

The Chumline

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Editor: Norman Rodewald 805-523-8355 VCSCchumline@aol.com

January Meeting

The Ventura County Sport Fishing Club will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 8th at 7:00 PM at Brendan's Irish Pub and Restaurant, 495 N Ventu Park road, Newbury Park. Our guest speaker will be Tucker McCoombs, owner and operator of the Outrider sport fishing boat. Tucker is one of the top skippers in the area, fishing locally out of Hooks Landing during the winter and 22nd St during the summer and fall. Tucker will discuss prospects for this year's fishing in local waters.

Holiday Party

The Ventura County Sport Fishing Club held its annual Holiday Party at the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge. Approximately 55 members and guests were treated to a catered dinner from Wood Ranch of Moorpark. We had as entertainment, Ira Nepus giving us a treat of a mix of jazz, swing and pops with his trombone, with a guitar backing. Linda Brinkman accompanied Ira's performance with a series of photos from significant events in Ira's career ranging from his first yellow tail to his role in the opening of Disneyland in Japan.

A presentation of a Life membership was given to former club president Nick Nickson. Nick has been a long time club member and led us for several years as we grew. We all appreciate Nick's long commitment to the club.

Brendan's upgrade

Brendan's upgrade allowed us to move into their back room. We had much more space and were treated to a great reduction of outside noise. The upgrade continues this month with the addition of a set of double "barn" doors to allow even more noise reduction. For those of you put off by the past noise and crowded conditions, both problems have been significantly reduced.

2019 Charter Schedule

Charter master Stan Greco has been hard at work nailing down charters for the upcoming season. Last year was a difficult year, with weather blow outs early, which led to reschedules and cancellations. We cannot predict the weather, we can only hope for a better success rate. We anticipate trips will be on sale at the January meeting. As always, a reservation requires a 50% deposit.

Current Fishing Conditions

Almost all fishing is closed in the Southern area, south of Point Conception. Open seasons include sand dabs and surface species, but the annual two month rock fish closure is in effect. The Pacific Marine Fishing Council recently announced that they were going to increase the allowable take on rock fish, noting that Bocacio among other species had shown significant recovery. There will be further meetings on the subject in April and June. This points to potential for changes loosing regulations for 2020.

Alaska 2019

Once again, there will be an Alaskan trip to Kingfisher Lodge, Sitka Alaska. Trip is scheduled for July 21-25, fishing 22-24. We have two boats, 8 slots, six filled. Richard Campos is charter master, contact at 805 377-1295 if interested.



Tackle tips

Understanding a little bit about monofilament and fluorocarbon lines and test ratings. There has been much debate about lines, line test etc. There are basically two different ways to rate lines. The first seems straight forward, put it under load and record the average breaking strength. The second is to take line that consistently breaks at or above a specific load and measure its diameter. Then use this diameter as the basis for line rating. Different manufacturers use one or the other method for their lines. IGFA line ratings means that the line breaks at a load specified. That means IGFA line will often be of narrower diameter than non-IGFA rated lines even from the same manufacturer. It also means that a given line may break at as much as 20% above its test rating.

There are a couple of other issues to address. First is castability and second is abrasion resistance. These two seem to be somewhat related. Lines with good abrasion resistance tend to be stiffer, which means that they also retain their coiled shape so when cast, produce several loose coils building up on the spool.

So what to do? When I rig a reel for jigging for rock fish, I use spectra in the 50lb class to which I put on an approximately 10 foot monofilament leader. The line I choose will be fairly stiff, worthless for casting, but great for abrasion resistance. For my general reel topshots that I intend to cast, I like Ande and Izorline, both being relatively softer which makes them cast well without big coils of loose line on the reel. Here I have a 75 to 100 yd topshot attached to spectra backing, 50-65 lb rating.

How about casting spectra. Here, the issue is really touchy. If you have never cast spectra line, it may be difficult to learn. There are two issues that differ from mono. First some spectra lines tend to stick to the reel, thus come off in a jerky fashion. I have not found this problem with some really soft spectras, one being Daiwa's J Braid, but have had this problem with some Power Pro lines. Second is the dreaded backlash, or for the more experienced, the professional overrun. The lines that tend to come off in a jerky

fashion exhibit this more often. And of course, the backlash is a spectra knot to be untangled.

Cooking your catch

This is a quick baked fish in tomato sauce, great with rock fish, ling cod or halibut.

- 2 6 oz fish fillets
- 1 cup tomato sauce
- 2 TBSP white wine
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 lemon halved
- salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 375

Place fish in oiled baking pan. Season with salt and pepper.

combine tomato sauce, wine and oregano. Cover fish with sauce. Squeeze half lemon over fillets. Cover with aluminum foil. Bake for about 15 minutes. Serve with other half of lemon cut into wedges.