



# **SCUBA LUV DIVE REPORT**

## **SOUTH MAUI**

### **“CRITTER OF THE WEEK”**

#### **(808) 870-2738**



### **CRITTER OF THE WEEK!**

**GIANT SPONGE CRAB (“makua-o-ka-lipoa”) - This species is the world’s largest sponge crab; it’s limbs and domed carapace are covered by brownfuzz; the tips of it’s massive claws are bone white; small, closely set beady black eyes and a chunk of sponge held over it’s back complete the picture of this awkward, slow-moving animal. Typical size on the carapace is 8” but this guy was substantially larger! We found him hanging out in the hull of an old steel hulled wreck with three other smaller sponge crabs. When sponges are scarce, these guys have been known to pick up slippers, bits of rope, wood or even metal for camouflage. Usually seen only at night, they are scavengers and considered inedible and may even be poisonous.**

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**DATE OF SIGHTING: FEBRUARY 12, 2012**  
**AIR TEMPERATURE: 82 degrees**  
**WATER TEMPERATURE: 76 degrees**  
**VIZIBILITY: 80’ +**

**PHOTO BY: STEVE MADARAS**

