Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers

A VOICE FOR SALTWATER SPORTSMEN

SUMMER 2009

NEWSLETTER

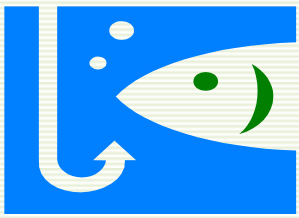
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers, Inc. has grown to a formidable size. Thanks to all the members for their participation in adding new members on a weekly basis. The ability to achieve our goals has been enhanced with the fabulous generosity of all who attended and contributed to our annual fundraiser dinner. We now need to focus our attention on the M.L.P.A. process, which seems to be a biased system. Participation and attendance by all of our members is crucial in showing that we want to have a voice in the process and our desires need to be accounted for.

The Spaghetti Feed fundraiser in May was an outstanding success. Thanks to all who worked to sell tickets, prepare the food, set up the hall and solicit donations for the auctions and raffles. "Rave-on," Bob Stewart acquired many items and sold the most tickets, my special thanks goes out to him. The net proceeds amounted to approximately $11,800. This exceeds our minimum projected budget and these extra funds will allow H.A.S.A. to expand the clubs participation and effectiveness in all our projects. This newsletter lists the contributors of the auction/raffles items and the placemat ad merchants (page 11). Please patronize these businesses whenever possible and let them know you are a member of H.A.S.A. My sincere thanks to all,

Gene Morris
President H.A.S.A.
Tight Lines

INSIDE HASA



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Ships to Reefs

By Casey Allen

It is a difficult thing, to raise money in this economy. And that is what we need most to move our artificial reef forward. Work is still going on to clear the mountain of paper hurtles and to spread the word of this worthy project. We all hope that our elected officials will see the merit and throw the might of government and their stimulus money at our reef. But we are not sitting and waiting for them.

I would like to thank Louis Robinette for the computer work, researching the web and sending e-mail inquiries to gather data for the Environmental Impact Report and the package for potential investors and, of course, politicians. Louis has uncovered much needed data that we could not do without and could not afford to create on our own.

I would also like to thank Adam Wagschal and the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District Commissioners. They are as interested in a successful reef project as we are because they know it will be a vital asset to the use of Humboldt Bay.

California Ships to Reefs is working on permits and leases for the sink site and trying to locate a suitable ship, not to mention funding.

We hope to continue to spread the word and conquer the paper through this winter so real physical work can begin with good weather next spring. If anyone can contribute skills, labor, or ideas please contact me or visit californiashipstoreefs.org

Larry De Ridder talks to a potential HASA member at the Home and Recreation Show at Redwood Acres

WHO NEEDS ALASKA?

With the close of salmon season in 2008 many Humboldt County anglers turned to other species like halibut. Mike and Bev Hart (Heart Attack l) shocked themselves and the fishing community with Bev's 130 pound Pacific halibut caught somewhere near Cape Mendocino in 2008.

Mike Holland (Doc Honey) decided one small Pacific halibut was better than none. The limit is one fish per angler with no size restrictions. This fish, caught straight out from Eureka in 220 feet of water, was perfect for a dinner party.

Charter skipper Tim Klassen (far right) on the Reel Steel is good at finding new halibut hot spots. The trouble is keeping them secret. Recognize the shoreline in the background? You will have to run way south to find it.

Margaret Morris (Reef Madness) and Casey Allen heft Margaret's estimated 60 pound halibut caught on a B2 Squid and herring in 250 feet of water. Gene Morris expertly gaffed the big fish and it went nuts on the deck of the boat. It was fortunate nothing was broken. It is illegal to shoot a halibut with a firearm before bringing it on board in California.

Even with this kind of fish available out of Eureka, Margaret and Gene can't wait to return to Alaskan waters.

Chad Kryla was fishing the Cape with his dad Larry on the 4th of July. Chad was jigging for rockfish with 30lb gear when the 87 pound halibut struck. Larry said, "After he fought it for about a half hour the fun started when we decided to pull it into the boat. Of course, we thought it was dead but it was just taking a nap."

Larry suggests using a harpoon with a detachable head and the lead attached to a cleat as the safest way to subdue a big halibut.

Wave Energy Conversion

Much of the following comes from seminars and meetings attended by five HASA members – Louis Robinette, Tom and Mary Marking, Jim Yarnall and myself.

Larry De Ridder

1. Why are there WEC projects at all? Basically there are two primary driving forces. First, we all acknowledge that there is not a limitless supply of oil-based energy. If we can satisfy more of our energy needs from renewable resources such as solar, wind and wave energy, our dependence on oil produced outside the U.S. will be reduced. Second, California has a self-imposed mandate to produce 20% of our energy from renewable sources by 2010 – only six months away (and turbines behind freshwater dams don't count). We're currently at 12%. There is also a push to produce as much as 33% of our energy from renewable resources by 2020. This puts the energy production and distribution entities under a great deal of government pressure to change their energy production methods. Engineering studies indicate that WEC devices can extract between 3% and 15% of the energy in waves, and as water contains 800 times as much "energy density" as air, this is an attractive option to explore. The bottom line is that we are going to have more energy produced from renewable resources than is the case now, and WEC is simply one of the options being pushed.

2. What is a WEC device? A WEC device is designed to convert some of the energy in passing waves into electricity. There are numerous styles of devices in various stages of design, construction and testing. There are several common features. They must all be either firmly built into the seabed like an oil derrick, or securely tethered to the bottom with large anchors. They will all therefore affect the seabed by adding fixed structure where currently there is a more-or-less flat sand or mud bottom. The addition to the sea floor is likely to act as a Fish Attracting Device (FAD) below each WEC unit. None of these devices store energy internally, so they must be connected to shore with a power cable. Most of the options under consideration for this area will extend above the water surface by some amount, and will therefore constitute a navigational hazard under conditions of low visibility. Thus they will have to be lighted at night. None of them produce enough energy to justify a stand-alone project, so if they are to be built at all there must be a lot of them.

3. What does a WEC device look like? Some devices channel wave energy into a turbine which, while spinning, generates electricity. An over-simplified device might look like a flattened donut with a horizontal propeller in the center. When the water spills over the top it is funneled into the propeller, which then spins. One device looks like a long log jam, linked end-to-end, floating on the surface. As they move against one another they push internal hydraulic fluids back-and-forth across turbines. Some use a large "bobber" which, when bobbing up and down, use a magnetic field and coil or internal hydraulics to generate

electricity. Some are entirely underwater and look somewhat like huge kelp fronds waving back and forth. Any that are built like oil derricks into the substrate could conceivably have wind energy devices mounted atop the WEC.

4. Where will WEC devices be placed? There are some inherent minimum location requirements. For example, they must be close enough to shore to make running electrical connections feasible. Locally the best sites are six to eight miles offshore. They must be close enough to a population center to provide the employee base to maintain them. They must be near a safe harbor. They must be close enough to on-shore high-capacity electrical installations to make linking them to the power grid possible. And finally, the area used must be large enough to make the grid economically feasible. The local study area is centered on the Humboldt Bay Harbor entrance, extends from two to ten miles offshore, and runs about nine miles both north and south from the Jaws (with a V-shaped clear area for a shipping channel). There are several large areas off Mendocino and Sonoma Counties. However PG&E recently announced that they were abandoning plans to develop projects offshore from Fort Bragg and Centerville Beach, and will concentrate their efforts near Humboldt Bay.

5. What must be done first? Clearly, there are issues to be explored here. In October 2008 the California Energy Commission and California Ocean Protection Council received their final draft "white paper" entitled "Developing Wave Energy in Coastal California: Potential Socio-Economic and Environmental Effects," produced by Public Interest Energy Research (PIER). It's about 180 pages long, so I will only touch on a few of the many issues they recommend be explored prior to building large WEC arrays.

First, does a WEC power grid make economic sense to build? Will the time and energy needed to design, build, maintain, and someday dismantle these units, be justified by the amount of energy produced? In other words, will this be a net energy producer or a net energy drain? If it is a net energy producer, will the power produced be economically competitive? At this point no one really knows. At the February public hearing hosted by the Humboldt Chapter of Waveriders, PG&E representative Ian Calliendo stated that PG&E would not proceed with a commercial project unless it could be shown to be economically viable. The problem of course is that it's not really possible to accurately gauge the economics of a commercial project until after the first few are built, installed and operated for a period of time.

Second, and perhaps of most interest to us, what about boating access? As currently envisioned the areas where these are to be installed will be off limits to all fishing and boating. PG&E states that as the project progresses they will ultimately use only a fraction of the 136 square miles currently reserved for study. However, the fact is that we could be banned from a portion of ocean where we fish and crab, as well as important transit lanes.

Third, how about our local economies? Right now Humboldt County has an unusually high unemployment rate, and these projects will no doubt result in well-paid local employment opportunities. However, that will likely be offset by losses of employment in the commercial

fishing community, and perhaps additional losses to sport fishing related jobs. At present it isn't possible to accurately predict whether there will be a net gain or loss of local jobs.

Fourth, what about the ecological effects? The possibilities are simply too numerous to go into here, but a sample includes: (1) The effect on marine fishes and whales from the electromagnetic field generated by the power cables connecting to shore (2) beach changes due to reduced on-shore wave action (3) potential dangers to shorebirds, sea birds, and marine mammals (4) the possibility of tethered WEC devices breaking loose during heavy storms and resultant pollution from hydraulic fluids or submerged navigational hazards (5) the effect on marine life from anti-fouling paints.

6. Where does that leave us? PG&E, with their community relations firm Kearns & West, held a community meeting in May at the Warfinger Building. Following that meeting, they formed an Ad Hoc committee to select local residents for a stakeholders group to represent the community. The Ad Hoc committee met in June to select a stakeholders' group to represent the many local interests. Larry De Ridder (Draggin' Bait) was selected by the Ad Hoc Committee to represent the offshore sport fishermen in the newly formed Humboldt Working Group. The hope is that with community input a pilot project can be approved and built in 2010 to test three or four types of candidate WEC technologies. The pilot project will encompass about 200 acres somewhere within the 136 square mile area granted to PG&E for study, though the pilot project will be entirely inside the 3-mile line. The pilot project will run for up to five years, after which it will likely be dismantled. If after five years the pilot project indicates that a commercial sized power grid is economically and ecologically feasible, it will likely be succeeded by a much larger commercial project six to eight miles offshore.
If you have some particular concern or input you would like considered at the Working Group meetings, please leave a Personal Message for Larry De Ridder on the Humboldt Tuna Club website (humboldttuna.com). Presently, meetings are expected to be held monthly. Informational updates will be posted in upcoming newsletters and/or the website.

Ben Doane is working the crowd for HASA, while Sherry 'Reel Steel' Klassen looks on, during the Home and Recreation Show at Redwood Acres

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Fishing with the fleet By Casey Allen

The 10 day 'bubble' season was granted to North Coast salmon fishermen because the PFMC agreed that Sacramento River salmon will have left our waters by late August. Late summer is the time for big fish as they ready themselves for the spawning run and move closer to their respective rivers. The late season will be popular and local charter boats are already booked. It will attract a lot of boats from out of the area and the launching facilities will be stressed. Once on the water there is a lot of ocean and room for everyone.

During my first few years of salmon fishing, I didn't have my own boat and always fished at the invitation of others. I can still remember those first trips, the feeling of anticipation and dread of the open ocean while running down the bay. Outside of the jetties and across the bar, a nice ocean often erased the dread, but it was quickly replaced by awe and a feeling of loneliness. The ocean was a huge and empty wilderness and when it was foggy, as it often was, it magnified the loneliness until we reached the fleet. Then, with relief, we could fish and we could see everyone else fishing.

The small sport boats that made up the fleet trolled in random directions, only deviating to avoid each other and still stay with the fleet and hopefully the fish. We came close to other boats because of a lapse of attention but we never had a collision or even a tangle because of it. Except for a couple of old grumps, most boaters happily steered away and waved, "no problem friend. We're fishing." It was fun to see other boats

catch fish and at least see how they fish.

Years later, I was piloting my own boat, trolling north off the stacks. With experience, I learned to avoid the fleet and try to find my own fish. There was a barge anchored in about 10 fathoms of water to work on the affluent pipe from the pulp mill. It was unusual to have a fixed object in that part of the ocean and like the whistle buoy further south, the barge attracted trolling fishermen. All captains are curious people and I too, wanted a closer look at the barge. We trolled from the south directly at the barge and had not had a bite all morning. Reaching the rope buoys protecting the barge I turned west while my eyes took in the rigging on the barge. We continued our turn through the west and bearing south and I was just about to comment on the anchoring of the barge, to keep it positioned over the effluent pipe, when both rods went off at the same time.

Marlene and I both had heavy salmon and we giggled and laughed at the chaos of the double hook up. After a time, I could see my fish in the clear water 30 yards from the boat. I was calculating how I was going to net my fish by myself and then help Marlene when my fish accelerated, turned on its tail and literally swam off the double barbless hooks. Marlene continued to battle her king and soon we cheered as I lifted the 24 pound salmon with the net.

Quickly re-baiting, we trolled through the same area, south of the barge, without another bite. Finally, after three passes without a strike, we were on the same heading as when we hooked the first fish and when we made the turn to the west Marlene hooked up again. It was another 20 pound fish. We soon discovered the only time we hooked fish was in that same left hand turn south of the barge and each time we made that turn we hooked a fish.

I boated a small nine pound salmon and when I looked up I realized we attracted some attention. There were a half a dozen boats plying the water south of the barge and in the next 30 minutes there were 20 boats in the area. It was hard for me to approach our spot from the south to set up the turn with so many boats in the way. I managed it once and Marlene hooked another big salmon, this one pushing 30 pounds. But that was the last time we could make our turn as the boats crowded the area. We left to troll outside the edge of the fleet and where

we could still see what happened. One boat, unknowingly, was about to make the correct turn and I mentioned to Marlene, "watch, that boat is about to hook up." Sure enough, as his gear swung through the turn a rod doubled over with a throbbing fish. But that was the only fish the fleet hooked and after an hour the number of boats thinned.

It was hard to wait until most all of the other trollers left the area. With only a couple of boats left, we could wait no more, so I steered to set up our turn. The first pass failed to bring the anticipated strike and I wondered if the fish moved on. But on the second pass both rods went down again. This time Marlene's fish came off quickly and she manned the net as I battled my biggest fish of the day. It was a rousing fight on light tackle and I threw myself around the boat to keep the line clear as the big king used the entire ocean to try to escape.

We ended the day by ourselves, but not in the least lonely, still awed with our limit of big salmon, save one nine pounder, all caught on that same left hand turn south of the barge.

Quote of Note

"Fishermen are solitary by nature, avoiding others, and keeping their fishing to themselves. It is un-natural for us to unite in a common cause."

Captain Tim Klassen
Vice President HASA

A special thanks to the following businesses that donated to the Spaghetti Feed. Please give them your business and tell them you are a grateful member of HASA.

Ramone's Bakery and Catering
Trinidad Trading Company
T. P. Tire Service, Inc.
Redwood Marine
The Hair Connection
Fortuna Automotive
United Country Coast Central Realty
Sentinel Winery
Mad River Outfitters
Miller Farms
Lithia Chrysler Dodge of Eureka
California Ships to Reefs, Inc.
EG Ayers Distributing
Gary Farley Guide Service
Rich Parker Construction
Michael Holland DDS
Frank and Dorothy Dutra
Reel Steel Sportfishing
WINDANSEA
Café Waterfront
Northwood Chevrolet Hyundai
McKinleyville Barber Shop
Englund Marine & Industrial Supply
Les Schwab Tire Center
Coast Central Credit Union
Woodley Island Ship Shop
Sheldrake Marine Services
Celtic Charter Services
Winnett Vineyards
Humboats Kayak Adventures
Coastline Construction
McCrea Subaru
Laco Associates
The Lost Whale Bed & Breakfast Inn
RadioLabs
Terrifin.com
B-2 Squid
Noyo Fishing Center
Pierson Building Center
Liscomb Hill Pottery
Northwind Charters
Kwikdraw Guide Service
Full Throttle Sportfishing
Houseboats.com
Mr. Fish
Keenan Supply
Eureka Oxygen
Lost Coast Inn
Fortuna Automotive
Leon's Muffler
Arcata Massage
Opies Fine Cars
Renner Petroleum
Lima's Pharmacy
Minnowpaws
Pro Sports Center
Picky Picky Picky
Mid City Motor World
All Sports
Humboldttuna.com

Charlotte Holland is having a great time while Mike (Doc Honey) studies his ticket numbers at the HASA Spaghetti Feed

Thank you to these individuals who donated prizes or worked for the Spaghetti Feed.

Tom Giusti
Margaret Morris
Hart Attack I&II
Jimmy & Jacque Smith
Scott & Becky McBain
Ben Doane
Tim Machado
Jan Z
Marlene & Casey Allen
Jim Martin
Cindy Woolsey
Darrel & Patricia Peterson
Harrison Ibach
Phil Pritting
Dave Varshock

Dinner Service

Marlene Allen
Margaret Morris
Sue Doane
Colleen Machado
Nancy Flannery
Bev Hart
Sherry Klassen
Carol De Ridder
Bob and Carol Stewart
Eureka High Girls Softball

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
North Coast Public Open Houses
5pm-8pm

July 20: Eureka
Wharfinger Building
#1 Marina Way
Eureka, CA 95501

July 21: Fort Bragg
Dana Gray Elementary School
1197 Chestnut Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

July 22: Crescent City
Cultural Center
1001 Front Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

THE MLPA
Tim Klassen
HASA VP

Well, it's here. The Marine Life Protection Act, a law intended to place a network of marine reserves, has arrived on the North Coast.
Most of these reserves will be "no fishing" zones. Since the reserves occur in state waters, recreational anglers will suffer the most from these closures.
Recently, local politicians, scientists and harbor districts signed a letter to the governor questioning the science being used for reserve placement and the cost of monitoring and enforcement of reserves.
As fishermen, we must insist that funding is available and that only good science is used. We will need to be involved in the MLPA process by attending meetings and writing letters to make sure that our voice is heard loud and clear.
The first meetings are starting this month so plan on attending if you can.

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.

HASA is now over 300 members strong. We must not relax but continue to grow so we can fulfill our mission statement. Please get involved and spread the word about how important fishing is in all our lives.

Tuna off to an early start

By Tim Machado

HASA tuna fishers got a jump start on the season with the early appearance of albacore off the southern Humboldt coast in late June. While the best fishing appeared to be off Ft. Bragg, HASA members also made some good scores running from Eureka and Shelter Cove.

That was only a taste of things to come for those who were willing to journey north in early July to the Oregon coast off Coos Bay. In what has become a predictable migration, HASA members hooked up their boat trailers and trekked north to Charleston when reports of wide open albacore fishing started circulating. Indeed, the fishing was steady for some, spectacular for others. Eager anglers filled their coolers with fat albacore. Scores ranged up into the double digits, with most anglers getting at least 6 – 8 fish.

Among the anglers making the journey was member Cliff Friedley. Cliff enjoys introducing young anglers to the sport of saltwater angling. For this trip his boat was crewed with his two sons, Christopher and Aaron. Cliff said he just drove the boat, while the kids caught all the fish. Christopher, 8 year of age, caught six fish by himself. His brother Aaron, age 11, managed the rest of the tuna for a total score of seventeen. Quite an accomplishment for the young crew!

With such an early start to things, HASA members can certainly look forward to a great season, with many more albacore making their way to barbeques, jars, and freezers.

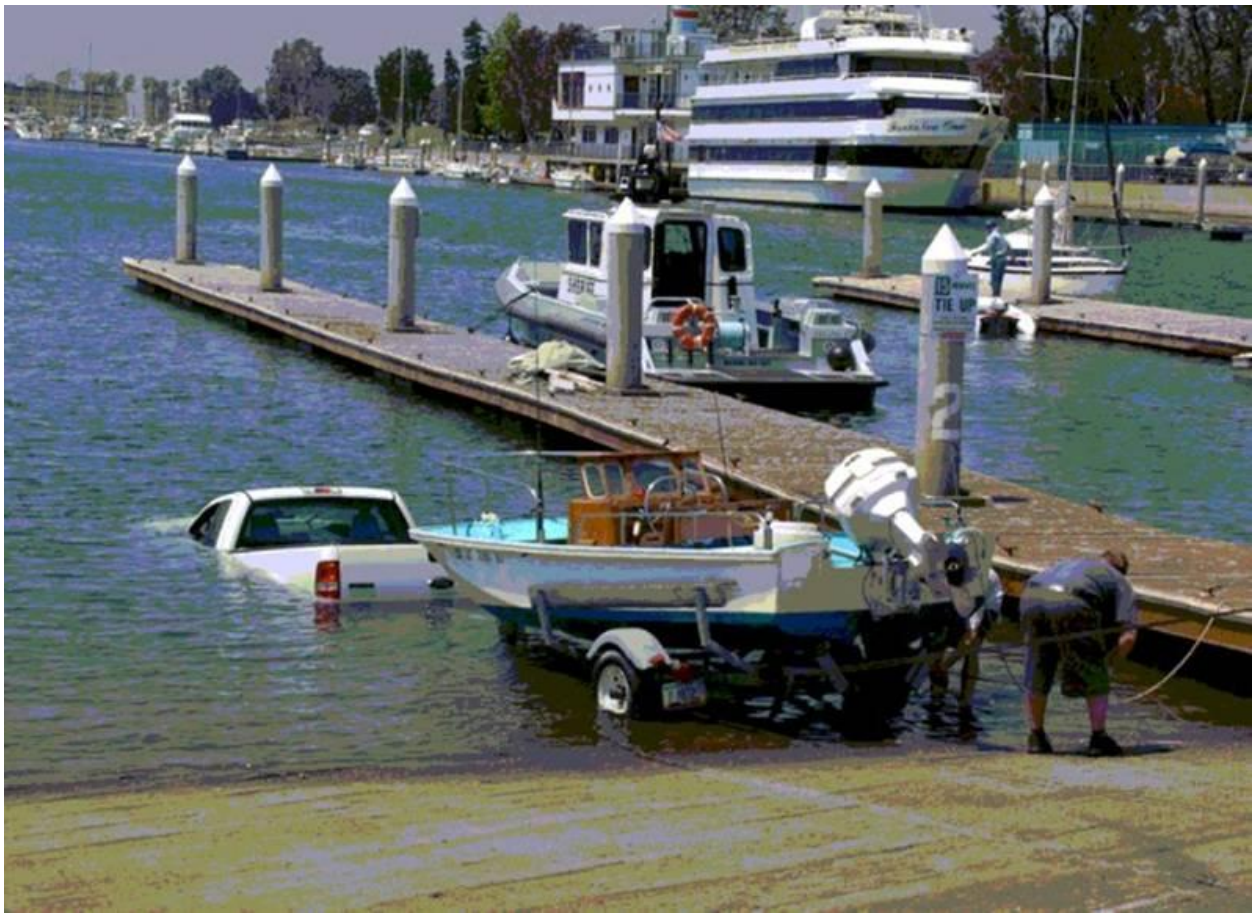
Casey Allen and Hans Gerstacker with an early season albacore aboard Reef Madness in June

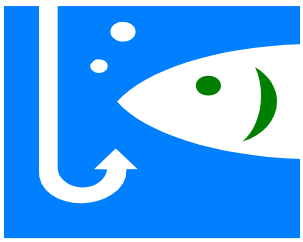
The only blood Marlene Allen can stand to look at is tuna blood. She is even proud of the splatter on her pants

Big Salmon Contest

Planning is under way for a big salmon contest sponsored by our friends at Suddenlink Communications and Englund Marine. They have selected HASA as the non-profit group that will benefit from the event. Suddenlink will donate $1 to HASA for every fish weighed in (up to $500) and Englund Marine will set up a donation station during the event. There will be many prizes awarded and details are forthcoming. We will also benefit from the TV, newspaper, and radio advertising scheduled to start 2 weeks before the 10 day season opener 8/29/09. We are very fortunate to be included in this event. We need everyone to enter and weigh in a fish and hopefully a HASA member will win the grand prize.

A lot of jokes can be made about this photo but there is something about boat ramps that breed disaster. Our late summer 10 day salmon season will bring a lot of boats to local ramps. I am thinking of skipping the morning fishing and might hang out at a ramp with a movie camera. If you are at all unfamiliar with launching your boat, by all means, go down there and practice before the season starts. You do not want to be at a crowded ramp and not be able to back straight or be in a nervous rush and forget to replace your drain plug. I might get you on film and show everybody.





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