

6/12/09

Fish Report

South swells, even when small, can be vexing for Santa Cruz anglers because the beaches face due south. The waves are often powerful and churn up the bottom, reducing visibility, and slowing the bite. A number of significant catches were made last week despite the latest swell, and the forecast for this weekend looks mild in terms of wind and waves.

Last year, Frank Idiano was the first boat out of Santa Cruz to find and catch offshore albacore. That was in mid-August. This year Idiano has done it again, finding tuna nearly 70 miles from Santa Cruz on Saturday June 6. Idiano and his crew on the Sea Angel brought home six albacore tuna and lost two while fishing the deep blue waters offshore.

Closer to home, bait in the bay is increasing but is still somewhat scattered. Baitman Carl Azevedo is going out nearly every evening, looking to net anchovies or sardines to sell from his receiver at the end of S Dock at the Santa Cruz Harbor. Private boat anglers are finding sardines, smelt, mackerel and even squid while jigging sabiki rigs. The best spots for bait lately have been Black's Point, the Capitola Wharf and near the Cement Ship.

Todd Fraser at Bayside Marine weighed in some nice fish this week. Topping the charts was a 50-pound White Sea Bass caught by an angler using live sardines. A number of halibut were weighed in at Bayside in the 20-30-pound class this week. Fraser adds the best fishing for rockcod was near Franklin Point, where boaters found big coppers, vermilion and lingcod. Stagnaro's Sportfishing did well near Davenport. Fishing 100 feet of water, the 23 anglers on the Velocity each bagged their 10-fish limit. With crew fish included, the Velocity caught 260 fish on Sunday's trip.

Capitola Wharf also saw good stringers of rockfish this week, mostly caught off Pleasure Point or the small reefs outside the Marina, according to Ed Burrell at Capitola Boat and Bait. Both those areas continue to produce good scores of halibut as well. A few flatties were caught from the wharf itself last week, but the big fish honors go to Glenn Larson for his 34-pound hog halibut caught on a live mackerel from an undisclosed location. Burrell also reports that stripers are still biting in that area, including two caught yesterday from the Wharf by an angler using live sardines under a bobber. One was "schoolie sized," and the other weighed in at 16 pounds.

Don't miss your chance to see what fishing used to be like in our area streams. Tonight at 7:30pm, the Rio Theater will feature "Rivers of a Lost Coast," a documentary that features stunning historical footage of the San Lorenzo and other coastal rivers. Going back 50 years, the filmmakers document the tremendous anadromous runs of yesteryear.