

Bahamas Spotted Dolphins



In October 1994, I accompanied Norbert Wu, a professional underwater photographer, on a trip to Little Bahama Bank to swim and photograph the Atlantic spotted

dolphin *Stenella frontalis*.

We stayed on the Dream Too, an excellent, comfortable, and friendly live-aboard boat. See www.dolphindreamteam.com



I functioned as a camera assistant.

Usually I snorkeled along after Norb, keeping my distance and lugging his underwater camera gear, as you see me doing here. It was interesting to see him at work.



Norbert wanted to photograph the spotted dolphins that hang about that bank in the afternoons; you can swim and snorkel among them. I was in the water the maximum

opportunity, which gets tiring with all that swimming, but I was pretty excited. It helps to do some fin swimming before this trip to get in shape for swimming with the dolphins. I was diving regularly so I could keep up with the dolphins.



The spotted dolphins seemed to be more interested in you if you were active underwater, diving and twisting around.

They seemed less interested in you if you were floating

motionless at the surface, passively watching them.



We did scuba diving in the mornings and at night. Dolphin snorkelling was an afternoon activity. Here's my photo of a school of fish on Sugar Wreck.

On my various dives, I got close to

a twelve foot great hammerhead shark and was around other sharks, barracuda, a large sea turtle, large sting rays, and the usual assortment of Bahamas reef dwellers.



Sometimes I was a model. Here I am snorkeling with Poppy at Sugar Wreck on the Little Bahama Bank.

As a model, I leave a lot to be desired so it is better that Poppy is in the foreground. She is easier on the eyes, and I look like a hairy, balding beluga whale.

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