



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Despite the camaraderie, endless supply of dive videos on Facebook, and of course, fresh fish (including the occasional pity fish), my single favorite thing about the spearfishing community is the nature of people the sport seems to attract. Sit around a post-dive dinner table with a group of spearos anywhere in the world, and you'll probably find yourself surrounded by absolute characters! Anyone who has been on a Diving For A Cause (DFAC) trip knows it is true! What is it about spearfishing that typically attracts fun-loving, yet impressively tenacious people?

Why is it that the diving community seems to be made up of people who, with ease, can ignite a spark of motivation in the weary, get a laugh out of the solemn, or engage the passive in friendly, yet heated competition? Almost every diver I know operates in full throttle, strives for the best in their personal endeavors, and appears to tap into an inexhaustible reservoir of energy on demand.

Yeah, we sometimes chase fish bigger than Rottweilers, with a comparable row of gleaming teeth. Yeah, sharks are frequently in the mix, and Lord knows they are just a pack of wild dogs – but the very nature of the sport demands that we dive with calculation and composure. The vast majority of the time, our playing field is silent, serene and teeming with beauty. We get one breath; one shot. Our coaches' voices echo only in our minds, yet we work as an intuitive team in the water. I believe the same combinations that are inherent to the sport itself – serenity and adrenaline, team and self, blood and beauty, disappointment and elation – are also at the heart of the spearo. In the water and in life, divers aren't afraid to take on a challenge, to step into the unknown; sometimes just for the mere sake of seeing what might happen.

Spearfishing is a magnet for people from all walks of life; men, women, children and grandparents, with innumerable personality types and diverse backgrounds. Despite the multitude of differences from one diver to the next, we all seem to have one thing in common – a commitment and innate wiring to live whole-heartedly.

Anyone who lives whole-heartedly knows roadblocks are inevitable but breakable. They welcome challenge for the sake of accomplishing or experiencing something great.

And so it was, in this spirit, with the resolute sentiment of a true diver, Colleen Gallagher created DFAC. It started with a vision to bring spearos together to help those in need through their love of diving. The word got out; a chance to better the lives of those in need and feed the hungry, while simultaneously feeding that pesky compulsion to pursue big fish. Over the past few years, over a hundred divers and non-divers alike have come together from every corner of the world to provide fresh fish to orphanages, paint schools, bring school supplies to children with little, raise funds for cystic fibrosis and cancer research, and teach kids how to snorkel for the first time – the whole-hearted answered the call and the vision of DFAC came to fruition.

Dive In was created as a thank you to you, the participants, whose tireless commitment and involvement has made DFAC a reality. The title of this magazine is a reflection of your approach to life; your willingness to take risks in order to help people, to “dive in” head first even when the carefully placed signs throughout mainstream culture advise you to not get your feet wet, to play it safe, to focus solely on your own well-being. Screw the signs. Let's dive in and see what happens.

Thank you for being a part of the DFAC Team! We look forward to publishing your stories and photos in upcoming issues!

Katie Adamson
Editor in Chief



To contribute articles or photos from DFAC trips, email us at KatieDFAC@gmail.com.

