

SDF News Sheet August 2006 – Sponsored by
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This news sheet 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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If you don't have the time to read through everything in this news sheet, take advantage of the following table of contents. Click on any item of interest to proceed straight to that section.

CONTENTS:

1. NEXT MEETING	2
2. 2006-7 EXECUTIVE	2
3. 2006-7 OFFICERS	2
4. RAPID BAY JETTY UPDATE	2
5. NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK	2
6. AUSTRALIAN 4WD & ADVENTURE SHOW 2006	3
7. SEAHORSE DEATHS	3
8. SPINY CRAYFISH RESEARCH	3
9. EWENS PONDS / EIGHT MILE CREEK	3
10. HOBART UPDATE	3
11. DIVE SHOP NEWS	3
12. SA REGIONAL MARINE PLANS	4
13. 6-WEEK SAND PIPELINE TRIAL	4
14. NEW FISHERIES PATROL VESSELS	4
15. PORT LINCOLN FISHERIES OFFICE EXTENDED	4
16. SNORKELS FOR ASTHMATICS	5
17. MORE ON THE <i>ULONGA</i>	5
18. SHIPWRECK BOOKS ONLINE	5
19. JELLYFISH THREAT	5
20. JELLYFISH STING TREATMENT	5
21. 2007 CALENDARS OF SA MARINE LIFE	5
22. REEF SWEETENER	5
23. INTERNATIONAL OIL SPILL	6
24. SHIPWRECKS & CITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA	6
25. POMACANTHUS SNORKELLING GUIDE TO THE WORLD'S CORAL REEFS	6
26. COCKLES CONTAMINATED	6
27. CRAYFISH SEASON CLOSURE	7
28. EXTENSION TO SOUTHERN ZONE ROCK LOBSTER SEASON	7
29. NORTHERN ZONE ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING	7
30. LOBSTER RETRIEVES LOST WALLET	7
31. WHYALLA CUTTLEFISH	7
32. DESALINATION PLANT FEARS	7
33. WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND GRANTS	8
34. SDFSA BULLETIN	8
35. DEH COAST AND MARINE SEMINAR PROGRAM – 2006	8
36. ANOTHER COAST AND MARINE SEMINAR PRESENTATION	8
37. FORTHCOMING EVENTS	8

<u>38. AUSTRALASIAN AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW 2006</u>	8
<u>39. SARFAC</u>	8
<u>40. 2006 AN OCEAN ODYSSEY</u>	8
<u>41. 2007 CORALWATCH WORKSHOP</u>	8
<u>42. OZTeK'07</u>	9
<u>43. ADEX 2007</u>	9

1. NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is being held at the **new** venue of the Metropolitan Hotel at 46 Grote Steet, Adelaide at 8pm on Tuesday 12th September. Please ensure that your club sends one or two delegates along to our meeting.

2. 2006-7 EXECUTIVE

As mentioned in our last news sheet, our Executive Committee was re-elected at our AGM, except for Christopher Deane who was unable to continue this year. Our Executive Committee for 2006-7 is therefore as follows: - President, Hank van der Wijngaart, Vice President, Judy Hani, Secretary, Steve Reynolds, Treasurer, Bob Butterfield, Committee Member, Peter Jury. Congratulations to them all and many thanks for continuing to do the work that they all do.

3. 2006-7 OFFICERS

The following delegates have accepted official positions for 2006-7: - Rob Richards (SARFAC Rep), Bob Butterfield (Risk Management Officer), Hank van der Wijngaart (Hobart Liaison Officer & Rapid Bay jetty Liaison Officer), Neville Skinner (Eight Mile Creek Liaison Officer), Judy Hani (Dive Trails Liaison Officer), Antony King (Friends of Rapid Bay Jetty Liaison Officer), Paul Macdonald (Website Officer). Many thanks go to these delegates for accepting their positions.

4. RAPID BAY JETTY UPDATE

There is still no word from the State Government regarding their plans for the Rapid Bay jetty. We can only repeat that we expect to hear some good news soon. Further discussions between the stakeholders and government have been ongoing and these were positive talks.

5. NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

National Science Week is currently happening in South Australia. One of the events being held is "Hoofs to fins – how does pig poo translate into fish?" where you can "see fish blissfully swimming, unaware of their pig poo origins, and the chain of events that makes this possible". One of the Science Week events being held on KI is "Getting to know the Natives" activities culminating in the "Very Fishy Forum" chaired by Heidi Bartram with Michael Hammer as the key note speaker. "A Very Fishy Forum" is a global invitation to a forum sharing information, knowledge and issues regarding Native Fish and the latest scientific and educational endeavours in the field - some very "fishy" questions will be raised and debated, with a panel of experts from the Native Fish Association, Primary Industries, DEH and KI Natural Resources Management Board. It is being held at the Ozone Seafront Hotel Function Room, Kingscote at 2pm on Thursday 17th August (or via Centra webcasting technology). Afternoon tea and drinks to follow. You might like to link in via Centra. It's a Centra webcast event being run by students, with support from Liz Murphy of Outreach Education and the SA Maritime Museum. Most events will be free but many require registration. For more information visit the Science Week website at <http://www.scienceweek.info.au/>. Further details are included in the August issue of our SDFSA Bulletin.

6. AUSTRALIAN 4WD & ADVENTURE SHOW 2006

This year's 4WD Show is planned to be held in Victoria Park (pending public approval) from Monday 9th to Tuesday 17th October.

7. SEAHORSE DEATHS

Large numbers of seahorses have recently been washing ashore on Yorke Peninsula beaches from Marion Bay to Port Moorowie. At the time of writing, no one seems to know why this tragedy has occurred. A group of scientists are looking into the matter.

8. SPINY CRAYFISH RESEARCH

Native Fish Australasia (SA) has a project to research the conservation of the Spiny crayfish this spring/summer. Anyone interested in being involved should contact Mike Hammer at michael@bold.net.au.

9. EWENS PONDS / EIGHT MILE CREEK

Some of the above research on Spiny crayfish would probably occur in the Ewens Ponds/Eight Mile Creek system. The NFA wish to encourage all divers to limit disturbance in the ponds by staying off the bottom (not dragging along, etc..). Meanwhile, Neville Skinner, our Eight Mile Creek Liaison Officer, reports that the ponds are struggling to recover from an algal bloom last January. He says that very few native fish are being observed in the ponds. He says that the Eight Mile Creek is better but showing signs of stress. The lower section of Eight Mile Creek is much better; probably due to the increased water flow further away from the ponds. Neville says that there are no signs of Marron in the system, but quite a few healthy native Freshwater Crayfish in Eight Mile Creek. The Eight Mile Creek Drainage Board is apparently keen to start 'dragging' again to remove the aquatic vegetation. Neville has advised Michael Hammer from NFA who is very concerned. Observations suggest the process of no longer dragging the creek has had a very positive effect. Gerard Carmody from ANGFA (Australian & New Guinea Fish Association) is working with DEH and others to identify and resolve the algal issue. Neville is helping where he can. Excellent progress is already being made. Gerard Carmody himself says that Pond 1 is now worse than what it was in April. The black alga is spreading further and further damage to the edges is occurring. The creek looks good in places and bad in others. The black algae does better in lower light, so in winter it is favoured over aquatic plants.

10. HOBART UPDATE

The *Hobart* website has now been updated. The new permit forms and boat length exemption forms are now available. Permits are also available at the Wirrina boat ramp. *Hobart* stories are still needed for inclusion on the website. Please send these in to our President, Hank van der Wijngaart at hvander@ozemail.com.au. Remember that Dolphin Dive at Normanville has now closed. Greg Perry has moved up to sunny Queensland. Aquatic Dreams has moved and no longer does air fills – see below.

11. DIVE SHOP NEWS

Lee Unwin says that Aquatic Dreams at Victor Harbor has relocated to a better location and are now concentrating on SURFDIVESKATE (a new trading name). SURFDIVESKATE still stocks a good range of dive gear and accessories including Mirage, Mares & Scubapro. SURFDIVESKATE, who no longer provide air fills*, are at 17/18 Victor Central Shopping Centre, Torrens Street, Victor Harbor SA 5211. Contact details are Ph: 08 85522094, Fax: 08 85522907.

*Spot On Marine, located on the corner of Adelaide & Port Elliot Roads, Victor Harbor would now be the only supplier of airfills on the Fleurieu Peninsula's south coast. Phone Graeme Bedgood at Spot On Marine on 8552 5777 for more details.

12. SA REGIONAL MARINE PLANS

The Environment Minister, Gail Gago, has released a marine planning framework similar to land development guidelines. This new (marine planning) framework will help to guide marine development and activities. It provides for the development of six regional marine plans to guide use of the state's waters. The first regional marine plan to be released is for Spencer Gulf. Minister Gago says that "the "Draft Spencer Gulf Marine Plan" has been developed as a pilot to trial the groundbreaking methodology and principles of the overall framework". Further details about the Spencer Gulf Marine Plan are included in our August *SDFS Bulletin*. The Department for Environment and Heritage has released an overview titled "Marine Planning Framework for South Australia". The complete version is available on the DEH web site at www.environment.sa.gov.au/coasts/planning.html . The chief executive officer of the Department of Environment and Heritage, Alan Holmes, says the overall framework is an ambitious step, but hopes it will ensure a healthy future for the state's coastline. "We're confident that it will improve results for South Australia, that you'll get better development, that we will look after our coastal and marine environments better than we have in the past," he said. The framework will be open for public comment over the next three months.

13. 6-WEEK SAND PIPELINE TRIAL

A 6-week trial involving a major pipeline system to transport sand from northern metropolitan beaches to southern beaches started on 24th July. Gail Gago, the Environment Minister, said that the trial would help to identify the best method of collecting sand and pumping it through pipelines. Such a system would help to reduce the numbers of trucks carting sand on coastal roads. \$1m is spent on beach maintenance each year at present. It is believed that a pipeline system could reduce these costs by some 20%. A temporary submersible sand slurry pump is currently being trialled at West Beach. Sand is being pumped 200m along West Beach. Further trials will also be conducted at Glenelg and the River Torrens outlet. A permanent system would be completely different and quieter. It would be able to move sand up to 8km along the coastline.

14. NEW FISHERIES PATROL VESSELS

PIRSA Fisheries now have a new patrol vessel based at Port Lincoln. The new vessel has been named after Captain Nicolas Baudin. The 7.5m FPV *Baudin* is a twin-hulled sailfish catamaran fitted with state of the art electronics for navigation, plotting and radar. The *Baudin* will provide an on-water presence capable of taking up to four officers out to 30nm offshore. This allows the vessel to cover all of the waters within Spencer Gulf and the near off-shore islands. It has a range of about 250nm and top speed over 40knots. Yorketown Fisheries Officers will soon take delivery of a new vessel. It is a 6.5m aluminium boat with a centre cabin powered by a 225hp outboard motor. Both of the above vessels will be used to check commercial and recreational fishers and to investigate any suspected breaches of fisheries legislation.

15. PORT LINCOLN FISHERIES OFFICE EXTENDED

Whilst discussing PIRSA Fisheries at the Port Lincoln, their office at the Port Lincoln marina has recently been extended to accommodate the two extra fisheries officers added to the staff over the past two years.

16. SNORKELS FOR ASTHMATICS

MediDive produce a snorkel with a built-in asthma inhaler. This allows asthmatics to go snorkeling with their puffer medication. Details about the new snorkel were published on page 23 of the July issue of Dive Log. Visit www.aquanaut.com.au for more information about the MediDive snorkel.

17. MORE ON THE *ULONGA*

Whilst on the topic of Dive Log, the July issue included my article about the history of the *Ulonga*. David Cowan sent us some information about the shipwreck after reading my article. These details are included in our July *SDFSAs Bulletin*.

18. SHIPWRECK BOOKS ONLINE

Whilst on the topic of shipwrecks, Victor Mastone, Director and Chief Archaeologist for the Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources in Boston, Massachusetts informs us that many shipwreck books, studies and reports are available online at http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/park_histories/index.htm. Now available of particular note, is "Beached Shipwreck Archeology: Case Studies from Channel Islands National Park (2005)" at http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/chis/shipwreck.pdf. Thanks Vic. Vic's contact details are as follows: - Victor T. Mastone, Director and Chief Archaeologist, Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02114. Direct Line: 617-626-1141, Fax line: 617-626-1240, Email: victor.mastone@state.ma.us, Website: www.mass.gov/czm/buar/index.htm. Vic's email message listing a number of publications that have been developed to provide standards and guidelines for preserving historic maritime properties was forwarded on to our members.

19. JELLYFISH THREAT

Our July news sheet reported the occurrence of Irukandji jellyfish near Broome, WA. Two new species of irukandji jellyfish have been blamed for inflicting more stings than any other venomous Australian jellyfish there. Irukandji grow to only 15mm in length but they can have tentacles 80cms long. Far north Queensland has been having trouble with them too. One killed an American tourist there. He died from irukandji syndrome after being stung while snorkelling in waters along the Great Barrier Reef, off the popular tourist spot of Port Douglas.

20. JELLYFISH STING TREATMENT

Meanwhile, Surf Life Saving Australia has urged the public to continue using cold water or ice packs for marine stings. This follows claims by marine biologist Dr Jamie Seymour that hot water was a more effective first aid treatment for jellyfish stings than cold water. Dr Seymour conducted an 18-month study on blue bottle sting victims in Newcastle, NSW. The study apparently proved that water around 45°C was the more effective pain reliever.

21. 2007 CALENDARS OF SA MARINE LIFE

The Marine Life Society's 2007 calendars are now available. The SA marine life calendars are still priced at \$10 each. They will be available at monthly meetings of the SDF. Enquiries may be made through our Secretary at info@sdfs.net.

22. REEF SWEETENER

A coral reef in Papua New Guinea has been sugar-coated following the grounding of the bulk-carrier *Zhi Qiang*. The large carrier crashed into Long Reef between Samarai and Misima Islands on 1st July. Before the listing ship could be towed to Port Moresby for repairs, salvagers dumped tonnes of spoilt Queensland sugar from the ship into the ocean. The dumping of the sugar

occurred on 13th July, the 118th anniversary of the sinking of the *Star of Greece*. The authorities were unsure (had no idea?) what affect the sugar would have on the marine life. Their line of thinking suggests that they thought that some damage would occur. (Early indications of the effects of the sugar on the reef have been observed already with lots of Sweetlips being sighted in the vicinity ☺.)

23. INTERNATIONAL OIL SPILL

In late July, 15,000 tonnes of crude oil were reportedly spilled into the Mediterranean Sea when Israel bombed fuel tanks at a power plant at Jiyeh in south Lebanon. The spill could apparently rival that of the Exxon Valdez spill in 1989 if it all spilled into the Mediterranean Sea. 12,000 tonnes of leaking oil from the plant have already polluted more than 140km of the Lebanese coast and spread north into Syrian waters. Environmental experts say that it has already affected marine life, particularly turtles and tuna, and it poses a threat to biodiversity.

24. SHIPWRECKS & CITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Whilst on the topic of the Mediterranean Sea, our June 2006 SDFSA Bulletin featured an article about a Roman city submerged in the Mediterranean Sea (http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?art_id=qw1148310183347B221) and Robert Ballard's search for ancient shipwrecks in the nearby Aegean Sea (<http://www.physorg.com/news68987308.html>). Also, a Robert Ballard expedition (the Jason Project) discovered the *Isis*, an ancient Roman shipwreck, in the Mediterranean Sea in 1988. They returned to explore the wreck site in 1989. The whole discovery and exploration is described in the book "The Lost Wreck of the *Isis*" by Robert Ballard, Ashton Scholastic P/L, 1990, ISBN 0-590-43852-2. The Advertiser of 1st August 1997 carried a report from the Chicago Tribune about Robert Ballard's discovery of a large cluster of ancient ships in the Mediterranean Sea. The article titled "Odyssey Marine Exploration" in our April SDFSA Bulletin included a report about Odyssey's "Atlas" project in the Western Mediterranean Sea.

25. POMACANTHUS SNORKELLING GUIDE TO THE WORLD'S CORAL REEFS

Michael Carson tells us that Chapter 4 of "The Pomacanthus Snorkelling Guide" (Reefs of the Greater Caribbean area) has now been posted at www.pomacanthus.com and is available for downloading at no charge. Just go to the Downloads page. Visit www.pomacanthus.com where you will find "The Pomacanthus Snorkelling Guide to the World's Coral Reefs", an e-book, published chapter by chapter, written for the recreational snorkeller (and diver) about the world's coral reefs...

- different types of reefs and how they were formed;
- how to recognize different types of corals and reef fishes;
- worldwide variations in abundance and types of reefs, corals, fishes, and variations in reef threats and snorkelling conditions;
- regional accounts of reefs of the west Atlantic (and Caribbean), Indian and Pacific oceans; complete with maps, photographs, data tables, references, notes, a full glossary of terms, and links to informative URLs... all advertisement-free!

The current Newsletter covers the Big Island of Hawaii. Also added to the Newsletter archive - a little ahead of schedule - are accounts of Curacao in the Netherlands Antilles and the Yasawa Islands of Fiji. Again, just go to the Downloads page.

26. COCKLES CONTAMINATED

Don't forget that the Section Bank area off Outer Harbor is closed to the harvesting of all bivalve molluscs until 31st December 2006. This follows the recent detection of faecal bacteria beyond the safe threshold for human consumption in Mud cockles there.

27. CRAYFISH SEASON CLOSURE

Remember also that the taking of Southern Rock Lobster in the southern zone is prohibited until 6am on 1st October. The taking of Southern Rock Lobster in the northern zone is prohibited until 6am on 1st November.

28. EXTENSION TO SOUTHERN ZONE ROCK LOBSTER SEASON

Our July news sheet reported that when the southern zone rock lobster season re-opens on 1st October, it will be extended to the end of next May. We reported that the one month extension has been added to the season to allow cray fishers to fish later when prices were often significantly higher. After a successful trial, the southern zone rock lobster season is now to be extended to 31st May permanently for both recreational and commercial fishers. It could even stretch into June. The Minister for Fisheries, Rory McEwen, says he will now also examine the possibility of the season either continuing into June or beginning in September (instead of October). For now, however, the southern zone rock lobster season will start 1st October and close 31st May. The northern zone remains unchanged and is open from 1st November until 31st May.

29. NORTHERN ZONE ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

Nathan Kimber, the committee support officer for the Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery Management Committee (NZRLFMC), advises us that a date for the next NZRLFMC meeting and subsequent Annual Public Meeting is yet to be set. He says that it is more than likely to occur in November or December after the release of the NZRLFMC Annual Report (due 31st October). The Annual Public Meeting will be advertised in The Advertiser.

30. LOBSTER RETRIEVES LOST WALLET

Whilst on the topic of lobsters, a British diver recently found one with a fat wallet in its claws. He prised the wallet free from the lobster's claws and checked its contents. He found a business card for a hairdressing salon in the wallet so he left it with them. The salon surprised their client who had dropped the wallet during a late-night dip. The clever lobster can be contacted at lobst@net.com.

31. WHYALLA CUTTLEFISH

Whyalla dive shop owner Tony Bramley says that large numbers of cuttlefish are returning to the breeding grounds this year. He is ecstatic with the 2006 cuttlefish season (May to September) to date, after seeing the largest number of cuttlefish return to the spawning grounds since the commercial fishing ban about three years ago. Tony also said that he would also like to thank the council for their assistance in making the diving site tourist friendly, including building the access ramp, improving roads and installing signs.

Source:

http://www.whyalla.yourguide.com.au/detail.asp?class=news&subclass=columns&story_id=487932&category=Columns&m=6&y=2006

For more information about Whyalla cuttlefish dives visit www.whyalla.com or phone 1800 088 589. Whyalla Diving Services are one dive shop offering cuttlefish dives. Give them a call on 08 86458050.

32. DESALINATION PLANT FEARS

Meanwhile, Tony Bramley is worried about the effect a proposed desalination plant could have on marine life in Upper Spencer Gulf. The plant is part of a plan to triple the size of the Olympic

Dam uranium and copper mine. There have been reports that the expansion might be at risk because of threats to whales and seabirds.

33. WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND GRANTS

Applications for grants through the Wildlife Conservation Fund close on 8th September. Visit <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/research.html> for more details including application forms and guidelines.

34. SDFSA BULLETIN

Attached along with this *SDF News Sheet* is a copy of the latest issue of our *SDFSA bulletin*. This is an electronic bulletin separate to our normal monthly *SDF News Sheet*. Future issues of the *SDFSA bulletin* will include lengthy articles about matters of interest to recreational divers. We welcome contributions from our readers.

35. DEH COAST AND MARINE SEMINAR PROGRAM – 2006

This month's seminar is being held on Wednesday 30th August from 12.30-1.30pm, in the Coorong Boardroom at 1 Richmond Road, Keswick. Rosemary Paxinos (Project Officer, Marine Planning, Coast and Marine Conservation Branch) will discuss Marine Planning. For further information please contact Alison Wright, Department for Environment and Heritage on (08) 8124 4901 or via email at wright.alison@saugov.sa.gov.au. All interested persons are most welcome. A list of the remaining 2006 Department of Environment Coast and Marine Seminars is included in our July *SDFSA Bulletin*.

36. ANOTHER COAST AND MARINE SEMINAR PRESENTATION

A seminar on the National Cooperative Approach to Integrated Coastal Zone Management – Framework and Implementation Plan will be presented by Patricia von Baumgarten on Friday 15th September from 12.30-1.30pm in the Coorong Boardroom at 1 Richmond Road, Keswick. For further information please contact Alison Wright, Department for Environment and Heritage on (08) 8124 4901 or via email at wright.alison@saugov.sa.gov.au.

37. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

38. AUSTRALASIAN AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW 2006

The Australasian Aquaculture Conference And Trade Show 2006 is being held Sunday 27th to 30th August 2006 at the Adelaide Convention Centre, SA. Contact the Australasian Aquaculture Conference Coordinator, Claudia Metti for more details on 8226 2269 or at metti.claudia@saugov.sa.gov.au, or visit <http://www.australian-aquacultureportal.com/austaqua/aa06.html>.

39. SARFAC

The South Australian Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee's AGM is being held on Tuesday 19th September.

40. 2006 AN OCEAN ODYSSEY

This is a special dive promotion evening. It is being held at the Clancy Auditorium at the University of NSW on Friday 17th November. Bob Halstead, Jean-Michel Cousteau, Dr Phil Nuytten, Ron & Valerie Taylor and Reg Lipson will give presentations. Read pages 49 & 60-61 of the August Dive Log for further information.

41. 2007 CORALWATCH WORKSHOP

The 4th Annual CoralWatch Focus on Corals workshop is being held at the Heron Island Research Station on the Great Barrier Reef from Friday 5th to Tuesday 9th January 2007. For more details visit www.coralwatch.org.

42. OZTeK'07

The OZTeK'07 Australasian Diving Conference & Exhibition is being held 17-18th March 2007 at the Australian Technology Park in Sydney. OZTeK expect a raft of new products to be on display during the exhibition. A wide range of rebreathers will be on show with the manufacturers again running unit seminars for users. Digital photography will again be a part of the technology theme and all underwater photographers will be interested in the latest developments to be seen. Confirmed speakers include Leigh Bishop, John Chatterton, Cedric Verdier, Jarrod Jablonski, Kevin Gurr, Dr Simon Mitchell and Peter Buzzacott. The OZTeK'07 web site at www.diveoztek.com.au provides news and updates on exhibitors, speakers, prizes, seminars, new products, photo competition, the famous gala dinner and all the events and action that will make OZTeK'07 the highlight of the 2007 Dive Calendar. Read our August SDFSA Bulletin for further information about some of the above-mentioned speakers.

43. ADEX 2007

The next Asia Dive Expo is being held in Bangkok from 27th to 29th April 2007. Visit www.asiadiveexpo.com for more details.

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

Recreation SA

Recreation SA's Adventure Activity Standards Working Committee for Snorkelling, Scuba and Aquatic Wildlife Tours

SARFAC (SA Recreational Fishing Advisory Council)

Fleurieu Reef Management Committee (Ex-HMAS *Hobart*)

TRAIL COMMITTEES - SA Trails Coordinating Committee (Office of Recreation & Sport) and Port Noarlunga Reef Underwater Trail South Australian Trails

The SDF's sponsors are: -

Baird Bay Charters & Ocean Eco Tours

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SA Tall Ships Inc. ☎ 8341 2004 ✉ office@satallships.com

Contact the Federation's Secretary on info@sdfsa.net to be included on the mailing list for this electronic news sheet.

The SDF supports both Reef Watch & Dragonsearch

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