

The Chumline | January 2024

The official publication of the Ventura County Sportfishing Club
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January Meeting is postponed.
Next meeting on **FEBRUARY 6**

Tucker McCombs | Tuesday, FEBRUARY 6

The Ventura County Sportfishing Club will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 6 at the Alamo Bar and Grill, 2311 Borchard Road, Newbury Park at 7:00 PM. Our guest speaker will be Tucker McCombs, owner of Ventura Harbor Landing and operator of the Endeavor. Tucker will provide insight into the changes to regulations and the upcoming season.

Current fishing conditions

Essentially we are in the three month, January through March shutdown for most local fishing. The rockfish season locally is April 1st to September 15 all depths. September 16 to December 31st 50 fathoms and deeper. San Diego boats are hitting remnant blue fin and yellowtail as the season winds down in southern waters.

Club charter schedule

Stan will be providing a new schedule shortly, as he lines up boats for the new year. Expect similar schedule as last year. Pricing not yet determined, but the shocks of last year are not expected, since the reduced season and increased wage rates have been in the system for a year now.



Another quality ling cod

Bart Hall Show Returns

The big Bart Hall annual fishing and hunting show at the Long Beach Auditorium returns January 25th through 28th. This year promises to be better than last, with more of the regular tackle companies and travel sites represented as well as the retailers. Many of the long term suppliers like Avet, Daiwa, and Okuma have committed for the show. CCA is offering a bargain, sign up for the new year and get an entry ticket plus a goody bag, total value estimated at \$70.

Coast Guard Inspections

As many of you are aware, the dive boat fire out of Santa Barbara has triggered a major change in Coast Guard attention to the sport fishing fleet. Several of you volunteered to demonstrate safe exit capability aboard the Endeavor. Similar drills have been done on most of the rest of the fleet during their annual inspections. Also, many of you may have noticed some wiring changes for smoke detectors on boats. They are now wired so that a zone display is available in the bridge to show the source of the alarm. There are numerous other issues which are still being resolved including passageway width and galley exits. It is all dedicated to making our fishing experience safer.

Tackle Tips

With the winter repair and refit for the season, and dream of new equipment, time to cut through some of the manufacturers hype. When you look at reel specs, look at max drag at strike, inches of line retrieve per crank, and line capacity at the line weight you will be fishing.

First, max drag at strike for lever drag, or max drag for star drag and spinning reels. The rule of thumb is the maximum drag setting to use is 1/3 the breaking strength of the line. So a reel with a max drag of 9-12 lbs is nominally a 30 lb class reel. With this rule of thumb you can quickly get to the right weight class for a reel.

Next, reel gear ratios. Do you really care if it's 5.3 or 6.2? Not really. What you want to know is how much line you are bringing in per crank. That determines whether it will pull jigs for speedsters or kill you if you have a heavy fish fighting on the end of the line. For fishing, you need to address how you intend to use it.

The Avet Sx has a 5.3 gear ratio. What is really important is that small reel spool size means you are only getting 30 inches of line per crank. So it is nowhere near enough for pulling jigs for speedsters like yellow tail but is good for bait fishing. Going up in size to an Avet Hx at 5.8, you're now bringing in 46 inches per crank, nearly 4 feet!

Similarly a Daiwa Sealine X HV 40 has a 6.2 ratio, and again the same 46 inches per crank. So the 5.8 and 6.2 really aren't different in terms of how fast the line comes in per crank. Some basic rules of thumb, 30-36 inches of line per crank gives you good leverage over the fish and makes for a good bait reel. 42-48 inches of line per crank, a high speed jig reel and expect to get beat up on a heavy fish, hence many of the newer high speed reels are 2 speed.

Finally, line capacity. This is an area that is really shameful. The manufacturers have cleaned up some on conventional reels, many giving realistic mono and spectra numbers for line in the right weight class for the reel. But for spinning reels, it is still abysmal.

Most often for salt water spinning reels you will see capacity for 10, 12 and 14 lb mono, with numbers for spectra for 30, 40 and 50. For a mid size salt water spinning reel with a max drag of 17 lbs, you would expect to fish around 40 lb line. But sure enough, you get capacity for 10, 12, and 14 lb mono. Here, you have to do a lot of guess work if you are using mono. If you are going spectra with a short mono leader, you probably can get a good estimate.

Cooking your catch

This month we will do an easy baked rock fish fillet

2 -4 to 6 oz rock fish fillets
½ cup mayonnaise
½ tsp powdered mustard
Juice of 1 medium lime
½ cup bread crumbs
Salt and pepper to taste



- Preheat the oven to 400 deg.
- Mix mayonnaise, mustard and lime juice in a small bowl.
- Place fillets on a greased baking sheet.
- Sprinkle salt and pepper over the fillets to taste.
- Cover each fillet with mayonnaise mixture.
- Sprinkle bread crumbs evenly over fillets.
- Bake for 15 minutes or until done, (easily flakes with a fork).

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