

HUMBOLDT AREA SALTWATER ANGLERS

A VOICE FOR SALTWATER SPORTFISHERS 2022 FALL NEWSLETTER

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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.

**HUMBOLDT AREA
SALTWATER ANGLERS
PO BOX 6191
EUREKA, CA 95502**

hasa6191@gmail.com

<https://humboldtasa.com/>

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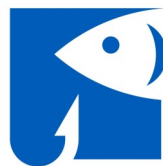
Comments are always welcome and should be sent to jcphasa@gmail.com.

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

All past HASA newsletters can be viewed at <https://humboldtasa.com/mdocuments-library/>

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This is issue #49.



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President's Message



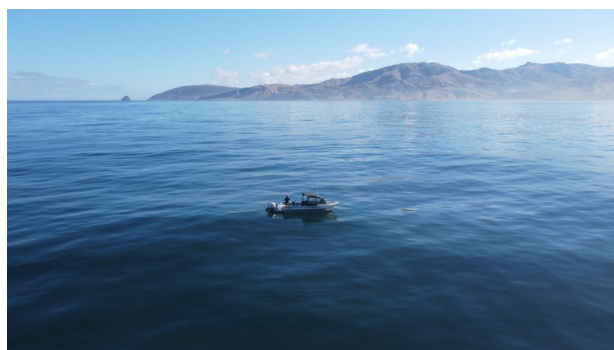
Well, with the exception of the recently partially opened sport crabbing season (see page 4), the offshore fishing season has ended. Speaking for myself, 2022 was a major improvement over the last couple of years. I hope you all had an equally fine offshore season.

We're planning our annual membership meeting for some time in January or February and will ensure that we get the time and place broadcast early enough for everyone to plan to participate. If you have a subject that you would like considered for the annual meeting agenda, please let one of the Board members know in advance. Speaking of upcoming dates, please be sure to mark **March 18** on your calendar for our long-delayed spring fund raiser and get-together.

With the release of the final EIS three months ago and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issuing a License Surrender Order for the Klamath River Hydroelectric Project on November 17, the four dams blamed for much of the salmon population woes in the Klamath will be removed, beginning in 2023 and completed by the end of 2024. If you would like to stay up-to-date on developments you can go to <https://klamathrenewal.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/klamathrenewal/>.

In early November, HASA attended a meeting exploring the challenges that need to be addressed in the push for a large offshore wind energy generation facility 20 miles off Eureka. It's too early for HASA to become involved as a stakeholder – they're not even close to that stage. When we get there we'll need someone to represent HASA – are you interested? Some of the questions under consideration at this meeting were: (1) Where do we get trained windmill plant operators? (2) How and where do they get trained? (3) If new folks come here as plant employees where would we house them? (4) Will a large number of new high-paying jobs cause problems for existing local businesses, many of whom are already having difficulty finding qualified employees? (5) How do existing local manufacturing businesses get in on the "ground floor"? Based on the large number of local, state and federal agencies represented, it was clear there is a strong government push on this project. If this goes anything like the PG&E wave energy proposal of about 13 years ago, there will be some local stakeholders with objections, but whereas PG&E eventually pulled the plug on the wave project, I'm not so sure that will happen this time.

Remember to send HASA your fishing and boating pictures -- you just might make the cover of our next issue. Send photo submissions or article ideas to us at hasa6191@gmail.com.



Dungeness Crab 2022-2223 Recreational Season Update

By Ross Taylor

At the time of writing this update, the 2022-2023 Dungeness crab recreational season has been open for one week, and overall, the crabbing has been excellent in the ocean and relatively slow in Humboldt Bay. Reports from Trinidad have been quick limits of large crabs that are fairly well filled-out. My one kayak trip of the new season occurred on November 9th and I limited on the first drop of two Type A hoops and one Type B hoop (Promar© Ambush hoop) in 45-50 feet of water, just south of Prisoner Rock. Keep reading for more information on hoop definitions and buoy marking requirements!



Hopefully anglers interested in recreational crabbing are aware of the crab pot/trap closure at the start of this season, as well as the new regulations regarding hoops/rings. These measures were implemented to reduce the potential for whale entanglements in crab gear, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Director also delayed the November 15th commercial opener in Zones 3-6 (south of the Sonoma/Mendocino county line) due to a high potential of whale entanglement. CDFW will conduct bi-monthly whale surveys and adjust season openers and allowable gear-types based on the results of these surveys. Recreational crabbers should expect to be allowed to use pots and traps once the CDFW Director determines that the commercial fishery may commence.

The new regulations for crab rings and hoops were developed in response to modifications that some recreational crabbers made to Type B hoops last season (in April 2022) when the CDFW Director closed the commercial season and also prohibited the use of sport pots/traps. Some recreational crabbers were modifying Type B hoops to fish more like pots and traps, thus allowing longer soak periods, which could lead to a higher risk of entanglements. The new regulations define Type A and Type B rings/hoops. The new regulations also stipulate a maximum soak time of two hours and clarify how ring/hoop buoys must be marked if fished offshore. For individuals, this requires marking each buoy with your GO ID # - that can be found on your fishing license.

For the exact details of the new regulations, please go to the following web page:
[New Hoop Net Regulations in Effect – Marine Management News \(wordpress.com\)](https://www.marine-management.com/news/new-hoop-net-regulations-in-effect)





Summary of Northern California Hoop Net Regulations Effective October 31, 2022

North of Point Arguello, Santa Barbara County

- **Hoop Net Allowance:** unlimited
 - **On public piers** you cannot use more than two (2) rods and lines, two (2) hand lines, or two (2) nets, traps or other legal devices (including hoop nets) to take crabs.
- **Service Interval (statewide):** Hoop nets must be serviced every 2 hours; it is unlawful to abandon or leave unchecked a hoop net for more than 2 hours. Any hoop net left unchecked or abandoned for more than 2 hours may be seized.
- **Surface Buoy Marking Requirements (statewide):** A surface buoy is required for hoop nets used offshore (does not include piers and jetties). Surface buoys are to be marked as follows:
 1. CPFV – vessel registration,
 2. Licensed Guide – ID Number,
 3. For all other cases – 10-digit GO ID Number (see Figure 1; simplify with one GO ID for multiple operators).



Figure 1. Example of surface buoy gear marking showing GO ID placement.

Statewide Legal Hoop Net Configurations

Hoop Net Type A (see Figure 2)

- Fishing gear that is comprised of one (1) to three (3) rigid ring(s), with each ring measuring no greater than 36 inches in inside diameter nor less than 10 inches in inside diameter, which is/are connected to non-metallic soft mesh thereby forming a circular-shaped net with an enclosed bottom.
- Lift lines shall be attached only to the top ring.
- A second and third rigid ring(s) may be connected by non-metallic soft mesh to the top ring; however, each ring must be equal in size to or smaller than the ring above it.



Summary of Northern California Hoop Net Regulations Effective October 31, 2022

- When the net is being raised the top ring shall be above and parallel to all other rings, with the enclosed bottom portion of the non-metallic soft mesh even with or hanging below all other rings.
- All parts of the hoop net shall collapse and lie flat when resting on the ocean floor in such a manner that the gear does not entrap or restrict the free movement of crustaceans until lifted.
- When suspended from lift lines, the entire hoop net shall measure no taller than 36 inches.
- The ring material shall not be thicker than one (1) inch in any dimension.

Hoop Net Type B (see Figure 2)

- Fishing gear that is comprised of two (2) rigid rings (not including the bait ring), with the bottom ring measuring no greater than 36 inches in inside diameter and the top ring measuring no less than 15 inches in inside diameter.
- The top ring shall be connected to the bottom ring and supported by no more than six (6) rigid straight support arms, and the assembled frame shall measure no more than 10 inches tall.
- The rings and support material shall not be thicker than one (1) inch in any dimension.
- All rings shall be connected by non-metallic soft mesh, thereby forming a net with an enclosed bottom, and lift lines shall be attached only to the top ring.
- When suspended from lift lines the enclosed bottom portion of the net shall be even with or hanging below all other rings, and the entire net shall measure no taller than 30 inches.
- A bait ring may be attached to the net as long as the ring is not part of the rigid frame.
- No additional entrances are allowed below the top ring.



Figure 2 Examples of commercially available hoop nets. The net on the left (blue line) is an example of a Type B hoop net. The net on the right (red/orange line) is an example of a Type A hoop net.

Recap of the 2022 Fishing Season Out of Eureka

By Lonnie Dollarhide

This past salmon season in the KMZ was a big improvement over the 2021 season, which was the worst season we can remember. This past season we were allowed to fish in the month of May and the salmon were here. It took couple of days to locate the salmon but once we did it was limits every day we could get out. August was a bust due to the warm water clear to the beach. The salmon that were here appeared to run offshore and stayed deep. By September the water cooled back down, the salmon moved back inshore, up in the water column and we got to catch a few before the season ended.



Fishing rockfish down off the Lost Coast was very good for snappers but the ling cod were hard to come by early in the season. But September and October were really good for ling's, they had moved inshore to spawn and there were plenty around.

Pacific halibut was once again a short but great season. Halibut were bigger this season with some real nice ones caught with the average size at about 30 pounds.



Last year out Eureka we never got a shot at albacore because the warm water never pushed in close enough to allow us a chance to run out. This year had way different conditions and everyone had opportunities to go. The albacore fishing was good with big fish this year and it didn't take many fish to fill up totes and kill bags.

Now it's the time of year for crabs. There is no Domoic Acid problem along the coast. Last season was good for crabs and this season should be as good or better.

Hopefully 2023 will be another great season for all to enjoy.

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Maple-Mustard Cedar-Plank Salmon with Sweet Onion Crust

Source: *Yankee Magazine*

INGREDIENTS

1/4 cup maple syrup
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
1 teaspoon kosher or sea salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1/2 teaspoon chipotle-pepper powder (or 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper)
2 garlic cloves, crushed
3 tablespoons mustard seed (or 1-1/2 tablespoons whole-grain mustard)
3/4 cup olive oil, plus extra for fish
2-1/4 pound salmon fillet, washed and patted dry
2 Vidalia or other sweet onions, thinly sliced (*for best results, slice the onion into very thin rounds on a mandolin*).
Lemon wedges

INSTRUCTIONS

Combine seasonings and oil in a bowl and whisk. Pour into a large zip-top plastic bag with salmon and onions; seal, pressing out excess air and coating salmon with marinade. Let salmon marinate in refrigerator at least 30 minutes, or up to 3 hours, turning several times.

Soak a cedar plank in water 1 hour. Set up your grill for indirect heat and preheat to about 375°. Brush salmon with olive oil and set on plank. Arrange onions in a single layer over fish. Set plank in grill away from the heat source, cover, and cook until onions are tender and the salmon is just opaque in the center, 20–30 minutes, depending on thickness. Serve on plank, surrounded by lemon wedges.



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La Niña Conditions Continue

By Joe Polos

Unfortunately it looks like the west coast will experience an unprecedented third La Niña in a row. La Niña conditions are indicated by cooler than average water temperatures in the Pacific Ocean along the equator. This causes disruptions in the typical storm patterns experienced along the Pacific coast of the US. While La Niña conditions do not necessarily mean that we will have a dry winter, that has been the case the past two years. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts that there is a 91% chance of La Niña conditions through the early winter. While NOAA’s precipitation projections for northern California indicate an equal chance of above or below normal (Figure 1), the winter drought outlook is very concerning as it indicates that the drought condition of California’s Central Valley will continue to worsen (Figure 2). The one little bit of positive news is that the upper Klamath Basin drought conditions are anticipated to improve – hopefully this will be the case.

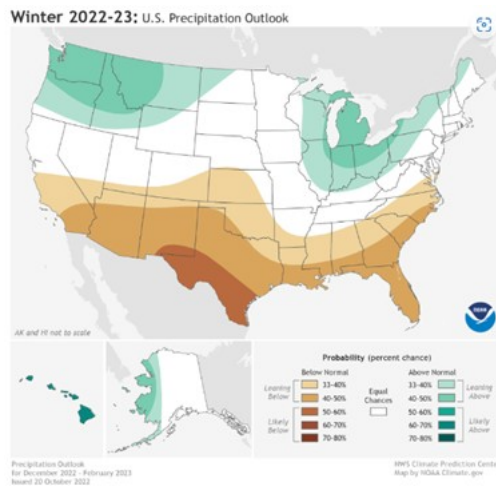


Figure 1. NOAA’s winter precipitation forecast for 2022-2023.

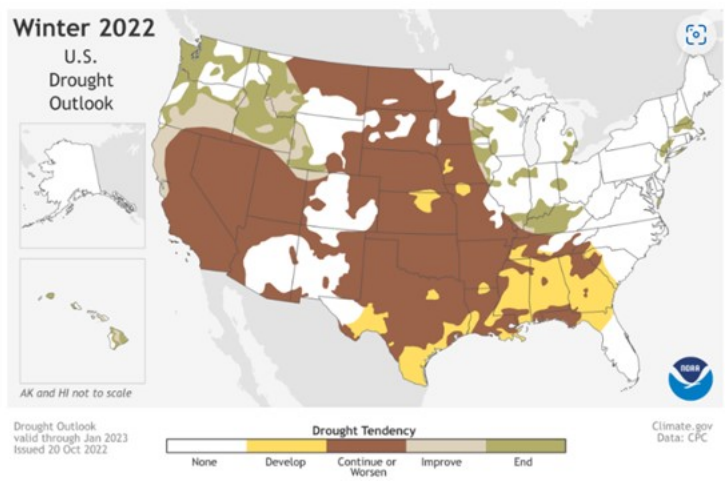


Figure 2. NOAA’s winter drought forecast for 2022-2023.

Unfortunately this third consecutive year of La Niña conditions and likely continuation of drought conditions in the Central Valley of California coincides with very low water storage in the Central Valley Project’s (CVP) major reservoirs (Figure 3). The past two years of low precipitation combined with water management decisions to provide water for Central Valley agriculture has left the reservoirs at very low storage levels, ranging from a low of 22% for Trinity which has a capacity of 2.45 million acre-feet (MAF) to 31% for Shasta which has a capacity of 4.55 MAF. The major CVP reservoirs have a total capacity of 13.9 MAF and are currently 27% full. Lower storage in the late fall and early winter is common due to drawdown the previous spring and summer and leaving room in the reservoirs so they can catch large winter storms to prevent or moderate flooding. But the low level last year and this year is very concerning when coupled with the anticipated continuation of drought conditions in the Central Valley.

And this all matters to salmon fishers because the majority of the salmon captured off of our coast are produced in the Klamath/Trinity and Sacramento basins and water management in these rivers generally does not favor creating conditions that support robust salmon populations. Prolonged natural drought conditions, exasperated by water management decisions that make things worse for salmon, will continue to suppress salmon populations that lead to significant

fishery restrictions. This can affect fishing seasons three and four years down the road. Hopefully these forecasts are a little off and we get some more favorable wet winter conditions, and the water managers will have to do their part to protect the salmon.

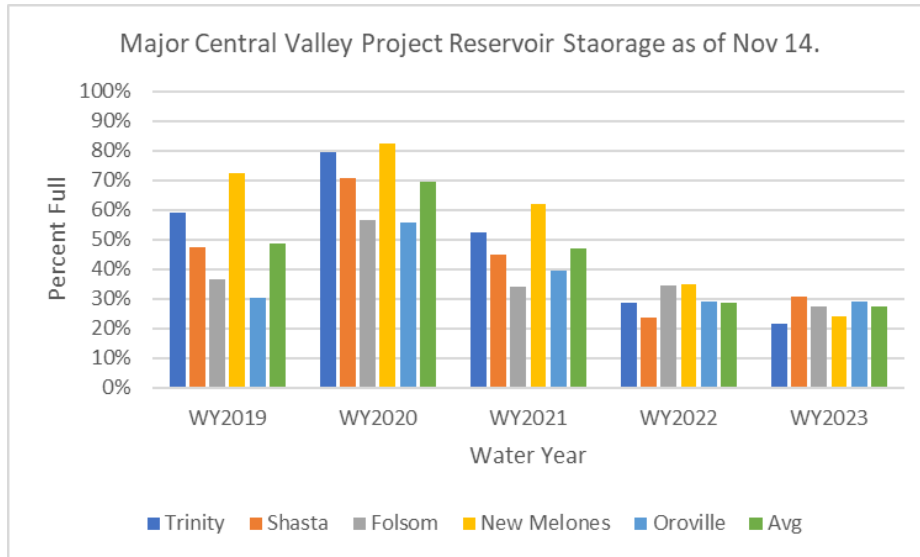


Figure 3. Water storage (percent of capacity) in major Central Valley Project reservoirs from water year 2019-2023 on November 14 of each year. Water year accounting is from October 1 in the previous year through September 30 (i.e.: WY2022 =October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022). The average value is weighted by the storage capacity of individual reservoirs.

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Fishin' 'Till the End

By Mike Brown, deckhand on boat Steller Sunrise, Humboldt Charter Company, owned and operated by Lowell Wallace.

It was the end of July and we were chartered by three fishermen from Reno, Nevada who were working in the area, and wanted to fish for halibut. There was a slow rolling swell on the ocean, ideal for halibut fishing, with plenty of sunshine.

We arrived at the halibut grounds early, baited our hooks and sent them down in hopes of catching that big halibut. It didn't take long, maybe 20 minutes or so, and one of the rods went off. It was an 18 pound halibut. As halibut fishing goes, we drifted for about 2 hours or so with no more takedowns, so we moved back to our original starting point. Within 30 minutes another rod went off and after an enjoyable fight one of our customers landed a 33 pound halibut. Smiles and high 5's all around as we celebrated our second fish in such a short time. Now is when the real fishing begins, catching that "devil fish".

As the story goes, we drifted around, moved to different locations tried every bait in our arsenal, danced and chanted but by 2:15 in the afternoon no "devil fish". Lowell asked our fishermen how much longer they wanted to fish; they said they wanted keep trying until 3:00 . Lowell agreed and quitting time was decided at 3:00 o'clock.

We drifted for a while and Lowell said it was time to reel up as it didn't look like we were going to catch that "devil fish".

One of our fisherman was going to take his rod out of the holder and just as he started to grab it the rod went off plunging straight down toward the water. It was a great "takedown" and we figured it was a nice halibut.

I looked at my watch just as he began to reel up the fish and it was 2:59. The halibut was a 39 pounder. It just goes to show ya, you never know.

Fishing Items For Sale

We still have a few lightly used items for sale. If you are interested please contact Ross at rossntaylor@sbcglobal.net.

- Penn 60 Long Beach reel with Cabela's 8'6" downrigger rod - \$50
- Ugly Stick 5'10" spinning rod - \$15
- Powerwinch - 12 volt boat winch, rated for 11,500 pounds (retails new \$450) - \$100
- Racor fuel/water separator (new in box) - \$50
- NOCO Genius GENM1 onboard battery charger, never installed - \$50
- Garmin GT52HW-TM Transducer retails for \$250-\$300, never installed - \$150
- Pacific Coast Tuna Tackle spreader bar - hot pink (new in package, retails for \$70) - \$40
- Pacific Coast Tuna Tackle spreader bar - purple (new in package, retails for \$70) - \$40
- Lingcod Gear - 3 lead heads (8, 12, 16 oz), 4 Kalin tails, storage box - \$20
- Box of swim baits - \$10
- Point Wilson Darts - 3 candlefish (all 4 oz in weight) - \$15
- Halibut harpoon set-up - dart, cable and rope mounted on 5-foot pole - \$30
- One boat cushion, 32" x 15" - \$20

McCloud River Juvenile Salmon Collection System Pilot Project

News release issued jointly by the California Department of Water Resources, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA Fisheries, the USDA Forest Service and the Bureau of Reclamation

State and federal biologists and engineers, in partnership with the Winnemem Wintu Tribe, have begun testing an experimental system in Shasta Reservoir that could help collect young salmon from the McCloud River in future years.

The Juvenile Salmonid Collection System, a pilot project three years in the making, is part of a long-term effort to help fish better survive California's hotter, drier future and more extreme droughts. The collection system will float in the McCloud River arm of the reservoir and guide cold water toward a collection point, with this cold water flowing down from the Shasta Trinity National Forest. The initial testing, which will run from September to mid-November, will not involve salmon but will use temperature and hydraulic measurements to assess the operation and performance of the collection system.

If successful, the system will be tested in future years with salmon to determine its efficacy and if it can be a critical part of winter-run Chinook salmon reintroduction above Shasta Dam. Biologists expect that juvenile salmon will follow the colder water to that collection point, where they can be retrieved and transported downstream around the dam to continue their migration to the ocean.

Recovery plans call for returning endangered winter-run Chinook salmon to their original spawning grounds in the cold McCloud River above Shasta Reservoir, where the fish may better survive drought and climate change. Juvenile salmon hatched in the river need to be collected as they migrate downstream but before they enter the reservoir that is home to warmer waters and potential predators.

"This is an innovative and important project that comes at a critical time for endangered winter-run Chinook salmon," said Scott Rumsey, Acting Regional Administrator for NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region. "While we will need a few years to move this ahead, we have no time to waste in preparing this native California species for the rising challenges of climate change."

Reintroduction efforts strive to reestablish endangered winter-run salmon in colder, high-elevation rivers where they once spawned before reservoirs blocked their migration. This would improve their resilience to a changing climate and could allow for more flexibility in managing water in the Sacramento River.

An important component of the project has been the commitment of state, federal, and regional authorities to Tribal engagement. Strategic efforts and planning have been enhanced with the support and commitment to developing a partnership with the Winnemem Wintu Tribe. The participation of the Tribe brings unique perspectives and incorporates Tribal knowledge to the project.

"DWR is excited about the strong state, federal, and Tribal partnerships that are beginning to test the Juvenile Salmon Collection System," said Karla Nemeth, DWR Director. "This team

effort is critical in supporting salmon and their adaptation to our climate-driven hotter, drier future.”

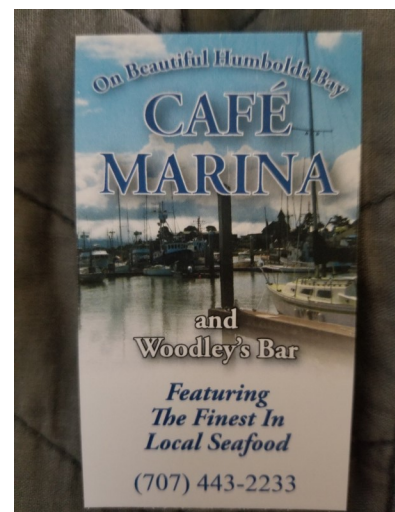
The testing of the system will require intermittent restricted access for boats in the McCloud Arm of the reservoir. DWR and contractor staff will be on site, and the system may be repositioned as reservoir levels decline in the fall. Rachel Birkey, Forest Supervisor at the Shasta-Trinity National Forest shared that, “we are proud to join in this collective effort and share the ability of the national forest to contribute cold water flowing in the efforts to help safeguard this imperiled species.”

"This really is a monumental step for securing a future for this imperiled, iconic California species," said Charlton H. Bonham, Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). "This is the first step in creating the infrastructure necessary to connect winter-run Chinook salmon in the Sacramento River with that ideal, cold-water spawning and rearing habitat in the McCloud River. We're eagerly anticipating the testing of this system."

The testing of the collection system is a separate effort from the transfer of about 40,000 winter-run eggs from the Livingston Stone National Fish Hatchery to the McCloud River, where they were incubated throughout the summer. That effort, supported by the Winnemem Wintu Tribe, CDFW, NOAA Fisheries, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), was an urgent response to the severe drought and will improve the salmon's odds of survival this year.

"Returning winter-run Chinook salmon to their original spawning grounds in the McCloud River has always been part of the plan to recover the species, but now climate change is accelerating the urgency of this action," said Paul Souza, Pacific Southwest Regional Director for the USFWS. "We are grateful to have dedicated partners standing with us to test out this innovative technology and help this endangered salmon survive."

"Winter-run Chinook salmon are an important species for the Central Valley Project, and we carefully manage water temperatures to protect the last naturally-spawning population below Keswick Dam on the Sacramento River," said Ernest Conant, director of the Bureau of Reclamation's California-Great Basin Region. "We have been able to support population resiliency and this reintroduction effort through our funding of the operation of the Livingston-Stone National Fish Hatchery and in the Battle Creek Restoration Program. We look forward to the day NOAA Fisheries can add a McCloud River population to those on the Sacramento River."



HASA Merchandise Available

If you are scratching for Christmas ideas for yourself or a fishing buddy, we still have some unsold HASA merchandise. Ideally we'd like to sell out and then restock with a new design in preparation for our spring fund raiser. It's hard to justify the outlay for a new shirt series when we still have too many left-overs. So, if your HASA shirt is looking a bit "loved" these days, send me an email (clderidder@hotmail.com) or call me at (707) 442-3435 and we'll get you looking spiffy again. Stock is limited in most sizes and options, so don't delay. At press time we have available:

- men's shirts: black short sleeves with an albacore design - 1 S
 maroon short sleeves with an albacore design - 1 S
 purple short sleeves with an albacore design - 1 M
 green short sleeves with an albacore design - 2 S
 blue short sleeves with an albacore design - 1 S, 2 L
 gray long sleeves with an albacore design - 2 L
 blue long sleeves with an albacore design - 2 S, 3 L
 black short sleeves with a halibut design - 1 L
 black long sleeves with a halibut design - 2 L, 7 XL
 navy blue short sleeves with a halibut design - 1 S, 12 M, 6 L, 3 XXXL
 light gray short sleeves with a halibut design - 3 M
 navy blue short sleeves with a ling cod design - 1 L
 navy blue long sleeves with a ling cod design - 7 M, 7 XL
 black long sleeves with an octopus design - 1 XXXL
- women's: navy blue short sleeves v-neck with a halibut - 1 S, 3 M, 3 L, 3 XL, 1 XXL
 navy blue short sleeves v-neck with a ling cod design - 1 S, 1 M, 2 L
 black short sleeves v-neck with an octopus design - 1 S, 2 L
- youth: navy blue short sleeves with a ling cod design - 1 S, 2 M, 2 L, 2 XL
 black short sleeves with an octopus design - 1 S, 2 M, 2 L, 2 XL
- baseball caps: adjustable - 5 red, 1 brown, 11 navy blue
 flex fit - 1 brown L/XL, 2 navy blue S/M, 1 navy blue L/XL

Pro-Troll HotChip 11 Flasher – 5 green/white, 5 chrome/green, 11 rainbow blue

- Prices:** long sleeved shirt \$17 each or 2 for \$30
 short sleeved shirt \$14 each or 2 for \$25
 hats \$10 each or 2 for \$17
 Pro-Troll HotChip flashers - \$6 each
 (plus postage if we can't meet locally)

As a bonus, till we run out every order of \$15 or more will include a free SeaQualizer Standard Release Descender 50/100/150. Check them out online where they typically sell for \$40 - \$60. It's important that we all use a quality descender when releasing bottom fish. It helps ensure released fish survive, and CDFW factors a survival ratio into their modeling when predicting population changes and allowable quotas. If CDFW knows we're all consistently using descender devices it does help us in the long run.

Possible HASA Community Action/Improvement Item

There have been some folks asking if it is possible to build a fish cleaning station at or near one of the boat ramps. If you have any ideas or insight on this subject, please contact a Board Member, or make a note to attend our 2023 annual meeting to present your ideas and/or knowledge.

Dead Battery Solution

This past summer I was blessed to have another boater stop at the ramp to jump start my boat. If not for this other crew I'd have had to put the boat back on the trailer and head for home. Later, looking at possible prevention measures, I tripped over an ad for Weego's lithium-polymer N44s, an emergency pack which isn't much larger than a cell phone, but is reported to have 440 12-volt cranking amps. If your boat could use some "at-the-ramp insurance", you might hint to your special someone that finding something like this under your Christmas tree this year would be awesome.



Notes from Newsletter Manager: In our continuing quest to make this newsletter more interesting to our membership we will continue to ask for article ideas and pictures from the HASA membership. I can be reached at jcphasa@gmail.com. The deadline for submission of materials for the 2023 Winter newsletter deadline will be somewhere around **early February**. Please contact me if you have any questions.

We are also looking for additional advertisers for the HASA newsletters. Our newsletter is sent out to hundreds of anglers each quarter and posted on our website, so it is a good place to advertise your business. Email hasa6191@gmail.com if you or a colleague is interested in advertising in our newsletter; we can provide rates for different sizes of ads from business cards to full page.

Thanks, Joe

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