

HUMBOLDT AREA SALTWATER ANGLERS

A VOICE FOR SALTWATER SPORTFISHERS



2026 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

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Represent. Advocate. Educate. Promote.

The mission of Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers is to *represent* North Coast fishermen's historic and ongoing right to sportsfish 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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humboldtasa.com



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HASA Newsletter

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All photos and articles in this issue are donated by HASA members and interested parties. HASA would like to expressly thank our friends for their time and contributions to our newsletter. *Please let our advertisers know that you are a HASA member and their support is very much appreciated.*

Want to Contribute?

Send your article ideas, photos, and any comments to clderidder@hotmail.com.

Past Newsletters

See past newsletters at humboldtasa.com.

This Issue

Issue: #63

Editor: Larry De Ridder

Producer: Rachel D'Ambra

President's Message

Quarterly Newsletter · June 2026

ANNUAL DINNER RECAP

What a fantastic evening! Thank you to everyone who came out and made our April 11th Annual Dinner such a great success. A special thank you goes to our generous sponsors — your continued support is what makes events like this possible. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces, and the energy in the room was incredible.

We also received some truly valuable feedback from the sentiment survey. The results are being compiled into formal proposals that we plan to present to both the City and the Harbor District. Chief among the concerns raised were the condition of our launch ramps and the lack of adequate fish cleaning stations. Rest assured, your voices are being heard — and we are putting them to work.

GET INVOLVED — OPEN BOARD SEATS

We have several board positions opening up here in the Humboldt chapter, and we would love to see some fresh faces step up! If you care about the future of our fisheries and our sport, this is your chance to make a real difference.

Individual voices are just noise — but when those voices unite behind an organization, laws get changed. Consider joining the board and help channel the passion of our community into one powerful tool for change.

If you're interested, please reach out. We'd be glad to tell you more about what's involved.

SALMON SEASON TIPS & REMINDERS

Salmon season is here — let's get after it! As we head out on the water, please keep these important reminders in mind:

Handle fish with care.

The key to a good release — especially for Coho — is minimizing stress and contact. On my charter boat, I use a pick gaff to release fish without ever touching them. Here's the technique: grab the line just above the fish, slide the line into the bend of the gaff hook, and continue sliding down toward the hook in the fish's mouth. Once you reach the belly of the hook, use the bend of the gaff to pull straight up — and the fish drops free, never having been touched

(Continued on page 15)

2026 Ocean Salmon Season Regulations Summary

Reminder: This is strictly a summary. Go to the CDFW website for the full official spring/summer regulations directly from CDFW.

Minimum size limit: 20 inches total length during the 2026 open season.

NorCal fishing zones:

OR/CA Border to the 40 deg 10 min Line (Klamath Management Zone/KMZ): June 13 July 19, August 1 31; harvest guideline: 3,900 Chinook.

4010' Line to Point Arena (Fort Bragg): June 13 July 19, August 1 31; harvest guideline: 5,100 Chinook.

General Sport Regulations:

Daily bag limit: 2 salmon of any species except coho (silver).

Possession limit: No more than two daily bag limits may be possessed when on land. On a vessel in ocean waters, no person shall possess or bring ashore more than one daily bag limit. Retention of coho (silver) salmon or steelhead trout is prohibited in ocean fisheries. Salmon may not be filleted on any boat or prior to being brought ashore. Salmon may only be taken by angling. No sinkers or weights exceeding 4 lbs. may be used, except that a fishing line may be attached to a properly rigged downrigger.

Transit provisions: No fishing gear may be deployed

in an area where salmon fishing is closed and salmon are possessed. Coho may not be possessed on board in the KMZ, and Chinook may be possessed only when the season is open in this area.

Special Salmon Closures:

Smith River mouth – closed year round

Klamath River mouth – closed year round; closure expands in August (“Klamath Control Zone”)

Eel River mouth – closed in August and September only

North of Point Conception: No more than two single point, single shank barbless hooks shall be used, and no more than one rod per angler when fishing for salmon or fishing from a boat with salmon on board.

4010' Line to Point Conception: When fishing with bait and angling by any means other than trolling, no more than two single point, single shank barbless circle hooks shall be used. The distance between the two hooks must not exceed 5 inches and both hooks must be permanently tied in place (hard tied).

NOTE: These special gear restrictions apply to each angler fishing for salmon or fishing from any boat or floating device with salmon on board.

Recovery of a coded wire tag from a salmon head:

Any person in possession of a recreationally taken salmon with a missing adipose fin shall immediately relinquish the head of the salmon, upon request by an authorized agent or employee of the Department, to facilitate the recovery of any coded wire tag.

2026 North Coast Freshwater Salmon Season Regulations Summary

Reminder: This is strictly a summary. Go to the CDFW website for the full official spring/summer regulations directly from CDFW.

The California Fish and Game Commission at its May 6 meeting announced the following after three consecutive years of closure. Salmon fishing will return to the Klamath River Basin and Sacramento River for the upcoming summer and fall seasons. More good news comes for inland anglers with a full season on the Feather, American and Mokelumne rivers after a shortened season in 2025.

Increases in hatchery production, investments in salmon research and habitat restoration projects, a series of good water years, dam removals and inland

and ocean fishery closures have all aligned to bring Chinook and with that, Chinook fishing, back to the Klamath River Basin and Central Valley.

For the Klamath Basin, fishing will open for late spring run Chinook salmon July 1 and will continue until Aug. 14 on the Klamath River and Aug. 31 on the Trinity River. Fall run Chinook salmon fishing will begin on Aug. 15 on the Klamath River and Sept. 1 on the Trinity River and continue until Dec. 31. The fall run adult quota is 3,248 fish, though fishing for jacks will continue after the adult quota is met. For the late spring run salmon fishery, the daily bag limit is one fish of any size and the possession limit is two fish. For the fall run salmon fishery, the daily bag limit is two fish, only one of which can be an adult greater than 23 inches; the possession limit is six fish, of which only three may be adults greater than 23 inches.

All regulations, season dates and boundaries will be printed in the Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations when available.

NOAA says El Niño is Coming

El Niño is expected to develop this summer, and it could grow into a “super El Niño” by the end of the year. As of mid-May there was estimated to be a 96% chance of an El Niño developing through winter 2026-27, according to the latest El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) report released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

While forecasts are more uncertain in the spring and the strength of the upcoming warming phase

remains very uncertain, NOAA is forecasting a 1 in 3 chance of a super El Niño by October, November and December. A super El Niño is defined as water temperatures being at least 2C (3.6 degrees F) above average over several months. In the report, NOAA reiterates “stronger El Niño events do not ensure strong impacts; they can only make certain impacts more likely.”

Locally, El Niño is often associated with albacore and other exotics coming into easier range of the sport fleet, but sometimes makes salmon fishing more difficult by requiring anglers to fish very deep with downriggers.



Notice to all Eureka-based boaters

The salmon season opens Saturday, June 13. A look ahead at the tides shows that we will have a -1.4 foot tide at 5:07 am that day. The following seven days all show negative tides predicted in the morning, with Sunday through Wednesday all predicted to exceed -2 feet. Behold – the city ramp under those conditions! Plan your arrival time appropriately.



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News Briefs

Humboldt Tuna Club Website

If you haven't already noticed, the old HTC site is not functioning. Bob Taylor has put together a smaller alternate site. The new address is:

<https://www.humbolddtunaclub.com/smf/index.php>.

First time visitors to the new site must re register.

Further changes are anticipated.

Online Newsletter Sign Up

If you would like to be counted as a HASA supporter and have our quarterly newsletter emailed directly to you, please let us know by sending a note to hasa6191@gmail.com, or dropping a note in the mail to us at HASA, PO Box 6191, Eureka, CA 95502. We don't share our email list with other organizations, nor do we send excessive amounts of email.

Coast Guard initiates "Aqua Alerts"

Modeled on the Amber Alert and Silver Alert functions on our phones, the Coast Guard has introduced "Aqua Alert" in a couple of areas on the East Coast and Great Lakes. In spite of most offshore boaters having VHF channel 16 radios, many people still instinctively reach for their cell phone in a crisis, even when offshore. The plan is to permit direct contact to all cell phones within a designated area when there is a marine emergency. There's no need to sign up, but users will have to enable location services on their cell phones to get relevant alerts. Assuming this works as envisioned, the program is likely to expand to other regions. When activated, pop up notifications will provide details on missing persons and distressed vessels, plus a phone number to call if you have pertinent information.

Want to win a Free Grady White?

Insurance company Boat U.S. is celebrating their 60th anniversary with a drawing for a free 21-foot Grady White Freedom 215 dual console. There are several other prizes, including a \$3,000 gift card and a cruise.

You don't need to be a member or purchase anything. Go to boatus.com/60th for entry information, rules and a prize list.

Why do Boats Sink?

Do you know your bilge pump is unlikely to save your boat from sinking if it bursts a hose or you hole it? With this in mind, BoatUS Magazine highlights critical safety points to ponder. They have a five minute video that is worth viewing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sx-ENhmJck>

Per the video, when dealing with a leak, practice the three "F's":

- 1 – Find it
- 2 – Fix it
- 3 – Fast

Possible Buyer for the Potter Dam Project

Brooke Rollins, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, announced that a potential buyer has been identified for the two dams near the headwaters of the Eel River. That potential buyer is the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, which serves around 160 thousand users in western Riverside County.

It isn't clear at this time why a SoCal water district might want to assume water and power operations in an area about 600 miles from the customers it serves. The Potter Valley set up hasn't produced power in years and there is no-cost effective mechanism to transport Eel River water to Riverside County.

Wireless Engine Cutoff Switch

In 2021 the Coast Guard announced a requirement that operators of boats less than 26 feet long must use the installed engine cutoff switch while traveling faster than displacement speed. That can make it difficult for the skipper to actively fish. The requirement has been a boon for companies that produce wireless safety lanyard alternatives. Garmin recently announced a product that integrates into compatible NMEA 2000 systems.

The system can track up to 8 onboard occupants. An MOB event occurs when a user tag becomes submerged or separated from the hub by more than 66 feet. The captain designated tag triggers an engine shut down if it detects a MOB event. In addition, it sounds an alarm and automatically creates a waypoint on the electronics. A crew MOB event triggers the alarm and creates a waypoint, but does not shut down the engine.

The cost is about \$500 and might be an important addition to your electronics suite, particularly if you sometimes head offshore solo.

Competing products are available such as MOB+ by FellMarine, OLAS Guardian from ACR, and others.

A Good Tale...

Earlier this year Wired2Fish published a story still available at www.wired2fish.com/news/peta-wins fishing outlawed in California. The article begins, “In a historic and controversial decision sparking debate across the nation, California officials announced today a sweeping ban on all recreational fishing in state waters.” The article proceeds to point to PETA as the origination point of the new ban, ongoing push-back by fishermen, and other effects. Someone who was paying attention might about that time note the story was published on April 1.

To Our Readers

If you agree that it’s important for representatives of the Northern California offshore fishing community to participate in out of area regulatory meetings, please visit our website at humboldtasa.com and become a member, or renew your membership. Our primary focus isn’t on how to catch more fish. Review our mission statement on page 2. We’re primarily interested in ensuring that we have the opportunity to safely enjoy our sport, educating our members on the issues affecting them and protecting the

resource. In addition to representing you at government agency meetings, we’ve helped to fund local fisheries research, distributed descending devices to ensure compliance with state law, supported fishing events (particularly for kids), gear donations for kids, and other activities. Membership isn’t expensive, at \$25 per year. It’s important for our representatives at government agency meetings to be able to state that they have the backing of the local fishing community.



HASA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Home Port: _____

Email address: _____

Boat Name/Offshore Handle: _____

Join online at humboldtasa.com or use this form by mail. Our mailing address is:

PO Box 6191 Eureka, CA 95502

Thank You to Our Supporters

April 11, HASA held our first full dinner and auction fund raiser since before the covid years, when such gatherings were banned. We would like to publicly thank the individuals and businesses that donated products or services for the raffle and silent auction, or who donated cash to help pay for the up-front

expenses. As we have no paid staff, all the work that went into planning and putting on this event was done by volunteers. Without those volunteers and the donors, it would be much more difficult to send representatives to fisheries meetings. Equally important was the awesome food prepared and served by Ramone's. As you patronize these businesses or meet these individuals through the year, please thank them for their support.

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HASA Fundraiser Dinner



Estelle and Hayes

Potential Energy Storage Method for Offshore Wind Power

Summarized from ZME Science

One of the obvious downsides of relying on offshore wind power is the fact that when the wind slows or stops, power generation drops off or stops. So for a community that is reliant on wind or solar energy, there must be either a massive energy storage system (battery) or an alternative power plant on standby. The requirement for a plant on standby at all times makes having built the wind power system pointless in the first place.

StEnSea is exploring the “battery” option. But what is proposed for storage isn’t electricity, it’s potential energy in the form of a void. The concept is clever, but a little bizarre: build a giant sphere and sink it deep into the ocean. When you have excess power, pump the water out of the sphere, leaving a void. When you need power, let water flow back into the sphere, spinning a turbine with the influx of water. The cycle should be repeatable as often as needed.

Nine years ago the idea was tested with a 10 foot diameter sphere in Germany’s Lake Constance. That small freshwater trial worked. Now, the team is

preparing to test a larger version in the waters off Long Beach, California.

This next level prototype is about 30 feet in diameter and weighs 400 tons. It will be anchored roughly 2,000 feet underwater, and must withstand a pressure of about 77 atmospheres. It’s expected to begin operating by the end of this year, storing up to 0.4 megawatt hours of electricity, enough to power a typical home for two to three weeks. The eventual vision is fields of 98 foot diameter spheres on the seafloor, each capable of generating energy when emptied of water.

Similar concepts exist on land. The efficiency of the system — estimated at 75 to 80 percent — is slightly lower than traditional pumped storage, such as at San Luis Reservoir and the O’Neill Forebay, in the Bay Area. The lifespan of the concrete spheres is estimated at 50 to 60 years, with the turbines and generators needing replacement about every two decades.

Given the politics and economics of offshore wind power, it’s unclear if this will ever happen on a commercial scale. Also unclear is how much such a massive offshore underwater energy storage system would impact fisheries and harbor infrastructure.

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Prices range from \$250 for a full page to \$40 for a business-card-sized ad.

Recycling Wind Energy Blades

Abbreviated from ZME Science by Tudor Tarita

Just how does one deal with thousands of retired windmills? The steel towers and gear boxes can be melted down and reused, but the blades present a recycling dilemma. The United States expects between 3,000 and 9,000 blades to be retired annually over the next five years. After that, the number is projected to rise to 10,000 to 20,000 annually. Some of the newest blades are 1,000 feet in diameter. Just what we're to do with these fiberglass reinforced blades at the end of their useful life span is the issue. The composites making up these turbines are notoriously difficult to recycle, because they're intentionally made of materials like fiberglass, carbon fiber, and epoxy resin, and are engineered to withstand extreme weather conditions. There are a number of possibilities being tested. Companies like Global Fiberglass Solutions and Carbon Rivers are exploring alternative recycling

methods such as turning blades into reinforced plastic pellets or recovering fibers for industrial applications. Meanwhile, waste management giant Veolia has found a way to shred blades into small pieces to replace coal and other raw materials in cement production.

A team from China is experimenting with physically crushing the blades and subjecting them to a chemical treatment. The resulting material can then be integrated into asphalt mixtures and cement concrete for road construction.

There are also efforts to make future wind turbine blades easier to recycle. Researchers are working on epoxy based blades that can be broken down using relatively inexpensive chemical treatments, while General Electric claims to have developed recyclable thermoplastic blades.

The urgency of solving the wind turbine recycling problem will only increase as wind energy continues to expand.

Recognize California's Tunas

Here are photos of tunas available in California waters, without the common names shown. Can you guess the correct name of each tuna? Check page 14 for the answers.





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

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Recognize California's Tunas

Page 13 quiz answers

Picture A: *Albacore Tuna*

Picture B: *Bigeye Tuna*

Picture C: *Bluefin Tuna*

Picture D: *Yellowfin Tuna*

by a net or laid on the deck. It gives the fish a near-100% chance of survival.

For more on the boatside gaff-release method, see:
islandfishermanmagazine.com/fish-cpr-catch-photo-release

Feel free to contact me directly for a demonstration — I'm happy to show you how it's done.

Know your fish.

Being able to tell a Coho from a King is critical. The quickest and most reliable method is to look at the gum line:

KING SALMON (Chinook)	COHO SALMON (Silver)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Entirely black mouth — gums, tongue, and lips all black• Uniform dark coloration along lower jaw• Larger 'peanut-shaped' spots on back and both tail lobes• Larger bodied overall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black mouth with white gums at base of teeth• Distinct dark / light / dark banding along lower jaw edge• Smaller spots, mostly on upper tail lobe only• Tail fin rays feel ridged — run your thumbnail along the top

Make sure you know the difference — the warden certainly does!

Barbless regulations reminder: Pinch your barbs — this is a barbless fishery. And here's one that's easy to forget: if you have salmon on board and then switch to another fishery, all other fisheries become barbless as well. Don't let an oversight turn into an expensive ticket — everything is costly enough already!

OUT ON THE WATER

I know that between rising fuel costs and the general cost of living, getting out on the water can feel like a stretch right now. Pick your days wisely and make the most of each one. If you want to know how the bite is, don't hesitate to hail me on the radio — if I have information, I'll gladly share it.

Here's to tight lines and great days on the water. See you out there!

Matt Dallam

President, Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers

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