

HUMBOLDT AREA SALTWATER ANGLERS

A VOICE FOR SALTWATER SPORTFISHERS

2015 SPRING NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

I am reminded during our annual HASA Banquet about the amazing people, support, and enthusiasm of North Coast anglers. I continue to be motivated by this enthusiasm and commitment to sustainable and long-term fishing access off



our coast, and am humbled by the support provided to HASA. As Cliff Hart summarizes on page 24, we had another very successful banquet and fundraiser, and accordingly will continue and expand our efforts to support your fishing opportunities in both the political, economic, and scientific arenas. As was well documented by HASA photographer Casey Allen (see latter pages in this newsletter), a good time was had by all, from the experienced salty anglers down to the kids, our next generation of saltwater anglers. Again, thanks to all who attended, shared fishing stories, and continued to support HASA's efforts.

A couple of updates from the Winter newsletter. First, Miki Takada is continuing and expanding the excellent work on Pacific halibut that Liz Perkins conducted over the last few years, so please continue to support Miki's scientific research this summer (see page 5). Like Liz, HASA has provided financial and logistical support for Miki's work, and we hope this continued information will better inform IPHC and PFMC management decisions for fairer and more equitable access to Pacific halibut in the future for North Coast anglers. Second, HASA is initiating improvements in our membership tracking process, hopefully to make renewals and updates easier and more consistent. It is important for HASA to have as many members as possible, as it gives us a better voice when advocating for our positions in the political arenas. So please sign up if you aren't a member (see page 16-17), and stay tuned for upcoming improvements in the membership process.

Lastly, as this newsletter goes to print, the summer fishing season has begun, so I encourage everyone to get out on the water and enjoy the amazing fishing opportunities we have on the North Coast. We've worked hard to maintain access to our fisheries over the fall and winter, so let's get out there and enjoy the fruits of our efforts (and be safe!). I look forward to seeing you all out on the water, and hope you enjoy this year's fishing season as much as I will. Best of luck!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve McBan".

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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Getting Ready: Trinidad Harbor Prepares for 2015

By Grant Roden

Harbor Business Director, Trinidad Rancheria

We are all excited now that the ocean fishing regulations have been announced and the fishing season opener is coming soon. As sport ocean anglers, there are a thousand things to prepare before dropping that first line into the water. But what does it take to get the Trinidad Harbor and Pier ready for the season? Here is a snap shot of the many tasks that Joe Rollings and his 'Pier Crew' do to get the harbor ready.

It really starts with the end of last season. Trinidad harbor must be essentially pulled out, broken down, repaired and stored every September. In the spring, when the weather and the tides cooperate, the whole process starts over.

Moorings: Ninety-nine moorings are placed in the Trinidad Bay. Each mooring spacing and chain length has to be just right to handle the wide variety of swell and wind conditions that impact the harbor area.

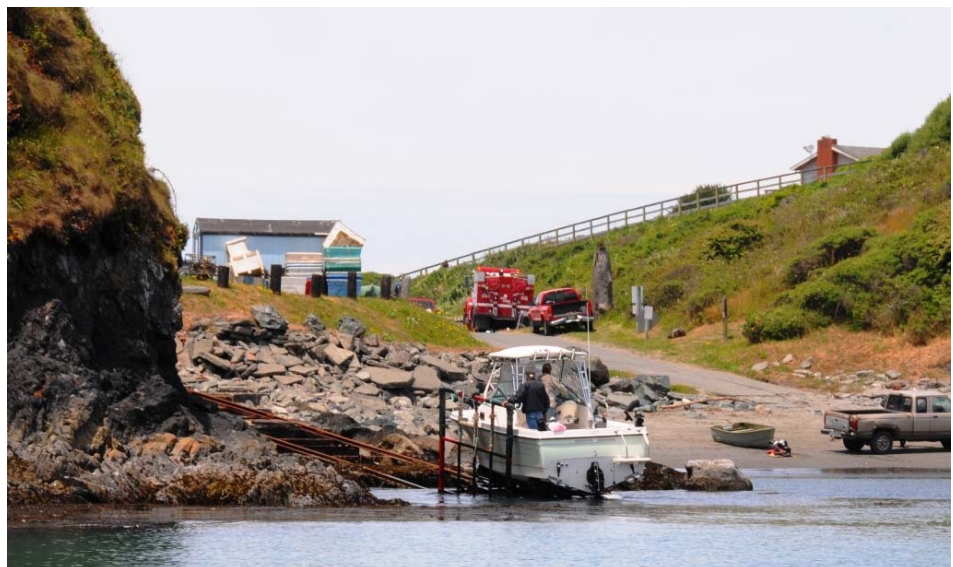


Floating Dock: The floating dock contact and connection points need to be checked, welded, and painted. The top boards need to be repaired, painted and checked for safety hazards. Then each section gets 'launched' and a outboard motor is attached and it gets driven and moored to the leeward side of the pier. When the timing is right it is driven around and secured for public access.

Boat Launcher: The boat launcher is that crazy contraption that lifts your boat off of the trailer and on to the cart, then goes down the track and sets you free to go fish. As you can imagine, there are a lot of mechanical components to maintain for the system to work in the harsh coastal climate at the harbor. Each of the parts are carefully inspected, rust removed, repainted and tested. The cable is replaced and the track inspected and welded. The lowest part of the track can only be accessed during negative low tide, when the swell is not too big. Timing is everything.

Water Taxi: This is the boat that takes you out to your mooring and brings you back in at the end of the day. The water taxi is a river boat that can take six passengers at a time. The river boat has low rails so it is easier to get in and out. This boat takes a beating. The whole boat is gone over, rebuilt, reconnected, repaired and all safety equipment checked and certified. To drive the water taxi, a 'six pack' license is required from the Coast Guard. To get this license you are required to have 360 hrs. on the water, take a two week class, pass an examine and several other background tests.

This is just a small look at the many different tasks that Joe Rollings and his 'Pier Crew' undertake to get the Trinidad Harbor and Pier ready for the fishing season.



Miki Takada is Asking for Pacific Halibut Carcass Donations

Pacific halibut season is here! In the Winter 2015 HASA newsletter, I described my master's thesis research at HSU, for which I will be collecting data on Pacific halibut age, growth, and maturity in Northern California and Southern Oregon. I will measure length, (and if the fish is whole) weight, and collect the otoliths (for aging) and gonads (for maturity staging).

I NEED YOUR HELP: Many of you were instrumental in helping fellow HSU graduate student Liz Perkins gather the 270 carcasses she sampled for her research. This year I am hoping to sample at least 100 to 150 Pacific halibut carcasses from the Humboldt region, and need your help!



Here are 3 ways you can help:

Leave your halibut carcasses in the designated halibut tote on Woodley Island, near Dock D, or in the designated trash can near the fish cleaning station on Dock A.

OR...

Call me to let me know that you've caught a halibut, where you will be bringing your halibut to shore, and an estimate of when you plan to arrive. I will meet you at the dock to quickly sample your fish.

OR...

You can donate your Pacific halibut carcasses to me – just let me know when and where I can pick it up.

I can get the most data from whole halibut, but can also sample filleted carcasses (with intact and unbroken spinal cords and gonads). Thank you for your interest and participation in this project!

MIKI TAKADA
CELL: 858 – 472 – 4938
E-MAIL: mtt106@humboldt.edu



EARLY SEASON UPDATE FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

By Tom Marking



The fishing season is under way and all the season dates have been set and published. We have had about 35 inches of rain on the north coast that will help the salmon smolts. The sun is out and the wind is blowing, creating upwelling. Conditions look good for the salmon and halibut opener on May 1, with Rockfish to follow on May 15.

SALMON FISHING

The season started on May 1 and goes thru September 7 with 20" minimum size limit. Early in the season the fish are often on the smaller size with 7-10 lbs the norm. They usually increase in size as the season progresses. Anchovies rigged behind a flasher do well early on, though many prefer lures such as an Apex, Brad Cut Plug, Krockadiles or spoons. Typical trolling speed is 1-3 mph and fish can be found from the surface to 150' of depth, depending on the time of day, conditions and bait. Downriggers can help with depths over 50' but divers or Pink Ladies can get you down to about 50'. Watch for bird activity on the water to locate the bait and if the birds are active, you can bet the salmon are in the area. Brush up on the difference between a Chinook (King) and a Coho (Silver). Chinook have a black mouth and black gum line; while the Coho's have a black mouth with white gum line. Coho's often give you an aerial show and surface very quickly when hooked. If you do hook a Silver or an undersized King, try not to handle them any more than necessary. If possible, release them at the side of the boat while in the water and try not to use a net that removes scales and injures the fish. Weather can be a challenge early on, so watch the wind forecasts and be mindful of the swell and wind wave forecasts. (Pictures from WDFW web site).



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HALIBUT FISHING

After a great deal of negotiations and regulatory discussion, California was able to garner 4% of the non-tribal allocation for the 2A zone (WA, ORE and CA). For 2015 that amounts to 25,220 lbs. That is a large improvement from the 6,000 lbs we had previously, but our average has been about 25,000 lbs for the past 5 years. The season will be open from the 1st to the 15th for May, June, July and August. On September 1 it reopens until October 31, or until the allocation is filled. CDFW will use dock observers to measure and record catch rates from which projections of harvest rates will be estimated. Those estimates will be collected over the course of the summer and if CDFW believes we will exceed our allocation, they will report to the National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) who will be the regulatory body to issue a closure order. We hope our allocation will get us into fall, thus the last two weeks of each month is closed until September. Halibut fishing is very dependent upon weather conditions, so its difficult to project success rates, especially early in the season.

Halibut can be caught from 150' to 350' of depth in the Eureka/Trinidad area. The typical rig is a heavy wire spreader that has a 2 pound ball on one end and a 3-4' heavy mono leader on the other end with 14/0 to 16/0 circle hook. Bait can be herring, salmon belly, B2 squid, lights etc, or any combination of these. Everybody seems to have their favorite setup. It's important to keep in contact with the bottom with a slow drift of about ½ mph. Wind or larger swell can create too fast a drift so a drift sock might be helpful. Calmer weather is nice as you can do a lot of rolling around with wind and seas. Its slow fishing, but if you are patient you will likely be rewarded. The average size fish is about 30 pounds in our area, but it's a wide range from ten to fifty pounds common. The bulk of our fish seem to be females early on and then more males are caught later in the season.



ROCK FISHING

Rockfish is where we will see some substantial change this year. The season will open on May 15 in the Mendocino and Northern California zones and close on October 31. The bag limit will still allow ten fish, but only five can be black rockfish. Cabezon and kelp greenling count toward your ten fish bag limit. We are allowed three ling cod this year, 22" in length. Due to the amount of black rockfish caught last year by anglers from San Francisco up to the Oregon border, the harvest of blacks needs to be substantially reduced. The sports fishery caught 186 metric tons (mt) over the harvest level last year. For this year only, 75 mt were borrowed from the nearshore commercial fleet to help the sports sector out, or we would have been cut down to two blacks in our ten bag limit.

Another problem is looming on the horizon. The Minor Nearshore Rockfish Complex has eleven species. Due to the species within this complex being placed in the Data Poor or Data Moderate Assessment Model, the harvest level has been reduced from 92 mt down to 68 mt for 2015

for the three Pacific States. That is a 25% reduction in harvest. California, Oregon and Washington will consult when the 75% level has been reached for this complex. Already, Oregon has reacted with Management Measures as follows: while they still have a bag limit of seven, only three can be blue rockfish, one canary is allowed, but there is no retention of China, copper or quillback rockfish. Additionally, the Oregon nearshore commercial fishery has been cut from 700 lbs/2 months to 100 lbs/2 months. That is really going to hurt those guys.

California has yet to enact management measures as of this date. If past history of catch holds true, then we could reach our 18 mt allocation by mid-July. With less harvest of black rockfish, we may put increased pressure on the minor nearshore complex, compounding the problem. This topic will be discussed again at the June PFMC meeting for possible action or recommendations. It is important for you to be able to recognize and differentiate these four rockfish that are commonly caught in shallow nearshore areas. From left to right is a black, blue (top row) and copper and quillback (second row), China on bottom.



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Fishing Offshore – A Kayaker’s Perspective

By Eric Stockwell



Some know me as Abking, and others will recognize my other name: Loleta Eric. I’ve always been a water person and ocean lover – dove and picked big abalone for most of my 20’s, and now I’m entering my 17th year of paddling the ocean, fishing and diving from my kayaks along the Humboldt County coastline. I’ve owned seven sit-on-top kayaks (SOT) that I bought from 5 different local dealers, and I still have 6 of them. I’ve caught tons of rockfish and lingcod, several dozen salmon, quite a few big adult steelhead on the Mad and Eel, a 9’ thresher shark and a 43” Pacific Halibut - both on barbless 20 pound leaders, and I’ve cultivated a passion for doing all of this from the kayaks. I love Shelter Cove and fish Trinidad a fair amount, but I consider my home water to be “HBO” – that’s Humboldt Bay Offshore. I grew up here fishing from my Dad’s dories and other powerboats, and I feel proud to know what I do about the bar and the awesome area just outside our bay. I’ve known how to hook an anchovy on a mooching rig as long as I can remember, and I’ve been a close study of the forecasts, trends, reports and conditions ever since I started my ocean pursuits.

In addition to the hours of driving, paddling, fishing, hiking, diving and other time in the field, I have also spent many years now focusing on telling my stories with carefully crafted narratives paired with timely photos and supplemented by videos showing the best of my efforts. Sharing my outings with others has led to an incredible development for me. Years ago I recognized that in my efforts to try to capture another exciting video clip or experience something that I could write about and show part of in a photo, I found that I was having even more fun than I would have had in the first place! That is to say, my desire to share had me trying harder to have notable adventures, and I was enjoying increased success.

I’ve spent years going on as many trips as I could and often outfitting relatives and friends so they could check out my obsession. After leading a good friend from L.A. on a trip at Trinidad where I caught a salmon and he caught his biggest rockfish, he advised me that maybe I should consider becoming a guide. I was still working full time at that point, as well as raising kids and maintaining a household with my wife, so it seemed like just a dream. A little over a year later I was in the forest with that friend from L.A. – I’d taken him to see salmon spawning, and we were lucky to have a cool encounter with a bear. After enjoying our day I took it all in as Dave proclaimed that he’d had one of the times of his life with me that day! Again he encouraged me to consider getting a license, and it was feeling like a reality that might just have a chance.

Jump forward a couple more years, and my world has changed. I decided to leave my long-time ‘corporate job’ running a contracting company in Eureka, and after taking some time to just be a Dad and the guy who runs a household and does some odd jobs, I’ve had a guide’s license for just over a year now. I’ve allowed myself to believe in the dream, and so far it’s feeling really good.

Let me tell you what I love about the kayaks. All those years on my Dad’s powerboats, and I’ve had lots of Dramamine, Scopalamine, wrist bands...etc. – I always got sick. I remember a day where my Dad had his shirt off proclaiming he hadn’t seen a day that flat in decades, and I was sick. I remember days where the ocean was literally like a lake devoid of any wind, and I was sick. Fighting and catching a fish helped, and by the time I was in my 30’s or so I could tolerate the trips, but I was still sick! I don’t get sick on my kayaks. Even on very bad days, there’s something about being right on the water, engaged with it through the connections at my paddle and my seat. I’ve certainly seen others get sick and had first timers out who got sick, but for me the kayaks are my cure for sea sickness.

When I take people out it’s about a well-rounded trip – we will cover ground and learn about our surroundings, we will get great exercise and challenge ourselves, we will have not just angling opportunities but actual wildlife encounters, we’ll constantly monitor conditions and always maintain a focus of safety and planning, and I’ll capture as much of it as I can with my camera, using also my eyes, ears and mind to form memories to be tapped as I write the story of the day’s adventure.

When others see me and other kayak fishermen offshore we recognize that there’s some head scratching going on! “How do you land a fish in that thing?” is a common question we hear, and “Do you get towed around by salmon?” is constant. I think another common question for most observers is regarding the level of effort needed. Especially at HBO, there’s a commitment of a certain amount of energy that you’ll be putting out in order to paddle

the miles to have a successful trip. When you start at the inner reach of the south jetty, directly across from King Salmon, and you paddle to the bar and out to the Bell you've already covered about 2 miles, so you hope they're biting at the Bell! We all know those days are few and far between, so it's a normal thing to expect to paddle three or more miles from the jaws in order to get on a decent piece of trolling water. Oh, that's the other one we get all the time – when you tell someone you catch ocean salmon from a kayak they almost always ask, “You must mooch for them, right?!” I always troll – always. It turns out that even pushing around a big, ultra-stable Malibu X-Factor (my favorite kayak for offshore) isn't too hard – I do an average of 2 MPH and stay out 6 to 8 hours. When I get back to my truck I feel like I've had a workout, but nothing extreme. I liken paddling to walking – but I'm a fast walker too...

This is what I do now. I'm an outdoor guide specializing in kayak fishing. I want to take you on your adventure, and I plan to tell the story, show the pictures and hopefully publish a video showing the best of times.

As much as I love to write, I find that my best work is a product of a fresh trip – an adventure just logged that spills out in paragraphs where my true feelings and sharpest senses are conveyed in detail that holds the attention of readers and taps into their imagination as well as my own. For over 10 years I've shared my trips primarily at a kayak angling site, and now that I'm guiding it's time to branch out a bit. Many thanks to Longfish/Casey, HASA and Humboldt Tuna Club for space in this newsletter, and also many thanks to those who follow and post a nice comment here and there when I do post at HTC. I maintain a Facebook presence, remain active with my online kayak club (NCKA.ORG), and now I'll be sharing my trips at My Outdoor Buddy as well. I'm not a master marketer, so I should point out that all of my media should at some point lead back to my website, where you can learn more about what I'm doing and who I am: LoletaEric.com – please pay a visit and get in touch with me if you'd like.

Not every trip has to turn into a story – not every trip is the time of someone's life, but my focus remains on making sure that every trip has that potential. Consider letting me get you on your kayak fishing adventure this year.

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Wild versus Hatchery Fish (Finale of a 5-part series)

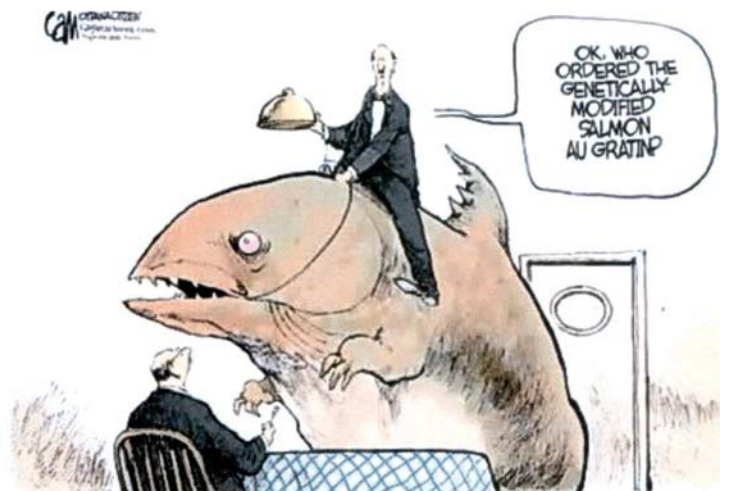
By Larry De Ridder



We closed part 4 of this series with a “teaser” for a Canadian firm’s unique addition to the line-up of hatchery salmon varieties. Their product is also based on genetic differences, but is very different from the epigenetic affects discussed in our Summer 2014 issue or the triploid fish highlighted in our Winter 2015 issue. Remember that though they can be passed on, extraneous epigenetic effects are *temporary* in that they persist only a generation or two. On the other hand triploidy is permanent, but can’t be passed on because it causes sterility. The AquaBounty Technologies process resulted in a *permanent and heritable* change in Atlantic salmon.

In the proposed solution two distinct approaches were taken to increase fish farming efficiency. Like most fish Atlantic salmon don’t grow all the time. Just as most female fish don’t physically grow during the time they divert their energies into sexual reproduction (the biological pattern the triploid treatment defeats), Atlantic salmon don’t grow during the night. There are likely several reasons Chinook are the largest salmon, and AquaBounty took advantage of one of them – Chinooks *can* grow when it’s dark. In the first approach, biologists isolated the genetic sequence in the Chinook genome which promotes one specific growth hormone. They then physically inserted that gene into their Atlantic salmon eggs’ chromosomes. The next generation grew faster as this new hormone encouraged growth day and night. Remember also that fish are cold-blooded organisms. As the water cools below their optimal temperature they become less active. Largemouth bass, for example, take about 18 hours to fully digest a crayfish during the summer, but nearly a week during cold winter months. Salmon experience similar temperature-based fluctuations to their metabolic rate. However, a few fish have fascinating ways to cope with this temperature induced limitation. For example, certain fish which live in extreme Arctic or Antarctic regions produce a sort of natural anti-freeze to keep from slowing down to the point of dormancy, followed by death. So for their second tactic, AquaBounty biologists isolated the genetic sequence from one of these fish, the ocean pout, which codes for its anti-freeze promoter protein. Once isolated, they inserted this gene into their salmon eggs, too. Now the fish that hatched could function more efficiently during the colder months. The result of adding these two genes to the 40,000 naturally present were Atlantic salmon which could grow day and night, even during mid-winter. These fish attained a marketable size in 16 – 18 months instead of 30 months, and did so using 10% less fish food than unaltered salmon. If allowed to grow to maturity, they were much larger than their unaltered kin. As unexpected side effects, the fish proved to be more resistant to some diseases than wild fish, but were weaker swimmers. And finally, because these changes were made through engineered changes to the fish’s DNA, they could pass these traits on to their offspring if allowed to breed. In staged spawning trials, modified adults were aggressive in attempting to spawn with their unaltered siblings, but achieved a very low success rate. If you haven’t deduced it already, I’ve just described a “transgenic organism”, more commonly referred to as a genetically modified organism (GMO).

When the results were announced, many people promptly became frightened by the “what-ifs”, as in “What if some of them escape and spawn, and these huge Atlantic salmon displace the normal native fish?” or “What if similar genetic treatments



produce huge Chinook or Coho and escapees spread unnatural traits through the native populations?” There are plenty of other “what-if” questions. Some concerns are legitimate and must be addressed while others are based solely on prejudice or ignorance. Various retailers, such as Trader Joe’s and Whole Foods, reacted to the uproar by announcing a refusal to sell GMO salmon products. AquaBounty countered most of the objections by offering to produce only sterile triploid GMO salmon. In spite of that option, thus far there has been enough opposition that after 19 years the federal government still hasn’t authorized commercial production of penned GMO Atlantic salmon. On the state level, in September 2014 Governor Brown signed legislation promoted by Assemblyman Wesley Chesbro specifically banning GMO Atlantic salmon from all of California except in closed-system research facilities. The official reasons included claims these fish would (1) escape their rearing facilities, (2) breed locally with their natural-born siblings, (3) out-compete or (4) inter-breed with native salmon populations, and (5) would therefor threaten California’s fishing industry. Various fishing, tribal and conservation organizations supported the ban. Of those reasons to ban them, issue (1) is likely as an intermittent event, issue (2) is only a possible U.S. concern in northeastern states where Atlantic salmon are native, issue (3) is extremely unlikely on the West Coast given the documented failure of Atlantic salmon to breed here, issue (4) is impossible with Pacific Basin salmonids and therefor conclusion (5) was construed as fear-mongering by critics. Locally, this past November voters in Humboldt County passed a measure intended to ban all GMO organisms from the County (59% in favor, 41% opposed), regardless of any potential benefits. Meanwhile outside the U.S., AquaBounty Technologies built a functioning 100 ton/year commercial fish farm in the landlocked highlands of Panama, so the process has proven itself to a certain extent in a limited mass-production facility. Thus far none of their customers have grown unnaturally large nor have the fish escaped and commandeered the local stream.

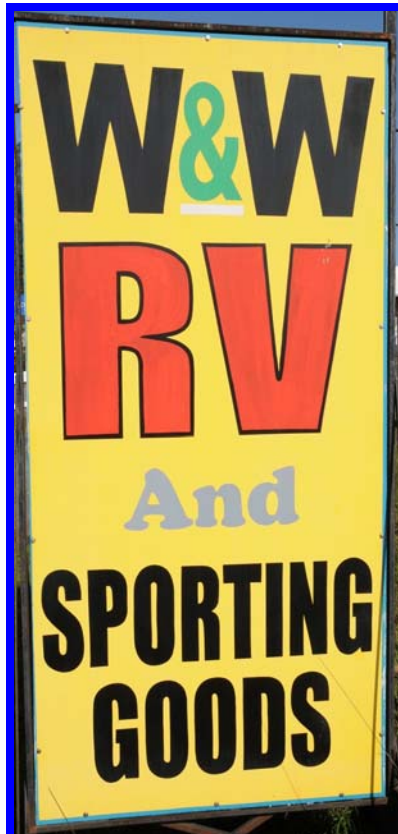
So there you have it. After five articles spread over this last year our readers have more information on the wild vs. hatchery fish debate, and the many variations of hatchery salmon that exist. So give the following questions some serious thought. Perhaps after answering each question you could also logically think through “Why did I answer that way?” So without further ado, (1) what qualifies a fish as natural and wild? Or considered differently, if two hatchery salmon spawn in the river, or a hatchery fish pairs off with a wild fish, and the next generation eventually spawns in the river, at what point do you consider the descendants as naturally born wild fish? (2) Bearing in mind that some wild runs are endangered, and visually indistinguishable stocks mix in the ocean, are you comfortable catching and eating wild, naturally spawned salmon, or should they be protected? (3) Generally speaking salmon hatcheries in California are “mitigation hatcheries”, built to compensate for the loss of spawning habitat upstream of dams. Given the realities of the State’s water situation most of those dams will remain in place. So, are you OK with catching and eating fish spawned in mitigation hatcheries prior to release in a river, or should these hatcheries be phased out? (4) As a practical matter, do you believe there is a meaningful difference between catching and eating naturally spawned fish and hatchery spawned fish? (5) Fish farming and ranching operations generally incorporate non-mitigation (commercial) hatcheries. Are you OK with ranched or farmed hatchery salmon available for sale at the local grocery store or do you believe these operations generate too many ecological risks and economic side effects? (6) Are you comfortable with sterile triploid or cross-breed salmon being released into lakes to support a sport fishery, farmed in saltwater pens, or released in salt water as part of free-roaming fish ranching operations? And finally, (7) how do you feel about salmon that have been genetically modified in a lab, or whose ancestors were modified in a lab, to make them grow larger, faster, more economically, or possess some other special trait?

If you would like to comment publicly, send your thoughts to Larry De Ridder. If we receive enough input we’ll post some results in our next newsletter. The email address is listed with that of our other Board members on page 17.

How a few pennies saved the day!

By Larry De Ridder

It was late in the fall, and most of the salmon fishermen were off the river. Solitude once again reigned. My buddy and I took his Honda-powered jet boat up the Klamath River to fly-fish for steelhead. Our practice is to launch on the lower river and use the boat strictly for transportation up-river, then beach the boat and wade through our favorite fishing areas. In mid-afternoon while departing one of our fishing spots the engine engaged properly, but the boat didn't move. We limped back to shore, tilted the engine and removed the gravel filter from the pump housing. In a way it was simple enough, the "key" that locks the drive-shaft to the jet pump impeller had completely disintegrated. We carefully salvaged the largest pieces, placed them into the key slot, and reassembled everything. No joy. Take it all apart again – sigh. We had nothing in our fly fishing vests that might help, though Jim did have a few pennies in his pocket. Using a multi-tool and small pliers, we cut and folded a penny, inserted it into the key slot, put the unit back together for the second time and fired up. We idled away from shore and shifted into gear. The penny lasted about five seconds before the pump resumed slipping. Back to shore. Dis-assemble again. This time we cut and folded two pennies and packed the slot as tightly as we could. After reassembly the unit held! We didn't dare try to get on plane, but we were able to control ourselves running downriver with the current at about 4 knots. We made it over half-way to the launch ramp before our two-penny job blew out. Back to shore, dis-assemble, the whole routine again. Boy – we're getting fast at this! Now running on our last two pennies we were on our way again. We made it back to the ramp! Coming down-river at idle speed was far slower than on plane, but it sure beat waiting for the Coast Guard to fly overhead looking for us. Lesson learned: always carry a spare key – and not just for the ignition!



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Attention HASA supporters: Get your 2015 HASA hats or shirts now. Hats come in black and there are two “flex fit” styles. Shirts come in black and navy blue, option of long or short sleeved, and sizes are Large, XL, and XXL. Short sleeve shirts are \$15. Long sleeved shirts and hats are \$20. We also have a few original HASA shirts/hats from last year available if interested for \$15 each. Email hasa6191@gmail.com or call 707-845-4106 for more information. We accept paypal, credit card, check, and cash.



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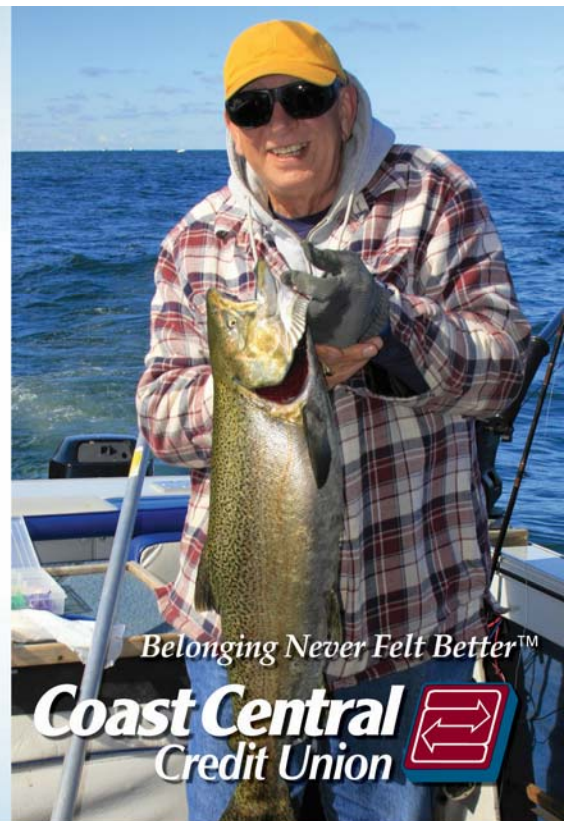
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HASA once again got us more time on the water!

By Pamlyn Millsap, HASA Director



HASA is still a very active organization that advocates for the rights of the Humboldt County sport fishing community and fisherman in general. Your donation of \$20 helps fund various activities that are vital to keeping our sport fishing and crabbing seasons open for generations to come.

A few years ago, the threat of the MLPA (Marine Life Protection Act) zones brought out stronger paid membership in HASA. Our group was at the forefront of contacting elected officials, other groups with vested interests and attending meetings to voice our concerns and provide input that would hopefully shape the decisions made by the MLPA committee.

We continue to need your support! Most recently there was a risk that we would get a far smaller share of the Pacific Halibut. HASA sent Tim Klassen and Tom Marking to several meetings to advocate on our behalf. Thanks to the information they brought back, we were able to increase the amount of Halibut that we on the North Coast are allowed to catch. But HASA had to fight for that increase.

HASA board members are very active on your behalf and it costs money. Sending our board members to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) meetings, Department of Fish and Wildlife meetings and other regulatory meetings out of town is not cheap. It's important we have HASA's voice at these meetings or the only voices heard will be from other interests that want to restrict or take away your rights to fish in the ocean and coastal rivers.

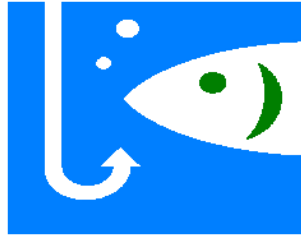
You may have heard about the reef project that HASA is exploring? The concept is to have the Humboldt Bay Harbor District obtain a lease for an area off our coast to create an artificial reef. This reef could lessen the impact of the MLPA, increase certain marine life stocks, and save fisherman fuel costs by a shorter boat run. In other parts of the US where artificial reefs have been built, the impact has been millions of additional dollars to the local economy from tourism. But before the reef project becomes a reality there will be many hours of meetings, paid studies, permits and finally the cost of getting materials out to the reef site for submerging.

So please become a paid member. If you have a PayPal account, we have a link on Humboldt Tuna Club home page: <http://humboldtuna.com/mfi/HasaApp.php>. To pay by check, please complete the attached form and mail it in to P.O. Box 6191, Eureka, CA 95502: http://humboldtuna.com/Documents/HASA_Application.pdf.

For first time members, we will send you a free HASA sticker for your boat or vehicle, and if you provide your HTC name, we will identify you as a HASA supporter with the HASA avatar.

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_____ Premium Individual/Family membership \$20.00 Annual Fee (tax deductible)

Please list your interests, talents, and affiliations for participating in committee functions

All HASA members will receive timely updates on all club and committee functions including a quarterly e-newsletter. Premium members without e-mail will be sent a hard copy of the newsletter.

All HASA members will be invited to the Humboldt Tuna Club potlucks. More information is available at humboldtuna.com

HASA PO BOX 6191 Eureka, Ca. 95502

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All photos and articles in this issue are donated by HASA members and interested parties.

Submission ideas and photos should be sent to longfish@humboldt1.com. Comments are always welcome. Send to hasa6191@gmail.com

HASA would like to expressly thank our friends for their time and contributions to our newsletter .

Please let our advertisers know you are a HASA member and their support is very much appreciated.

All issues can be viewed online at <http://humboldtuna.com/smf/index.php>

This is issue #25



For a Good Bite!

**Michael Holland DDS
2332 Harrison Avenue
Eureka ~ 443-2348
mhollanddds@gmail.com**

Jimmy Smith Fields Landing Boat Launch Facility

By Hank Seeman



Humboldt County Public Works continues to work through the design and permitting phase of the project to replace the ramp at the Jimmy Smith Fields Landing Boat Launch Facility. In addition to replacing an aging and deteriorating structure, the project is intended to enhance the ramp's functionality with improved geometry and a modest increase in size. As currently proposed, the usable width will expand from 31 feet to 36 feet to better accommodate modern boat sizes, and the ramp will extend approximately 25 feet closer to the channel to improve low-tide accessibility. The slope will increase from 9% to 12% to benefit off-loading boats from trailers into the water, and the bottom portion of the ramp will no longer be lower than the adjacent mudflats, which should reduce accumulation of sediment and vegetation on the ramp. The boarding floats will be widened from six feet to eight feet to improve stability, and the guide piles will be replaced to accommodate the wider ramp. Sidewalks and approaches will meet ADA standards. Concurrent with the ramp project, Coastal Commission is requiring drainage features to improve treatment of stormwater runoff from the parking lot.

The design and permitting phase has taken much more time than expected due to the need for working with the regulatory agencies on permitting requirements. Projects within Humboldt Bay require considerable analysis of impacts, both for the construction process and the final structure. Coastal Commission, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA-National Marine Fisheries, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the Harbor District all have jurisdiction and requirements to meet. The analysis must be documented in various design documents and plans, and consultation with the agencies has required multiple iterations of the design and supporting documents. Impacts to eel grass will need to be mitigated by removing concrete and rock debris from the adjacent intertidal area. Eel grass mitigation will require at least three years of monitoring to verify that performance goals for coverage area and density are met. During the course of designing this project, there has been increased focus on potential hydroacoustic effects to fish from pile driving. The scientific and regulatory framework for evaluating these effects continues to evolve, and determining the applicable standards is still somewhat of a moving target. Hydroacoustic analysis relies on using reference data, but unfortunately there are no published data of sound levels for piles directly comparable to this project, so conservative assumptions have been required. Monitoring with hydrophones during pile installation will be needed to verify that sound thresholds are not exceeded.

Permit applications will be submitted in June 2015, and an environmental review document for the California Environmental Quality Act will be circulated this summer. The current goal is to have all permits issued by the end of 2015 and to be ready to apply for the next round of construction funding in early 2016. The Division of Boating and Waterways (now part of California Department of Parks and Recreation) and the California Wildlife Conservation Board have been the longstanding state funding partners on this facility. A call for support letters may be issued as the funding application date approaches. The current goal is to secure funding in 2016 and to begin construction in April 2017. This timeline is dependent on state decision-making for project funding and therefore subject to change. Jimmy Smith was instrumental in building partnerships and securing funding for past improvements to the facility as Harbor District commissioner and County supervisor. Jimmy's past advocacy to the state funding agencies and the high use of the facility by recreational fishermen should make it a very competitive project for funding.

Hank Seemann
Deputy Director - Environmental Services
Humboldt County Public Works Department
1106 Second Street
Eureka, CA 95501
707-268-2680



Humboldt Currents

By Casey Allen



Many thanks to **Margaret Morris**, this issue's cover girl, for letting me win the Perch'n on the Peninsula fishing tournament. Margaret thought she had the winning fish while she battled the two chunky redbtail perch. It was her first time catching surf perch and we fished a secret hole at Gold Bluffs. There were lots of sand crabs for bait and Margaret caught most of the biggest fish. All except for one.

SPFD Perch'n On the Peninsula 2015

By Charlie Holthaus

The Samoa Peninsula Fire District's 6th Annual Perch'n on the Peninsula, Surfperch Fishing Tournament and Fish Fry Fundraiser was a huge success. The event was held on Saturday April 18 this year and had more people attend than ever before. Over 130 meals were served and over \$4,000 in tournament and raffle prizes were handed out. The Petrale sole and Humboldt Bay oysters were a big hit yet again.



Despite the less than perfect ocean conditions 59 people entered the tournament and went fishing this year, including 10 junior category participants. This year's participants were greeted with the typical foggy overcast weather conditions the Humboldt County coast is famous for. The winds were light out of the northwest and the waves were on the large side with 8-10 footers rolling in every 12-13 seconds. The fishermen/fisherwomen were spread out all over Humboldt County with folks reporting in from as far away as Centerville beach to the south, Gold Bluff beach to the north and almost everywhere in between. Most folks reported relatively good fishing early in the day when the tide was low and slower fishing later in the day as the tide came in. The large swell seemed to have dirtied up the water and produced heavier currents which made holding bottom a challenge for many. Those that headed for more sheltered locations like Trinidad and Humboldt Bay reported good action with somewhat calmer conditions. Like in years past, many of the biggest perch were caught at Gold Bluff beach and Centerville beach; however, Stone Lagoon beach appeared to also be a hot spot this year. Jessica Bishop and Lars Cox fished the more sheltered waters at Luffenholtz beach and found many Striped surfperch on the bite. Jessica brought back a 14.8 inch Striped Surfperch this year which is the largest of species we have had entered in the tournament. Jessica's catch landed her the 5th place standing in the adult category in this year's tournament. Way to go Jessica!

Tournament Results:

Adult Category

Out of the 49 adult tournament participants 16 returned and entered fish.

First place in the Adult category with this year's largest Surfperch was Casey Allen!

Casey fished at Gold Bluff beach this year with good friend Margaret Morris. Casey's tournament winning Redtail Surfperch measured 15.4 inches. Margaret also got into the action and returned with a 14.7 inch Redtail Surfperch that earned her the 6th place standing in the adult category. Casey took home a full day guided drift boat fishing trip on the upper Trinity River with Sweet Trinity Guide Service for his tournament prize. There was a tie for Second place in the adult category this year. Both Tyronne Bachus and Thomas Jones brought back Redtail Surfperch that measured 15.02 inches. This is the first time there has been a tie in the top tournament entries. As per the tournament rules, to break the tie the participants' second largest fish was measured. Tyronne Bachus fished at Stone Lagoon beach and was awarded Second Place in the Adult category this year because Tyronne returned with a second fish. Tyronne took home the full day Klamath River Jet Boat fishing trip with Steve Huber Guide Service for his catch. Thomas Jones fished at Gold Bluff beach this year and returned with a single fish, because all his smaller fish had been cleaned and filleted already, Thomas's catch earned him the Third place standing in the adult category. Thomas chose the full day charter fishing trip with North Wind Charters as his tournament prize.

Juniors Category

Out of the 10 juniors that entered the tournament, 9 returned with fish.

Brothers Sammy Luna (8) and Oliver Luna (5) of McKinleyville smoked the competition this year, taking both First and Second Place in the Juniors category. They fished with their dad Jake Luna at Stone Lagoon beach and returned with a full bucket of fat Redtail Surfperch. Sammy Luna was awarded First Place in the Juniors category

with his 14.7 inch Redtail Surfperch and took home with a full day charter fishing trip with Coastline Charters. Little brother Oliver Luna was awarded the Second Place standing in the Juniors category with his 14.3 inch Red-tail Surfperch and went home with a ½ day charter fishing trip with Windrose Charters. Abbey Ziesak (12) from Eureka took the Third Place prize in the Juniors category with her 13.8 inch Redtail Surfperch, Abbey took home a ½ day charter fishing trip with Patricks Point Charters for her catch. Abbey was fishing with her dad Matt Ziesak at Stinky beach in Humboldt Bay. We also wanted to congratulate Milo Boyer for catching his first fish ever during the tournament. Milo returned with a 13.6 inch Striped Surfperch he caught, with some help from Dad, near Trinidad. Milo earned the Fourth Place standing in the Juniors category for his catch.

Congratulations to everyone that participated and Thank you for supporting the Samoa Peninsula Fire District Volunteer Organization. With the proceeds from this annual fundraiser event the volunteers were able to purchase a used fire engine in 2014 which is now fully equipped and responding to emergency incidents on the Samoa Peninsula and surrounding areas.

In case you missed it, this California Outdoors Q&A by Carrie Wilson bears repeating.

Question: I often see Dungeness crab fishermen holding onto crabs in excess of their limit while they continue crabbing. Then after pulling all their pots, they cherry pick the best ones and throw back the extras. Is this legal? Say for example I'm fishing alone and drop three pots. When I retrieve the pots, the first one contains 10 crabs, and I put them all in my fish box. The second pot also has 10 crabs and I also put them all in the box. I pull the last pot, then sort through all the crab and throw back all but the biggest 10 before heading into the harbor. This is how I would prefer to fish but don't think it would be illegal. Am I correct?

Answer: What you describe is high-grading and is absolutely illegal. Recreational fishermen are limited to 10 Dungeness crabs onboard or in possession. Every crab over the limit that is in the fisherman's possession, even if just for a short time, could get them cited for possession of an overlimit. Once a limit is in possession, all other crabs must be immediately returned to the water. If the fisherman keeps 10 legal-sized crabs from his first pot, all other crabs in any subsequent pots must be released.

Bluefin Tuna limits

Based on a recommendation of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, the National Marine Fisheries Service is proposing to modify the existing Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) recreational daily bag limit in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off California, and to establish filleting-at-sea requirements for any tuna species in the U.S. EEZ south of Point Conception, Santa Barbara County.

The proposed regulations would reduce the existing bag limit of 10 PBF per day to 2 PBF per day and the maximum multiday possession limit (i.e., for trips of 3 days or more) from 30 PBF to 6 PBF.

In addition, the proposed regulations would establish requirements for filleting tuna at-sea (e.g., each fish must be cut into six pieces placed in an individual bag so that certain diagnostic characteristics are left intact), which will assist law enforcement personnel in accurately identifying different tuna species. These requirements would apply to any tuna species caught south of Santa Barbara (i.e., south of a line running west true from Point Conception, Santa Barbara County).

To view the proposed regulations and to submit comments, please visit: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2015-0029-0001>

BOATING SAFETY COURSE REQUIREMENT

In September 2014 Governor Brown signed into law SB941. This bill requires all power boaters under the age of 20 to complete a boater safety course by January 1, 2018. By January 1, 2019 all power boaters under the age of 25 must take the course. The moving deadline continues to annually affect older boaters in five-year age increments, until by January 1, 2025, all California boaters must take the course. The only exemption is for those who are renting a boat or only visiting the state for a short time. The course is to be administered by California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterworks, which will also issue California Vessel Operator Cards. At this time the only states without a boater's safety course requirement are Arizona, Alaska, Idaho, South Dakota and Wyoming. For more detailed information, go to dbw.ca.gov/BoaterInfo/SB941FAQ.aspx.

All smiles at the HASA dinner





HASA 2015 Fundraiser recap

By Cliff Hart



The 2015 HASA fundraiser that occurred on April 25, 2015 was a great success this year thanks to a great fundraiser committee, awesome donors, and all you loyal supporters. HASA is a great organization to be a part of, but it is only great because of those who contribute. HASA and these fundraisers would not be possible without our Captain, Gene Morris, leading us in the right direction every year. Gene has been our most loyal volunteer since the inception of HASA and I wanted to recognize the great sacrifices, dedication, and hard work that it takes to make these fundraisers possible. Thank you Gene!

I would also like to recognize our fundraiser committee and volunteers: Bob Stewart, Art Lange, Casey Allen, Scott & Becky McBain, Chuck Harris, Leslie & Ella Hart, Aaron Martin, Seth Naman, Kent Hulbert, John LaFargue, Chris Hayes, Pamlyn Millsap, Lonnie Dollarhide, Michael Holland, Yoshi Uemura, Tim & Colleen Machado, Pat McNeil, Larry & Carol De Ridder, Tim & Sherry Klassen, Jimmy & Brenda Yarnall, Megan Yarnall, and Ben & Sue Doane. Also a big thanks to our auctioneers, Dave and Heidi Varshock, who continue to do an amazing job for us!

We had a record turnout of 334 persons, including 34 children. We raised \$36,000 and netted \$26,000 in income that will be used to represent us North Coast sportfishers during the 2015/2016 fiscal year. The food was provided by Ramone's Catering and was great as usual. The live and silent auctions raised \$16,000 and raffle ticket sales were \$7,000. We had 13 live auction items and 54 silent auction items, including but not limited to luxury packages and launch passes from Trinidad Rancheria, recliner from Arcata Exchange, hand carved salmon from Steven Anderson, drift boat fishing trip for two from Alan Borges, ocean charter boat trips from many of the local charters (Coastline, Shellback, Joli Time, Silver Star, Pacific West Coast, Sea Hawk, Northwind, and Reel Steel), and two rod/reel combos donated by Accurate, Raptor Rods, and HASA. We had the Zulu Nyala Africa trips once again that were bought for \$1,700 each by Dan Diemer and Bruce Young. These are just a small sample of all the wonderful donations from our sponsors (see list of sponsors below).

The Super Raffle prize was an awesome Accurate rod/reel combo that was won by Molly Heindel, and we had a fun card game in which Mari Holdner won a nice Penn and Qualia rod/reel combo.

We also received \$700 in donations for the kids raffle. All 34 kids walked away with something like a rod/reel combo, tackle box, Gerber multi-tool, bubble gum machine, and marshmallow gun among other things. Special thanks to Lima's Pharmacy, O&M Industries, Michael & Jeff Holland DDS, and B2 Squid for donating to the kids raffle. And thank you to Bob & Charleen Hoopes who provide a large cash donation to HASA every year.

I also wanted to recognize long-time supporter Qualia Reels, who's founder Jack Young passed away in 2014. They donated two reels that were provided in his memory. Thank you Jack and Dosh!

We're researching a different venue for next year because our event has outgrown the current location at Redwood Acres, which has been a great place for many years, but we're hoping to make the event more comfortable. We are always open for more volunteers to assist with pre-planning or the night of the event, so if you're interested, please contact me at 707-845-4106.

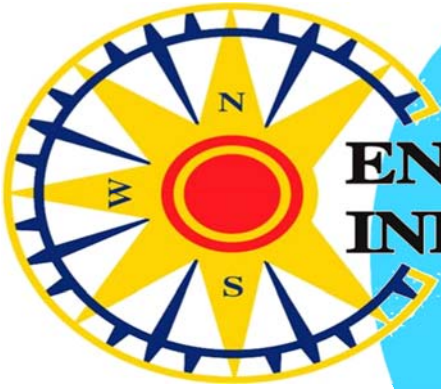
Thanks again for everyone who contributed and supported our annual fundraiser. Please remember to patronize and say thank you to those businesses and individuals who donated to our fundraiser:

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Trinidad Rancheria	Big Rock Sports	Suddenlink
Arcata Exchange	Shafers Ace Hardware	Arcata Stay
Steven Anderson	Tim & Sherry Klassen	Les Schwab
Word of Mouth BBQ	Franklins Service	Cliff & Leslie Hart
Alan Borges Guide Service	House & Boatwright	Leon's Car Care
Accurate Rod & Reels	Renaissance Computing	T's Cafe Arcata
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<u>Zulu</u> Nyala Game Park	Caravan of Dreams	Fortuna Auto
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