

Saturday, August 27, 2016

Moss Landing, south pipe

Dennis Belcher, President of the Northern California Skin Divers Club, and Lino launched from K Dock in Monterey and headed to the pipeline south of the sand plant.

Neither of them had dove that location before, but they easily found the pipeline and dropped anchor in about 55 feet of water. Since they were hunting halibut they split up the area, with Lino heading east (shallower) and Dennis heading west.

Ten minutes into the dive Dennis' computer flashed low battery, then went blank. Knowing he would end his dive early he shot a lingcod for his stringer, then planned to check the sand for halibut for about 10 minutes more before heading back. Looking up, he saw a great white swimming above the sand next to the rocks, about 20 feet away. It turned away, then returned towards the pipeline and passed by Dennis 4 times, while Dennis was crouched next to some rocks, with the closest pass being about 10 feet (which Dennis says was too close for him). After a minute or two of not seeing Mr. White, Dennis headed to the other side of the rock pile and towards the anchor. He also emptied his stringer so as not to be trailing bloody fish.

Dennis figured this was his rent payment for the day to the Landlord. He describes the fish as being the size of a large sofa, with an intimidating width, swimming effortlessly. The fish did not show any aggression.

This is the third encounter at this pipeline this summer!