

HUMBOLDT AREA SALTWATER ANGLERS

A VOICE FOR SALTWATER SPORTFISHERS

2022 WINTER NEWSLETTER

President's Message	3
Salty Stories from Captain Phil	4
Kids' Fishing Stories	5
Update on Klamath River Dam Removal	6
A Cautionary Tale	8
Youth Fishing Stories	10
Possible Plastic Pollution Solutions	11
Eel River Surprise	12
Emergency Low-Flow River Closures	13
Catching Crabs in Berkeley	14
Cracked Crab (Recipe)	15
Is It Fishing If You Have No Hook?	16
Klamath Fall Chinook Salmon Return, 2021	17
Reserve the Date -- HASA Spring Picnic Planned	18
Make Tuesday Fish Day Too (Recipes)	19
Deviled Fish (halibut)	22
Sanddabs	22
Rockfish	23
Escalloped Fish	23

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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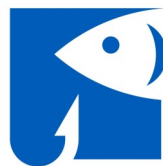
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This is issue #46.



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President's Message



Well it's mid-winter, and at first glance it seems little is happening. The only games available are chasing steelhead on the rivers or going offshore for crabs. The usual round of spring meetings hasn't kicked in yet. However, upon looking around there is a fair amount of activity -- it's just behind the scenes at the moment. Both the Klamath and Eel Rivers have "remove the dams" processes plodding along. The Klamath should be a done deal sometime in the next 12 - 24 months. Unfortunately, the Eel will take substantially longer, particularly given the surprise announcement made a few days ago (see article). Work is continuing on the jetty repairs, and it won't be long before we see the dredge return to clean out the winter silt accumulation in the channel.

COVID infections are dropping but still common as I write this, and for the third year in a row our annual spring get-together is at risk. I'd like to thank everyone who logged in and participated in our Super-Bowl Sunday Zoom-style annual meeting. We're really hoping that next winter we'll be back to normal on that, as well. Given that we haven't been able to hold our usual fund raising event, it was quite a pleasant surprise when two of our long-term fishing friends, Pyong and Deli Del, donated a large quantity of their personally-approved fishing gear as items we could sell to raise money. Board member Ross has been selling it on Craig's List and if you contact him soon you may still be able to get a deal on something you "need". Speaking of need, if you have been postponing the purchase of a new boat trailer, engine or electronics package, I'd recommend buying sooner rather than later. The supply chain mess has definitely affected sport fishing. I spoke with a representative of one boat manufacturer a few days ago who is so frustrated with the unavailability of boat trailers they've decided to start making their own. They are ordering electronics packages as much as six months before they expect to need them.

Though we're in the midst of another mid-winter extended dry spell, we did have an excellent start to the rainy season. I watched one news broadcast from the SF Bay Area which showed a strong salmon spawn taking place on a small stream south of us. CDFW personnel interviewed stated it was the best salmon spawning they'd seen in a couple of decades and was happening on numerous coastal streams in the area.

Remember to take care of those DIY boat improvement and repair projects early, and we'll see you on the water soon.

Notes from Newsletter Manager: We had a great response with fishing/boating stories, both from students and older folks. I hope that reading these will encourage you to send in a story or two...I'm sure you all have one worth telling. In our continuing quest to make this newsletter more interesting to our membership we will continue to ask for article ideas and pictures to include in the newsletter. I can be reached at jcphasa@gmail.com. The deadline for submission of materials for **the 2022 Spring newsletter deadline will be somewhere around mid-May. 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

Salty Stories from Captain Phil

Ladies Night Out I

Quite a while ago, Phil was asked if he would do an overnight charter with a group of ladies. Of course he said yes. The plan was to fish for salmon on the first day, then anchor in Trinidad Bay overnight. Then the next day they would go rockfishing at Redding Rock then head home. So on a foggy Saturday morning Phil and his deckhand welcomed a group of 13 enthusiastic ladies aboard. Once they had their overnight gear stored, they headed out for a day of salmon fishing. Salmon fishing was pretty good, but not red hot. Eventually the ladies had enough of trolling, lines were hauled in, and the course was set for scenic Trinidad Harbor.



While Phil and his deckhand stowed the fishing gear, the ladies set about getting out their food for the evening meal and favorite beverages. While the ladies were having their BBQ, Phil and the deckhand stayed to themselves in the cabin, figuring that they wouldn't have much to contribute to the conversations. Eventually they decided they should be sociable and joined the ladies. Much to their surprise much of the conversation was about fishing and hunting. Everybody had a wonderful evening and then when it was time to get some sleep the issue of accommodations came up. There were three bunks, one for the captain and one for the deckhand. When asked where they should sleep, Phil said wherever you want. So the ladies camped out on the deck under the stars and fog. I don't remember if anybody used the third bunk.

Early the next morning, after a quick breakfast, they weighed anchor and headed to Redding Rock. As usual fishing at Redding Rock was really good. Since it was a long haul back to Eureka they left before everybody had limits, but nobody cared since they all caught plenty of fish and had a great time.

As they approached Humboldt Bay, the deckhand was getting the flags indicating what kind of fish they caught to run up the flagpole. He had the salmon, rockfish and lingcod flags ready to go when one of the ladies had a suggestion. She went into the cabin and in a minute or so came out with her bra. She said put this on there – all the ladies thought that was a great idea. So they approached the dock with a bra waving from the flagpole as several of the husbands were waiting. Once they noticed what was flying on the flagpole everybody started laughing. While not everybody limited out on fish, there was no shortage of fun.



Ladies Night Out II

Our other Ladies Night Out was a salmon fishing and rockfishing trip to the Cape. The first day of salmon fishing was pretty successful. We anchored up for the evening by the trees along the

north spit and had a fun and relaxing night. The next morning we headed off to Cape. An added feature of this was that many of the husbands were on another charter and the two boats made a friendly wager on who would catch the most fish and the biggest fish. After a great day of fishing at the Cape, we headed back to Eureka to settle up on their bets. The men won for most fish and the ladies won the biggest. Phil found out that the ladies preferred his boat because he kept a clean toilet – an important feature to ladies and less important to most guys.

One observation that Phil has made in the fishing battle of the sexes is that ladies tend to do better, especially for less experienced fishers, because they will listen to the deckhand or captain on what to do, when men are more likely not to listen because they think they know what they're doing – even when they don't.

Kids' Fishing Stories

Seaforth Montessori School in McKinleyville, 1st - 4th Grade

Gavin: *Every time I go fishing at the jetty. I always go with my dad and he catches big fish. The fish I catch are small and flat. We catch rockfish and throw the small ones back in the water because my dad wants the big ones to eat for dinner.*

Juniper: *I went fishing with my family and I only caught one tiny little fish. I ate that tiny fish for dinner.*

Fox: *In the morning I got up really early with my grandpa. I sat on a chair on the dock and fished all day. I only caught three small fish. I threw them all back, but first, my grandpa took pictures of me with the fish.*

Ruca: *One time, when I was at the lake my dad, sister, and I got up really early to fish. My sister caught a fish and my dad asked if she wanted to kiss it. When she leaned in for a kiss it slapped her on the cheek with its tail. My sister said 'I don't think that fish wanted to kiss me!'*

June: *My dad took me out fishing when I was a baby and I cried the whole time. Another time I played with his fishing pole and got the hook stuck in a tree!*

Bailey: *We were camping and my dad left his pole in the water all day long. We thought there would be nothing on it when we reeled it in, but there was a fish! And since he was using my fishing pole, technically it was my fish!*

Jameson: *A hot day in September we went out paddleboarding at Trinidad Harbor and I decided to bring my fishing pole along. I used a lure that looked like a lead herring and we were cruising along and I was thinking, "I wonder if I'll catch anything, probably not." Just then I felt a thump on my line and a little vibration. I pulled up a black rockfish. But I didn't have anything on the board to kill it with so my mom paddled us to shore and I whacked it with a rock. We paddled back out but we didn't have a cooler to put it in so I covered it with a wet shirt until my dad got there with a cooler. We cooked it up for dinner and it was very good!*

Update on Klamath River Dam Removal

By Larry DeRidder

Though progress often seems slow, there does appear to be an end-game in sight for the four Klamath River dams slated for removal. The four dams are JC Boyle, Copco No. 1 and No. 2, and Iron Gate. Following removal of the dams there are extensive plans to restore the formerly inundated river. PacifiCorp will continue to operate the dams until that takes place, which might be as little as one more year.

The removal of the dams will open over 400 miles of the river and tributaries to spawning and rearing by Chinook salmon, coho salmon and steelhead — and is expected to improve water quality and temperature conditions on the river.

At this time, the plan is to implement water level drawdowns of the reservoirs by 2023. No later than late spring of 2023, 6 to 7 months of construction work will prepare the sites for removal of the dams. Ultimately full dam removal will be scheduled for mid-winter so that as much sediment as possible will clear the system the first year during winter storm flows.

The implementation of the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHTSA) has been a long and bureaucratically complex process. Recently, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) released a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are due by April 18. Before dam removal activities can begin, FERC will need to complete a final EIS.

There are various misconceptions that continue to surface. The most common are:

- The dams will disrupt irrigation and municipal water supplies. In fact, the dams are used only for hydropower – not for irrigation or water storage as so many other reservoirs are.
- The Klamath River might go dry in the summertime. There is already water storage in Upper Klamath Lake, so the system will still hold water through the summer.
- There will be downriver flood control problems. Actually, these dams were never designed or used for flood control.
- The sediment behind the dams is toxic and should never be released downriver. In fact, the sediments have been sampled extensively and this is not a concern. There will be excess sediment flows on the river for a couple of years after the four dams are removed. However, hydrologists estimate that the fine sediments released by dam removal will flush to the sea within two winters.
- Finally, some folks claim that the salmon never made it above the four PacifiCorp dams – that there were lava flows that blocked passage of the fish. However, there is ample evidence from carbon-dated salmon bones from ancient Tribal fish camps well above the dams. This confirms the migration of salmon and steelhead into the upper Klamath and tributaries above the dams for thousands of years before they were built.

It seems more people all the time agree dam removal is the proper solution. The Klamath River was once the third largest salmon producer in the continental U.S., and the second largest in California. Currently it produces only 1 to 3 percent of those historical runs. Right now, the dams, combined with the recent drought, result in 80 to 90 percent salmon smolt mortality every year by the *C. shasta* parasite. Removal of the dams is expected to reduce the parasite issue by removing the “hot spot” below Iron Gate Dam where most infections occur.

Glen Spain, Northwest Regional Director for the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, pointed out how the continuing constraints in ocean fisheries due to weak Klamath populations plays havoc with commercial and recreational fishing from Washington to Monterey. "When the salmon leave the Klamath River, they go north and south," he stated. "Salmon fisheries from Monterey to the Oregon-Washington border now are being managed by weakest stock management. There are not enough Klamath fish in the ocean and the fish are now suffering from a gauntlet of disease as they go downriver. What happens in the dams and rivers affects people for hundreds of miles up and down the coast." Given that most HASA members live and fish in the KMZ, "ground zero" for Klamath constraints, we are affected the most by poor Klamath stocks.

Under the KHSA, there will be temporary hatchery mitigation efforts conducted at Fall Creek, and possibly elsewhere. To meet the fish mitigation goals, PacifiCorp has already agreed to pay for fish hatchery operations at Fall Creek, which is owned by the State of California, for up to 8 years after dam removal.

The dam removal project on the Klamath River is the largest of its kind in the nation. Once completed, salmon and steelhead will once again be able to spawn in the headwaters of the Klamath where they spawned for many thousands of years before the dams were built. Fish, Tribes, farmers, commercial fishers, recreational anglers, and communities up and down the Klamath Basin and the west coast are all projected to benefit.

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A Cautionary Tale

By Kit Mann

There's a swirling universe of bad things that can and do happen when fishing. The sudden failure of the boat's entire electrical system including GPS and radio, the locked up hydraulic steering, the off-balance fall that lands badly and breaks a rib, the water in the gas, the friend that falls overboard (and dislocates his shoulder doing it!), the starter motor bolt that breaks leaving the starter in the bilge, the deadhead log you didn't see but sure as hell felt, the out-of-the-blue squall, the mini-tsunami that turns what should have been an unremarkable bar crossing into a dangerous maelstrom with no way out but through. We do our best to be prepared, and the fact that I'm writing and you're reading means we've been successful so far. But one of the most dangerous things out there is our own selves.

We've all done it... allowed our desire for fish to cloud our better judgement and put us in some kind of danger. You probably don't have to think very long to come up with a few memories - that time you went through the jaws when you shouldn't have, or stayed out even as the wind and whitecaps kept rising, or kept going just another few miles and then found yourself coming in on fumes, or waded too deep into faster water than you thought and lost your footing, or stayed past dark and had a hard time finding the trail or the jaws, or neglected that little poke by a dorsal spine or a hook until it got infected. Our collective list would fill a book.

My last dangerous misjudgment came in November in Baja. We were camping for a few weeks on our favorite bay near Loreto, on the gulf side. We have sea kayaks for day touring, not sit on top fishing kayaks, but I have a rod tube behind the cockpit for trolling. This year, even though it was late in the season, there were still dorado around, and I was bound and determined to catch one on the kayak. I thought I might have some trouble landing it if I happened to get a big one, but figured I'd cross that bridge when I got to it. Several days had passed and while others on the beach had caught some, I had not, and my envy was on.



I was returning from a morning pleasure paddle inside the bay with my wife when I caught up with my buddy coming back from around the point, with another damn dorado! Well, I just took off for the point while he was hollering to my back that it was getting pretty rough and nobody else was there. It's a cliff wall, and great fishing, but no place to land. When I got to the corner, there was lots of wind and a steep chop, but it looked like it was only actually white-capping right at the point, where the current and wind were colliding. While I was still deciding whether to leave the shelter of the bay, the birds began to work on bait a few hundred yards down the cliff wall and that's all it took. I set out the Rapala and paddled into it. It was plenty sloppy but well within the capacity of the kayak and my skill level ... as long as I had a paddle in the water. I got down the wall far enough to realize I really was being foolish, so I did a long broaching turn and had settled down for the paddle home with quartering waves on the stern when the fish hit. I admit it, a screaming reel kinda drives every other thought out of my head. I put down the paddle, got the rod out of the holder and was bringing it around when the fish made a mighty run just as a wave hit me, and then I was upside down.

Every year, my wife and I practice paddle float self-rescue in Big Lagoon, or Baja if we're there, but I had never had to do one for real in rough water. As I popped out and came up next to the upside down kayak my first thought was "Hey, this is that scenario! The one where the lone guy flips and...." The saving grace for me that day was that the sea was so warm (dorado water, low 80's), I could tread water next to the boat and get my thoughts in order without distress. First thing was to figure out how quickly I was being pushed towards the cliff by the waves and wind – thankfully, not very. I also realized that if I failed in my attempt to get back into the boat, with effort I would be able to swim it along the wall and back around the corner to calmer water. So then it was all about actually effecting a self-rescue with real waves. For those that haven't done it, a brief description: after pushing the boat back right side up, you strap an inflatable bag to one blade of the paddle, blow it up, put the other blade under the deck rigging and then use that as an outrigger to stabilize the boat. Putting a lot of your weight on the paddle float, you then scootch up onto the back deck on your belly facing the stern, put your feet in the cockpit and roll over right side up. Then you get out your hand pump and spend a long time pumping the water out of the cockpit one-handed, because the other hand is still leaning on the paddle float outrigger. On my first attempt, I flipped again on the roll over part. Second attempt succeeded. All my gear is always tethered to the boat, so I didn't lose anything. Except the fish. Maybe I should have tried to land the fish while I was still in the water, before I did the self-rescue thing...



I know there are those who advocate "Drive fast, take chances", but this experience gave me pause. Seeing the fear in my wife's eyes as I told her what happened, having a new friend on the beach whisper she was really glad I "made it", I began to see the almost incomprehensible anguish and disruption to so many lives my foolishness would have caused if it had not turned out well. That old idea that "he died doing something he loved" would more accurately be "he died being stupid". Maybe us older farts should start backing off on the throttle a bit, enjoy the fish we do catch, and stop adding to the hairy stories. That way, we'll keep getting to tell them for a lot longer.



Youth Fishing Stories

Jacey Spies 10th grade class, Fortuna High School

Turner Gurney: *Once upon a time I was a bada** fisherman & I caught lots of fish. It was a foggy Saturday morning in beautiful Eureka, California. My dad had just bought this awesome 25-foot boat with two 250hp outboard motors. My dad, brother, and I were out to catch some salmon and rockfish. We got our limit, then we were cruising back into the marina and one of the motors blew up. We had to cruise back into the marina with one motor working. It was very slow and boring.*

Shane Rieff: *One day I was fishing for halibut in the bay with my dad and sister. My dad had brought along a small pole with a lure attached to it. I was casting it out and reeling it back in hoping something would bite, although I didn't have high hopes. After an hour or two of casting I finally felt something tug back on the line, something big. I fought the unknown creature for about half an hour before I finally saw it. The unknown creature was a bat ray and I had only snagged it on the wing. We almost got it in the boat to unhook it but unfortunately the line snapped and it got away with the lure.*

Garrett Mayberry: *Once upon a time, my family and I rented an RV and took it to Oregon for a camping trip. On our trip, we stopped at a campground in Oregon located right next to the Rogue River. I had brought my fishing gear and was fishing right off a bank where the river and creek met. I figured this would be a perfect spot to fish, since the creek brings in nutrients the fish like. While fishing, an old fisherman walked up to me, he was super nice, and asked what I had on my rig. I told him, just a simple trout lure. He asked if I had caught anything with it yet, I said no. So, he told me to come over to his RV in a bit and he'd rig me up with some nightcrawlers. I ran over to my RV and asked my mom if she was ok with it, she was fine with it. I then ran over to Bob's RV (his name was Bob by the way) and he rigged me up with the worms, and I went back to the spot. Almost as soon as I casted out, I felt a bite, set the hook and started reeling. I pulled in probably the biggest fish I had caught in my life; I was really young at the time though. After a while, I had racked up probably around 6-8 fish. Then, after catching many fish, I decided I wanted to try something different, so I headed to the bridge next to the creek and tossed some bacon on a fishing line into the water to catch some crawdads. I caught a few, but figured they weren't big enough to eat, so I put them back. As it turned out, we were leaving the next day, so I did some more fishing, and caught a few more fish. Before we left the next day, I went over to Bob's RV, and thanked him. He told me about some more fishing spots around the area, in case we ever came back. I've been on the river for school trips and such but haven't gone back to fish yet. Someday the time will come though, and I'll go back to the same spot, and catch some fish.*

Kailani Callahan: *I woke up at 4:00AM and I went on a charter fishing trip. It was cold and dark, and we drove to the dock to a boat called the Reel Steel. The boat's first mate's name was Lonnie, kind of like my name Kailani. We were fishing for halibut and I was doing great. But suddenly my pole bent over all the way to the water. It had to be the largest halibut or a shark. The fight was on, I had grown up watching river monsters with Jeremy Wade and I had seen him pull in fish twice his size. So I lifted and reeled, lifted and reeled, hauling the monster from the depths. As it was getting close to the boat the captain yelled "SHARK!". That's all I had to hear. I kept on fighting and after 30 minutes it was done. But what we saw was nothing that we expected. Lying there was a 4 ft. yellow and white sturgeon in all its prehistoric glory. The bones on its back looked like platelets of armor. In the millions of years of evolution these*

things have barely changed and I didn't know that you could even catch them in Humboldt Bay. We couldn't keep it because they're an endangered species and we cut the line and the beast glided away. It's probably still down there growing bigger and bigger, there's lots of space down there.

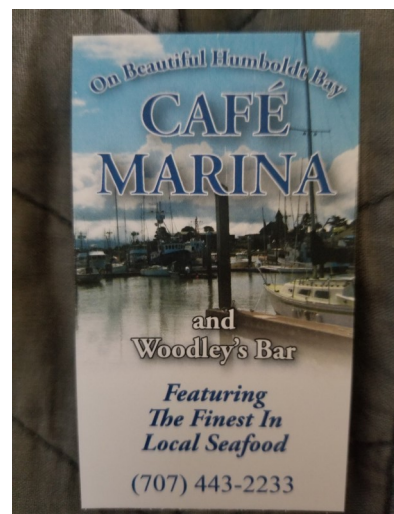
Luis Angel Cabrera: *There was once a beautiful day for fishing. My uncle went out to the river with the intention to catch a megalodon. Things were going good until I hooked onto a big steelhead. The fight was amazing. The battle between me and the steelhead lasted only about 3 minutes until the fight was over. The fight was only over because I broke off. Yes, I know the drive home wasn't the same, it was quiet and cold and very sad, and that day is stuck in my head forever.*

Possible Plastic Pollution Solutions

By Larry DeRidder

In past issues we've noted that about 80% of all oceanic debris is plastic waste washed out to sea. Many of the same features that make plastics useful to us are the same features that make it troublesome as waste. Plastics, as currently made, take a very long time to fully degrade. Drifting plastic gets physically broken into smaller pieces, but just because it is reduced to nearly invisible particles doesn't mean it is actually gone. Recently, two scientific groups announced news which have the potential to change this scenario. One announcement by scientists in the Netherlands concerned an alternate way of creating plastic that directly deals with the breakdown time-line. By weakening about 3% of the internal chemical links within the plastic material, they made it more water permeable. This allows the plastic to break down in a marine environment in only two years instead of two or three centuries. They reported that if the plastic is made with 15% of the bonds weakened, the breakdown time is only about two weeks. If this process can be applied to many of the single-use plastic products we use now, then we may be able to get a handle on cleaning up what has accumulated offshore.

Going in quite the opposite direction, scientists at MIT announced in Nature that they'd discovered a way to make plastic polymers in two dimensions instead of one or three. One-dimensional polymers produce the products we are familiar with now. Three-dimensional polymers basically just grow into a useless plastic blob in the production process. The new technique allowed the MIT staff to make a plastic sheet which is extremely tough. The new material's elastic modulus (a measure of how much force it takes to deform it) is about five times greater than bulletproof glass. Its yield strength (the force it takes to break the material) is about two times that of steel, even though it has only about one-sixth the density of steel. Visualize how tough a car or boat would be with a body or hull made from or coated with this substance. The point of this is that we may end up with far less plastic discarded, because what is made would have a usable life span far longer than current products. MIT has two patents pending on this process. Information available thus far doesn't indicate whether it can be produced with recycled plastics as the raw materials, nor what the degradation time is when the product is retired from use.



Eel River Surprise

By Larry DeRidder

There has been a lot of thought for the last couple of years on just how to decommission two dams on the Eel River. The electrical generation has been too meager to support the project, and bringing the dams into compliance with 21st century environmental standards would be prohibitively expensive. The expectation is that the dams would come down, but some water diversion mechanism would remain in place to ship some amount of water to the Russian River watershed. Under the existing regime, the diversion flow sometimes reached 300 cubic feet per second. A few months ago PG&E announced that the electrical generation hardware was in need of substantial repairs and upgrades. The repair estimate at that time was nearly two years at a cost of \$5 - 10 million, and this seemed like the final nail in the dams' coffin.

Thus, it was with considerable surprise that PG&E recently announced, "it is beneficial to PG&E's electric generation customers to proceed with the work necessary to return the powerhouse to full operational status." The company stated they expect to recoup the costs of the repair within five years, during which time the company will continue to operate under annual licenses from FERC, as the de-commissioning process is expected to get underway.

Alicia Hamann, Executive Director of Friends of the Eel River, is alert to the possibility that PG&E may seek to recover the costs of replacing the infrastructure "on the backs of ratepayers." She added that Friends of the Eel is urging FERC to fast-track the de-commissioning process, saying "it's our last and best chance to protect wild salmon and steelhead in California. And removing the two dams at the headwaters is really the most important move we make to protect the fisheries."

As we've noted before, no one really wants to be responsible for the electrical generation facilities, but everyone wants the water. Mendocino County First District Supervisor Glenn McGourty told his colleagues that the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission is "still in pursuit of the water rights" associated with the Potter Valley Project. He asked the Board of Supervisors for \$50,000 to fund ongoing legal expenses and consulting fees to continue the work. The board approved his request unanimously. Bear in mind this is Eel River water to which Mendocino County wishes to legally claim.

The NOI parties may have gotten an answer to the question of what it would take to continue diverting water without the project. In 2020, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife funded California Trout to conduct a second feasibility exploring three options for continuing diversions under scenarios with various parts of the project dismantled. This study was completed in the summer of 2021. Darren Mierau, of California Trout, favors a water-pumping option that includes the removal of Cape Horn Dam, which forms the van Arsdale Reservoir in Potter Valley. Unlike Scott Dam, which forms Lake Pillsbury in Lake County, Cape Horn has a fish ladder and a fish monitoring station. Scott Dam has long been on California Trout's list of dams that are "ripe for removal."

Mierau's favored scenario is estimated to cost around \$200,000 a year to run. "Any water management, any water diversion at that location is going to have some operations and maintenance costs, that's unavoidable," he said, shortly after the study was released. "The

advantage of the full removal of Cape Horn Dam with that pumped diversion approach is you get all of the obstruction out of the river that might impair fish passage...it does shift the cost, I think, to the water users, instead of the fish side, where it appropriately needs to be. In other words, we're committed to that water supply reliability, but I think the water users have the obligation to pay for it. And if pumping is the best way to do that for fish passage and fishery recovery in the Eel River, I think that's the best approach."

For more details, go to: kymkemp.com/2022/02/04/catching-even-insiders-off-guard-pge-decides-to-return-the-potter-valley-project-which-diverts-water-from-the-eel-river-to-full-operational-status/.

Emergency Low-Flow River Closures

Press Release from CDFW

The California Fish and Game Commission has adopted emergency regulations allowing the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to extend low-flow related fishing restrictions on portions of the Smith, Eel and Russian rivers and a number of other coastal rivers and streams through April 30 if needed to protect runs of salmon and steelhead.

"We've observed extended periods of drought and warming climate trends over the past decade," said Jonathan Nelson, environmental program manager for CDFW's Anadromous Fishes Conservation and Management Program. "The added flexibility to manage the health of our fisheries through extended angling restrictions on coastal waters when low flows create potentially lethal conditions is paramount to the long-term survival of our salmon and steelhead populations."

The emergency regulations took effect January 31, 2022. Prior to the change, CDFW was allowed to enact low-flow specific angling closures on coastal rivers in Del Norte and Humboldt counties including the Smith, Mad, Eel, Van Duzen and Mattole rivers through January 31 of each year and in Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin counties including the Gualala, Russian, Napa rivers and several others through March 31 each year.

The emergency regulations have been added to the 2021-2022 California Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations (PDF) online. For a complete list of the coastal rivers subject to low-flow restrictions, please review the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 8.00(a) and (b).

CDFW will make information available to the public by a telephone recorded message updated, as necessary, no later than 1:00 p.m. each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, as to whether any river or stream will be open or closed to fishing. It is the responsibility of the angler to call and obtain information on the status of any stream.

For information about coastal rivers in Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino counties, call (707) 822-3164.

Catching Crabs in Berkeley

By Ralph Mazza

Forty-four years ago, I arrived in Berkeley as an 18 year old freshman. My parents put me on a bus from San Diego with all my clothes and a sleeping bag crammed into an old Army duffle bag. I was scheduled to attend the university orientation the first few days, and after that they had provided me with the address of some old friends of theirs that had offered me a place to sleep until I found a place of my own. During my orientation I met seven other freshmen that were also in need of a place to live. We combined our resources and quickly found a house to rent. It was a four-room house if you counted both the small kitchen and the smaller bathroom. We quickly set up three bunk beds in the main living room and another two beds in the small bedroom. Soon after, I learned that one of my roommates also enjoyed fishing, and he offered to teach me how to catch crabs in San Francisco Bay.

We spent one Saturday tying nets using four bicycle rims. We had to remove all the spokes and then use the spoke holes as the base for the cross-member strings. Then tying a spider web like collection of string in concentric circles we were now all set to catch crabs. After a quick stop at a local sea food market where we secured some fish heads for bait, I set off on my first of many fishing adventures with my new roommate. Since we were both on restrictive budgets, we got around Berkeley on either bikes or Bart/Buses. I remember my first-year monthly budget was \$200 which needed to cover both rent, utilities, food, and any limited entertainment I could afford. On this first trip to the Bay, we had decided to use the bus system, where we did get some strange looks due to the four bike rim nets and the bag of fish heads.

After we finally arrived at the Berkeley Marina, my roommate informed me that they did not really like people crabbing off the docks, so we needed to set and check our traps with stealth, avoiding the roving Marina Security Guard. This was not the last time that my roommate took me to a fishing location that required avoiding the local security. That night we filled up a burlap bag with crabs of various sizes. We did seem to measure each crab to ensure that it was "legal" but looking back I do not remember what laws governed crabbing nor do I remember what types of crabs we caught. Catching the last bus back up University Ave around midnight, the bus driver gave us a hard look as we got on with our wet bike rim nets and a wet gunny sack full of crabs that were moving about. We sat in the back of the bus to avoid any further scrutiny. The smell that surrounded us may have come from the crabs, but it also may have come from the two individuals who had baited crab nets with fish heads and hid from security all night.

We spent all of Sunday cooking and picking the crabs in our small kitchen, being bothered by the other six roommates about the mess and smell of our operation. However, we enjoyed crab for over a week, using it in several different recipes. That was my first of many fishing adventures that I have shared with Larry DeRidder since 1977. Like many fishing stories (and politicians) I may have stretched the truth as needed and misplaced some facts when necessary. Today I live on the RIGHT coast of the U.S. where ocean fishing season begins when the temp gets over 70, the crabs are blue, and catching a King means Mackerel. I am forced to purchase my Dungeness Crabs at the local Asian Market, or on occasion I resort to getting frozen ones from Costco when they come in for the Christmas seafood season. The recipe I share is passed down from my grandfather who operated a sea food market in Anaheim CA, and my Dad who crabbed the San Francisco Bay in the late 40s.

Cracked Crab

Serves 4.

This recipe should be made 1 day prior to eating as the process includes marinating the crab.
Ingredients:

¼ - ½ cup chopped parsley – I normally use the flat leaf Italian variety

3-4 stalks of Celery

1 red bell pepper

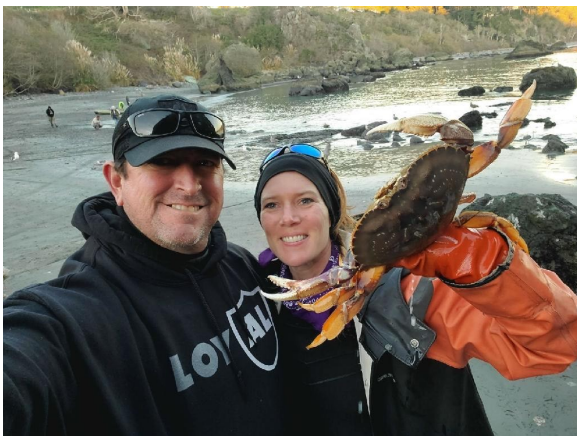
¼ - ½ cup olive oil

½ onion (optional)

2 large Dungeness crabs – Depending on who you are feeding you may want to get one per person, but I normally find that ½ is sufficient if served with bread and other sides.

1. Dice parsley, celery, pepper, and onion. I try to get the size = 1/8 of an inch cube.
2. Mix with Olive Oil and set aside. This can be done 2 days in advance as this is the marinade and extra time will allow the flavor of the parsley and vegetables to become present in the olive oil.
3. Steam Live Crabs. Most frozen crabs should already be cooked.
4. Remove back shell, lungs, head, and mustard from the crab. Some folks will add the mustard to the marinade depending on how fresh your crabs are and the state of the mustard.
5. Rinse the crabs as necessary depending on your desire to remove all the mustard.
6. Remove the legs and claws from the body.
7. With nut crackers or pliers gently crack each joint on each leg or claw. (Including the knuckle on the claw). Remove any shell that falls off but leave most of the shell intact. Place in a very large ceramic or plastic bowl. I do this over the bowl as any juice that is in the leg is best in the marinade.
8. Break each body in half and then using a chef's knife, slice each 1/2 body into 5 sections dividing the segments where each leg/claw was attached. Place these in the bowl with the legs.
9. Add the marinade from step 2 and mix well with a large spoon.
10. Refrigerate for 12-24 hours and stir the mixture every 4-8 hours.
11. Serve at room temperature, with good Italian Bread or San Francisco Sour Dough. This is a finger food so provide sufficient napkins.
12. Dipping the bread into the marinade in the bottom of the bowl is expected.

As my grandfather would say “Mangia Mangia”



Is It Fishing If You Have No Hook?

By Tom Schallert

This is not a saltwater fishing story, and I regret no photographic evidence, but I think what was asked of me recently is an interesting question. A good friend of mine was practicing his Spey rod technique in the Mad River. He had a nice fly without a hook and says he learned a lot but wondered if that was really fishing. I said I believed he was fishing based on a technique unknown and still unproven to me but apparently one my Dad appeared to use to catch a bunch of rainbow trout in the Eastern Sierras. So the question to be answered is "Do you need a hook to be fishing?"

Now my Dad was not an avid or particularly skilled fisherman. On one trip to Mammoth Lakes in the early 1960s his sole catch in a week out of Mammoth Creek was a rainbow trout that could not have reached 8 inches in length. We kids thought he was a master when he brought that fish back to the cabin. However, he did like to take his sons fishing, although he didn't fish much with us. We all became pretty avid fishermen.

On one trip to the High Sierras in the mid-1960s, we camped at Trumbull Lake which is about 10,000 foot elevation in the Virginia Lakes watershed and below Dunderberg Peak, a 12,000 foot mountain. We were catching fish, eating fish, hiking, and having a great time but Dad didn't get involved in the fishing as usual. He liked to keep the camp set up, he'd sit in his camp chair and tend the campfire, walk the trails and he let his sons bring home the fish. He'd take us to Lee Vining for Mono Cones, Bridgeport for burgers or out to Bodie to see the ghost town.

On the second to last day of the camping week, he surprised us and said he was going fishing. He grabbed his fishing pole, a handful of gear from our tackle boxes, some Velveeta cheese, a jar of salmon eggs and headed to the south shore of Trumbull Lake. We sons headed over to Little Virginia Lake and caught a bunch of fish and after a couple hours returned to the camp, but Dad was not yet back.

I headed out to see where he was and found him asleep in his camp chair along the south shore. We rarely fished that section because it was so shallow for a long way out onto the lake. His fishing pole was perfectly balanced on a rock and the line was in the water. I looked and the stringer empty and was laying right next to his chair. I thought, I'll just check his bait and then rebait his gear and cast it back out. Well, he had really hurled that line far into the lake, but I brought the line in and tried not to disturb his afternoon slumber. When the line came in, there was no leader, no bait, and no hook, just a nice sinker tied directly to the main line. I chuckled to myself and cast the line back out. I surmised Dad just wanted a nap and to get away from the campsite and his boys for a spell.

I headed back to camp and told my brothers and they thought it was pretty funny too. Much to our surprise, about 45 minutes later Dad comes sauntering into camp with a huge smile on his face and carrying a very nice stringer of seven rainbow trout that he insisted he caught that afternoon (Note: Limits were 10 trout in the 1960s). We knew better than to challenge his tale of fishing prowess but were relatively certain some other fisherman, likely about our age, was happy with a stack of green backs Dad may or may not have used to assist in acquiring his own catch. Or, bare sinkers can work in the right conditions.

But in my opinion the answer to original question is an emphatic yes, if you have your line in the water, you are fishing hook or not.

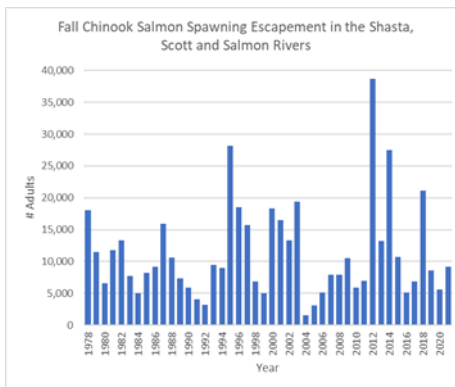
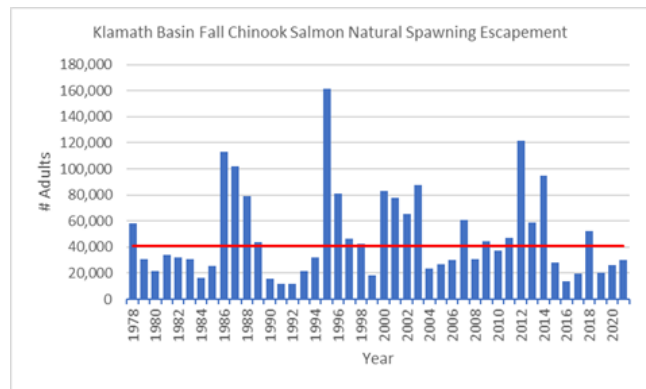
Klamath Fall Chinook Salmon Returns – 2021

By Joe Polos

Due to the low ocean population size in 2021, ocean and inriver fisheries were managed under the “deminimus” control rule of the salmon management plan, similar to the 2020 season. This rule allows for fisheries to be implemented even though the minimum natural escapement is not going to be met. Under the adopted seasons and quotas for 2021 ocean and inriver fisheries, the inriver Klamath River fall Chinook run was expected to be 62,100 adults of which 31,600 were expected to be natural spawners. A total of 53,954 adults (87% of the projection) were estimated to have entered the Klamath River and 29,942 of these (95% of the projection) spawned in natural areas. Returns to Iron Gate (Klamath) and Trinity River hatcheries totaled 12,850 adults (63% of the projection). Inriver adult harvest totaled 8,066 by Tribal fisheries (100% of their quota) and 2,265 by the recreational fishery (189% of their quota).

Klamath Basin Adult Fall Chinook Total Run, Fishery Harvest and Spawning Escapement 2021 (rounded to nearest 100 fish)			
	Preseason Forecast	Postseason Estimate	% (Pre/Post)
Total Inriver Run	62,100	53,954	87%
Fishery Mortality	10,000	11,048	110%
Tribal	8,100	8,066	100%
Recreational	1,200	2,265	189%
Drop-off Mortality	700	717	102%
Spawning Escapement	52,100	42,800	82%
Hatchery Spawners	20,500	12,850	63%
Natural Spawners	31,600	29,942	95%

The 2021 inriver adult run was the 12th lowest observed since comprehensive harvest and escapement monitoring was initiated 43 years ago in 1978. The natural spawning escapement in the Klamath Basin has not met the minimum floor of 40,700 adults in six of the last seven years, although the minimum floor was not targeted in 2020 or 2021. Klamath fall Chinook are considered in an overfished condition because of the low natural spawning escapement in recent years.



The spawning escapement into the Shasta, Scott, and Salmon rivers was 9,169 adults, which is a little below the long term average of 11,228. The Chinook salmon in these three rivers on the Klamath River are especially important because they have minimal interference from hatchery strays.



What is coming up? *CDFW Annual Salmon Information Meeting -March 2nd (Webinar Only)*. This annual information meeting covers 2021 ocean and river salmon fishing seasons, Central Valley and Klamath Basin river returns, and 2022 abundance forecasts. The public are invited to ask questions and provide input regarding the upcoming ocean salmon season. This meeting will be hosted as a webinar only and information to participate can be found at the following link: [Salmon Preseason Process: Calendar of Events and Contact Information](#)

The *Pacific Fishery Management Council* is hosting hybrid in person/webinar for its season setting meeting March 8-14 to develop season alternatives and April 6-13 to adopt a season. The Council, Advisory Boards and Technical Teams will meet in person and there will be an opportunity for the public to participate via webinar. To participate via webinar check the following website prior to the meeting: ([March 8-14, 2022 Council Meeting - Pacific Fishery Management Council \(pcouncil.org\)](#)). An agenda for the March meeting can be found at: [Agenda Item A \(pcouncil.org\)](#). Currently, ocean stock assessments are being finalized and this information will be used to conduct ocean fishery impact modeling for the various alternatives developed during the March meeting.



Reserve the Date -- HASA Spring Picnic Planned

We're finally coming out of the most extreme COVID restrictions, but with too little time now to properly plan an indoor full-size fund raiser dinner and auction. We are planning a smaller, lower-key event for Saturday, **April 9**. We hope to host an outdoor event at Pierson Park in McKinleyville from 2 - 6. We're still putting together all the details, but the rough outline is HASA will provide barbecued hamburgers, hotdogs, condiments and non-alcoholic beverages. Side dishes and salads will be pot luck. We plan to have a few silent auction items, a raffle item, and participants will be free to bring their own excess fishing gear to sell or swap with one another. As the date approaches we'll be selling tickets: probably \$10 per person or \$20 for a family (up to four). If at the last moment the weather forecast turns ugly for the 9th, we'll try again the 23rd.



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Make Tuesday Fish Day Too

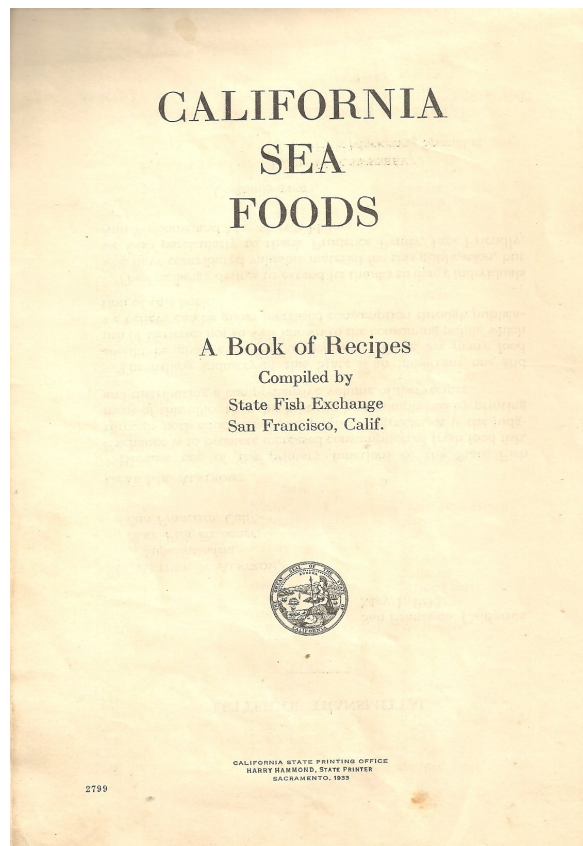
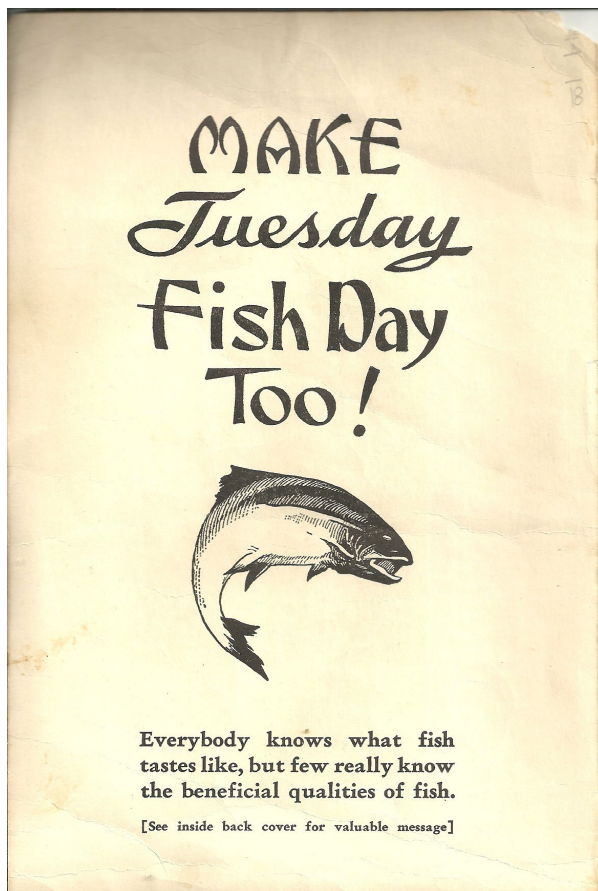
My friend Tom Weseloh sent me an old recipe book that he found while cleaning up his office. "Five Hundred Ways to Prepare California Seafoods" was put out by the State Fish Exchange in 1933. There are recipes for Abalone to Yellowtail, and everything in-between, even skates and scuplins. I've scanned part of the book and included a few recipes. As time permits I'll scan the whole book and send it along.



Tom also let me know of Salt History ([Salty History Facebook](#)) that posts "Fish on Fridays" recipes. This Facebook page also has a lot of interesting information on "Mostly US Pacific Coast commercial fisheries history, with a few other odds and ends thrown in for good measure.". It's worth a look and has lots of interesting historical information.



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Reasons Why

you should make

Tuesday Fish Day

too!

One of the most healthful and nourishing foods known to science, *Fresh Fish*, is now more than ever before being served and eaten by millions of American people as the main course of their meals several times each week.

Keeping Fit

The bulk of most staple foods consists of the following groups of substances: *Carbohydrates, Fats, Proteins, Minerals and Vitamins*. Fats, Proteins, Minerals and Vitamins remain as the most important materials for the building and keeping fit of human bodies.

Fuel Value

Fats or oils have the highest food value and are commonly recognized to be the most concentrated form of energy. They supply the quickly-burned fuels of the body while the proteins play a particularly important role in replacing losses from wear and tear in the body cells themselves. *Fish fats and oils have a fuel value of 4,220 calories per pound*, as compared with milk which has a fuel value of but 310 calories. Other common fuel-value foods are:

White bread.....	1280 calories	Vegetables.....	180 calories
Potatoes.....	440 calories	Fruits.....	268 calories
Rice.....	1630 calories	Beef.....	1149 calories

Fresh salt-water fish contains a greater number of health giving minerals than any other food known to mankind, and these minerals are absolutely essential in the rebuilding of tissue, bones and teeth.

Necessary for Human Life

The chemical elements that occur regularly in the human body are oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, carbon, phosphorus, sulphur, chlorine, fluorine, iodine, calcium, magnesium, sodium and potassium. All of these elements occur in sea foods. *These are absolutely necessary for normal human life*, and they safeguard against mineral deficiencies in the diet.

Phosphorus

Phosphorus is contained in greater quantities in salt-water fish than in any other food, and is recognized by scientists as *the most important brain food*.

Iodine

Iodine, so necessary in the prevention of goitre and thyroid disorders, is found in salt-water fish in sufficient quantities, so that fresh sea fish, if eaten several times a week, will protect you against this terrible disease. Fish-eating races such as Japanese, Finnish and Eskimos, are free from thyroid complications.

Calcium and Inorganic Salts

Calcium and Inorganic Salts are bone and enamel building ingredients. *Fresh Fish* helps to protect and build up your teeth.

Vitamins A and D

These vitamins, known as the *sunshine vitamins*, and *anti-ricket vitamins*, are essential to the health of growing children. Protect the health of your children by regularly feeding them larger portions of *Fresh Fish*.

Ichthyol

This mineral is found in *Fresh Fish*, and is a most successful remedy for skin blemishes and disorders. Ask your physician regarding this valuable mineral.

Hospitals and convalescent institutions are serving fresh fish to their patients—doctors orders!

DEVEILED FISH

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 2 Cupfuls cold halibut (or any white fish that flakes) | 6 Olives |
| 2 Cupfuls tomatoes and juice | $\frac{1}{4}$ Teaspoonful cloves |
| 1 Green pepper minced | 1 Cupful crumbs |
| 2 Tablespoonfuls minced onion | 6 Slices bacon |

Cook bacon until crisp, remove from pan and mince. Cook pepper and onion for two minutes in bacon fat. Add tomato, then season and boil for five minutes. Add flaked fish, minced bacon and season to taste. Place in greased ramekin, cover with crumbs and dot with butter. Bake in hot oven (400° F.) for five minutes until crumbs are brown. (Above can be served as canapes and spread on rounds or oblongs of bread and baked for five minutes in hot oven.)

SANDABS

Broiled

Season fish liberally with salt and pepper. Rub over with melted fat. Place on rack close to the fire at first to sear the surface as quickly as possible. Gradually remove to a lower position as the fish cooks, turning as needed until tender. When cooked and a golden brown remove to a hot platter. Butter well, season with salt and pepper and pour over it a tablespoonful of chopped parsley and lemon juice. Serve garnished with delicate green lettuce leaves.

Fillet Alsacienne (Roemer, Palace Hotel)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 8 Fillets | Fresh mushrooms |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ Glass fish stock | 2 Tablespoonfuls cream |
| 1 Egg yolk | |

Skin four sandabs, season well. Take fillets out, putting six to eight in a buttered pan. Wash the fish bones well and put on the fire with salt, pepper, parsley, bay leaf, one small onion, one clove, leeks, carrots and one pint of water. Boil for thirty minutes. Put fresh mushrooms in a pan and saute in butter for three or four minutes and then put in the fillets, three-quarters of a glass of fish stock and juice of one lemon, pour over fillet and let come to a boil and simmer. Then bake in an oven for eight or ten minutes.

Prepare butter and flour (same as cream sauce is made), add the bouillon from fillet and a little stock from the bones to make the sauce. Take the yolk of one egg and two tablespoonfuls of cream and beat up very well. Add chives and mix well. Do not let this boil after the egg is mixed. Pour sauce over fillet and serve.

Meuniere

Take fresh fish, have fins trimmed off or if dealer does not do this remove them by cutting off with old shears or sharp knife. Sandabs should then be wiped clean. Make a well seasoned batter of one or two eggs. Dip fish in batter and then in flour; fry in very hot oil, removing them when done and brown. Serve.

ROCK COD (Rock fish)

There are probably no less than fifty varieties of rock fish found along the Pacific coast from Alaska to Mexico. Only a few, however, are commercially important. The Boccaccio, and the black, green, red and yellowtail rock cod are the more common varieties.

On account of their similarity these varieties adapt themselves to any rock cod or rock fish recipe.

Fillet, Nantaise (Serves four)

Season four fillets of rock cod with salt and pepper, dip in oil and broil. When done, place on platter and cover with the following: Press six sardines through a fine sieve, mix with one-quarter cup of butter, the juice of two lemons and some chopped parsley.

Point Firmin.

Scale and clean well a medium sized rock cod. Split and remove all bones. Season as usual with salt, pepper and a few drops of lemon juice; dip in egg diluted with one tablespoonful water; bread with fresh cracker meal and fry in deep fat. Cook very thoroughly. When ready to serve, make a sauce as follows: one-third catsup, one-third chili sauce, one-third mayonnaise, season with finely chopped dill pickles, little horseradish sauce, lemon juice and parsley.

ESCALLOPED FISH

Escalloped, Mueller Method

4 Cupfuls flaked, cooked fish	1 Tablespoonful flour
1 Tablespoonful shortening	4 Hard boiled eggs
$\frac{1}{2}$ Teaspoonful salt	$\frac{1}{8}$ Teaspoonful pepper
1 Tablespoonful finely minced onion	1 Cupful milk

If using fresh fish, boil and then flake; if canned is chosen, it should be scalded. Make a white sauce of the shortening, flour, seasonings onion and milk and stir in the fish. Rub a baking pan with shortening or butter and place a layer of the mixture and then a layer of sliced eggs, alternating until the mixture is all used. Place on top of this about three-quarters of a cupful of bread crumbs mixed with one and one-half tablespoonfuls of butter. Bake in a moderate oven about thirty-five minutes. Serve.

Escalloped, with Rice, Meyer

Line a buttered baking dish with cold flaked fish. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, add a layer of cold cooked rice, dot with butter. Repeat and cover with cracker or bread crumbs. Bake fifteen to twenty minutes.

Escalloped, with Tomato Sauce

To prepare escalloped fish, melt two tablespoonfuls of fat and add one cupful bread crumbs. Put two pounds of fish cut in cubes in a baking dish, cover with hot tomato sauce and sprinkle bread crumbs over the top. Let bake from fifteen to twenty minutes, or until the crumbs are slightly browned. Garnish with parsley and serve very hot.

Escalloped, with White Sauce

Butter a dish, place in a layer of cold cooked fish, sprinkle with bread crumbs, parsley, salt, butter and pepper. Repeat. Cover with white sauce, using one tablespoonful of flour to two tablespoonfuls of butter and one cupful of milk. Sprinkle top with buttered bread crumbs, and bake.

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