

SDFSFA Bulletin December 2006

This bulletin is provided as a service to members of the  
SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA

Working to develop the sport of Scuba diving in SA  
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We are publishing this electronic bulletin as a separate publication to our normal monthly SDF News Sheet. Future issues of this "SDFSFA Bulletin" will include lengthy articles about matters of interest to recreational divers. We welcome contributions from our readers.

If you don't have the time to read through everything in this bulletin, take advantage of the following table of contents. Click on any item of interest to proceed straight to that section.

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**OZTEK'07 NEWS**

**EXHIBITOR NEWS:**

A number of new Exhibitors have confirmed for OZTeK in the last month and we are pleased to welcome Digital Diver, SOS Marine, Haskel Australasia and Dive Queensland. Space is now at a premium and with only a small number of stands left we must say that attendees to the conference and/or exhibition will have a rare opportunity to see first hand so many diving products in one place. Many of our returning exhibitors have new product planned for release and we are sure all divers will be keen to see the latest in dive equipment and services on offer and avail themselves of the "Show Specials"! A full range of both recreational and technical diving brands and accessories, including underwater cameras & strobes, torches, BCDs, regulators, dive computers & watches, tanks, masks, fins, etc.. will be on display. In addition we have the latest in underwater scooters, a wide range of rebreathers (with their designers/manufacturers) and a selection of spearfishing and freediving equipment. Both divers and instructors will be able to peruse the latest in training materials from all the major training agencies in Australia and, for the industry professionals, there will be compressors, filters, gas blending systems, booster pumps and more. Remember, this is the only National dive event in Australia and you wont see this amount of dive product on display in one place anywhere else. For an up to date list of Exhibitors and their contact details please bookmark the OZTeK'07 Exhibitor details at

<http://www.diveoztek.com.au/exhibitors.html>.

#### SPEAKERS NEWS:

The list of speakers to the Conference is again key feature of the OZTeK weekend. Along with the already advertised list of International and Local Speakers, which include the likes of Rick Stanton, Leigh Bishop, John Chatterton, Kevin Gurr, Cedric Verdier, Jarrod Jablonski, Richard Lundgren, Dr Simon Mitchell, Kevin Deacon & Samir Alhafith (for a full list please go to <http://www.diveoztek.com.au/speakers.html>), we are pleased to announce the following addition to the OZTeK'07 Conference Speaker List:

Tania Yarra, (Aus) (<http://www.diveoztek.com.au/speakers18.htm>)

One of Australia's leading Cave Divers, Tania holds the Australian record for the longest cave dive by a female in Australia when she took part in the 2005 exploration of the Cocklebiddy Cave system, penetrating over 3.7 kilometres along the cave tunnels. During a 12-hour journey, Tania became the first female diver to witness the majesty of what is possibly one of the most remote caverns in the world, Toad Hall.

Dr Andrew Fock, (Aus) (<http://www.diveoztek.com.au/speakers15.htm>)

A Hyperbaric Physician at the Alfred Hospital Melbourne Andrew has a special interest in Decompression theory, modelling and history and has been published both in the Diving medical literature and has contributed to published texts. He has participated in diving expeditions that have included the wrecks off the Sapphire Coast of NSW, the wrecks of HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse in the South China Seas and more recently an expedition to dive the German Destroyer KMS Erich Giese off Narvik Norway.

Lamar Hires, (USA) (<http://www.diveoztek.com.au/speakers19.htm>)

One of the world's foremost cave diving explorers, with well over 3,000 logged cave dives in his home state of Florida as well as on expeditions to Japan, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic, Lamar is also the founder of the Dive-Rite equipment company, recently releasing the Dive-Rite Optima eCCR.

Simon Liddiard, (Indonesia) (<http://www.diveoztek.com.au/speakers16.htm>)

As one of the Asia-Pacific region's most experienced and qualified technical diving Instructors and explorers, Simon completed the first-ever, deep Trimix rebreather dive to a depth of 150m using the buddy inspiration Rebreather in 2002.

Alan Studley, (USA) (<http://www.diveoztek.com.au/speakers14.htm>)

Alan is a still wildlife photographer who has had his photographs featured in numerous wildlife publications. He progressed into underwater film and videography with his work having been aired on ABC, NBC, The Learning Channel and syndicated television. He recently co-produced, Discover California Diving, DVD/CD, promoting diving in California. In the late 1980s Alan started leaning more technical diving and started the transition from semi-closed rebreathers to fully closed circuit rebreathers. He now only teaches the KISS rebreather courses; user up to instructor. With his background in sales, gear maintenance, instruction and photography, and impressive knowledge of the KISS systems, he makes an ideal sales agent for Jetsam Technologies.

Geoff Paynter, (Aus) (<http://www.diveoztek.com.au/speakers20.htm>)

Since 1995 Geoff has been involved in arranging, planning and overseeing the scuttling of Australian Navy vessels as a dive wrecks. Starting with the HMAS Swan's scuttling on the 14th December 1997 as an outstanding dive attraction Geoff has project managed or been heavily involved in the preparation and scuttling of 9 artificial reef/dive wrecks

both here and New Zealand. He is sought after by groups hoping to replicate the success of the 'Swan' and is also a cave diving and rebreather enthusiast.

#### OZTeK PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION - IMAGE IS EVERYTHING!

Recognising the increasing popularity of digital photography and its impact on diving, the third OZTeK Underwater Imagery Competition allows underwater photographers and videographers the opportunity to show their creative talents and win some great prizes. Offering underwater photographers enormous scope in subject matter – and with separate judging criteria for both the Professional and Novice sections - the OZTeK'07 Underwater Photo Competition invites entries in any (or all?) of the following four categories: Cave Diving, Wreck Diving, Open (creative) and Video. In addition, the 'Best Of Show' Award is open to professional and novice alike – the entrants must submit images in at least two of the individual categories. Chaired by Kevin Deacon, internationally renowned as one of Australia's most experienced, and accomplished underwater photographers, the judging panel will include a number of invited OZTeK'07 Guest speakers. In addition the viewing public will also have the opportunity to cast their own votes for those images that they deem best in each category. Prizes – including dive trips and equipment - will be awarded on the Sunday 18 March 2007 during the OZTeK Conference Afternoon Sessions. Full details of the OZTeK'07 Underwater Imagery Competition, including the downloadable entry form & Terms & Conditions of entry can be seen at <http://www.diveoztek.com.au/terms.html>.

#### GALA DINNER - AWARDS & DOOR PRIZE:

The OZTeK'07 Dive Conference & Exhibition finishes in grand style with the Gala AWARDS Dinner to be held at, 'Dockside Cockle Bay' overlooking scenic Darling Harbour. Celebrating the achievements and endeavours of Australia's leading Divers and Dive Industry personnel, people who are pushing back the boundaries of knowledge and exploration and whose efforts are leading to the development and use of new diving technologies, a highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the OZTeK'07 Awards in the following three categories:

Technical Diver of the Year Award – previously awarded to David Apperley, Paul Hosie and Trevor Jackson.

Industry Recognition Award – previously awarded to Rob Cason, Dr Simon Mitchell, Tony Davis, Barry Hallett and Richard Nicholls.

Outstanding Achievement Award – previously presented to Kevin Denlay, Ron Allum, Andrew Wight and Chris Brown.

Who will win in 2007??? Be there on the night to be part of the excitement!!!

PRIZE: Generously donated by Lissenung Island Resort in Kavieng, Papua New Guinea, everyone attending the dinner will go into a special draw for the chance to win a ten-night accommodation and diving package that includes: 10 nights accommodation at Lissenung Island Resort in a standard single room with share bathroom; all meals; 9 dive days, 2-tank boat dive, incl. tanks, weights, dive guide and snacks; free afternoon diving on the house reef; free returns airport transfers, and free Lissenung Island Resort T-Shirt. (Flights, en-route accommodation and extras not included and conditions apply.)

A perfect opportunity to relax; catch-up with old friends, meet new ones, and to enjoy the social side of diving, make the OZTeK'07 Gala Awards Dinner an evening to remember by booking a table with friends. Tickets for the Gala AWARDS Dinner are available for order at <http://www.diveoztek.com.au/party.html>.

## WIN A TRIP TO PALAU: TICKETS ON SALE NOW: BUY FOR CHRISTMAS:

A reminder that everyone who pre purchases their OZTeK'07 Gold Pass goes into a draw to win a Trip to the Exotic Island of Palau. With Tickets of sale at selected dive stores, OZTeK affiliated retailers or on-line through the OZTeK'07 Web Site the OZTeK Gold Pass offers delegates full two-day access to all of the speaker presentations, break-out sessions, workshops and seminars, as well as unlimited access to the exhibition and other associated activities. Courtesy of Dive Adventures & Sam's Dive Tours, the trip to dive the walls, wrecks and coral gardens of Palau includes return airfares from Cairns, six nights accommodation in Palau and diving with Sam's Dive Tours, with the winner's name to be announced at the Opening Ceremony. With the Gold Pass (and Gala Dinner) the perfect Christmas Present for the avid diver now is the time to pre purchase and get the added benefit of the chance to win the Trip to Palau. For more details on the Gold Pass Prize please visit <http://www.diveoztek.com.au/mediareleases12.htm> . Information on purchasing OZTeK Conference Passes can be found on the Ticket Information page at <http://www.diveoztek.com.au/tickets.html> .

## ACCOMMODATION:

Please note that room blocks allocated to OZTeK'07 Exhibitors and Visitors are beginning to fill fast. Exhibitors & attendees requiring accommodation in either of the official hotels - the Holiday Inn Darling Harbour & Aarons Hotel Darling Harbour - and wanting to take advantage of the special deals on rates are invited to check the website for reservation details as soon as possible. For Accommodation details please see <http://www.diveoztek.com.au/accommodation.html>.

## OFFICIAL OZTEK PODCASTER:

Continuing OZTeK's tradition of promoting new technology we are pleased to welcome 'The Surface Interval Show' as the Official OZTeK Podcaster. Part of the Podcast Network 'The Surface Interval Show' is an on-line "radio" show about diving with interviews, opinions and news on what is happening around the Australian diving scene. Downloaded via web links or by direct feeds into i-Tunes or your own i-Pod (or another player system) 'The Surface Interval' hosts "Des, Bear & Andrew" will be seen walking around OZTeK bringing the event, or reported parts of it, to a global connected audience. Keep an eye out as Leigh Bishop and other OZTeK Speakers are interviewed in the lead up to the OZTeK weekend. For more details on 'The Surface Interval Show' please go to <http://surfaceinterval.thepodcastnetwork.com/> .

Visit [www.diveoztek.com.au](http://www.diveoztek.com.au) to sign up to receive the latest OZTeK'07 news!

## **DISCOVERY OF WRECK OF THE MISSING JAPANESE MIDGET SUBMARINE**

The story of a group of recreational divers who discovered the site of the M24, the missing Japanese midget submarine, aired on Channel 7's "Today Tonight" on 23<sup>rd</sup> November and then on Channel 9's "60 Minutes" on 26<sup>th</sup> November. The story was then covered in the 27<sup>th</sup> November issue of The Advertiser and the December 2 issue of "New Idea". The wreck of the submarine is thought to still contain the remains of two Japanese sailors. Twentyone Australian sailors were killed by a torpedo fired from the M24 when it entered Sydney Harbour with two similar craft on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1942. The two other subs were recovered soon after the attack, but mystery has surrounded the location of the third sub ever since. Australian and Japanese diplomats are now in discussions over the M24

and the remains of the two sailors inside. The government, the divers and the *60 Minutes* staff are all still reluctant to discuss the exact location of the sub. Although the Australian Navy always believed that the missing sub was located south of the Sydney Harbour heads, it actually lies in the other direction. It is said to be about 3nm off of the coast. The sub is still intact after 64 years under water. Ian Campbell, the Federal Heritage Minister, says that the sub has been inspected and its identity confirmed. He also warned divers to stay away from the wreck as there may be unexploded weapons on board the sub, making any contact dangerous. On 1<sup>st</sup> December Frank Sartor, Minister for Planning, issued a media release announcing fines of up to \$1.1m or 6 month's jail for anyone caught damaging the submarine site. (The Federal Government has now placed a protective heritage order over the submarine site. Visit

<http://www.deh.gov.au/minister/env/2006/mr27nov206.html> for more details.)

The media release was accompanied by a 'submarine' fact sheet. According to Liam Bartlett from "60 Minutes": -

"It's really nice to see that there's this amazing mystery that has been solved by ordinary Australians. It's not a question of hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of hi-tech electrical search gear or anything like that. You've just got these seven amateur scuba divers who have lucked onto this amazing mystery. Whether they want to raise the vessel, or whether they want to recover the remains of the two Japanese submariners inside and leave the rest of the vessel there, is up to them. These guys are really worried that if it becomes public, every man and his dog will want to go and dive on it. In terms of solving the mystery I can tell you that the submarine as it came out of the heads on that fateful night, turned north. I can also tell you it's closer to Sydney than you think. It will surprise some people. It's sitting up quite proud on the surface of the ocean bed. There's a bit of sand and silt (that has) gathered over time, as you'd expect, but it's unmistakable, it's THE submarine."

Source: <http://news.ninemsn.com.au/article.aspx?id=165529>

## **MORE ON SUBMARINES**

Whilst discussing submarines, on 5th December two people aboard a cramped civilian submarine rescue craft were stranded for 13 hours at a depth of 130m on the ocean floor off the West Australian coast. An Australian Submarine Rescue Vehicle (ASRV) called the *Remora* ran into difficulty about midnight on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December when the winching system failed as it was being recovered during certification trials. The *Remora* was being tested to see if it complied with navy requirements. The Australian Defence Force says that the two personnel aboard the vessel were in no danger and they were both eventually rescued. The rescue operation was held in heavy seas. The two civilian divers received medical attention aboard a navy frigate following their rescue. The *remora* is Australia's only SRV. A navy spokesman said that other systems would be activated if the *Remora* was to be disabled. It was suggested that the six Collins Class submarines in the Australian Navy had nothing to fear whilst the *Remora* was out of action. The above details bring to mind a report in our October SDFS Bulletin – "NAVY TO ACQUIRE AN UNDERWATER ROBOT FOR SUB RESCUES". That report told of the Royal Australian Navy acquiring a remote-operated underwater vehicle (ROV) to rescue stricken sailors trapped on the seabed. The ROV's role is to help keep the submariners alive until the Navy's larger rescue vehicle, the *Remora*, can be deployed. The 16.5-tonne *Remora* attaches to the sunken sub and allows six survivors at a time to be brought to the



surface. But it could take days for the *Remora* to be loaded on to a ship and transported to the scene of an accident - a period that could be critical for the survival of a crew. Therefore the Navy wants a smaller unit it can despatch more quickly. "The aim of the ROV is to deliver additional emergency life-support stores, clear debris from and establish communications with a stricken submarine" ahead of the arrival of the *Remora*, a defence spokesman said yesterday. "While submarines carry emergency life-saving stores, the ability to deliver additional stores ahead of deploying *Remora* is a prudent contingency for an unpredictable event such as adverse weather that might delay commencement of the rescue."

### **SEARCH FOR WRECK OF HMAS SYDNEY**

19<sup>th</sup> November was the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of HMAS Sydney off WA. As reported in our September news sheet, the 8<sup>th</sup> September issue of The Advertiser said that two major expeditions were soon begin trying to find the wreck of the light cruiser HMAS *Sydney* in a vast area of the Indian Ocean off the WA coast. The *Sydney* was sunk by the German ship HSK *Kormoran* off of Geraldton on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1941. There were 645 men on board the *Sydney* at the time. Visit [www.hmassydney.com.au](http://www.hmassydney.com.au) for more details. According to the Sunday Mail of 12<sup>th</sup> November, 'world-renowned shipwreck hunter David Mearns. Mearns is said to be 'one of the world's most experienced shipwreck hunters'. His most notable finds are said to include HMS *Hood* and the *Bismarck*. He is now planning to search for the *Sydney*. Actually, he is looking for the *Kormoran* first, believing that this will lead him to the *Sydney*. It is, however, a big ask, with the depth of the water in the huge search area being as much as 4.5km deep. HMAS Sydney Search Pty Ltd was given a grant of \$1.3m to assist with the search but still requires some \$2m to cover a shortfall in funds. They have launched the HMAS Sydney II Appeal to help raise the money needed. Visit [www.findingsydney.com](http://www.findingsydney.com) for more details. For further details on the topic, visit the website of the National Archives of Australia at [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au) (Fact Sheet 111). Sixty South Australians were lost on the *Sydney*. There is a memorial to the men at Birkenhead Naval Reserve at the corner of Semaphore and Fletcher Roads. A memorial service was held at the site at 5pm on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE STORMS TO IMPACT REEFS**

(Article from: AAP, November 23rd 2006)

"Increasingly violent storms under global climate change will have major effects on coral reefs and their future management, experts said today. A scientific team from the Australian Research Council's Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies (CoECRS) at James Cook University produced a paper on the subject in the international scientific journal *Nature*. They put together the world's first engineering model to predict how much damage a reef is likely to suffer when confronted with the might of an angry sea. Researchers Joshua Madin and (Adelaide's?) Sean Connolly used mathematical models to calculate the forces that coral is subjected to by wave, storm surge or tsunami, and the probability of the colonies being ripped from the seabed. They said that how coral assemblages responded to the power of the sea was essential for understanding the natural distribution of coral types on present-day reefs as well as for projecting how they would change in response to more violent or frequent storms. "Coral reef experts have

long had a general sense of which coral shapes are more vulnerable during storms than others," Dr Madin, the study team's lead author, said. "However, to really predict how these events impact the dynamics of coral reefs we needed a way to quantify these vulnerabilities. Our study offers a solution to this longstanding problem by factoring in the shape of different coral colonies, the strength of the seabed to which they attach and the change in force of the waves as they move across the reef. This enables us to predict the likely changes in composition of the coral in response to present and future storms or tsunamis." Dr Madin said the ability to estimate the potential damage on a reef for different disaster scenarios could help managers plan for economic losses as well as promote strategies that help the reef recover."

### **FASTEST-LIVING FISH ON EARTH**

Whilst discussing the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, researchers at the CoECCRS say that the Australian coral reef pygmy goby (*Eviota sigillata*), which frequents the Great Barrier Reef as well as others in the Pacific and Indian oceans, enjoys barely three weeks' adult life before it meets its maker. Researchers at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies (CoECCRS) and James Cook University have received official notification from Guinness World Records Ltd that the little fish officially has the shortest lifespan of any creature with a backbone known to science. "In total it lives for a maximum of 59 days," explains Professor Dave Bellwood from CoECCRS and JCU.

"Coral reef pygmy gobies spend their first three weeks as larvae in the open ocean before undergoing metamorphosis and returning to settle on the reef, where they mature within 1-2 weeks and have a maximum adult lifespan of just three and a half weeks." Professor Bellwood and colleague Martial Depczynski announced their discovery in a recent issue of the journal *Current Biology*, and have just received a certificate from Guinness World Records confirming the goby has the shortest life of any vertebrate. "The rapid transition from larvae to settlement and then maturity is recorded in the earstones (otoliths) of fishes by the deposition of periodic concentric rings," Professor Bellwood explains. "These provide not only a sensitive record of time but also imprint the age at which important events take place. Each day, pygmy gobies lay down a new ring in their otoliths, much as a tree does for each year." After settling on the reef the gobies take ten days to reach sexual maturity, leaving them barely three weeks of life left in which to enjoy it. The females produce just three clutches of eggs, totalling about 400, in a lifetime. "Extremely short lifespans are of scientific interest because they mark current evolutionary boundaries and biological limits within which life's essential tasks must be successfully accomplished," Professor Bellwood explains. However the pygmy goby is not merely a curiosity of nature. In a separate scientific publication, Professor Bellwood and colleagues describe how its rapid generational turnover can be used to monitor the state of recovery of reefs after they have been hit by coral bleaching, which is thought to be caused by global warming. Despite their limited opportunity for reproduction the coral gobies are one of the most successful of reef fishes, having diversified into no fewer than 70 species spread across reefs in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. With such a small number of eggs, the survival of the fry is of paramount importance, and the male goby stands guard, fanning the eggs with his fins while they are incubating. With this strategy, the gobies can produce a new generation every 49 days - or up to 7.4 generations a year.

"For small species living in ecological settings where high mortality rates exist, evolution often favours a 'live fast, die young' stratagem where rapid growth and maturation are favoured, as compensation for reduced life expectancy," Professor Bellwood said. The previous record-holder for the shortest life was a killifish, which lives in seasonal rain pools in equatorial Africa and must complete its reproductive cycle before the pools evaporate. "Coral reefs have the richest array of vertebrates of any ecosystem on the planet," Professor Bellwood says. "More than 4000 species have been logged so far and reveal many of the extremes in biology and evolution. To complete all the necessary life tasks within a mere eight weeks is a considerable evolutionary achievement for a vertebrate. By accelerating life's key events, the goby is a living example of the extreme adaptability of the vertebrate life cycle. It also highlights the potential for coral reef ecosystems to reveal further marvels in biology."

Source: [http://www.ecovoice.com.au/enews/enews-36/fastest\\_fish.php](http://www.ecovoice.com.au/enews/enews-36/fastest_fish.php)

### **AMATEURS UNEARTH RARE FISH FOSSIL**

Below is a piece written by Rhiannon Hoyle (&AAP) that featured in The Advertiser dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2006. Only the first part was in The Advertiser. We have sourced the complete article from [http://www.news.com.au/story/0,10117,20802039-246,00.html?from=public\\_rss](http://www.news.com.au/story/0,10117,20802039-246,00.html?from=public_rss): -

‘Fossil Hunters Find ‘Barracuda’s Cousin’

It lived more than 100 million years ago, swimming in the southern ocean when Australia was effectively a polar continent. At two metres long with large blade-like teeth, it was an impressive carnivore, something of a cross between a modern-day barracuda and a swordfish. Now a pair of South Australian amateur fossil hunters, Tom and Sharon Hurley, say they have uncovered a wonderfully preserved snout of the previously unknown species, which will eventually bear their name. Their find came on a trip to Queensland last year, when the couple's curiosity was sparked by an odd looking skull inside a large lump of rock. It was handed over to the South Australian Museum and after many months of work has emerged as a new species of fish. Museum research fellow Ben Kear said the Hurleys' find was believed to be the ancestor of the previously discovered protosphyraena, a large, predatory carnivorous species found regularly in Europe and North America. But the new find is believed to be at least 20 million years older than any example of protosphyraena ever uncovered. "When these animals were alive, Australia was effectively the southern polar continent, so you're talking about animals there living in the polar ocean," Dr Kear said. "This fish is one of many new species that we've been finding recently and we're hoping to piece together an ancient fauna that is the equivalent of what are leopard seals and penguins today. We're looking at animals that were living at the south pole 100 million years ago." Dr Kear said the Hurleys' find also opened up the possibility of more species waiting to be discovered in the Australian outback. "In Australia, in particular, which is a very big and very empty place, there's a lot of ground to cover," he said. "So the beauty of this, and the tantalising part, is that who knows what else is out there. This is another piece to the puzzle but the puzzle is enormous and there's a lot of blank spaces." Dr Kear is in the process of writing a scientific paper on the find which will be published next year. His paper will give the species its name and while it remains closely guarded until publication, it will honour its finders, the Hurleys. "We'd



like to honour their discovery and honour their keen eyes by naming this fish after them," he said."

### **JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU SAYS THAT SANCTUARIES WILL SAVE FISHING**

"Total fishing bans in small marine sanctuaries would be enough to save the NSW fishing industry, ocean filmmaker and environmentalist Jean-Michel Cousteau says. His warning came just weeks before the State Government is due to finalise boundaries of sanctuaries in new marine parks at Port Stephens, north of Sydney, and Batemans Bay, to the south. The National Parks Association (NPA) conservation group fears that lobbying from the fishing industry may have caused the government to buckle and redraw draft boundaries to make them smaller. Mr Cousteau, the son of the legendary ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau who co-invented the aqualung for deep sea diving, said he was on the side of the fishermen in supporting sanctuaries as they led to replenishment of swiftly dwindling fish stocks. He said it did not make sense to empty the oceans. "I know it's not very romantic ... but nature should be looked upon as a business," Mr Cousteau told reporters in Sydney. "It's a capital that has been made available to us ... and it needs to be managed in a sustainable way. It really means we can live only on the interest ... the minute we go beyond that we are gobbling up the capital and we have total bankruptcy." Mr Cousteau cited the example of a similar scheme off Santa Barbara, California, where opposition from fishermen dissolved once they saw the numbers of extra fish spilling out of a sanctuary and into their nets. That change in opinion came from banning fishing in just 15 per cent of the marine park, he said. If only a modest 30 per cent of the two new parks were protected, the results would be significant, an NPA spokesman said. The 68-year-old, who has been diving since he was seven, urged the NSW government to not cave in to short-sighted lobbying over the boundaries. "Let's not compromise, let's do the right thing where we need to do it," Mr Cousteau said. "This will be for the benefit of everyone, particularly the fishing community." Australian diver Valerie Taylor, famed for her live shark photography in the "Jaws" movies, and who acted as a conservation adviser to the state government in the 1970s, also called for a ban on targeting fish which had gathered to breed. "It's rank stupidity," she said. "You don't kill all your pregnant cows and expect calves next year."

Source: <http://www.theage.com.au/news/National/Sanctuaries-will-save-fishing-Cousteau/2006/11/17/1163266759280.html>

(The above article was sent to us by Leon Roskilly from the Sea Anglers' Conservation Network (SACN). SACN web site addresses include: -

SACN UK <http://www.sacn.org.uk>

SACN Ireland: <http://www.sacn-online.org/>

SACN Channel Islands: <http://www.fishing-guernsey.co.uk/SACN.html>

SACN Scotland: <http://www.sacnscotland.co.uk/>

For the latest conservation news visit: <http://www.sacn.org.uk/Conservation-and-Political-News/> )

### **UNDER TOUGH NEW MEASURES TO DETER POACHERS, AUSTRALIA'S NAVY WILL BE ALLOWED TO SHOOT AT ILLEGAL FISHING BOATS**

"Australian navy to shoot at fish poachers

Australia's navy will be allowed to shoot at illegal fishing boats under tough new measures to deter poachers, Defence Minister Brendan Nelson said on Wednesday. Nelson said he approved the new rules of engagement because poachers were taking more risks to avoid arrest by the navy, which has several patrol boats, a frigate and air force support hunting for illegal fishing boats. The vast majority of illegal vessels come from neighbouring Indonesia. "Our patrol boats will be allowed to fire directly to disable a vessel which is ignoring orders and which is seeking escape apprehension, and which is indeed threatening our navy and our people," Nelson told parliament. Nelson said illegal fishing boats were increasingly sophisticated and some were engaging in dangerous measures, such as using large sharpened poles and throwing "missiles" to avoid arrest. He said he asked for the stronger rules of engagement after an Australian sailor was left hanging from the stern of an illegal fishing boat as it tried to escape. The navy has captured a record 357 illegal fishing boats since January in waters off the northern and north-west coast. Many of the illegal fishermen were hunting sharks for their lucrative fins. Under Australian laws, all captured illegal fishing boats are impounded and later destroyed, while their captains face hefty fines and jail terms. Indonesian boat crews say they are being locked out of traditional fishing grounds by Canberra's tough stance. The government in May announced an extra A\$500 million to boost security around its remote northern border with extra surveillance flights and sea patrols. Australia and Indonesia have also agreed to joint naval border patrols, to crack down on illegal fishing and people smuggling from Indonesia, as part of a new security treaty signed on Nov. 13. Nelson said the new rules would also include the use of tear gas and pepper spray. "It is extremely important that anybody who comes to this country seeking to steal our fish and breach our sovereignty knows they will be met with a very strong, disciplined Australian navy," he said."

Source: Reuters

### **INDONESIAN TREASURE TO BE SOLD**

"Rubies, Ceramics 1,000 Years Old for Sale: Contact Indonesia  
by Claire Leow, Nov. 15 (Bloomberg)

Indonesia is putting as many as 250,000 treasures up for auction, salvaged from a 10th-century shipwreck off the island of Java. Rubies and sapphires, glass ornaments with Arabic inscriptions, and ceramics from China's Five Dynasties period may fetch as much as \$40 million, the government estimates. Rarest of all may be the first certificates of authentication to be issued by Indonesia, which started cracking down on modern-day pirates looting its wreck-rich waters in 2000. Historians and archaeologists are demanding the government preserve the wreck's contents, along with remains of the Arabian-style dhow in which they were discovered, as a single collection for future study. "If this goes to private auction, it can fetch maybe \$50,000," Peter Schwarz, 49, a ceramics specialist from Bad Koenigshofen, Germany, said of a pale green covered bowl with two ducks carved on the lid. "But the collection must stay together. In this room, we have history." Schwarz, who has spent 18 months curating the collection in preparation for the sale, also points out bronze statues from Indonesia, Thai earthenware and a single piece of Persian pottery identified by a patch of turquoise glaze. Indonesia will rely on an auctioneer such as Christie's International for advice on what should be sold, said Aji Sularso, a spokesman for the Maritime Affairs & Fisheries Ministry. The government

plans to reserve 10 percent of the 76,000 items recovered intact for its museums.

Singapore, Dubai Buyers

“If it has more economic value than historical value, there is no need to take it for our heritage museums,” Sularso said. “The government's strategy is to choose the auction house that offers the highest price.” The Singapore Tourism Board, Shanghai Museum and a broker in Dubai are interested in the collection, said Adi Agung, chairman of Indonesian salvage company PT Paradigma Putra Sejahtera. He has worked with Swiss partner Cosmix Underwater Research Ltd. since 2004 to raise the treasure from 57 meters (187 feet). Chen Kelun, vice director of the Shanghai Museum, and Rostam Umar, a spokesman for the tourism board, said they weren't in talks to bid. Harry Babikian, managing director of Harco Marketing & Trading, was traveling in China and couldn't be contacted. Rhiannon Broomfield, spokeswoman for Christie's International in London, said the auctioneer hasn't been hired for the sale. New York-based Sotheby's didn't reply to e-mailed questions. “My objective is that the collection stays together and researchers have access to them -- over 50, 60 years,” said Luc Heymans, a managing director at Cosmix.

10th-Century Mystery

Salvagers will split the sale proceeds 50-50 with Indonesia. The ship sank off Cirebon, a port on Java's north coast, while traveling from the Hindu Sriwijaya kingdom in Sumatra to East Java, then a Hindu-Buddhist kingdom in the making. Cirebon was among the first Indonesian destinations reached by Muslim traders. Historians had dated the arrival of Islam, now the nation's dominant religion, to the 12th century. The cargo may solve the mystery of why 10th-century Javanese kings moved from central Java to east Java, said John Miksic, a maritime historian at the National University of Singapore. Increasing trade from China may have been one reason, Miksic said. Still, the glassware, possibly from what is now Syria, indicates Islamic clerics may have been on board, he said.

'Vital Insights'

Also salvaged was about two tons of lapis lazuli, a blue stone with gold flecks prized in Persian art. “A shipwreck is a snapshot in time,” Miksic said. “The precise nature of the cargo, the mix of commodities, would give us vital insights into the nature of commerce at this period.” Michael Flecker, a marine archeologist and managing director of Maritime Explorations (Malaysia) Sdn., said the ship itself may help unlock historical puzzles. The bulk of the wreck and about 250,000 fragments of cargo remain undersea. “We keep finding Chinese cargoes and yet no Chinese vessels came until the 12th and 13th centuries,” Flecker said. “Why did the Chinese supply the cargo but not the ships?” Flecker worked on the last major wreck salvaged from Indonesian waters, in 1998. Cargo from the ninth-century dhow included 60,000 pieces of Chinese Tang Dynasty ceramics, gold and silverware. The Singapore government's Sentosa Leisure Group bought that collection for \$32 million in 2004 from the German salvager. The salvage company had paid Indonesia \$2.5 million for its half of the cargo, said Sularso, the ministry spokesman.

Illegally Salvaged

“In the past, items were not properly valued,” Sularso said. “Now we're trying to be transparent and accountable.” As part of that process, the government will issue certificates of authentication for items sold in this auction, blocking future claims that

they were illegally salvaged. "That alone will raise the value of the cargo," said Agung, 39, the Indonesian salvage partner. In a shed near Jakarta, curator Schwarz poked through crates filled with items tied with raffia and tagged. A Tang Dynasty bronze mirror adorned with parrots and orchids is the prize item, he said. Earthenware is still being treated to remove 1,000-year-old crusts of salt. "This is the first project where things are properly done," Schwarz said."

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### **WHITE RIVER DOLPHIN DECLARED EXTINCT**

"A team of foreign and Chinese scientists have failed to find an endangered dolphin during a six-week trip on China's mighty Yangtze river, making it all but certain the rare animal is extinct. "We have to accept the fact, that the baiji is extinct. We lost the race," said August Pfluger, co-head of the expedition and chief of Swiss-based baiji.org, an environmental group dedicated to saving the dolphins. "It is a tragedy, a loss not only for China, but for the entire world," admitted Mr Pfluger in a statement at the end of the six-week expedition. Scientists estimate the baiji dolphin has lived on earth for up to 25 million years. Mr Pfluger admitted that it was possible that one or two animals had been missed despite the use of high-tech optical and acoustic equipment, as well as a group of trained observers. The baiji, believed to be among the world's oldest fresh-water mammals, made its home along the lower reaches of the China's environmentally degraded Yangtze River. The cousin of the bottlenose dolphin had been critically endangered for years, a victim of devastating pollution, illegal fishing and expressway-like cargo traffic on the river. Although the baiji had not been officially sighted in more than two years, scientists from China, Japan, Switzerland and the US had hoped that the 1750km search from Yichang to Shanghai would turn up the white dolphin. The two expedition ships carried out the same procedures travelling and returning to Yichang, near China's massive Three Gorges dam. Marine biologist Wang Ding, who has dedicated his life to the study of the baiji and another Yangtze dweller related to the dolphin, the finless porpoise, refused to give up hope. "Although the expedition did not find any baiji, we still cannot merely rely on the expedition to conclude that the baiji is extinct," said the vice director of the hydrobiology institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Scientific data indicates that more than 90 per cent of baiji deaths were caused by human encroachment."

Source: Agence France-Presse (from correspondents in Beijing)

Bajii were rare white dolphins. They were nearly blind and used sonar to find food. They had survived for millions of years. Busy ship traffic, overfishing and pollution have been blamed for driving the species to extinction. Heavy shipping is said to have interfered with their sonar.

The Scuba Divers Federation of SA is a member of the following: -

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