



## Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs

# Deep Sea Digest Fall 2007

### What's New With Us?

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Texas Gulf Coast Council  
of Diving Clubs (TGCC)  
meets the second Thursday  
of every odd month  
at 7:00 PM.

Come join us at  
Bayland Community Center  
6400 Bissonnet  
Bellaire, Texas

Have you visited us online?  
Check us out at:  
<http://www.tgccdiving.org>

### TRASHFEST is just around the corner...

Thanks to everyone who made TrashFest '06 a resounding success.

Please be sure to put TrashFest '07 on your calendar. This year's event will be on October 6th. Plan on being there because it's going to be even bigger and better.

Over the years, TrashFest volunteers have pulled over 100 tons of trash from the Comal River. That's something to be extremely proud of! By participating in TrashFest, not only do you help to add to this figure, but you also get a fun day of diving, camaraderie, and team competitions, and a chance to win one of the TrashFest "Super Scooper" t-shirts. In addition, at the BBQ Saturday evening, you'll be eligible to win great door prizes. Last year's participants took home over \$11,000 in door prizes, and we're getting a good head start on collecting door prizes for this year. Please check the DOOR PRIZES and SPONSORS pages regularly to see what's been added. If you're interested in contributing a door prize, please send me an email at [trashfest@tgccdiving.org](mailto:trashfest@tgccdiving.org).



There's one more way you can help TrashFest. Enclosed is a 2007 Trashfest Flyer that you can snail mail or email. Please let your local dive shop, dive club and dive buddies know about the event. We'd like to see it be a truly state-wide effort this year, so please help get the word out.

See you on October 6th!

Contributed by Roger Veteto,  
TGCC Trashfest Chairman

## Trashfest T-Shirt Design Contest

TrashFest is retiring our beloved "Super Scooper" mascot after many good years of service. We're inviting you to help design his replacement. Get the details on the TGCC website, <http://www.tgccdiving.org> River Clean-Up 2006



River Clean-Up 2006

## TGCC Board

TGCC nominations are currently being accepted for the 2008 Board.



## CLUB REPORTS

### BAY AREA DIVERS

September 26 – General Meeting  
October 13 – BAD Flea Market  
October 20-27 – Roatan Trip  
October 31 – General Meeting  
<http://www.bayareadivers.org>

### CHUM CLUB

Sept 13-17 Tiger Shark FG Trip  
September 20 – Monthly Meeting  
October 18 – Monthly Meeting  
December 6 – Christmas Party  
Check out the CHUM Club Poll @  
<http://www.chumclub.org>

### Houston Underwater Club

September 21- General Meeting  
Sept 29 – Oct 13 – Philippines Trip  
October 19 – General Meeting  
November 16 – General Meeting  
December 1 – General Meeting  
<http://www.hucscuba.org>

### Houston Underwater Photographic Society

September 10 – General Meeting  
October 1 – General Meeting  
November 5 – General Meeting  
December 3 – Christmas Dinner  
January 7 – General Meeting  
<http://www.hups.org>

### Lunarfins

September 12 – General Meeting  
September 20-23 – Panama City Trip  
October 13-20 – Bonaire Trip  
Jan 16 – Feb 9 – Maldives/Sri Lanka Trip  
Check out Lunarfins NEW website @  
<http://www.lunarfins.com>

# Turtles Released at Florida Park

By *ScubaNews.com*

The Florida Park Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) released 56 loggerhead turtles at Sebastian Inlet State Park last month. The three-year-old turtles, weighing approximately 50 pounds each, are graduates of an innovative National Marine Fisheries Service program.

"The Indian River Lagoon is an ideal location for released sea turtles to enter the Atlantic Ocean," said Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Colleen M. Castille. "By releasing all 56 turtles at this state park, we can ensure they have safe access to pristine, protected habitats."

The turtles helped marine scientists test the effectiveness of a commercial fishing apparatus known as the Turtle Excluder Device (TED). It is a metal grid of bars attached to a shrimp trawling net. It has an opening at either the top or the bottom, which creates a hatch allowing larger animals such as sea turtles to escape while keeping shrimp inside. In 1987, the U.S. implemented regulations that require shrimpers to use TEDs on their trawlers.

Of the seven sea turtle species worldwide, Florida's waters are home to five, including the leatherback, green and loggerhead turtle. These three threatened and endangered species nest on the state's beaches during the summer months. This year, the shores of Sebastian Inlet State Park holds more than 300 loggerhead nests, more than seven green turtle nests and one leatherback nest. Two museums provide a history of the area and three miles of pristine beaches provide opportunities for swimming, scuba diving, snorkeling, shelling and sunbathing. The Indian River Lagoon is ideal for canoeing, kayaking and cruises by Pelican Island, the first national wildlife refuge in the U.S.

The first two-time Gold Medal winner honoring the nation's best state park service, Florida's state park system is one of the largest in the country with 159 parks spanning more than 725,000 acres and 100

miles of sandy white beach. They offer swimming and diving in Florida's rivers and springs to birding and fishing or hiking and riding on natural scenic trails.

For more information, visit the [www.floridastateparks.org](http://www.floridastateparks.org).



## Coast Guard calls for better diver training

WWW.CDNN.INFO by PATRICIA KIME

WASHINGTON (31 August 2007) -- The Coast Guard needs to increase training, enhance guidance and better oversee equipment and personnel to avoid accidents such as the one aboard the icebreaker Healy on Aug. 17, 2006, that killed two divers, according to a report on the accident dated Aug. 23 and made public six days later.

The report recommends that, if the Coast Guard decides to continue staffing its dive program with its own members, the service consider making diving a primary duty, and establishing a Coast Guard working diver program, perhaps with divers who have taken the Navy Diver Second Class course. It also recommends that the service certify more dive officers.

The report advises that Headquarters program officers to set clear guidance for units conducting dive operations, ensuring that divers remain certified and their equipment is inspected and maintained.

The report also says the Coast Guard should institute better policies and procedures for conducting dives. The recommendations in the report, called "Chief of Staff's Final Decision Letter on the Analysis of a Class A Mishap: USCGC Healy," will not be implemented until a team chartered to study the Coast Guard's dive program recommends whether the service should maintain its own program or contract it out with a civilian agency or another military service.

"The applicability of the corrective actions is contingent on the overarching need to determine the requirement," wrote chief of staff Vice Adm. Robert Papp in his letter.

The results of the study team, made up of Navy divers and other dive experts, are pending, according to Coast Guard officials.

The Coast Guard's dive program came under fire following the Healy incident when subsequent investigations showed that Navy and Coast Guard diving procedures were ignored during the exercise. Immediately after the accident, the service instituted a number of changes to its dive program, including a safety stand down, review and inspection of all dive units, suspension of dive operations on Healy and implementation of a study module at the commander's course regarding diving.

If implemented, Papp's recommendations could lead to the establishment of a Coast Guard master dive program.

A spokesman for Dawn Zimmerman, the mother of one of the divers who died, said the family is grateful the Coast Guard has been thorough with its investigations and planned changes.

"The family's primary concern is that the tragedy of Aug. 17, 2006, never be repeated," wrote Bill Eby, a relative of Lt. Jessica Hill, in an e-mail Wednesday. "The family appreciates any and all steps taken by the Coast Guard to assure the safety and well being of others who may follow in Jessica's responsibilities and duties."

**All advertisements in Deep Sea Digest represent TrashFest 2006 sponsors! Thank you to all who donated prizes and made TrashFest 2006 a tremendous success!**



Captain Waldo's



Convenience Center

## **FISHKILLER (AKA Crab Cakes)**

1 pound crabmeat, shell and cartilage removed	1/2 teaspoon chopped fresh marjoram
3 ounces (1 1/2 cups) fresh bread crumbs	2 teaspoons lemon juice
1 egg yolk	1/4 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons mayonnaise	1/4 teaspoon black pepper
12 spring onions, finely chopped	1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1 hard boiled egg, finely chopped	4 fluid ounces (1/2 cup) vegetable oil
	1/2 bunch watercress, trimmed and washed

In a medium-sized mixing bowl, combine the crabmeat, breadcrumbs, egg yolk, mayonnaise, onions, hard boiled egg, marjoram, lemon juice, salt, pepper, and cayenne. Mix and knead the mixture with your hands until it comes away from the sides of the bowl. Shape the crab mixture into 3 inch diameter balls, place them on wax paper and flatten them with the palm of your hands. In a large frying-pan, heat the vegetable oil over moderately high heat. When the oil is hot, add the patties, a few at a time and fry them for 3 to 5 minutes on each side until golden brown. Use slotted spatula transfer the patties to a paper towel to drain. Garnish with the watercress and serve as you would a sandwich or burger.

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