



# San Jose Flipper Dippers

JULY  
2023

GENERAL MEETINGS HELD  
3RD WEDNESDAY  
OF EACH MONTH  
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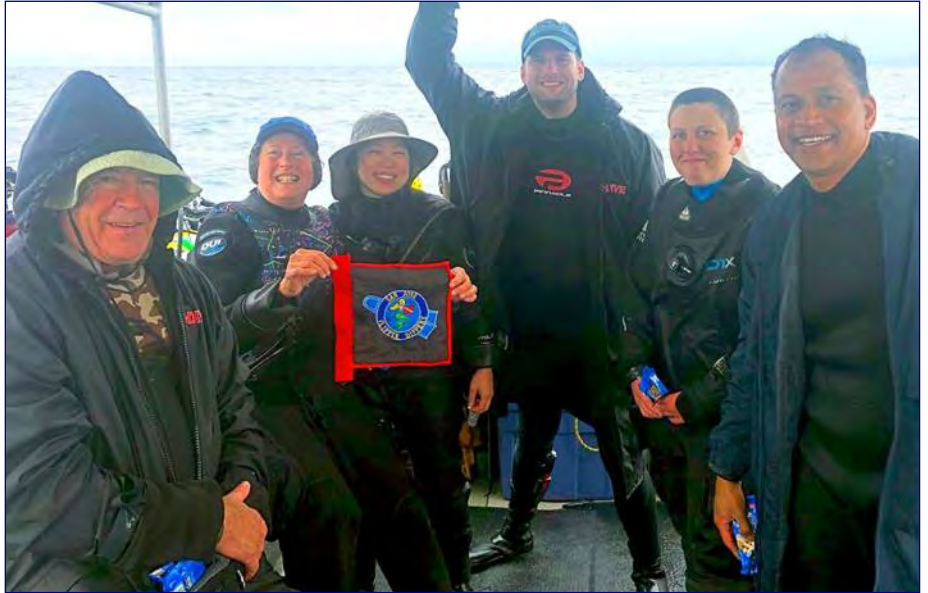
## Flipper Dippers double their pleasure

Grace Chi

Dippers Taylor Sullivan, Barbara Davis, Andrew Grice, Sim Upadhyayula, Carl Tuttle and Grace Chi chartered the *Double Down* for the June S3 dive. We weren't sure what to expect for viz but figured it couldn't be that much worse than what we've seen most of this year. Captain Rick was a bit earlier than the 8am boarding time, which wasn't uncommon, and was super helpful with carrying our second tanks down to the boat. The parking lot is under construction improvements but at least the portion along the loading dock is close to being completed.

For the first dive, we went to Eric's Pinnacle. It was an extremely fishy dive with a hazy 15ft viz at best. Lots of the usual suspects including blue rockfish, a Cabazon and a lingcod were seen. Large patches of strawberry anemones covered much of the rocks and were gorgeous once you shone some light on them. Large salps in small chains in a few places too. Male and female sheepheads along with a sea lion were also spotted. There was a bit of a current more on than off throughout the dive so some folks ended up with a bit of a surface swim. I ended the dive in a field of yellow coral that covered quite a bit of the rocks. Max depth was 51-feet in warm 55-degree water.

After a surface interval with a discussion about rebreathers and fueling up with water and cookies, Rick moved the boat and we dove MacAbee Pinnacle. We anchored right on the pinnacle but viz was a bit worse on this dive. Ironically, no



Dippers Double Down: Carl, Barbara, Grace, Andrew, Taylor and Sim keep warm between dives.

one saw the pinnacle. We followed the captain's advice and went west, keeping the kelp on our left going out and on our right coming back towards the boat. Lots of smaller life like sea snails and starfish in feeding groups. Carl and Taylor saw a very old and huge anchor chain covered in marine growth. Barbara and Sim even saw a rainbow nudibranch laying eggs! It was also a fairly warm 55 degree temp, with a max depth of 49-feet. Carl was super helpful and reset the anchor on both dives.

When we got back in the harbor, Rick rinsed off our gear and ourselves with some fresh water. After getting our gear stored we went to London Bridge for lunch and discussions on the dives. 🌊

## Killer whales spotted playing in Monterey Bay

About 30 killer whales in California's Monterey Bay spent hours playing, breaching, doing triple flips, and rolling around together — but some of those same orcas participated in a much less lighthearted act just a couple of months prior. The killer whales splashing around were captured in extraordinary footage and photos that showed them jumping out of the water close to boats.

"It was the best killer whale encounter I've had and I've been studying them for 30 years," Nancy Black, a marine biologist with Monterey Bay Whale Watch and the director

of the nonprofit California Killer Whale Project, told Insider. "They were all so active and they were very vocal. You could tell they were just really excited."

The orcas played in Monterey Bay for more than eight hours. Black explained that researchers can recognize individual killer whales by the markings on their fins, adding that the playful whales in Monterey Bay came together from 11 different family groups, which are typically matriarchal and led by a mother or grandmother. She said the different groups in the area often mix together.

Six of the whales were the same ones captured in drone footage in April attacking

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



There were a lot of Dippers in the water in June! Conditions were great, with calm water and decent to good visibility. In addition to our usual S3 dive (Second Saturday SCUBA) on June 10th, Dippers also set up club dives on June 17th and 23rd. Several Dippers met up with other local divers last month as well.

The Flipper Dippers have maintained an impressive safety record over the years. At one of our dives in June, one of the non-members who joined us commented that we were the only recent (new-to-them) group of divers who discussed participants' experience and comfort levels with diving before setting up the buddy teams and getting in the water. We've signed up a few new prospective members lately too so let's keep this effort moving!

Coming up in July, so far we have a dive planned for Sunday, July 2nd, in addition to our usual S3 dive on Saturday, July 8th. We also have our three-day weekend (July 21-23) at the Apres Lodge in Kings Beach on the North Shore of Lake Tahoe. Activities include biking, hiking, swimming, Saturday night music and small town window shopping, and might include diving in Lake Tahoe as well!

We are still planning for our popular Christmas in July event, but most likely, on August 19 or 20 this year. Watch for more information in the August Newsletter

Last November, I wrote about the Facebook postings for "Diver Socials." These are casual events where local divers can meet up and socialize with other divers. The event is at the Dust Bowl Brewing Company in Monterey on Sunday evenings. The next one is scheduled for Sunday, July 16th, from 4:30 - 7:30 pm. They meet at an outdoor table with an inflated SMB (Surface Marker Buoy) to make it easy to find. I have attended a number of these events since November and met some great people, including a few who have come to our dives! It's always a very nice evening and I plan to continue to attend when I can.

I hope to see you all in the water soon!

– Barbara



## San Jose Flipper Dippers

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o Position Open o

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## "I went to the Scuba Show and was attacked by Mermaids!"

The Dippers' Ken Agur attended the Scuba Show in Long Beach, and ran into a number of old friends and found some new ones.

From the look on Ken's face, we now know why he's planning on attending next year and staying for a few extra days! ★

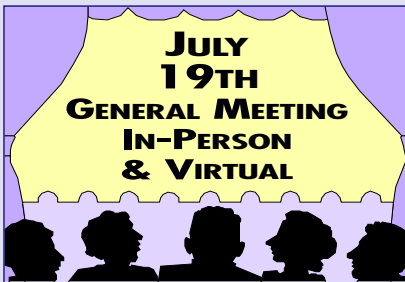


## MEMBERSHIP

*Ken Agur*

We're a dive club and we're diving! If you're looking for a dive buddy look no further. See the Club's website for more information on becoming a member. (Membership Requirements).

**Happy Birthday!** . . . For July, these Dippers are completing their annual trip around the Sun this month: **Barbara Davis** and **Carl Tuttle**. ☆



We'll be having our in-person General Meeting this month. If you come please bring a refreshment to share – safely! We'll again have a live Skype connection to communicate with those who still prefer to meet virtually. ☆

### **Saturday, June 17th** **Diving at South Monastery Beach**

*Barbara Davis*

Dippers *Ken Agur, Barbara Davis, Andrew Grice, Taylor Sullivan* and *Sim Upadhyayula* met up at South Monastery Beach planning to get in a dive or two.

The water was calm, so we entered at the protected south end and swam out to the kelp bed before descending for our dive. We followed the rock/sand boundary as usual until we came to an area that was pretty much an urchin barren. Barbara hadn't dove South Monastery since September 2022(!) and was not sure which direction to head, so we took a meandering route through whatever kelp we could find. Maximum depth was 50-feet and our dive time was 53-minutes. Water temp was a relatively balmy 54-degrees.

We saw tons of anemones on the rocks! More than we ever remember seeing on a single dive. And there were big schools of blue rockfish hanging out under the kelp canopy. We also saw many species of nudibranchs and sea cucumbers.

After a challenging exit and some equipment issues, we decided to call the day and one dive and headed over to the Crossroads BBQ for a tasty lunch! Overall, a great day of diving and hanging out with friends. ☆

### **Twilight and Night Dive on June 23rd**

*Andrew Grice*

In a break from the norm, Dippers *Andrew Grice, Sim Upadhyayula, Barbara Davis* and *Taylor Sullivan* met Friday evening along with prospective members *Les Addison* and *Stephane Lee*. Conditions were pristine with negligible swell and great visibility. We took our time getting ready, chatting, and eating Barbara's famous brownies as the sun slowly made its way towards the horizon.

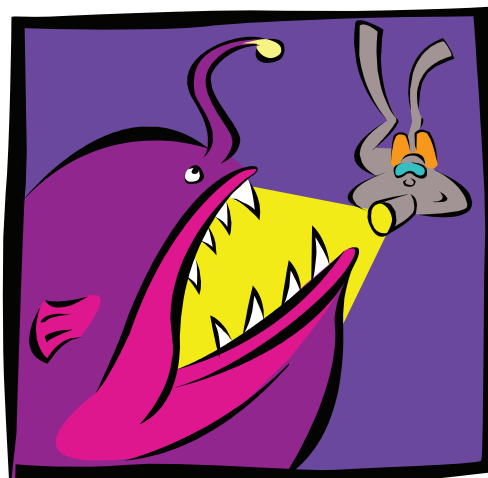
We began our first dive at 7:42pm, descending near the number 6 marker where the kelp began to thicken. With sunset scheduled at around 8:30pm, there was still plenty of daylight remaining underwater for visibility without a flashlight. We descended to a maximum of around 49-feet, enjoying the changing colors underwater as the sun set. There were a large number of massive rainbow nudibranchs and crabs moving about. Our typical friends the rockfish

were also present perched on rocks or in their crevices. A surprising thermocline left most of us feeling very chilly as we descended. Our dive ended after around an hour, and we returned to shore and steeled ourselves against the cold with hot water and warm coats. 6 divers went in, 6 divers came out.

The next dive did not begin until around 10pm long after the sun had set. Because everyone was feeling especially chilly, we decided to time our final dive of the night to around 45-minutes. Five divers decided to return underwater for the exciting, pitch-black experience of a night dive. Divers observed a large thorn-back ray, tiny red octopi, more giant nudibranchs and many active crabs. The octopi were very shy. The few we saw would rest at the top of their holes in the sand and quickly retreat as we approached or attempted to show them to our dive buddies.

We descended to approximately the same depth as the first dive before deciding to turn around and head back towards shore. Per Barbara's suggestion, we turned off all of our lights at the turn of the dive and waved our hands around in an attempt to observe bioluminescence. Upon moving my arms, blue sparkles appeared in front of me. It was an absolutely magical experience. All 5 divers returned safely to shore, surprisingly less cold from the second dive than the first. Despite our original agreed upon dive time, a few divers ended up staying under for almost an hour anyway.

Time flies when you're having fun! All divers for the night had a blast, vowing to repeat the experience next month. Join us for the next night dive on July 28th to experience the awe and wonder for yourself! ☆





## South Monastery Beach Dive

**Cedric Wright**

On Saturday, June 24th, Dippers **Tristan Chutka** and **Cedric Wright** did two dives at South Monastery Beach in Carmel. The conditions could not have been better! The swell was practically non-existent, someone might even call it Lake Monastery! Out at depth the visibility was 25-feet which made it a near perfect day. The only downside was the water was a little cold, it got down to 49-degrees on the first dive, but Tristan stayed warm in his two wetsuits!



The usual array of rockfish, sea stars, urchins, anemones, Monterey Sea Lemons, gobies and lingcod were on display, plus a couple of fighting (or mating?) sea stars and a Wolf Eel were spotted. Cedric led the first dive out

along the northern edge of the kelp beds then turned back south into the kelp before heading back to the beach. The first dive lasted 55-minutes and bottomed out at 52-feet.

On the second dive Tristan took the lead and explored the rocks inside the kelp. The minimal swell made it a great day to get in close to the rocky shore on the south side of Monastery. After exploring the rocks it was back out into the kelp and back to the beach. Since the swell was low, fins were removed in the surf and a graceful standing exit was made instead of the usual *Monastery Crawl*.

The second dive lasted 44-minutes with a maximum depth of 46-feet. The day was rounded out with a lunch of pulled pork sandwiches at Crossroads BBQ and a trip to Aquarius Dive Shop to fill tanks. Yep, YOU should have gone diving! 🌟

## Bike Ride to Verde Vineyards

June 25th turned out to be a great day for the Club's 4th Sunday Cycle. The riders started out at the Coyote Lake Harvey Bear Ranch Entrance, in Morgan Hill, and rode an easy 5-miles to Verde Vineyards. The weather was picture perfect to enjoy the ride and a picnic with wine tasting and a live band.

Riders included leader **Jim Rezowalli**, along with **Gabi Estill**, **Howard Chien**, **Frances Lee** and **Carl Tuttle**. Joining the riders at the winery were **Barbara** and **Greg Davis**. After a bit, **John** and **Debi Snyder** and John's son **Alen** and his young daughter joined the group.

These photos were "Screen Grabs" from a video posted on the winery's FaceBook page. 🌟

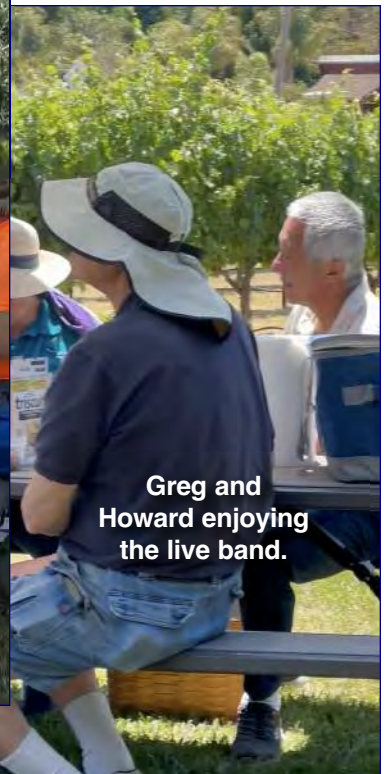


Gabi and Jim compare wines.



Barbara, Howard and Carl telling tall tales . . .

Frances waves to the camera.



Greg and Howard enjoying the live band.



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a pair of gray whales off the coast of Monterey Bay, Black said. The orcas that participated in both hunting events included a family of four and an additional male and female.

The rare drone footage showed a group of more than 20 whales in an act of “attempted predation” on adult gray whales, which are much larger than adult orcas. While adult grays can be 48-feet long and weigh 78,000-pounds, orcas are typically half that length and weigh around 11,000-pounds.

The killer whales came from 11 different family groups. It’s not uncommon for killer whales to prey on gray whale calves, but it was the first known attack on adult grays in the area in more than 30 years, Insider’s Joshua Zitser previously reported.

Evan Brodsky, a cinematographer for Monterey Bay Whale Watch, said at the time the orcas were trying to eat the gray whales alive, adding the attack lasted around six hours. The striking footage showed the pair of gray whales huddled together near the



Photos: Evan Brodsky/ Monterey Bay Whale Watch



surface get surrounded by orcas that appear to strike, followed by pools of blood in the water. Monterey Bay Whale Watch said the gray whales ultimately survived the attack but were badly injured.

Six of the orcas playing were part of a group that attacked gray whales in April. The footage had a much different tone. Black said they “reminded me of a bunch of puppy dogs that were rolling around and wrestling.” She said it’s unclear why the orcas were so playful, but said it could be because it was the end of baby gray whale hunting season. “They may have had a lot of food to eat,” she said. “If they’ve had a lot to eat, they can spend more time being social.”

The unusual playful display comes as killer whales near Spain and Portugal have increasingly been damaging and even sinking boats. An expert told Insider that behavior is also likely playful and it’s unlikely to spread to other orca populations throughout the world’s oceans any time soon. 🌟



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## Wreckage of 100-year-old submarine found in Long Island Sound by divers

Connecticut divers have discovered the wreckage of an experimental submarine that was built in 1907 and later scuttled in the Long Island Sound. The *Defender*, a 92-foot-long boat, was found by a team led by Richard Simon, a commercial diver from Coventry.

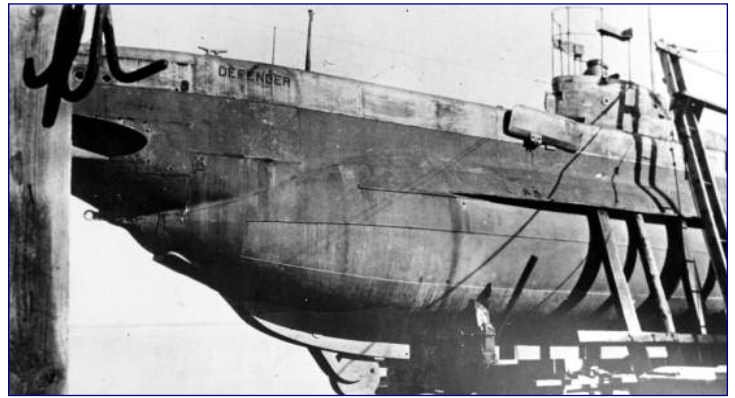
Simon said he had been interested in the story of the *Defender* for years. He spent months going over known sonar and underwater mapping surveys of the bottom of the sound, as well as government documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, to identify any anomaly that fit the size of the sub. "A submarine has a very distinct shape," he said. "It needs to be 100-feet long and 13-feet in diameter. So I made a list of everything that was that long and there was one target on that list."

Simon then assembled a group of top wreck divers to determine if the *Defender* was in the location he had identified. Poor tidal conditions forced them to abandon an attempt on a Friday. They returned on Sunday and discovered the *Defender* lying on the bottom, more than 150-feet beneath the water's surface, off the coast of Old Saybrook.

"It was legitimately hiding in plain sight," he said. "It's on the charts. It's known about in Long Island Sound, just no one knew what it was." Simon described the agony of waiting on the deck of his research vessel, staring at a dive buoy in the fog and waiting for his two divers to surface. Once they did and confirmed they had found a sub, the team erupted in "pure joy," he said. Simon said he didn't want to give the exact depth, because he said that could give away the sub's location.



**What was the *Defender*?** The submarine, originally named the *Lake*, was built by millionaire Simon Lake and his Bridgeport-based Lake Torpedo Boat Company in hopes of winning a competition for a U.S. Navy contract, according



to NavSource Online, a website dedicated to preserving naval history. It was an experimental vessel, with wheels to move along the sea bottom and a door that allowed divers to be released underwater, Simon said.

The company lost that competition and Lake then tried refitting the boat for minesweeping, salvage and rescue work, renaming it the *Defender*. But he never found a buyer. It was a well-known sub and was even visited by aviator Amelia Earhart in 1929, Simon said.

**What happened to the *Defender*?** The submarine spent many years unused, docked in New London before eventually being abandoned on a mud flat near Old Saybrook. It was scuttled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1946, but the corps never disclosed where, Simon said. Simon said it was clear when his team found the wreckage that it was indeed the *Defender*. The length, the size and shape of protrusions on the submarine's distinct keel, and the shape and location of diving planes characteristic of Lake-built vessels, all helped identify it, he said.

**What's next?** Simon and his team plan to spend the summer diving on the sub, filming it and taking photographs. The company he and his wife own, Shoreline Diving, put up the money for the search. He said he hasn't figured out how to monetize the find, but said that wasn't the goal in looking for it. He has already contacted the Navy to see if it would be interested in helping preserve the wreckage.

The ship has some protections under what is known as the Abandoned Shipwreck Act, a 1988 law that would allow it to be treated as an archaeological or historical site instead of a commercial property to be salvaged, he said. "So, as a wreck diver, I can go visit history; I can touch it; I can experience it," he said. "It's just a different connection to history, to the past that we don't have in any other activity." ★



# DIVE & ACTIVITY CALENDAR

ANDREW GRICE

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JULY 2023

## SATURDAY, JULY 1 NO LICENSE FISHING DAY

### SUNDAY, JULY 2

**BEACH DIVE** *Andrew Grice* will be coordinating a dive at North Monastery. The plan is for a 2-tank dive based on surface conditions and the comfort and skill level of the attending divers. Meet at the dive site at 8:00 AM. RSVP to Andrew Grice at agrice07@gmail.com or text/phone: 669-289-5809 if you plan to join.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 5 BUSINESS MEETING

The meeting will be held **virtually via Skype**. All members are invited to attend. Please email **Carl Tuttle** if you need the link to join. Bring your own food, drinks, and internet connection and we'll discuss ideas for upcoming dives and events.

### SATURDAY JULY 8 SECOND SATURDAY SCUBA (S3)

**BEACH DIVE: MONASTERY NORTH** *Andrew Grice* will be coordinating a 2-tank beach dive at Monastery North. It's been a while since we had an official club dive at this wonderful site so let's get out there and explore the underwater canyon again! Meet at 8:00 by the preschool. We may need to move cars depending on the condition of the stairs. We'll have lunch afterwards at the Crossroads shopping center. Email Andrew at agrice07@gmail.com to RSVP. Let's go diving!

## SATURDAY, JULY 15 NO SCHEDULED DIVE

### GENERAL MEETING

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

The **in-person General Meeting** will be held at **7:30 PM** at the Knights of Columbus Santa Maria Hall 2211 Shamrock Dr., Campbell.

The **virtual meeting** will continue to be hosted via Skype.

Please contact **Carl Tuttle** for more details on the in-person meeting or a link to the virtual Skype meeting.

#### Celebrate 59 Years of the San Jose Flipper Dippers!

Entertainment:

- Social Hour
- Dive Plans and More



### FRIDAY, JULY 21 - 23 WEEKEND

**AT LAKE TAHOE** Coordinator: **Jim Rezwalli**. Please RSVP via email: jimandthebeach@gmail.com, phone: 408-293-7390 to receive final details and any last minute updates. Come join us for a three-day weekend at the Apres Lodge in Kings Beach on the North Shore of Lake Tahoe. Cost: \$78 per person for the two nights (\$39/night) paid a week before the

event. See the June newsletter for more information.

### FRIDAY, JULY 28

#### TWILIGHT AND NIGHT DIVES

**AT MCABEE BEACH** *Andrew Grice* will be coordinating a pair of dives Friday evening at McAbee beach. We'll plan to meet at **6:30pm** by El Torito for the twilight dive and around 8:30pm for the night dive. Last month Dippers joined together for evening dives at Breakwater and had a blast. This month, we're going to head to McAbee for the evening and watch the underwater wildlife change gears as the sun sets into the night. Feel free to come for one or both dives. Bring a tank light (glowstick-equivalent) and one or two flashlights if you plan to come for the night dive. If you need extra lights, please contact Andrew for availability. Sign up at the General Meeting or send an RSVP to Andrew Grice at agrice07@gmail.com, phone: 669-289-5809 if you plan to join.

**Let's go night diving!**



#### UPCOMING IN AUGUST

- 02 Business Meeting
- 12 Second Saturday SCUBA
- 16 General Meeting
- 19 or 20 Christmas in July (August)
- 28-Sept 4 Labor Day Weekend
- Van Damme



## Rare sea creature spotted off US East Coast

An endangered sea creature that has long proven elusive has been documented off the U.S. East Coast for the first time, researchers said. The slippery creature is a sicklefin devil ray, a giant fish known to dive to depths of 6,000 feet, according to a study published in the Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom.

The rays, which can grow up to 12 feet wide, are believed to dwell in pockets of the sea around the globe, but their presence has



never before been confirmed near the United States. The fish are classified as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN),

according to a 2019 report. While difficult to confirm, their populations appear to be declining. The rays are fished across the globe, particularly in India and Indonesia, and are often caught unintentionally as part of bycatches, according to the report.

While little is known about their biology, it is believed that they only reproduce one offspring every few years, meaning they likely require ample time to replenish their populations, according to the report. ★

**NOTE:** All certified divers are encouraged to attend San Jose Flipper Dippers' dives.

Non-Club members will be required to show proof of certification to the dive coordinator prior to entering the water with our group.

Please sign up for dives at the General Meeting or call the coordinator. This is needed in case of cancellation or changes.





# San Jose Flipper Dippers

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## 2023 COMING EVENTS

July 01	No License Fishing Day
July 05	Business Meeting
July 08	Second Saturday SCUBA
July 19	🐡 General Meeting
July 21-23	Lake Tahoe Weekend
July 28	Night Dive
Aug 02	Business Meeting
Aug 12	Second Saturday SCUBA
Aug 16	🐡 General Meeting
Aug 19 or 20	Christmas in July (August)
Aug 28-Sept 4	Labor Day Weekend - Van Damme
Sept 02	No License Fishing Day
Sept 06	Business Meeting
Sept 09	Second Saturday SCUBA
Sept 16	International Coastal Cleanup Day
Sept 20	🐡 General Meeting
Sept 24	Fourth Sunday Cycle (FSC)

*Are you looking for someone  
to dive with?*

The San Jose Flipper Dippers Dive Club is a great way to meet divers who are always having fun times. **Come join us!**



Watch This Space – Much More To Come!  
See the Club's Website for the full Calendar



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