

SDFSA Newsletter – Feb/March 2024

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SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA, Inc.

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Dr. Richard Harris



Free Splash Inn with Mark Tozer: 22nd March 6:30 pm, Rob Roy Hotel

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Free Splash Inn with Mark Tozer: 22nd March 6:30 pm, Rob Roy Hotel

The SDFSA presents our inaugural Splash Inn: an evening to get together with friends and dive buddies. Mark will be our guest speaker, talking about diving the shipwrecks in Darwin Harbour. Be sure to register on Eventbrite, at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/splash-inn-001-tickets-816115853487?aff=oddtcreator&utm_source=email&utm_medium=sparkpost&utm_campaign=postpublish

We've been asked by divers and dive clubs whether there might be opportunities to socialise, exchange stories and learn a bit more about our freshwater and marine environments. So we have started Splash Inn to fill that gap in the diving calendar in the fall and winter months when weather conditions are less accommodating.

So come to our first evening on Friday March 22nd, buy a drink and have a chat with your mates. And Mark will have some great stories to tell about diving in Darwin!

AdBri cancels Rapid Bay Amenities Block funding

From Yankalilla Council: <https://www.yankalilla.sa.gov.au/news-and-events/capital-projects>

Thanks to Peter Corrigan for drawing this notice to our attention:

“Despite recent and fruitful discussions with project partner (and major funding source) Adelaide Brighton Cement (AdBri), we have received confirmation from AdBri regarding their withdrawal from the amenities block construction. This decision stems from a significant cost increase, exceeding double the initial estimate provided by the quantity surveyor's first report.

It is prudent for us to address this matter now, rather than proceeding with construction and encountering substantial, unfunded expenses.

AdBri has demonstrated its commitment to our local and South Australian communities and remains dedicated to monitoring the regional construction landscape, with the goal of finding a viable path forward for the amenity's facility.

This news on the project has been shared with the original funding partner via Senator Andrew McLachlan on his recent visit.

Both AdBri and Council share a desire to progress this initiative, given the time and resources invested thus far and the well-established need for improved local amenities to the various users and visitors of this world-renowned dive site.

While the funding initially secured through the Building Better Regions Fund is no longer viable in light of the updated cost estimates, we believe that the Growing Regions Program may offer a more sustainable alternative. It is also noted that the BBRF allocation is unable to be transferred to other worthy local projects and a reallocation is a decision of the Commonwealth Government.

Administration will explore alternative funding options and look to continue a collaboration with AdBri through a future re-scoped project.”

IMPORTANT NOTICES

ABALONE VIRUS DETECTED: TEMPORARY FISHING BAN IN THE SE OF SA

PIRSA has placed a temporary **ban on all fishing activities** in the SE of SA (Southend to the Vic border) following the recent discovery of the abalone virus AVG in local stocks. From a diving point of view, no collecting of any creatures such as abs or crays (rock lobster) is allowed. From PIRSA:

“Abalone viral ganglioneuritis has been detected in wild abalone at Port Macdonnell and a control area has been declared in the Port Macdonnell area within the state's Southern Abalone Zone. This control area has been put in place to stop the possible transfer of the disease to abalone in other areas currently not affected. These measures will remain in place until surveillance activities inform next steps including a review of these restrictions.”

People are currently not permitted to:

ANCHOR for the purposes of fishing activities in the control area (which stretches 10km offshore). Boats, equipment, diving gear, wet suits, (& fishing gear - now banned), etc.. used in the banned area of the SE of SA need to be washed according to these Guidelines for decontamination: - If you know or suspect your fishing or dive gear has come in to contact with infected abalone, bottom habitat or water, take the following steps.

Decontaminating vessels

Remove all organic matter from the inside and outside of the vessel.

Dispose all organic material on land, away from the water.

Move vessel away from the water and wash it with freshwater and detergent.

Decontaminating wetsuits and dive equipment

Use neoprene wash for wet suits and mild liquid soap for dive equipment. Soak in soapy freshwater for 30 minutes, rinse and allow to air dry.

If AVG is suspected or confirmed, then decontamination should also include the use of 200 ppm effective chlorine (e.g. 31 grams of pool chlorine in 100 litres of water) for at least 20 minutes.

For full details, Visit the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority permit search - search for permit PER86206.

Decontaminating people

If you suspect you have come into contact with infected abalone:

- Wash your hands with soapy freshwater
- Spray waterproof clothing with soapy freshwater, rinse and allow to air dry
- Wash clothes in laundry detergent.

PICCANINNIE PONDS STILL CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

According to <https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/parks/piccaninnie-ponds-conservation-park>, Piccaninnie Ponds is/are closed to the public for water-based activities until further notice. It is best that you check the current situation before making any plans to visit the ponds.

SDFSA COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Our next meeting is 27 March at the Arab Steed Hotel, 7pm in the upstairs meeting room.

NEWS FROM SHOPS AND CLUBS

MLSSA: LOBBYING FOR THE PROTECTION OF EAGLE RAYS

The Marine Life Society of SA is lobbying for the protection of eagle rays at the ‘visitation site’ site at Seacliff. Eagle rays are regularly turning up in numbers, drawing crowds to witness their antics. Eagle rays are given no protection such as size or bag limits. Many species such as eagle rays are being

caught and mutilated at other fishing sites. The regular occurrence of eagle rays at Seacliff is a very special attraction that money just can't buy.

Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries: ADAPTIVE DIVER TRAINING. Join EMS in Adelaide from May 3rd to 5th, 2024 for an exceptional opportunity presented by Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries Inc. (EMS). We're thrilled to offer the PADI Adaptive Support Diver and PADI Adaptive Techniques Specialty courses at a subsidized rate. Instructor Sally Watson, a specialist in PADI Adaptive Techniques, will journey from Victoria to lead this unique training. Whether you're a certified PADI Divemaster, PADI Master Freediver, or simply passionate about diving and snorkeling, these courses are tailored for you.

If you're eager to enhance your skills and make a difference, don't hesitate to contact Carl at EMS. Secure your spot by sending your details (Name, mobile, DOB, and dive certification) to info@emsau.org as soon as possible. Costs:

- PADI Adaptive Support Diver (1.5 days): \$480.
- PADI Adaptive Techniques Specialty (2.5 days): Including the Adaptive Support Diver course, the total cost is \$800.

Join the EMS Inclusive Team and receive an additional 75% off above course costs.

Only 6 places remain on the course so be quick!

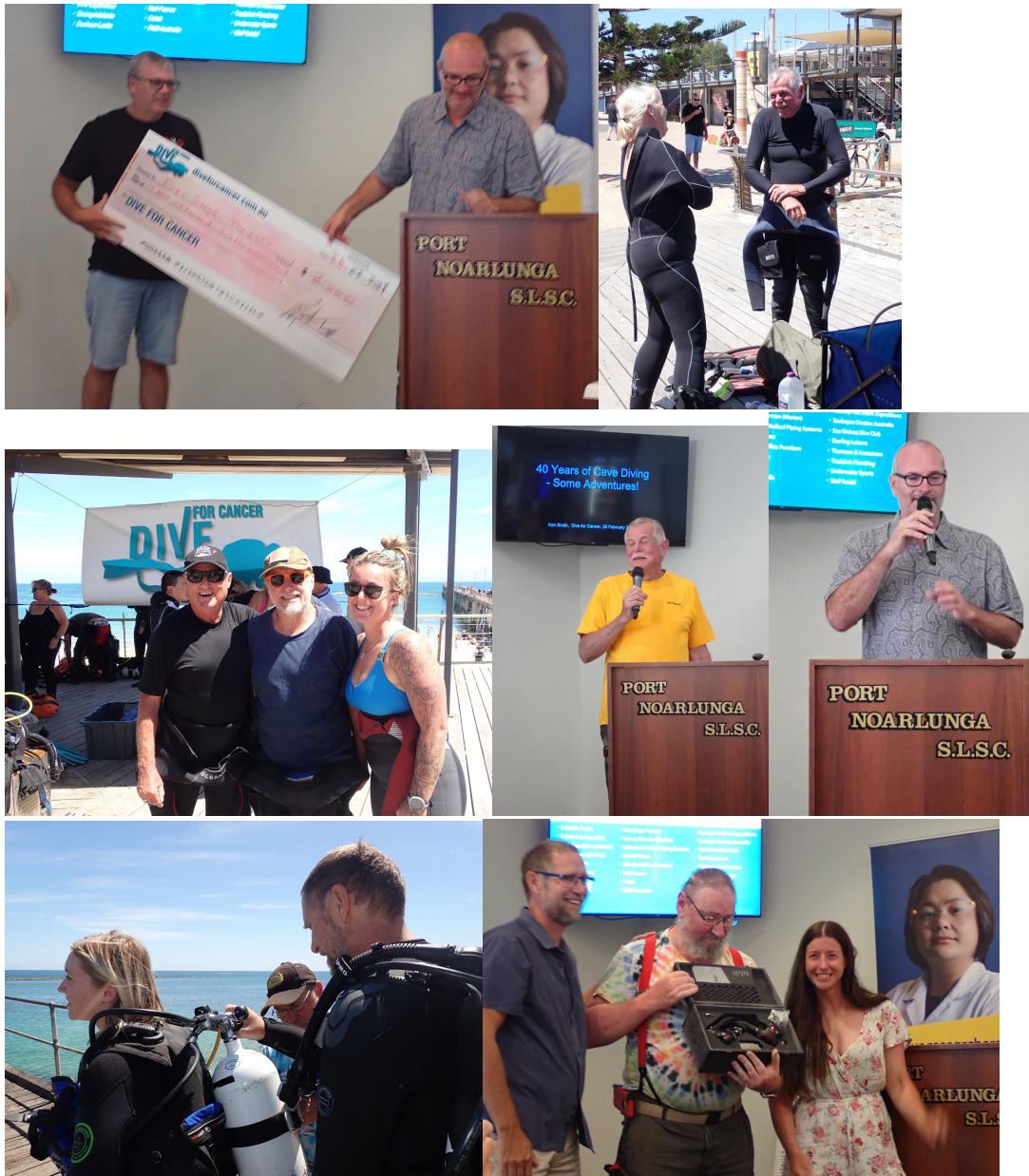
For further insights into what these courses entail, check out the PADI blog post: [PADI Adaptive Techniques Specialty Course: What You Need to Know](<https://pros-blog.padi.com/padi-adaptive-techniques-specialty-course-what-you-need-to-know/>).

Seize this chance to broaden your diving horizons and contribute to a more inclusive diving community. We look forward to seeing you there!

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

- Dive for Cancer! on a successful event, raising \$20,000 in support of cancer research. The dive conditions on the day were a bit ordinary, but a great time was had by all. Many thanks to all the donors of fantastic items for the silent auction, and to all who attended.
- Our Patron Dr Richard Harris on being appointed SA's Lieutenant Governor.
- Jill Heinerth on being featured in a new documentary titled "Diving Into The Darkness" which was to premier at the Santa Barbara Film Festival on 10th February. The film documents the story and passion of Jill in her cave diving explorations.
- CH4 Global on having started construction of EcoPark, their \$20m seaweed production plant at Louth Bay on the Eyre Peninsula.
- Sebastien Landat on becoming a Global Underwater Explorers (GUE) Fundamentals instructor.
- OrcaTorch celebrating their 10th anniversary in 2024.
- Harry Rosenthal from [iNaturalist](#) on the publication of his book titled "Holy Cow! I am a Citizen Scientist".
- The Underwater Explorers Club of SA on their picnic celebration this month to mark their forthcoming 70th anniversary in June.

Dive for Cancer Photos



Left to right

- Steve Blume of First Stage Servicing & Training, Sydney, presents Mark with a sizeable cheque, plus two scuba thermal vests.
- Member of the Wet Mules & cave diving guru, Ken Smith kitting up.
- BSAC Dave & Reclink's Andy & Angie.
- Ken Smith developed a pinger, whose signal could be picked up on the surface, to allow for centimeter accurate underwater cave mapping.
- Mark Tozer's 10th Dive for Cancer
- Dr. Harry, The Lieutenant Governor of South Australia, secures Ingrid's loose scuba cylinder.
- Dr Harry & Chloe, Scubapro Ambassadors, present Coffee Plunger Donald with the 60th anniversary Scubapro set, which he won against some spirited bidding.

Diving with Sea Dragons

(by Paul Macdonald of downunderpix)

As divers in South Australia, we are often lucky enough to dive with and photograph sea dragons. And so, if you have been privileged to have close encounters with sea dragons like I have, you will know what a wonderful and calming experience it can be.

But having dived in South Australia for over 34 years now, I have noticed a decline in number of sea dragons at local dive sites along with them being more difficult to find. This maybe for many reasons, but it is important that as divers and underwater photographers, we don't adversely impact them.

The information below is about diving and photography behaviors around sea dragons so you get the most out of the experience. However, it is about responsible diving and photography practices and this applies to all marine creatures, not just sea dragons. The sand, weed, reef, debris, wrecks, jetty piles and other bottom or reef structure are all important habitat that supports marine life. Even bare sand, you will be amazed at the creatures that live on, or just below, the sand. So, as divers, we should always do our best to minimize the impact we have on the marine environment.

Firstly, it's good practice to secure any loose equipment like your alternate regulator and pressure gauge so they don't drag or catch on anything. This also applies to shark shields so they don't drag along the bottom. For photographers, this will help minimize backscatter.

Next, it's important that we all practice good buoyancy control. As divers and photographers, it is important that we can hover close to the bottom without impacting on it. If you are a new diver or aren't quite confident in your buoyancy control, contact your local dive shop or instructor and enroll in a PADI Peak Performance Buoyancy or SSI Perfect Buoyancy course, or BSAC Buoyancy and Trim Workshop. This will make your diving and photography experiences all the more rewarding. I recommend that before embarking on your underwater photography or videography journey, you have impeccable buoyancy control. It will make your photography or videography results so much better.

Now we are under control of our buoyancy, we should try to move slowly and carefully being aware of our surroundings including the bottom, nearby structure, the marine creatures we have observed and our buddy. We move with no sudden or rash movements.

And when moving through the water, try to use a sideways fin kick, not an up and down one. Up and down kicks are fine if you are say, 3 or more meters off the bottom, but if you are closer to the bottom or structure, the downwards water pressure wave will impact habitat and nearby marine creatures and create backscatter for photographers. The sideways or frog kick is commonly used by cave divers because it propels divers very efficiently and water turbulence goes directly behind the diver.

Ok, so now onto diving with sea dragons, one of my favorite marine creatures.

Firstly, while I may be stating the obvious, no touching or holding sea dragons. I shouldn't have to say this one but I have seen it happen.

Also, we shouldn't move, herd or chase dragons. Sea dragons are territorial. Individuals have been sighted in the same spot over numerous years. So, if you find a dragon, move in slowly and gently and enjoy observing it. But don't get too close, stay back far enough to allow the dragon to move around if it wants to. If you are in a group of more than 2, take it in turns to move in a bit closer to observe it, don't let the whole group surround it. Also, try not to sandwich it between you and your

buddy. And remember, move in slowly and gently, and leave the same way, being aware of where the dragon and other marine life and habitat is when exiting so you don't disturb it.

Importantly, if a dragon shows signs of moving away or worse, climbing in the water column, these are signs that it is stressed and not happy about your presence. If this happens back off and observe from a distance or leave it alone.

For photographers and videographers, all of the above applies. Plus, if the dragon is not in the right position for your composition don't chase it or try to turn or herd it. Sit still and wait. Let the dragon get comfortable with you being there. It may take some time, 5 minutes or so, but usually they will be co-operative subjects. Enjoy that time just marveling at the beauty of this amazing creature.

Let's talk about lights and sea dragon eyes. Per Mosk's 2004 thesis, Syngnathidae fishes such as sea horses and pipefishes do not have the ability to regulate light entry to the eye by constriction of pupils. Syngnathidae is a family of fish which includes seahorses, pipefishes, and sea dragons. Sea dragons have similar eye structure to sea horses. A study of the impacts of flash photography on benthic fishes by De Brauwer et al in 2019 found that sea horse ventilations increased from 15 (no flash) to 27 per minute when subjected to a full flash (guide number 32) every 15 seconds. And further, the sea horses displayed an increased swimming and startled response.

So, if you are using strobes, don't abuse the privilege by over flashing sea dragons. 3 or 4 shots is okay, but then let it rest for a while before taking more shots. You can use the time to review your photographs in the back of your camera so you can check and reset camera settings or strobe positions. Again, if the sea dragon starts to move away or up in the water column, it's time to leave it alone.

Now for videographers, modern LED video lights are quite powerful and are very bright. Given what we know about sea dragon eye structures, we should not subject dragons (and sea horses and pipefishes) to video lights. I do all my sea dragon video work with natural light, it's not that hard to get right and it limits the impact on the subject. The bright LED light issue extends to divers with torches as well.

Of course, for night diving, lights are required so we can see. For photographers with strobes, use a red LED focus light which will have limited impact on the sea dragon, then apply the photography rules above.

For videography of dragons at night, whether you are an amateur with a gopro or the BBC, just don't go there.

If you are new to underwater photography or videography or want to learn how to get the best results from your camera system including photographing or videoing leafy sea dragons feel free to make contact. We have a range of courses for all levels.

So that's all from me. Thanks for reading.

GEAR REPORT: Three Checks to Save a Dive

By Alex Suslin

C'mon, fess up – do you bother to check your dive gear before rocking up to the dive site? These three simple steps could save a dive, plus time & money.

Let's start with zips, because they're mostly ignored unless you own a dry suit. Wetsuit & booties zips should present no problems if washed properly after a day's diving. Occasional treatment with Zip-Lube or similar will ensure they operate smoothly. How about the regulator bag? The zips on these frequently seize up, due to salt water getting on them when putting regs in post-dive. You don't want to be applying brute force, usually unsuccessfully, whilst fellow-divers look on with degrees of amusement varying with your use of unparliamentary language. Check at home & if seized, apply hot water to free up – lots of hot water. Don't use petro-chemical sprays, like WD40, which will do the material, & your regs, no good. Lubricate the zip, when dry & also before storage.

Straps are usually ignored until they fail. If your mask strap shows cracks or splits, replace it. Cheaper than replacing a mask. Check the snorkel keeper too. Rubber fin straps are made to last but if one goes on a dive, you'll be swimming in circles. As you pull hard on the straps when fitting fins, do the same, when checking for cracks. If one's reaching its use-by date, replace both, as the other won't be far behind. Most mask & fin straps are a pain to replace & if you're impatient &/or don't know how to go about it, you can damage your gear & the new strap. If the dive shop charges a token fee for replacement, believe me, it's worth it!

Finally, the cylinder – “all I need is the air that I breathe...” - & if it's out of test, no re-fill. Cylinders are in test till the last day of the month shown on the test stamp. Be aware, it may take several days, or longer during peak periods, to get a cylinder tested, so plan ahead. Don't be lulled into a false sense of security with a good air fill. Check cylinder pressure well in advance. The 240 bar reading when filled could be much lower after a few weeks, if the o-ring between valve & cylinder is leaking. Your buddy won't thank you for having to cut their dive short. Even worse, if the burst disk failed when no-one was around to hear it (this has the makings of a Philosophy question), you'll be down to 1 bar. Fitting regs on the cylinder to check pressure will also let you know if the set's in working order.

STEVE'S SCIENCE STORIES for the month

By Steve Reynolds

LATEST TAXON CHANGE NEWS

For those few of you that have been hanging out to hear about any new taxon changes, here's one. There has been a Taxonomic Swap for, wait for it – the Giant Australian Cuttlefish, formerly known as *Sepia apama*. Due to a Taxonomic Split late in 2023, the Australian Giant Cuttlefish is now being called *Ascarosepion apama*. The Genus *Sepia* has now been split into two groups – *Sepia* and *Ascarosepion*. The Giant Australian Cuttlefish now falls into the latter genus. This genus now comprises some 13 species. The Genus *Sepia* is comprised of many more species.

It may be some kind of error, but the Giant Australian Cuttlefish is now also being called the Australian Giant Cuttlefish. It is often just referred to as the Giant Cuttlefish.

Another Taxonomic Swap that I don't recall occurring concerns the Pencil Weed Whiting, formerly called *Siphonognathus beddomei*. It is now called *Sheardichthys beddomei*. The Genus *Sheardichthys* also includes the Slender Weed Whiting (*Sheardichthys attenuates*, prev. *S. attenuatus*), the Long-rayed Weed Whiting (*Sheardichthys radiatus*) and the Longtail Weed Whiting (*Sheardichthys tanyourus*).

STUDY ON THE EFFECTS OF INCREASED TEMPERATURE ON BRAIN AND SENSORY DEVELOPMENT IN THE PORT JACKSON SHARK

According to a [tweet by the Australian Society for Fish Biology](#) (ASFB), a new scientific paper authored by Peele et al examined the effects of increased rearing temperature on the nervous system development in Port Jackson sharks. “Effects of Increased Temperature on Brain and Sensory Development in the Port Jackson Shark (*Heterodontus portusjacksoni*)” by Emily E. Peele, Charlie Huvneers, Culum Brown, Connor R. Gervais and Kara E. Yopak can be found at <https://doi.org/10.3390/fishes8120611>. According to the paper's “Conclusions” (in part), the sharks

“may possess limited adaptive capabilities in the face of warming ocean temperatures. sharks reared under higher temperatures were significantly smaller in body mass, despite being significantly older at time of euthanasia. (They) also displayed a larger tegmentum and smaller olfactory bulbs than sharks at ambient temperatures.”

STUDY ON THE POPULATION PARAMETERS AND CONSERVATION IMPLICATIONS FOR THE RED HANDFISH

The Australian Society for Fish Biology reports details of a new paper titled [Population parameters and conservation implications for one of the world’s rarest marine fishes, the red handfish \(*thymichthys politus*\)](#) (Journal of Fish Biology, 9 Jan. 2024).

The red handfish, *Thymichthys politus* is “a critically endangered coastal anglerfish in southeast Tasmania” It “faces a high risk of extinction due to low numbers, habitat loss, and climate change impacts.” The paper’s authors, “Bessell et al. provide the first empirical population size estimates of red handfish and investigate other important aspects of the species’ life history, such as growth, habitat association, and movement.”

The paper details “a 3-year survey using underwater visual census and photographic mark-recapture techniques” It states that “the local adult population was estimated at 94 (95% CI 40–231) at one site and 7 (95% CI 5–10) at another, suggesting a global population of 101 adults. Limited movement (48.5 m ± 77.7 S.D. per year) and concerning trends in declining density, juvenile proportion, and increasing average size indicate a slide toward extinction.

The authors conclude that urgent measures, including ex situ captive breeding, habitat protection, and maintaining captive populations, are essential for the species’ survival.”

AN ECOLOGICAL MEMORY IS THOUGHT TO MAKE SOME CORALS MORE RESILIENT TO HEAT WAVES

Would you have ever considered that corals have a memory? Scientists from a US university found that corals seem to have an ecological memory. According to the web page found at https://www.deeperblue.com/some-coral-may-be-more-resilient-to-heat-waves-thanks-to-memory/?mc_cid=7ed83d12e3&mc_eid=d4cc43123c, “Oregon State University scientists have found that some coral species may be more resilient to the effects of marine heat waves due to memory. The study found that corals seem to have an ecological memory, and once a coral has experienced and survived a heatwave, it can do so again due to remembering how to survive the heat wave. The study’s scientists think this ability is linked to the microbial communities that live amongst the corals.”

A paper on the study is titled “[Microbiome ecological memory and responses to repeated marine heatwaves clarify variation in coral bleaching and mortality](#)”. It was authored by Alex D. Vompe, Hannah E. Epstein, Kelly E. Speare, Emily R. Schmeltzer, Thomas C. Adam, Deron E. Burkepile, Thomas J. Sharpton and Rebecca Vega Thurber.

Alex Vompe, the study’s lead author, says, “*Acropora* appears to have a powerful ecological memory response to heat waves that the microbiome seems to play a role in...This means some coral species may be more resilient to climate change than previously thought.”

Microbiology Professor Rebecca Vega Thurber, the head of the lab conducting the research says, “We observed that some species of coral seem to remember exposure to past marine heat waves and maintain a higher level of health in subsequent heat waves...And *Acropora retusa*’s memory response was strongly linked to changes in its microbiome, supporting the idea that the microbial community has a part in this process...Members of coral microbial communities have unique biological features that make them more adaptable and responsive to environmental change – short generation cycles, large population sizes and diverse metabolic potential...In two of the three coral species we focused on, we identified initial microbiome resilience, host and microbiome

acclimatization, or developed microbiome resistance to repeated heat stress. The latter two patterns are consistent with the concept of ecological memory.”

SPONBIODIV IS ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE/TOOLS FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT & CONSERVATION OF SPONGE SPECIES AND HABITATS

The [website for SponBIODIV](https://sponbiodiv.org) went live recently. SponBIODIV claims to be “Advancing knowledge/tools for sustainable management and conservation of sponge species and habitats.” A recent tweet on ‘X’ stated, “Find out more on our efforts to advance knowledge and develop tools for conservation of sponge species and habitats, from shallow to deep, across the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea - <https://sponbiodiv.org> .”

According to the website, “Marine sponges shape marine benthic ecosystems globally, and they have been doing so for more than 600 million years. They serve as habitat and nursery to numerous other species and play key roles in nutrient recycling. However, their diversity patterns and habitat status are poorly documented.

“The SponBIODIV project aims to address this knowledge gap by building a comprehensive inventory of marine sponges in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. The project will also develop new monitoring tools to assess the status of sponge populations and their habitats. This information will be used to advance effective conservation and restoration measures to protect marine sponges and their ecosystems. SponBIODIV is a key initiative to protect marine sponges and their ecosystems. Its main activities include:”

- Improving the understanding of marine sponge diversity and distribution
- Creating new monitoring tools for sponge habitats
- Increasing knowledge of the threats that marine sponges are facing
- Developing effective conservation measures to protect & restore marine sponges
- Contributing to the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

“Objectives & Main Research Questions

SponBIODIV’s main goal is to establish a sponge diversity and distribution baseline knowledge, as well as delivering tools to improve management and conservation of sponges across the Atlantic and Mediterranean. More specifically, this project will aim to:

- Identify bio and phylo diversity hotspots of sponge and sponge habitats across the Atlantic and Mediterranean, by compiling the most comprehensive dataset of sponges of this region.
- Establish ecological/genetic corridors and refugia areas between species and regions, combining biophysical modelling and population genomic approaches.
- Develop new methodologies for wider biodiversity detection and monitoring of sponge habitats by harnessing the potential of eDNA and sponges as natural samplers of eDNA.
- Assess the current conservation status of species and habitats in line with major international processes.
- Engage relevant stakeholders for co-production and co-delivery of data and practical tools to inform management, conservation, and restoration actions.
- Raise public awareness of the importance of sponge species and habitats.”

(My initial interest in this topic stems from my having hosted Dr Vasilis Gerovasileiou, Marine scientist and assistant professor interested in benthic biodiversity with an emphasis on dark habitats & sponges back in 2013. Vasilis was travelling around Australia at the time and wanted to dive at some SA sites. I only managed to get him in the water just the once, however, at the old Rapid Bay jetty. It was mid-November and his 5mm wetsuit was not quite up to the task of a double dive in the 17°C water, or any further dives either. He was clearly interested in sponges at the time.)

FOR YOUR CALENDAR: FORTHCOMING EVENTS

South Australia

22nd March 2024, 6:30 to 8:30, Rob Roy Hotel: Splash Inn. Presenter: Mark Tozer, on diving the shipwrecks in Darwin Harbour. Organised by the SDFSA.

3-4 August 2024: Science Alive! at the Adelaide Showgrounds. SDFSA will be there, along with EMS and other marine science groups.

Interstate/International

15-16th March 2025: ADEX Australia, incorporating OZTek Advanced Diving Conference 2025 is being held at the Sydney International Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour Hall 2. OZTek Advanced Diving Conference will be celebrating 25 years, ADEX celebrates 30 years in 2024.

April 16–18: The 2024 Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposium is being held in Sitka, Alaska.

22-26 April: The 8th European Conference on Scientific Diving is being hosted by Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) in Crete, Greece.

28-29 May: The 3rd Australasian Coastal Restoration Network 2024 symposium is being held in Sydney, NSW- Venue to be confirmed.

7 - 9 June 2024: The 18th Malaysia International Dive Expo (MIDE) 2024 being held at Level 1, Hall 2, Malaysia International Trade & Exhibition Centre (MITEC) Kuala Lumpur.

August 7 to 17, 2025: According to https://www.deeperblue.com/2025-world-games-to-include-freediving-as-part-of-its-program/?mc_cid=2a9b8e09dd&mc_eid=d4cc43123c, "The 2025 World Games in Chengdu, China will include dynamic freediving and para-freediving as part of its athletic program, according to the World Underwater Federation (CMAS). The 12th edition of the World Games will take place between August 7 to 17, 2025, and Freediving and Para-Freediving will join Finswimming and 35 other sports."

10 – 18th August 2024: National Science Week.

ABOUT THE SDFSA...

SDFSA is a non-profit, incorporated membership association dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of our unique underwater world.

JOIN US FOR FREE!

<https://sdfs.net/membership-categories/>

The more members we have, the stronger our influence. We serve as a peak body representing the interests of South Australian recreational scuba divers and the related sports of freediving and snorkelling, including the provision of information to government and the general public. Together we can have real impact on the issues affecting the South Australian diving community.

If you wish to be added to the mailing list for this Newsletter, join the SDFSA!

You can also read about the Federation's work in monthly issues of DiveLog Australasia, Scubadiver ANZ and on our website at <https://sdfs.net>. Stay up to

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The opinions expressed by authors of material in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Federation