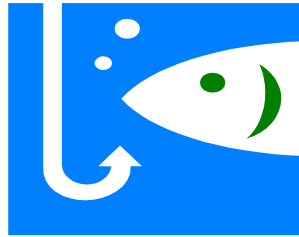


# HUMBOLDT AREA SALTWATER ANGLERS

## A VOICE FOR SALTWATER SPORTSMEN



### SPRING 2009 NEWSLETTER

*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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### President's Message

March 22, 2009

With great appreciation for all who devoted their time and money, the Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers, Inc. organization has accomplished a great deal and made a good start toward our goals. However, now is when our real work begins. The future of our salmon fishing needs our full attention. The rockfish regulations, MLPA process, sport crab regulations and bay halibut regulations need our attention. Our membership now stands at 70 individual/family members and 98 associate members, totaling 168.

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**CASEY ALLEN**  
[longfish@humboldt1.com](mailto:longfish@humboldt1.com)



Like many non-profits, funding for our projects is vital and always a concern. Therefore, we will host an annual fundraising dinner and auction. This year we will feature a spaghetti feed at the Bayside Grange on Saturday May 9th at 6 P.M. The funds from this event and the membership dues are expected to satisfy our economic needs for 2009. We will need volunteer assistance from the Humboldt Tuna Club and HASA membership with ticket sales, placemat ad sales, event setup and clean up, to make the dinner a success. Tickets will be \$12 Adults/ \$6 Child. The ticket will also be an entry for the grand prize raffle. Business card size advertisements on our placemats are \$30. Any items donated to our auction will be greatly appreciated. Brian and Berit, from Ramone's Bakery and Catering, are gracious enough to supply the food and supervise the cooks for the dinner.

### **The HASA budget for 2009**

#### **INCOME:**

MEMBER DUES	\$2,000.00
SEMI ANNUAL	
GET TOGETHERS	\$300.00
ANNUAL DINNER	
AND AUCTION	<u>\$3,000.00</u>

**TOTAL INCOME      \$5,300.00**

#### **EXPENSES:**

PROJECT		
EXPENSE	S.R. SALMON MEETING	\$250.00
	STL SALMON MEETING	\$1,100.00
	MLB SALMON MEETING	\$0.00
	(WILL COST APPROX. \$1100.00)	
	FALL PFMC YELLOW EYE	
	STOCK ASSEMENT	\$1,100.00
	MLPA MEETINGS	\$600.00
ADMIN		
EXPENSE	POSTAGE/PRINTING	\$300.00
	SUPPLIES	\$150.00
	NEWSLETTER	\$550.00
	TAX EXEMPT FILINGS	\$430.00
FUND RAISING		
EXPENSE	SEMI ANNUAL	
	GET TOGETHERS	\$120.00
	FACILITY RENTALS	\$200.00
	INSURANCE	\$200.00
	TICKETS & PLACEMATS	\$300.00
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$5,300.00</b>
	<b>NET PROFIT</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>

Our income and expenses as of this writing:

#### **INCOME**

Previous donations (start-up money)	\$1381.00
Membership Dues	1320.00
Cash Donations	105.00
Interest	<u>0.84</u>
Total	\$2806.84

#### **EXPENSES**

Santa Rosa DFG meeting	\$ 133.79
Seattle PFMC meeting	1065.40
Financial supplies	15.60
Printing costs	77.20
Administrative	<u>44.44</u>
Total	<u>\$1336.43</u>
Balance (Cash on Hand)	\$1470.41

"All statements will be available at the April General Membership Meeting"

With the expenses that will be incurred prior to the May 9th dinner you can see the need for placemat ad and pre-paid ticket sales.

**In conclusion**, with everyone's help, we have organized a non-profit fishing advocacy corporation, with 168 members and growing quickly. Funding has been provided for attendance at two crucial regulatory meetings, with plans for representation at the upcoming PFMC Yellow eye stock assessment meeting, and the fall MLPA meetings. With help from the membership and supporting retailers, HASA will be able to fulfill its mission 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."

Gene Morris  
HASA President

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## **Ships to Reefs**

By Casey Allen

HASA is working with the California Ships to Reefs (CSTR) organization in an effort to create an artificial reef west of Humboldt Bay. CSTR is a dive organization working to sink retired ships to create artificial reefs. Sunken ships not only attract divers but a diverse population of fish that saltwater sport fishermen love.

Marine Protected Areas will be established in the next few years greatly diminishing the area available to catch rockfish - forever. Creating the artificial reef will help offset those losses and increase the opportunity for small boats launching in Humboldt Bay. The reef will be an

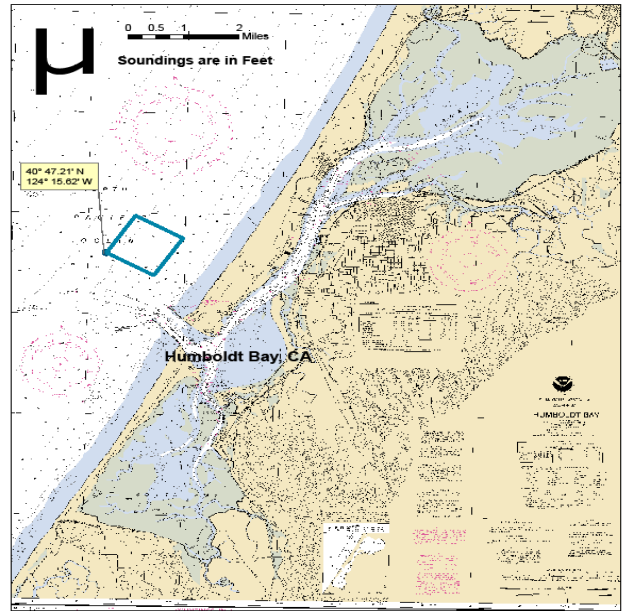
economical asset to fishing and diving business for decades to come. In 2006, saltwater sportsmen spent 3 billion dollars on their sport in California.

CSTR has completed a huge amount of work in clearing the way to sinking a ship, although they have not sunk one yet. If the first sinking is a success, it could pave the way to other projects on the California coast. There is a good chance that our site will be the first selected, especially if we help.

We need volunteers to spread the word and attend the meetings. Write your elected officials and tell them how you feel.

Sinking a ship is expensive and the funds will have to come from a variety of sources. Because of our successful meeting with the Harbor Commissioners, CSTR is working on leases and permits for our site. They have a number of ships identified as

possibilities. Visit their website (<http://californiashipstoreefs.org>) and see how far this great organization has come. Click the "Join Us" button and become a member. If you volunteer for a committee, membership is free. Eleanor Rewerts is looking for someone who has time to help research EIR requirements for our area on the web. She can be contacted at [emrewerts@aol.com](mailto:emrewerts@aol.com).



The Humboldt sink site is about one mile northwest of the jetties

HASA SENT A LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR SUPPORTING THE SHIPS TO REEFS EFFORT. HERE IS THE RESPONSE:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me. I appreciate hearing suggestions from my fellow Californians on how we can improve our state.

California's future success depends on public leaders who welcome the contributions of the people.

Adding your voice to this active and dynamic partnership is vital to the growth of our great state.

I also applaud your willingness to become involved in the issues facing California and encourage you to also contact the State Legislature with your suggestions and ideas. Contact information for your elected representatives, as well as information on Assembly and Senate legislation, can be found at the Official California Legislative Information website: [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov).

Again, thank you for taking the time to write. I value the input of people who care about the future of California.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger

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## Rockfish Seasons

By Tim Klassen

Anyone who likes to fish for rockfish (lingcod, rock cod, cabazon, etc.) from a boat, knows that our seasons here on the North Coast have been getting shorter and shorter. Eureka, Crescent city and Trinidad have four month seasons while Shelter Cove and Ft. Bragg have only a three month season. Southern California fishermen enjoy up to ten months of rock fishing. Our short seasons up here are due to yellow eye rockfish. Adult Yellow eye rockfish are generally bright orange with yellow or gold colored eyes. They can be one of the largest rockfish caught in our area and are quite beautiful (and tasty) as well. This has made them much sought after over the years. The problem is that they tend to be solitary fish that stay close to home. This makes them vulnerable to fishing pressure.

This brings us to the Magnusson Stevens Act, a federal law that is intended to prevent over fishing and rebuild previously over fished stocks. A stock is considered “over fished” if it falls below a certain percentage of its “un-fished biomass” (the estimated number of fish that would exist with no fishing). If a fish stock is considered “over fished” then the law requires a rebuilding program to bring the number of fish above the “over fished” level. The law also requires this to be done in the shortest amount of time practical. The problem is that yellow eye are slow to grow and reproduce, so the rebuilding timetable is extremely long (sixty years) which can mean short rockfish seasons for a long time. To rebuild yellow eye stocks as quickly as possible, no retention of yellow eye is allowed in California, Oregon or Washington. Fishery managers know that some yellow eye will be caught while fishing for other species (bycatch) and that a certain number will die after release (release mortality). Each state receives an

allocation of bycatch from the federal government to allow fishing for other species while protecting yellow eye. California’s allocation amounts to about a pickup load of yellow eye for the whole state for a whole year. Two years ago, when the depth restriction from rockfish was 30 fathoms, the yellow eye mortality was FOUR times the allowable catch. This is the reason for the 20 fathom depth restriction (yellow eye tend to live in water deeper than 20 fathoms) and is also the reason for our short season.

So what can we do? As anglers

HASA President Gene Morris with a typical vermillion rockfish



we need to learn how to properly release yellow eye so that they survive being caught. Also stay away from deeper water with rocky pinnacles (yellow eye habitat). If you catch a yellow eye, move to a different location. Learn how to identify yellow eye from other red rockfish. Fish & Game provides color flyers to help identify rockfish.

Will this really take sixty years? Not necessarily. There is currently a new stock assessment being done on yellow eye. The problem is that the only data available for California comes from CRFS (fish counters). There is a need for better science (like the use of submersibles) and from an independent source. But because of the cost it is unlikely that will happen.

Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers has been encouraging fishery managers to come up with better data for the current assessment. There is currently **NO** data available for waters over 30 fathoms. We need better data for this new assessment, it is that simple.

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## Baby Critters Quiz

How well do you know our local fauna? Draw a line between the critter and its baby. The answers are jumbled on the list to the right. The correct answers are on page 11.

A baby cow is a \_\_\_\_\_ calf (sample)

cod	smolt
whale	ephyra
crab	tinker
eagle	gosling
salmon	codling
mackerel	tadpole
herring	calf
eel	pup
shark	megalopae
goose	pup
dragonfly	sprat
seal	elver
frog	eaglet
jellyfish	naiad

# Salmon Seasons 101 and 2009 Status

By Jim Yarnall

## Introduction

The purpose of the following is to provide the reader a brief description of the process that determines ocean salmon seasons for the Pacific Coast states and to provide a status of the process for 2009. This is not to debate the merits of the system or the government policies or players involved. Remember we are just the messengers here attempting to hopefully obtain a minimal season this year.

## Salmon Seasons 101

California ocean salmon seasons are almost entirely based upon the Chinook stocks utilizing the Sacramento and Klamath River watersheds. Other streams also produce Chinook stocks but they are not utilized to determine seasons. Coho salmon stocks while plentiful in Washington, Oregon and sometimes Northern California are not available for California ocean or river anglers. Coho stocks in Oregon and Washington are utilized by sport, commercial and tribal anglers.

Within each species of salmon there are different runs of salmon that return to the rivers at different periods during the calendar year. The runs are variable between different watersheds. The major runs in most river systems are the fall runs and California fishing seasons are based upon these runs.

As fish return to their respective streams during the fall, hatchery personnel obtain eggs and sperm for the following season as well as tabulating a total count for the hatchery. Data from stream surveys, creel surveys and other sources allow fisheries personnel to obtain a total picture of the run including both wild and hatchery stock. This information is forwarded to managers who compile the data and input it into the individual model for the particular stream involved. The models allow managers to forecast future returns and determine allowable harvest rates for the following year. Each stream has an escapement goal, a minimum number of returning adults, to provide for adequate spawning to repopulate the stream in successive years. Some streams count all returning adults (Sacramento River) and other streams count the number of returning wild fish (Klamath River).

For California the previous fall's data and modeling forecasts are released in a public meeting in early March by the California Department of Fish and Game (CA DFG). Managers present the return information on the Sacramento and Klamath Rivers including hatchery data from both State and Federal Hatcheries. The meeting is open to the public and the audience is composed

of commercial and recreational anglers. The public is able to comment in each segment of the meeting. The release of this data allows different user groups (recreational, commercial, tribal, etc.) to analyze and develop options for the upcoming Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) meetings held later in March.

The PFMC is a federal agency and is composed of 14 council members knowledgeable in fisheries and represent the states of Washington, Oregon, California and Idaho. Idaho is represented because salmon return to that state also. The PFMC also determines season and limits for Pacific halibut, pelagic fishes (tuna) and groundfish (all types of bottomfish).

During the six day PFMC meeting various user groups meet each morning with their individual state representatives to discuss various options on the fisheries that will be dealt with that day by the entire PFMC. The involved user groups can be numerous and diverse. With salmon you have commercial and recreational interests and those groups include commercial trollers and gillnetters, tribal anglers (both ocean and in river), and ocean and river sport anglers. As options are developed they are referred to the technical teams for that species to model the impacts of each option. The modeling results are then presented in the following day's state delegation meetings. Some of the options initially presented have impacts that exceed the "surplus" that is available to catch so they are omitted or modified to stay within the available sustainable "surplus". With salmon it is more complicated because when the salmon leave the river estuaries they move up and down the coastline following food supplies and different river stocks become co-mingled. The challenge in recent years including 2009 was how to model ocean fisheries that reduce the impact on fish stocks from rivers not meeting their escapement goals and to utilize fish from rivers with abundant stocks. For California, all ocean salmon seasons south of Cape Falcon (just south of the mouth of the Columbia River) impact our ability to fish on the North Coast. This means that seasons for both Coho and Chinook in Oregon effect our seasons because Sacramento and Klamath River fish are co-mingled off the Oregon Coast during the fishing seasons. In addition commercial fisheries, primarily whiting (hake), also have incidental catch which impact salmon numbers.

As the week progresses, three viable commercial and three recreational options for each fishing zone are presented to the PFMC for discussion and voting. The options may include no fishing. The PFMC votes and those options now move to the next step in the process which is public comment on the options. Public meetings are held in various states allowing comment on the proposed seasons. The PFMC gathers input from the meetings, letters and emails. The PFMC reviews the public comment for their April meeting which is held in Millbrae, CA. During this meeting the PFMC considers the public input on the three options, accepts public comment and selects an option.

The choices of the PFMC are reviewed by the National Marine Fisheries Service and then forwarded to the respective states for adoption by state fish and game commissions. The states have jurisdiction within three nautical miles of shore and the federal government's jurisdiction is from 3 – 200 nautical miles. However the state and federal agencies work cooperatively to adopt identical regulations.



## 2009 Status

Ben Doane (Sumoco) and Tim Machado (Colly M) are representing the Klamath Management Zone Fisheries Coalition (a dual state organization who promotes both commercial and sport salmon fishing in the Klamath Management Zone (KMZ). Jim Yarnall (Jimmy Y) is representing Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers (HASA) and attended the CA DFG 2009 Salmon Information Meeting on March 3rd in Santa Rosa. At this meeting the 2008 return data from the Klamath and Sacramento systems was presented.

The Klamath, which was projected to have a healthy return in 2008 of both hatchery and natural area spawners, failed to meet the target goal of 35,000 natural area spawners. Instead a total of 30,900 natural area spawners returned along with 13,600 hatchery spawners. Without a lengthy explanation of what this means, the result is, the escapement target has been raised to 40,700 natural area spawners within the current rebuilding plan. This target must be obtained in two consecutive years. On the positive side there was a very high return of two year old Chinook (called jacks) which bodes well for the 2009 season. Current estimates indicate there are 25,200 age 4 fish and 474,900 age 3 fish in the ocean.

The Sacramento River escapement total is a range between 122,000-180,000 total fall run Chinook. During the spring of 2008 the forecast was less than ½ of the 122,000 which resulted in no ocean fishery in 2008. The actual return was slightly higher than forecast with a total return of 66,300. The causes of the poor returns are outside of the scope of this article. The forecast for the 2009 return is 122,196, just **196** fish above the minimum escape goal. This was the information presented at the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

The implications of the poor forecast on the Sacramento River in 2009 means the entire ocean salmon fishery south of Cape Falcon have to result in a total take of less than **196** Sacramento Fall Run Chinook (SFRC). Seasons were created to have the minimal impact on SFRC while harvesting fish from other runs.

Representatives from HASA and the KMZFC met at the March 6<sup>th</sup> KMZ meeting and mutually agreed to move forward with three options to present at the PFMC meeting beginning on March 8<sup>th</sup>. These were the options that were listed on the Humboldt Tuna Club's website by Ben Doane during the Seattle meeting. In summary they were as follows:

Option 1 – July 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup> – September 7<sup>th</sup>

Option 2 – August 15<sup>th</sup> – September 7<sup>th</sup>

Option 3 – August 29<sup>th</sup> – September 7<sup>th</sup>

All options were for two Chinook salmon 24" or greater per day.

These three options were presented to the Salmon Technical Team at the PFMC meeting for modeling. Options 1 and 2 were deleted because their impact was greater than 196 SFRC. We worked collaboratively with Oregon representatives on the KMZ so Oregon anglers would have the same Chinook season as us and also an opportunity to fish the projected high numbers of

"I think we have the best team possible to represent the Salmon fishermen on the North Coast. My thanks to you all for attending the grueling PFMC meetings and trying to capture some kind of salmon fishing opportunity. An uphill battle to be sure but worth a try. Thanks for your time and willingness to work on our behalf."  
Jimmy

Jimmy Smith  
Humboldt County Supervisor

*Congratulations and thank you Ben Doane, Tim Machado, and Jim Yarnall*

hatchery Coho this summer. Concessions on the Oregon Coho seasons were made by Oregon representatives to allow the above Option 3 to model with less than 196 SFRC. The PFMC voted to move forward with three options for California recreational anglers. Two of them call for no ocean season statewide and the third option is the limited 10 day season in the KMZ with no other seasons recreational or commercial in the balance of the state. The PFMC meeting concerning salmon ended on this note. Currently there are two PFMC open comment meetings. The first is in Coos Bay, OR on March 30<sup>th</sup> and the second is in Eureka, CA on March 31<sup>st</sup>. You are

encouraged to attend and voice your support for our limited season.

The PFMC will then meet in Millbrae, CA on April 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. Ben Doane and Tim Machado will be attending representing the KMZ and work for our limited season. Jim Yarnall will not attend this meeting due to the limited resources of HASA at this time.

The above is a summary of the process for setting our ocean salmon seasons and hopefully provides some insight to the reader. I will say that representation at these meetings is critical to have our voice heard. We may not always be successful but without representation we have no voice.

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## Events

PFMC Salmon meeting-----March 31  
Red Lion Hotel, Eureka

General Membership Meeting-----April TBA  
Bayside Grange

Spaghetti Feed-----May 9<sup>th</sup>  
Bayside Grange

Humboldt Tuna Club pot luck-----June TBA  
Woodley Island

Please send contributions, photos, and ideas for the newsletter to  
[longfish@humboldt1.com](mailto:longfish@humboldt1.com).

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*Special thanks to RAMONE'S BAKERY AND CATERING for catering the May spaghetti feed.*

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## Baby Answers

A baby cod	codling
A baby whale	calf
A baby crab	megalopae
A baby eagle	eaglet
A baby salmon	smolt
A baby mackerel	tinker
A baby herring	sprat
A baby eel	elver
A baby shark	pup
A baby goose	gosling
A baby dragonfly	naiad

Bob Lima, Hans Gerstacker, Gene Morris, and Casey Allen traveled 50 miles off Coos Bay, Oregon to catch a few albacore

