

Scuba & N2O

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION \$20

ADVENTURES MAGAZINE

An aerial photograph of a rugged, rocky coastline. A weathered, two-story wooden building with a corrugated metal roof sits on a rocky outcrop. A blue boat is docked at the shore, with several people on the deck. The surrounding area is filled with large, light-colored rocks and patches of green vegetation.

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WHALE OF A TALE SERIES

DIVING INTO HISTORY
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Publisher's Note: will we find our Normal?

It has now been four months since our world turned upside down and inside out. Although the pandemic continues, some countries have begun the process of easing on lockdown restrictions. Amid this chaos, many of us want to return to some sense of normalcy – but can we truly define our new norm? Since this pandemic began, our staff buckled down in our homes, leaving only for essentials and limiting our contacts with others. Our son, who is graduating this year, will not know what it is like to don his cap and gown and walk down the aisle to receive his diploma; his senior year dramatically different. His world has changed, along with ours. Of course, we are lucky, if you can say that, and have remained healthy, safe, and able to get out to retrieve groceries and essential items. It hasn't always been easy though as we watched our community spiral into a bizarre edition of the Twilight Zone; people grabbed every roll of toilet paper, hand sanitizer, and clorox wipes, some pushing people over, tempers flaring, and some even flashing weapons. We have attempted to remain calm, we are after all to lead by example so our offspring may learn how to manage life with flexibility and grace, My son wants to know when things will return to normal – but what is this normal we seek and how do we define what it should look like? It is certain we have all experienced loss, regret, and even a great deal of anxiety from the uncertainty of our world as we watch hospitals turn into morgues, businesses collapse, the unemployment rates skyrocket, and our economies faltering as they teeter on the brink of disaster. But here we are, one more day and a step ahead from yesterday. And although everything seems out of order and somewhat bleak, I have decided to act kind, patient, and understanding. I have decided to encourage others to smile, expressed kind words even to those who falter at nicety, and offered a hand when possible. I will look at the life ahead as an adventure. Stay safe and stay healthy.

Selene Muldowney

About the Cover:

Photo submitted by Gene Peterson from Atlantic Divers, "This is a great shot by Steve Seeberger of my group at Sambro Island, Nova Scotia." Please visit their website at www.njwreckdivers.com

SOUND
BITES

SCUBAH2OMAG

Shout-outs!

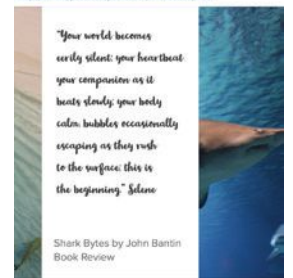
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Book review on John Bantini's impressive impression on sharks! Shark Bytes is a great read - a must read for any ocean aficionado. John Bantini, Fernhurst Books
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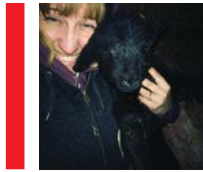
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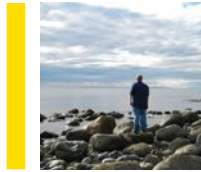
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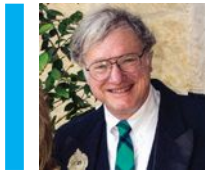


CAITLYN RUSKELL

Caitlyn is Content Writer and Editor for Divers Alert Network in Durham, NC. She is an active PADI and NAUI Instructor, RAID Rebreather Instructor and graduate of the University of Georgia.



A BEACH IS NOT ONLY A SWEEP OF SAND, BUT SHELLS OF SEA CREATURES, THE SEA GLASS, THE SEAWEED, THE INCONGRUOUS OBJECTS WASHED UP BY THE OCEAN. **HENRY GRUNWALD**



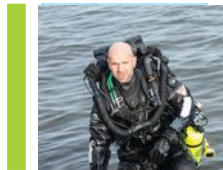
GARY LEHMAN

Gary came to diving later than most, and loves to get away when he can – which is not enough! Some of the most memorable experiences ever for Gary have been underwater with his club buddies, turtles and sharks! When not diving or thinking about it, he writes about it!



ALEC PEIRCE

Alec Peirce is recognized as one of the finest scuba diving presenters of his generation. He holds instructor certifications with seven different scuba training agencies plus many honorary awards from the scuba industry including the prestigious "Platinum Pro 5000 Diver".



ERIC PETKOVIC

Erik is an explorer, author, maritime historian, shipwreck researcher, and technical diver with over 20 years of diving experience. Erik has been featured in dive publications worldwide, is the author of three books, and regularly presents at the largest dive shows and museums in the country.



JAMES LAPENTA

I am a recreational and technical SCUBA Instructor whose primary goal is to create divers that are safe, skilled, and competent. I'd rather lose business than certify an unqualified diver. It is my moral and ethical duty to call out unsafe practices, standards, and those who defend or use them.



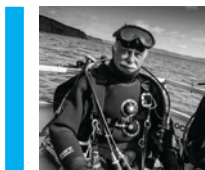
BONNIE MCKENNA

Destined to a life with adventure, Bonnie McKenna took her open water dive in 1955 with no wetsuit or BCD, a J-valve tank, double hose regulator, and fins that weighed a ton. She explored the world, with camera in hand, as an international flight attendant. Now retired, she spends her time working as a photojournalist and conservationist.



JOHN C FINE

The author Dr. John Christopher Fine is a marine biologist, Master Scuba Instructor and Instructor Trainer. He is an expert in maritime affairs and has authored 26 published books. His large format coffee table book: TREASURES OF THE SPANISH MAIN contains information and photographs of Spanish colonial shipwrecks.



GENE PETERSON

An accomplished wreck explorer, historian, speaker, instructor, and business owner, Gene is a man who wears many hats, and who has made significant strides in surfacing the deep history of New Jersey shipwrecks. Gene has over 40 years of experience in these fields, and we look forward to sharing his stories and expertise in future editions.



MICHAEL SALVAREZZA

Michael Salvarezza and Christopher Weaver have been diving the waters of the world since 1978. In that time, they have spent thousands of hours underwater and have accumulated a large and varied library of photographic images. They have presented their work in many multi-media slide presentations, and have appeared previously at Beneath the Sea, the Boston Sea Rovers Underwater Clinic, Ohio ScubaFest and Our World Underwater.

Eco-Photo Explorers (EPE) is a New York based organization and was formed in 1994 to help promote interest in protecting the environment through knowledge and awareness through the use of underwater photography.



CHRISTOPHER WEAVER




MARK NORDER

Mark has worked as a diver and dive supervisor for more than 30 years. He works in locations as diverse as Alaska's Bering Sea, the Missouri River and Gulf of Mexico. Mark currently resides in Southern California.

SEA ANEMONES...

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY MICHAEL SALVAREZZA & CHRISTOPHER P. WEAVER, ECO-PHOTO EXPLORERS



Anemonefish make their homes among the stinging tentacles of their host Anemone

PLANT OR ANIMAL?



One of the most common creatures encountered in the marine environment is also one of the most misunderstood and overlooked of all the marine organisms. Resembling a plant, stinging like a Jellyfish and devouring prey like a fearsome predator, the Sea Anemone is indeed a confusing creature.

Let's clear up the first point: The Sea Anemone is most definitely an animal. It is an invertebrate most closely related to the jellyfishes. Scientifically speaking, the Sea Anemones belong to the Phylum Coelenterata, the class Anthozoa and the order Actiniaria. Generally, their structure consists of a tube with a mouth at the top surrounded by stinging tentacles. The animal uses its tentacles to ensnare unsuspecting prey with stinging cells known as nematocysts. These stinging cells rarely affect people but they are toxic enough to paralyze small fish and invertebrates. Once the prey is immobilized, the Sea Anemone then draws the hapless creature into its mouth where it is consumed.



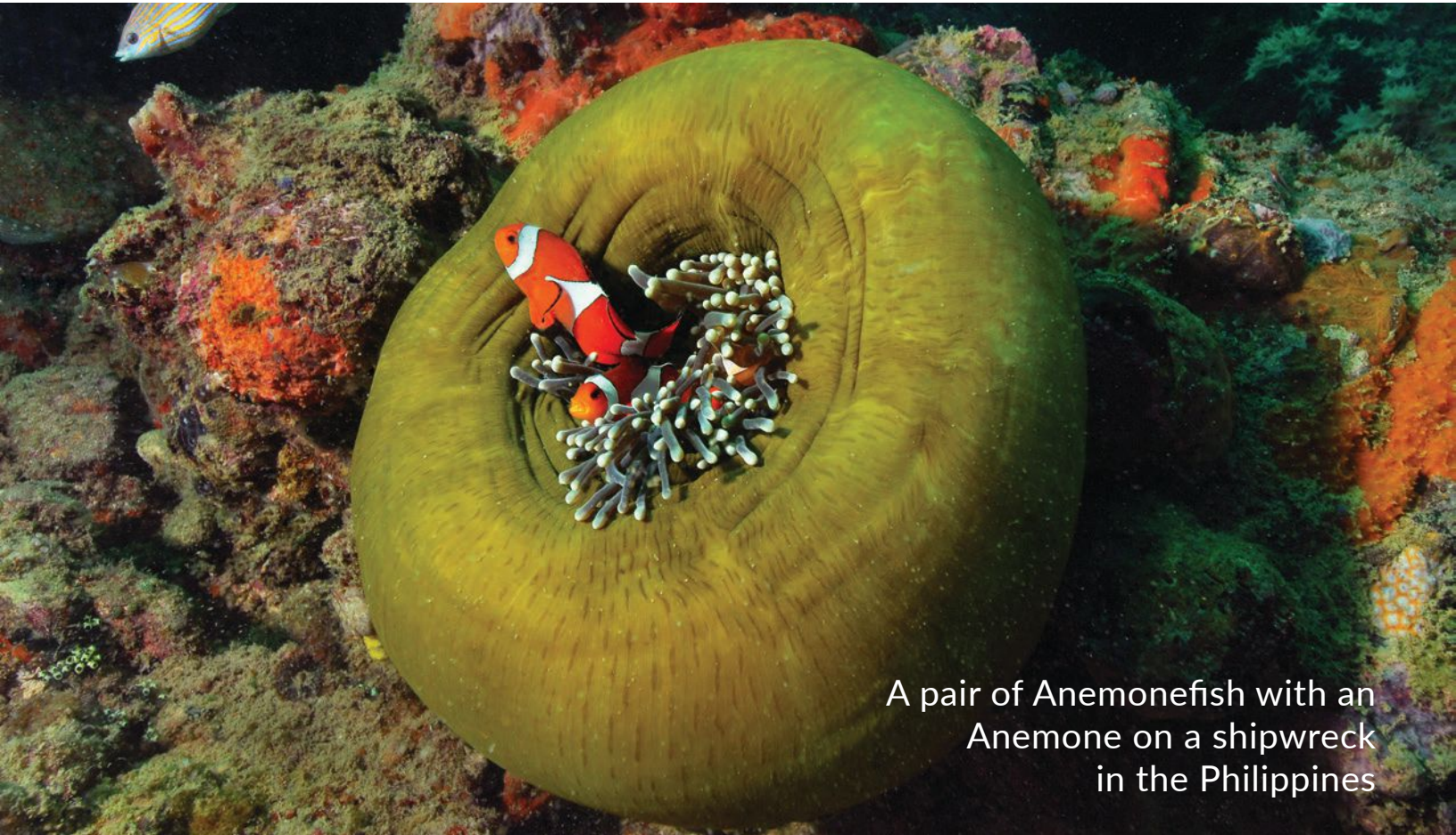
The cold waters of Norway's coast are home to brilliantly colored Anemones

The Sea Anemone's stout, muscular body forms a smooth, slimy disk (known as the basal disk) at the bottom. With the basal disk, the Sea Anemone is capable of sliding about very slowly but can also hold onto rocks and other hard surfaces so tenaciously that it is virtually impossible to remove the animal without tearing it apart. Some species of Sea Anemones have been known to occupy the same location for over 30 years while some, like the Frilled Anemone, have been seen to move 1 1/2 feet in 24 hours.

Most Sea Anemones are found attached to solid objects such as rocks and coral reefs, but some burrow holes in the sea floor from which only the feeding tentacles extend. Species of Sea Anemones can be found in all the world's oceans and they can be seen inhabiting shallow tide pools as well as completely covering deep-water rocks and reefs. We hail from the cool waters of the Northeast, and here Anemones literally cover many of our favorite shipwrecks.

Most Anemones are very sensitive to light and touch. They have a well-developed nerve net and a set of specialized muscles, which assist the anemone in contracting its mouth and tentacles completely inside the body. If you gently touch the tentacles, they will quickly withdraw. Many species are nocturnal in nature and will only extend their feeding tentacles at night or in the darkness of deep water. The ability to withdraw inside its body enables the anemone to resist drying during low tide and physical injury when threatened with attack.

While many Sea Anemones breed sexually others reproduce asexually. Some, like the Frilled Anemone, can reproduce by dividing lengthwise or by leaving behind bits of tissue as they slide about. These pieces of tissue later regenerate into complete anemones. Other species eject their eggs or sperm through the mouth during sexual reproduction and still others fertilize and brood their eggs internally.



A pair of Anemonefish with an Anemone on a shipwreck in the Philippines

Anemones are well known for the symbiotic relationships that they form with other marine life. In the Pacific Ocean, for example, it is common to see various species of Anemonefish living among the stinging tentacles of large Sea Anemones such as the *Stoichactis Kenti* Anemone, apparently immune to the stinging cells of the host animal. It is generally believed that the Anemonefish secretes a special mucus which prevents the Anemone from discharging its lethal stinging cells. The Sea Anemone and the Anemonefish are truly partners; in fact, some species of Sea Anemone have been found to be unable to live without its associated Anemonefish. The Anemonefish enjoys protection from predators because of the Anemone's stinging cells and "pays its rent" so to speak by bringing the Anemone scraps of food. In the Caribbean it is common to find small shrimp and crabs such as the Squat Anemone Shrimp, Pederson's Cleaner Shrimp and the Banded Clinging Crab living among the large tentacles of the Giant, Sun or Elegant Anemones. These small crustaceans enjoy the protection provided by the host animal's stinging tentacles, but it is not clear what, if any, benefit they provide the anemone.

Anemones come in a variety of brilliant colors, interesting shapes and sizes. The Strawberry Anemone found along the coast of California is a brilliant red while the Frilled Anemone of the North Atlantic is generally white or brown in color. The Giant Anemone of the Caribbean has long, clubbed tentacles that sway in the currents while the Knobby Anemone has long, thin, pointed, translucent tentacles. Sea Anemones can range in size from a few inches (Hidden Anemone) to over a foot across (Stoichactis Kenti Anemone). For those interested in studying marine life, Sea Anemones represent a fascinating group of animals on which to concentrate. For the underwater photographer, they often result in the subject of stunning portraits. Next time you encounter one of these fascinating creatures, whether it is while diving or snorkeling along a coral reef or wandering around a tide pool, take a moment to notice these organisms. And if your friends ask you, "Was that a plant or an animal", you'll know exactly what to tell them!

Finger Licking Good!

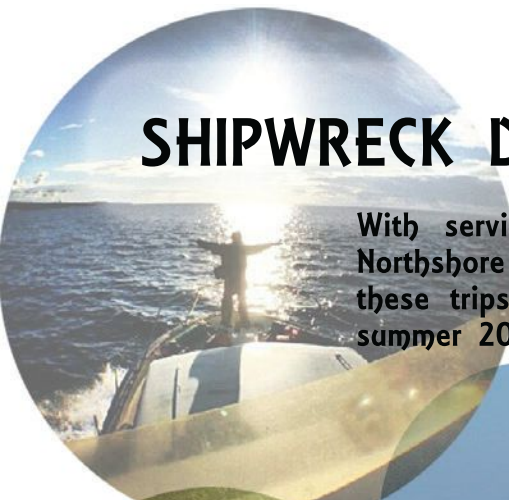


Frilled Anemones cover northeast shipwrecks



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Anemonefish from the Maldives Islands



Author Christopher Weaver photographs Anemones in Iceland



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