

Pacific Northwest Diver

Publication of the Pacific Northwest Underwater Photographic Society
March, 2013



Pacific Northwest Diver

BIMONTHLY MAGAZINE & WEB SITE PROMOTING UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY, EDUCATION, & TRAVEL IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST | MARCH, 2013

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Pacific Northwest Diver: In This Issue

The featured photographer for March is Johanna Raupe from Granite Falls, Washington, videographer Trisha Stovel from Vancouver, BC, and Bruce Kerwin from Bainbridge Island. The featured operator for this month's issue is Bandito Charters in Tacoma, Washington. "From the Archives" carries a beautiful photo of Stephen Frink photographing Spot the Dolphin, along with his explanation of how, "back in the day," underwater film photographers could get more than 36 shots. In the news section there is information about the 2013 Northwest Dive & Travel Expo photo contest, along with new rules, and a link to Edith Widder's TED talk on videoing giant squid. Enjoy!

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From the Archives:
Stephen Frink: Back in the Day (c. 1998)

It is sometimes difficult to comprehend how rapidly the digital revolution has impacted photography in general, and especially underwater photo and video.

A little over a decade ago, 36 shots was the most you could shoot on a regular roll of film. How did the pro's get more photos?

As Stephen Frink shows, back in the days before digital photography you got 108 shots on a single dive by carrying three cameras with an E-O underwater connector that could be switched from camera to camera. On this day Stephen was shooting with a Nikonos RS, Nikonos V, and an F100 in a Seacam housing, with a single SB104 strobe.

The photo of Spot the Dolphin and Stephen Frink was taken by Frank Fennell in the Cayman Brac area.

One of the positive sides of having a limited number of photos to shoot on a dive is that it forced underwater photographers to get set for their shots and try to make every one count. This is in marked contrast with quite a few of today's digital shooters who will snap off 100 to 200 photos per dive, without taking the time to work on making each photo a quality shot.



Pacific Northwest Diver: Johanna Raupe

Johanna Raupe



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In 2003, Johanna received her first Scuba diving class in the form of a Mother's Day gift from her daughter Senobia. Little did she know how much that class would change her life! She says she can remember the day she performed the required open water skills for certification just like it was yesterday. Her daughter was on the sidelines cheering her on. Here is Johanna's story.

"It wasn't long after completing my open water certification that I discovered I would need to join a dive club to find dive buddies with similar passions for diving.

My introduction into underwater photography came with my dive buddy, Greg Becvar, which I've been diving with off and on now for 8 years. My first year of diving with Greg was spent pointing out photo subjects that I had located for him. It was through this exercise of subject location, identification and reliving the dive experience through the images that he shared with me that the passion for underwater photography grew.

My first underwater camera was a cheap short-lived 35mm film camera that I bought through a local dive shop. Taking decent underwater images with film based camera was the ultimate challenge and very frustrating.

As far as technology goes, we live in the best of times with the introduction of digital cameras. I bought a small inexpensive point and shoot digital camera for \$400 thinking this would relieve the underwater image capture frustration somewhat. With the digital camera came a new set of frustrations. The particular model that I bought would allow me to take maybe 20 pictures before the battery died. In addition to the short battery life, access to the features of the camera was very limited underwater. But this camera allowed me to identify all of the deficiencies that I wanted to have access to with my next underwater rig.

After much research on different cameras and the importance of timing the purchase of the camera with an available housing, I took a big step and purchased a Canon Mark II 1Ds with dual INON strobes with a SUBAL housing. At first I found that I took images of anything that moved. And sometimes even things that did not move. It was all about learning the system and then learning to use the system in a challenging environment such as the waters of the Pacific Northwest.

Over time my focus in underwater photography has migrated to creating two types of images of the Pacific Northwest; abstract and behavioral. My criteria's for success are: the subject needs to be worthy of being matted and framed for presentation or functional in a coffee table book. I try to create images that not only remind myself of the dive, but also convey the enormity of the experience to a non-diver.

Cold water dry suit diving introduces other difficulties where the orientation of the diver and the subject to be captured are more challenging. Dry suits are limiting in that air management and the location of that air within the suit is imperative. Warm water wetsuit diving is much easier. I tend to capture all of my subjects with my head down and feet sticking straight up so that I never touch the reef. I float down into position. Snap the shot, inhale and then float right back up."

As Johanna noted, she shoots with a Canon Mark II 1Ds, dual INON strobes, in a SUBAL housing. Her primary underwater lenses are a Canon 16-35 mm, Canon 100 mm macro, and Sigma 150 mm Macro. For post processing Johanna uses Photoshop CS3 Extended and CS6 Extended. Johanna is a multi-talented individual. She is a software development program manager by day, and enjoys wine making and local economic business development in the Granite Falls area. She also provides digital consulting in the areas of hardware, software, and WEB site design.



Red-eye Medusa by Johanna Raupe
Canon 1Ds Mark II | 100 mm | 1/200th | *f* 16 | ISO 800



Creeping Pedal Sea Cucumber by Johanna Raupe
Canon 1Ds Mark II | 100 mm | 1/250th | f 8 | ISO 640



Stubby Squid by Johanna Raupe
Canon 1Ds Mark II | 35 mm | 1/250th | f 8 | ISO 640



Squat Lobster by Johanna Raupe
Canon 1Ds Mark II | 100 mm | 1/250th | *f* 2.8 | ISO 1000



Giant Nudibranch by Johanna Raupe
Canon 1Ds Mark II | 100 mm | 1/250th | f 3.5 | ISO 500

Pacific Northwest Diver: News Corner



[Dive and Travel Expo 2013 Photo and Video Competition](#)

Show off your underwater images and compete with your peers for great prizes! This year there is a per photo fee for entering the contest. Submissions are now \$5 per photo (\$20 for 5 photos). Why the change? The thought was to provide better and more prizes for winners. Part of the submission goes to support the film festival, with the remaining distributed among winners.

A second change is that prizes will be awarded to popular vote winners.

For photo contest entry, click the [Pay to Enter](#) option. After paying, click to [Register](#), and then click on the [Submit Your Photos](#) link. They will be held in a moderation queue. Once payment is completed, your entries will be live and you can share the link to get your family and friends to vote.

For video contest entry: upload your video to Vimeo, and share the link with selene@divenewsnetwork.com. The photo and video competition is open to all amateur underwater photographers and videographers. **Closing date is April 8, 2013.**



[Behind the Giant Squid Video](#)

No doubt many of you saw the first video of a giant squid this past February on the Discovery Channel. After its debut, Edith Widder, one of the top three scientists involved in the project, made a presentation at the February [TED](#) conference in Long Beach, California.

A specialist in bioluminescence, Edith Widder helps design and invent new submersible instruments and equipment to study bioluminescence and enable unobtrusive observation of deep-sea environments. Her innovative tools for exploration have produced footage of rare and wonderful bioluminescent displays and never-before-seen denizens of the deep.

The key here is unobtrusive, and the video clip holds a number of lessons and ideas worth considering for underwater photographers and videographers.

How was her team able to finally capture images of this remarkable animal after so many have searched for so long? Reduce noise, change lighting from white to red, study how they feed and hunt. It is a remarkable talk with lessons for all underwater photographers.

Pacific Northwest Diver: Operator- Bandito Charters



- Skipper Rick Myers

If you are thinking about diving South Puget Sound, consider calling [Bandito Charters](#) in Tacoma. Owner and skipper Rick Myers notes Bandito has over forty years' experience in boat handling and diving, and safety and comfort come first.

Bandito Charters can accommodate individual walk-ons, groups of as few as two to as many as forty. They have three dive boats, and cater to individuals, open water classes, instructors with specialty classes, night and technical diving. Rick would be happy to customize a charter around specific needs.

As mentioned, Bandito has three boats: the Sampan, Ocean Quest, and Island Diver. Divers board boats at the docks in Point Defiance Park, Tacoma. Check out the web site for parking instructions.

All boats have heated, enclosed cabin areas, and heads. They can accommodate 14 divers on the 43 foot boat Sampan, eight divers on the 35 foot Ocean Quest, and 6 divers on the 28' Island Diver.

All three boats are Coast Guard Inspected vessels with all required equipment. Each boat is also equipped with first aid and Oxygen kits for dive emergencies. Another nice feature of all boats is that they are "wet boats:" divers can wear exposure suits inside.

Bandito Charters operates year-round, with charters every weekend. They also run a number of scheduled mid-week charters, and will schedule mid-week dives for groups of four or more.

For photographers, the boats are large enough to accommodate large camera and strobe rigs.

While the dive sites Bandito visits have the wide variety of Puget Sound life, Sunrise, Zee's Reef, and the Narrows are well known for their giant Pacific octos and wolf eels (see map next page).

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Phone: 253.973.0370

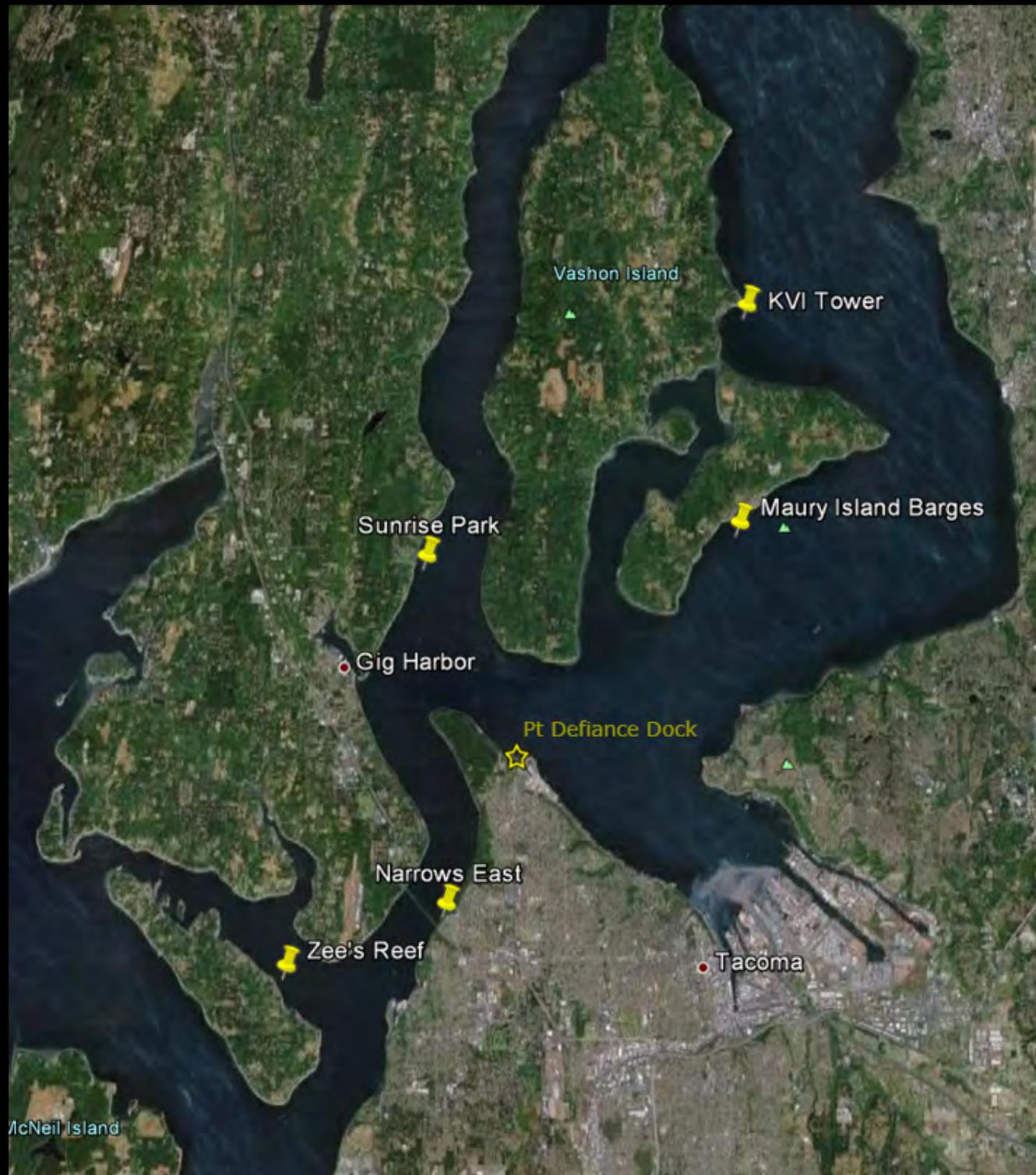


43' Sampan

Sample Bandito Dive Sites



Sunrise Park, Narrows East, and Zee's Reef are well known for their giant Pacific octos and wolf eels. The Sunrise wolf eels are routinely fed by divers (not recommended).



Pacific Northwest Diver: British Columbia

Trisha Stovel



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Trisha is an avid underwater videographer and photographer. She does most of her diving in British Columbia, but will travel anywhere and try almost any type of diving at least once.

She has been diving since the fall of 2003, and works out of the Edge Dive Centre in West Vancouver. Her certifications include: PADI Tec Trimix Gas Blender, EFR Instructor, PADI Specialty Instructor, and formerly a SCUBA-PRO Service Technician.

Her favourite subjects are big animals, but she also enjoys shooting macro. She also likes sharing footage and experiences to get people excited about diving, and is very interested in protecting marine environments.

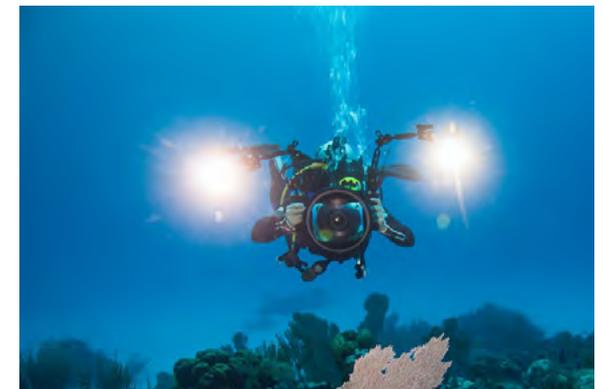
Trisha got into underwater videography after spending a great deal of time taking photos on dives. She would watch the animals interact with one another and their environment, and wanted to start capturing behaviour more. This is where video came in.

She started with a Sony XR520 camcorder and Light & Motion housing set up. She now uses a Canon 5D MKII with Aquatica housing and two Light & Motion Sola 4000 video lights. Trisha also has a Wahoo HD monitor setup on her housing that she says “makes shooting video easier and more fun.” Photo opposite.

To edit videos Trisha uses Final Cut Pro 7, and sometimes iMovie 2011.



- Wahoo Monitor

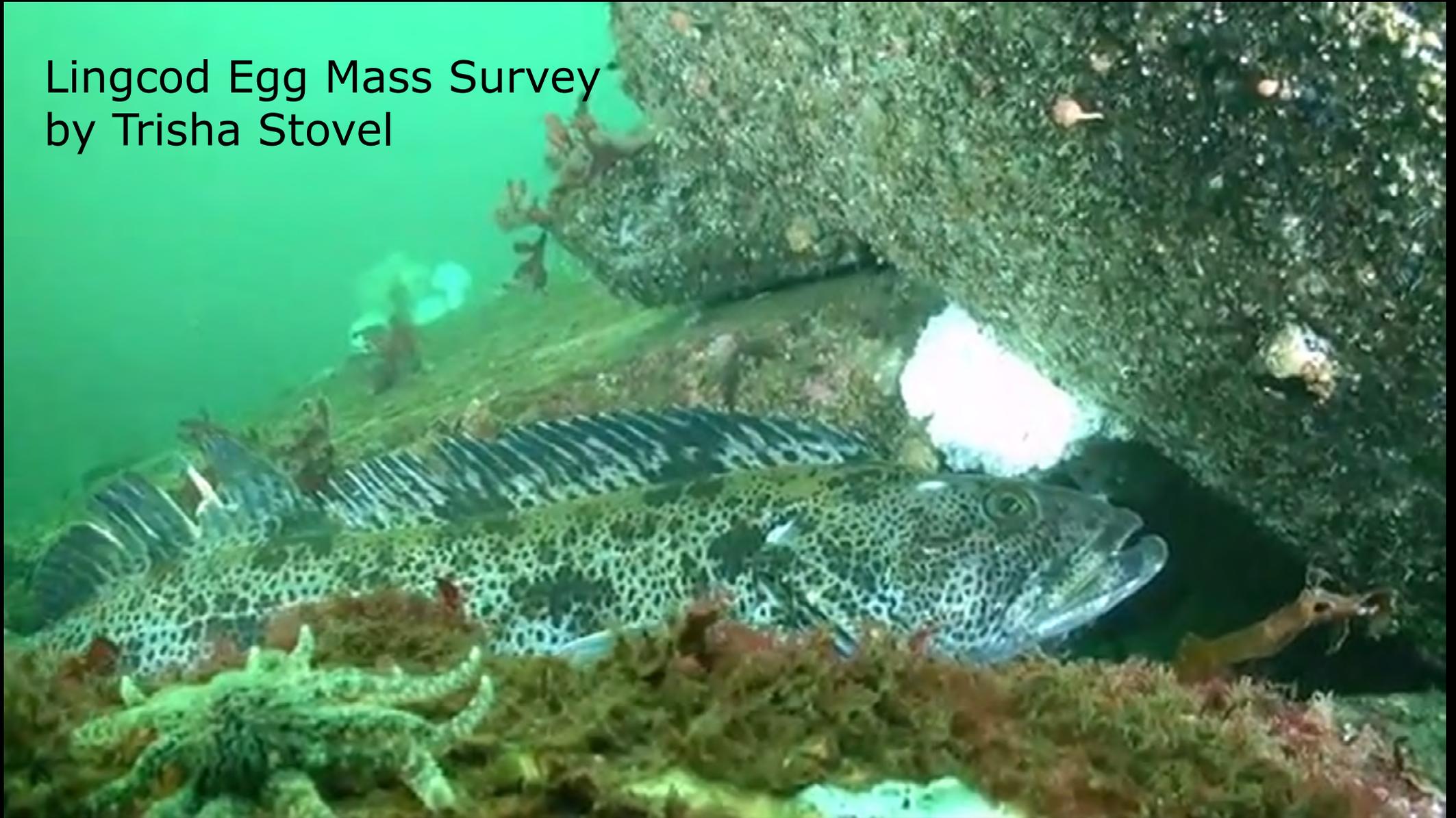


- Trisha on the reef

Britannia Beach: Wreck of the Ready
by Trisha Stovel



Lingcod Egg Mass Survey by Trisha Stovel



Race Rocks Diving
by Trisha Stovel



Pacific Northwest Diver: Washington

Bruce Kerwin



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Bruce moved to the Pacific Northwest with his family five years ago, and was certified three years ago at Exotic Aquatics on Bainbridge Island.

He started free diving in high school off the California's Mendocino coast, where he and his friends dove as frequently as possible. For the past 20 years Bruce has worked as a scientist in the biotechnology sector with the past 15 years at Amgen.

In Southern California Bruce learned to surf, and was out almost every weekend. He found there was nothing better than being on the ocean with the dolphins passing slowly by on a foggy summer morning. Once he and his family made the move to Washington, his surfing slowed down and he started looking for other hobbies. Here is how Bruce got hooked.

“One March day my wife, Lauri, and I were walking past Exotic Aquatics on Bainbridge Island and the store was open so Lauri suggested I go sign up and get certified. We have been married almost 30 years, and she knows I've always wanted to learn. I was so excited I actually purchased my dry suit and all my equipment before I had taken my first lesson.

Once I was certified I was in the water every chance I could get and the one question my family kept asking was “what did you see”. Beyond describing a bunch of fish, giant octopuses and creatures that looked like they were from a Dr. Seuss book, I would pull up pictures on the inter-

net and show them what I saw.

That first year I went with a group from the dive shop to Browning Pass, a truly amazing place. My friend, Steve Hanuksella, was taking still photos and I couldn't wait to see them when we returned. He sent me copies and as soon as I saw them I knew I wanted to learn underwater photography as well.

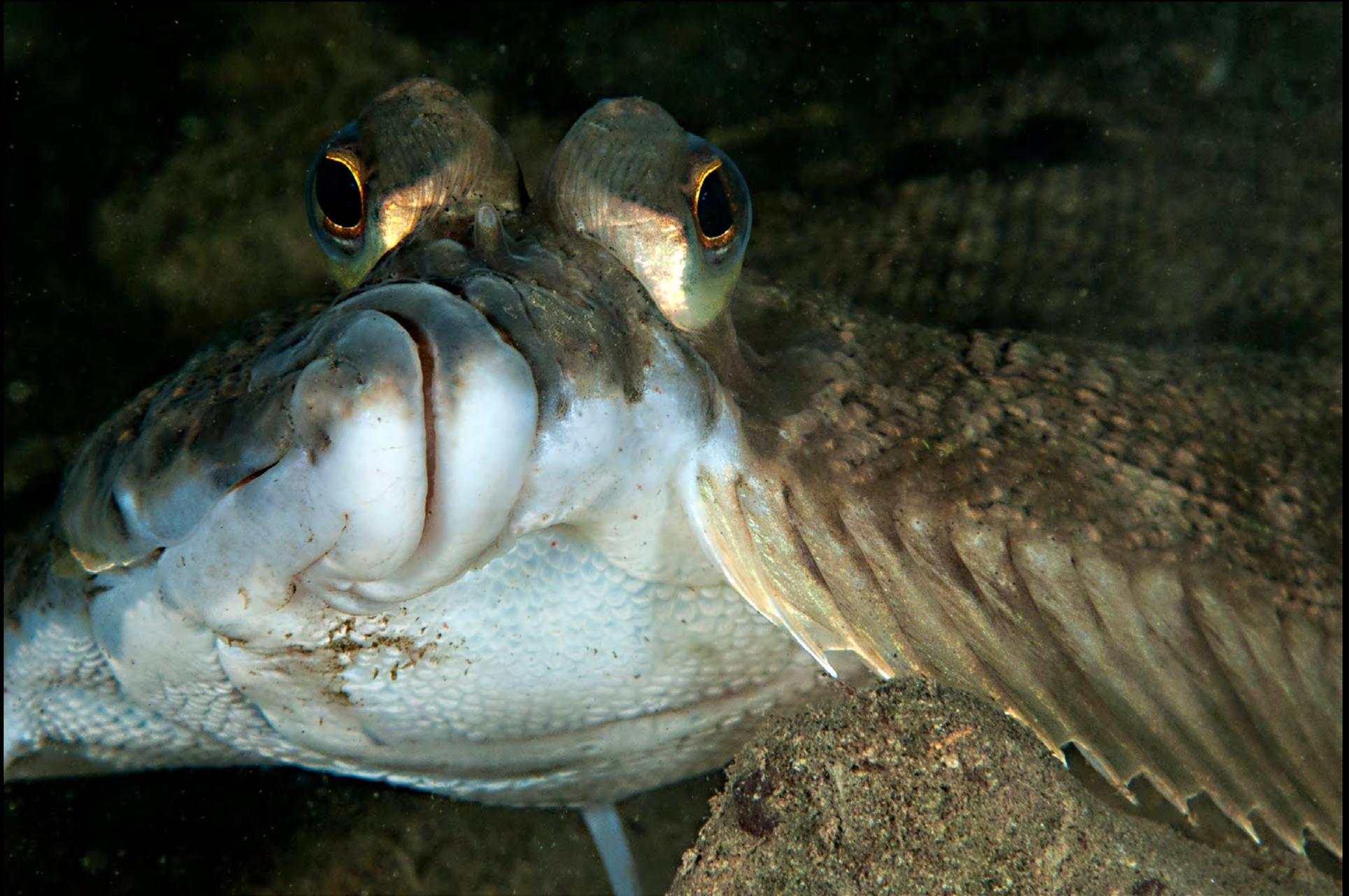
The following March I purchased an Ikelite housing for a Nikon Coolpix L24 camera with AF35 strobes. This was a great point and shoot camera. By the following spring I had outgrown it and purchased a used Nikon Coolpix P5200 and housing because it allowed more control and I could continue to use it with my strobes.

In the fall of that year I was diving with another friend, Hal Everett, and he told me he had a DSLR system he was going to sell. He let me try it, I had never used a real SLR camera before. When Lauri saw the pictures she said to just buy the camera. So now I have a Subal S30 housing with a Nikon D300 camera and dual Sea and Sea YS-1 strobes.”

For post processing Bruce uses Adobe Photoshop CS5.1 and his wife's artistic advice. He reports he is out shooting underwater photographs usually once a week and twice in the summer. He loves sharing what he sees with others, and really enjoy the look on people's faces when they see the variety of life and color living below the green waters of the Salish Sea.



Mosshead Warbonnet at Point Hudson by Bruce Kerwin
Nikon D300 | 60 mm | 1/100th | *f* 22 | ISO 200



Sole at Sund Rock by Bruce Kerwin
Nikon D300 | 60 mm | 1/200th | *f* 20 | ISO 200



Plumose Anemone at Sund Rock by Bruce Kerwin
Nikon D300 | 60 mm | 1/200th | *f* 20 | ISO 200



Diamond Back Nudibranch at Point Hudson by Bruce Kerwin
Nikon D300 | 60 mm | 1/250th | f 8 | ISO 200



Butterfly Crab at Skyline Wall by Bruce Kerwin
Nikon D300 | 60 mm | 1/200th | *f* 16 | ISO 200

Pacific Northwest Diver: Travel Corner 2013 (And One in 2014)



MONTEREY/PT LOBOS KELP FOREST | May 26 - 31, 2013 | Trip estimate \$700

Join the annual trip south to dive the kelp forests in Pt Lobos and Monterey. This year we are planning a meet-up and boat dive with the Northern California Underwater Photographic Society. Costs include Pt Lobos fees, lodging, one day of boat diving. Remainder of dives will be shore based.

Objectives: Harbor seals, sea otter, sea lion, rock fish, macro subjects.



BARKLEY SOUND SHARK WEEK | AUGUST, 2013 | TRIP ESTIMATE \$900 US

This will be the third year for Shark Week at Rendezvous Lodge on Barkley Sound. Four days of diving, 2-3 dives per day. Dr. Chris Harvey Clark will return as the shark biologist. Price includes transportation to and from Port Alberni, meals, lodging, and air fills. An excellent video describing Shark Week may be viewed by following [this link](#).

Objectives: Six gill sharks, rays, rock fish, nudibranchs, giant Pacific octopus, humpback whales.



ADAMS RIVER, BC SOCKEYE SALMON RUN | October, 2 - 6, 2013 | Trip estimate \$1,000

This coming Fall will see several hundred thousand sockeye salmon return to the world famous Adams River. This is an exploratory trip in anticipation of the dominant 2014 run, where several million salmon return. The plan is for three days of 2 tank boat diving with Copper Island Diving, including lunch, with afternoon salmon photography/observation in streams. Price includes lodging at the Quaaout Lodge, does not include transportation to Chase, BC.

Objectives: Sockeye salmon, other salmon species.



LA PAZ WHALE SHARKS, SEA LIONS, & MARINE LIFE | October 19 - 26, 2013 | Trip estimate is \$1,100

We head back to La Paz, Baja California to snorkel with whale sharks, dive with sea lion, and check out eel, bleenies, jaw fish, and the other marine life the area has to offer. Lodging will be with Posada Luna Sol, diving with Club Cortez, and whale shark outings with Mar y Aventuras. Price includes lodging, park permits, 2 tank dives on SCUBA days, lunch on diving days, and snorkeling with whale sharks to 1:00 PM on whale shark days. Does not include transportation to La Paz.

Objectives: Whale sharks, sea lion, bleenies, eel, jaw fish.



GREY WHALE MOMS & BABIES | February/March, 2014 | Trip estimate is \$1,500

For the past three years we have spent time on Baja's west coast viewing mother and baby grey whales before they migrate north. Viewing will be from boats, but we have applied for permits from the Mexican government to snorkel with the whales as part of an article on their migration. This would be a seven day trip, and would include room, lodging, and transportation round trip from La Paz.

Objectives: Grey whales, mothers "nursing" babies.

Pacific Northwest Diver: Pole Cam, Part 2 of 2

Dan Clements



The last issue of Pacific Northwest Diver shared Greg Sweeney's DIY method of creating a pole cam. This month presents Dan's methodology. Dan needed a pole cam rig for shooting salmon in streams, and whales where it is prohibited to snorkel.

When his housing was in for servicing, he had Backscatter place an Ikelite remote port on the unit (Figures 1, 2, and 3). A 15' remote cable attaches to the port (Figure 4). The remote "trigger" is a programmable three button Bluewater Remora unit. Scott Jones was an encyclopedia of information!

Now the difficult part: mounting the housing to the pole. After discussing the issue with Dave Reid at Ultralite Systems, Dave suggested mounting two "ball" units on the unused strobe mountings on top of the housing.

The next trip was to Eckstrom Industries, a local high end fabrication facility, where they laser cut a piece of aluminum to Dan's specifications, drilled and tapped threads for the pole mounting hardware (Greg's universal boat antenna mount), leveled the top of the mounting balls, and drilled and tapped holes in the balls (Figure 5). Total cost was about \$500.

The result is a very rugged, quick attach/release, programmable pole cam rig. Thanks to Greg Sweeney, Backscatter's Scott Jones, and Ultralite's Dave Reid for their help!

Figure 1:

Ikelite Remote Bulkhead mounted in spare bulkhead



Figure 2:

Remote bulkhead inside housing. Note connector to remove cable when not in use.



Figure 3:

Camera connected to remote bulkhead.



Figure 4:

Remora attached to remote bulkhead. Note programmable three button release.



Figure 5:

Machined aluminum plate with universal antenna mount for pole attached.



Figure 6:

Pole unit attached to Ultralite balls mounted on top of housing.



Pacific Northwest Diver: Our Team

The Pacific Northwest is a large, diverse region with diverse interests in underwater photography and videography. In order to make it easier for you to submit information about photographers, dive clubs, and operators/resorts in your area we have key contacts for British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon. Since we are all volunteering our time and efforts, we also hope to spread the work-load so we will all have ample time for diving and photography!

Below are our contacts, please either get in touch with one of the regional contacts listed below, or contact editor [Dan Clements](#) directly.

British Columbia: Marli Wakeling



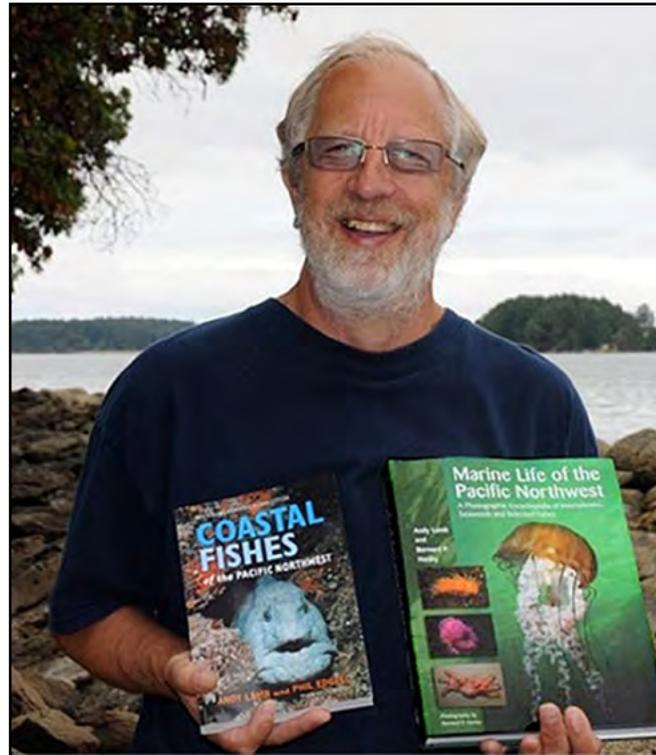
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