

# FATHOMS

JUNE-JULY 2003

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# VSAG



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*Committee meets the Second  
Thursday in the Month at the Leighoak Hotel (8PM)*

# FATHOMS



*Official Journal of the Victorian Sub-Aqua Group*

***In this June-July issue...***

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*Photos courtesy of Mary Malloy, (front cover and many others), Alan Storen and John Lawler.*

**VSAG General Meetings**

Bell's Hotel  
157 Moray Street (cnr Coventry Street)  
South Melbourne, 8.00 pm  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month

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## EDITORIAL

Without any doubt we VSAG'ers have been given a feast of great reading over the past few editions of *Fathoms* (have you noticed!) but the "May Special Edition" was just a great example of what can be done when some people recognise a good opportunity to present good stories and commit to sharing them with club members. The committee agreed to run a special edition in May and it fell to Alan Storen and our contributors to pull it all together.



Alan Storen put together this edition, almost single handed, that carried the historic Bay Crossing by Leo Maybus and the Western Australian Dive and Social trip. Looking at the content of the edition it was a huge effort by Alan to bring it all together, despite the frustration (as always) with people who repeatedly were asked to submit an article or photos and failed to do so. Thank you to all who took the time to send their contributions to this edition.

It is most appropriate to say Congratulations Alan for a superb effort with, not only the May edition, but all the other past *Fathoms* editions. Bruce Dart also does an excellent job in getting the general magazines printed and posted with a speed that would beat an F1-11.

We divers now are into winter and some of the better diving is at our doorstep. Winter is generally the season when the conditions can produce some of the better diving in our great bay, so keep watching the dive calendar.

An update the next ship sinking has appeared in the current (June) edition of *Dive Log*. The notorious poaching boat, *South Tomi*, which was chased for 6100 nautical miles by the Fisheries police from WA waters and caught near Cape Town, is in the countdown to scuttling in the latter part of this year. This ship is to be sunk in Champion Bay at Geraldton. The ship had poached an unbelievable 100 tonnes of Patagonian toothfish worth an estimated \$1.5 million! Definitely something fishy was going on there. This article compliments that of Alan Storen's in the April-May edition on poaching boats under arrest in Bumbury.

Till the next issue...safe and happy diving.

John Lawler.  
Editor.

## WILSONS PROMOTORY TIDAL RIVER-EASTER 2003.

BY JOHN LAWLER.

*As is the general practice with the Easter holiday to the Prom, many VSAG'ers arrived at Tidal River progressively throughout the Thursday and by night most of the club members and families were well settled and enjoying a few cold drinks. Leo and family arrived around midnight but soon had his van and annexe all set up for the stay. In all the number of VSAG members, family and friends for this year's stay at the great Tidal River was around 80.*

*The weather forecast for the four day break was for fine weather and the high sitting over most of the state was due to last well into the week . . . it did just that. Friday saw a high level of enthusiasm from the divers and the conditions on the beach were just brilliant! Very small waves, the tide very far out making the sand solid for the launch and no bogged trailers. The sea was flat and very calm and the sky clear blue . . . just the right formula for diving at the Prom.*

*The boats of Mick Jeacle, Gerry DeVries and mine all had full crews and the dive site for this day was Skull Rock. The launch was copybook and all boats were in with minimal fuss and off thanks to the willing support of the non-divers who helped with the towing and retrieval of the trailers.*

*The conditions at Skull were quite good and so the diving was done on the south side drop offs. We had Paul Tipping's son in law with us and Mike had to do his check out dive with me. Despite the limit of 20 metres we had a great dive with seals in a very playful mood as they dived with us most of the duration of our dive. Needless to say Mike was pretty impressed with his first dive at Skull.*

*Mick and Ted Cornish were diving more to the South corner of the rock and near the end of the dive the fierce current that moves around there*



*picked them up and carried them well out to sea into very swelly water. However their boat crew soon picked them up.*

*The visibility around this area was not as good as in prior years and was down to around 10-15 metres. The vis however did improve with depth.*

*After a brief visit to the seal colony, lunch was taken on the North side of Anser Island and a second dive followed before heading back to TR.*

*The retrieval of the boats saw some of the dolly wheels being bent. Both Mick's and my wheels suffered faults. However we still managed to get them mobile, mine with the help of the ranger and the site works depot, and Mick's with a spare turning bolt. With the tides coming in very high around 3pm we retrieved boats from around the first turn of the Tidal River rather than from the surf. I'm not sure if this is the easiest but it sure is the shortest!*

*At the campsite, a separate site was booked for the purpose of erecting a meeting lean to. Thanks to Des Williams who provided the material for this and to Andy for providing the poles, a gathering place was now provided for those wanting to enjoy each other's company...all complete with gas heater and thanks to those who provided them. The idea was very good and whilst some choose to use the site others chose to stay in their comfort zone. To those who assisted with the job of setting up and dismantling, they did a very good job.*

*Saturday arrived and the weather had improved even further and so four boats launched for the run out to the Glennie group. The conditions around the island were perfect for diving and the first dives were done in a small bay on the North West side of Dannevig Island. The Ranger informed us that with the introduction of the new Marine Reserves in November, some changes were now in place. A buffer zone of three hundred metres out from the Glennie group now was in place, which allowed for the taking of two Southern Rock lobsters, and 10 abalone could be taken on snorkel. Considering that potting was legal in this area it seemed some logic (unusual) was*

*applied to the area making it a fairer position for all with a vested interest in the taking of crayfish and abalone.*

*The dive I did was with Craig Sutherland and we were in some awesome territory all through our dive at around 30metres...we found huge swim throughs, big black caves and lots of fish life. Thanks to the new ruling, I managed to bring home a nice table size cray. This was some dive and the look on Craig's face after the dive told us all that he had a ball!*

*The Rangers from Tidal River arrived in their bright red " rubber duck" and were polite and professional in checking for fishing and boat licences. A couple of boats also had a visit from the Fisheries Patrol.*

*Mick Jeacle exclaimed that this dive site was on of the best he had experienced at the Prom, but the best was yet to come next day. Gerry's crew were also trying out new territory on the ocean side of Glennie with good reports.*

*The disappointing part of this dive for me personally was the condition that kept me away from diving since last November returned, and I experienced a slight bout of coughing again. On good advice I decided against diving at the Prom for the duration of the stay there. It seems that a depth over 20-25 metres and cold water brings on the condition called Pulmonary Edema. Looks like the dry suit and a spa might be the go for my future diving!*

*We ventured to the N/E end of Glennie Island for the second dive and Tony Tipping said after his dive that this was some of the best territory he had seen and that there was so much to see it could take days to cover it all! Pity Tony missed out on bringing home the eight pounder, which was just out of reach by a few inches! This area was described as "must return to" territory as all the dive reports were of great and exciting territory. Darren Pearce claimed to have found huge caves at around 30meters that he said were mind blowing!*



*Saturday night goes down generally as party night for most VSAG'ers and this was no exception this year. I did note however that the rages were a lot softer than in the past, which could be indicative of the slowing down of the older bods! However some members never learn and the story of the night before was seen on their faces next morning!!*

*My usual want is to have a good curry for dinner on the Saturday night and I had an invitation to join the Brincats for this BYO food and wine occasion, in company with Judy's mum and partner Donald. To welcome Donald to the Easter VSAG bash, I donated the cray that I had caught to both of them, and they in turn made this our entree for the dinner on Saturday. Fresh Cray, great curries and good reds in fine company at the Prom...sounds like heaven!! Where were you Don Abell??*

*Sunday..yup the weather was again perfect and boats and divers lined up for the third day of diving. The launch went well and out to the Glennies again returning to the territory which was found and dived at the North Eastern end of Glennie Island on the previous day.*

*Without doubt this area was giving divers the best diving they could wish for. It had the lot...big dark caves at 30 metres, swim throughs and even the odd Cray. This was the divers paradise and every diver who dived this site was very impressed with the underwater terrain.*

*The trip home ended with a full on race between Mick, Andy and my boat all under full throttle into Norman Bay, with my Haines Signature arriving at Tidal River ahead of the others...a great experience for all on board the boats as the Yamahas were reaching speeds of around 75 Kms/PH.*

*Monday was pack up day for most of the campers, however there were several camps deciding to spend most of the week here, if the weather was good..it was better than good..it was brilliant! We have had the best conditions at TR that I can recall in that since our*

*arrival on Thursday through to Monday, we have had no wind and no rain.*

*The Blacks. Murray and his brother Garry together with two other divers decided to go out for the day and they also headed over to the latest Glennie "hot spot". This team of divers also had a great days diving and came back with stories of finding a huge domed cathedral like structure that was just awesome in size.*

*On Tuesday Gerry DeVries, Leo and Andrew Maybus and Craig Sutherland planned a one tank dive and I offered to look after the boat. It was decided to also head back to the new dive site at Glennie Island and the conditions at the site were just brilliant. No wind, calm flat seas and bright sunny skies! All divers went over the side together and fell into 30 + metres of brilliant terrain for a 30 minute dive. As with all the other divers who had hit this spot they were all quite excited at the caves and swim throughs and fish life.*

*From the start to the finish of the diving at the Prom this Easter, all the divers were going home feeling that this was one of the best diving years that had been enjoyed by our club.*

#### **CUDDLY COUPLE AWARD.**

*It would be hard to determine who should win the "Cuddly Couple Award" but as there were four male VSAG'ers all individually camping but cooking/eating together at the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> avenue, it might be appropriate to award the first doubles CCA to Pat Reynolds and Bruce Dart/Neville Viapre and Tony Tipping. Congratulations guys.*

*I departed Tidal River on Wed morning, but with the brilliant weather all round the place it was hard to do. Gerry and his family and Pat were staying on until later in the week.*

*Tidal River in 2003 will be the one to remember as it gave the divers and the campers the very best it could offer.*

John Lawler



## Few of world's large fish remain, study says

By ALANNA MITCHELL, EARTH SCIENCES REPORTER, May 15, 2003

Every single species of large wild fish has been caught so systematically over the past 50 years that 90 per cent of each type have disappeared, according to the first scientific study to assess the fish left in the global ocean. And, from the tropics to the poles, those left in the sea are only one half to one fifth the size they were before industrialized fishing began in about 1950, says the study which appears as the cover story of today's issue of the scientific journal *Nature*.

The study by marine biologists Ransom Myers of Dalhousie University in Halifax and Boris Worm of the Institute for Marine Science in Kiel, Germany, catalogues biological destruction that is unprecedented in its global scope and rapidity since the dinosaurs died out 65 million years ago. And it blasts the idea that the oceans have vast pools of uncaught fish waiting to be discovered. "We have to quit thinking about the ocean as a blue frontier," said Dr. Myers, who is Killam Chair of Ocean Studies at Dalhousie. "What we have is a remnant." Dr. Worm, who is the Emmy-Noether Fellow in Marine Ecology at the German institute, was more blunt. The entire global ocean, which makes up 70 per cent of the Earth's surface, is no longer in even close to its natural state. "It is now a man-made system," Dr. Worm said, adding that it may be less stable and is probably less predictable as a stabilizing force of the planet. "We are tampering with the life-support system of the planet and that's not a good thing to do."

A separate scientific study published yesterday by the Species Survival Commission of the Swiss-based World Conservation Union warned that other ocean creatures are faring no better than the big fish. Some of the smaller air-breathing cetaceans, the group that includes dolphins and porpoises, are also in critical danger, often because they are caught inadvertently along with fish by industrial fisheries. The Yangtze dolphin, for example, has been reduced to a couple of dozen individuals left in the world. The *Nature* study on fish took 10 years and examined all major fisheries in the world in nine oceanic systems and on four continental shelves. The data from the open ocean came from Japanese fleets of long-line fisheries, in which hooks are set at regular intervals across vast kilometres of ocean at the same time. The study included the fish most prized as human foodstuff: tuna, marlin, swordfish, cod and halibut. These fish, as well as sharks, are at the top of the ocean's food chain, and their loss will have a profound effect -- if an unpredictable one -- on the whole ecosystem of the global ocean, Dr. Myers said. Some species are perilously close to the point of no return, the study found. The ocean's large sharks will die out unless the fishery catch in the planet's open ocean falls by 50 to 60 per cent, Dr. Myers said. And many other species are also right on the brink. The phenomenon is driven by advances in technology such as the sonar methods developed during the Second World War and the satellite methods of finding the ocean's warm fronts where fish once congregated. Other scientific studies show that the ocean's populations of big fish are now so depleted that people today spend far more time and energy to catch fewer fish than even a few years ago. "One population by one population, we are pushing species to extinction," Dr. Myers said. The fate of the Atlantic cod, with its population cut down to 1 per cent of the pre-1950 numbers, is unknown, one of the scariest signals of how unpredictable biological destruction on this level can be, Dr. Myers said. And the Pacific sardines are showing no signs of recovery either, he said.

But other species may recover if strong measures to cut levels of fishing are taken immediately, Dr. Worm said.

# Wilson's Promontory -Easter

## 2003.

By John Mills

*Most of the campers had arrived and set up by the Friday. The conditions were so good that a crew headed out to Skull Rock. The visibility was down a little, but some satisfied their urge to explore the depths. In the true VSAG tradition this was an early dive with all boats underway by 11.30 am. The crews had the boats retrieved by 5.00pm. It was decided at this point that an earlier start might be needed. Leo and Darren did a good job of manning the compressor until 9.30pm. Once it was established which site the party tent belonged to Andy and Kim put it up. After tea most of the mob gravitated to the party tent to be entertained by Terry "Fingers" Brooks and his guitar. Mick, Gary Black and Pauly Tipping soon put paid to this by forming their own amateur dramatic society and regaling the crowd with their renditions of various show tunes. I believe that if there were a talent scout present from the "Frankston Players" Mick would be selected to star in their next production of Oklahoma. It was duly noted that Brooksy's son Tom who is quite a virtuoso with the guitar was unable to strum along. The group was also hailed down by the bunch of young Philistines in the next tent. The night was finally brought to a close when Priya took on Ranger Stacy and almost had the whole of the VSAG evicted from the campground.*

*The next morning dawned fine and all awoke to the smell of bacon and eggs cooking. Then tragedy struck, Mick had lost his bacon and eggs!! After a thorough investigation and interrogation, Charlie Brincat emerged as the main suspect as he had foolishly commented on how good they looked. Judy cleared his good name later in the day. The case remains open to this day. The big loser was Annie who had to forgo her breakfast to sustain the ravenous energy demands of the Big Lloyd. The crews had the boats launched by 10.00am. Priya was on time although she had to subsist on muesli Bars for breakfast. Excellent diving was had at the back of the Glennies. The visibility*

was again down on what was expected, but it was great in all the swim throughs. All the boats were retrieved and back at camp by 4.00pm. The rope was broken twice when retrieving Andy's boat. After tea, everyone returned to the party tent to be entertained by Terry. The mood was a little mellower as most of the choir were dozing. In fact, little Bobby Scott put his hood on, curled up in his chair, and went to sleep. Martin and Josie to their credit managed a Tango on the uneven and dusty floor. Soon greener pastures beckoned as the words "Scull, Scull, Scull!!!" echoed across the park. Much to the disgust of the self appointed morality officer, the honourable Paul Tipping who exclaimed "They'll all be sick", everybody gravitated to Andy's tent where Andrew Maybus was holding a tutorial on the art of Sambuca drinking. The star student was Jan Cornish who passed with 1<sup>st</sup> class honours. Priya was seen to have a tipple. Leo held his own as the Dean of the Faculty. Again, our friend Ranger Stacy who was her punctual self concluded the night.

The group arose more slowly than the day before. However, in the tradition of VSAG the boats were launched by 10.30am. At this point, the political structure of the club was described as being a democratic dictatorship presided over by one Sudam Reynolds. Again, the diving was excellent with an extensive system of caves and swim throughs being explored at the Glennies. Some members took advantage of the new rules and returned bearing crustaceans. After dinner, I ventured down to the bachelors site. I was informed that this site was quite special as it was one of the few that had it's own ensuite (a strategically positioned clump of trees). As I was amongst the bachelors, I was expecting to be entertained with tales of past conquests and future adventures. Instead, I was treated to Tony explaining the virtues of his sausages over Pat and Bruce's Steak with Pepper Sauce. A discussion was held regarding who had done the most washing up. The success of Pats diet was touched upon. The rest of the group gravitated to this site like moths to a flame (mostly due to the firing up of Murray's heater) and settled into a fine night of story telling and laughter. Andrew again appeared with his magical bottle of Sambuca. As the night wore on it was revealed that Leo was quite handy at things electrical alongside his plumbing

skills as he was seen to be quite adept at doing some cabling on one of the boats during the day. I retired before Ranger Stacy made her nightly appearance.

The next day was again beautiful, nobody could remember the last time they had three straight days of diving at the Prom, and they were very slow to start. Pat had consumed something the night before which had not agreed with him. A process of elimination was followed and the most likely candidate was put down to be the ½ bottle of red wine. Gerry had disappeared to pick up the boys from scout camp. Priya spent the morning interrogating everyone in regards to the number of tank fills they had. As a back up she took Sadam Reynolds along to stand over the customers and threaten physical violence, all fills were admitted to and the money was collected. At this point divers were still thin on the ground, so Priya, myself, Murray and Garry decided to launch Murray's boat and head out. Thanks to JL, Leo and Bruce the boat was launched and our intrepid crew were soon underway. This dive was fantastic and was reminiscent of my first Prom experience a decade earlier when I headed out with "The Carrot" in "The Brick". We dived the swim throughs again and found a magnificent system with it's own cathedral type cave. We stopped for lunch and had a pleasant dive before returning. Upon our arrival at Tidal River the pick up crew were not there so Garry and Murray decided to see how far they could push the boat up the creek. We almost had the boat beached when the crew arrived. It was a relief to retrieve a small light boat without it sinking in the sand. After dinner with Murray and his family, I left Priya to play cards and went to see who was left. The camp was a lot quieter as many had packed up. I went to the bachelor's camp and talked with Pat and Pauly for a while. Paul was left on his own as all his teenage guests had returned, he decided to stay an extra night. All had an early night; I do not think anyone encountered our friend Ranger Stacy.

The next day was again glorious and a load went out in Gerry's boat. We spent most of the day packing up. Leo had packed early and moved his van to Gerry's to avoid the 11 o'clock late fee. We watched Pauly pull down his tent, dry it and pack his trailer. Pat wandered around, chatting as usual; he had decided to stay longer.

*The main topic of conversation was that he had his gas bottle filled for the princely sum of \$27.00. He did however find out that the fellow running the shop was leaving. Pauly was quite chuffed at the prospect as he said, "I've never seen that miserable bastard crack a smile the whole time he's been here". Having packed and had lunch, we said our farewells to the lucky few that were left and headed back to Melbourne.*

*This was one of the best Prom trips I can remember, partly due to the excellent weather, the club has been going for thirty years and everyone participated in the goings on after dinner.*

*Thanks should be given to Priya for organising the sites and insisting that the Party tent be erected. To Pat for chasing up the late payers, to the boat owners for providing transport to the Glennies, to Bruce for towing the compressor, to Leo, Darren and Garry for their efforts with the compressor. Finally thanks to everyone else for being there and making such a memorable trip.*

*John Mills*

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## Dive Report - Easter Monday '03

### Alan Beckhurst

*For those of us who couldn't get away for the Easter break, local diving was still available on Freediver. An unheard of spell of perfect weather gave us flat seas everywhere, so we decided to head further a field to attempt to dive the Milora off Torquay.*



*It took only 40 minutes to arrive at the approximate site, but alas, the buildings and treelines we used for our marks have been removed. Luckily the charter boat Scuttlebutt was on the VHB wreck nearby, so we waited for them to leave and dropped our shot. Peter and Aaron were first in followed by Mark and his dad, Brian. The returning divers*

*confirmed the viz was ordinary, so Mary and I left our cameras on the boat. We swam in and around this 20 metre hopper barge, finding a couple of large spoked wheels attached to one side, which may have been to operate the opening bottom to dump spoil. There were a few fish around and one very large orange gorgonian.*

*Our lunch break was over some shallow reef, just off the nudist beach. While some passed the binoculars around, I dropped in to freedive among the huge ledges and swimthrus. To celebrate Easter, the lollies were Easter bunnies, and we had Easter eggs along with our soup 'n bikkies.*

*Our next dive was on the wreck "Victoria Tower", lying inshore in 7 metres of water. This wreck has been blasted, and is scattered over a large area, but there is quite a lot to see. It is also in very good reef, with quite a few fish to be found in the many caves,*



ledges, and swim throughs. A highlight of this site has always been the many wobbegong sharks, and a few crays, but only one cray was sighted, and no wobbys. The viz was ordinary here too, but as it is a bit of a fossicking site, it doesn't really matter.

We only had to slow marginally to cross the rip on our way back to Queenscliff, and were soon unloading the boat back at Boarfish



Lodge. Even though we were later than usual, everyone stayed for a cuppa and some chocolate biscuits while we watched some video from our Perth trip. Had the viz been a bit better, it would have been a perfect day.

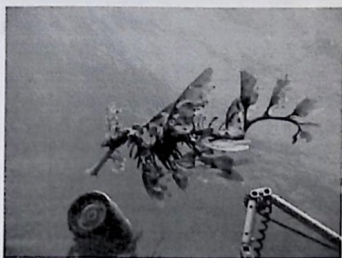
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## W.A. Trip - Bremer Bay to Esperence.

*After leaving our group in Albany, Mary and I headed for Bremer Bay, 1 1/2 hours to the east. We had been warned about kangaroos, and as we left Albany in the late afternoon, we passed a paddock with about 20 cows and 100 'roos. A nervous trip to Bremer, arriving at the Fishery Beach Tourist park after dark, but no more 'roos were seen. Our chalet was obviously constructed by the owners themselves, and mostly from available material, but was comfortable enough.*

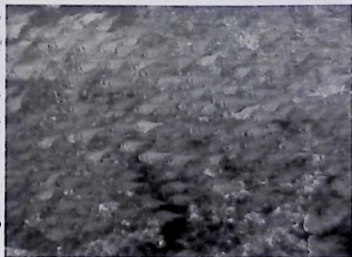
*Leafy sea Dragons were our target here, and we met Craig Lebens at his dive shop early next morning. Moderate winds dictated where we would dive, and Craig started us off with a shore dive at Little Boat Harbour.*



*Craig is a quirky ex yank with a long beard and a passion for Sea Dragons. The dive site has a weed covered rocky slope on one side, vast eel grass beds on the other side, separated by a thin strip of white sand. Craig methodically searched the weedy slope until he produced the first Leafy, but I couldn't see it even when he pointed at the bloody thing! Once I had adjusted to*

*separating the weed from the leaf, I watched this fanciful creature rocking in a pitifully slow attempt to get away from us. I backed off to allow Mary to blast the dragon with her camera, and again lost sight of it.*

*We found another two leafys, and two weedys during the dive, as well as a host of other fish. The site is actually a dive trail with plinths along the way indicating what to look for. Midway along the trail is a hard coral bommie, which is home to lots of fish, including harlequin fish, old wives, red lipped*



*morwong, western blue groper, black headed puller, and a couple of species of wrasse and leatherjackets. It is weird to find plate corals this far south. Mary and I returned to this site a couple of days later, realizing how hard it was to find leafys without Craig. Two dives here gave us nearly three hours underwater.*

*Our next dive was from Craig's 4.5 metre duck, on a site called Sandra's F.S. ( favourite spot! ). This was an excellent dive on a series of coral bommies, swarming with fish. As I arrived at the bottom, big schools of swallowtail and bullseyes were packed up against the bommies, and then I saw the reason. Two big samson fish were darting in from blue water and picking off the slower fish. Mary ran out of film well before we ran low on air.*



*Finger Reef is a site where a 9 k long reef ends in a line parallel to shore, dropping from 14 metres to 20 metres in a series of canyons along the broken reef face. Big schools of Buffalo Bream cruised about, and another pair of Samson fish. All the local species were represented here, but not in big numbers. Blue Devils were common here too, as with most dives we had done on this trip.*



*Craig saved our deepest dive 'til last ( ? ), and we still don't know what it is called. Granite boulders, typical of the 'Prom, formed walls, caves, and swim thrus, but the highlight was the huge pelagic schools of Buffalo Bream with small Kingfish mixed among them. The river of fish seemed to follow us, and circle any diver who was alone. Big Samon*

Here's an article from Dive New Zealand issue No 62 / 2001

## **What shall we do with the drunken sailors ....**

The following tale is from the US National Park Service, as printed in Oceanographic Ships, Fore and Aft, a periodical from the Oceanographer of the US Navy.

On 23 August 1779, the USS Constitution set sail from Boston, loaded with 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of water, 74,000 cannon shot, 11,500 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum. Her mission: to destroy and harass English shipping.

On 6 October she made Jamaica, took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum. Three weeks later Constitution reached the Azores, where she provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 2,300 gallons of Portuguese wine.

On 18 November she set sail for England where her crew captured and scuttled 12 English merchant vessels and took aboard their rum. By this time she had run out of shot. Nevertheless, she made her way unarmed up the Firth of Clyde for a night raid.

Here, her landing party captured a whiskey distillery, transferred 13,000 gallons aboard and headed for home.

On 20 February 1780, the Constitution arrived in Boston with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, no rum and no whiskey. She did, however, still carry her entire crew of 475 officers and men and 18,600 gallons of water.

The maths is quite enlightening ....

Length of cruise: 181 days.

Booze consumption: 1.26 gallons per man per day.

This does NOT include the unknown quantity of rum captured from the 12 English merchant vessels in November.

The reference reports that the re-enlistment rate from this cruise was 92%.