

# HUMBOLDT AREA SALTWATER ANGLERS

A VOICE FOR SALTWATER SPORTFISHERS

## 2020 SUMMER 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.**

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This is issue #40.



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## President's Message



Welcome to mid-summer. As this goes to press, we've had an excellent halibut season, though we're still waiting for salmon to arrive in numbers. The usual rockfish areas have produced well, and we're looking forward to the first shoreward push of albacore. Hopefully, everyone has been offshore a couple of times and is looking forward to the next three months.

For those of us who have been active with HASA since its inception, we well remember the MPA process arriving with its threat of barring fishermen from many of our favorite locations. Recently Cliff sent me a news item which brought back those memories. The article was a recap and series of quotes from "Protecting the Oceans: UN Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Critical Role", an online discussion held May 21, 2020, organized by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Centre for Biodiversity, and the Pew Charitable Trusts. Their slogan is "30 by 30", by which they mean their goal is to increase the percentage of the ocean protected by MPAs to 30% by 2030.

So, how does this shared goal among several southeast Asian countries affect us? Simply put, some interests are trying to expand this goal worldwide, and they're finding support. In California this has manifested itself as Assembly Bill 3030, named after the "30 by 30" slogan. This bill has already been introduced by Assembly members Kalra, Bloom, Gonzalez, Reyes, and Rivas and was reviewed and amended on May 6 and again June 4. The plan is to add Section 9001.6 to the Public Resources Code, related to resource conservation. In its present form it states "This bill would declare it to be the goals of the state by 2030 to protect at least 30% of the state's land areas and waters; to help advance the protection of 30% of the nation's oceans; and to support regional, national and international efforts to protect at least 30% of the world's land areas and waters and 30% of the world's ocean. The bill would authorize the state to achieve these goals through specified activities."

The justification sections invoke all the currently popular buzzwords and causes related to carbon sequestration, global warming, species extinctions, improving access to nature for communities of color, focusing on a larger scale and aligning California's efforts with other state, national and international entities.

The problem is that at this time, nowhere within what I've been able to find are there any actual specifics as to just how this would be implemented, managed, or paid for. If this proposal gains traction, we could see a dramatic increase in the number and size of areas off limits to sportsmen. What if out of every ten miles of river, three miles were made off limits? What if out of every ten square miles of ocean, three square miles were off limits? Or three out of every ten miles of coastal waters? It's still early, but this could be the next big political grab for resources with the intent of banning boating, hiking, hunting, fishing, and other harvest activities. That hits right at the core of our mission at HASA. The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation is concerned as well, noting that this was passed out of committee along a straight party line vote (13-5). As always, we will endeavor to keep you informed, and to work to protect our right to sport fish.

Larry DeRidder

# Wild Times

By Eric Stockwell

*Originally submitted in mid-May - Loleta Eric's Guide Service has since received a certified approval for reopening from Humboldt County (and he's getting his kayak clients on salmon!)*

Greetings, Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers. What's new?... It's a rhetorical question!

We are, every one of us, in the midst of dealing with situations and uncertainties in our lives that we probably never imagined even as recently as a few months ago. To say that we are faced with new and sometimes extreme challenges would be an understatement, but I think it's really important to keep a perspective on all of it in terms of exactly what we're facing. I don't speak for all and don't claim to, but I would be willing to bet that just about everyone reading this – if not every single one - is feeling heavily weighed down right now with what amounts to “first world problems”. That description refers to how Americans and citizens of other modern and wealthy countries often complain of a list of inconveniences and minor setbacks in our daily lives which, when compared to more extreme realities like starvation or systemic violence, don't really seem as serious as we may have made them out to be. I'm talking, “My refrigerator died!” or “my 401K is down”. Even if it's “my job is at stake”, it's a lot different than not knowing if you'll eat or whether you'll be killed before the end of the day - many people on this planet do deal with harsher realities than we'll ever know. A half-full perspective may reveal that we are actually fortunate to live in a country that, for the most part, allows us to find options for dealing with our first world problems - even those arising from this pandemic.

When this virus hit and our culture made moves to mitigate negative impacts and outcomes that we could see occurring in other countries around the world, my attention was piqued. I felt, in no uncertain terms, an obligation to use my voice to assist those communities where I perceive myself as not only a member but also a leader. I do not write that in vanity or a sense of superiority. I base my assessment on decisions I've made and ways that I've focused my energy and resources throughout my life. Regardless of how I perceive myself or how others see me, I felt compelled to act in response to crisis.

My first moves were of course for my family. I got my daughter home from university in mid-March, and our household has maintained strict guidelines of isolation, distancing and adherence to protocols for avoiding not only infection but contagion as well. What we do is for us, and it's for everyone else too - it's a simple concept that gets muddied up in many ways. “The Golden Rule” has probably never meant so much as it does now.

I am a member of a variety of different fishing communities, mostly kayak fishing, but I have links to way more than that. When the Shelter-In-Place order went into effect, I think that most people around Northern California took it seriously and did their part to cooperate - I think that's true for most of the country, and it's been



very admirable. After a few days at home I saw that the ocean was really flat and I decided that a trip to the South Jetty was in order - it's very close to my home. I had high confidence that I could get out there, don my wetsuit, maybe spear a lingcod, and I could get back home without any contact and very little chance of having an unforeseen breakdown or accident that would cause contact with others or the need for essential emergency services to be directed my way. That all worked out fine - even speared a couple of lings - but soon afterward I realized that my actions could have negative consequences. Did I NEED the meat for my family? No. Did I NEED the activity for my sanity? No. Was I suffering at home in any way other than my own ability to fulfill my desires? Absolutely not.

What about those negative consequences? What could happen? Other than my recreational activity possibly leading to the need for contact with others or the dedication of EMS to my non-essential choices, I realized that my voice and my example would have effects on others who also felt the need to get out. I quickly came to know that it's not someone who lives right next to a great rock fishing spot who we need to worry about - it's all of those who would have to travel through other communities to access these places who I felt the need to speak to. I then chose to speak out about it. I became embroiled in debates online about whether friends should come from Oregon to hit Humboldt Bay for halibut. I posted a poll on my favorite kayak fishing forum about whether it's OK to travel for recreational fishing during SIP - the majority came through saying NO. But those who didn't agree with restrictions on fishing at all came with a strong voice. I had stepped on the tiger's tail here, and it would get heated.

For the following six weeks, I devoted myself to staying home and held my family to very strict standards. We are fortunate to have a nice yard and enough space in the house for the four of us to not feel cooped up, and our neighborhood has plenty of space for isolated walks, jogs and bike rides. From mid-March through April, I continued to use social media to send my messages of cooperation, adherence to guidelines and supporting what I saw as purely common sense strategies to get through this together. What I found in the fishing communities though was that tiger that I'd angered. When salmon season was to open the 2nd Saturday in April (Mendo and south), I told a friend that I would not be hitting the Cove for the opener because it wasn't proper to travel there and be a potential vector of contagion. I declared on one site that those hitting SF Bay for the burgeoning halibut bite were being selfish and that I hoped CDFW would just close fishing altogether so we could all focus on the priority of protecting our populace from the virus. That didn't go over well, but behind the scenes I received much support from others who agreed with what I was saying.

My blood pressure was up due to online clashes, and I felt like fishing had somehow lost its allure in a way. That's a big statement from me. I have been guiding for almost 6 years now, and everything about salmon and the nearshore environment have been central to my being for much longer than that. Fishing didn't have me upset; people who would choose not to cooperate and who would act like the pandemic was their next and greatest opportunity for personal conquest had me upset. I grappled with it and I came to feel the need for my fishing to mean more to me than it ever had before.

The last week of April came along, and the big three were to open up on Friday, May 1st at Shelter Cove - salmon, rockfish/lingcod and Pac halibut. By this point we'd all been in the same boat of information, misinformation, debates, clashes, real effects of isolation starting to show, and we knew much more about how it might look and feel to go out again - not just fishing but anywhere that life needed to be lived in again. I'd tracked word out of the Cove - the launch was to be open to Humboldt residents, distancing would be required, the public

bathroom was closed. There were impediments to going, but with a plan one could execute a trip and I was ready.

Alarm set for 3:55AM. I got up at 3:30AM. Arrived at the ramp in the dark - the first one there as is usually the case for me. This was the first test - if I'd arrived to see a zoo of eager anglers at 5:15AM I don't know what I'd have done. I got my gear laid out quickly, ate my bowl of cereal and launched onto the ocean well before anyone else came down the hill. I had the water to myself, and it didn't really matter whether I caught a salmon that day - this was the 2nd test, determining what I really needed from the trip. As the powerboaters and a few other kayakers made their way onto the water over the next few hours, life felt 'normal' again. I was lucky enough to put a king under burlap by late morning on a scratch bite, but it didn't feel quite like it should've. Here I was again - pondering how the meaning of my fishing might change.



I made my way into the launch by early afternoon. The tide was out, the sun was hot, and the north wind was blocked by Point Delgada - the beach scene down by the ramp and extending toward Deadman's rivaled peak summertime levels. People were respectful of distancing, but life was being lived. It felt much more promising of how we can move forward than foreboding of how we may fail if we're not mindful of the details. For me, the trip and the catching felt like a much needed success, but how would I share it with my audience who'd maybe seen me as seemingly denouncing fishing for the past month and a half? I wouldn't spend too much time letting it twist me into a pretzel of emotions - I achieve that with way too little effort as it is. That evening I posted up my trip and laid out how, moving forward on May 1<sup>st</sup> that was way different than April 1<sup>st</sup> had been, with carefully laid plans and adherence to standards and guidelines of the 'new normal' of social distancing, masking and paying close attention to fomites (look it up - it's a good new word for all of us), fishing and other outdoor pursuits should be able to happen.

Reactions to my post were almost all positive. That's one way that much of Facebook and other social media platforms can help to build community - positive reinforcement of the sharing of life experiences. The other side of that though is the tiger. One response blasted me - it read: "I guess since you went fishing now you're done shaming everyone else for going." Ouch. That hurt me, but I owed it to myself and to whatever 'audience' that I have to take it to heart and to try to grow from it. Yes, I adopted an open and sometimes judgmental stance about how everyone needed to take the virus and the mitigation efforts seriously, and my desire for achieving widespread success through a coordinated and cooperative community response was probably something that shows my own possibly misguided overreach in terms of how I perceive my position in the community. But this is what life is - experience, examination of ensuing ramifications, consideration for others, and here's the real goal: growth. If we can't achieve these things then we aren't doing it right.

So where do we go from here? With the new phase of reopening the economy, the focus from government is on lots of businesses, but mine isn't one of them. I don't have employees or a storefront. I see that I can easily do the distancing and the masking when needed, and

disinfection of the kayaks, paddles, PFDs, wetsuits, booties, rods, reels and nets is an easy one too. So my business is open to local residents - I won't take guests from out of the area until it's clear that that's OK.

So how does my fishing change from all of this? What does it mean to catch a salmon when there's a crisis? Taking a look at any time in our lives, we see that there are always crises going on for some of us - this pandemic has been so unique because all of us are affected by it. Part of how we deal with setbacks and stress and even tragedy is to seek peace, and many of us do that in the outdoors. Since I was a kid I have seen God in nature, and my peace is derived from my connection to the environment and to the animals. I am in closest contact with my true self when I am in the wild, but I am a social animal. I bring my experiences back to my community, and I have tried to always put my full effort and heart into helping others to connect to what I see as our most fundamental need - belonging. I belong to the wild and I belong to the community because I have chosen that for myself. My fishing must be an expression of that choice. I feel that we all have an opportunity to make our fishing mean more right now - along with every other aspect of our lives. To me that looks like conscientiousness regarding how our actions affect others and, as a community, fishermen and fisherwomen should be able to show that our activities are way more about how we seek peace and about soulfulness instead of maybe being about selfish moves and ends justifying means. I still want to think like a leader, but I will do my best to take care of me and my actions - that's a place to start.

I am Loleta Eric Stockwell, outdoor guide and naturalist (<https://loletaeric.com/>). Please consider booking a day with me if you have a desire for stronger connections to the wild. It's about way more than fishing.



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# Biggest Fish Contest Update

By Jenn Schwartzberg, HASA Executive Director

The biggest Lingcod and biggest Pacific Halibut contest ran from May 15, 2020 to June 15, 2020. Congrats to Allen Pierce with his winning Lingcod and Ben Herring with his winning Pacific Halibut! Let's give a big Thank You to Coast Central Credit Union for Sponsoring the Biggest Pacific Halibut prize of a \$150 CCCU Mastercard.



We are now continuing the fun looking for the biggest Black Rockfish, Salmon, California Halibut, Albacore, and Exotic Fish. **And we are waving the entry fee...That's Right, IT's Free to enter.**

**Contestants must submit 2 pictures:** one of your fish being measured with a closed mouth from the tip of its nose to middle of tail down the lateral line of the fish and the second being a picture of you with the fish. Submit entry by posting pictures to HASA Facebook page or email to [hasa6191@gmail.com](mailto:hasa6191@gmail.com) to be entered. Please include name & where you are from, type of fish with length and weight if possible, and location caught (not limited to

Humboldt County but still limited to California).

*Example: Jenn from Eureka, lingcod, 30" 22 lbs, caught just outside of Humboldt Bay.*

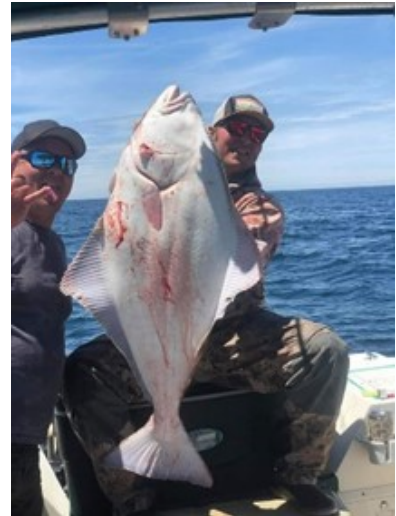
**The Winner from each category will be entered into a drawing for an Accurate Boss Fury FX2-400 / Accurate BV-70M – engraved "HASA 2020". The deadline for submitting your entry is October 1, 2020.**

Additionally, two randomly drawn contestants will each receive a \$50 prepaid CCCU Mastercard.

**Contestants must comply with California Department of Fish & Wildlife regulations. HASA encourages all participants to follow State and federal social distancing recommendations.**

HASA trusts that each fisherman is maintaining safe fishing practices and adhering to state and federal guidelines pertaining to each species of fish within the respective contests. Entries are not considered "placed or entered" until pictures are uploaded onto the HASA Facebook page, or emailed to [HASA6191@gmail.com](mailto:HASA6191@gmail.com). HASA is not responsible for injury, harm, or loss of persons or property while fishermen are out fishing.

You don't want to miss out, so send in your pictures!



## Summer Groundfish Musings—JULY 2020

### COVID-19 and Parasitology as Related to Fishing

By Tom Marking, GAP Representative

In another lifetime, prior to serving a decade on the PFMC Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, eight years on the IPHC MSE team, and 30 years of public utility work, I had another passion in my earlier years, namely parasitology. It's quirky, how things cycle back to where you started in your life. Back in my University days at HSU, I used to make up agar plates, broth, fruit fly concoctions, and grow various critters and bugs, some pathogenic and some just harmless cohabitants of our inner plumbing and workings. Now that I have had some five decades to ruminate over those past interests, it recently occurred to me how there is a congruence in the relationship of fisherman to parasites, something nightly in the news at the moment. It was historically thought that the perfect parasite was one that developed a mutual benefit with the host, neither harming the host unduly, and certainly not to the degree that it's killed, while feasting upon the host and both thriving from the relationship. That model is now passé, since HIV-1, SARS, MERS, retroviruses, and many enteroviruses have convinced us otherwise. It's quite alright for a parasite to kill the host, just not too quickly, or be too virulent in the process.



However, my immediate thoughts are how fishermen function a bit like parasites. We take our prey, legally or illegally, killing not too many but just enough to satisfy our needs (virulence), while allowing the fish to propagate to the degree that suits our needs and wants, without doing too much damage to our host (fish).



Mutual benefit is bunk, as seen with poachers, unethical anglers, and just plain greedy folks that kill fish just for the fun of it. Every organism is involved in selection, natural pressures, unfortunate and unforeseen circumstances and struggle for transmission and virulence to maintain themselves as a species and pass on their genes to successive generations. We are all predators whether we eat from the outside in, or the inside out; it's only a matter of size and method that are subject to question. COVID-19 is a stark reminder that we are not the "baddest" predator on the block. Viruses can level the playing field in a hurry, and as long as about 25% of the host (fish or us) biomass is left, the process perpetuates. Note the lower limit for unfished biomass for management with most fish species, by way of comparison, is about 25%. Most pathogenic viruses ultimately evolve to a lethality of about 65% to 75%,

leaving about 25% to perpetuate the cycle. More than that and they can't sustain themselves due to the high mortality of the host. Ecology is the glue that holds this system together. Fortunes change quickly. Last year we couldn't find a halibut; this year we are blessed with abundance, no thanks to our efforts or machinations. Changing conditions dictate success or failure and we just enjoy the bounty while it lasts. Management efforts based upon mathematical constructs, while often clever or intricate, are too often insufficient to provide the level of accuracy that society expects which leads some to consider them meaningless and irrelevant. But, as with all systems, you do the best you can with what you have, often referred to a "best available science", line up your dart and let fly, and hope you are close to your suspected biomass target...never quite sure if you are close, or not. It usually works out OK, as long as you don't kill off too much too fast. We are all in this ecosystem together, and contrary to the myth, that "big things eat little things", "little things have eaten their fair share of big things", as we are being reminded of that by COVID-19. Size is of no significance in the struggle for life and success, only adaptability. HIV-1 has killed 30 million of us and 34 million more are infected. Our efforts pale in comparison. Only WWII can compare with this itty-bitty virus with that level of death and it's just one of dozens out there waiting for the conditions to favor them to wreak havoc upon us.



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We really are in a fight for survival, all of us, all the time; we just don't often realize it. Our biggest threat is not the obvious things, it's the tiny, persistent, out of sight pests that are relentless, efficient, and truly successful in their quest to continue on in their existence. As an afterthought: if all this is the effort of Intelligent Design, why would our Creator put so much effort into designing something so malevolent, efficient, ruthless, predatory, vicious, and lethal a killer as an RNA virus or virion. Those thoughts keep me awake in the early hours of the morning, prior to getting up before dawn to venture out onto the briny seas in search of my salvation and sustenance. At times, the nights pass slowly.

Now go out there and catch some fish, don't let the opportunity pass you by. Wear your mask, don't kiss any strangers, and wash your hands.

## Bluefin Boys

By Robbie Schallert, Chief Field Officer for TAG-A-Giant

In the Fall of 2018, TAG-A-Giant (TAG) needed expert fishermen to help catch and release Pacific bluefin tuna off the coast of San Diego aboard the F/V Shogun. This ongoing project brings scientists and fishermen together to catch, tag, and release adult Pacific bluefin tuna, as well as collect juvenile fish to bring back for in situ research at the Tuna Research and Conservation Center (<http://www.tunaresearch.org/>). The electronic tags allow scientists to understand movement patterns, population structure, physiology, and behavior. However, none of the research would be possible without



*View from our camera on the second dorsal fin of a giant bluefin looking back at a free-swimming fish obtained from a recent deployment off Canada.*



*Needham pulling on another giant tuna.*

the help from “citizen scientists,” who are instrumental in our efforts to actually catch bluefin. Enter the “Salmon Boys,” my uncle Tom Schallert and his friends, Tim Needham and Jim Yarnall, Humboldt fishermen who have been fishing together for nearly 2 decades. My uncle and dad have taught me everything about fishing and the outdoors, and now that retirement has freed up some time, my uncle Tom and his friends eagerly jumped at the opportunity to join me and the rest of the TAG team off the coast of San Diego. Now, they probably thought they were in for a relaxing fishing trip, but with the bluefin biting on flat falls at night, the trip could be described as pretty much 24/7 fishing for a solid week. The Salmon Boys did not seem to mind as they barely had a moment

when they weren't at the rail waiting for a bite, reeling in a biter or helping us crazy scientists sling and handle fish in a safe and timely manner. The weather wasn't great, as we had some 15 to 20-foot swells at Cortes Bank, but these avid fishermen did not falter, as we filled the tanks with collectable 60-80 cm bluefin and smashed the #200 bluefin behind San Clemente on yummy flyers off the kite.

As we returned to the docks at Fisherman's Landing in San Diego, I fully expected a “Thanks for having us, but I think we will stick to salmon.” So,

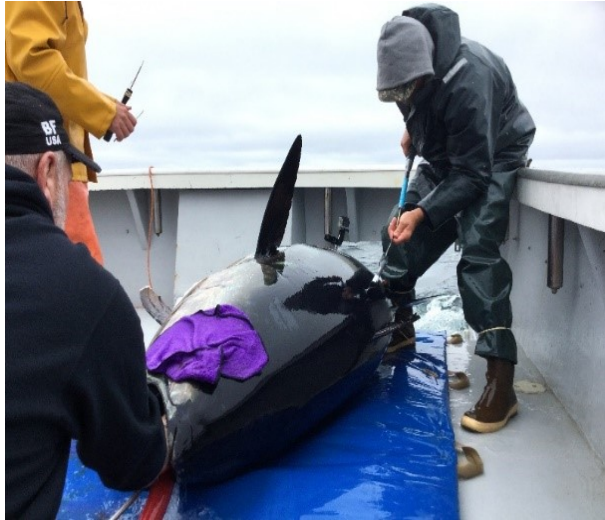


*Yarnall laughs after Tuna peeled 200 yards of line, again!*

imagine my surprise when not 5 minutes after saying goodbye, I get a text from Uncle Tom asking when the Canada trip was scheduled. Fast forward to September 2019, and the Salmon Boys fly to Canada to join scientists from Stanford University and Acadia University in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, to battle some of the biggest fish on the planet. There are few places where you can consistently catch thousand-pound fish, but the Gulf of St. Lawrence is one such place. And if you time your trip just right, you can fish for them right in the middle of the herring spawn, when the bluefin aggregate to feed by the hundreds. Well,



*Schallert keeps the bluefin calm and healthy with an eye cover and saltwater hose.*



*TAG scientists measure, sample and attach electronic*

Tom et al. timed their trip perfectly as the herring were spawning and the ocean was flat, which occurs so rarely it is basically unheard of. We managed to catch and release over 40 bluefin and set a record with 15 fish in **one** day. With each fish taking between 30 and 60 minutes to fight and an average weight of over 800lbs, it was a long, fun week. The TAG scientist team could not have done our work without the help of keen fishermen like Tom, Jim, and Tim who now will forever be known in Port Hood, Nova Scotia, as the Bluefin Boys!

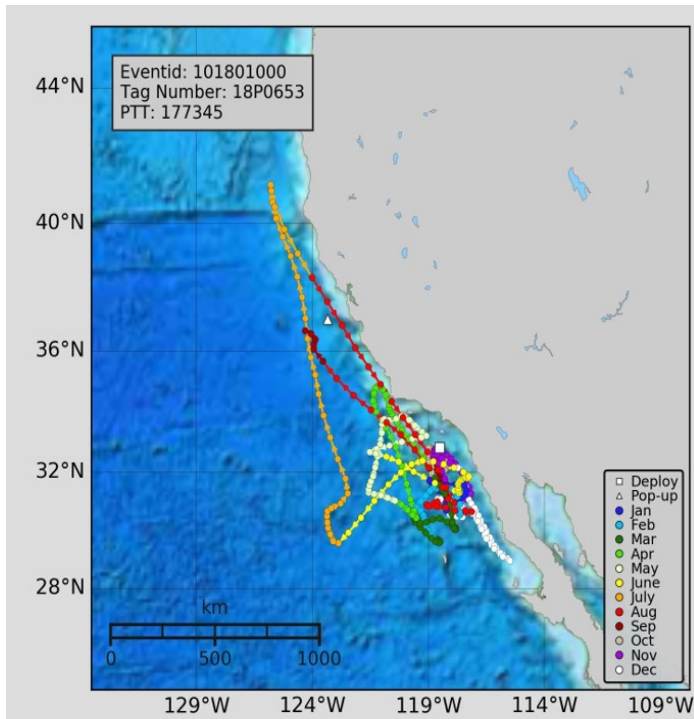
Hook em'.

Our research is funded by NGOs, government grants and private donors.

You can support our research at [www.tagagiant.org](http://www.tagagiant.org). And follow us on Facebook and Twitter @TAGAGiant, as well as on Instagram @tagagiant\_foundation.



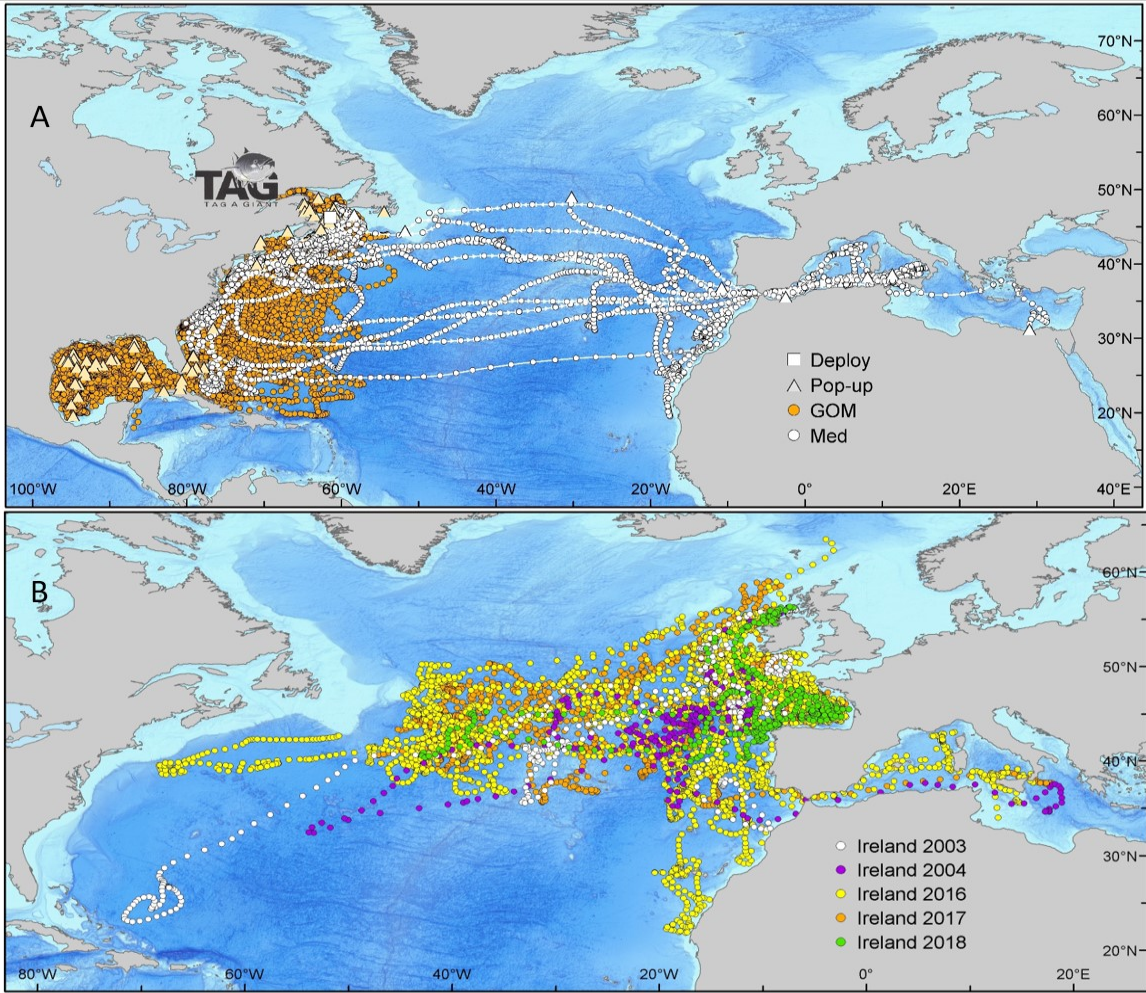
*TAG team releases bluefin back into the water.*



Pop-up tag 18P0653 was put on a Pacific bluefin tuna in 2018 off San Clemente Island. After more than a year at large, the tuna primarily remained in the California Current making its way up to Humboldt before the tag popped up just off Monterey in September 2019. This Pacific bluefin tuna was ~7 years old when tagged and remained in the eastern Pacific up until 8 years of age. This pattern is consistent with other tags deployed.

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(A) Canada released electronic tagged bluefin tuna primarily go to the GOM, but 10% return to the Mediterranean Sea. Five years of tagging in the Irish foraging grounds have demonstrated that eastern tagged bluefin primarily remain east of the 45°W meridian with most in the eastern Atlantic or Mediterranean Sea. The distributions of tagged fish in (A) Canada, (B) and Ireland are quite distinct.



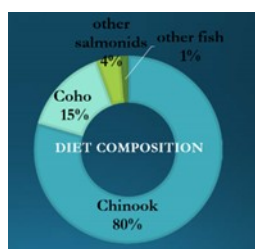
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## Killer Whales and Salmon Management

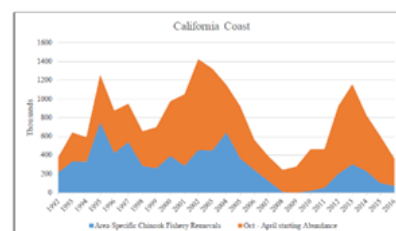
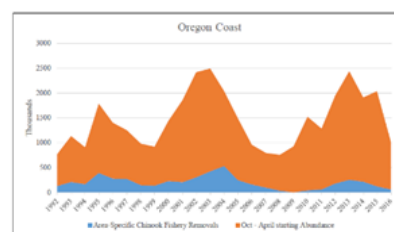
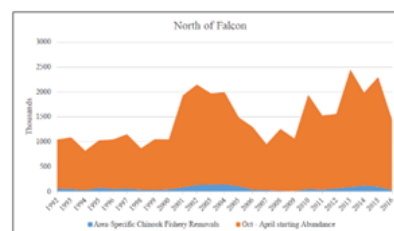
By Joe Polos, HASA Salmon Representative

Having seen the articles of the fortunate folks that have seen the Killer Whales off our coast this year I thought I'd share some information on the potential conservation actions to protect Killer Whales and salmon management. During this year's PFMC salmon season process, there were discussions on potential constraints on salmon fisheries due to the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) which were listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 2005. The SRKW has three family pods (J, K, and L) with a combined population of 73 individuals in 2019. They primarily live in the coastal waters of Vancouver Island/British Columbia, Washington and Oregon but occasionally travel from Southeast Alaska to Central California. Reduced prey availability, high levels of contaminants, and vessel sounds are factors limiting the SRKW population (NMFS 2008).

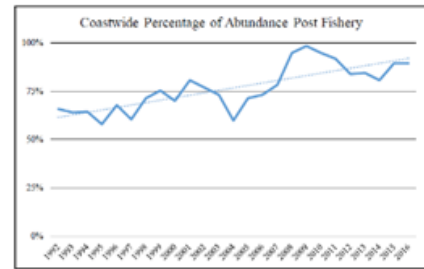


In April of 2019, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reinitiated ESA consultation with the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) on the ocean salmon fishery management impacts on SRKW prey, specifically Chinook salmon. SRKW are highly selective feeders with Chinook salmon making up 80% of their diet and salmonids 99% of their diet (Enticknap 2020).

The PFMC established the SRKW workgroup to assess the impacts of ocean salmon fisheries on Chinook salmon, primary prey of the SRKW. The workgroup completed a Risk Assessment in May that identified potential impacts of ocean salmon fisheries on SRKW prey (NMFS 2020a). While the sightings of SRKW in California waters are rare, most of them have occurred during the months of December through March with a few sightings in April, May, and October when Chinook salmon fisheries typically occur in California. When looking at the proportion of Chinook salmon removed by PFMC managed fisheries, fisheries where SRKW are most frequently found (North of Cape Falcon Oregon) removed a very small proportion of the Chinook salmon population. Along the Oregon coast a greater proportion, but still relatively small, was removed and along the California coast the proportion removed due to ocean salmon fisheries was greatest, primarily due to the fisheries in the San Francisco area. Looking at the west coast (WA, OR and CA combined), the proportion of Chinook salmon removed by ocean salmon fisheries has generally declined since 1992. This decline is due to changes in fishery management plans and ESA constraints.



The workgroup is developing alternatives for the PFMC to consider which will help with the ESA consultation with NMFS and support the conservation of SRKW (PFMC 2020b). The general recommendations include a “low abundance threshold for the North of Falcon management area” which could trigger fishery constraints if the Chinook salmon populations fell below this threshold, review of the conservation objectives for Klamath and Sacramento fall-run Chinook salmon, and development of a age-specific stock assessment for Sacramento River fall-run Chinook salmon..



As the PFMC takes up this issue in the coming months, more information on the potential constraints on ocean salmon fisheries will be evaluated and published. In the recovery plan for SRKW, NMFS identified the importance of restoration efforts for depleted salmon populations that will benefit the SRKW primary prey source (NMFS 2008). Hopefully, efforts can be focused on restoration actions, which will also help benefit fisheries, rather than SRKW becoming another constraint on these recreational and commercial ocean salmon fisheries.



**Sources**

Enticknap, B. 2020. Presentation to the Pacific Fishery Management Council, June 15, 2020. <https://www.pcouncil.org/documents/2020/06/agenda-item-e-2-b-supplemental-public-presentation-1-oceana.pdf/>

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# Science, Superstition, or Somewhere in Between?

By Larry DeRidder

I suspect we've all seen them in outdoor magazines – the Solunar Tables. They claim to predict the best days and times of days for fishing and hunting. Do they? Certainly there are times of each day when certain fish species are more active, and thus more likely to be caught. In 1926 John Knight combined a bit of folklore with a bit of science and compiled 33 potentially predictive factors. Eventually all but three were rejected, leaving only sun and moon cycles and the tide. Thus the name - Solunar is a combination of Sol (the sun) and Lunar (the moon). He concluded that simply looking at the tides was insufficient. He believed it was important to know the relationship of the sun's and moon's positions with respect to one another and earth. He decided that the most important factors included the time the moon was overhead, underfoot, and certain intermediate times. The first Solunar tables were published in 1936 and they've been around ever since.

In general, believers insist fish and game exhibit the most activity overall during a full or new moon, and the least during a quarter or three-quarter moon; so that's the starting point. Then the tables purport to predict two Major and two Minor feeding periods per day. A Major is said to occur when the moon is overhead and again when directly opposite on the far side of the earth. These periods are believed to last 60 to 90 minutes. Minor feeding periods are believed to coincide with local moonrise and moonset, and are believed to last 30 to 45 minutes. There is the expectation that the various factors are cumulative. Thus, if a Major or a Minor coincides with sunrise or sunset, particularly during a full or new moon phase, the prediction is for fantastic fishing.

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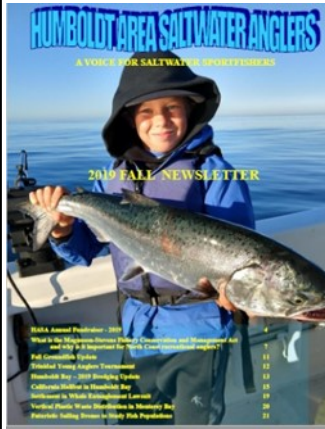
So, are the tables accurate? Or are they just conversation starters? Certainly, local factors like wind, rain, air and water temperatures, nearby storm fronts, and degree of cloud cover all likely confuse the picture. It would be nearly impossible to create a scientifically sound method of testing the idea. But, they've been produced for over eight decades now, so someone must take them seriously. Perhaps the best way to avoid biases in a test would be to keep accurate records of your fishing trips, and only look up the predictions afterwards.

If you'd like to play and compare your successes and failures, to official predictions, you can go to [http://www.solunarforecast.com/hunting\\_fishing/best\\_times/calendar/](http://www.solunarforecast.com/hunting_fishing/best_times/calendar/).

Good fishing!

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