November 2026 volume 37, number 11

the staggering starfish

the official newsletter of the GSNDAMBAA SCUBA Diving Club

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Club Meeting

Thanks to the efforts of ESSDB DeeAnn, we will be able to hold our November Club meeting both in-person at the **Edmonds Public Library** and virtual via Google Meet. Your link for joining Google Meet was included in the monthly email for the newsletter. The meeting will commence on **Thursday, November 5**, at our normal time of **6:00 PM**. The meeting agenda includes welcoming new club members, planning our February 2027 club dive, and deciding on post-dive events for November. The final item will be choosing a restaurant for our post-meeting dinner. If you are not on the email distribution list and somehow came across this amazing newsletter and would still like to be added to the November meeting via Google Meet, send Spanky an email at gsndambaa@hotmail.com no later than 12:00 noon on the day of the meeting.

Club Dive: Fort Flagler

The tides look good for a late month Club Dive at Fort Flagler. We plan to meet on **November 28** at **11:30 AM** and will splash at **12:45 PM**. This is a current-sensitive site, so please plan to arrive in time to be ready for our splash time. This dive site has a fairly easy entry, with ample parking and restroom facilities nearby. The dive site is located in a State Park, so be sure to either bring your Discover Pass or purchase a day pass when you arrive. There is a significant surface swim (although easier than Saltwater SP or Edmonds). Likely critters include rockfish, ling cod, nudibranchs, and a variety of sea stars. With luck you may even be visited by a Stellar sea lion. After the dive we will either head over to the San Juan Taqueria or the home of ESSDBs Larry and Margaret to throw something on the grill (to be discussed at club meeting).

Directions to Fort Flagler:

Take your favorite ferry or bridge to cross over the Sound. Set your GPS to Wansboro Battery on Wansboro Rd. When you see Wansboro Battery on your left, keep going for another 100 yards or so to the end of the road and park in the gravel parking lot.

2026 GSNDAMBAA-at-a-Glance

11/05/2026 6:00 PM
Club Meeting, Edmonds Public Library & Google Meet
11/28/2026 11:30 AM
Club Dive at Fort Flagler
12/05/2026 9:30 AM
Club Dive at Edmonds Underwater Park
12/06/2026 2:30 PM
Club Holiday Party at Steve & DeeAnn's home
12/27/2026 4:00 PM
Club Bonus Dive at Redondo
01/07/2027 6:00 PM
Club Meeting, Edmonds Public Library & Google Meet
01/23/2027 10:00 AM
Club Dive at Saltwater State Park
02/04/2027 6:00 PM
Club Meeting, Edmonds Public Library & Google Meet

Fun Fish Facts

Spanky learned a bit about the Sailfin Sculpin for our fish facts for this month. The Sailfin Sculpin is probably the most distinctive fish found in the Salish Sea, since they display an oversized front dorsal fin that looks like a mast on a sailboat. ESSDB Larry provided a photo of one of these beautiful fish.



These are nocturnal fish that you will most likely see on a night dive – during the day they will likely be hanging our in a crevice or hole. You are also likely to see them in aquariums, since they are small (up to about 8 inches) and are not aggressive toward other fish. They have a very elegant appearance and swim by undulating their back dorsal fin. They feed primarily on benthic crustaceans (e.g., crabs, shrimp, isopods) but will also prey on small fish.

Cool-?-of the Month Section

Cool-Web-Articles-of-the-Month:

Researchers conducted a deep ocean survey off the coast of Costa Rica back in 2023 and they have just published their results. They discovered a cool coral that has been dubbed the Golden Tree. They had to create a new family of corals to classify this species, which lives at depths greater than 360 m. Read about it by clicking on Golden Tree.

Question: What looks like a seahorse but isn't a seahorse? Answer: A Sea Muppet! Although no one has ever seen one alive, a few specimens have been collected in deepwater trawls off the coast of Australia. These small, deepwater fish have evolved to look identical to seahorses, and the males also have brooding pouches for giving birth, just like seahorses. You can read this fascinating article by clicking on Sea Muppets.

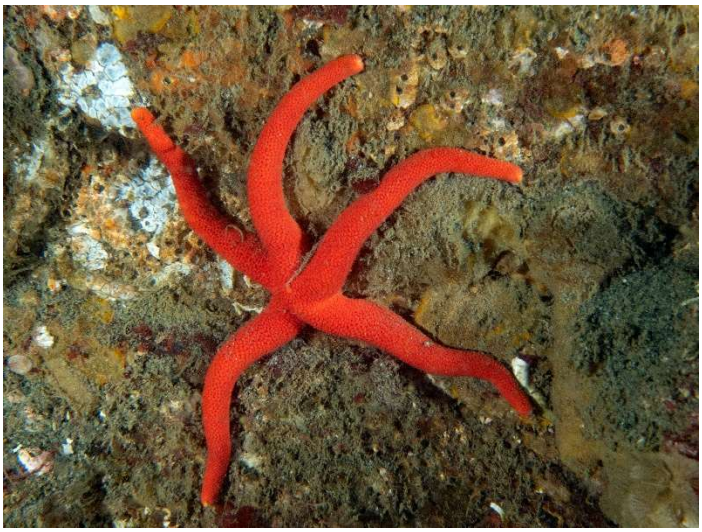
Researchers based in Trinidad and Tobago joined forces with the Schmidt Ocean Institute to conduct deepwater mapping and investigation in their waters this past summer. They succeeded in mapping about 13% of their marine territory. They found 25 cold water seeps (seeps that are not thermal vents but contain hydrocarbons, including methane, and support substantial biodiversity). You can read about it (and see some amazing photos) by clicking on Trinidad/Tobago Biodiversity.

Cool-Photos-of-the-Month:

Our cool photos for the month of November were taken by ESSDB Larry during previous dives at Fort Flagler. The first photo is a Slime Star, which is known for producing copious quantities of slime that can repel attacking sea stars. The second photo is a large Lewis Moon Snail, and the last photo is a healthy-looking Blood Star.







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 **December** issue by **Friday, November 20.**