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Josh Tudor is a man of the sea in many senses

by [chris.ahrens](#) ⓘ September 17, 2009 ⓘ 2029

In the early 1990s, two young surfers emerged to dominate the lefts at Cardiff Reef — Joel Tudor, who rocketed to legendary longboard and alternative-board fame, and his brother Josh. While Joel was busy with pranks like putting grape gum into the crotch of my wetsuit, and setting a new standard for surfing, Josh was quietly getting barreled on the lefts and spear fishing. Like his younger brother, Josh could have taken the path of a pro surfer, but decided instead to surf for fun and hunt for fish when the waves went flat.

I used to dive with Josh — me proudly walking to the beach with a 26-inch halibut only to find him, already dry and relaxing with a 32-inch halibut on ice. I never could figure it out, but it happened every time we dove together.

The last time I recall diving with him was in La Jolla. We swam out with our friend, Devon, and were soon surrounded by a fairly large school of small sharks, frantically chasing an even larger school of small yellowtail. Coming to the surface, Josh lifted his dive

mask, saying, “Let’s move, too many sharks.” Right when he said the word shark, Devon, who was facing Josh, drifted into me, yelling at the top of his lungs. To his credit, he didn’t lose his spear, and we all made shore safely, with a few nice fish for our efforts.

While I never did venture past the local kelp beds, Josh and his father Joe continued moving out into deeper water. They, along with close friends Aaron Smith and Colin Smith (not related) have built their own spears, learned to dive deep and regularly take home 50 pound-plus white sea bass. Now, before you think of trying this, keep in mind that an adult white sea bass can drown a person your size, since, when speared, they often dive for the kelp, which can be 60 feet below the surface, and tie up there. Guess who has to go get them? Once you dive down 60 feet on one breath of air — there are no tanks, you have to work to bring the wounded fish back to the surface, and cut it from the kelp. Thanks to Josh, I have been the beneficiary of great fish.

Last week, Josh and his wife Meagan asked us over for a barbecue. We didn’t have fish, but tri-tip, generally chewy meat, that he cooked it at just the right temperature, along with Josh’s “special sexy sauce.” At dinner, where all the guests commented that this was the best tri-tip we’d ever had, Meagan mentioned that Josh had become an amazing cook, and had his own recipes for all sorts of fish and meat.

Dreaming of mountains of tri-tip and white sea bass filets all night, I awoke hungry and ready for more. Alas, I settled for oatmeal and raisins, thinking how life is too short to eat such peasant fare. Over a

breakfast fit for a hobo, my wife Tracy and I recounted the regal meal from the night before. Then, she mentioned the idea of a cooking show for Josh, starting with the gathering of the food, which would mean an amazing sea hunt, complete with wild characters and hungry sharks. “Imagine Wolfgang Puck, the chubby Emeril or the oh-so-macho Anthony Bourdain, smugly sitting between smokes, diving 60 feet to wrestle down dinner.

I know some of you out there are capable moviemakers. So, who wants to shoot a pilot for Josh? Go to dinner at his house just once, and you won't be able to think of anything else worth eating.

Josh Tudor lives peacefully in Leucadia with his wife Meagan and their sons, Wyatt and Sutton. As well as being skilled in the ocean and on the grill, Josh is considered one of the best woodworkers and carpenters in the county.



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