

# Fathoms

the magazine of the underwater world

issue twenty-one

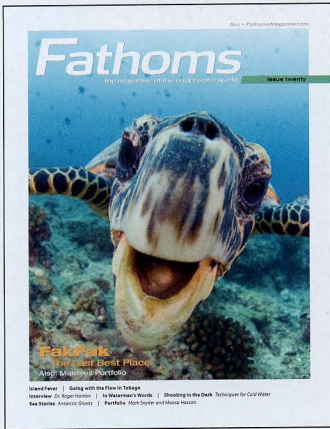


## On the Trail of Florida's Manatees

Wakaya Style | Ambon *Isle of Spice* | Portfolio *James Watt*

Small Things | Sea Stories *Shifting Baselines* | Computers in a Wet World

Interview *Rob Stewart* | In Waterman's Words | Image Search *Blue-Ring Daze*



I love *Fathoms*. It has helped me develop into a better underwater photographer and storyteller. I never really got this sense of inspiration from other dive magazines which cater to the general dive community. As a result, I am now pursuing a better understanding of the marine world and ecology as I transition from a forensic scientist into a marine biology enthusiast. My thanks to all that live to dive, dive to live, and share it with the rest of us.

ELISSA MAYO  
*Monarch Beach, CA*

It was with great admiration that we read Stan's piece in last month's issue. In typical Waterman fashion, it was both funny and bittersweet, an eloquently poetic description of the harsh reality of the progression of time. And so, after reading Stan's piece, we offer this open letter to a diving legend: Stan, don't give up the ghost just yet! Although the rigors of free diving with humpback whales in the open Pacific Ocean off Tonga may be a touch beyond your capabilities these days, we would hope that you would continue your diving career, even if it means taking on less challenging dives. Your descriptions of the underwater world, along with the photographic images you have created through the years, have inspired countless divers to explore the great underwater world, including the two of us. Your insight and observation is pure poetry and you could find the words to describe a mundane dive on the most prosaic of reefs as an awe-inspiring experience. We hope to keep reading your accounts of old and new adventures for many years to come and we thank you for all you've done for all of us, including a small moment of connection at a dive show in Chicago.

MICHAEL SALVAREZZA AND CHRISTOPHER P. WEAVER  
*Setauket, NY*

As a reader, what appeals to me about your magazine are notes of authenticity. I have only logged 425 dives, but many things have gone wrong...including dangerous currents, negotiated decisions that left no one particularly pleased given the options, and so forth. Your magazine seems to distill the range of possible experiences. The characters you profile—not all of them pleasant or safety-first divers—are a representative sample of the individuals I have met in this sport.

DANIEL SLOAN  
*Seattle, WA*

It was back in 1972 when Spain was under the dictatorship of Franco, there was only one TV channel in black and white, the terrorist group ETA was setting off bombs all over the country, and the Civil Police was anything but civil. This is the Spain that I returned to after spending many years in NY. I was walking down The Gran Via back then (this is the place where all the movie theaters were) and I see this incredible billboard (*advertising a new movie*) with this gigantic shark coming straight at me. Yes, it was *Blue Water White Death*. I will never know how it made it to Spain, but there it was, right next to the *Ten Commandments* and *Spartaco*. I was hooked! And still am, it changed my life! I followed and read about Stan for many years, he always had that something special in his story telling. The other day I received my copy of *Fathoms*, and was deeply moved by his article. It's no easy thing admitting something like aging, but to tell the world about it is another story. Yes this is, and will always be Stan Waterman.

LEANDRO BLANCO  
*Madrid, Spain*

# Fathoms

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