

# SDFSFA Newsletter – July 2024

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## SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION OF SA, Inc.

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SDFSFA Patron:  
Dr. Richard Harris



*Cuttlefish season. Photo courtesy of H. Creech*

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## INCIDENTS AT WHYALLA CUTTLEFISH AREA STONY POINT

The SDFSFA learned recently that the new glass bottom boat has come close to divers and snorkellers on at least 2 occasions.

We have talked with Australian Marine Safety (AMSA) about these incidents. AMSA was very helpful and advised that when such an incident occurs, there are 2 forms to fill out by the people observing or experiencing the incident (Form 18) and the vessel operator (Form 19). AMSA also recommends informing the owner or master of the watercraft of any incident as they must fill out Form 19 when such an incident occurs.

Form 18 is an Incident alert form, use this to alert of a marine incident or near miss. Notify AMSA as soon as possible after becoming aware of a marine incident. If there are multiple near-miss reports at Stony Point, Marine safety will take the required action on these reports. <https://www.amsa.gov.au/form18>

Form 19 Incident Report Use this to report a marine incident. All commercial vessels involved in a marine incident in Australian waters must submit AMSA form 19. This form must be sent to [reports@amsa.gov.au](mailto:reports@amsa.gov.au) by the Owner, Operator, or Master within 72 hours of becoming aware of an incident.

Please also share information with SDFSFA of any incidents including whether forms have been submitted to AMSA so that we can keep track of how the new zones and commercial operations are affecting everyone's experience of the Giant cuttlefish aggregation.

We should add that as the infrastructure for the Cuttlefish Zone is being developed (see below), there will need to be caution in the areas around the current chain and pathway where there is potential for the glass bottom boat to come close to divers and snorkellers. In discussions with the consulting company, Brave and Curious, SDFSFA were assured that all stakeholders agree that the assistance of a fence line is needed by all operators. Eventually when a new chain and pathway are installed, there will be a clearer delineation of zones separating those in the water from those taking boat tours.

We must all work together to make this a safe and enjoyable experience for all participants, including those customers who benefit from experiencing the Cuttlefish through the glass bottom boat tours. Scuba divers/snorkelers - when entering the water and traversing along the chain, perhaps think about swimming on the surface until you get further out, this way you can see and be seen a lot better from where the boat may be. The glass bottom boat operator has suggested that divers should feel free to ask about departure and arrival times/start and finish times, and we have suggested to them that they post those times on a board at Stony Point. The boat tour operators will also continue to be vigilant, noting that they too are divers and will do their best to look out for everyone.

## WHYALLA CUTTLEFISH ZONE INFRASTRUCTURE

SDFSFA and EMS met with Greg Grabasch from Brave and Curious, a consulting company employed by the Whyalla Council to prepare a 10 year Infrastructure draft plan for the Whyalla Cuttlefish Zone. The following is a brief summary of the plans:

- The existing chain and pathway is open for use this season and will remain so until a replacement is installed;
- Cutty's Glass Bottom Boats will eventually be on the west side of the current chain and pathway, however for this season they will remain on the eastern side until a replacement chain and pathway is installed, west of the existing one, for the safety of divers and snorkellers;
- A dive and snorkel zone has been set up slightly to the west of the chain and pathway – divers and snorkellers must remain in this zone if at Stony Point;
- 3 other sites will be developed (in future years), with varying degrees of infrastructure – Point Lowly; White Hole; Black Point.
- The draft plan is ambitious, but it will be challenging for Council to fund all of it.
- SDFSFA and EMS will be kept in the stakeholder consultation loop.

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

### PICCANINNIE PONDS STILL CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

According to <https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/parks/piccaninnie-ponds-conservation-park>, Piccaninnie Ponds continues to be 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

### Annual General Meeting Wednesday 24th July 7pm.

Please be advised the Annual General Meeting of the Scuba Divers Federation of SA (SDFSA) will be held Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July, commencing 7.00pm at: Arab Steed Hotel (first floor meeting room – enter via the stairs at the back of the bistro), 241 Hutt Street (corner of Hutt & Gilles Streets), Adelaide. Please RSVP if you will be attending, by emailing Helena Wescombe-Down at [info@sdfs.net](mailto:info@sdfs.net)

A number of us will be enjoying a meal beforehand from 6:00pm. When replying please indicate if you will also be joining us for dinner, so we can advise the venue of numbers.

The Agenda, Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, financials and other relevant documents will be forwarded closer to the date.

We have another ambitious year ahead of us with some great projects and important advocacy campaigns. We need your help to be able to achieve our plans and invite you to nominate for one of the following SDFSA Committee positions:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- General Committee members

Please consider helping us to help you and your fellow divers by nominating for a Committee position. Nomination forms are available from [info@sdfs.net](mailto:info@sdfs.net). Please note that verbal nominations will also be accepted at the AGM.

### Wine Fundraiser

With the generous support of Bleasdale and Pikes Wines, we are once again raising funds through the sale of select wines. Funds will be used to support the work of the Federation. Details on how to order and pickup are on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sdfs-wine-fundraiser-2024-tickets-907528902377?aff=oddtcreator>

Your SDFSA Committee have the pleasure to offer you a choice of two wines:

- Bleasdale's 2019 Bremer River Cabernet - \$150 per dozen / \$80 per 1/2 dozen
- Cleanskin Riesling from Pikes Wines - \$120 per dozen / \$70 per 1/2 dozen

**SOLD OUT: SPLASH INN 2: Friday 19 July, 6:30 pm, Rob Roy Hotel**, with Dr Richard Harris on his expedition to Boesmansgat - South Africa's Greatest Cave Dive.

**SAVE THE DATE: SPLASH INN 3: Friday 18 October, 6:30 pm. Speaker details to follow.**

## DIVER SAFETY REPORT: USING SURFACE MARKER BUOYS (SMBs)

Welcome to our new column on diver safety! We have been encouraged to remind readers of good diving practices for divers, their buddies, and their dive groups. This month's column is an excerpt from a submission by "doctormike" to ScubaBoard on October 2021, covering the important uses of SMBs. For the full article, go to <https://scubaboard.com/>. You will need to register to enter the forum, but it is free.

*Photo from Amazon.*



\*\*\*\*\* Excerpt follows \*\*\*\*\*

A safety sausage or SMB is ...generally a long inflatable tube that is deployed after a diver has surfaced to make them more visible in open water. This can help a dive boat see them and pick them up, especially if there is poor lighting or large waves. Generally, the taller the better (some are six feet long), but safety sausages tend to be fairly small to be carried easily when rolled up.

A DSMB (Delayed Surface Marker Buoy) is different from a safety sausage/SMB because it is designed to be inflated underwater and sent to the surface on a line from a reel or a spool. To do this, it has an overpressure valve that lets gas escape as it surfaces...

The most common reason for sending up a DSMB ... is when a diver gets lost on a wreck, or separated from the dive site and can't find the anchor line to get back to the boat. This is unfortunately not uncommon with inexperienced divers in poor visibility. In this case, especially if there is current, it makes sense to deploy the DSMB, attach the line to the wreck and then use the line as a new ascent line. This will let the dive boat know that you are ascending away from the anchor line, and is far preferable to drifting away for your ascent. If you were to drift away, even if the boat crew were to see you on the surface, they may not be able to go after you, especially if there are other divers in the water. With any significant decompression obligation, the time of ascent would be much longer and you would almost certainly surface out of sight of the dive boat...



...It is crucial to practice this in shallow, controlled situations. Launching a DSMB from depth is potentially dangerous - if you become tangled in it, it may pull you to the surface in an uncontrolled ascent. However you do this, you must be able to release it if necessary, even if that means losing your line and the SMB. When practicing these techniques, it's a good idea to have a buddy standing by with something to cut the line in an emergency. The best thing for this is shears or a Trilobite. You do NOT want your buddy frantically coming at you swinging a knife in an emergency! *[Photo from PADI]*

Different SMB/DSMB designs allow for different inflation methods. Most of them have a standard Schraeder valve, similar to the low-pressure inflator hose attachment on a BC. This has a spring-loaded end, that you can compress and inflate orally (which is hard to do under water). You can also disconnect the inflator hose from your BC (or dry suit) and connect it to this valve to inflate the bag. Caution should be observed when doing this, however. You must be sure that the valve and line are in good condition and lubricated appropriately, or they may stick together, dragging you up (especially since this method inflates the SMB very rapidly).

Other SMBs have an open bottom, which lets you fill them either by purging a regulator into the opening or by catching exhaled gas. A completely open bottom is rarely used, since it will deflate once the bag reaches the surface. Most of these types of SMBs have some sort of baffle that will let gas flow in but not out while underwater. The advantage of this method is that it is a lot quicker than disconnecting a hose from your BC or

drysuit and then reconnecting it later. The disadvantages are that it requires you to be fairly close to the SMB, which risks entanglement in the line (unless you are using a long primary hose). Also, some divers avoid purging a regulator at depth, especially in cold water, as a free flow may result. The exhaled gas trapping method avoids this problem, but it requires you to put your head VERY close to the line and SMB, it can be hard to master, and it is a relatively slow fill...

Some divers keep an SMB and spool rigged together for quicker deployment. Many technical divers keep them separate, as it is fairly easy to connect them when needed. This also means that you can have more line available by using a reel, and you can carry a backup SMB for redundancy. It is best to loop the line through the loop at the end of the SMB rather than relying on a bolt snap or double ender clip to connect them. While this hardware makes it somewhat quicker to connect, they can fail on ascent....

Remember, whatever configuration you end up with, practice deploying it until you can do it easily in a real emergency. Start in a pool, and then in controlled conditions like a quarry. Do NOT practice on a boat dive unless you have informed the crew of your intentions first!

\*\*\* End of excerpt\*\*\*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO...

- ★ **Andy Asser** on his recent retirement after some 27 years with Reclink SA.
- ★ **Dean Spraakman** of Sea Dragon Films on winning the Ocean Geographic Vision of the Sea Award\* for 2024 for his short film 'A Dragon Story'. Dean won a Mike Ball Liveaboard package as his prize for the award. A complete list of award winners and runners-up can be found at [https://ogpicoty.ogsociety.org/2024-winners?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMATAAR2fi9ynZ1cECTOsqBm-dFAMcTSM6s3nt1wiLOLnX6WmUxa9sqPiKmmsofY\\_aem\\_AZU9sCmHarl1G8VmyRkMhIB\\_Ez\\_v-ANTnt71PKdOUG8AaGt5skj4bmTns5f2oOaMs0G7cbSfnhlwVowrrxHQE-Ig](https://ogpicoty.ogsociety.org/2024-winners?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMATAAR2fi9ynZ1cECTOsqBm-dFAMcTSM6s3nt1wiLOLnX6WmUxa9sqPiKmmsofY_aem_AZU9sCmHarl1G8VmyRkMhIB_Ez_v-ANTnt71PKdOUG8AaGt5skj4bmTns5f2oOaMs0G7cbSfnhlwVowrrxHQE-Ig) \* (The Howard & Michelle Hall Award of Excellence)
- ★ **Roy Spraakman** on being a finalist in the Neville Coleman Award of Excellence for a Small Exotic Animal.
- ★ **Yuri Poetzl** on winning the Jill Hudson Award for Environmental Protection in the recent SA Environment Awards.
- ★ **Mark Ellis** on winning Green Adelaide's Pelzer Prize in the Environment Awards, and the many people who received commendations, including Carmen Bishop who was awarded a Certificate of Merit for Marine and Coastal Education, Leif Justham on winning the Young Achiever Award, Dr Dominic McAfee & Prof Sean Connell on winning the Conservation Science Prize, and those four people who were given Lifetime Achiever Awards, including Fraser Vickery.
- ★ **Prof. Gretta Pecl** from IMAS/Redmap (Institute of Marine & Antarctic Studies/Range Extension Database and Mapping project) on being made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the King's Birthday honours. The award was for Gretta's significant service to science, particularly ecological research, and to tertiary education. See Tasmania's honours list at <https://www.facebook.com/reel/2401894053328685> .
- ★ **Jason Milligan** on being voted as the winner of the 2024 WAUPS (WA Underwater Photographic Society) Image of the Year competition for his leafy seadragon head shot.
- ★ **Ross Gudgeon** on being made the winner of the 2024 Wayne Storrie Underwater World of Humour award. Second Place went to Mary Gudgeon. Full results can be seen on the WAUPS (WA Underwater Photographic Society) website at <https://waups.org.au/2024-humour-award/> .

- ★ **Isla Cath** for receiving a Gold Award in the WAUPS 2024 May Pixels Competition. See <https://waups.org.au/pixels-may-2024-look-at-those-eyes/> for Gold & Bronze Awards and more.
- ★ **Keith Gordon** from the New Zealand Underwater Heritage Group on being made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in the recent King's Birthday honours for services to diving and maritime history.
- ★ **Nicole Miller** on being presented with the Wyland award at the recent New Zealand Underwater Association (NZUA) AGM dinner. ("This award is primarily aimed at recognising those individuals or a group of individuals that have unselfishly contributed huge amounts of their personal time for the benefit of all divers and the marine environment for no real personal financial gain or glory.") (Nicole was also recently awarded the Winston Churchill Trust Fellowship award.)
- ★ **Record breakers at AIDA FREEDIVING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2024** According to [https://www.deeperblue.com/record-breaking-start-at-32nd-aida-world-championship-in-kaunas/?mc\\_cid=3b60535d74&mc\\_eid=d4cc43123c](https://www.deeperblue.com/record-breaking-start-at-32nd-aida-world-championship-in-kaunas/?mc_cid=3b60535d74&mc_eid=d4cc43123c), "The 32nd AIDA World Championship kicked off (on) June 24, 2024, in Kaunas, Lithuania, with a bang. The spotlight was on the Dynamic Bifins (DYNB) event, where freedivers swim underwater using bifins while holding their breath for the longest possible distance. This discipline, the newest addition to the freediving lineup since 2018, showcased thrilling performances." On the second day, the most challenging pool discipline took place: "Dynamic No Fins (DNF). Dynamic No Fins requires freedivers to swim underwater, holding their breath for the longest possible distance without any propulsion aids. This discipline is the most demanding in the freediving pool events." This championship, which included 114 athletes from 35 countries, is the largest in AIDA's history. For record breaking results from both days, go to the Deeperblue website.

## DIVE STORIES

By Alex Suslin

***Please note, most countries now have legislation to prevent the unauthorised removal of artefacts from under water & penalties are eye-watering. The events in this article occurred in the Solomons, in 2001, at an unprotected site.***

"The White Sands dive site is a WWII US dump," the dive shop owner briefed the Aussie group enjoying their "educational" whirlwind tour. Then he pointed to the row of polished brass artillery cases on his display shelf, "we'll pay top dollar for any brass you recover."

At the parking area by the river bank, we got out of the air-conditioned mini-bus & kitted up, eager to hit the water to escape the heat & humidity & perhaps make some good money. The driver/divemaster wasn't joining us. "Big croc took a village girl here last week."

Half the group did an immediate one-eighty & de-kitted. The rest of us had read an in-flight magazine article, written by a diver-photographer, claiming crocodiles don't attack under water. As proof, there were a couple of photos with an admittedly smallish-looking saurian between him & the surface. Five divers hurriedly entered the water & went in five different directions. There was no current & viz was a good 20 meters.

I descended slowly, past rusty odds & ends & numerous clips of live ammunition which, after 55 years under water, would be dangerously unstable. A bronze glint caught my eye - a decent sized propellor blade. That would pay for a round of coconut milk. Dropping to 35 meters & noting that the others were out of sight, I eagerly grabbed hold, only to find it was attached to the rest of the prop. Despite fully inflating the bcd, I could barely move it a few centimetres at a time & at the 25-meter mark, with cylinder pressure dropping from the exertion & the thought of sharing a deco stop with a man-eater, I admitted defeat. Nearby lay a glass medicine vial with some brown liquid which was stuffed into the bcd pocket as a poor consolation prize.

Back home, unpacking the dive gear, I removed my Solomons souvenir – an intricate carving of a warrior’s head. Then the bcd with a suspicious lump in the pocket – the vial I’d totally forgotten about.

## IN THE NEWS...

ABC reports that the iconic Australian sea lions are declining in numbers. A national study has been launched to undertake genome sequencing, explore factors that might influence survival, and develop a long term management plan.

[https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-07-04/race-to-save-sea-lion-species-national-study-declining-numbers/104047926?utm\\_source=abc\\_news\\_app&utm\\_medium=content\\_shared&utm\\_campaign=abc\\_news\\_app&utm\\_content=other](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-07-04/race-to-save-sea-lion-species-national-study-declining-numbers/104047926?utm_source=abc_news_app&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_campaign=abc_news_app&utm_content=other)

Greenpeace Australia reports that the Australian federal government is taking the first steps towards ratifying the Global Ocean Treaty (also known as the High Seas Treaty or Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction), which was signed by 67 countries in 2023. [https://www.greenpeace.org.au/news/now-dive-in-significant-step-as-labor-wades-in-to-global-ocean-treaty/?utm\\_campaign=Global%20Sanctuary&utm\\_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz--LqGHGyPf-bU0QdHrt89Ka1JrIR6iqZh8Uore7XuiMlquDJFwxLIQalf35PBMwmksRfEmnePeF6rUSNMENX2X2Tghg&hsmi=314360558&utm\\_content=314360558&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://www.greenpeace.org.au/news/now-dive-in-significant-step-as-labor-wades-in-to-global-ocean-treaty/?utm_campaign=Global%20Sanctuary&utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz--LqGHGyPf-bU0QdHrt89Ka1JrIR6iqZh8Uore7XuiMlquDJFwxLIQalf35PBMwmksRfEmnePeF6rUSNMENX2X2Tghg&hsmi=314360558&utm_content=314360558&utm_source=hs_email)

## STEVE’S SCIENCE STORIES for the month

By Steve Reynolds

### WHALE WATCHING SEASONS

Whales are very much in the news at present. Now is the time to go whale watching down on the south coast of SA, or along the west coast. Humpback whales migrate along the Sunshine Coast from June to November. Although not whales, the Whale Shark season in Exmouth, WA ends in July (March to July). (See <https://liveningaloo.com.au/tours/whale-shark-day-tour/>.) 40,000 humpback whales are said to pass through Ningaloo Reef from June to October each year. The annual humpback whale migration through Tongan waters occurs around August. It seems that the best time to see whales in Antarctica, everything from humpbacks to orca, is November to mid-December.

Meanwhile, a humpback whale migrating northwards off Angourie in northern NSW was tangled in a thick rope and towing buoys. The entanglement was cut loose from the whale by marine rescuers after a two-day rescue operation.

Whale researchers from Oregon State University say that whales are getting smaller due to climate change and other activities. A recent study reported in *Global Change Biology* says that grey whales on the US Pacific coast have shrunk 13% in length since the year 2000. They say that this finding adds to evidence that climate change and other activities are making marine mammals smaller. “Their diminished size could have big impacts on survival rates and reproductive success – and trigger ripple effects through their food webs.” The whales being studied stay closer to shore, feeding in shallower, warmer waters than the wider population of grey whales that inhabits colder, deeper Arctic seas. These smaller whales were previously found to be in worse shape than their counterparts, with smaller bodies, heads and flukes. Researchers now say that they know that the whales have been shrinking in body size over the past 20-40 years. They say that this may be an early warning sign that the population is at risk of declining. It is thought that a grey whale born in 2020 may end up being 1.65m less in length than a counterpart born 20 years earlier. The paper can be accessed at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.17366>; with a useful summary available through *Science Daily* (<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2024/06/240612173127.htm>).

## **Fishes in Marine Caves**

A new paper titled [Fishes in Marine Caves](https://www.mdpi.com/2410-3888/9/6/243?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR2FRzmA71qjERl7QSLW7T5qjQNL3cyEOPRwh9og - u6BfuBwDfxT9fzD5w_aem_H2HoT5hMxgfKGbeAQMqXrA) ([https://www.mdpi.com/2410-3888/9/6/243?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR2FRzmA71qjERl7QSLW7T5qjQNL3cyEOPRwh9og - u6BfuBwDfxT9fzD5w\\_aem\\_H2HoT5hMxgfKGbeAQMqXrA](https://www.mdpi.com/2410-3888/9/6/243?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR2FRzmA71qjERl7QSLW7T5qjQNL3cyEOPRwh9og - u6BfuBwDfxT9fzD5w_aem_H2HoT5hMxgfKGbeAQMqXrA)) has been written by Marcelo Kovačić, Vasilis Gerovasileiou and Robert A. Patzner. My interest in this paper stems from my having spent some time hosting Vasilis Gerovasileiou, one of the authors, when he visited Australia, including Adelaide, in 2013. I have highlighted some of the references to Australia in the excerpts below.

According to the abstract for the paper, “Fishes in marine caves .... constitute a largely unexplored component of marine fish diversity, ..... These habitats are characterized by steep environmental gradients of decreasing light and decreasing water exchange. The fishes recorded so far in marine caves are not exclusive residents of this habitat and they are also present at least in the other mesolithial habitats...In the Mediterranean marine caves, 132 fishes have been recorded to date, representing about 17% of the total Mediterranean fish species richness. Most of these species are reported from the anterior cave zones where some light still exists, while a smaller number of species are known from the totally dark zones. Among them, 27.3% are accidental visitors, 53.8% are the regular mesolithial visitors and switchers between mesolithion and open water, 5.3% are permanent residents of the mesolithion, but also occur in other habitats, and 13.6% are exclusive permanent residents of mesolithion. Some mesolithial exclusive permanent residents recorded in marine caves share similar morphology, probably as adaptations to these habitats.”

In the body of the paper, the authors note that, “published records of fishes from marine caves sensu stricto outside the Mediterranean Sea, excluding anchialine systems, are limited from all other areas, (including) .... Australia.... The studies of fishes in marine caves sensu stricto outside the Mediterranean Sea are mostly restricted to taxonomy, including new species descriptions from marine caves .... Only a few studies specifically focus on fishes recorded within a targeted fish census in marine caves or report on the fish fauna as the part of the cave biota in ecological and biodiversity assessments...Depczynski and Bellwood studied cryptobenthic reef fish communities in Australia in four distinct microhabitats, including marine caves. They recorded 26 cryptobenthic fish species in marine caves, mostly Gobiidae and Apogonidae, but also species of several other fish families, with four species exclusively found in marine caves. However, their definition of marine caves also included pseudocaves, and it is not clear if any marine caves sensu stricto were actually studied.”

## **PRETTY FISHES OF YANKALILLA BAY**

If you get a chance to pick up a copy of the Yankalilla Regional News the next time that you are down Yankalilla way, check out the “Pretty Fishes of Yankalilla Bay” column by David Muirhead. David does a monthly write-up about a fish species, accompanied by some of his wonderful colour underwater photos. He has been doing the column for some two years now, covering well over 20 different species to date. The Marine Life Society has most of those columns on file.



## FISH TAXON CHANGES

**A TAXON SPLIT** : According to iNaturalist at [https://www.inaturalist.org/taxon\\_changes?taxon\\_id=1555696](https://www.inaturalist.org/taxon_changes?taxon_id=1555696) , there has been a taxon split affecting Gobiidae. Gobiidae has now been split into two – Gobiidae (Gobies) & Oxudercidae (Mudskippers and Allies).

**A TAXON SWAP**: According to iNaturalist at [https://www.inaturalist.org/taxon\\_changes?taxon\\_id=1555683](https://www.inaturalist.org/taxon_changes?taxon_id=1555683) , there has been a taxon swap affecting Kurtiformes. Kurtiformes has now been replaced with Apogonoidei (Cardinalfishes and Nurseryfishes).

You can learn more about taxa at <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa> . Ray-finned Fishes (Class Actinopterygii), for example, can be found at <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/47178-Actinopterygii> .

Also according to iNaturalist, there has been a taxon drop affecting the scientific name for the Australian Bull Ray. The name *Myliobatis tenuicaudatus* has now been replaced with *Myliobatis tenuicaudata*. See [https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/taxon\\_changes/144016](https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/taxon_changes/144016) for details.

There has also been a taxon drop affecting Perciformes (perch-like fishes) which has now been split into Perciformes and Labriformes (wrasses and parrotfishes). See [https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/taxon\\_changes/143787](https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/taxon_changes/143787) for details.

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR: FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **South Australia**

6<sup>th</sup> July: Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries' Swim with Giant Australian Cuttlefish during CuttleFest 2024 at Whyalla starts on 6<sup>th</sup> July.

14<sup>th</sup> July: Beachcombing with Fleurieu Marine Education to discover the wonders of the sea and decipher what you find washed ashore. Meet at the Sculpture of Ngurunderi the Creator, next to the causeway to Granite Island at Victor Harbor. Tongs and trays to collect items for sorting and identification will be provided. See [https://fleurieumarineeducation.rezdy.com/614811/beachcombing?\\_gl=1\\*\\_1gtpum2\\*\\_ga\\*NDA3NDYwOT15LjE3MTc0NjAwMjg.\\*\\_ga\\_J7SXS0R0D6\\*MTcxNzQ2MDAyOC40NS4xLjE3MTc0NzY2NDAuNTkuMC4w&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAR1bET5gPrpBCpsGI6LVISkuzdjkjOEPC\\_bTx99w31t-T37TnegGh3Azy8\\_aem\\_ATH8JfHGILVvNq6G3I08pK11mvuSYj3McOJbvpnCWOzUD\\_mWupEo-DkwJiDjwIbeGwEU63VsLSX1jpRkrEqIs6Y](https://fleurieumarineeducation.rezdy.com/614811/beachcombing?_gl=1*_1gtpum2*_ga*NDA3NDYwOT15LjE3MTc0NjAwMjg.*_ga_J7SXS0R0D6*MTcxNzQ2MDAyOC40NS4xLjE3MTc0NzY2NDAuNTkuMC4w&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAR1bET5gPrpBCpsGI6LVISkuzdjkjOEPC_bTx99w31t-T37TnegGh3Azy8_aem_ATH8JfHGILVvNq6G3I08pK11mvuSYj3McOJbvpnCWOzUD_mWupEo-DkwJiDjwIbeGwEU63VsLSX1jpRkrEqIs6Y) .

19 July: Splash Inn, with Dr. Richard Harris, at the Rob Roy (Sold out)

24 July: SDFS Annual General Meeting, Arab Steed Hotel, 7pm. See note above under Committee business for details.

23<sup>rd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> August: Friends of Parks Forum – see <https://friendsofparkssa.org.au/news-events/33rd-friends-of-parks-inc-forum/> or <https://events.humanitix.com/33rd-friends-of-parks-inc-forum> .

31<sup>st</sup> Aug – 8<sup>th</sup> Sept: Royal Adelaide Show- see <https://theshow.com.au/> .

18th October: Talk by internationally acclaimed wildlife and underwater photographer and explorer Amos Nachoum at the Rodney Fox Shark Museum & Learning Centre. Tickets will be \$25.

### **Interstate/International**

The Valerie Taylor: An Underwater Life exhibition at the National Maritime Museum in Sydney runs until 31<sup>st</sup> August – see [www.sea.museum](http://www.sea.museum) .

19<sup>th</sup> July: Titanic, The Human Story is being held at Uptown, Level Q, 91 Queen St, Brisbane– see <https://titanicexhibition.com.au/brisbane/> .

1st-4th August: The 55<sup>th</sup> Sydney International Boat Show -see [https://sydneyboatshow.com.au/news/?utm\\_campaign=SIBS%202023%20EDMs&utm\\_medium=email&hsc=2ANqtz-ucND9-UxXsaTW98KmWXHgLm-3hERANlbJETMxcMhCYq8nnXmCSkK9fYJD6Fm4JEsq6wbG711U7fYxRvBE6deD28jrVchQEsQj45JG2IOf2LerU3s&\\_hsmi=301999176&utm\\_content=301999176&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://sydneyboatshow.com.au/news/?utm_campaign=SIBS%202023%20EDMs&utm_medium=email&hsc=2ANqtz-ucND9-UxXsaTW98KmWXHgLm-3hERANlbJETMxcMhCYq8nnXmCSkK9fYJD6Fm4JEsq6wbG711U7fYxRvBE6deD28jrVchQEsQj45JG2IOf2LerU3s&_hsmi=301999176&utm_content=301999176&utm_source=hs_email) .

10 – 18th August: National Science Week – see <https://www.scienceweek.net.au/> .

2nd -16th September: The 2024 Freediving Depth World Championships are being held in Corsica.

15-20<sup>th</sup> September: The AMSA & NZMSS 2024 Conference is being held in Hobart, Tasmania.

28-29<sup>th</sup> September: The GO Diving Show ANZ is being held in Sydney – see <https://godivingshow.com/anz/home/> .

September 30 - October 7<sup>th</sup>: Deep Week is being held in Greece.

18 -20<sup>th</sup>October: the Portugal International Diving Show is being held in Lisbon (where they get >300days of sunshine per year)– see <https://www.divingtalks.com/>

15th-18th November: The Archaeology of Waterways Conference is being held in Durham, England see [https://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/annual-conference?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMATAAR1u1FRafIVdwnSa9BHITGbG8ghNL08Y01oKaJd6qQ3IUXOfIOrretlGgSQ\\_aem\\_AU0xE1hbTIH-wtcU0N9eH4okB29piKGqjED2bCbC73NxWU9noufxui2J1ldtk9Pl0-yhL15qYbf2GD5PT5P3mhA](https://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/annual-conference?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMATAAR1u1FRafIVdwnSa9BHITGbG8ghNL08Y01oKaJd6qQ3IUXOfIOrretlGgSQ_aem_AU0xE1hbTIH-wtcU0N9eH4okB29piKGqjED2bCbC73NxWU9noufxui2J1ldtk9Pl0-yhL15qYbf2GD5PT5P3mhA) .

19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> November: This year’s DEMA Show is being held in Las Vegas.

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 whilst ADEX celebrates 30 years this year. See <https://diveoztek.com.au/> for more details.

4-9<sup>th</sup> May 2025: The 25<sup>th</sup> International Seaweed Symposium is being held in Victoria, BC, Canada.

2025: According to [https://www.deeperblue.com/2025-world-games-to-include-freediving-as-part-of-its-program/?mc\\_cid=2a9b8e09dd&mc\\_eid=d4cc43123c](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.”

## 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 date with the latest news through our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/scubadivesa/>. And follow our FB group, SA Dive Sites Viz and Conditions for current diving conditions shared by the group members.

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