

SPUD'S WILDLIFE COLUMN!

THIS MONTH:

Several Brown Pelicans were spotted down in Cove Beach, preening themselves on the sand. It seems unusual to see them sitting on the beach, not in flight.



Pelicans are often seen in the company of Western Gulls (sometimes known as "Sky Rats"). The young are darker and also not as experienced - they are more commonly found dead on the beach.

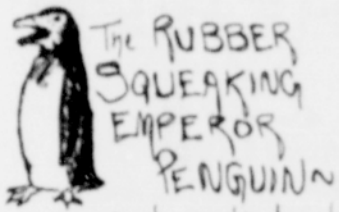


This area boasts three (3) species of blackberries:

German - big, bushy, thick vines; Himalayan; and the native "Creepy Crawlers" - short and ground-covering with reddish vines. (This type also tastes the best!)



We locals can also brag about being surrounded by some of the largest (rapidly thinning) old growth SITKA SPRUCE in the world.



The RUBBER SQUEAKING EMPEROR PENGUIN rarely sighted outside its local habitat of Pickles LTD, was recently spotted in the courtyard around the Flagpole.



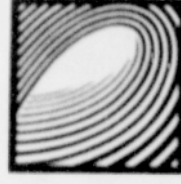
They grow very large here!

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THE BLUE WATER TASK FORCE! At surf spots east and west, the quality of our ocean waters are endangered. You can help. Write Surfrider Foundation and join the Blue Water Task Force. Help us test the water pollution levels of your favorite surf spot. By finding out which spots have the highest pollution levels and why, Surfrider's Dr. Scott Jenkins can report the findings and we can begin the long, tough process of making waves blue again.

Join Surfrider Foundation.

WE NEED YOU!



Surfrider Foundation
CONSERVATION RESEARCH EDUCATION



The "Rev" sez, "Write about surfing." Surfers say, "Don't write about surfing." Esquire magazine says, "Yippie I'm a Yuppie. Go to the beach, go to another beach, I'm a surfer, I'm dead." Finally the Oregonian (the last bastion of left coast enlightenment) says, "Go two blocks down, turn left, turn right, six more steps, oops, watch out for that nasty log. There you go, nope a little more to the left, ooh, yes sir that's the one, surf it up, funny boy."

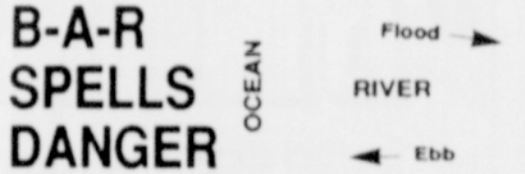
What about this beach culture surf sport stuff? Just another example of us/them, well there are plenty of us/them relationships that serve no other purpose than to keep people separate and identifiable.

Yes, people tend to be possessive of scarce commodities and strangers in a strange land are looked upon as intruders.

A faceless name told me, "There's one thing expected of surfers, HOPE." I didn't think anything was expected of surfers, but his message stuck in my head. Yes, I HOPE there are waves, and yes I HOPE I can catch some, and yes, I HOPE some people won't be there. I'll try to keep HOPE in my soul.

This same gentleman was also talking about potential targets.

It came and went... pretty... blue warm water. I hope you enjoyed it. A large man with a beard that looked like a beaver pelt dangling from his chin said "The Nina did it, surfs-up Dude! Gimme a Budweiser!"



B-A-R SPELLS DANGER
SURF SYNOPSIS:
Good surf was found at the onset of the aforementioned Nina current. I don't believe there was any bad surf, as long as you watch the best waves go unridden, it can only get better. Enjoy what's left of your summer!

436-BOMB !!

... is anything you want it to be.

1. Dial the number to hear interesting Opening Messages.
2. During the Opening Message, dial 537, wait a sec, then 1 and you can listen to the messages of others
3. While Listening to other people's messages, you may hit 7 to fast forward to the next message.
4. Please leave messages of interest to others. Such as ..Obscenities, Drug deals, How to build a pipe bomb, what the Police did to you THIS week. Etc. We will change messages on MONDAYS.

CUT ME OUT !!

CUT ME OUT !!



In a wine house a cooling breeze at the surf's edge... and a lovely bottle of wine from that dinky little shop on the main drag in Cannon Beach opened by Laurel Flood.

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High Seas Driftnets

Large-scale driftnets used on the high seas are the world's largest fishing nets. This relatively new fishing technology, developed in the late 1970's, uses nets up to 30 miles (50km) long.

Deployed to float like a curtain at the surface of the open ocean, high seas driftnets have been appropriately nicknamed "walls of death" because they indiscriminately catch and kill almost all living creatures that snare in their mesh.

During 1991, it is estimated that one driftnet fleet alone killed over 40 million sea creatures in the course of harvesting over 100 million squid. Over 100 wildlife species - whales, sea turtles, dolphins, seabirds, salmon, shark, and numerous other fish species - have been scientifically documented to be killed in driftnets, ravaging fish stocks and marine wildlife in oceans around the world. Marine creatures, in search of food and lured by fish and squid already caught in the net, swim or dive into the plastic web where they become entangled and die by the millions.

At least 1,000 driftnet boats from Japan, Taiwan and South Korea are slaughtering hundreds-of-thousands of marine mammals and sea birds annually during fishing operations in the North Pacific, aimed primarily at catching squid and albacore tuna. All the North Pacific fleets combined lay over 25,000 miles of driftnet every night during the height of the fishing season - enough net if stretched end-to-end to wrap around the Earth. In the North Atlantic and Mediterranean smaller fleets of French and Italian vessels use similar large-scale nets, while in the Indian Ocean, Taiwan has some 130 vessels which pursue albacore tuna and billfish.



Greenpeace diver examines a white-sided dolphin, one of up to 1 million dolphins and whales estimated to drown in driftnets annually.

Death Trap For Marine Mammals and Seabirds

It has been estimated by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization that every year up to 1 million dolphins, porpoises and whales could be drowning in driftnets worldwide. Little information exists to

1992

determine the population sizes of these cetacean species, and continued killing could lead to their decimation.

For example, as many as thirty-five thousand Northern right whale dolphins and white-sided dolphins die annually in North Pacific driftnets.

According to scientists, the viability of both species could be jeopardized due to continued kills by the driftnet fisheries. Scientists have also concluded that thousands of fur seals, and large cetaceans, like minke and sperm whales, are encountering the nets.

When seabirds dive into driftnets, chasing fish or squid, their feet, beaks, and wings become entangled and they drown. The North Pacific driftnet fisheries kill an estimated 450,000 seabirds each year. Biologists have expressed concern that the viability of certain species, such as horned and tufted puffins and short-tailed albatrosses, could be threatened by the North Pacific driftnet fleets. Other species snared in the nets include black-footed and Laysan albatrosses, sooty and short-tailed shearwaters, storm petrels, and murres.

Ghost Nets Threaten Navigation and Wildlife

Lost and abandoned driftnets, combined with discarded trawl nets, other fishing gear, plastics, and other debris floating in the sea, entangle and kill uncounted numbers of wildlife. According to fleet data, the driftnet boats lose and discard an estimated 500 to 600 miles (1,000km) of net in the North Pacific annually.

There have been documented cases of propeller shafts and engine intakes being ruined by floating net fragments. Sailboat skippers have reported hitting driftnets and becoming badly entangled in them. Driftnets do not carry navigational warning lights and are an extreme hazard to vessels at sea.

Piracy of North Pacific Salmon

Unfortunately, we may not know the real impact the driftnet fleets are having on marine ecosystems until it is too late. Driftnet fleets are hastening the decline of some Pacific salmon and steelhead trout runs. Scientists have shown that driftnet vessels are catching salmon on the high seas that would normally return to be caught by coastal fishers, or to enter their rivers of origin to spawn. In May 1990, over a dozen vessels, flying the flag of North Korea, were detected poaching salmon, and after seizure by Russian authorities, were discovered to be reflagged Japanese vessels.

Furthermore, harvests of squid, tuna, billfish, and sharks in the North Pacific remain totally unregulated by international agreements. But under a 1992 treaty between the U.S., Canada, Japan, and Russia, all intentional harvesting of salmon on the high seas, using any fishing method, is to cease. Nevertheless, tremendous profits will continue to reward illicit salmon driftnetting, particularly if the product can be shipped without detection to affluent markets in the European Community, North America, and Asia.

Documenting Wildlife Destruction

Since 1983, Greenpeace has conducted six expeditions to document high seas driftnetting around the world. During 1990, Greenpeace launched two expeditions to document Pacific driftnet fisheries. A carefully assembled team of divers, scientists, photographers, journalists and campaigners, were taken aboard our flagship Rainbow Warrior.

While documenting catches of dolphin, whale, seabirds and numerous fish species, independent biologists also observed hundreds of sharks being hauled aboard the fishing vessel, where only their valuable fins were sliced off for use in shark fin soup - an expensive Asian delicacy. Sharks reproduce very slowly, and only now are concerns being raised that their populations may be in danger from driftnets.

Moves to Stop Driftnets

There have been some major victories during the battle against driftnet fishing in the North Pacific. A court victory, spearheaded by Greenpeace in the U.S., led to the expulsion of the Japanese salmon driftnet fleet from U.S. waters off Alaska in 1988.



The North Pacific driftnet fisheries kill an estimated 2 million blue sharks each year.

The United Nations Resolution

As a result of intense diplomatic pressure generated by governments of the South Pacific, the U.S., and other countries, in 1991 the United Nations adopted Resolution 46/215 which calls for a halt to high seas driftnet fishing by the end of 1992. Greenpeace worked directly with governments at the U.N. for adoption of the resolution, which was co-sponsored by 28 nations.

Although most Asian and European countries have indicated they will abide by the U.N. driftnet fishing moratorium, enforcement will be problematic. Patrolling millions of square miles of open ocean is beyond the economic or technological capability of most nations. Countries with marine surveillance capabilities, as a step towards developing more comprehensive fishery agreements, must cooperatively monitor compliance worldwide to ensure a timely and permanent halt to high seas driftnet fishing.

"We can't directly experience the true texture of reality because everything we touch turns to matter." Nick Herbert

What Greenpeace is Doing

Greenpeace is working to secure the worldwide elimination of high seas driftnet fisheries.

- To achieve this, we are:
 - preparing direct actions at sea with Greenpeace vessels to document and protest high seas driftnetters that continue to operate.
 - conducting a market investigation to identify and prevent the sale of driftnet-caught products in the U.S.
 - lobbying governments to fully implement U.N. Resolution 46/215, which calls for a halt to high seas driftnetting by Dec. 31, 1992.
 - working with international law experts and national governments to attain comprehensive multilateral conventions to protect fish stocks and marine wildlife.
 - lobbying world governments to incorporate environmental standards into all fishery plans and regulations.

What You Can Do

- Write the President of the United States and demand that he sign the Driftnet Moratorium Enforcement Act into law.
- Also demand that the U.S. join new comprehensive international fisheries agreements which ban high seas driftnetting and other destructive fishing practices, and which establish strict environmental standards for the conduct of all fisheries, whether on the high seas or within coastal waters.

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500