

Fish Rap: Summer action heating up for anglers
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School is out, summer vacation is under way, and we live in a beautiful place. If you love to fish it's an even better place to be, as albacore, halibut, rockfish, ling cod and striped bass continue to provide excellent opportunities for anglers around the Monterey Bay area.

Even fresh water fishing opportunities are abound as the waters warm, trout are replaced by bass and blue gill.

At Loch Lomond reservoir, Chris Sulots, a ranger, reported, the water temperature is 71 degrees, and visibility is 14 feet.

Said Sulots: "We weighed in a 4 pound trout this week, although trout fishing is slow, bass and blue gill fishing has been improving."

Visitors are not allowed to bring their own boats to Loch Lomond this year. Rentals are usually available as the crowds are down this year.

Loch Lomond is a beautiful place; the blue gill bite will continue to improve through summer, keeping the kids interested in fishing.

West Lake Pond on the upper Westside of town produced some hot action for local anglers.

Mark Gavasee said, "My boys Nick, and Cody caught and released a few nice blue gill and a 2-pound bass while fishing with worms." Mark and his boys were fishing there on Tuesday morning and saw many other bass roaming the shoreline.

In salt water things are getting exciting, with reports of most species coming in. Albacore scores have been coming into Santa Cruz as boats fish 70 miles out are catching 5 to 20 albacore a

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trip when the weather cooperates. Albacore fishing should improve as the warm water gets closer to shore and the ocean gets calmer.

Ken Stagnaro, aboard the Velocity, had a great report.

"We got limits of rockfish the past two trips," he said.

Stagnaro has been fishing along the Davenport coast catching yellow, brown and vermilion rockfish.

In Capitola, Ed Burrell reported, "The halibut bite is really good. Most boats are catching 1 to 3 fish with even higher scores coming in."

The big halibut of the week was a 35-pounder.

Most anglers are going out and catching live sardines for bait. Ling cod and rockfish are also coming in and keeping anglers' interest up.

On beaches from New Brighton to Moss Landing, surf casters are still catching perch and the occasional striped bass.

The key along the beaches is to put in your time. I hope you are able to get out fishing and enjoy the outdoors and the company of a fishing friend.

-- Mike Baxter