

## The Chumline

The official publication of the Ventura County Sportfishing Club September 2015  
Ventura County Sportfishing Club, [www.vcsc.info](http://www.vcsc.info)

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### October Meeting

The Ventura County Sport Fishing Club will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, October 6th at 7:00 PM at Marisco's Cancun Restaurant, 1070 E Ave De Los Arboles, Thousand Oaks.

### September Meeting

The Ventura County Sport Fishing Club held its regular meeting on Tuesday, September 1st at 7:00 PM at Marisco's Cancun Restaurant, 1070 E Ave De Los Arboles, Thousand Oaks. Our guest speaker was Caitlin McGarigol, a graduate student at the Shark Lab at Cal State Long Beach. Ms McGarigol gave an exciting talk about research she is doing on catch and release of Calico bass. As a result of her research, she has demonstrated that calico bass are excellent candidates for a catch and release fishery. They are tough, recover from the trauma of a catch in less than a day, and have very low mortality from such captures. Ms. Marigold expressed the continuing need for financial support for her and similar grad students research. Donations can be made via the internet at <https://beachfunder.csulb.edu/project/5441979014bdf730ac00e5e9> in donations from \$25.00 and up.

### Current Fishing Conditions

The water is warm, yellowtail, bass, bonito and barracuda are mixed in with the normal rockfish. San Diego boats overnight are getting yellowtail, yellow fin and dorado, with an occasional wahoo. The long range boats are hitting wahoo in record numbers as the warm water has brought them north.

### Fishing in Alaska, 2016

The club is once again organizing a trip to Kingfisher Lodge, Sitka, Alaska. We have two boats reserved, eight anglers, to fish July 29 through August 2nd. Fly July 28 and August 3rd. Trip cost is \$2975 plus Sitka sales and room taxes and Sport fishing licenses. A deposit of \$500 is required by October 15th, 2015. Contact Wayne Jackson at 805-531-9412 if interested.



Wayne Jackson with Sitka halibut

### **Christmas Party update**

The club is finalizing planning for the annual Christmas Party. The party will be held at the Banquet Center of Thousand Oaks, same as last year. The date is set for Tuesday, December 8th. Final details of menu are being worked out, but it will feature an Italian flavor, versus the traditional turkey. As in the past, members are invited to bring appetizers or desserts to complete the evening. Ticket prices will be \$15.00 per person, and as always, a wealth of raffle prizes will be offered.

### **Elections coming**

Annual elections of officers is coming at the November meeting. Nominations for President, Vice President, secretary, treasurer, membership, charter master, and four members at large are open. Any who wish to nominate or serve, contact any board member.

### **Fishing on the Independence**

Dave Hill, former member, Daryl Neher, and myself went on a seven day trip on the Independence from September 12th through the 19th. We met Scott Williams at the dock coming off the previous trip. Scott indicated fishing was so-so, a mix of scattered wahoo, smaller tuna and yellow tail, with dorado on kelp paddies on the trip home. With this report, we boarded for what was expected to be a lot of boat riding, with fishing mixed in. Boy were we wrong.

We traveled all day Saturday and Sunday morning. Mid-afternoon Sunday, we arrived at Bonitos island. We started to troll around the southern end of the island and were rewarded with an almost immediate wahoo strike. I got into the action, snagging a nice 40 lb'er on a bomb. (The bomb was trashed as a result.) We picked up eight wahoo the first day, plus a couple of yellow tail and 201 yellow fin tuna.



### **First day wahoo**

That evening, we anchored up. After dinner, I decided to see if I could snag a bigger yellow tail with a dropper loop. So I broke out my 60 lb outfit, set up a dropper loop and gave it a try. I ended up landing a 20 lb yellow tail, nice but not quite the size I

was hoping for. A second try resulted in a big bend followed by a break off. Bummer, 60 lb line busted. Try again, same result, break off after big rod bend. This is getting old. By then, a couple of other guys had landed some larger black sea bass, 100 lb's and up. After third break off, I went to 80 lb outfit. Big bend, but no break off, and up came a black sea bass, about 75 lbs, which I released. Next try was even more exciting, really big bend, really tough fight. Finally after going half way around the boat, I told Billie, the deck hand with me, if it is a black sea bass, doesn't matter about JP, I am going to release it. Sure enough, it was a really big, over 200 lbs, black sea bass. After getting it to the surface, I drug it back to the stern where the line was cut, a deck hose was used to revive the fish, and it was released and swam away. I quit for the evening, enough of this folly.

After resting on anchor overnight, we began trolling after breakfast. The wahoo were out there and hit like crazy. The bite lasted most of the morning, with Dave, Daryl and myself picking up some more.



**Dave with morning wahoo**

The bite slacked off so we settled down on a large school of yellow fin tuna. The fish were in the 20 to 50 lb class, and one could catch as many as you wanted, within the limit. I might point out, the Independence enforces Mexico's bag limit of 30 fish by issuing 30 tags to each angler. When you are out of tags, you are limited out, so go sit in the galley!

After a break on the yellow fin, we fired up again to see if there were any more wahoo willing to bite. I picked up one on the troll, and had asked Tommy (another deck hand) if there were any anglers without a wahoo. He didn't know, but said he wanted one. On the next jig stop, I went back to my old favorite wahoo jig, a Tady A2 chrome and blue wired up. I hooked into a real line ripper, stripping off the 100 yd top shot and quite a bit of the spectra backing. Daryl had hooked a smaller one on bait so he and I did a couple of dos-si-dos's to keep the lines clear. After Daryl brought his in, I was able to get mine into gaff. He was easily over 50 lbs, which I gave to Tommy.



### **Last wahoo**

At sunset, we headed for Cedros Island. The wind had picked up, running 15 to 20 knots. The wind really did knock the bite off at Cedros. We spent the day prospecting, getting a few yellow tail, but no really big bite opened up. We then began fishing various rocks looking for yellow tail. Often, we would set up, hook up half a dozen, then get blown off and have to reset. I ended up with seven, average weight of around 17 lbs, most on yoyo jigs, but a couple on fly lined bait. I tried several times with top water jigs and swim baits, but no luck on these efforts. The ones on top were only on the chum line, thus off limits to tossing jigs.

For the last day, we worked our way up, hunting dorado on kelp paddies. Due to the wind turning the water over, this was pretty frustrating. We hit one kelp where a large number of free swimmers were seen, but only two bothered to bite. In the end, I got two, both around five pounds.

The final tally was really impressive, 95 wahoo, over 500 yellow fin tuna, over 150 yellow tail, five black sea bass, 2 white sea bass and around a dozen dorado. With a limit of 810 fish, we ended up with over 750 fish. The wahoo ranged from mid thirty's to a JP 72 lb'er.

### **Wahoo, what works and why**

Wahoo are ambush predators, and their favorite attack is from the side, cutting the target fish in half. When trolling for wahoo with marauders, the fish grips the jig from the

side, and as he starts to release, since marauder is not a fish, the water pressure from the trolling speed drives the hooks into the fish. With a wahoo bomb, the body is actually the skirt material, putting the hook either directly into the mouth, or driving it into the side of the mouth. For larger jigs such as Raiders or Tady A1's, the wahoo dog bones the jig and then begins to release it. That is why the deck hands always implore you to turn the handle. By continuing the retrieve while the fish is running with the jig in his mouth, then releasing it, you drive the hook into the fish. For a size comparison, a Tady A1 or Raider body is six inches, a Tady A2 is 5 3/4 inches and a Tady 6 is 5 1/2 inches. The bigger jigs may be a bit more visible, but the smaller jigs make getting a hook set easier.

### **Cooking your catch**

This month, we will fix broiled rock fish with a northwest style marinade

- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1/3 cup soy sauce
- 1/2 tsp fresh grated ginger

Marinate the fish for 2 hours or more in a sealed bag in the refrigerator. Pre-heat the broiler. Place fish on a greased baking sheet and place approximately 3" from broiler. After about 3 minutes, turn fish to finish cooking. Total cooking time should be around six minutes.