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Saturday, May 26th, 2007 at 12:00 AM
Entry By: Utilia Aggressor Crew

May 19-26, 2007 The Whale Sharks return! Weather topside was hot and sunny all week with winds barely reaching five knots. This reflected in excellent visibility underwater ranging from 70 to 110 feet, with water temperature at 83-84 degrees. Crew: Captain Eddy Anderson, Nestor Vidotto, Abe Francis, Marna Collins and Candy Collins. We welcomed eleven guests aboard this week, eight from the United States, two from Russia, and one from the Netherlands. They arrived at different points in the day / night, but once all aboard were all fed handsomely by chef Marna before a sound nights sleep at La Ceiba dock.

Our first stop of the week was on the south of Utilia to carry out our check out dives in one hundred foot visibility at the sight of Radar Reef. From here we moved around on the hunt for a Whale Shark, but with limited success – plenty of Tuna jumping about, but no Mr. Big. So we headed for our afternoon sight of Blackish Point to check out the caves and caverns, before the crew spotted some surface action out in the blue. Once all were aboard we set off on the hunt once more, with somewhat more success, as we all had multiple dives with a couple of different Whale Sharks, as well as the odd Manta – happy days, and a great start to the week!

Monday morning we began at the site of The Pinnacle situated within the marine reserve of Turtle Harbor. A quick investigation of the famous swim through before going onto see Goldentail & Spotted Moray, Common Octopus, Wrasse Blenny, and Spotted Eagle Ray. Next stop at Jack Neal Point on the south of Utilia where we found Peacock Flounders, Yellowhead Jawfish, Quilfin Blenny, Spotted Moray, and Hawksbill Turtle.

For Tuesday morning we headed out early for seven miles north of Cayos Cochinos at Coco Sea Mount. As ever plenty of sea life awaited us including schools of Creole Wrasse, Blue Chromis, Horseye Jack, and Mahogany Snapper as well as Great Barracuda, Black Durgan, White Spotted Filefish, Porcupine fish and big Dog Snappers.

From here we headed north to the south of Roatan for divemaster Abe to lead our guests through the swim throughs and cracks that make up the best of Mary's Place, finding schools of Southern Sennets, and Parrotfish as well as juvenile Spotted Drum and Spotted Scorpionfish along the way.

Our final stop of the day was over on the west of Roatan at Taviana's Wall where we found big Channel Clinging Crab, Caribbean Reef Squid, Scrawled Filefish, Spiny Spotted Lobster and a majestic Spotted Eagle Ray.

The wreck of the Aguila was our first assignment of Wednesday where divemasters Eddy and Nestor did the weekly chum which this week included Cubera Snapper, big Green Moray and bright Blue Parrotfish.

The short distance south to Half Moon Bay Wall was our afternoon spot for diving where we found adult and juvenile Yellowhead Jawfish, Channel Clinging Crab, Horseye Jack, Spotted Moray, Hawksbill Turtle and Black Spotted Nudibranch.

Returning to Utilia for Thursday morning and to the sea mount of Black Hills was our destination. Here we found Great Barracuda, White Spotted Filefish, Atlantic Spadefish, Creole Wrasse, Spotted Scorpionfish, and Hawksbill Turtle.

Next we hit a seldom dove sea mount on the south of Utilia where the Utilia Aggressor has recently placed a new pin. Named Kellie's Delight, after a beautiful young lady found on the island it turned out to be a very pleasant dive where apparently miracle grow had been sprinkled with huge untouched Barrel Sponges, Lava Tubes, Gorgonians, and various Sea Fans.

The final site of the day was at Ted's Point on the south east of the island. Diving here we found Yellowhead Jawfish, Peacock Flounder, Big free-swimming Green Moray, Caribbean Reef Octopus, and a white Longsnout Seahorse.

The final morning took us firstly to the Halliburton Wreck where we encountered Spotted Drum, Bearded Fireworms, Yellowline Arrowcrabs, Atlantic Thorny Oysters, and a friendly Green Moray. Then onto Little Bight for our final dive of the week to find multiple White-Nose Pipefish, Caribbean Reef Squid, Giant Hermit Crab, and another Longsnout Seahorse.

So another great week aboard the Utilia Aggressor comes to a close, and with the return of Mr. Big as well as all the small critters, a great week was had by all.

As always Marna and Candy kept things ship shaped in the galley, and down in the quarters. The dive deck and below the surface was taken care of by Captain Eddy, along with his divemasters Nestor and Abe with great aplomb.

A final thank you to a great bunch of guests this week and we hope to see them and you again soon for another great week of diving aboard the Utilia Aggressor.

Written by Abe Francis, DM/Inst/Photo Pro Utilia Aggressor.