

we took a DC-3 for a 45 min. flight to Cayo Largo. We were escorted through the airport for our 5 minute ride to the Ocean Diver (formerly the Bay Islands Aggressor). We were able to get 2 afternoon dives and one night dive that day. Had a total of 25 dives. The diving was similar to Belize and Cayman though unspoiled by divers. The visibility one dive only 60' but my last dive was close to 200'. The walls were beautiful with "God's Hand" being my favorite. The colors and the sponges were surreal. Capt. Erwin and the crew were attentive to our needs. The boat was clean and well kept. The food ranged from good to excellent. Shrimp was undercooked, but the lobster was perfect! The accommodations were what you would expect from an Aggressor boat, though I do prefer to have a bathroom in each stateroom. We returned to Havana on Friday for an afternoon bus tour of the city. We ate a delicious lunch in a private house converted into a restaurant. We spent the night in the Copacabana hotel and flew back to Cancun in the morning. The Cuban people were nice and friendly (though obviously poor). English is spoken by most everyone and the dollar is the standard currency. (Ph: 537 55 39 80; fax 537 55 36 86; e-mail [info@cubalinda.com](mailto:info@cubalinda.com); website <http://www.cubalinda.com/English/Activities/ScubaDiving/OceanDiver/ODiverTheOffer.asp>)

*Ocean Diver*, December 2000,  
Edward Heimiller, Streamwood,

**IL.** This trip was booked through Scubacan in early spring and I did not hear from them unless I called them. I booked the trip as an individual. One week prior to departure it was canceled because it would not be profitable to run the boat. There was no notification prior that this may be canceled.

***Ocean Diver*, March 2001, anonymous, Corona del Mar, CA.** Vis: 100 + ft. Water: 78 F. Dives logged: 378. My second trip aboard Ocean Diver, previously the Bay Islands Aggressor. Temperature was a chilly 78 degrees (it was 90 degrees when we were there July/2000). We wore light wetsuits, shorties, and some people just wore polartecs. Visibility was over 100 feet and extremely clear. We dove our own profile and there were no restrictions (they request that people notify them if planning to dive deeper than 130 ft). Rays on just about every dive and large turtles often Schools of tropical fish and the corals and sponges are virtually untouched and beautiful. Things we saw were typical of the Caribbean, although larger. 4 staterooms do not have separate baths or portholes. Good food and lots of it. Keep up the good work, Ben. I enjoy Undercurrent and know I'm always getting the real story, and not because some advertiser needs coverage!

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**  
**Silver Banks**

*Aggressor*, February 2001, Jim  
Reynolds, Commerce, TX. Humpback

expedition to Silver Banks was spectacular. Excellent boat and crew. Encountered lots of whales in environmentally safe way. (Ph: 800-348-2628 or 985-385-2628; fax 985-384-0817; e-mail [info@aggressor.com](mailto:info@aggressor.com); website [www.aggressor.com](http://www.aggressor.com))

**Wind Dancer, February 2001, Peter T. Hartlove, Longmont, CO.** Vis: 40-80 ft. Water: 76-78 F. Logged dives: 500+. Snorkeling only trip. Great trip and we had good weather. the crew, Capt. Paul, Bret, Karen, Burt, Franklin, Hew, Tony (fab cook) and Guerline, is great and the food was plentiful, well rounded and very tasty, overall, great! A shortie wetsuit of mine came up missing at the end of the trip. You start with a flight to Puerto Plata in DR. After customs, your bags are whisked onto a taxi and off to the boat. After a 9 hr crossing (ours took 11 due to rough seas, the Wind Dancer handled it well) you are on the Silver Banks, a relatively shallow area where your anchor in these protected waters for the next 6 days. Some 4-6 thousand Atlantic Humpbacks pass through this area for challenging, mating and calving. Two custom tenders with double 4-stroke Honda motors are used with max 9 guests per boat. The boat is stocked with sandwiches, water, pop, fruit and candy. The day involves riding the water in these tenders, looking for whales and maneuvering for possible encounters. Tom Conlin drives one and the very capable Bret, captains the other. You rotate boats each day. Snorkeling only. We had surface activity including fin-slapping, tail-

lobbing and great breaches including synchronized repeated double breaches. Our in-water encounters included a short (15 min) encounter with a rambunctious juvenile, a short (20 min) encounter with a mother and her 2 weeks old calf the first day and an 1.5 hour encounter with a full grown male later in the week. He circled, twisted, rolled, swan upside down and otherwise just enjoyed playing and showing off. (Ph: 800-932-6237 or 305-669-9391; fax 305-669-9475; e-mail [dancer@peterhughes.com](mailto:dancer@peterhughes.com); website [www.peterhughes.com](http://www.peterhughes.com))

## HONDURAS

**Aggressor IV, December 2000, Samuel B. Johnson, Eureka IL.** Vis: 3-40 ft. Water: 77-78 F. Dives logged: 178. Water; choppy, surge, strong currents. Frankly disappointing. We were not taken to particularly attractive or interesting dive sites. The damage to the reefs of Roatán by Mitch was much greater than I anticipated. I stayed a few days at a Roatán land-based operation, and their boat managed to take me to sites far better than the ones at which the Aggressor boat moored. The Aggressor sites had coral in poor shape, relatively few large fish, no pelagics, and relatively few critters. No one was anyone going out of his way to help divers have interesting dives. I'm used to being asked by someone, "Good dive?" and some interest shown in the answer. On this boat, I wasn't even asked. The crew member who was supposed to be "always" on the dive deck when the "pool was open,"