

OCEAN SALMON REGS PROPOSED

Proposed regulations for salmon season are out, and public input is invited /27

WESTERN OUTDOOR NEWS

STURGEON GOOD IN SAN PABLO

Some of the better sturgeon action has been found in San Pablo Bay hotspots /21

"THE NATION'S **BIGGEST** WEEKLY FISHING AND HUNTING NEWSPAPER"

2013 abalone and lobster report cards due

SACRAMENTO — The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) reminds abalone and lobster sport fishermen they are required by law to return their 2013 Abalone Report Cards and 2013 Calendar Year Spiny Lobster Report Cards by Jan. 31, 2014.

Cardholders are asked to review their cards carefully and check that the information is as complete and accurate as possible. Information collected from report cards provides DFW with the data necessary to monitor and manage California's recreational abalone and spiny lobster fisheries.

The new Full Season Spiny Lobster Report Card, which became available after July 31, 2013, is good for the entire lobster fishing season. The Full Season Spiny Lobster Report Card is not due until April 30, following the close of lobster season. Any report card holder who fails to return their Full Season Spiny Lobster Report Card will be charged a non-return fee of \$20.00 when purchasing a Spiny Lobster Report Card in the subsequent fishing season.

In the past, report card return rates have been too low to accurately estimate catches for these fisheries, but the Automated License Data System (ALDS) has greatly increased the ability of the DFW to remind card purchasers

of the need to return report cards. ALDS was used last year to alert Abalone Report Card purchasers if they had not returned their cards or entered data online for the cards before the January 31 deadline. ALDS was also used to mail reminder notices to all Spiny Lobster Report Card holders to return their report cards through the mail or submit their harvest data online. If ALDS warnings fail to increase Abalone Report Card return rates, a non-return fee may be implemented in the future.

Report cards need to be returned even if no abalone or lobster were taken, or no attempt was made to take either species. Report card data can be submitted online at www.ca.wildlifelicenses.com/InternetSales/CustomerSearch/Begin. Report cards also can be submitted by mail to: CDFW – Abalone Report Card, 32330 North Harbor Drive, Fort Bragg, CA 95437-5554 or CDFW – Lobster Report Card, 3883 Ruffin Rd., San Diego, CA 92123.

Additional information and a list of frequently asked questions about these programs can be found on CDFW's Ocean Sport Fishing webpages, www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/invertebrate/abalone.asp (abalone) or www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/invertebrate/lobster.asp (spiny lobster).

8th Annual Diamond Classic Derby reached and surpassed goals!

MARTINEZ — The 8th Annual Diamond Classic 'Catch and Release' Derby out of Martinez Marina was a huge success, reaching the co-equal goals of catching and releasing sturgeon and increasing participation from children.

Derby organizer Steve Talmadge made a major push for more kids, and a total of 131 children engaged in this year's event along with 350 adult participants. In addition to children

fishing on boats, there were 50 children on the Martinez Fishing Pier, as this was the first time pier fishing for children was added to the event.

Lynda Abbott, aka "Diehard," said, "There was a total of 41 legal sturgeon and 5 oversized caught and released as part of the 95 calls for our on-the-water weighmasters." The majority of the action took place east of the Mothball Fleet or in the Big Cut with a variety of baits.

The adult derby format called for all legal fish to be placed into

a random pool, and all of the money from the \$25/entry fee was returned to the top seven successful anglers chosen out of the pool. Paul Koval, aka "The Rev," was rewarded for his 56-inch legal sturgeon released with the top cash prize of \$3062.50. Abbott provided the following list of adult winners with a total prize money outlay of \$8750.00.

All child participants received a t-shirt donated by the Coastside Fishing Club. The top prize in the children's division was taken by Nadia Shah of Pittsburg, who went home with a trophy and custom rod worth \$600, while the top 15 also received custom rods, high end reels, or rod/reel combinations. Abbott said, "One young man came to the seminar with his grandfather, and he was less than enthusiastic about fishing until he landed three sturgeon

DIAMOND CLASSIC/21



MASON GOODRIDGE, long-time show hawker for *WON* Publications, passed away this past week at the age of 90. He was a fixture at all the sports shows. See page 12 for full story



A BLUE PHASE Ross' goose is extremely rare, and James Stone of Elite Sportsmen Guide Service was proud to have it shot during one of his guided hunts the last week of the season. In fact, they shot three blue geese during the same hunt! Stone's clients have been hammering the snows and specks despite the weather.

15.13-pound rainbow caught at Shaver Lake

BY RON WILSON
WON Staff Writer

SHAVER LAKE — Clear skies and spring-like weather, along with some trophy-sized rainbows, are bringing anglers to Shaver Lake, but catching them has been tough.

Robert Martin of Clovis caught a 15.13-pound trout near the dam on a flasher/'crawler rig, and Dick Nichols of Dick's Fishing Charters thinks that this latest big, trophy trout may be from the Southern California Edison plant three years ago.

Patrick Movey at Fisherman's Warehouse in Fresno, said "The trout fishing is slow, but there is

an occasional huge trout being caught." Movey recommended 'crawlers for bait.

Boat fishermen must try different depths, lures and bait to locate a school of fish. Some trollers have reported a limit and an occasional trophy trout, but other anglers have found little action.

The Point in front of Sierra Marina, roads 1 and 2 and the island, may be the better spots for trollers, while the Point, Dam and roads 1 and 2 are better spots to fish for bank anglers.

Bank anglers and boaters that are drift fishing have found the best success with 'crawlers or PowerBait. The water level is at 59-percent capacity.

INSIDE WON

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ON THE COVER »

'CLEAR'LY A GOOD DECISION

— Whether it's pre-spawn or just a big-fish bonanza (maybe both), Clear Lake's trophy largemouth have started to go on the bite... big time. *WON* BASS pro, John Pearl of Upper Lake, shows off a 13.5 pounder he caught on a swimbait fished in the north end of the lake. Also, be sure to see inside for the photo of the unbelievable day he had with fishing partner, Jason Kincannon

of Yolo, and their 5-fish, 49.7-pound limit! Might not be a bad time to consider signing up for the *WON* BASS Clear Lake Open, June 11-13...

SAN PABLO Bay kicked out this 52-inch sturgeon for Atef Feki of San Francisco and Wajih Rekik of Houston, who teamed up to land the beauty aboard the *Argo* in San Pablo Bay. The fish bit a ghost shrimp near the

Pumphouse in 10 feet of water.

A LITTLE 'dab'll do ya, and a whole bunch of 'em is even better! Jim Nystrom of El Dorado had a sanddab on every hook after a drop in 250 feet of water while fishing aboard the *Huli Cat* out of Pillar Point, fishing 9 miles from the Harbor. There is no limit on sanddabs, and most folks end up with all they want to take home.

Derby participants enjoy great weather and plenty of sturgeon action in Suisun Bay

BY DAVID HURLEY
WON Staff Writer

PITTSBURG — Sturgeon fishing made a major push in Suisun Bay as the first of two major sturgeon derbies occurred on January 25th with the 8th Annual Diamond Classic Catch and Release Sturgeon Derby out of Martinez Marina.

For full details on the “Classic,” read the story elsewhere in this issue of *Western Outdoor News*.

For some highlights, though, Captain Jay Lopes of Right Hook Sportfishing put regular client Jerry Brannon of Livermoore onto a 40-inch sturgeon which was good for the 4th position selected for a total of \$437.50.

Chris Smith of the *Captain Hook* out of Martinez Marina was on the water during the derby, and they released an oversized, along with a few shakers, using salmon roe. This was Smith’s third consecutive successful trip with three legal fish taken on two prior trips.

Captain Bill Clapp of Bill Clapp’s Sportfishing went out with derby organizer Steve Talmadge of Flash Sportfishing, and they took a few children on the water for 3 shaker sturgeon on a variety of baits, including grass shrimp/eel, salmon roe, and ghost shrimp/eel combinations.

Various species of shark plagued derby participants on the anchor between the Benicia/Martinez Bridge and the Mothball Fleet, and boats were reported to have released as many as 8 sharks before moving farther upriver. This is a testament to the increasing salinity in the Delta. Flounder continue to be taken from the Benicia shoreline, and also upriver towards Pittsburg.

Tony Lopez of Benicia Bait and Tackle reported good action for sturgeon expert Ron Riesinger of Chico, in the shallows of Grizzly Bay with eel strips. He released sturgeon at 59.5 and 55 inches on consecutive trips. Lopez is the official weighmaster for this week-

end’s Original Sturgeon Super Bowl Sturgeon Derby out of McAvoy’s Boat Harbor in Bay Point. All local baits shops are taking reservations for the derby. Information and registration is available at www.originalsturgeon Derby.com.

Farther upriver, Do Doung at Dockside Bait in Pittsburg reported a few sturgeon have been brought to the shop, and the majority of striper action remained around Chain Island with mudsuckers or frozen shad.

J. D. Richey of Richey’s Sport Fishing has been tossing white Roboworm swimbaits on jig-heads ranging from ¼- to ¾-ounce in the north Delta for stripers to 10 pounds. He said, “The action has been fair to good, and we have released at least one fish over 10 pounds on our last several trips.” With the cold morning temperatures, Richey has been launching later in the day and targeting the linesides until dusk..

Sturgeon keep San Pablo Bay bite alive and well

BY CAPT. DAVID BACON
WON Staff Writer

VALLEJO/SAN RAFAEL — Good tides got the sturgeon bite going throughout San Pablo Bay, and while stripers came up on hooks in between sturgeon, the effort was mostly about sturgeon. Crabs and rays were not too hard on baits, even with the salty water.

Not even salty water could keep the sturgeon from biting in San Pablo Bay and tributaries. Mia at Norm’s Bait and Tackle in Vallejo said, “They’re eating anything... bullheads, mudsuckers, shrimp, eel, you name it.” Napa River produced well, albeit sporadically. No reports came back from the Petaluma, however Mia reported that a number of people geared up and baited up to head that way. While most effort was for sturgeon, the striper bite in Napa River wasn’t anything to scoff at. They were pretty hungry and kept anglers on their toes. Those who were specifically trying for stripers found their best baits to be bullheads, grass shrimp and pile worms.

Pretty good sturgeon fishing, with great tides, were reported on San Pablo Bay, with the Pumphouse and China Camp producing better than most areas. Keith Frazer at Loch Lomond Bait Shop said that one guy caught and released an oversize sturgeon that measured 7.5 feet. He caught a few striped bass while waiting for that big fish to bite. Frazier said, “It’s not bad out there. The junk fish are not bad, and there aren’t that many crabs to steal our baits. This is a little surprising, considering how salty the water is. But if we don’t get some rain soon, this good fishing wont last.”

Argo, out of Fisherman’s Wharf, fished sturgeon and bass in San Pablo Bay over the weekend. The weather was outstanding - flat, warm and glassy. Capt. Craig Hanson said, “We started west of the Pumphouse where we’ve been catching sturgeon, but no bites. There are schools of herring on lower San Pablo Bay, and sea lions all around the boat. That might not bother sturgeon, but anything else is going to take a hike. After a couple hours of nothing, we moved about a mile east of the Pumphouse and found a lot more activity.” The boat’s score was three keeper bass plus a mix of flounder and bat rays, all on ghost shrimp.

Capt. Jim Smith steered *Happy Hooker* into San Pablo Bay on Sunday. Three striped bass were caught, along with a 24-inch halibut boated by Valerie Fisher of San Mateo.

Diamond Classic...

Continued from page 1

and won a charter trip for 2 adults and 2 children from one of our sponsors,” adding, “He was a different boy on Saturday afternoon than on Friday night.”

“...There were 7 or 8 fish taken in the early morning on the incoming tide with the remained of the 41 legals on the outgo...”

One of the highlights of the derby weekend is the seminar night the evening prior to the derby, and Talmadge said, “The proceeds from the raffle at the seminar night underwrite most of the cost of the derby, and we had a number of quality prizes including custom fishing rods, lpads, and other high ticket items for the raffle.”

Captain Bill Clapp of Bill Clapp’s Sport Fishing went out with derby organizer Steve Talmadge of Flash Sport Fishing, and they took out a few children on the water for 3 shaker sturgeon on a variety of baits including grass shrimp/eel, salmon roe, and ghost shrimp/eel combinations.

Clapp said, “We started above the Mothball Fleet in the deep water on the incoming tide before moving into water as shallow as 8 feet inside of Buoy 4 on the outgoing tide.” The action on the incoming tide had been minimal, but Clapp added, “There were 7 or 8 fish taken in the early morning on the incoming tide with the remained of the 41 legals on the outgo.”

Talmadge and his band of dedicated volunteers are to be commended for their efforts in increasing angler education in ‘catch and release’ and promoting the future of the fishery to the next generation.

8TH Annual Diamond Classic Catch and Release Adult Derby winners

PLACE		Name city, size	amount
1st	Paul Koval “The Rev”	San Andreas – 56	\$3,062.50
2nd	Mike Rael	Vacaville – 46	\$2,187.50
3rd	Lyle McDonald	Cameron Park/Sacramento – 58	\$1,750.00
4th	Jerry Brannon	Livermore – 40”	\$437.50
5th	Darren Nichols	Vacaville – 52”	\$437.50
6th	Hugh Marchand	Stockton – 46”	\$437.50
7th	Jerry Borehers	Vacaville –	\$437.50



THE ADULT winner of the Diamond Classic Catch and Release Sturgeon Derby held on Saturday was Paul Koval of San Andreas, who caught a 56-inch sturgeon, and won \$3,062.50 for the one-day effort. Capt. Steve Talmadge, organizer of the event, joined him.



THE WINNING kids who caught a fish during the Diamond Classic are pictured here, but every youngster got one of the t-shirts for participating, courtesy of Coastside Fishing Club. Nadia Shah, 8 years old from Pittsburg, won first place in the kids division and got a trophy, plus a custom rod worth \$600. The other 15 got rods, high end reels, or rod and reel combos and t-shirts.

2 Halibut Daily • 2 Lingcod Daily • No Slot Limits



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