

# NAUI SOURCES

## Dive Safety Through Education

August 5th 2021 Edition

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Cover Photo By: Tommie Sylvander and Mattias Ström



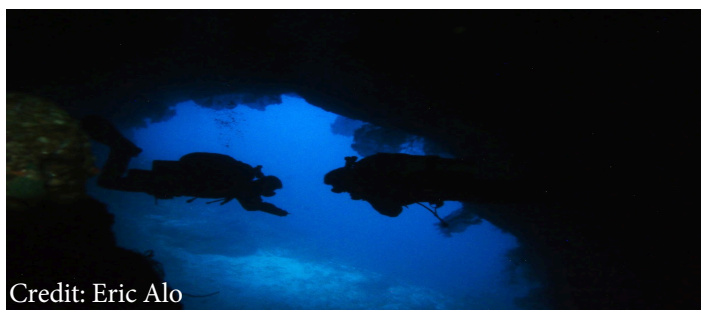
Please Note:

All Photos Used in this Newsletter are From NAUI Members!

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Credit: Eric Alo

# Members Photo Library

Thank you to all of the members for the photos that they have been sending. It is great to see what NAUI is doing worldwide.

Photos from the NAUI members library are featured in NAUI Sources, social media posts, marketing pieces and other NAUI promotions.

The NEXT Contest is to send in your best photo showing a Photo of a NAUI run Charter Boat. Go to <https://photolibrary.naui.org/> and upload a photo. Be sure to give us a brief description of the photo, what is happening in it and the names of those in the photo. We will announce the winner in the next NAUI Sources. The prize will be an Advanced Diver NES Kit.



## Winner of the Sources Photo Contest!

**Congratulations** to William Tong for the submission of this photo with the theme of new NAUI Leaders. You will be sent a code of Advanced Diver NES Kit as a thank you for your submission.

NAUI Asia-Pacific | Facebook



Photo Provided By: William Tong

# Canadian Diving: From Sea to Shining Sea (and some places in between)

By Ryan Vickers, NAUI member #59021

I am a proud Canadian, and a proud Canadian diver. And I'll admit that like every other diver in Canada, I do like to escape down to the sunny south to get some tropical diving in the off season. At the same time, I love diving in Canada. While I am based with 4D Diving in Barrie, Ontario, I've been lucky enough to dive across my home and native land. Here's three of them.

## On "the left side"

DIVE SITE: GB CHURCH

LOCATION: Near Sidney, British Columbia

My first trip to visit British Columbia was in 2016 and I was not disappointed with the Pacific waters. The temperature was perfect – not too cold but cold enough that a 7-mil suit did fine with the trade off being that the cold preserved the wonderful underwater beauty.

This site is an artificially sunk shipwreck that was put down by the Artificial Reef Society of British Columbia; in fact, it was the society's first effort which opened up in 1991. Built in 1943 and originating in England and was present in World War II as a ship to store and deliver supplies.

I found the shipwreck a wonderful dive as I do with any wreck but for me as this was the first dive in Pacific waters where I was drawn to the marine life. Sea anemones, nudibranchs and even the odd starfish were present in the 85-foot dive.



Photo Credit: <http://www.artificialreefsocietybc.ca/g-b-church.html>

## In "the middle"

DIVE SITE: LOCK 21

LOCATION: Near Long Sault, Ontario

When I grew up, I lived about five miles from this dive site for over a decade. However, as life would have it, I didn't get certified until I moved to where I currently live. It was a pleasure to return for a dive in 2005 with my dive club and get to tell them about the area and finally dive it for myself.

The existence of Lock 21 is an intriguing one as is many of the dive sites in far-Eastern Ontario. In 1959 the Saint Lawrence Seaway was opened to allow easier passage for ships to make their way to and from other points along their route. As a result, on the Canadian side six villages were flooded and two more partially flooded. Homeowners were given the chance to have a new house built or have their existing home moved down the highway to one of two newly created settlements.

Lock 21 is not for the beginners – there is usually a current of 2-3 knots, so it is best to have your wits about you. You're rewarded with a drift dive alongside the lock system followed by a hand over hand journey back to the start point using the railings of the lock as your guide. You must hold on tight! All in all, it's amazing to recall the history of this site which probably would not happen today.







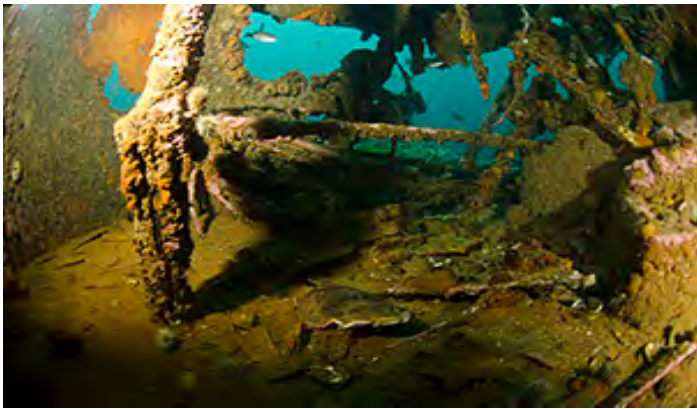
### On “the right”

DIVE SITE: PLM 27

LOCATION: Conception Bay South (CBS),  
Newfoundland and Labrador

I was lucky enough to attend university in the most eastern school in North America and I wasn't about to waste my time not getting to dive. The PLM 27 is part of four significant shipwrecks in CBS along with the Rosecastle, the Saganaga and the Strathcona. As it is the shallowest of the four wrecks it's likely to be one of the first ones that you do.

You will be rewarded with a spectacular dive (bring your dry suit if you can!) on the PLM 27. My most lasting memory after all of these years is the massively huge prop. Yes, you'll enjoy the marine life as well but you will definitely want to check out the prop! I was even lucky enough to be out on the water one time and even see a whale breach the water which made the subsequent dive even better.



In summary... Canada's diving is spectacular and it's well worth checking out any or all of the sites I've mentioned. Happy diving!

*Information sources:*

GB Church: <http://www.artificialreefsocietybc.ca/g-b-church.html>

Lock 21: <https://saveontarioshipwrecks.ca/diverguides/lock-21/>

PLM 27: <http://www.wrecksandreefs.com/plm27.htm>

# Hunting For Fish, To Protect the Environment

Written By: Jean Marc

If the title surprises you, this article might too! Where we mainly think of hunting fish for food, this story provides a different angle to hunting fish.

Lionfish (Pterois), are an invasive species in many places of the world. In an older edition of Sources, some years ago, I had written an article that covered the problems of invasive lion-fish in the Caribbean due to the introduction of the species by human accident. This time, we go over to Europe and take a look at the Mediterranean Sea.

Connected through the Suez Canal, the Mediterranean Sea receives water and fish from the Red Sea. The Red Sea is also connected to the Indian Ocean, home of the lion-fish! And that is where all the trouble starts! As hundreds of ships pass daily through the Suez canal, an enormous amount of water flows from the Red Sea into the Mediterranean Sea. With the water, comes the fish! The lion-fish is considered a super predator and that means that it very quickly reproduces in large amounts and has very few of its own predators!

On top of that, lion-fish have a large and healthy appetite for just about every little fish in the ocean thus creating a huge problem: little fish are needed to grow up and become bigger fish for humans to eat and to keep the ecosystem strong and thriving. So the lion-fish is directly responsible for destroying the ecosystem where mankind depends heavily upon it in many countries!



The lion-fish has very special look, but it is also very poisonous and that is something you do not want to find out for yourself, just take my word for it! Over the last few years, research has been done and guess what: lion-fish tastes amazing and are (with proper preparation) a very nice meal! So from lion-fish to lion-dish... It is better to hunt and eat rather than hunt and throw away!

Lebanon, a country located on the border of the Mediterranean Sea, is one of the countries directly threatened by the lion-fish invasion. So, the NAUI Representative for Lebanon, Mr. Sassine Alain, saw the lion-fish problem rising on the horizon and acted on it. During the last few years, he developed a completely new NAUI Specialty Course: Lion-fish hunting! Developing the training standards, the techniques, skills and the use of the proper equipment for safe hunting!



Safety matters as hunting lion-fish is not done with a fishing net or any other traditional way of fishing! Using a special spear-gun (Hawaiian sling), the fish is caught. The next problem is how to transport it underwater after being shot and how to get the lion-fish safely off of the spear. A special tube has been developed to insert the spear into and when removing the spear from the tube, the lion-fish is withheld in the tube by attached plastic retainers. So, using these materials, the hunter can collect multiple lion-fish on one dive and safely surface without being stung by the lion-fish!

The Lebanese NAUI community he has set up, helped him as they saw that hunting the lion-fish was not only necessary to protect their reefs but also brings double the amount of food to the table: directly and indirectly. Directly as the hunted lion-fish are converted to an easy lion-dish on a grill, while indirectly as well, as the quality/taste of the lion-fish is of such a high standard that it did not take for long for restaurants to discover this dish and so, helped in creating a large demand for freshly hunted lion-fish to serve to the hungry visitors of the restaurants!

Lebanon is the place to be to take this new NAUI Specialty Course and a complete range of NAUI Instructors are there to teach you and take you on a successful hunt, such as:

Sahar Lakkis, Nabil Chedid, Youssef Jundi, Bassam Oud, Ghaleb Nachabeh and Alain Sassine.

And while you are there, take advantage to see the beautiful country they live in and enjoy a nice lion-dish after the dive! It will be well worth your while going there!



# Where can you find NAUI?

NAUI is active in so many places.

This edition we would like to congratulate and welcome the China Nanjing People's Police who have now adopted NAUI training. A successful leadership course was held for them by Course Director Anthony So NAUI #12923.



# Diving a Castle!

**H**ave you ever imagined what treasures from the past could be hiding just below the surface in the moats surrounding a castle? Well, you may not have to for much longer, Tommie Sylvander our NAUI Regional Manager for Sweden has been working with the scientific community in Sweden to answer exactly this question!

Together Tommie and NAUI divers have been granted permission to dive a castle moat from the 1300 century! NAUI had a wonderful opportunity to do a day of diving at the Swedish Varburg Fortress! There have only been a handful of permitted dives in the moat that surrounds the castle, and for the first time in many years NAUI divers got the chance to explore it. The last permitted dive was allowed in the 1970's, so it's been nearly 50 years since anyone was last able to go down into the moat to explore.

The main purpose for the dives were to conduct an environmental cleanup, which for NAUI divers is always a great cause. The other purpose was just as important, that being a chance to make a scientific or historic discovery. With such a long time having passed since anyone has been able to dive this site it was a great opportunity. NAUI is so thrilled to have been invited to conduct this clean up, as well as promote a positive difference for the aquatic health of plants and animals that call the moat home. Additionally, it was an opportunity for NAUI to show people how beneficial diving can be as it helps the earth and makes a positive difference!

The dive event took place on July 24th, 2021, at the Swedish Varburg Fortress. And the environmental benefit was great.

In addition, a great discovery was made that will contribute to Swedish history and science. Human bones were found! These were turned over to scientific and historical authorities upon surfacing. These are now in the proper hands of a museum whose professionals have already dated them to be from the 1400's and possibly from the 1300's.



There is a lot of interest in holding other events.

NAUI is so pleased to have the chance to contribute to the world of history and science, and other learning opportunities.



# Naii Flagship Travels around the World:

## A story that continues!

In our last Sources article, you could read the announcement of the new NAUI Flagship SY Blowing Bubbles having started a world(scuba)trip and started sailing from Port Leucate (France).

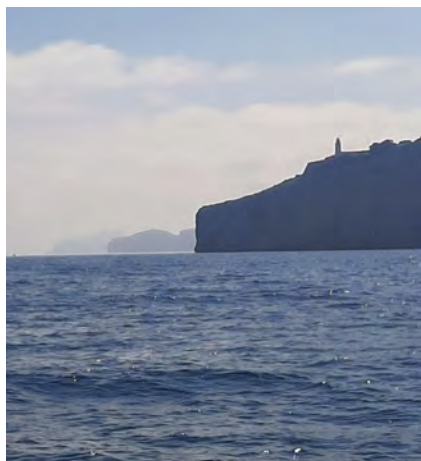
The stories continues and we will print regular updates from this ocean voyage, touching many parts of our blue planet, a voyage that will take over 10 years! The nicest part of the story is that you can read about in our Sources magazine BUT you can also join the SY Blowing Bubbles on-board and become part of the story!

Captain's log 28/6/2021

After leaving the port of Valencia (which is a very nice port by the way), we have set sail towards Torrevieja, still traveling in the Mediterranean Sea, heading south. A calm day on the sea, with winds up to 10 knots, which is rather calm. The day is announced calm and steady and so leaving port, we set all sails to be able to make some speed. After just 2 hours on full sails, the wind dies on us and there was no other option than to lower sails and continue our journey using our inboard engine. A little more noise, a little more movement, but at least we advanced towards the south. As we set in our lazy mood, the engine rumbling away and the sea changing into a flat, mirror-like surface, nothing else to do as see time pass by, Karen (crew member and NAUI Instructor Trainer) sees a movement on the water surface, some 200 meters in the distance. She quickly takes the binoculars and keeps staring at the spot! Again, a movement and she detects the origin: a fin sticking out of the water? A fin, in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, about 50 nautical miles offshore?? What could that be? On our nautical charts, we see that we are traveling over a zone of 6000ft waterdepth! A deep trench in the ocean floor. As wind was next to nothing and we were traveling by motor anyway, we decided to approach the fin slowly and inspect a little closer what this could be! As we approached, the fin stayed on the surface and soon we started guessing what it would be?

Shark, big tuna, sailfish, ...

We closed the gap separating us from the fin and Karen was already up front on the boats pulpit to inspect the fin or even better, the attachment to the fin! "It is a Mola Mola!", she shouted! I highly doubted that, that option was about the very last thing on my mind.



So, let me take you back in my life a little bit! I am Jean-Marc Claes, captain/owner of the SY Blowing Bubbles and NAUI Course Director #40992. Currently 48 years old and a scuba instructor for 30 years, starting my career at the age of 18. All my life, I have been an active instructor, earning my way through life by teaching scuba courses, combined with setting up several dive centers and dive stores worldwide. Most of my energy went into creating Time To Dive in Belgium, combining dive shops with dive schools and dive travel (In the latest Sources, you can read about Time To Dive and the new owners). During all these years, I have been blessed with lots of energy and together with Karen, we have traveled the globe and I succeeded in diving over 100 countries up to today. A large portfolio of experience and as a famous person once said: The more I learn about our oceans, fish, reefs, the more I realize that I actually know very little about it! This is for sure one of the reasons, why we decided to start our next 10 year worldtour on board SY Blowing Bubbles. During the 38 years of scuba diving and traveling, I have never ever seen a Mola Mola!

Call it my 'unicorn-fish'...there was very little I didn't do in order to try to see it somewhere in the world! Traveling to Bali, multiple trips to the enchanted Galapagos islands, I could go on and on about it... I have traveled to all hot spots to catch a glimpse of this rather special fish but guess what? After so many dives (yes, I still do keep a logbook, even with 15,000 dives), it just never showed itself to me! So, now being 'just in the Mediterrean Sea', I had to believe Karen (guess how many jokes were made in the past about Mola Mola's?) that IT just decided to pop up here, in front of the SY Blowing Bubbles? I decided to shut down the engine and keep the boat drifting! There was no wind, almost no current, so time for me to leave the steering wheel and head to boats pulpit to inspect to fin myself! And guess what...IT proved itself to be a real Mola Mola and it was enjoying a sun tan!

Mola Mola live in very deep waters (and yes, we were floating above a deep spot) and Mola Mola enjoy the sun to burn parasites off their skin and at the same time catch some heat in their body as they live deep down in the ocean where the water is very very (did I say VERY?) cold! The Mola Mola did not seem to be bothered with our presence and so, within less than a minute, I was equipped with mask, snorkel and fins (and underwater camera) and carefully slid into the water from our dive deck. Camera (video) on and myself in (NAUI) freedive-mode and this moment was MINE, never to forget! Just imagine, how would you feel at that moment? In the middle of nowhere, alone in the sea, having an encounter with a fish that you were 'chasing' over 30 years in thousands of scuba dives... And our ocean voyage on-board the SY Blowing Bubbles had only just started!!

The video is to be seen on our website:  
[www.blowingbubbles.eu](http://www.blowingbubbles.eu)



Captain's log 28/6/2021: 2nd part

On this day, we never reached the aimed destination as we did lose some time with a marvelous ocean encounter! We had to lower anchor at Cap d'Or (near Moraira) to celebrate a long set goal that was achieved today! Long set goals are celebrated onboard SY Blowing Bubbles with some 'other bubbles'. If you have long set goals to accomplish, why don't you send us an email and maybe we know just the spot & the moment to be onboard SY Blowing Bubbles to serve you some more bubbles!

Email: [info@blowingbubbles.eu](mailto:info@blowingbubbles.eu)



## Join Us for the Next NAUI Talk

**E**

very two weeks the NAUI Marketing department runs the NAUI Talk webinar series with guest presenters, speakers, and discussions. Each topic is an opportunity for NAUI members around the world to build and succeed in their businesses. Sessions range from 30-60 minutes, time well spent!

The next session will be on Tuesday August 10th at 2 pm EST where we will feature “Increase your continued learning students.” We will look at how to get and keep students in your training program. Continued learning is a fundamental concept to both NAUI and the ongoing success of your training program. If you are a store, resort, independent instructor, or professional educator this presentation is for you!

The invitations will go out, but why wait? Use the link below and sign up now! Feel free to pass this link on to your fellow divers!

Topic: NAUI Talk - Increase your continued learning students.

Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_pMT1D3nWQIuwfW0TtxO7mg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pMT1D3nWQIuwfW0TtxO7mg)



Upcoming Talks.

August 10th: Increase your continued learning students.

August 24th: Increasing your bottom line means profits!

September 7th: Plan your next season for success!

Check out Previous sessions of NAUI Talk by going to NAUI TV -

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/c/NAUITV>



# NAUI's International Think Tanks

by Bill Doran

## NAUI's International Think Tanks

Thank you to those that responded to the article in the last issue of NAUI Sources on NAUI Think Tanks. The dates are now set, and invites will go out to those that have signed up. For those that have questions I have placed the notice from last time below along with some dates added.

As the Marketing Director for NAUI Worldwide I am starting some NAUI Think Tanks. Yes, NAUI Think Tanks, there I go again with the puns!

The goal is to be truly NAUI Worldwide and have people from each of our service centers around the world create a communicative environment that focuses on discussions and strategies that can help meet the needs of similar members as well as unique regional needs.

There will be three groups and they will be divided into these categories. One for Independent Instructors, one for Professional Educators (Such as teachers at Colleges and Universities), and one for Stores, Charters and Resorts. With these three groups we can really focus on member needs. The reason behind the three different groups is because each group type faces a different set of challenges, and it would be easiest for people who face the same marketing issues, to help come up with solutions and opportunities.

These meetings will be an open forum for positive discussion, allowing everyone in that group to share their thoughts and ideas for their category and region. In turn we all will be able to use other people's thoughts and ideas to help better our own plans and strategies.

Each of these groups will be meeting once quarterly (once every 3 months) virtually to have these discussions. Between these meeting I will be able to focus on different area needs. My goal is to have two people for each region within each group.

If you have any interest in joining a NAUI Think Tank, please email [bdoran@naui.org](mailto:bdoran@naui.org) with your name, which group you wish to be a part of and which region you are from. Then I will put you on a list and send out the date of the Zoom meeting as well as pass on further details.

Thank you in advance for your interest.

Yours in fun, safe diving, Bill Doran.

Marketing Director NAUI Worldwide.

The dates for the first three different NAUI Think Tanks are:

September 2nd, 2021- Stores

September 9th, 2021- Independents

September 16th, 2021- Professional Educators



Credit: Sam Shaw Horng Ho



# NAUI's Commitment to the Health of our Planet

NAUI, is known throughout the scuba industry to be the original diving certification agency. In addition, divers know that NAUI has always been committed to providing dive safety through education. But did you know that for over 60 years we have been committed to the environment?



Credit: Force Blue

That is right, NAUI has this commitment to the environment written right into the Standards and Policies that guide our membership!

Today there are many groups throughout the world that are working to make the world a safer and more sustainable place for all. Together we can make the world of difference!

Our many initiatives have been helping to save the environment, but for some our mission may seem to be one of the best kept secrets of NAUI. Today, we are renewing our mission to continue with our dedication to students and the environment. So, what is new? Now we are sharing our impact. Join NAUI in one of our many ongoing projects of sustainability or restoration.

The past 60 years of NAUI projects have made a difference, now let us make an even bigger impact.

What projects can you as a NAUI Diver work on? Below is a few of the many opportunities.

## **Partnering with conservation minded companies**

- We have had the pleasure of being involved on the Superbowl Legacy Reef Project. Working together on this project is NAUI, Pepsi, NFL Green, Force Blue and a long list of companies and government agencies. Two of the projects have already taken place and many more are scheduled. One of the events that have taken place include 100 Yards of Hope, which was featured in a documentary that is being played and promoted at our aquarium partners around the United States. Through this project 100 yards of a reef restoration took place.

- One of the partners above, Force Blue, is a special partnership of which we are immensely proud of. NAUI supports these veterans in their good deeds which gives them an opportunity to serve again, in a different way than what they used to. As mentioned in the above documentary the veterans work to heal the planet while they work to find healing for themselves.

- We continue to work with the Pepsi Stronger Together Initiative. The latest event was last week in Destin Florida for a marine debris cleanup. In July a sea turtle survey is scheduled to take place. Other initiatives are scheduled.

- NAUI Green Diver initiative. Divers are familiar with the great environmental works that we continue to do. But just wait we have news to come!

## **Sustainability**

We are excited with our work in this area. Our mission is to always be "Mindful of Sustainability", these are not words but a mission.

- Steps to sustainability. In every department we have plans in place for using products, practices and policies that will bring us to real sustainability.
- Our NAUI App is second to none. The current version offers a wide range of items that meet our sustainability goals. But wait until you see what is next!
- Certification cards. Our NAUI App professionally displays a divers Digital Certification Card. For those that wish to have a physical card there is good news there too. NAUI will be using recycled plastic in our certification.
- We have partnered with StepChange Clothing and are releasing our new line of NAUI clothing. The new line will start with T-Shirts and Long Sleeve shirts that are all made from recycled water bottles. As we add items to the line, they will be selected based on our sustainability goals.
- Steps to sustainability, is more than just a phrase at NAUI.

These are but a few of the many projects and initiatives that NAUI has been a part of recently. In the coming articles we have even more to share.

While you are waiting, join NAUI! Contact me to see how your diving can make the world of difference!

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## Announcements / News

Check out what NAUI Members are doing and let us list your events on the NAUI Sources Site. These can be courses, Environmental Clean Ups, or more. Simply email your event information to [marketing@nauui.org](mailto:marketing@nauui.org) and help us keep NAUI divers informed.

<https://sources.nauui.org/category/news/>



Credit: Gary Sun Shao Wu

## Promote your events!

Take a look at upcoming courses, environmental clean ups, special events and more.

Don't forget to tell us about your events so that we can list them too. Simply email your event information to [marketing@nauui.org](mailto:marketing@nauui.org) and help us keep NAUI divers informed.

<https://www.nauui.org/events/>



## SCUBA Industry Careers – Check the NAUI jobs!

Looking for a career change? Are you looking for a NAUI Dive Professional? This is the place to go.

Posting career opportunities is simple. All you need to do is to email the job title, description, location and who interested members should contact to [marketing@nauui.org](mailto:marketing@nauui.org) and we will get the message out to NAUI members.

<https://www.nauui.org/careers/>



Credit: Alvanir S. Oliveira





That's All for this Week,  
But...

For NAUI Sources to  
Continue to Provide an  
Amazing Newsletter, We  
Need Help from You!

Send in your Articles, Photos, Events, and  
Anything Else that you want to share with  
the rest of the NAUI Community, we  
look forward to receiving your content,  
which you can send to:

[marketing@nau.org](mailto:marketing@nau.org)

Thank you!

Credit: Tommie Sylvander and  
Mattias Ström

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