

# **NZ Dolphin Underwater & Adventure Club**

## **Newsletter March 2022**

Club Meeting 7:00pm Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Guest speaker: DVD Fraser Is. QLD

**[www.dolphinunderwater.co.nz](http://www.dolphinunderwater.co.nz)**



**Club's Mail Address:  
14 Gails Drive  
Okura  
RD 2 Albany**

**Club Contacts  
Phone numbers & emails  
Committee listing inside**

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS: 2021/2022

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### Life & Honorary Members

Barry Barnes – Life	Peter & Margaret Howard – Life	Brian Horton – Life
Reg Lawson - Life	Roberto Tonei – Life	Dave Quinlan – Life
Graham Thumah – Honorary	Tony & Jenny Enderby - Honorary	Eileen Slark – Honorary

**Cover Page Photo:– Dolphin members in the clear waters of Niue by Denis**

**NB: All attendees must be Double Vaxxed & show their Passes**

**They will also be scanned by Trish - North Shore Canoe Club ruling**

**9<sup>th</sup> March – Wednesday – 7:00pm Club Rooms** – DVD – Fraser Island QLD. Northcote Road Extension

***Dive trips available you will need to contact the shops in person to confirm***

***Performance Dive NZ - Ph. 489 7782.*** or

<https://www.performancediver.co.nz/Dive+Trips++Events/All+Upcoming+Dive+Trips.html>

**Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Feb – Hen & Chickens Is**, with Yukon Dive, \$200. Leave from Marsden cove. Contact shop.

***Global Dive - Ph. 920 5200.*** or <https://www.globaldive.net/page/trips>

***Aucklandscubadive – Ph. 478 2814*** or <https://www.aucklandscubadive.co.nz/dive-trips>

***Cairns Live-a-board 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2022 from \$4849pp .***

Twin share Ex Auckland – 6 nights Coral Sea & Ribbon Reefs with Mike Ball Adventures 4 days diving with up to 18 dives. 1 night in Cairns, Air fares included ex Ak – with Kiwi Divers – 09 426 9834 or 021 1507 9547 or call **Margaret for more details 0274 839 839.**

**Other events & suggestions please contact a committee member or organise it yourself & get the club to make up your numbers. i.e. – Dives, trips NZ & O’Seas, Events, Outings, Tramps, Dinners, Movies, whatever social event tickles your fancy.**

### Our Club’s Trip Rules (Organiser’s rules apply for overseas trips)

- A. Bookings allowed on all trips. ***Two trips & club membership is a must.***
- B. **A deposit or full payment to be made at time of booking.**
- C. Full payment MUST be paid at least two weeks before departure date.



- D. Trip Organiser to handle trip & bookings, & Treasurer to handle finances. Cancellations due to weather will be refunded in full, or transferred to another trip.
- E. Members cancelling for any reason will lose full monies unless they find a replacement for their position on the trip.
- F. The trips Organiser will determine if there are enough people to run a trip & if not will notify cancellation two weeks prior to departure. **Non - financial members will be charged an extra \$10 on trips.**

**Membership: Single – \$40 Family - \$50.00**

**For the club to servive we need paid up members see Margaret or Trish next meeting or do it online.**

**Club's Internet bank account is 06 0122 0074227 00 & don't forget to put in your name  
Club Membership also includes Affiliation to the New Zealand Underwater Association**

## **7 Signs You Need a Scuba Refresher**



[Brooke Morton](#)

Updated by [Sarah Wormald](#) on December 5, 2021

Sure, you have a certification card, but that doesn't always mean you're feeling ready to dive. If it has been a while since your last dive, you may be in need of a [PADI ReActivate](#) scuba refresher program. Here are seven signs to look for.

### **1. You can't find your C-card.**

Sure, someone from the dive center can call PADI® to confirm you're certified, but if you can't find the card, that's a sign that perhaps too much time has passed since your last dive.

### **2. You finally have a vacation planned and you want to dive.**

You could spend precious time at your destination catching up on skills — or you could do that work with your hometown dive center and have more time in the water on your holiday!

### **3. It's been a while since your last dive, and you will be diving with your kids.**

“A lot of times, we are dealing with families that got certified together,” says Lyn Fishman, owner of Mid-Atlantic Scuba Center located in Bensalem, PA, outside Philadelphia. “One thing I remind parents before they get in the water is that they are going to be responsible for another person, and I ask if they feel up to it.”

If your answer to this would be “No”, then you should seriously consider a refresher course.



### **4. Six to twelve months have elapsed since your last dive.**

“One of the first questions we ask someone who is coming to dive is, “When is the last time you were in the water?” says Jeff Cleary, owner of Sea Dwellers Dive Center in Key Largo, Florida.

Some dive shops will suggest a refresher if you haven't been diving in six months, especially if you have less than 20 life time dives. If you have an extensive diving history (verified by a log book), then you may not need to consider a refresher unless it's been a year or more since your last dives.

### **5. The thought of putting your gear together makes you nervous.**

If you're struggling to remember just how the gear fits together, keep in mind that the divemaster can assist you — but it might also be time for a refresher course.

Photo: Tod Warren

### **6. You can't remember when your last dive was.**

If your last dive was more than a decade ago, you may need more than just a refresher course.

Fishman starts by asking folks how long it's been since their last dive.



### **7. You've had a break from diving and had only a few dives prior to your break**

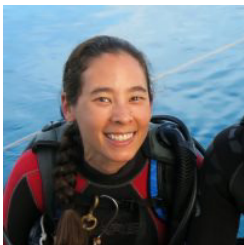
“Then I ask about the time before they stopped diving. I ask them to estimate how many dives they had before they stopped. For some people, it's been 15 years and they guess that they had maybe 10 dives before they stopped,” says Fishman.

She adds, “It's always their choice, of course, but we recommend taking a full course at that point.”

If you're still unsure if you need a scuba refresher, know that you always have the option of hiring a private divemaster to serve as a guide for you and/or your buddy or family. Always be honest and open when explaining your diving history and experience. This information is key to the Divemaster / Instructor diving with you. It affects the choices they make when deciding on dive sites and better enables them to make sure both you and your family or buddies are safe underwater.

If you identify with any of the above, it might be time to call your local dive center and schedule time for the [PADI ReActivate](#) program.

## **Dive Accident Case Studies: Rapid Ascents**



[Megan Denny](#)

The scenarios below are based on [real-life diving incidents documented by Divers Alert Network](#) (DAN).

### **Lost Weight Belt Causes Runaway Ascent**

During the end of a dive, a diver unexpectedly lost her weight belt and began a rapid ascent to the surface from 20ft (6m). “I exhaled and dumped air from my dry suit as quickly as possible and tried to flare my body to increase drag. My dive buddy tried to grab me but I was dragging him up too,” the diver reported.

The buddy team aborted their dive and swam to shore. Luckily, neither the diver nor her buddy reported any injuries.



## Notes from DAN:

*A lost weight belt need not cause a rapid uncontrolled ascent. Putting a lot of weight on a single belt is akin to putting all of one's eggs in a basket. It may also increase the tension on the buckle, making it more likely to open unexpectedly.*

*On the upside, this diver attempted to flare out and increase her drag, to slow her ascent. In the face of an uncontrolled ascent this was the best course of action to take, and may have prevented the incident from becoming more serious.*

*If the diver had a BCD with integrated weights, the weight could be distributed between non-droppable rear pockets, a weight-belt, the two integrated pouches. Steel tanks and weight harnesses are other ways of distributing the required weight between different locations.*

*Uncontrolled ascents are relatively rare but when they do occur, every diver should remember the first rule of diving: **Never hold your breath!***

### Unintended Rapid Ascent Due to Uncontrolled Inflation

On the seventh day of a liveaboard trip, a diver's low pressure inflator unexpectedly stuck in the on position. The diver rapidly ascended from 93 ft (28m) to the surface in about 15 seconds.

“[The incident occurred] on my 18th dive of a seven-day diving trip. We had been diving nitrox at approximately a 32% mix all week.” the diver explained. “I hit the inflator button on my new BCD; it jammed and shot me straight up to the surface...despite me frantically pulling on the shoulder mounted dump valve. There was so much noise and so many bubbles surrounding me and obscuring my vision that I probably could not have disconnected the inflator hose even if I had thought to do so. I broke the surface, was picked-up by the dive skiff and the driver immediately started me on a DAN bottle of oxygen which I continued to breathe from after returning to the boat.”

The incident occurred during the first dive of the day, about 20 minutes into the dive. The diver remained out of the water, drank plenty of fluids and stayed out of the sun for the remainder of the day and reported, “virtually no after effects” from the experience.

## Notes from DAN:

*This diver was very fortunate that this unforeseeable event happened during the first dive of the day, after only 20 minutes, and while breathing nitrox. However, given that it was the diver's 18th dive in a week and this took place in a remote locale, it was prudent to breathe oxygen, maintain adequate hydration and forego the rest of the day's diving.*

*During diver training it is common to practice quickly disconnecting an inflator hose in case such a runaway inflation were to occur. There is something to be said in favor of all divers regularly practicing this skill at the end of a dive, while at the surface. The more often a diver tries to quickly disconnect the inflator hose then the faster the diver will become at achieving it.*



### Savvy Diver Prevents Uncontrolled Ascent

A diver experienced a rapid ascent when diving a site for the first time. The incident occurred during the first dive of the day in an unexpectedly strong current. Here is the rescuer's account of what happened:

“I regularly dive with a small group of experienced divers off a privately owned boat. We are part of a group on Meetup.com, and occasionally others join us for a dive. A diver with advanced open-water certification and about 30 dives joined us for an after-work dive on the Jim Torgerson (RSB-1) wreck. The current was strong enough that some divers familiar with this site complained about it.

“The new diver was struggling as he went down along the anchor line with his buddy. A few minutes into my dive, I heard a rapid tank tapping, and another diver pointed to the new diver ascending from the wreck far from the anchor line. He was buoyant and gaining speed.

“I was diving with a SS Minnus dive propulsion vehicle ([DPV](#)) and was able to quickly ascend and bring him back to the anchor line. If I had not grabbed him, he would have done an uncontrolled ascent and surfaced in current, unable to get back to the boat on his own.”

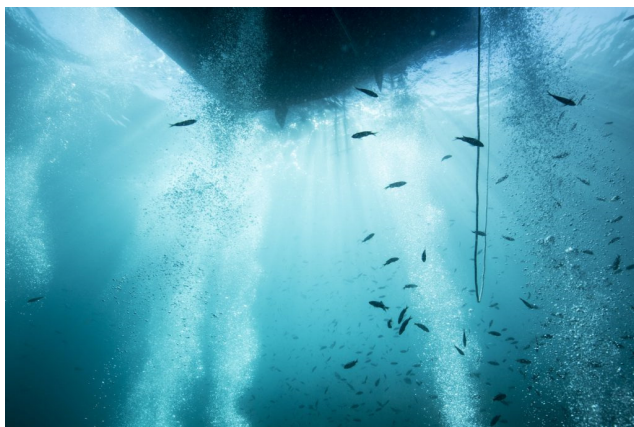
Photo: Tod Warren

### Notes from DAN:

*This was a typical case of a diver diving beyond his training and experience. Informal dive groups are likely to overlook this issue because of respect for autonomy and freedom. While each diver is responsible for himself, everybody in the group would be affected in case of a dive accident; thus, divers in the group have the right to check each other's competency. It is not impolite; it is a part of the safe dive culture. Buddy systems among divers who are strangers to each other often fail. It happened in this case, too.*

*For the buddy system to work, divers need to establish rules before the dive, be comfortable about the other diver's skills and agree to a common dive plan. When diving in a strong current such as in this case, a buddy check at surface before descent is often impossible. Thus, it is more important to have a good pre-dive conversation and complete cross-checking.*

*Another diver in this group most likely saved the life of this inexperienced diver. The rescuer probably would not have succeeded without using the scooter, which enabled him to catch up with the ascending diver before he got too shallow and bring him back to a safe depth. An exerted diver experiencing an emergency ascent often ends up with lung barotrauma, arterial gas embolism and drowning. Experienced divers in informal groups should not keep to themselves. Instead, they should volunteer their advice for the good of the entire group.*



### Tortoise and turtle shells by Garden State Tortoise

Top row left to right:  
Eastern box turtle, Pancake tortoise and Bell's hingeback tortoise.

Middle row left to right:  
Radiated tortoise, Florida box turtle and Burmese star tortoise.

Bottom row left to right:  
Spotted turtle, Bourret's box turtle and European pond turtle.

Did you know there were that many different types?



**Marine biologist Stephen Palumbi picks 10 of his favorite underwater creatures.**

**From the oldest living animal to the fastest food in the sea, they're all pretty extreme.**

Marine biologist Stephen Palumbi (his new TEDxStanford Talk is [The Extreme Life of the Sea](#)) knows a lot about what goes on beneath the world's waves. Palumbi is the director of [Stanford University's Hopkins Marine Station](#), where he is mapping the genome of sea corals. As a scientist, professor and researcher, he has also shown the value of DNA identification in whale conservation and in seafood markets (see his TED Talk: [The Hidden Toxins in the Fish We Eat](#)) and traced the variation in sea urchin sperm shape. (How about that for dinner conversation?) His recent book [The Extreme Life of the Sea](#) — written with his son, novelist Anthony Palumbi — shines a light on the wild world of sea life. Recently we asked Palumbi to share some of his favorite sea creatures — from the obscure to the fascinating to the just plain strange. He gracefully obliged. Below, his top 10 picks:

### **1. The sailfish**

Sailfish are the fastest eaters in the sea. They can move at 40 miles per hour — powering through schools of fish, stunning them with blows from their bills, and gulping them down on the fly. Their eyes and brains have to work so fast at these speeds that they need to be heated up, using specialized heat-generating muscles that line the eyes and brain. *Photo: iStock.*



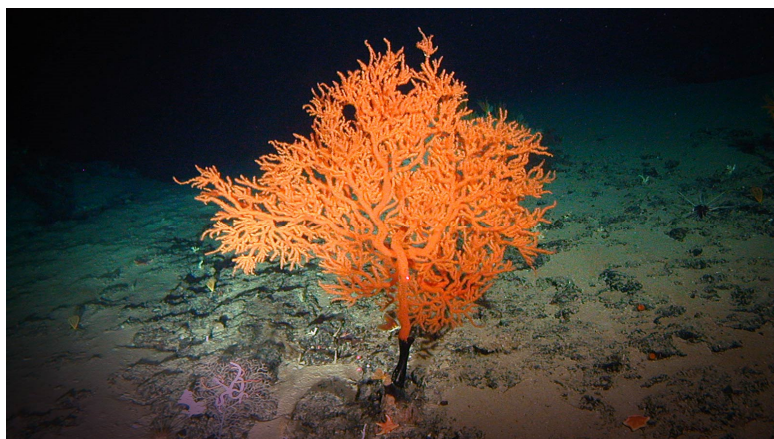
### **2. The bowhead whale**



The bowhead whale is the oldest living mammal. This was proven by the discovery of century-old brass harpoon tips embedded in scars on the backs of whales hunted in the 1990s. These harpoons haven't been thrown at whales for over a century. Thus, the very same animals hunted in the 1990s also survived human attacks 100 years ago. *Photo: Paul Nicklen/Getty Images.*

### **3. The coral leiopathes (deep water black coral)**

The oldest known animal is a coral living on the slopes of Hawaii — deep in the sea, thousands of feet below the surface, where conditions are dark and cold and slow. These black corals grow a hair's width a year. The oldest is now known to have lived longer than any other animal on Earth — 4,270 years. Before some of the Egyptian pyramids were built, this coral was alive. *Photo courtesy of [NOAA Hawaiian Undersea Research Lab](#).*





#### 4. The Pompeii worm



The animal with the largest temperature tolerance is the Pompeii worm, which lives at the undersea hot-water vents, where hot water at immense pressure billows out from under the earth's crust. The worm's tail sits at the temperature of hot tea, but its tentacled head — an inch away — dips into the ice-cold water of the deep sea. To learn how this amazing creature constructs its cells and proteins across such a temperature range, the genome of the Pompeii worm is being decoded. *Photo courtesy of [University of Delaware College of Marine Studies](#).*

#### 5. The humpback whale

One of the most exuberant animal displays in the ocean is the breaching of humpback whales. The huge fins on humpback whales were once thought to generate huge drag forces on the whales because the fins are so long and so bumpy. But detailed testing has shown the bumps actually reduce the drag forces generated by the fins. Similar designs on fan blades have resulted in a new generation of low-drag, high-efficiency products. *Photo: iStock.*



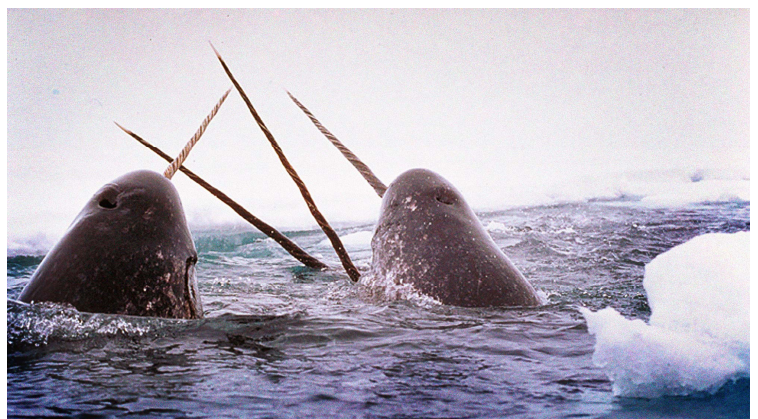
#### 6. The beluga whale



Beluga whales have some of the best sonar in the sea. Their swollen head houses the 'melon', a fat-filled space that focuses incoming sound waves. Belugas need this extra acuity. They live among drifting ice in narrow channels, and they need to use sonar to see ice holes that they can breathe through. *Photo: [Jenny Spadafora \(jspad\)/Flickr](#).*

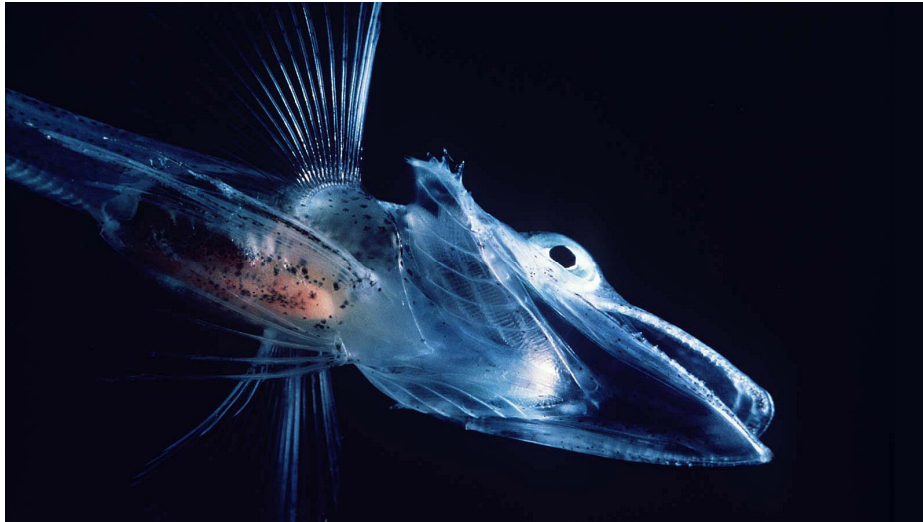
#### 5. The narwhal

Narwhals gave a legendary boost to the Middle Ages — as unicorn horns. The tusks of narwhals were collected in the polar reaches of the North Atlantic and sold around Europe to nobles and collectors. Drinking from a "unicorn horn" was said to prevent poisoning. Each tusk is a tooth, overgrown from the side of the mouth, but extending 10 to 14 feet in length. Tusks have no known function — but there are two clues for future marine biologists: Most males have tusks, but few females do. And some narwhals have two. *Photo: [Glenn Williams/National Institute of Standards and Technology](#).*





## 8. The icefish



The Antarctic icefish live in water colder than freezing — 2 degrees below zero Centigrade. Ocean water doesn't freeze at this temperature because it's full of salt. The blood of the icefish is less salty than seawater; instead, it keeps itself from freezing by using ice proteins, sometimes called antifreeze proteins, that attach to ice crystals forming in the blood stream. Once the ice crystals are coated with antifreeze protein, they can't stick together, so they don't grow. The icefish of the Antarctic have used this adaptation to become very successful — making up

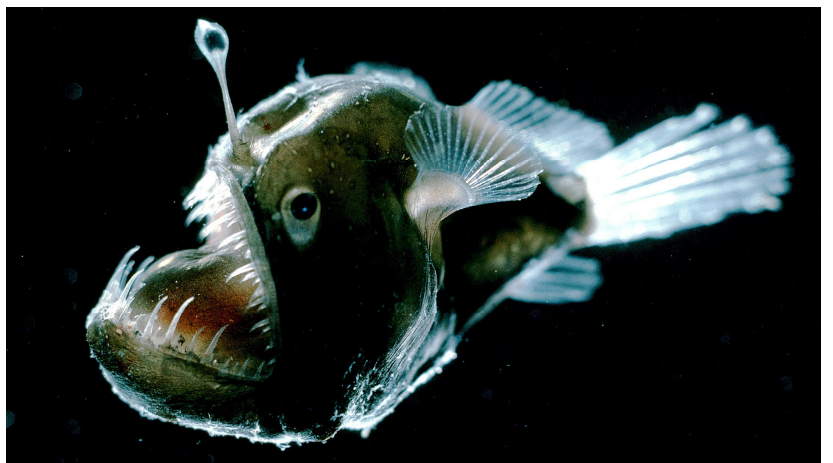
95% of the fish biomass around Antarctica. *Photo: [Uwe Kils/Wikimedia Commons](#).*

## 9. Clownfish

Clownfish families were made famous in 'Finding Nemo,' but real ones have more peculiar lives than the movie lets on. In a sea anemone where the clownfish live, the biggest fish is always a female, laying all the eggs. The next biggest fish is a functional male, fertilizing them. And lots of smaller clownfish are immature males. When the female dies or is eaten by a predator, the biggest male switches sex to become female. At the same time the biggest immature male grows into a functional male that can fertilize the eggs. This conveyor belt system of parenting assures a constant supply of baby Nemos. *Photo: [Nick Hobgood/Wikipedia](#).*



10. The anglerfish Anglerfish inhabit the deep sea, and for a century they baffled marine biologists. At first only female anglerfish were known; where the males were and what they looked like was a complete mystery. Then a parasitologist began studying the worm-like parasites generally attached to anglerfish females. What he found, instead of parasites, were anglerfish males — each undergoing a radical transformation. When a male anglerfish is tiny, he finds and attaches to a female. First his jaws dissolve and his bloodstream fuses with the female's. Then his brain disappears and his guts shrink. Eventually he is little more than a testis, fertilizing the eggs of one female, for the rest of his life. *Photo courtesy of [Edith Widder](#).*



# New Zealand Diving Calendar: Hotspots for All Year Round



[Sarah Wormald](#)

[New Zealand](#) is a truly unique destination both on land and underwater. The staggering top-side scenery is mirrored equally, if not more, underwater. If you are wondering when to dive in New Zealand, here are ten hotspots which offer you a year round calendar of amazing dive sites to explore.

Image provided by [Kate Malcom](#)

## **Kaikoura South Island (December to February)**

If you are looking for once-in-a-lifetime diving, Kaikoura attracts dusky dolphins, albatross, New Zealand fur seals, and sperm whales. A dive into these waters give you a once in a lifetime experience of swimming with these majestic sea mammals.

You can dive year-round in Kaikoura, though summer offers the best water temperature and climate for exploring the coastline and mountains during non-diving days. The water temperature ranges from 50°F (10°C) in winter to 62°F (17°C) in summer, so a 7 to 10 mm wetsuit or a drysuit is recommended.



Suggested PADI Courses: [Drysuit Diver Specialty](#), [Digital Underwater Photographer Specialty](#), [Peak Performance Buoyancy Specialty](#).

## **Milford Sound – Piopiotahi : Fiordland National Park (All Year)**

Fiordland National Park lies within the Te Wahipounamu World Heritage Area and is known for its calm and clear water that offers excellent visibility.

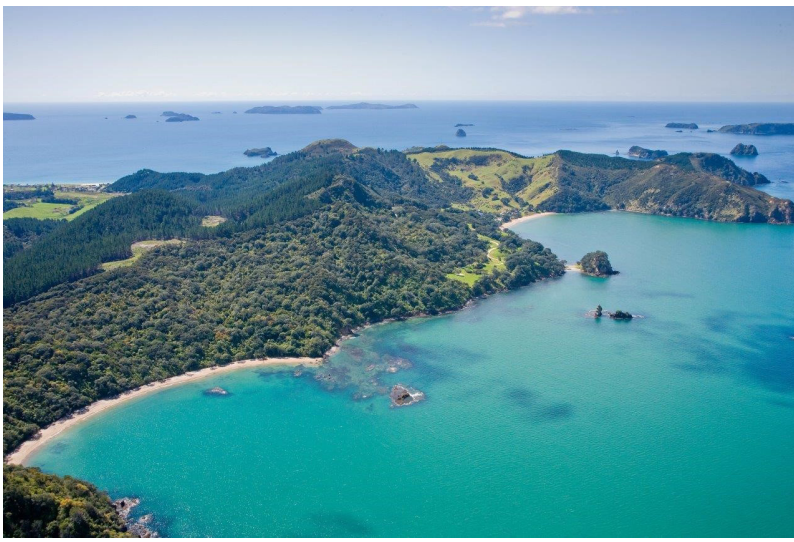
Diving here is a unique experience. The sheer cliff faces of Milford combined with the regions heavy rainfall, results in a unique ecosystem to explore where black-coral trees flourish. Milford Sound is also home to abundant macro-life including nudibranchs, a variety of crustaceans, several shark species and a wide diversity of fish life. It's possible to see some amazing marine mammals including dolphins and seals. Milford Sound is unique in that it's the one place in New Zealand with coral diving available. Water temperature ranges from 54°F (12°C) in winter to 64°F (18°C) in late summer resulting in amazing diving all year round. A drysuit is recommended.

Suggested PADI Courses: [Drysuit Diver Specialty](#), [Underwater Naturalist Specialty](#), [Peak Performance Buoyancy Specialty](#).

## **Mercury and Aldermen Islands (January to March)**

Located off the Coromandel Peninsula to the southeast of Mercury Bay this region is home to the remnants of a volcanic complex. The rugged and rocky dive sites offer tunnels, pinnacles and a variety of pelagic marine species including huge schools of mackerel which will leave any underwater photography in awe. The Mercury Islands offer moray eels, crayfish, abundant nudibranchs and stunning above-water scenery of white, sandy bays and rugged coastline.





This region is similar to Poor Knights and offers year round diving, although the best time to dive is during the summer months when water temperatures are warmest. Temperatures range from approximately 57°F (14°C) in winter to 70°F (21°C) in late summer. At least a 5 mm wetsuit with a hood is recommended in the summer, and a 7 mm or more in the winter, depending on your personal cold tolerance levels.

Suggested PADI Courses: [Digital Underwater Photographer Specialty](#), [Underwater Naturalist Specialty](#), [Fish Identification Specialty](#), [Peak Performance Buoyancy Specialty](#).

Image provided by [Linda and Darrell Bird](#)

### **Kapiti Island and Wellington (January to June)**

Kapiti Island is considered to offer the best scuba diving in Wellington. There is an enormous range of wildlife species on land, and underwater is just as varied.

The best times to dive are at the end of the summer from January through to June and a 7mm wetsuit is recommended.

Suggested PADI Courses: [Digital Underwater Photographer Specialty](#), [Peak Performance Buoyancy Specialty](#), [Underwater Naturalist Specialty](#).

### **Tui Wreck (January to February)**

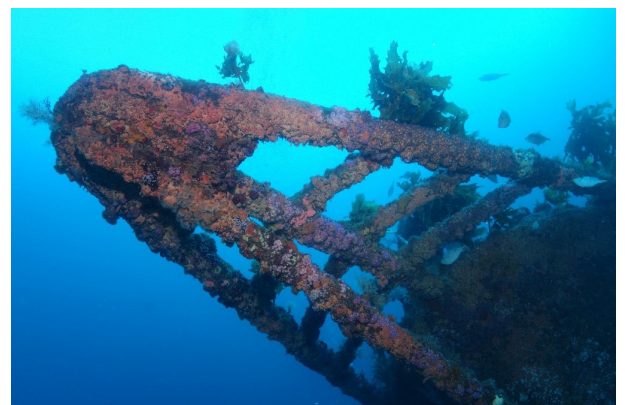
The former research ship HMNZS Tui, lies in 100 ft/30 metres of water and was strategically sunk to make artificial reefs. Penetration dives are possible when diving this 203 ft/62 meter long wreck. There are purpose cut access and exit points to explore the control room, bridge, crew living quarters and engine rooms. Outside of the wreck, another highlight is the golden snapper which school above the ship.

Water temperatures range from 25-77 °F (19-25°C) during the summer months through to 14-17°C (57-62 °F) during winter. A 7mm wetsuit with a hood can be used year round, depending on your personal tolerance levels. A drysuit during the winter may be more comfortable.

Suggested PADI Courses: [Deep Diver Specialty](#), [Wreck Diver Specialty](#), [Advanced Open Water Diver](#).

### **Rainbow Warrior (February to June)**

Located in Matakauri Bay in the Bay of Islands, the *Rainbow Warrior* was the flagship vessel for Greenpeace. She was sunk by the French foreign intelligence in 1985 while docked at the Auckland waterfront. The subsequent explosions resulted in the death of Fernando Pereira, a Portuguese-Dutch photographer. He had returned to the ship to gather his camera equipment after the first blast. After authorities refloated the ship for forensic examinations, it was relocated to Matakauri Bay and scuttled as an artificial reef. It's a popular wreck dive with not only an interesting history. The wreck also offers divers colourful jewel anemones, John Dory, kingfish, moray eels and crayfish.



The warmest water combined with the best visibility is from February to June. A 5mm wetsuit during the end of the summer and a 7mm wetsuit towards June is recommended.

Suggested PADI Courses: [Wreck Diver Specialty](#), [Peak Performance Buoyancy Specialty](#), [Underwater Naturalist Specialty](#). Image provided by [Craig Johnston](#)

### **Goat Island (February to June)**

Goat Island is home to a myriad of marine life including snapper, crayfish, and blue cod. You'll also find a diversity of topographies from rocky shores that are exposed during low tide, to underwater cliffs, canyons, deep reefs, and sand flats too. Each habitat boasts its own highlights from seaweed forests, sea squirts, sponges and anemones through to shellfish. Goat Island has abundant opportunities for underwater photography.

The warmest waters are during the summer months when a 5mm wetsuit will be enough for most divers. For the cooler, winter months a 7mm wetsuit and hood are recommended.

Suggested PADI Courses: [Digital Underwater Photographer Specialty](#), [Fish Identification Specialty](#), [Underwater Naturalist Specialty](#).

### **Poor Knights Islands (All Year)**

Poor Knights Islands is renowned for being one of the best places to go scuba diving Auckland, year-round! The Poor Knights Islands Marine Reserve is where an unusual blend of marine life thrives against a backdrop of sheer volcanic seamounts. The unique dive sites here straddle the line between the tropical and temperate South Pacific, and they boast a unique mix of marine life from both regions. Three stand-out dive sites include:

**Landing Bay Pinnacle:** An impressive pinnacle dropping to 150 ft/46 m, look out for firebrick starfish, schooling mackerel and maomao.

**Rikoriko Cave:** Known for its nocturnal nudibranchs and carpet sharks.

**Northern Arch:** An iconic Poor Knights dive site featuring a huge undersea arch. Look out for short-tailed stingrays.

Suggested PADI Courses: [Fish Identification Specialty](#), [Underwater Naturalist Specialty](#), [Deep Diver Specialty](#), [Digital Underwater Photographer Specialty](#).

Image provided by [Kate Malcom](#)



### **Aramoana Mole, Dunedin (July to December)**

Originally built to protect the pier, this man-made wall has become a popular dive site. Along with the wrecks of scuttled boats, seals and kelp forests there is plenty to keep divers entertained here for dive after dive. Temperatures range here from winter 50°F (10°C) through to summer 65°F (18°C).

Suggested PADI Courses: [Underwater Naturalist Specialty](#), [Peak Performance Buoyancy Specialty](#).

### **Lermontov Wreck (October to April) –**

After striking rocks near Cape Jackson **in 1986**, the *Mikhail Lermontov*, came to rest on the sea floor. This 20,000-ton Russian cruise liner is one of the world's largest and most dive-accessible wrecks, at 576 ft (176 m) long. A penetration dive on this wreck allows divers to access the ballroom while admiring the spiral staircases and chandeliers along the way.

The wreck is now also home to kelp, blue and red cod, blennies, dog fish, sea perch, carpet sharks, octopus and an occasional king fish.



The main diving season runs from October to April, with water temperatures ranging from 54°F (12°C) in winter to 68°F (20°C) in summer. A minimum 7mm wetsuit or drysuit is recommended and for warmest water plan to dive between February and April.

## 10 Surprising Marine Animals Close to Extinction



### Brooke McConnell

Being divers and ambassadors for the ocean, we're able to regularly appreciate the beauty of the underwater world and its inhabitants. But what if one day all these incredible marine animals were to disappear? Unfortunately, this is the harsh reality that we're now facing and it's called *extinction*. Our marine animals are essential to the survival of our ecosystem and that's why they need your help.

Here are 10 marine creatures that are surprisingly close to extinction:

### 1. Scalloped Hammerhead Sharks

**Conservation Status:** Endangered.

**Location:** Warm temperate and tropical areas such as [Costa Rica](#), [Australia](#) and [Bahamas](#).

**Major Threats:** Commercial fishing, shark culling and shark fin trade.

**How you can help:**

- Learn more about sharks with the [AWARE Shark Conservation Diver course](#).
- Support ethical, [local operators](#) who choose tourism over fishing.



### 2. Hawksbill Sea Turtle

**Conservation Status:** Critically endangered.

**Location:** Throughout the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans.

**Major Threats:** Pollution (mostly plastic), illegal wildlife trading and bycatch.

**How you can help:**

- [Reduce your plastic use](#) and join a [Dive Against Debris](#) or beach clean-up.
- [Snorkel and dive with turtles sustainably](#).



### 3. River Dolphins

**Conservation Status:** Vulnerable to critically endangered.

**Location:** Rivers including the Ganges, Indus, Yangtze, Mekong and Amazon.

**Major Threats:** Dam building, bycatch, boats and pollution.





#### 4. Mako Sharks

**Conservation Status:** Endangered

**Location:** Warm and temperate waters such as Australia, [New Zealand](#) and [California](#).

**Major Threats:** Commercial fishing, bycatch and shark fin trade.

**How you can help:**

- Learn more about sharks with the [AWARE Shark Conservation Diver course](#).
- Sign [Project AWARE's petition](#) to help end uncontrolled mako shark fishing.



#### 5. Galapagos Penguin

**Conservation Status:** Endangered.

**Location:** [Galapagos Islands](#).

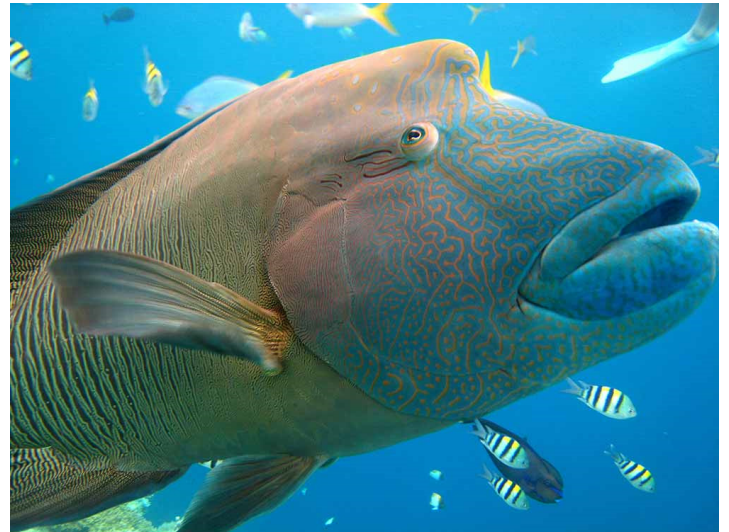
**Major Threats:** Pollution, bycatch and climate change.

#### 6. Humphead Wrasse

**Conservation Status:** Endangered.

**Location:** From the East Coast of [Africa](#) and [Egypt](#) to the Indian and Pacific Ocean.

**Major Threats:** Over fishing (especially in Southeast Asia).



#### 7. Hawaiian Monk Seal

**Conservation Status:** Endangered.

**Location:** [Hawaii](#)

**Major Threats:** Food limitation, habitat loss, bycatch & shark predators.



## 8. Giant Devil Ray

**Conservation Status:** Endangered.

**Location:** Mediterranean Sea and East Atlantic.

**Major Threats:** Pollution, bycatch and commercial fishing.



## 9. Whale Shark

**Conservation Status:** Endangered.

**Location:** Tropical oceans such as Australia, [Asia](#), [Mexico](#) and [Honduras](#).

**Major Threats:** Commercial fishing and pollution.

**How you can help:**

- [Snorkel and dive with whale sharks sustainably.](#)

## 10. Short-Nosed Sea Snake

**Conservation Status:** Critically endangered.

**Location:** Northern and Western Australia.

**Major Threats:** Climate change, bycatch and low reproduction rates.

**How you can help:**

- [Get involved](#) with awareness and fundraising campaigns that support global change
- Take the [Project AWARE Specialist course](#) and learn more about how to protect the ocean.

Although not listed in this article our own NZ Maui dolphin is an endangered species also. Ed.

And thanks to PADI for bringing these articles to our attention.

**Do remember all the rules for diving & fishing.**

Not sure? Then look them up and don't get caught out.

**The MAF regulations vary in particular when it comes to your catch size/limits & locations.**

Stay safe & be safe



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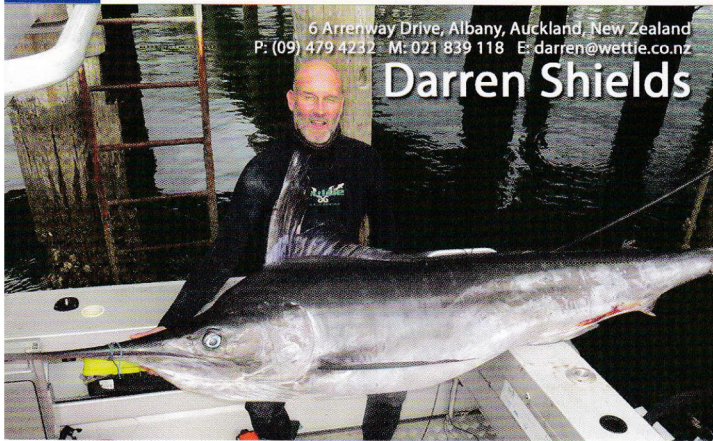
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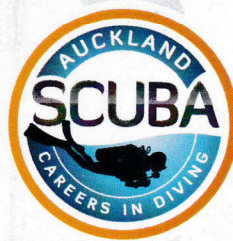
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