantic population of loggerhead turtles.

The revised plan reviews and discusses the species ecology, population status and trends, and identifies threats to the loggerhead turtle in the northwestern Atlantic. It lays out a recovery strategy to address the threats, based on the best available science, and includes recovery goals and criteria. In addition, the plan identifies actions needed to address the threats to the species and achieve recovery.

This revised plan is significant in that it identifies five unique recovery units, which comprise the population of loggerhead turtles in the Northwest Atlantic, and describes specific recovery criteria for each recovery unit.

Loggerhead turtles in the northwestern Atlantic mature to reproductive age at about 35 years. During their lifetime, they travel and live in the waters of several nations, including the U.S. They face many challenges and threats, including development and loss of nesting habitat, bycatch in fisheries, and degradation of their marine habitats. The recovery of any species takes time, but scientists say that for the loggerhead turtle, it could take even longer due to the long time to reach maturity and the variety and magnitude of the threats they face. ■

“Hello there!”
Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) comes up for a peek



Coalition threatens lawsuit over Loggerhead Deaths

A coalition of conservation groups has notified the US National Marine Fisheries Service of its intent to file a lawsuit as early as March if the agency does not act immediately to protect imperiled sea turtles in the Gulf of Mexico.

The action comes after fisheries observer data showed that the Gulf of Mexico bottom longline fishery, which harvests reef fish like grouper and tilefish, resulted in the capture of nearly 1,000 threatened and endangered sea turtles between July 2006 and the end of 2007.

The coalition urges that the commercial bottom longline fishery be suspended until the federal agency meets its legal obligations under the Endangered Species Act to ensure that the fishery does not imperil sea turtles and other threatened species in the Gulf of Mexico.

Even though the fishery has far exceeded the number of turtles it is allowed to take under the Endangered Species Act, the Fisheries Service, has declined to close the fishery while it studies options for reducing turtle take, a decision the conservation groups claim is illegal.

“Allowing this fishery to continue to kill threatened and endangered turtles while the government studies the problem is irresponsible and illegal,” said Andrea Treece, an attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity.

“Now that the National Marine Fisheries Service knows the longline fleet is jeopardizing the future of the turtle populations, they have a duty to act immediately,” said Cynthia Sarthou, executive director of the Gulf Restoration Network. ■



Does a sea turtle find its birthplace by its 'magnetic address'?

Who hasn't been mystified by how some marine animals manage to find their way back to their birthplace to reproduce after migrating across thousands of miles of open ocean? Now, marine biologists at the University of North Carolina believe they might have found the answer.

The Earth's magnetic field varies predictably across the globe, with every oceanic region having a slightly different magnetic signature. By noting the unique "magnetic address" of their birthplace and remembering it at the beginning of their lives, animals such as salmon and sea turtles may be able to distinguish this location from all others when they are fully grown and ready to return years later, researchers propose.

Magnetic maps

Previous studies have shown that young salmon and sea turtles can detect the Earth's magnetic field and use it to sense direction during their first migration away from their birthplace to the far-flung regions where they spend the initial years of their lives. In 2001, the researchers showed that baby turtles use magnetic information to help guide them during their first migration across the Atlantic Ocean. And in 2004, they discovered that sea turtles several years of age possess a more sophisticated "magnetic map" sense that helps them navigate to specific areas rich in food.

What's new?

The new study, just published in the science journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* seeks to explain the more difficult navigational task accomplished by adult animals that

Lohmann, Ph.D., professor of biology with the University of North Carolina and lead author of the study. "We hope that the paper will inspire discussion among scientists and eventually lead to a way of testing the idea."

The study notes that the Earth's magnetic field changes slightly over time, and thus, probably only helps animals arrive in the general region of their birthplace. Once an animal is close to the target, other senses, such as vision or smell, may be used to pinpoint specific reproductive sites. Salmon, for example, are known to use smell to locate spawning grounds once they have

return to reproduce in the same area where they themselves began life, a process scientists refer to as natal homing.

"What we are proposing is that natal homing can be explained in terms of animals learning the unique magnetic signature of their home area early in life and then retaining that information," said Kenneth

Only 1 in 4000 survive

Lohmann said one problem making it difficult to test the new theory is the low survival rate of sea turtles. Only one out of about 4,000 baby sea turtles survives to adulthood and returns to its natal site to breed. A similarly small percentage of baby fish survive. ■

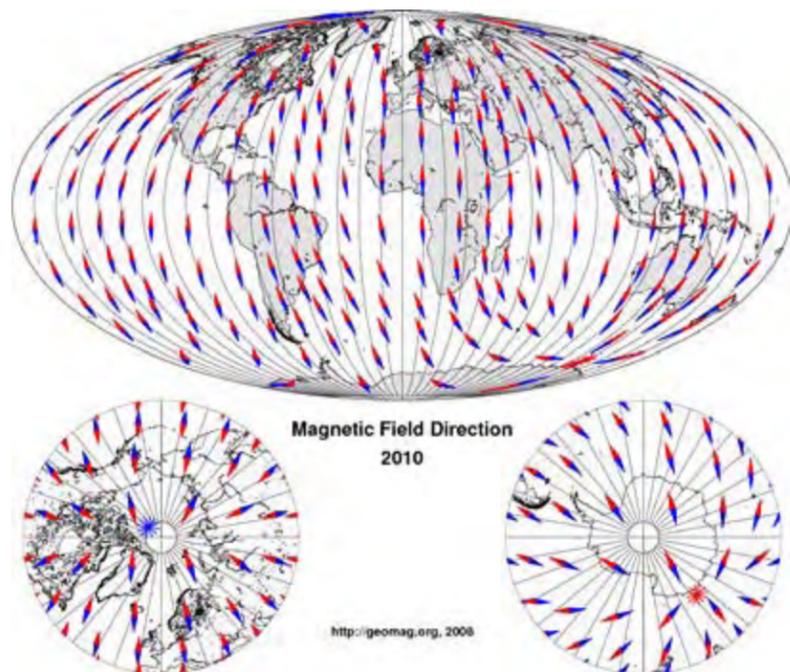
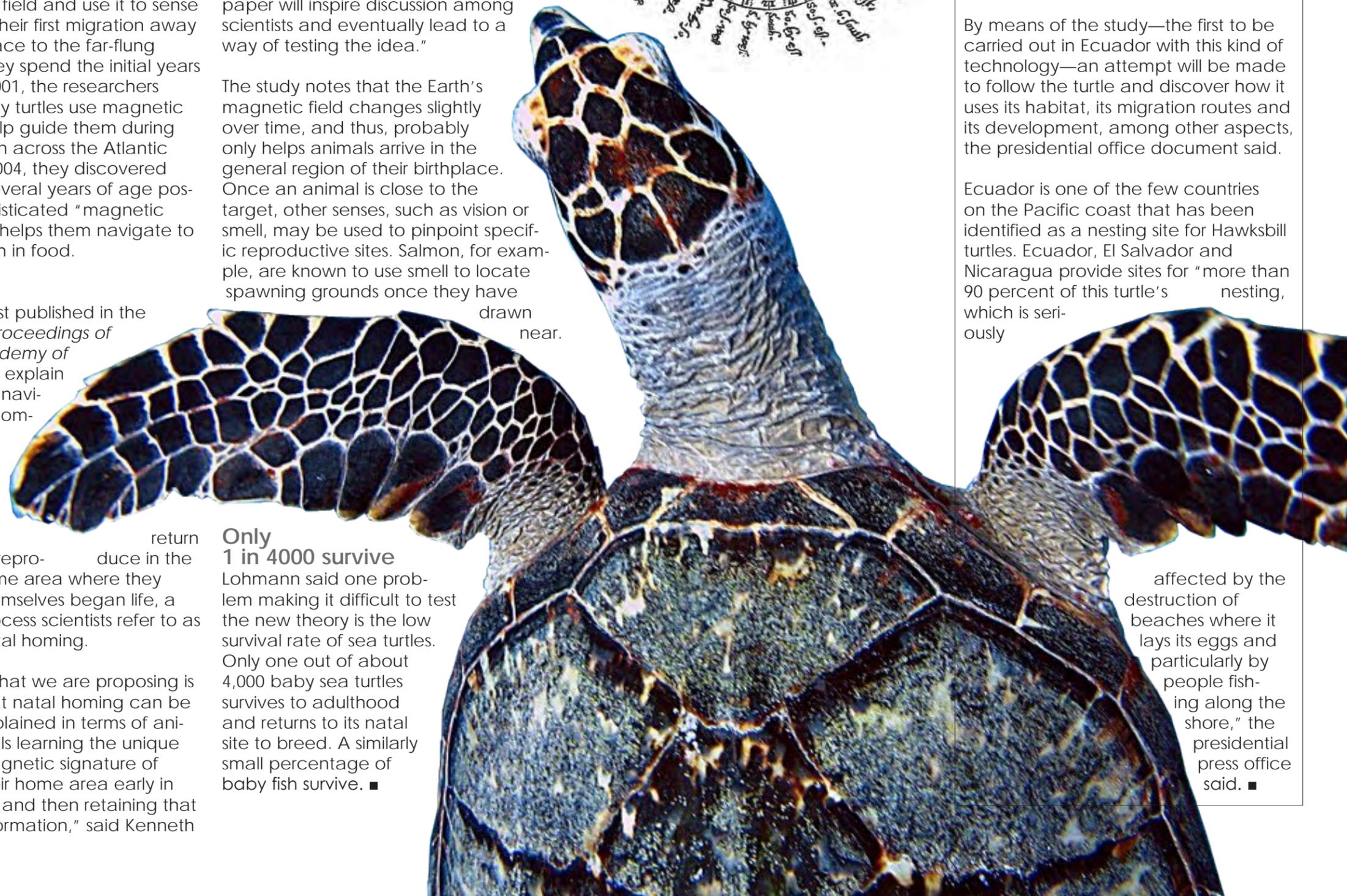
Ecuador tracks sea turtle by satellite

A Hawksbill turtle, a critically endangered marine turtle species that nests along the Ecuadorian coast, will be tracked via satellite for the purpose of studying its behavior, the Ecuadorian presidential press office said.

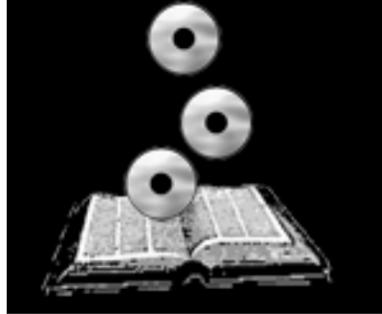
By means of the study—the first to be carried out in Ecuador with this kind of technology—an attempt will be made to follow the turtle and discover how it uses its habitat, its migration routes and its development, among other aspects, the presidential office document said.

Ecuador is one of the few countries on the Pacific coast that has been identified as a nesting site for Hawksbill turtles. Ecuador, El Salvador and Nicaragua provide sites for "more than 90 percent of this turtle's nesting, which is seriously

affected by the destruction of beaches where it lays its eggs and particularly by people fishing along the shore," the presidential press office said. ■



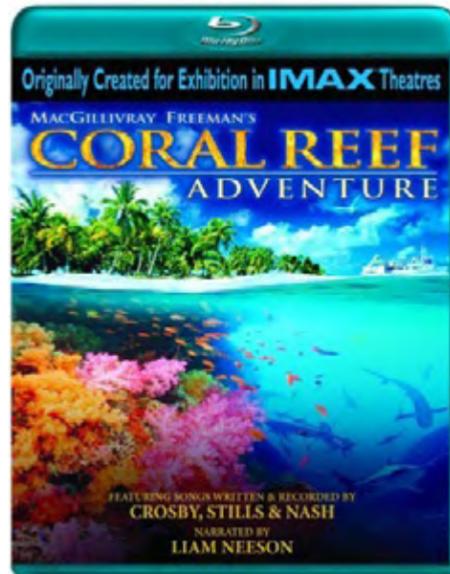
reviews



Books Film DVDs CDs

Edited by Catherine GS Lim,
Gunild Symes & Peter Symes

POINT & CLICK
ON BOLD LINKS

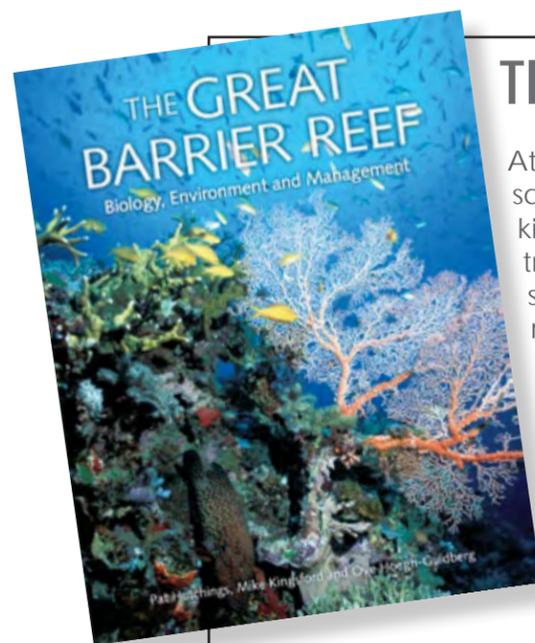


Coral Reef Adventure

Ocean explorers Howard and Michele Hall deliver a spectacular IMAX adventure with footage from pristine coral reefs of the South Pacific. Joining them on the production are Jean-Michael Cousteau, deep reef scientist Richard Pyle

and Fijian diver Rusi Vulakoro, who explore and capture on film the diverse and magical underwater world of coral reefs on our planet. While the film features the beauty of the reefs, it also raises awareness of the tragic loss of many of these fragile eco-systems.

Starring Liam Neeson, Howard Hall, Michele Hall, Jean-Michel Cousteau, Rusi Vulakoro
Directed by Greg MacGillivray
Written by Stephen Judson, Jack Stephens, Osha Gray Davidson
Produced by Greg MacGillivray, Alec Lorimore, Chat Reynders, Christopher N. Palmer
Format: Color, Dolby, DTS Surround
Sound, Widescreen
Studio: Image Entertainment
Run Time: 45 minutes
ASIN: B001CITQZ4
www.amazon.com



The Great Barrier Reef

At 344,400 square kilometres in size, this marine park is home to one of the most

diverse ecosystems on the planet. Included in this comprehensive guide are descriptions of the organisms and eco-systems of the Great Barrier

Reef, as well as influential biological, chemical and physical processes. Current issues such as climate change, coral bleaching and coral disease are addressed as well as the challenges of coral reef fisheries. The book provides a field guide to help people identify common flora and fauna on the reef as well information on animal behavior and roles the biota play. With contributions from 33 international experts, the beautifully illustrated guide will be an asset to reef enthusiasts, tourists, students, researchers and environmental managers. While written with an Australian focus, the

book can also be used as a reference for most of the coral reefs of the Indo-Pacific region.

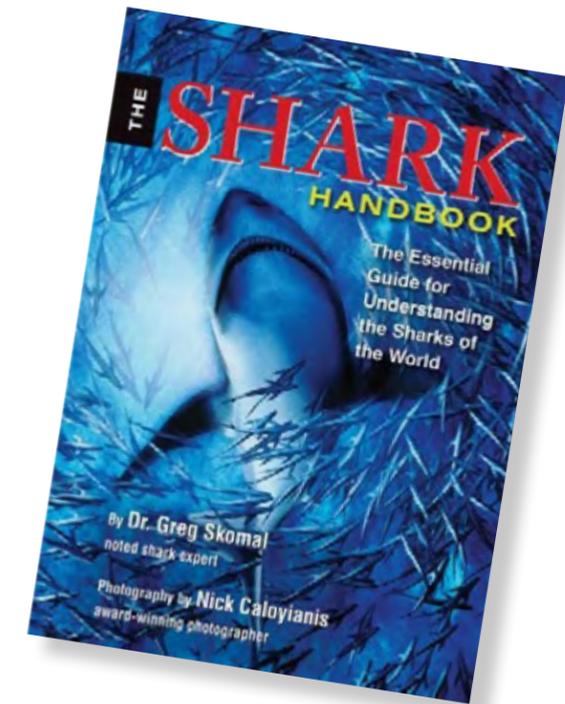
The authors are Pat A Hutchings, Senior Principal Research Scientist at the Australian Museum; Michael Kingsford, Head of School of Marine Biology and Aquaculture at James Cook University; and Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, Director of the Centre for Marine Studies at Queensland University. Paperback, 392 pages
Publisher: CSIRO PUBLISHING
Published: November 2008
ISBN: 9780643095571
www.publish.csiro.au
www.springer.com



Tomb Raider: Underworld

This video game for PlayStation 3 by Eidos takes off where *Tomb Raider: Legend* left off. It introduces a new, interactive playing ground that gives players an opportunity to immerse themselves totally in the game. Once again, players take the role of Lara Croft as she explores exotic places in the Arctic, Mexico, and under the Mediterranean Sea.

ASIN: B0012N746W
Media: Video Game
www.amazon.com

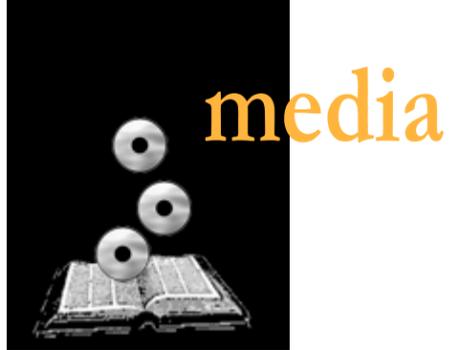


Shark Handbook

One of the world's leading shark experts, Greg Skomal—aka the "Shark Guy" on Discovery Channel—is affiliated with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and has authored this comprehensive field guide to swimming with sharks. Skomal has compiled a complete listing of every known shark in existence as well as some extinct species illustrated with stunning images by awarding winning National Geographic photographer, Nick Caloyianis. Information shared about sharks includes their life cycle from birth to death, anatomy, distinguishing markings and features of each type of shark, development of their teeth, hunting and attack strategies, and the importance and purpose of sharks within our eco system.

Paperback: 280 pages
Publisher: Cider Mill Press; 1st edition
Published: July 1, 2008
ISBN-10: 1604330074
ISBN-13: 978-1604330076
Price: US\$10.17
www.amazon.com





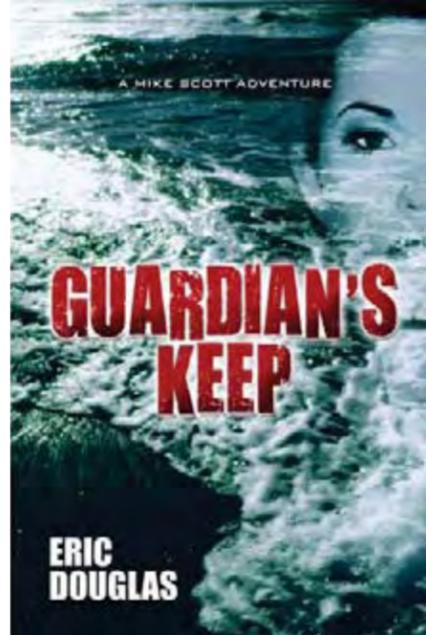
media

Cave Diving Articles

& Opinions: A Comprehensive Guide to Cave Diving and Exploration. This new book brings together a collection of articles written by caving professionals like Jarrod Jablonski, Lamar Hires, Hal Watts, Jeff Bozanic, Ron Simmons, etc. Within its covers, you'll learn about the many aspects of cave diving, from the geology, equipment, fitness, propulsion techniques and gas supply management to cave photography, rebreathers, low visibility diving, sump diving, cyberdiving and even survival psychology and team diving methods. The illustrations and also photographs of Florida Springs are an added bonus. Written for cave divers at all levels – from the beginner to the seasoned professional – this textbook easily serves as a

valuable reference book. The fact that it has been edited by Jill Heinerth, a pioneer cave diver and inaugural inductee into the Women Divers Hall of Fame, and co-editor Bill Oigarden, with his extensive experience in cave diving, adds to its credibility and worth.

Edited by Jill Heinerth and Bill Oigarden
Published by Heinerth Productions
Published: 2008
ISBN 9780979878909
Price: \$42.95
Secure.nsscds.org



Guardian's Keep

Author and dive instructor, Eric Douglas, delivers another adventure above and below the water with his third dive novel in the Mike Scott series. The story follows a beautiful archeologist, Dr. Francesca DeMarco, who is investigating an underwater site off the Adriatic Coast of Italy. As she pursues stories of a mysterious group of Guardians, she meets roadblocks set by someone attempting to keep her from discovering the truth. With the help of a news

photographer on assignment, Mike Scott, Demarco strives to unlock the mystery of the Guardians, while a group of delusional fanatics strives to stop them at all cost. Hot on the trail of a religious artifact lost in Jerusalem in ancient Roman times, they could find themselves locked permanently in a tomb instead.

Paperback: 300 pages
Publisher: PublishAmerica
Published: December 1, 2008
ISBN-10: 1607038382
ISBN-13: 978-1607038382
Amazon.com

2009 Diving Almanac & Book of Records

The latest edition of the Diving Almanac & Book of Records is the perfect way to start off the new year. With listings of about 500 diving records – spanning the gauntlet from the first underwater radio show, the deepest wreck dive, the thickest log book, to the first all-glass underwater restaurant, the loudest animal in the ocean and the largest underwater wedding – it's sure to yield hours of leisure, albeit sometimes envy-filled, reading.

However, this is more than the diving world's version of the Guinness Book of Records. Besides the long list of Who's Who, this annual compilation also includes a comprehensive listing (think 'Yellow Pages') of dive-related businesses, associations, publications, etc around the world. Amongst its 746 pages are also 15 chapters about varied topics, spanning military diving, freediving, underwater photography and marine

biology. What's more, there is also a review of diving-related incidents from September 2007 to December 2008 – how's that for being up-to-date!

Indeed, since its inaugural edition in 2006, the Diving Almanac & Book of Records just keeps growing and growing with each passing year!

Edited by Jeffrey J Gallant
Foreword by Hillary Viders
ISBN: 978-0-9781078-2-6
Published: January 2009
746 pages

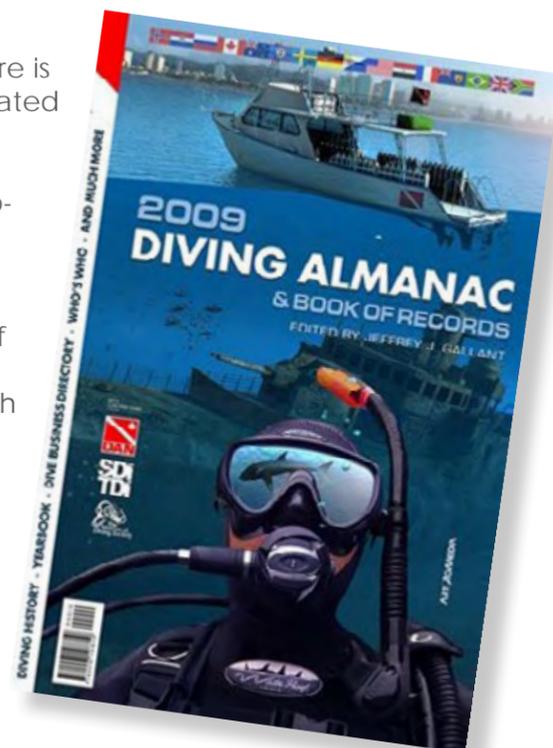


Titanic's Last Secrets

With this book, author Brad Matsen gives us a new perspective on the Titanic disaster. In August of 2005, previously undiscovered wreckage from the ship was discovered on the ocean floor by a team using Mir submersibles. The findings suggested that the ship had broken in half while almost horizontal and gone down before most of the passengers knew what was

happening instead of sinking with the bow rising into the air as previously thought. The discovery informs Matsen's retelling of the Titanic story in which he smoothly incorporates massive amounts of research.

Hardcover: 443 pages
Publisher: Thorndike Press; Large edition
Published: November 21, 2008
ISBN-10: 1410410951
ISBN-13: 978-1410410955
Amazon.com



REVIEW



The Sea reviewed by Cat GS Lim
This book may be entitled 'The Sea', but many of the photos have been taken from the air, so that entire islands can be seen, allowing the vast expanse of the ocean can be truly appreciated. We bear witness to the majesty of nature as waves crash against stone; we relax at the soothing images of the underwater world, as its delicate creatures soar through their domain. Yet, unlike many other nature books that focus on the feathered, furry and scaly, this one acknowledges the contributions and activities of homo sapiens. Yes, humans are depicted going about their business, as sailors, fisherman, villagers, etc who interact with the ocean. Those of us who are landlock receive a rare glimpse into their lives, as they fish, sail, repair nets, surf, play and of course, scuba dive.

Every chapter contains an introduction that is a tad wordy, and some readers may find it a tad challenging to read as it is generally not broken up by paragraph breaks. It is tempting to skip past the text and get to the real meat of the book : the photos.

In short, this book is one massive picture book. With more than 700 pages, this is not a book that can – or should – be completed at one sitting. Not even several sittings.

Publisher: White Star
Editor: Valeria Manfredi De Fabianis
ISBN: 13: 9788854401259

