

to the incredible heat and evaporation. We descended the line right into the hole in the barge's hull. All around swarmed a huge school of snapper. We kept going down to the sand and headed for the stern. Most of the fish either were a totally different hue, or were altogether different species than one sees in the Caribbean. The water is rich in plankton, cutting visibility. We found several crab traps scattered around the wreck. We had to rehydrate on our surface interval. The temperature was 122 F. so several of us did our surface interval in the water, where it was 90 degrees. Second dive was to the stern, and swimming through the wreck, then we came up through the wreckage on her starboard quarter, and ascended to the bottom of the hull. We descended into the wreck, seeing daylight on the other side. There is a virtual tunnel through the center bulkhead area, an easy swim through. Down in the hold, we spotted a school of whitish goatfish, and more angels. Dive one: 74ft 25 min. Dive 2: 77ft 26 min. (Ph: 00-971-4-3317433)

## SEYCHELLES

Billed as 3000 miles from anywhere, this group of islands has been trying to promote itself to divers as THE place to see whale sharks, but this is unproved. From time to time live-aboards run to the out-island of Aldabra, which is reported to have excellent diving. . . . Island prices are high. . . .

## THAILAND

Thailand is a bargain. . . . Whale shark season is usually from March through May, with Richelieu Rock providing an excellent chance of encounters. . . . Trips to the Burma Banks were stopped for political reasons, but this area has been re-opened along with some other new areas. . . .

**Big Blue, August 2001, Maureen Flood, Washington, DC.** Vis: 20-45 ft. Logged dives: 15. Dive restrictions enforced: depth limits. The on-land operations of Big Blue are a mess, so I stay elsewhere if not taking a course. The instructors are amazing. The diving on KoTao is not so good, as much of the coral is dead. Due to the time of the year, visibility was low. But overall, we had a good time. (Ph: 66-77-456050; e-mail [info@bigbluediving.com](mailto:info@bigbluediving.com); website [www.bigbluediving.com](http://www.bigbluediving.com))

**Dive Asia, Evason Phuket, April 2002, Kinson Tong (kinsontong@hotmail.com) Fanling, NT.** Experience: 51-100 dives Vis: 50 to 100 Feet. Calm. Diving at PP Island was extremely disappointing. Water was murky, many sea urchins but not many fishes. More than 30 divers on the boat, so overcrowded both above and under water. Saw some coral shrimps and ghost pipe fish. Two leopard sharks, one cruising and other resting at the bottom. (Ph: +66-0-76330598 or 76284117; e-mail [info@diveasia.com](mailto:info@diveasia.com); website [www.diveasia.com](http://www.diveasia.com))