

LIVE-ABOARDS

CANADA

Mike Lever Diving, *Nautilus Explorer*, August 2000, Nikki Mahan, Bellevue, WA. Vis: 20-60 ft. Water: 54-56 degrees. Dive restrictions: Dry suit, 50 minutes due to currents. This is the only way to travel to Browning Pass, the best dive sites for cold water. Mike has taken Northwest Diving to a superior level. The 110' boat cruises at night so we had the day to make three dives if we wanted to. The boat is top-notch! (604-657-7614; 888-434-8322; Fax-604-266-3285)

COLOMBIA

Malpelo

***Inzan Tiger*, July 2000, Kirk Fleischer (kirkfleischer@hotmail.com), Baltimore, MD.** Vis: 30 to 40 Feet. Water: 75 to 78 F., choppy currents. Dive your own profile: yes. Dive restrictions: No, Heinz and Zan Buchbinder went to depths of up to 220' routinely. Minimal regard for diver safety. They treat the *Inzan Tiger* as their personal yacht and paying customers are often made to feel as if they are imposing on the Buchbinders. Both wander the boat wrapped only in a towel or in a skimpy T-shirt that ensures guests are inappropriately "flashed" on a routine basis. The Buchbinders make no effort to "lead" divers to the schools of sharks. Both

jump in the water and routinely disappear during dives. Zan lost 3 divers (one of which was a repeat customer who knew the area) on a drift dive in open ocean with 25 foot visibility and strong currents. We had to abort the dive due to lack of a dive guide. Heinz was able to evade 6 divers plus another divemaster on another drift dive he was "leading." The Buchbinders seem to feel the \$3500 fee for a week's trip only includes food and accommodations, not assistance in locating the often elusive schools of hammerheads. Dive briefings were contradictory: Heinz would say left, Zan would say right. Once, Heinz was warning us to stay away from mullets that would bite. When asked to describe what a mullet looked like, Zan couldn't do more than just say a mullet looks like a mullet. They had been "leading" dive trips to Malpelo for more than 9 years. The *Inzan Tiger* is clearly NOT a dive boat but a 60' pleasure craft. The boat rocks constantly in the waves due to little stabilization. Linens and room towels were not changed during a 10-day trip. Zan constantly seemed to act as if our cabins were her domain (i.e., no sense of privacy). With 6 passengers on board, the crew of 4 has no sleeping or bathroom accommodations which causes them to sleep outside and under the "dining room" table. Thus, guests were forced to return to their rooms early to give the crew some "privacy" for showering off the side of the boat, etc. Although guests were asked about food preferences, these were often disregarded and customers were scolded or made to