



IMAGE CAPTION-A "California Scorpionfish" Becomes part of the reef. Location: Hamilton Cove, Catalina Island, California. Photo by column writer/underwater photographer Wade McDonald

California Scorpionfish

This week we are going to take a look at a particular species of fish that I certainly would categorize as "Hazardous Marine Life." As I have mentioned previously in past discussions, safety is fundamental at all times when we partake in activities on or under the water.

It is when we educate ourselves and learn to execute proper protocol that in turn we reduce any risk of injury that might occur. So are you ready? Lets get educated! The "Scorpaena guttata;" (scientific name), commonly known as the "California scorpionfish," can be found along the California coast from Santa Cruz all the way

down south to Baja Sur California Mexico and out around Guadalupe Island.

Their spines are highly poisonous, containing a potent venom classified as "cardiotoxic." Fishermen that have suffered the misfortune of getting pricked due to mishandling have reported the pain as well as symptoms to be similar to a rattlesnake bite.

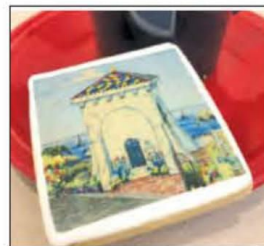
This fish is a master of disguise, possessing the ability to change its appearance to match the environment it inhabits, it is no doubt an "ambush predator." As a swimmer or diver, you must be aware of your surroundings at all times and be able to recognize potential hazards! It's never a

scorpionfish that decides to ruin a person's day. Human error would surely be the usual culprit in nearly all aquatic marine life injuries.

Let's take a look at our weather around the Island now, shall we ... Today through Sunday expect plenty of sunshine with some cloud cover here and there with a temperature high of 75 degrees dipping down to a low of 56 over night. Sea temperatures are still on a gradual rise clocking in roughly between 64 to 66 degrees. Always remember to check current weather conditions when planning your activities around the water. Know your limitations and swim near a lifeguard when possible, When In Doubt Don't Go Out!

New cookie depicts recent chimes tower renovations

Now available at the Catalina Coffee & Cookie Company



FOR THE ISLANDER

There's a new Chimes Tower cookie in town.

If you've seen the Catalina Chimes Tower in the past few months, you've noticed that things look a little different.

A newly designed front door made with hand-forged ironwork invites passersby to peer in and see the original chimes, while the new decorative fencing opens up the panoramic views of the ocean and town.

Since 2015, the Catalina Coffee & Cookie Company has partnered with Modern Bite, a boutique bakery and design kitchen in Burbank, to create cookies with images of the Catalina Chimes Tower.

The recent visual refresh of the Catalina Chimes Tower called for a new cookie to be debuted at the Catalina Coffee & Cookie Company.

"A few years ago, Lisa [Lavelle of Catalina Tours] and I saw Modern Bite's cookies showcased in a magazine.

They were creating cookies that celebrated Malibu Tiles from the 1920s.

The opportunity to celebrate

Pictured above is the newest Catalina Chimes Tower cookie. Ten percent of cookie sales go to support the restoration of the real Chimes Tower. Courtesy photo

Catalina tile and the island was obvious," said Erin Eubank of the Catalina Coffee & Cookie Company.

The new, bright and beautiful cookie shows the enhanced front area of the Catalina Chimes Tower.

Ten percent of all Catalina Chimes Tower cookie sales go to the Catalina Chimes Tower Foundation to support its restoration efforts.

Currently in progress, is a high quality, long term repair of the existing structure.

Future plans include restoration of the buttresses and exterior walls; repair of the Deagan chimes and mechanisms; preservation of the existing Catalina tile and native landscape design.

Donations are accepted at CatalinaChimes.org/Events.

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