

The Chumline | February 2025

The official publication of the Ventura County Sportfishing Club
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Visit our website at: <https://vcsc.info>

WEDS, FEB 5th | 6:30pm

The Ventura County Sportfishing Club will hold its regular meeting at the Flat Fish Brewing Company, 126 Wood Road in Camarillo.

Come early and join us for dinner and drinks. Our meetings are free & open to all fishing enthusiasts! Our guest speaker will be Merit McRea, Saltwater Editor for Western Outdoor News. More info: [click here](#)



FROM YOUR VCSC CHARTER COMMITTEE

As of January 30, 2025 - The interest in this year's charters has been great! Trip one, with Daniel as the Skipper on the Island Spirit is almost full - we only need two more. Daniel spoke at our January meeting, and we could all see that he is an outstanding skipper. The boat holds 49, but we are limiting the load to half that, 25. We have 23 signed up, so if you have a buddy you want to take, email the club at venturacountysportfishingclub@gmail.com and reserve your spot. The cost is \$180. We have several lady anglers on this trip. It is a great group!

- Charter 2 on the Endeavor is full, but you can get on the waitlist for any of the charters. .
- Charter 3 on the Mirage has one open spot.
- Charter 4 on the Mirage has 6 open spots
- Charter 5 on the Endeavor is full.
- Charter 6 on the Island Spirit has 13 open spots
- Charter 7 on the Endeavor is full.

We have not started to collect money for the charters, but we will soon. Rick (our treasurer) will begin sending out emails with payment instructions. You can Zelle or send a check. Better yet, see Rick at our February meeting and give him a check. Merrit McRae is a great speaker, and there will be an outstanding opportunity drawing.

NEW / UPDATED CHARTER PAYMENT POLICY

The club leaders agreed on a payment policy that would streamline the process and not overly burden the chartermaster with last minute cancellations to fill – or expect the remaining fishers to share the balance due of someone cancelling. Here it is:

- 30 days prior to the trip, you must have full payment.
- 45 days prior to the trip, we will start taking payment.
- At 30 before the trip, if you are unable to go, we expect your help filling the spot. We will try to fill the spot from the landing
- Any questions. Please talk to Rick Lane

CURRENT FISHING CONDITIONS / FISHING REPORTS

The annual rock fish closure is in effect through March. Local boats are going through clean up and retrofit for the upcoming season. The San Diego fleet has made a few trips for Rock fish and scattered yellowtail in Mexican waters. The log range fleet is concentrating on big yellow fin tuna at Hurricane Bank.

REGULATION CHANGE FOR SAND BASS

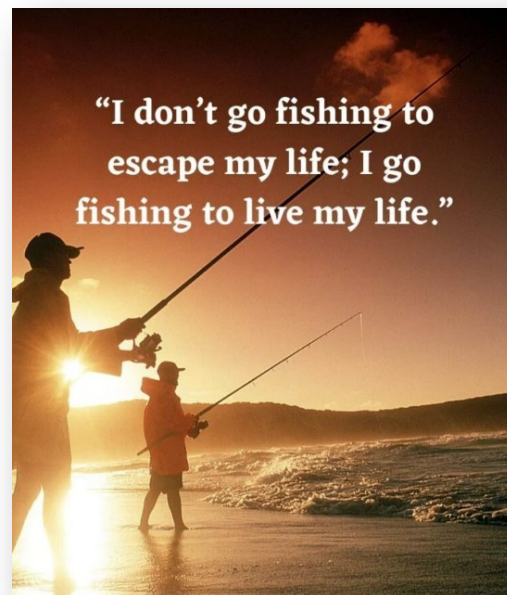
The California Fish and Game Commission will consider a proposal to restrict further or close altogether the taking of Sand Bass. The current regulation includes Calico Bass, Sand Bass and Spotted Bay Bass as a single unit. The daily bag limit is 5 fish total, minimum length 14 inches.

The various options will break Sand Bass out of this with a possible no take limit during critical spawning season of June through August. Other options are no take altogether or some significantly reduced daily limit.

Sand Bass traditionally spawn at Huntington Flats and the Rincon in early to mid-August. It was normal to take a local boat out in August, spend a couple of hours at the Rincon and get near limit of Sand Bass. Then when the Humboldt Squid arrived, they destroyed the Sand Bass spawn at both Huntington Flats and the Rincon in 24 hours. The Sand Bass population has never recovered from that massacre.

The CCA has organized a protest against the proposed closure. Their argument is that catch counts do not accurately reflect the population and there is no scientific calculations on the status of the Sand Bass population overall. Both arguments are true, but to me are not convincing. First, catch counts cut both ways. Several years before the Calico Bass bag limit reduction and minimum size limit increase, I reviewed a scientific paper which stated the Calico Bass population was in steep decline, but the catch totals were stable because skippers were fishing areas which were previously ignored because of weather or current difficulties. And as predicted, the failure to take action at that time led to an almost total collapse and today's bag limit restrictions.

Second, the gathering of population data takes sampling over a significant period of time and the precipitous decline in catch totals over past few years indicates immediate action is far more prudent. At worst case, it will allow population recovery closer to historic levels prior to the Humboldt Squid attacks.



BART HALL SHOW FEATURES

Jan. 30-Feb. 2, 2025 at the Long Beach Convention Center
Seminars / Stage 2: Main Stage (Accurate Fishing Tackle Stage)

Schedule:

Captain David Bacon

Topic: So you want to be a fishing captain?

- Saturday, February 1, 2025: 1pm
- Sunday, February 2, 2025: 1pm

Brian Nguyen* "The Cigar A'Fishin'ado"

Topic: The Science And Mechanics Of Efficient Fish Fighting

- Saturday, February 1, 2025: 2pm

Captain David Bacon

Topic: Bounce balling for halibut

- Saturday, February 1, 2025: 3pm
- Sunday, February 2, 2025: 3pm

James Kikkawa*West coats jiggerz

Topic: Rap Session: Intro to slow pitch jigging on sports boats

- Saturday, February 1, 2025: 4pm

KID'S TRIP / DONATE!

The club has its heart on sponsoring a "kids trip" and now with restrictions on raffles – we will be relying on donations. If everyone donates at each meeting, every little bit will help.

At our meetings, we discussed ways to fundraise for the kid's trip. IF you want to be part of a fundraising committee just for that event, let us know!

COOKING YOUR CATCH

White Sea Bass with Orange-Fennel Relish

Fresh on the palate. Slightly licorice flavors from the fennel combine with citrus of the orange juice to provide a wonderful springtime or summer dish.



INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil**
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice**
- 1 tablespoon fresh orange juice**
- ½ teaspoon grated orange rind**
- ¾ teaspoon kosher salt, divided**
- ¾ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, divided**
- 1 (12-ounce) fennel bulb**
- 1 cup fresh orange sections**
- ¼ cup thinly sliced red onion**
- 2 ounce halved castelvetrano olives (about ½ cup)**
- 4 (6-ounce) white sea bass fillets**
- 1 ½ teaspoons butter**

1. Combine first 4 ingredients, ⅛ teaspoon salt, and ⅛ teaspoon black pepper in a medium bowl, stirring with a whisk. Remove fronds from fennel bulb; chop fronds to measure 2 tablespoons. Remove and discard stalks. Cut fennel bulb in half lengthwise; discard core. Thinly slice fennel bulb. Add sliced fennel, orange sections, onion, and olives to orange juice mixture; toss gently to coat. Stir in fennel fronds.
2. Heat a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Sprinkle fish evenly with remaining ¼ teaspoon salt and remaining ¼ teaspoon pepper. Add butter to pan; swirl until butter melts. Add fish to pan; cook 4 minutes on each side or until desired degree of doneness. Serve with relish.

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