

# the staggering starfish

the official newsletter of the **GSNDAMBAA SCUBA Diving Club**

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## Octoboo Club Meeting

Our Octoboo club meeting will take place at the usual time, **6:00 PM** on the first **Thursday** of the month, which is on **Octoboo 6**. The in-person meeting will be at the home of ESSDB Jim and the virtual meeting will be via Zoom. If you wish to attend via Zoom and do not normally receive a Zoom invitation, please request an invitation by sending an email to [gsndambaa@hotmail.com](mailto:gsndambaa@hotmail.com) no later than **12:00 noon** on **Octoboo 6**. The agenda for this meeting includes planning our December bonus dive and hopefully an update from the grueling multi-year effort to create new club tee-shirts and sweatshirts. If someone has a 2023 tide chart we will also plan our January club dive. The meeting will formally close after the in-person attendees select an Edmonds restaurant for the post-meeting dinner.

## Club Dive/Camp Weekend Report

We had a great turnout for our mid-September Dive/Camp Weekend this year. The event was graciously hosted by ESSDBs Richard and Michelle at their retreat in the hills above Hoodspport. We had a total of 17 campers who enjoyed spectacular weather, some great food, wonderful companionship, and some great dives. We had 12 divers head up to Sund Rock for a couple wall dives. Visibility was good, at about 25 feet. We saw the usual critters that frequent this dive site, including several different nudibranchs, large wolf eels, ling cod, octopuses, and squat lobsters. Sightings reported by divers included 5 GPOs and a free-swimming wolf eel on the north wall and 4 GPOs (one on eggs) on the south wall. Everyone had a great time at this year's Dive/Camp Weekend. Spanky reported that the best thing about the whole weekend was having two opportunities to have a pistachio-cherry-chocolate chunk ice cream cone at the Hoodspport Coffee Company.

## Wolf Eels

Spanky thought it would be interesting to share a few facts about one of the iconic fish species that we frequently find on our dives in the cold, murky waters of the Pacific Northwest. As all club

## 2022-GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

10/01/2022 1:30 PM  
Club Dive at Possession Point Fingers

10/06/2022 6:00 PM  
Club Meeting, ESSDB Jim's House

11/03/2022 6:00 PM  
Club Meeting, ESSDB Jim's House

11/19/2022, 12:00 PM  
Club Dive at the West Seattle Junkyard

12/03/2022 11:15 AM  
Club Dive at Edmonds Underwater Park

12/03/2022 4:00 PM  
Club Holiday Party at ESSDB Jim's House

01/05/2023 6:00 PM  
Club Meeting, ESSDB Jim's House

divers know, the Wolf Eel is actually not an eel - it is a member of the Wolf Fish family. There are five species of wolf fish that have been identified around the world. Our Wolf Eel is the largest - it can reach to over 8 feet in length and weigh up to 41 lb. They range from northern Japan to Alaska and down the coast of North America to Baja and at depths to about 700 feet. Their typical life span is 25 years. They will choose a mate at about 4 years but they cannot breed until they are about 7. It was once thought that wolf eels mated for life, but it has been determined that they will change mates after a few years together. Both males and females tend to their eggs in their den. Young wolf eels are orange in color and spend their first couple years in shallow waters where they feed on plankton and small fish. As they age they change to their typical grey. Adult wolf eels use their strong jaws and teeth to eat urchins, sand dollars, crabs, abalone, clams, mussels, snails, squid, and fish. They swallow their prey whole - which is amazing, when you think about them eating an urchin. Wolf eels are prey for harbor seals and sharks. Male wolf eels are usually a bit larger than the females and are generally a lighter shade of grey. The males hardly need a mask for Halloween!

## EUP Scavenger Hunt

Bruce Higgins and his team of caretakers of the trails at the Edmonds Underwater Park will be

hosting a Halloween-themed fundraiser this year in lieu of the pumpkin carving contest held in past years. They will be hosting Scavenger Hunts for both divers and swimmers on **Saturday, October 29** from **9:00 AM** until **2:00 PM**. Donations to support their work developing and maintaining the underwater trails at the park will be graciously accepted. Swimmers will collect tokens from the buoys marking the trails and divers will search the Great Pumpkin for tokens. Rules and other details will be presented at the event. There will also be a bring-your-own pumpkin carving event for those that want to carve a pumpkin underwater. The pumpkins will again be judged by the kids attending the event. Please plan on participating and supporting the caretakers of this great dive site.

## Cool-?-of the Month Section

### Cool-Web-Articles-Of-The-Month:

Our first cool web article is about a setback in the rockfish conservation program that occurred during the early part of the COVID pandemic. Several species of rockfish such as the quillback and yelloweye can live for more than 100 years and are slow growing. Conservation areas have been established to restrict fishing and support repopulation of stressed and endangered populations. However, illegal fishing during the pandemic has impacted the breeding populations in several conservation areas in Canada. You can read about it by clicking on [rockfish](#).

Our second cool web article describes a successful project to artificially grow elkhorn coral in the lab. Elkhorn coral was once the dominant coral in the waters around Florida. Due to development, water quality issues, and bleaching events, it is currently endangered. Researchers have figured out how to get the coral to reproduce and grow in the lab, but they have not been successful getting permission to seed the reefs with the lab coral to see if it is possible to restore Florida's coral reefs. Click on [Elkhorn Coral](#) to learn more.

### Cool-Photos-Of-The-Month:

Our cool photos this month were taken at the Sund Rock dives during our Dive/Camp Weekend by ESSDB Larry. The first shows a rock scallop and Sea Lemon (Noble Dorid). The second photo is a Monterey Dorid passing the den of a squat lobster. The last photo is of Mr. and Mrs. Wolf Eel.



Got a C?OTM? Send it to Spanky at [gsndambaa@hotmail.com](mailto:gsndambaa@hotmail.com).

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The deadline for items to be included in the November 2022 Issue is Friday, October 21