



# **SCUBA LUV MAUI DIVE REPORT**

## **KEAWAKAPU, MAUI**

### **“CRITTER OF THE WEEK”**

**(808) 870-2738**



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

**STRIPEBELLY PUFFER ( “o’opu-hue” )** Sometimes called the “Stars and Stripes Puffer”, this species has white spots on it’s back and sides and stripes on it’s belly. The body is light brown; at the base of the pectoral fins is a prominent black area surrounded by white rings. It is the largest of the Hawaiian Puffers and grows to about 19”. Few fishes outdo the puffers when it comes to defensive techniques. When alarmed, they puff up their bodies and extend their spines. Most puffers carry a poison in their organs called “tetrodotoxin”, a dangerous toxin to other fishes and deadly to humans if ingested! This guy was in the sand cruising at 33 feet!

**DATE OF SIGHTING: MARCH 25, 2012**  
**AIR TEMPERATURE: 83 degrees**  
**WATER TEMPERATURE: 74 degrees**  
**VIZIBILITY: 100’ +**

**PHOTOS BY: STEVE MADARAS**

