

Location in Kruse Audiofiles #1: 1:34:30-1:38:50. Pages 41-43

*Dewey Livingston:* Were there any memorable marine life sightings during your many dives down there that come to mind?

*Tom Santilena:* I think the Metridium. They're very, very beautiful. They're an anemone that has a long, long neck and they're bright, bright white and because they're bright, bright white, they're easy to see and they're pretty nice.

01:35:00

I remember one time that was, aside from the Metridium, we were going across one of those channels and I remember looking down into the white bottom of sand and there were hundreds of fish. These were big fish, not little, tiny schooling fish. These were probably ten-pound fish. I think we called them red cods. But they were all spaced evenly away from one another. It wasn't a school that was going this way. There was a perfect set of distance between each one, in front, side-to-side. It was like they were a marching band.

And that really, really impressed me. I didn't understand what would ever cause fish to do that but I've always remembered that 'cause it just never happened and they were dead stopped. They weren't going anywhere. It was like they were sitting on the bottom and somebody told them – and that was pretty unbelievable to me.

*Dewey Livingston:* Anything come to mind, Bill, about fish, sharks? Did you see sunfish, whales?

*Tom Santilena:* We saw sunfish. We always jumped in the water, there were sharks. There were always sharks when we jumped in the water. I never saw one once I was in the water. They were all blue sharks and they just kind of scattered. Once you were under the water, I never saw one. In all my dives, I never saw one. When other people said that they saw one, I never saw one.

*Bill Kruse:* Of all the shark stories we heard, I only saw one shark swim by and ignore us on the decom line one day, and I think several other people had a similar experience. We never saw a whale underwater. In fact, I've never seen so many whales as we saw a couple of weeks ago ever, anywhere, anytime in my life. We saw whales but very few out there and nothing underwater.

I think from a moving marine life perspective, the juvenile fish on the bottom. We hit a year which was much like this year, where they were all over the place and they were in the way. They were in the way of the camera and in the way of the divers. They were in the way of doing anything, at least in how you perceived it. So that was impressive. I had never seen that type of schooling of small juvenile fish except in the Red Sea, where at least at the time, it was pretty pristine. It's changed now and it's still there in Cordell Bank.

So I remember the Metridiums that Tom talks about because on several of the deeper, flatter dives, I think Craine's Point area was one of the areas where we found a large group of them. And the reason they were important other than they were easy to see is we encountered them many times in Monterey off Cannery Row in the deeper water of 60 feet and deeper out there, so we were familiar with them.

I don't remember if we saw any sea pens because we were not in muddy areas and sea pens require muddy areas and Metridiums can be on the rocks.

*Tom Santilena:*

I mean you're asking us for interesting things we saw and I think also what was an interesting thing was what we didn't see. There were many dives where we would go out there and no fish. They seemed like they were gone. And then other times, like Bill said, they were just all over the place. You can't get them off your camera. That's pretty interesting, too, 'cause you go down to a place that's so lush in life and all of a sudden, there's no fish.