

# In our Eyes;

## Pinnacle Aquatics 3mm Merino Elastiprene Wet Suit

by Karen Schultz

Something old...something new. A wool lining to keep you warm and super stretch neoprene to keep you comfortable.

We were going to Guadalupe Island to dive with Great White Sharks. The water temperature was predicted to be around 72 degrees. I have been diving in warm water for too many years and have grown accustomed to thin, light wet suits. I needed a new wet suit, but hated the thought of having to wear thick, bulky neoprene, and I did not want to spend the money for a tropical dry suit. What to do...

A friend of ours is a manufacturer's representative for Pinnacle Aquatics. He suggested that Pinnacle's new 3mm version of their Merino Elastiprene wet suit would work. He was right.

We ordered the suit based upon the size chart provided by Pinnacle. When it arrived, the fit was perfect. They make this suit in 9 sizes for women and 10 sizes for men and the size charts were accurate (at least for me.)

Trying the suit on when it arrived satisfied me that Elastiprene really is super flexible. Even though the suit was snug, I could put it on, bend and flex without feeling restricted. The neck seal is a soft collar that rolls inward and is self adjusting to different neck sizes and shapes and creates a very good seal. The wrist and ankle seals were soft, snug and flexible as well, all without feeling restrictive.

On further examination, the suit also has several features that said "high quality" to me. On the inside of the suit, there are stress patches at the junction of all the seams so that the stitching ends in an additional layer of material. There is also a Velcro patch at the bottom of the zipper that holds the pull down after the suit is zipped up. No more battles to keep the zipper pull from floating up into your face during the dive. Nice...

All well and good, but would a 3mm suit keep me warm in 72 degree water? Yes, it did.

Pinnacle's catalog says that the theory of using wool for a wet suit liner is that the wool absorbs and then holds 30% more water than synthetic liners. They say that the secret is in the wool holding the water so

that once your body has warmed it up, the warmed water will not wash away as easily. That way your body uses less energy keeping the water inside the suit warm and you stay warmer in the process.

To me, staying warm is subjective. What is happening to me compared to what is happening to others, and what are the differences. Here's what I found...

My partner was using a conventional 5 mm neoprene suit made by another manufacturer. I was using the Pinnacle 3mm Merino Elastiprene suit. After about an hour in 72 degree water, he got cold enough to want to get out at about the same time that I did.

You can learn more about the suit at Pinnacle's web site: [www.pinnacleaquatics.com](http://www.pinnacleaquatics.com) or at your local dive shop that sells Pinnacle.

