



RUBBER DUCKIES AT LARGE. Twenty-nine thousand bathtub toys hit the drink in January of 1992 when stormy seas tossed a cargo container holding plastic ducks, frogs, beavers, and turtles overboard into the seas of the Aleutian Islands.

Seattle-based oceanographers are trying to track where these rubber duckies end up in hopes that the data will provide clues on weather patterns and fish migrations, as well as oil spills. The theory is that the toy animals will journey through the Arctic Ocean north of Greenland to the Atlantic, ending up off the coast of Britain some time within the next eight years. Four hundred of the toys have been spotted so far.

If you spot one of the creatures, send its photo, captioned with the details of where and when you found it, to Curtis Ebbesmeyer, Evan-Hamilton, Inc., 731 N. Northlake Way, Seattle, WA 98103.

AN EYE ON THE FUTURE. A new range of fish products high in the polyunsaturated fatty acids docosahexaenoic and eicosapentaenoic acids, which are said to improve brain function, are being marketed in Japan.

Sales of one of the more popular items, tuna eyeballs, have fallen off because no one knows how to cook them. Savvy *In Depth* readers will purchase their eyeballs from Marui Co. of Tokyo, whose precooked packages require no further preparation (\$29.59 a pair).

PLEASE UNDERSTAND: NO MIXED STATEROOMS WILL BE ASSIGNED. Peter Hughes is selling a special charter on the *Wind Dancer* for singles only. Ten

women and ten men will be taken on a first-call basis for the Bay Island trip. I wonder if he checks your marital status. (800-9-DANCER or 305-669-9391)

NEW LITTLE HOG NUMBER — NEW MANAGER. The remote and funky Plantation Beach Resort on Honduras's Bay Island of Cayos Cochinos ("Little Hog" in Spanish) is a nearby favorite dive spot, especially for macro work. For some reason, there seem to be more tidbits and bizarre creatures on its reef than most of the wider Caribbean destinations. Helen, the last manager, is out, and a new couple have now taken her place. I'll keep an eye on new reports coming in to track any changes. The resort has also changed its stateside booking agent. It can now be reached at A-1 Scuba in Colorado, 800-628-3723 or 303-789-7690, or telephone the resort direct at 011-504-420-974.

IT'S HOTTER NOW THAT IT'S COOL. Halfway around the world (it takes about the same time to get there leaving from the West or East of the U.S.), the Maldives are a hot dive destination. The European crowd has dominated the market for the past several years, and the live-aboards there have shown little interest in courting the American market because we like to dive too much and we want our boats air conditioned. For whatever reason, they seem to be changing their minds and are now not only willing to put up with three dives a day but air conditioning the live-aboards. The Koi Malla has added air, and a new boat, the *Manthiri*, is also offering cool air. Contact Island Dreams, 800-346-6116 or 713-973-9300, or Tropical Adventures, 800-247-3483 or 206-441-3483, for more info.

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