

HUMBOLDT AREA SALTWATER ANGLERS

A VOICE FOR SALTWATER SPORTFISHERS



2013 SPRING NEWSLETTER

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President's Message – Spring 2013



Fishing season is upon us and by the time this is printed, the party has already started. We have generous fishing seasons once again, but we will have some issues that HASA will be involved in after this season, including the halibut situation. We could not do it without all your support from past events and our recent fundraiser on March 23, 2013. The event was a big success again with over 300 attendees and approximately \$25,000 net income. We would like to thank those individuals and businesses who supported our event. They are the main reason why our event is a success. We had a great live auction with many happy bidders, including two couples who are going to Africa! Also, we had 28 children in the kids raffle and each kid took something home, whether it was a fishing rod or a bag of tackle. They are our future fishers!

HASA is continuing to work on the reef project with the help of our consultant Aldaron Laird, and we recently decided to support a pacific halibut study with HSU. We also have some continuing public outreach planned such as distributing rockfish descending devices and educating the public on the importance of healthy fish releases. Additionally, there is a kids fishing derby in Burnt Ranch on June 8, 2013 that is organized by the Willow Creek Fire Safe Council, and HASA is supporting the event and welcomes everybody for a great time.

If you have any questions regarding HASA or would like to know more about how you can help out, I encourage you to reach out to any board member or email us at hasa6191@gmail.com. Remember to tell a friend about HASA and encourage them to become a member. I wish you all a safe and fun filled 2013 fishing season.

Cliff Hart
“Hart Attack”



The mission of Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers is to represent North Coast fishermen's historic and ongoing right to sport fish along the Northern California coast; advocate reasonable and rational sport fishing seasons and regulations; educate our members and the general public about the economic and cultural contributions of sport fishing to our local economies; and promote sustainable stewardship of the resource.



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2013 SPRING RECREATIONAL GROUND FISH NEWS

By Tom Marking, Recreational Fishing Representative



BAROTRAUMA

The 2013 Rockfish season is about to start so here is some information you should keep in mind. At the IPHC meeting in April the Council made a decision to grant survival credit for the use of recompression devices. After a review of the scientific studies currently available, a mortality chart was presented and passed for survival at various depths. Currently, mortality has been at about 65% as an average and that will now be reduced down to 22% for our 20 fathom fishing depth. The Council action is only for Cowcod, Yelloweye and Canary. Many of the studies were done on other species of rockfish and varying depths, so this is extrapolated data. The survival of fish at less than 30 fathoms is almost 97% if a recompression device is used quickly to get the fish back down to depth. In our area, we want to get the fish down to below 70' for proper recompression. Because there were few studies at shallower depths, the biologists selected a conservative mortality rate of 22% from 0-20 fathoms. Survival is actually much higher than this. These numbers will be adjusted in the future as more data is gathered.

The Dock Samplers will question if you have a recompression device (descending device) on board, what depth you were fishing at and how many fish you released. Survival credit **will only be considered for those with a recompression device on board**. It is critical that **EVERY BOAT** carry a descending device on board. All three of the states will gather information on the percentage of boats using devices and apply that percentage to reduce mortality. The device doesn't have to be fancy. It can be a wire release, a milk crate style, an inverted jig hook, a pneumatic release device, etc. just be sure you have something and have it handy and easy to access. This is very good news as it will substantially reduce the current mortality calculations for Yelloweye and Canary in our area if we use these devices. We have been working on this issue for a number of years and there is some satisfaction to finally have the Council act on this. Please spread the word to your fellow boaters to carry and use a device. Attached is a chart of the mortality percentages for these two species at different depths.

Yelloweye Rockfish

Depth (fm)	Surface Release Mortality	Mortality when Release Device Used	Mortality Savings
0-10	22%	21%	1%
10-20	39%	21%	18%
20-30	56%	21%	35%
30-50	100%	37%	63%
50-100	100%	45%	55%

Canary Rockfish

Depth (fm)	Surface Release Mortality	Mortality when Release Device Used	Mortality Savings
0-10	21%	21%	0%
10-20	37%	21%	16%
20-30	53%	21%	32%
30-50	100%	37%	63%
50-100	100%	45%	55%

HALIBUT:

Halibut season starts May 1 and extends until November 1. We have the same allocation as last year, being slightly over 6,000 pounds. Expect to be questioned by the Dock Samplers this year on how often and how long you fish for halibut. CDFW will be gathering more data for better management control over catch rates. While we have only had a 6,000 pound quota recreationally, we have been catching far in excess of that amount. Last year we harvested about 30,000 pounds, and that has caused some concern at the State, PFMC and IPHC levels. Since the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) system was enacted the numbers do matter. A PFMC adhoc committee is currently working on management control alternatives to be presented to the Council at the September meeting for consideration and adoption. These controls should take effect in the 2014 season. It is safe to assume we will have restrictions for time on the water for halibut. These options have been discussed at length and can be found in the last newsletter.

Also, due to the lack of information on halibut in our area, the IPHC will conduct a survey in our area this year. It will consist of 15 sampling sites from the Oregon Border down to Punta Gorda. From this survey, a population biomass estimate will be generated for our region. Understand, that is only one survey and is basically a snapshot of our area. This will provide some base data that may be resampled at intervals in the future. This is only a first step in the process, but it is a start. Halibut used to be caught in our area in substantial numbers, but were fished out during WWII and the decades thereafter by the commercial trawl feet. Only recently, have their numbers begun to improve in the shallower areas more accessible to the recreational angler.

Tight lines and enjoy your season out there.



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Artificial Reefs/Fish Enhancement Structures



By Marty Golden
Pacific Coast Recreational Fisheries Coordinator
Partnerships & Communications Division

Artificial reefs were among the many topics discussed at the NOAA Fisheries Recreational Fisheries Mini-Summits in California, one in Half Moon Bay and another in Marina Del Rey in February, 2013. Marty Golden, a NOAA Fisheries Service Recreational Fisheries Coordinator, explained that NOAA's involvement with artificial reef construction in California has been largely to provide technical assistance for projects as described in the NOAA National Artificial Reef Plan and the National Fishing Enhancement Act of 1984.

Several reefs have been constructed in California since the 1990s to provide recreational opportunities and to mitigate environmental impacts. In 2000, the X HMCS Yukon reef was constructed off the coast of San Diego by the San Diego Oceans Foundation for SCUBA diving and recreational fishing. The SONGS reef was constructed off San Clemente in 2008 to mitigate impacts from the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. NOAA provided technical support and oversight for the construction of several mitigation reefs in San Diego Bay to offset dredging impacts. Mitigation reefs were also constructed in San Francisco Bay to recover native oysters; NOAA provided some funding and anglers from the Marin Rod & Gun Club also participated.

NOAA Fisheries' Restoration Center is currently working on a project to construct an artificial reef adjacent to Belmont Pier in Long Beach, CA. The project is being funded by the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program which implements projects that compensate the public for natural resource losses caused by historic releases of DDTs and PCBs to the Palos Verdes shelf. The goal of the Belmont Pier reef project is to compensate for lost fishing opportunities that have occurred because of contaminant-related fish consumption advisories. This fishing reef has been designed to increase the diversity of fish adjacent to the pier, thereby increasing the chances that anglers will catch fish that are safe to eat.

Future construction of mitigation reefs will continue to present opportunities for collaboration with the recreational fishing and diving communities. For example, settlements related to the MV Cosco Busan oil spill could result in funding additional oyster reef restoration projects in San Francisco Bay. Many of the artificial reef projects in California have been successfully completed because of community involvement and leadership (fishing and diving clubs) and/or universities.

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Local Pacific Halibut Study- Halibut Angler Volunteers Needed



Hello Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers Members,

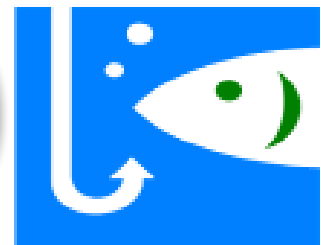
I'm Liz Perkins, a Fisheries graduate student at Humboldt State University. This summer, as part of my thesis research, I hope to collect data concerning locally caught Pacific halibut. My research is jointly supported by the Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers and California Sea Grant. Local recreational landings of Pacific halibut have substantially exceeded the very small quota allocated to our local area in the last several years, but very little is known about abundance and population attributes of locally caught Pacific halibut. The objectives of my study are to characterize the relationships between (a) age and length, (b) length and weight, and (c) maturity and length for Pacific halibut landed off Humboldt County, California.

This summer, I will need volunteers to allow me to weigh, measure fork length, assess maturity, and collect otoliths and small genetic samples from Pacific halibut caught off the coast of Humboldt County. There are two easy ways you can participate in this study. First, if you catch a Pacific halibut that you are keeping, call me ((612) 597-6144) as you are headed in for the day and tell me where you will be landing the fish, and approximately when you will be there. I will meet you at the dock to quickly sample your fish. Second, if you fillet your fish in a manner that leaves the spinal cord and gut cavity in tact, you can drop the carcass off at a designated iced carcass drop tote. There will one carcass drop tote on Woodley Island, near the Humboldt Bay Harbor Recreation and Conservation District Office, and likely two others at the Fields Landing Boat Ramp and Eureka City Dock, however the details are still being worked out for those two. By mid-May, there will be fliers and signs at nearly all the boat ramps and marinas in Humboldt County, further explaining the details regarding carcass drop totes.

In addition, I would like to hear about and see photos of any small Pacific halibut caught that are thrown back. If possible, try to take a photo of the halibut on a measuring device or next to a yardstick so I can determine approximate fork length and email me (ejp320@humboldt.edu) the photo with the date that you caught the fish. Please let me know if you have any questions and if you have a halibut you'd be willing to let me sample!

Thank you and happy fishing,

Liz Perkins
(612) 597-6144
ejp320@humboldt.edu



Researching Surfperch on the North Coast

By Kat Crane



Last spring, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife began studying redbtail surfperch (*Amphistichus rhodoterus*) in Humboldt and Del Norte counties, and we could use your help! As you probably know, redbtail surfperch are a popular sport-fish on the North Coast and they also support a small commercial fishery. Despite their popularity, very little is known about the biology of this species in California. By conducting a hook-and-line sampling study, we hope to improve our understanding of their growth rates, size-at-maturity, and other information that helps support management and helps us better understand an important component of the nearshore sandy bottom ecosystem.

What we do know about their growth and maturity came from research conducted in the late 1960's and 1970's in Oregon. There have been a few other isolated studies looking at population dynamics (also Oregon), migration patterns (Oregon) and diet composition (Humboldt Bay). What we don't know is whether or not redbtail surfperch in California grow and mature at the same rates as their Oregon counterparts, and whether improvements in ageing techniques since the '60's might increase the accuracy of those estimates. Since this kind of information is so important to managing a species, it's necessary to obtain the best life history information possible.

I will continue collecting surfperch over the next few years by hook-and-line along the many sandy beaches of Humboldt and Del Norte counties. When I go fishing, usually with other Department anglers or volunteers, I record the total time that hooks were in the water at each location and the number of anglers. After catching fish, I return them to our wet-lab in our Eureka office, where I weigh and measure them, record their gender, and weigh their reproductive organs. I also remove their otoliths (ear bones), which some of you may have seen me doing at the Perch'n on the Peninsula tournament in April. Each year, a new ring is deposited around the otolith, so that by counting the rings under magnification, it's possible to estimate their age – much like foresters do with tree-rings. For illustrative purposes, the photo below shows an adult otolith under magnification.

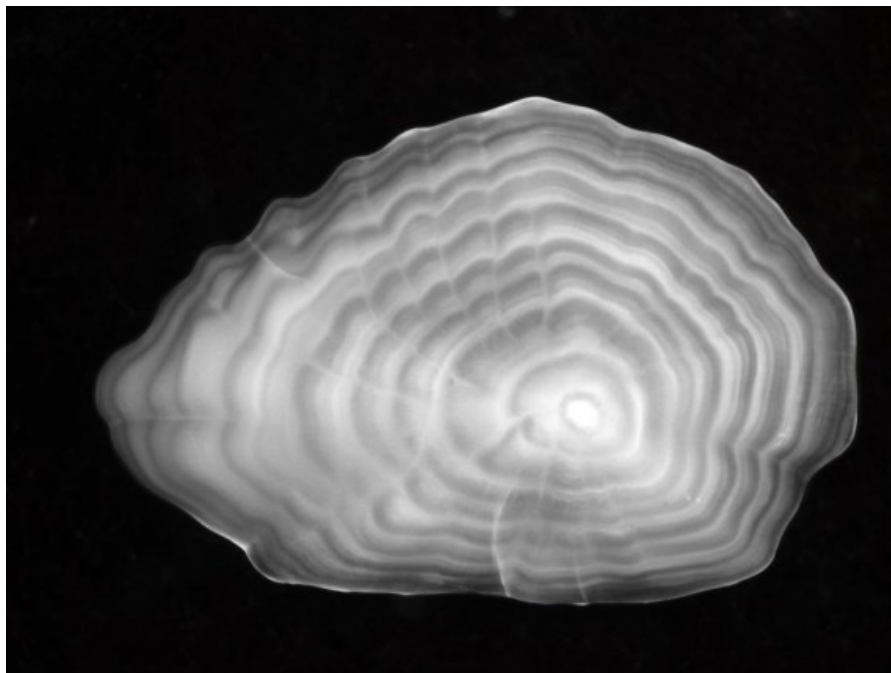


Photo Credit: NOAA Fisheries



Though I've been able to collect several hundred samples to-date, I could use the help of skilled anglers such as you to increase our sample size. If you might be interested, there are a few ways that you can contribute to the effort: 1.) You can join me as a Department volunteer on my fishing trips that, weather permitting, I conduct on a weekly basis, or 2.) You can fish when/how you normally would and give me a call so that I can meet you to collect your surfperch carcass (please remember to abide by all applicable regulations!). Either way, you can get in touch with me by phone or email for further information or comments. Thanks again to all of you who generously donated your fish at the tournament in April. I hope that we can continue to work together to better understand our marine resources here on the North Coast. Happy fishing!

Kathryn E. Crane
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Kathryn.Crane@wildlife.ca.gov
www.wildlife.ca.gov/marine



Marlene Allen won a guided kayak fishing trip for catching the biggest perch at the Perchin' on the Peninsula fundraiser tournament



Let's Just Call it a Draw



By Larry De Ridder

It doesn't seem all that long ago that I moved to Eureka and fell in love with salmon fishing. In no time at all I realized that my 12-foot plastic Sears rowboat with the 7.5 hp Gamefisher outboard was too small for going offshore regularly. I purchased a 1959 Lonestar riveted aluminum boat that needed a lot of TLC. It had nice high sides, was wider than most boats of its size, planed easily and produced an incredibly wet ride in any kind of a wind chop. It had late-50s styling and with a black paint job could have easily passed as Batman's ride. It had the old-style cable steering that would slowly turn on its own because of engine torque, so you pretty much had to steer continuously. Nevertheless, it was a whole lot safer than my former hole in the water. Back then it was still legal to troll as many lines as you could reasonably handle while salmon trolling. Of course, since I only had two ocean rods, my limit was sort of pre-established. The daily limit was still "three salmon in any combination, but no more than one Chinook", which meant that mostly we were catching Coho. Being a light-rod fan, I convinced myself that since I could catch a seven-pound largemouth and a ten-pound steelhead on a freshwater spinning rod, I should be able to do the same with a salmon. So, I tied up my first salmon fly, hung it a few feet behind a small banana weight tied to a medium-action freshwater spinning rod and decided I'd troll three lines.

I needed to install a third rod holder, and Cabela's had an interesting new offering in the catalog. \$12 and a week later it arrived. It looked a little on the lightweight side, but the ad insisted it was suitable for the job at hand. Saturday arrived and it was one of those perfectly clear, windless and flat calm summer days that we see so rarely. I didn't have a radio in the boat yet, but it really wasn't needed. I could see the fleet was just outside and a little north of the whistle buoy. While it wasn't hot fishing, there was enough action to keep everyone happy. I put out my port and starboard trolling rods with their divers, flashers and anchovies, corrected my course and put out the new fly directly behind the boat. I put the rod into the new holder and turned around to straighten out the boat, since I was already well into another turn, thanks to the engine torque. CRAACK! I turned around just in time to see my freshwater rod and half a rod holder land in the water six feet aft of the boat. An eight pound Coho was going berserk jumping out of the water headed for the orient, and the spinning rod was faithfully following.

I turned toward the fish and rod, but of course couldn't speed up, because I still had two lines in the water. I was losing this race. What to do? Suddenly the fish reversed course and was jumping and streaking straight toward me! 50 yards...I could see the rod scooting along just below the surface, towed too rapidly for it to sink. 40 yards...I grabbed my landing net and crouched on the bow, trying to hold course with a foot on the steering wheel. 20 yards...I'd have one stab at this thing as it went by. Five yards... another jump, the fish saw me and dove under the boat. Shoot! Out of net range, and now the rod was being towed deeper. But wait -- I still had those two lines in the water! Which direction did he turn? I guessed, and hung a hard turn to port. A tense 15 seconds later my port side rod slowly bent under pressure. Please don't let me get another fish on now! I carefully picked up the rod and reeled in. Sure enough, as it cleared the surface I could see yellow Stren caught just in front of the diver, pointing like a Vee in two directions. At last, the line was in my hands. I could feel the fish shaking its head with my left hand, and quickly pulled in the right-side line. My rod slowly rose into sight, and eventually I had it back in my hand. Ahah! Now it's my turn, fish! I started reeling, and the fish spat out the fly.



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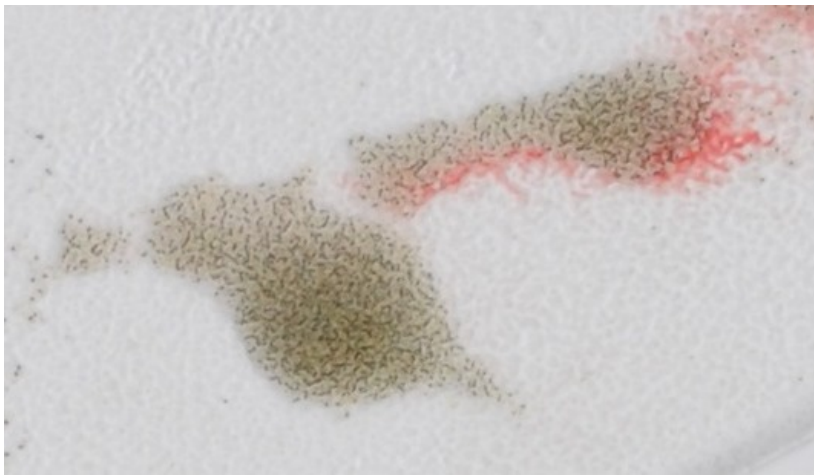
by Casey Allen



One of the most common criticisms of artificial reefs is the belief that they are simply fish attracting devices (FAD). Fish are attracted to structure, concentrating them in one spot, making it easier for fishermen to catch them, depleting the population.

This argument against artificial reefing originated in the Gulf of Mexico where there is little natural reef structure. It was thought the red snapper inhabited open waters and was unnaturally attracted to artificial reefs and oil platforms where they were overfished. Since, studies revealed that young red snapper prefer open benthic habitat. As they grow they move to oyster beds and then to upper reaches of reefs and oil platforms. The oldest and largest red snapper occupy the deep reef structure and lower platforms and defends the territory against smaller snapper and other fish.

The addition of artificial reefs is a common practice in the Gulf today and provides more places for large red snapper to live and reproduce. Overfishing is prevented by seasons and catch limits. This combination has created a sustainable fishery for one of the Gulf's most popular sport fish.



Canary rockfish larvae, the black dots are their eyes

The FAD argument persists today during discussions on artificial reefing in California, and in particular, the Humboldt Bay Artificial Reef Project. But a closer look at the fish species that will inhabit the artificial reef tells a different story. We expect to see a variety of rockfish; including black, blue, vermillion, china, and yellowtail to inhabit the reef. Lingcod and cabezon will also be present. Rockfish bear their young live while lingcod and cabezon lay their eggs in a nest. All of their offspring start life as pelagic larvae. They are at the mercy of ocean currents as they grow. When they are large enough, they settle to the bottom and if there is hard reef habitat their chances of survival increase.

During a research fishing trip aboard the charter boat Reel Steel out of Humboldt Bay with Dr. Susan Sogard, NMFS marine biologist, we fished a wrecked tug in 300 feet of water. Dr. Sogard was collecting pregnant yellowtail rockfish to monitor the effects of climate change on fecundity in rockfish. We not only caught big pregnant yellowtail and canary rockfish but also juveniles just 12 inches long. The pregnant rockfish were dripping their young on the deck and a tablespoon of larvae contained thousands of individuals. We also caught some big lingcod. With the nearest natural rocky reefs over 15 miles away, we wondered if the larval dispersal from this productive artificial reef could reach the natural reef. Larval dispersal was a key factor in the spacing of Marine Protected Areas during implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act.

The variety of species and the presence of pregnant fish on the tug suggest that this artificial reef is not only a FAD but also habitat. There is nothing to suggest that adult rockfish would leave a natural reef to reside on an artificial one, unless the holding capacity of the natural reef was filled. Little is known about the movements of adult rockfish but anecdotal evidence suggests they do move around. I covered the National Spearfishing Championships held in Ft Bragg in 2008. During pre tournament scouting, all the divers reported an abundance of fish. They said every hole held big lingcod. The take during the event was expected to be spectacular. But the day of the



Championship, few fish could be found. They went somewhere else, the holes were empty. Though fish were brought in, everyone was baffled at the change. The common phrase among the kayakers was “that’s fishing.”

I have received reports of unusual catches, like lingcod caught just under the surface in 600 feet of water while trolling for salmon. That fish was a long way from any reef. One day we witnessed a trawler release a net full of protected canary rockfish. The trawler explained on the radio that the canaries were not expected to be in the area he was fishing. The rockfish covered an acre of ocean while suffering from barotrauma. A few were able to swim from the surface but the majority remained floating as we left the area.

The Humboldt Bay Artificial Reef Project could help provide clues into the movement of adult rockfish. A tagging program on the natural reefs of Trinidad and Cape Mendocino in conjunction with artificial reef construction could shed light on rockfish movement. The proximity of the artificial reef to the bay will allow more studies to take place. It is vitally important to learn all we can about this popular resource to insure a sustainable fishery.



Tim Klassen holds a pregnant canary rockfish caught off a wreck while fishing for research.

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2013 Salmon Season Recap

By Jim Yarnall

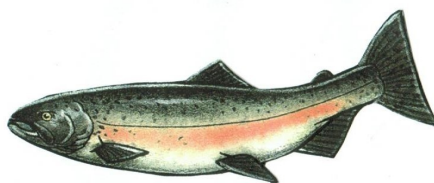


I thought some might be interested in a brief recap of the season setting process for 2013. The 2012 salmon season was an incredible recreational salmon season, especially in the Klamath Management Zone (KMZ). The port of Eureka recorded a recreational catch of 31,853 fish, the largest catch by at least 150% since at least 1976. For comparison in 2011, a good year, 9,874 recreational fish were landed in Eureka. In 2012, the Klamath River and its tributaries saw a total return estimated at 302,108 adult fish and the Shasta River had its largest return since 1964. The Sacramento also enjoyed a “good” 2012 return setting the stage for the 2013 seasons.

The 2013 commercial and recreational seasons were set based on the 2012 jack (two year old returning fish) returns to the Sacramento and Klamath Rivers. The jack returns allow fishery managers to estimate the number of total fish in the ocean. The number of fish available for both ocean and river harvest is calculated by subtracting the minimum spawning escapement number for each river system from the total ocean estimate, as determined by jack returns. This basic, foundational calculation is then modified based on many other factors that dictate the final season setting outcome. The 2013 jack return estimates for the Sacramento and Klamath Rivers are 834,208 and 727,682 fish, respectively. For perspective, estimated Klamath jack returns in 2012 was a record 1.6 million fish. Interestingly, this year’s Klamath estimate is composed of a much higher percentage of four year old fish as compared to 2012. Unfortunately the Sacramento River data is not broken down by age but there should be more four year old fish than in 2012. Based on these numbers, I believe that while we may have fewer fish to pursue than in 2012, there will be a higher percentage of larger fish.

We were very fortunate this year within the KMZ in that the Klamath forecast is strong and that we are not impacted by the Sacramento Winter Run Chinook. This stock is located south of Point Arena. The Sacramento Winter Run Chinook are having a very difficult time primarily because almost all their traditional spawning habitat is above dams with very little habitat remaining. Both commercial and recreational seasons for regions south of Point Arena are set to avoid encountering this stock. The total impact of both commercial and recreational seasons on the Sacramento Winter Run Chinook stock cannot exceed a 12.9% impact rate. This is why you see the five day a week fishery for the initial portion of the seasons in the San Francisco and Monterey zones along with a 24” size limit. Fortunately, this is not a consideration in determining KMZ seasons as the KMZ is north of Point Arena.

The establishment of the KMZ seasons went very smoothly this year in both Tacoma and Portland. The 2013 KMZ outlook is excellent for both recreational and commercial anglers. The California KMZ will enjoy the first limited commercial summer season in a great number of years. For more information on the 2013 season setting process, and for historical stock, return, and catch data, visit the PFMC website at: <http://www.pcouncil.org/salmon/background/>. Enjoy the season, appreciate the resource, and be safe.



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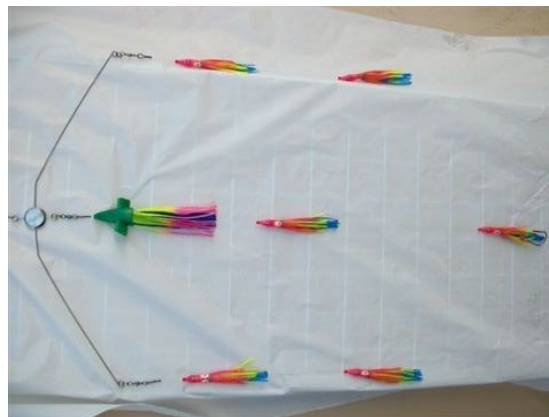
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Understanding wind waves

By Larry De Ridder

In our May 2011 issue we looked at how the transfer of wind energy to water causes cold water upwelling. However, there is a more immediate and visual effect -- wind generated waves. Probably the first rule of wind waves in the ocean is to always stay alert, because you just never know when a sleeper wave will arrive. There are verified reports of truly rogue waves over 100 feet high. I well remember Typhoon Gloriana, which I experienced while offshore of Hong Kong. Three days of green water coming over the bow, running the length of the ship and pouring off the stern are something I'll never forget! The amount of energy that wind can transfer to ocean water is truly amazing and the reason we may still have an offshore wave energy project here someday.

In the world of physics, there are four primary factors to consider when it comes to determining the height of the waves you will encounter. They are (1) wind speed, (2) length of time the wind has blown, (3) fetch -- that is, the open water distance over which the wind has blown, and (4) the water depth. The greater any of these factors is, the larger the waves you will encounter. Measurements of waves generally focus on (1) height, which is measured from the trough to the crest vertically, and (2) period, which is the length of time between the passage of consecutive crests past a particular point. There are theoretical limits to the size of the waves that can be generated, but since our wind is usually onshore, they mostly don't apply to us. For example, with a fetch of ten nautical miles, a 36-knot wind will produce seven-foot waves, no matter how long the wind blows. But if you take that same 36-knot wind well offshore and let it blow for 2 1/2 days over open deep water, you can produce waves that are 63 feet high. Since not all waves are produced equal, even under the same conditions, scientists usually refer to what they call "significant wave height". This is defined as the average height of the largest 1/3 of the waves. Once you have determined the significant wave height, the average height is calculated as 0.64 times as high, the highest 10% will be 1.29 times as high, and the highest individual waves will be 1.87 times as high. So, if we have a wind forecast of 7 - 10 knots, we can expect a wind wave forecast of 2 - 3 feet (more on that below). That doesn't mean they'll all be 2 - 3 feet. Doing the math it means that the average will be less than two feet, but the highest waves are likely to be 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 feet high.

Since larger waves travel faster than their smaller brethren, the various waves will gradually sort themselves out, as they travel from their point of origin. The largest waves will eventually speed ahead of the others and will be classified as swells rather than wind waves by the time they arrive. Thus we usually have two components to our local forecasts. We have swells, which are arriving from offshore wind systems far out in the Pacific. Since the smallest waves will have died out from gravitational and frictional forces before they arrive, we will usually only get the longer period larger swells arriving from those systems. In addition we'll also have the locally generated wind waves, which may well be running a different direction than the larger swells.



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In 1805 Sir Francis Beaufort of the British Navy created a system of classifying waves which still bears his name -- the Beaufort Scale. It assumes an unlimited fetch. At the lower end of the scale we have:

Force	Wind Speed	Description	Sea Conditions	Waves
0 0	calm	smooth,	like a mirror	none
1 1	3 knots	light air	small ripples	3 - 6 inches
2 4	6 knots	light breeze	short, small wavelets, no crests	6 - 12 inches
3 7	10 knots	gentle breeze	large wavelets, some with crests	2 - 3 feet
4 11	16 knots	mod. breeze	larger small waves, some white caps	4 - 5 1/2 feet
5 17	21 knots	fresh breeze	white caps and light foam	6 - 8 feet

The scale continues through Force 12, which is a hurricane producing 45-foot waves. There are various mathematical models used to predict wave height based on wind speed, fetch, water depth and time. A quick online search will provide you with the basic math if you are really interested. Otherwise keeping a copy of Beaufort's Scale aboard might be a good idea.

In addition to the wave heights estimated by Beaufort, there can be local complications. Waves coming into an opposing current will get higher and steeper, as anyone traversing the Jaws on an outgoing tide can attest. Deep water swells encountering shoaling conditions will grow vertically and alter their direction of travel. Thus conditions which seem safe offshore can still make traversing the Jaws a dangerous exercise. NOAA maintains a specific current and swell forecast model projected in hourly increments available as an offshore weather tool. See <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/eka/swan/> if you aren't already familiar with this tool.

As we start a new offshore season, please frequently check the local forecasts and ensure that you and your crew will be safe for the expected conditions.

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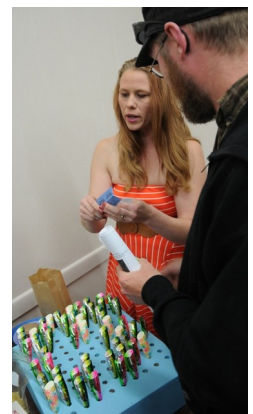
FY 2012-2013 through 4-30

	YTD	Budget	Difference
Member Dues	\$756.48	\$2,500.00	\$1,743.52
Shirt Sales	\$480.00	\$1,000.00	\$520.00
Admission	\$6,230.00	\$5,000.00	(\$1,230.00)
Placemat Sales	\$570.00		(\$570.00)
Raffle Sales	\$6,756.00	\$8,900.00	\$2,144.00
Auction	\$18,730.00	\$10,000.00	(\$8,730.00)
Drink Sales	\$1,743.64		(\$1,743.64)
Donations	\$600.00	\$400.00	(\$200.00)
Bank Interest			\$-
Newsletter Ads	\$3,283.00	\$3,000.00	(\$283.00)
Stickers	\$51.00		(\$51.00)
Total Income			\$-
	\$39,200.12	\$30,800.00	(\$8,400.12)

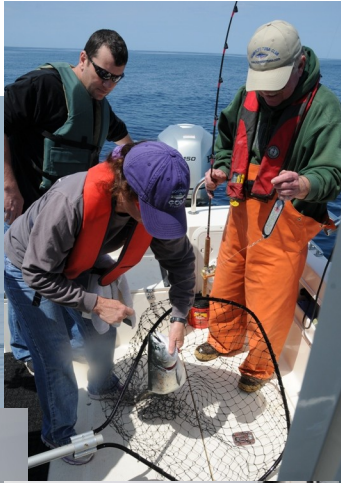


EXPENSES

	YTD	Budget	Difference
Fund Raising	\$12,305.20	\$7,500.00	\$4,805.20
Salmon	\$4,608.00	\$6,000.00	(\$1,392.00)
MLPA		\$500.00	(\$500.00)
Ground Fish		\$500.00	(\$500.00)
Artificial Reef	\$3,007.58	\$1,700.00	\$1,307.58
Admin. Exp	\$241.96	\$300.00	(\$58.04)
Donations/		\$8,000.00	(\$8,000.00)
Newsletter	\$1,462.36	\$2,000.00	(\$537.64)
Membership		\$200.00	(\$200.00)
Clothing	\$1,924.28	\$2,000.00	(\$75.72)
Public Educa-		\$2,000.00	(\$2,000.00)
Misc		\$100.00	(\$100.00)
TOTAL	\$23,549.38	\$30,800.00	(\$7,250.62)



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Part II: Gear For Thresher Sharks

By: Matt Goldsworthy

I am not sure there is another fishery out there where the gear you use is as crucial as it is for thresher shark trolling. Sure, you can get lucky and land fish using general tackle. But, to maximize your odds the details really matter when you are trolling for thresher sharks. Not only do the leaders and running line matter... but the hooks and their position are important as well. These details are even more important in our area- because opportunities will be few and far between. Make every chance count!

The most important aspect to consider is how thresher sharks feed. Threshers tend to target smaller schooling prey (like anchovies, sardines, etc). When they have located their prey, threshers will use their long tails to swipe at schools of bait and then turn around and gobble up the stunned and wounded aftermath. There are two schools of thresher shark fishermen that have emerged over the last 20-years: the tail hookers and the mouth hookers. The mouth hooker crowd is basically unique to Southern California where folks are releasing the sharks. Mouth hooking threshers might be better for their survival (as opposed to a tail hooked shark, which gets brought up backwards, often after very long battles). If you are fishing off Humboldt, I hope you are part of the tail hookers club. It is harder to set the hook into a thresher's tail, but with the right tackle and other details perfected, you can rest assured that you will turn that slap of the tail into dinnertime.

The tail of the thresher shark is very tough, leathery, and strong. Getting a hook-set into the tail takes a little pre-planning (the 5 P's... prior preparation prevents poor performance). Once the hook is set into the tail... hold on tight for a long hard battle that you will never forget! First off let's start with your main-line. It should have zero stretch (Spectra or Dacron only) and you should have as much capacity as possible... at least 600-yards (more if you are offshore in deep waters). In the late 80's and early 90's most folks used 80# Dacron. Dacron is hollow so that anglers could insert a topshot of 300# monofilament (more later). I am guessing 90%+ of anglers would now use Spectra for this application. Go as heavy as your reel will allow (130# spectra is the minimum... 200# preferred). With spectra or Dacron mainline your line will not stretch- which will be a big help in setting the hook into the tail.

Topshot. Remember our goal is zero stretch. If you use too long of a topshot you introduce too much stretch. Keep the topshot short... but long enough to handle a shark that gets mouth hooked or gets wrapped up in the line. 300# Jinkai line never failed us and has landed nearly 50 sharks over the years for us. We used a 20-25 foot topshot of 300# Jinkai. The purpose of the topshot is CHAFE protection from the leathery sandpaper-like skin. A short 20-25 foot topshot keeps stretch to a minimum, and also prevents chafe from the shark's skin.

Cable leader. Remember the goal here... tail hooking threshers with line that does not stretch. Cable leaders are not required because threshers have small teeth and almost always hit with their tails. However, if you do get a mouth-biter, mako shark, or salmon shark... you will be glad you were using a cable leader. The cable leader should be about 4-feet long and made with 275-480# multi-strand cable (strongly recommend 49-strand cable in 480# test). Sharks are not line shy!

So far we have covered the running line, topshot, and cable leader that you will need to get



solid hooksets into the tail of a thresher shark. The only missing link now is the drag. Use a super heavy drag setting. In order for a hook to penetrate a tail that is as hard as cement will require that you use a very heavy drag setting. Set your drag heavy (20#)! That tail slap will double your rod over with this heavy drag and zero stretch line. It is unbelievable! Another thing: if you are setup properly... you will NOT get spooled! The first run is quite intense and extreme. You will worry about getting spooled. Clear the lines and start your chase of the shark. No backing down like the marlin-nuts... straight ahead chasing is much better!



Lures and hooks. Details still matter! If you ask me there are only really 3 lures worth your time when trolling for threshers. The #1 lure, hands down, by far, with zero doubt, is the 16-ounce sized Bait-O-Matic. These are worth every penny and they are expensive. Get one. Colors are extremely important too. Get the "Pyro", "Pink Lady", or "Mexican Flag" colored Bait-O-Matics. Large Rapala's (CD-18 or XRAP-30) work very well but the treble hooks lack holding power and are harder to set into the tail. Remove the trebles and use single hooks. This works best on the older Rapalas (CD magnums). Once the hooks are removed, twist the hook hangers so that the hooks are positioned properly for maximum hook setting (see pictures). Again... color is VERY important. Only get the Rapalas that are more natural colored (look like a bait-fish)... like "Sardine", "Silver", etc. The third lure worth mention is the Marauder made by Braid (or Yozuri's "Bonita").

Pictured above are examples of the "good" Bait-O-Matic colors you should try to get your hands on (in the 16-ounce size). Another hint: fish one of these off a downrigger or sinker release (make sure the sinker release is bullet proof- no copper whistles!).

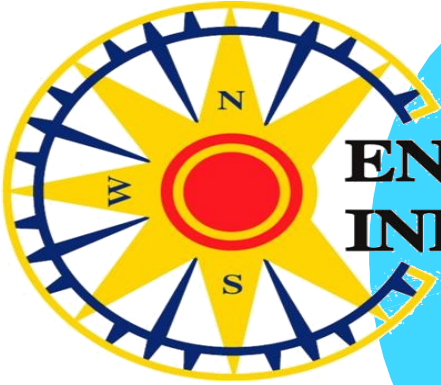
The end game. The toughest part of thresher shark fishing is fighting them and then landing them... the end game. No straight pole gaffs, period. If you stick a straight traditional style gaff into a large thresher prepare yourself to get slapped in the face by the tail... repeatedly! Don't do it unless it's a smaller shark.

The best way to land a thresher shark is to use a flying gaff. Once within range, sink the flying gaff into the shark above or behind the dorsal fin. If gaffing a mako shark- do not gaff it in the head. Your momentum just might motivate a mako to jump right into your face. When gaffing makos, sacrifice some of the meat and gaff

them behind the dorsal fin... that way your momentum positions the shark's head (and teeth) away from the boat.

Once gaffed, try to get a tail rope secured or sink another gaff. Then cut the throat or gills to start bleeding the shark out. We usually attached the end of the flying gaff to a cleat (watch out!). In smaller boats, you may want to attach the flying gaff to a large buoy(s). No matter what you do... do NOT gaff a green shark that has not fought itself out yet. Pictured (right) is a mako shark with a fairly well positioned flying gaff.





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