

*Coral Regency on Bonaire and told to take it up with them. Mr. Kevin Garvey, manager on Bonaire, has refused to return communications concerning your trip. I would unpack my bags if I were you.*

*Judging from the literature sent by the Coral Regency, it appears that the free trip is related to time-*

*share or condo sales. Most of these companies operate by giving away or selling below-cost trips to visit their locations. There's usually no obligation other than to listen to a high-pressure sales pitch. Maybe you're luckier than you think. They could have sold you a condo, taken your deposit, and then refused to talk to you. I would voice a complaint with*

*Our World Underwater, where the so-called "prizes" were given away, to help prevent such inconveniences to other divers in the future, and I'd advise anyone thinking of having anything to do with the Coral Regency Resort to be extremely leery. Customer service and public relations don't seem to be their strong suit.*

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## Flotsam & Jetsam

### One Boat Out of Limbo and Another One In

The *Cehili* is back. The live-aboard's fate has been the subject of recent speculation, but the boat appears to be back on the market. As we reported in the July issue, the *Cehili* did go to Singapore. They reconfigured the cabins to eliminate the quad-share cabins — an excellent idea, as no one wanted to pay that kind of money to share a cabin with three other people. Other improvements being touted by the "new" *Cehili*? The maximum number of passengers has been reduced from 28 to 20 and the rate has been reduced to \$250 a day for the standard double cabins. Larry Smith will remain the divemaster, and the boat will continue its seasonal schedule of rotating from the Manado area to the Banda Sea. They will offer fewer dive cruises, as plans are to alternate cruises with other itineraries that include only some diving or no diving. Undersea Discovery, the former marketer for the *Cehili*, went out of business and operation has been assumed by T. Thorson, the Norwegian owner of the vessel. Mr. Thorson is not honoring deposits made by dive travel whole-

salers to Undersea Discovery. This could affect which wholesalers will be selling the *Cehili*; check with Island Dreams or Tropical Adventures, both of which have said they will be booking the boat, for more details.

Just as the *Cehili* is coming out of limbo, another Indonesian live-aboard, the *Tropical Princess*, is going in. Word is that the *Tropical Princess* is no longer accepting booking. However, just like the *Cehili* saga, rumors are that a white knight in the form of another large live-aboard operator might be stepping in to save the operation.

The apparent demise of the *Tropical Princess* came as a surprise to many people. It has had some problems, such as not enough money put into boat maintenance, but it was a well-entrenched operation with a reputation for good diving. It may be time for us divers to take a good hard look at trip cancellation insurance.

### Just One More Dive Mag?

I try to read them all, and that's saying a lot these days, especially if you include publications outside the U.S. How-

ever, if you dive or want to dive the Pacific, *Asian Diver* covers a lot of locations that you might not read about in the stateside mags. Where else would you hear about diving Vietnam aboard the *Song Saigon*, a modern replica of a wooden sailing junk? For more information on the *Song Saigon*, contact Mr. Christian Bouteillier, Voiles Vietnam's Headquarters, 17 Pham Ngoc Thach, Q.3, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, telephone +(84-8) 296750 or fax +(84-8) 231591. For information on *Asian Diver*, contact Sports Asia, 19 Tanglin Road, #05-15, Tanglin Shopping Centre, Singapore, 1024.

### Old Divers Never Die, They Just Get a Discount

Peter Hughes Diving is offering a 10% discount good at all their operations for any diver who is 59 years or older. When we asked Peter why, he told us that unlike many others in the industry, he sees the market as stagnant and the average age of his clientele increasing. He was working off a hunch, designed to encourage older divers to keep on enjoying diving. He even told a story of one wealthy family that chartered one of the *Dancers*

for a three-generational dive reunion. Hmmm, a 10% discount on the whole boat would be substantial.

## Throw Away the Key

Diving in Indonesia is excellent, but you have to know where to go. According to Indonesian Environment Minister Sarwono Kusumaatmadja, who is urging stronger criminal sentences to people convicted of damaging coral reefs, only 7% of coral reefs around Indonesia were in good condition, with 35% partly damaged, the rest almost destroyed.

## Security Investment

In the July issue, we mentioned using key chains to secure dive bag zippers. Bob Grove faxed us his solution for keeping other fingers out of his dive bag. "I've used plastic cable ties for this purpose for several years because they are inexpensive and very difficult to remove without cutting, but they are easier to cut than the dive bag. I can tell at a glance if my gear bag has been tampered with as soon as I pick it up."

Cable ties are available at electronic supply stores and at some retail outlets such as Radio Shack. At a couple of bucks per hundred ties, they're a good security investment.

## Hawaii's Fishes

If you're into Hawaiian fish, this guidebook is the new standard. It shows 233 Hawaiian species in color, twice as many as any other Hawaiian guide book. Photos, 2-3 per page, are of live fish on the reefs in all color phases. For each species, the preferred common name, Hawaiian name, scientific name, and alternative common names are given. Other information includes the meanings of Hawaiian and scientific names,

fish sizes, where each photo was taken — even the best place to find the rarest of the fishes.

Families of fish are ordered alphabetically. This arrangement makes it easier to find a fish's family if you know its name, but places some similar families, like triggers and filefish, far apart.

Short introductions cover habitats and where and when to dive or snorkel in Hawaii. In the back are sections on photography, further reading, a table of valid and invalid names, and indices of common, Hawaiian, and scientific names.

The author gives information for aquarists, including how to get fish bagged in oxygen for the trip home. However, lest you think he advocates reducing the number of fish for other divers to see, he does state that it might be good to increase the number of parks, and that fish that can't be kept alive should never be taken.

This book has more fish than a diver will find in several years' diving in Hawaii. I give it my highest recommendation. — Douglas Fenner, Ph.D.

*Hawaii's Fishes, a guide for snorkelers, divers and aquarists*, by J. P. Hoover. Mutual Publishing, 1993. 178 pages, 1 lb., softcover, \$18. Available from Sea Challengers, 4 Somerset Rise, Monterey, CA 93940.

*Douglas Fenner, a Seattle-based marine biologist, has written his own book and helped identify species in the books of other noted authors.*

### Comments?

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## In Depth

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