

the staggering starfish

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

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Club Meeting

Since the meeting room at the library is unavailable, our meeting this month will be held on-line via **Google Meet**. The meeting will convene promptly at **6:00 PM** on **Thursday, May 7**. Logon information for the meeting was included in the monthly email distributing the Newsletter. Our agenda for May includes planning the July Club Dive, an update on the Dive/Camp Weekend, and an update for the Loreto MX dive trip. If you are not on the email distribution list and somehow came across this amazing newsletter and would still like to be added, send Spanky an email at gsndambaa@hotmail.com.

May Club Dive, Redondo

We will be returning to a site well known by most divers in the Seattle/ Tacoma area for our May club dive. We will meet at **Redondo** at **9:00 AM** on **Saturday, May 9** for a **10:00 AM** splash. This site is known for a variety of sea life, including octopuses, wolf eels, nudibranchs, and rock fish. Spanky once saw 13 octopuses here on a single dive. The site is also known for sightings of the infamous Six-Gill Shark! The site has plenty of parking and facilities, including a shower and a hose for rinsing gear. Assuming we will have good weather, after the dive we will drive over to Saltwater State Park for a picnic lunch. Spanky will bring a grill; please bring your favorite beverage and something to share, such as chocolate chip cookies.

Directions to Redondo:

Take I 5 to Exit 147 and head west on S 272nd St. After about a mile the road curves left and the name changes to Marine View Dr. Continue winding down the hill (road will change to 10th and then 281st). At the waterfront, bear left on Beach Drive and proceed to the 3-way stop just past Salty's. Turn left and park along the street for free or in the pay lot to your right. Entry for the dive is across the street from the northwest corner of the parking lot. You can also get there by entering **Sixgill Shark Capital of the World** into Google maps on your phone.

2026 GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

05/07/2026	6:00 PM	Club meeting, Google Meet Only
05/09/2026	9:00 AM	Club Dive at Redondo
06/04/2026	6:00 PM	Club Meeting, Edmonds Public Library & Google Meet
06/13/2026	11:00 AM	Club Dive at the Alki Junkyard
07/02/2026	6:00 PM	Club meeting, Edmonds Public Library(?) & Google Meet
08/06/2026	6:00 PM	Club meeting, Edmonds Public Library(?) & Google Meet

April Club Dive Report

It was a slightly sprinkly spring morning as many club members, both diving and observing, gathered at Triton Cove, a new dive site for most. Visibility was not very good, which may have contributed to the two dive pairs missing the reef on their way out from shore. Lots of healthy seaweed and oysters were observed, as well as a multitude of shrimp and squat lobsters. One buddy pair located the wall on the way back in, and observed rock fish, many different nudibranchs (including several Yellow Margin dorids) and a multitude of holes for octos to hide in. Spanky recommends returning to the site to find the wall on the first try and to have lunch again at the Halfway House in Brinnon.

Club Merch

Everyone who received their club T-Shirts at the Triton Cove dive were very pleased with the design (by ESSDB Kim) and the quality of the silk screening (by ESSDBs Kim and Shay). Spanky heard a rumor that some would like to purchase another T-shirt or sweatshirt. If you missed out on ordering one or would like to add to your wardrobe, Spanky will be taking orders for additional shirts. Please send an email to Spanky by May 31, 2026 (gsndambaa@hotmail.com) noting your size,

color, and shirt choice(s). Let Spanky now via email if you need ordering information sent to you.

But wait, there's more! Spanky is making a special run of club stickers with the same design as the T-shirts. These stickers can be affixed to your water bottles, scuba tanks, cars, or most anything else with a smooth surface. If you would like to order some stickers, please send Spanky an email (gsndambaa@hotmail.com) or let us know during the May club meeting or club dive. We estimate that the stickers will cost less than \$2 each.

Eel-Like Fish

There are several eel-like fishes that divers often see in the Salish Sea, but there are no known true eels. It can get confusing to identify the different eel-like fishes we encounter. We frequently see wolf eels, gunnels, pricklebacks, and pipefish. Less common but sometimes seen are eelpouts and quillfish. Spanky thought it would be useful to share some links to help divers differentiate these fish.

[Wolf eels](#) can be readily identified by their color and shape. Juveniles are a burnt orange color that changes to grey as they mature. We also often see [gunnels](#) during our dives, including Crescent, Penpoint, and Saddleback gunnels (there are a few more species around too). Frequently seen pricklebacks include the [Decorated](#) and [Mosshead](#) warbonnets, and the [Snake prickleback](#). A less frequently seen prickleback is the [High Cockscomb](#). A fish that is even rarer (Spanky has only seen one) is the [Quillfish](#). The [Blackbelly eelpout](#) can be seen most often on night dives (i.e., dives that are done after sunset). The last commonly seen eel-like fish is the [Bay Pipefish](#), which is related to seahorses.

Cool-?-of the Month Section

Cool-Web-Videos-of-the-Month:

Spanky found a nice video presenting the 2025 highlights from the Nautilus explorations. It's about a half hour long, so you may want to get some snacks and a beverage. [Nautilus 2025 Highlights](#)

Cool-Photos-of-the-Month:

This month's cool photos were selected from ESSDB Larry's archive. The first is a Yellow Margin dorid (hopefully the same species seen at the Triton Cover dive). The last two were taken at Redondo: we have a juvenile Wolf Eel and a Red Octopus.



Got a C?OTM? Send it to Spanky.

Visit Spanky at www.gsndambaa.org

Email Spanky at

gsndambaa@hotmail.com

Please send items for the June issue by Thursday, May 21.