

VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB



Dec
2025



CHUMLINE NEWS



click on the play button to see it snow!

[SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER](#)

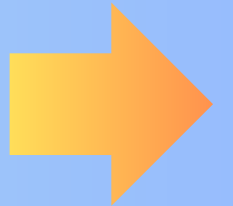
*to navigate between pages, click "anywhere" on the page you are viewing

Welcome to our “**new**” online “**magazine style**” newsletter

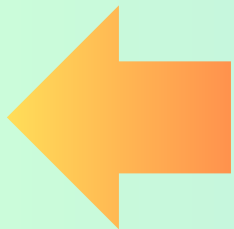


How to view each page:

“Click” on the right side to go to the next page.



“Click” on the left side to go back. Easy peasy! Enjoy!



[WWW.VCSC.INFO](http://www.vcsc.info)



president's tackle box

Well, 2025 is coming to a close... the last item up for the VCSC is our [Holiday/Christmas Party](#).... on Weds, Dec 10th ~~ Yippee!

At this time the party is “FULL” with a guest list of 60 persons!

If you want to be on a waitlist ~~ please email Art at: iorart4431@gmail.com

The party should be a very fun time. We already have lots of cool raffle prizes and it is always a great evening with delicious food, live music and members socializing all night long!

Then our first meeting for 2026 will be [Weds, January 7th](#), so put that on your calendar.

Our Charter Committee is still finalizing the [2026 schedule](#), so charter sign-ups won't open until the VCSC meeting on [Wed, February 4th](#).

If you want to lock in a spot on one of our 2026 boats, be sure to attend that meeting—otherwise, you may end up on the waiting list

That is about it for now - short and sweet. See you on December 10...!



Chuck Brinkman IV, VCSC president

**Merry
Christmas
&
Happy
New Year!**





Holiday Party is full.
To be waitlisted email Art
by clicking here

VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

venue change



take note:
JANUARY Meeting

“BLACK BEAR DINER”

2401 E Harbor Blvd

Ventura, CA 93001

club meeting

Presentation: To Be Determined!



JAN
07



WWW.VCSC.INFO

WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 07, 2026

As part of our agreement with Black Bear, all attendees are expected to order at least one food item and one beverage from their reasonably priced menu.

Location:

BLACK BEAR DINER

2401 E Harbor Blvd
Ventura, CA 93001

5:30-6:30 – Dinner & Social Time

6:30 – Meeting Starts which includes:

Club Business / Drawing & Speaker's presentation



ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY!!
Dec 10, 2025 > SOLD OUT!!!
BellRinger Brewing Company

2026 Meetings > [click here](#)

January 7 - To Be Determined

February 4 - Tucker McCombs & charter signups

March 4 - Aren Antounian > more info March 4

More info on our website: www.vcsc.info



2026 CHARTER
SIGNUPS

FEBRUARY 4TH MEETING

CHARTER DATES FOR 2025

- ALL charters have concluded.
- Thank you to all who participated in these club outings!
- Looking forward to more in the 2026 season!



THANK
YOU



***Thank you to Bob Semerau
for a wonderful
November meeting at the
Black Bear Diner in Ventura!***

***Bob gifted us with all sorts
of giveaways – especially
the Western Outdoor News
subscription giveaways,
tackle, mono-line and other
angler items! Wow!!***

VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

courtesy post

**WALT JOHNSON SINATRA
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SPECIAL
FEATURING MICHAEL FALCONE**



**SATURDAY, DEC 6 - 8-11 PM
THE GRAPE 2733 E MAIN ST, VENTURA, CA
TICKETS: [HTTPS://THEGRAPEVENTURA.COM](https://thegrapeventura.com)**



Ira Nepus

&



Michael Falcone

at "The Grape"

in Ventura on

Dec 6th





MONTHLY CLUB MEETINGS

Meetings are where we share the technical aspects of sportfishing with speakers who educate and inspire us!

We talk about upcoming charters, gear, line, bait, lures – and have a great social time together with like-minded people!



CLUB CHARTERS

Members have access to book “club charters” with limited loads with our own club Chartermaster overseeing the organizational process of each charter especially for first timers!

[CHARTERS, LEARN MORE](#)



PEOPLE PERSONS

Being on charters with super NICE and HELPFUL people! Have a question while on a charter? Ask any club member for help!

Being on charter with people with good temperaments and manners can “make or break” a fishing trip



BOTTOM LINE We are fishing fanatics!!

WE share our love and passion for sportfishing – you will KNOW that when you see us in action on the deck, lines in the water, fish on, fish on the deck!

[MORE INFO](#)

JOIN THE CLUB, BOOK A CHARTER – AND GET HOOKED FOR LIFE! > [CLICK HERE](#) TO LEARN MORE OR TO JOIN!



TARIFFS ON FISHING GEAR WHEN TRAVELING TO MEXICO

Report submitted by VCSC leader, Norm Rodewald on 11/8/25 > [READ ONLINE](#)

We need to tell members that are planning to go fishing in Mexico (Cedros Island or Cabo for instance) that there are new tariff regulations.

A tourist is allowed to bring in four fishing sets (rod and reel) tax free. All rods and reels over the four-set limit are subject to a 19% tariff.

So, a \$1000 Accurate ATD will result in a \$190.00 tax. Fishermen arriving at Cabo to go big game fishing have been hit with bills over \$500.

** Doing more research with “Ai” more information has been gathered. Read on . . .

Yes, in addition to the VCSC report, recent updates confirm that Mexico enforces a 19% import tariff on fishing gear exceeding four rod-and-reel sets per tourist. This policy is part of broader tariff reforms affecting recreational equipment and sportfishing gear.

Mexico's Fishing Gear Tariff Policy (2025)

- **Tax-Free Allowance:** Tourists may bring up to four fishing sets (rod and reel) into Mexico without paying tariffs.
- **Tariff Rate:** Any additional rods or reels beyond the four-set limit are subject to a 19% import tax.
- **Example:** A \$1,000 reel like the Accurate ATD would incur a \$190 tariff. Anglers traveling to Cabo or Cedros Island have reported tariff bills exceeding \$500 for high-end gear.

Broader Tariff Context

- **Aluminum Tariffs:** Mexico has implemented 10–25% tariffs on aluminum imports, which may affect fishing reels and accessories made from aluminum.
- **De Minimis Entry Rules:** While products under \$800 in value may qualify for tax exemption under de minimis rules, enforcement varies and may not apply to sportfishing gear.
- **Sportfishing Industry Impact:** The American Sportfishing Association (ASA) has flagged these tariffs as disruptive, especially for anglers traveling with specialized equipment.

Travel Tips for Anglers

- **Pack Smart:** Limit your gear to four rod-and-reel sets to avoid extra fees.
- **Declare Honestly:** Mexican customs officials are actively enforcing these rules, especially at popular sportfishing destinations like Cabo San Lucas.
- **Consider Shared Gear:** If traveling with a group, coordinate gear to stay within limits.
- **Stay Updated:** Tariff enforcement and exemptions may shift, so check with your charter operator or local consulate before traveling.

2026 CHARTERS REGISTRATIONS / SIGN-UPS WILL TAKE PLACE AT OUR FEBRUARY 4TH MEETING.

**YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THIS MEETING ...
if you want to get your spot on one or multiple
charters that the club will be setting up.**

If you are on the fence about signing up, that's okay, but know that some of the charters fully book out at this meeting and then a waitlist is created.

Tucker McCombs will be our speaker at the February meeting and you can then ask Tucker or Rick our charter master all the questions you would like to ask in regards to the upcoming charters.



DAY CHARTERS

There will be some day charters too! Sometimes it's nice to just be on the water for the day, especially for some of us working types.

New for 2026: Ladies' Charter Day!

We're excited to introduce a special "Ladies' Charter"—a fun and welcoming day on the water designed to bring more of our gal-pal besties into the sportfishing experience. To support newer anglers, we'll likely invite 2–3 of our male members to join as onboard guides, offering friendly help and fishing tips throughout the trip. If the first charter goes well, we'll coordinate with a boat and open up additional spots for anyone interested in joining future outings. Please take this short poll so we can plan > [click here](#)

LADIES CHARTER? – WHO’S INTERESTED?

CALLING ALL LADIES!

[Click Here](#)

I’m Cece Rubin, your club webmaster and newsletter creator. Last season, I joined a charter with two other women—and while I love hanging out with my fellow sportfishers, it was refreshing to have ladies onboard!

Now we’re planning a same-day “ladies” or “mostly-ladies” charter—early in the season to test interest. If it’s a hit, we’ll book more!

Same-day means no overnight gear, lower cost, and a perfect intro for first-timers. The boat departs around 4–5am and returns by 4pm.

Before the trip, we’ll also host a Zoom session to go over gear, fishing licenses, what clothing to bring, when to arrive if you need to rent gear or purchase an ocean-fishing license, what to expect on the water, and to help everyone get to know each other.

We are hoping to extend the invitation to female friends (non-club members) and/or wives, of club members to join in on the fun!

Interested? [[CLICK HERE](#)] to answer a few quick questions!

WHITE SEABASS GROW-OUT PEN REPORT

The pens are currently empty. We expect the next delivery of fish in March 2026. We are still in the planning stages of the facility rehabilitation, so please keep an eye on your email for upcoming announcements.

CHANNEL ISLANDS YACHT CLUB – ANGLERS AWARDS LOBSTER DINNER & FUNDRAISER

On November 8th, the CIYC Anglers Club held our Annual Anglers Awards Lobster Dinner. This year, the event also served as a fundraiser for the White Seabass Pens. We were fortunate to obtain locally caught California Spiny Lobsters, which helped make the event a sold-out success. Thank you to everyone who helped, donated funds, or contributed raffle items. We had a large selection of fun items for both the raffle and the auction. Many of the larger items were generously donated by the Coastal Conservation Association of California.

A special thank-you to Lisa Reaume, our CIYC Director-Elect, for managing the collection and presentation of the raffles and auctions. CIYC Director John Canavan stepped in at the last minute to serve as our auctioneer.

ANGLER RECOGNITIONS

- Big Fish of the Year: Mike DeSart
- Ladies Fishing Tournament Winner: Kelly Sherwood
- Men's Fishing Tournament Winner: Henry Rankel
- Sportsman of the Year: James Glass, Commodore-Elect for 2026

EVENT CREW APPRECIATION

As always, the Cooking Crew—Bill Magee, Frank Sullivan, Shelly Berger, James Glass, John Canavan, Dan Estabrook, and George Hornberger—did a yeoman's job preparing and serving the meal.

Thank you as well to Sharon Sullivan, Erika Barbaric, and the table-setting crew for creating such a pleasant atmosphere.

FUNDRAISING RESULTS

The fundraising portion of the event was a success.

- Net proceeds from the dinner: \$3,824.00
- Additional donations received afterward: \$1,050.00

Combined with the Anglers account savings, this should be sufficient to complete the rehabilitation of the White Seabass Grow-Out Pens.

We will be calling a pre-construction meeting before the end of the year. If you have construction skills or are willing to help, please let me know.

FRANK SULLIVAN

Grow-Out Pen Volunteer Coordinator
Channel Islands Harbor
805-205-4073 | <https://wp.me/pfcuIQ-JB>

VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

newsletter photos



Our members FISH and we like to share their adventures here in our monthly newsletters!

**Email your images, with names and info on your trip to:
vcsc.webmaster@gmail.com**



Here's Aaron with two White Sea Bass. Also on that trip was Richard Hartman, Rubin, Richard Osuna and myself. This was on the Coral Sea out of Santa Barbara. The boat hit limits of WSB.

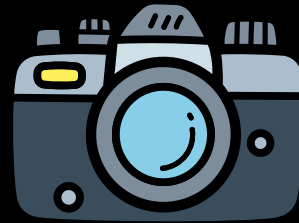
This was the only trip that I fished with club members this year. - Shane Busickio



**Kim Miles showing off this beautiful catch!
Lake Champlain Lake Trout
Burlington, Vermont, 9/7/2025**

🐟 Big Thanks to Kim for Supporting Our 2026 Kid's Trip Auction! ~ We're incredibly grateful to Kim for donating a Shimano TYR30II Tyrnos 2-Speed Lever Drag Conventional Reel (Right Hand)—fully loaded with 50 lb. braid and a 40 lb. mono leader—to support our 2026 "Kid's Trip Auction."

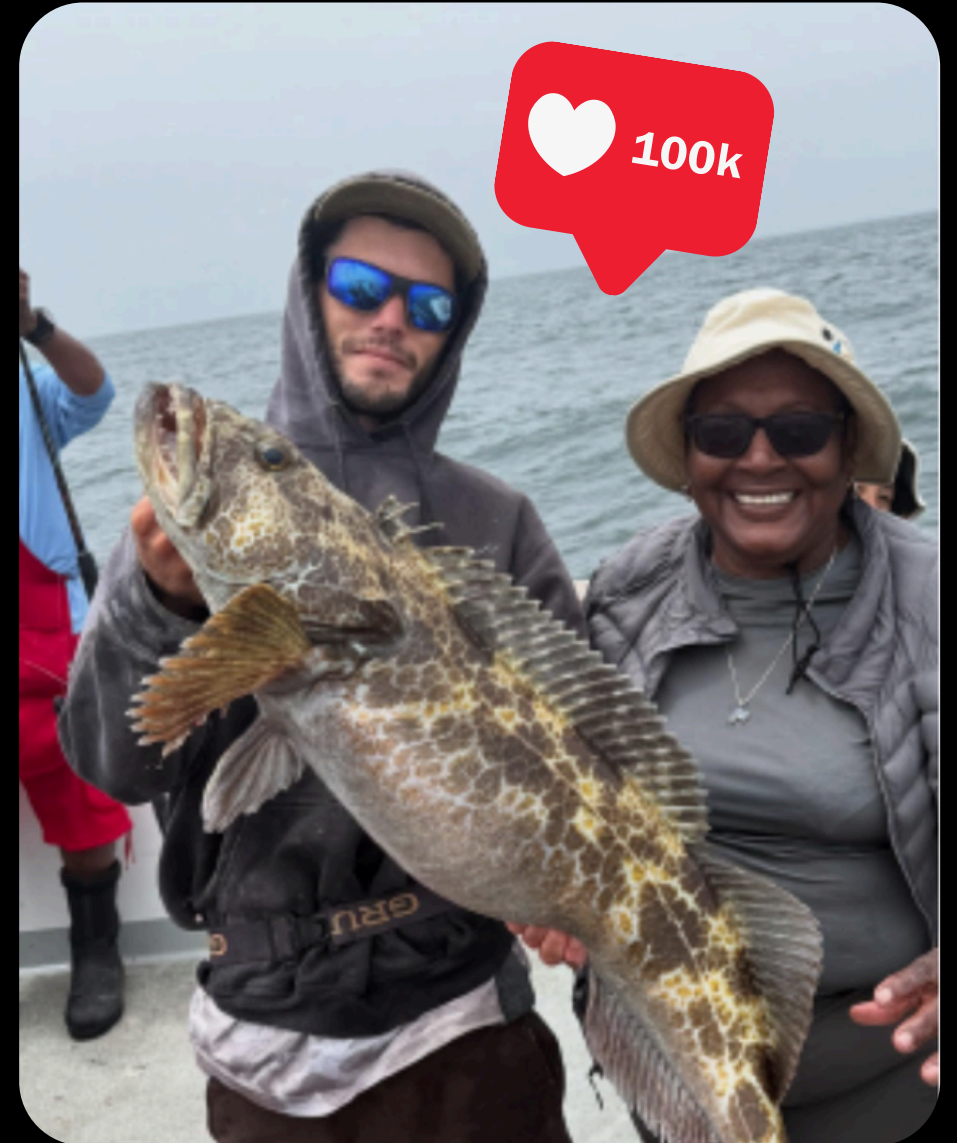
Thanks to generous contributions like this, we're thrilled to offer a day-fishing adventure for underprivileged children aboard the Californian. That is what our club is all about!



KIM MILES

On the Coral Sea
Stardust Sportfishing
Santa Barbara

July 28, 2025
Captain Rafa
Accurate reel and rod





ROBERT GROEBER

**Catches eagle in flight
while on a Catalina
vacation in July 2025!**

**The seagulls are
not very happy!**

**Click on the play
button to view!**



ROBERT GROEBER

These are from our vacation in July at Catalina with my grandson Kaito Yoshioka and son Travis

The family that fishes together stays together!





“Man can learn a lot from fishing - when the fish are biting no problem in the world is big enough to be remembered.” ~

Orlando Aloysius Battista





*"If I fished only
to capture fish,
my fishing trips would
have ended long ago."
~ Zane Grey*





*Bob Semerau's
White Seabass
Bounty on the "New
Hustler & Aloha Spirit!"*

wOW



GOOD TIMES

*Rock Fish and White
Seabass trophies.
Dinner's going to
be a good one!!
- Bob Semerau*



150-pound halibut Sitka, Alaska



Halibut Heaven!!
Left: Bob's 150 pounder!
Right: Bob & our favorite
captain - Tucker McCombs





250-pound
yellowfin tuna
caught at
Puerto Vallarta,
Mexico



Bob's 250 lb tuna and
sneaking in a
fly-fishing trophy Pyramid
Lake Lahoutan Trout -
a 15.3 pound "beast!"



VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

newsletter photos



Photo credit: Robert Groeber



***Christopher Waite's 8 day
trip on the Red Rooster III***





“ Christopher's Red Rooster II trip & beautiful sunset. A great day!



VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

newsletter photos

Alijos Rocks, off the coast of Baja, where we fish on the 10 day trip



Photo credit: Christopher Waite



WHOA

*Ira Nepus' photo from
a trip to Nicaragua*

*Sierra Mackerel and
Jack Crevalles*

*Note: Ira will be sharing his
jazz musical talents with
Michael Falcone at our
December Holiday Party!*

VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

newsletter photos



Our moment of "ahhhhh" ~ Loreto Sunrise - Walt Kainz



Rhanny
Hufalar
at
Royal Star





John White is one of the most prolific sports fisher in our club!

100



John White!



Casual business on the Endeavor





The club's founding member Brian Zimmer man sent these photos of Molly's amazing catch!

Check out the Acorn article that followed!



NEIGHBORS

Westlake great-grandmother reels in trophy fish off Canada coast

■ 89-year-old resident snags jumbo 4-foot halibut in B.C.

By Eamon Murphy
eamon@theacorn.com

It sounds like a proverbial fish story, but it's true: an 89-year-old woman from Westlake Village caught a more than 62-pound halibut—just shy of the size limit for keeping—off the northern Pacific coast of Canada this summer.

Molly Zimmermann reeled in and boated the jumbo catch with the help of her husband Brian, 88. The couple, coming up on 61 years of marriage, were at the start of their 37th fishing trip to British Columbia's Queen Charlotte Islands when Molly felt her line stuck on something that would take almost an hour to haul in.

"It can be very rough, and I get seasick sometimes," Molly said. But this particular first day, July 26, was "calm and beautiful," she recalled, "so we said, 'yes, we'll go out to the lighthouse.'"

Originally from England, the Zimmermanns have lived in the Westlake Trails neighborhood since 1974. On their annual trips to the fishing lodge on Langara Island, they still ply the waters

in their 19-footer.

"They keep saying that we're too old to go out alone in a boat, but we know what we're doing," said Brian. As a new arrival in America in the 1960s, he got a job as a Fuller Brush salesman before working his way up, eventually becoming a cosmetics executive. Molly worked as a secretary at an insurance investigator's office.

Having set out late in the morning, the Zimmermanns were a long way from the lodge when Molly hooked into what they first believed to be a piece of seabed debris. "It was pretty deep there, probably 200-feet deep at least," she said.

Brian moved the boat this way and that, trying to release the line.

"He said, 'Oh, we were probably stuck on a rock or seaweed, and that's what you're pulling up because it's heavy,'" Molly said. "So I wound and wound and wound, and then I got tired, and I said, 'You've got to wind some.' So he wound and wound and wound, and we just thought we had pulled up a lump of coral."

Molly pulled on the rod with its unknown weight when Brian told her to slow down. "He said, 'Oh, yes, you've got a little fish, it must have hooked into a rock as well, being so difficult to



[CLICK HERE](#)



Courtesy photo

CATCH OF THE DAY—Molly and Brian Zimmermann stand pleased with their jumbo catch, which weighed in at a whopping 62.5 pounds.

— Please See Page 13



*Rick Lane's WSB!
Richard Hartman
geared-up
ready to go!*



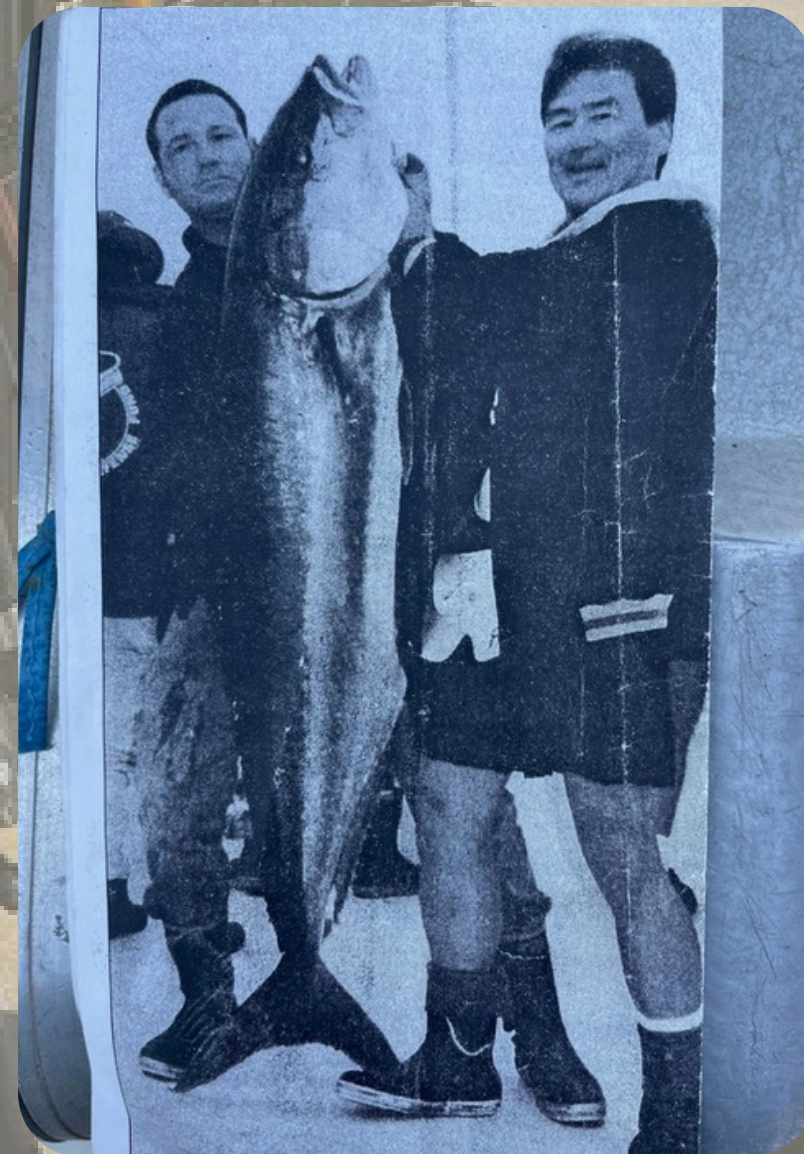
VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB
"TWO DODOS" - IRA NEPUS



newsletter photos



“
IRA & SAL!!
88 pound yellowtail
on the Shogun. (Right)
”



VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

IRA'S NORMAL ARSENAL
FOR A HALF DAY TRIP



newsletter photos



BLAST FROM
THE PAST
CHUMLINE ISSUES

Left
Tyler's first
yellowtail aboard
"the Grande"

Right:
Michael Falcone
and son Marcello

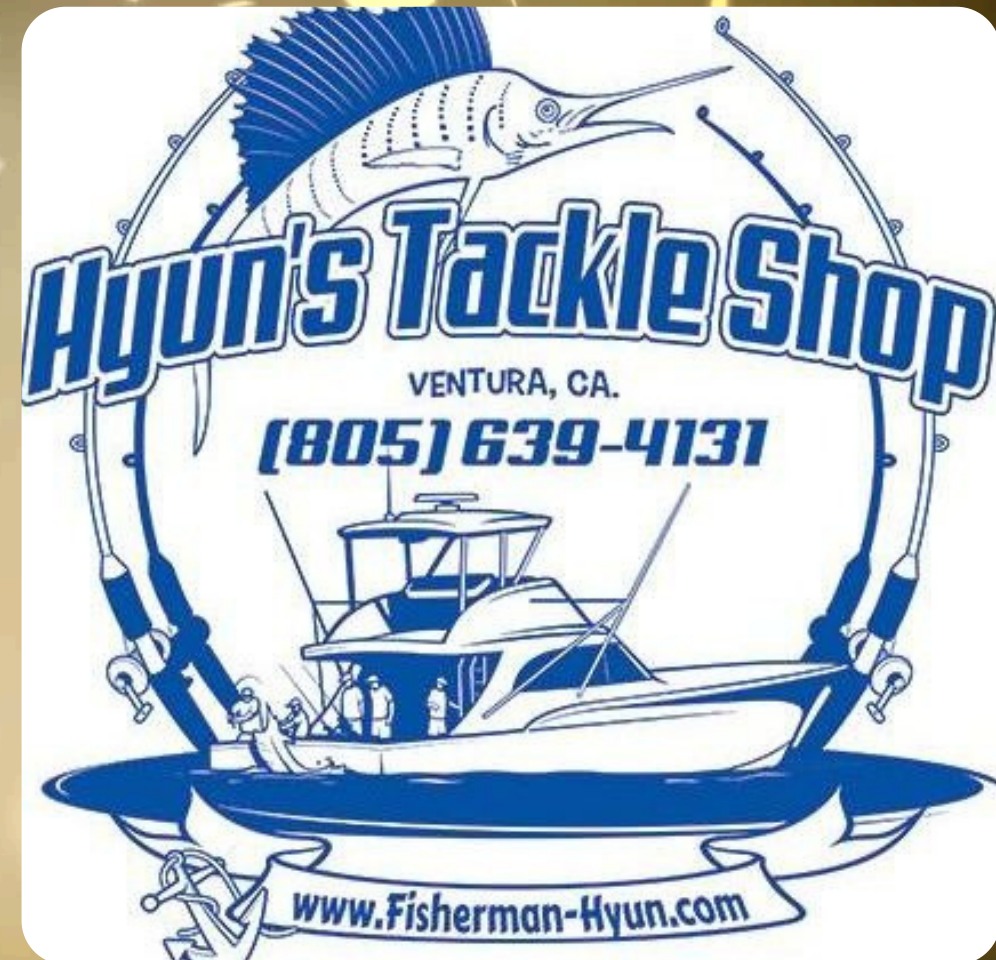


VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

thank you!

**A BIG THANK YOU TO
HYUN'S TACKLE SHOP
FOR DONATING GIFT
CERTIFICATES TO OUR
CLUB FOR THE KID'S
TRIP FUNDRAISER!**

www.fisherman-hyun.com





THE PERCEPTION OF THE 100-YARD CAST

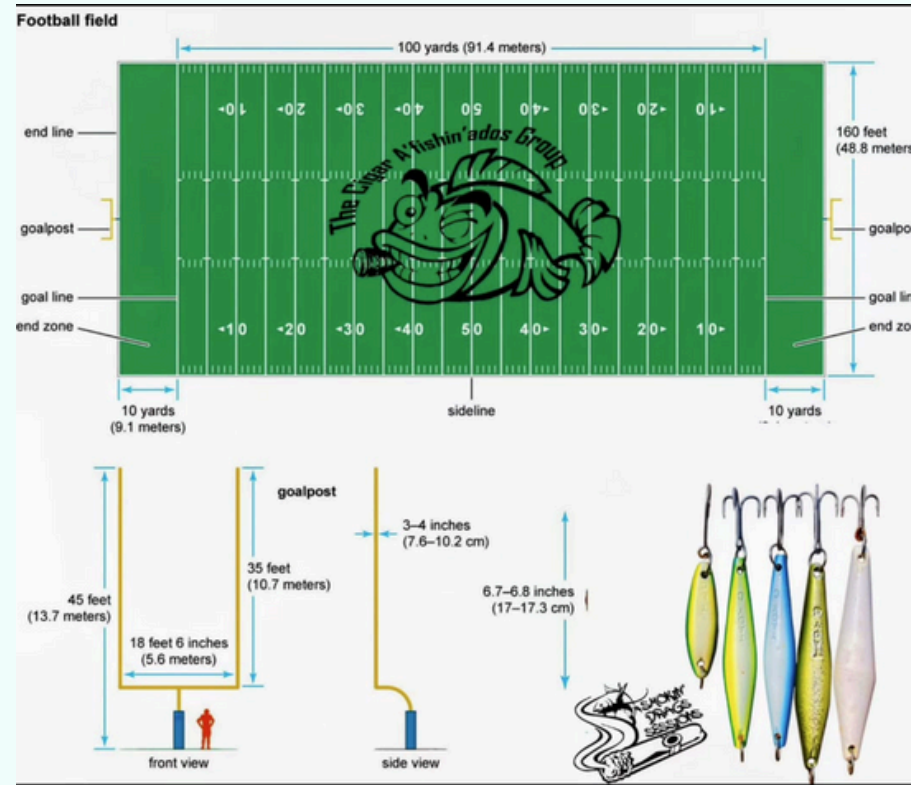


Brian Nguyen “the cigar afishinado”

Depending on how you look it,
it's either a lofty goal or easily achieved:
300 Feet = 100 Yards or . . .
100 Yards = 300 Feet

If your cast clears your 100-yard topshot, then for all intents and purposes, it should be a hundred yard cast. However, the only way this goes unchallenged is if you made your cast without altitude, and without arc... without a bow (slack) generated mid-air.

The amount of line out from the arc (altitude) of your cast impacts your overall distance. But bullet passes aren't conducive to distance in football, and bullet casts aren't conducive to distance in sportfishing. Taking body mechanics out of the equation, casting is about trajectory and the combination of forward momentum and arc.



Follow Brian on Instagram > [click here](#)

Using a laser range finder at my Surface Iron Casting Dynamics class, the average casting distance of eight students with a three ounce lure was 40.25 yards (120ft and 9in). Done with efficient body mechanics, delivered accurately to where the fish are, and without backlash; in practice on land or on the water, this a good cast. Is there room for improvement? Certainly. Do you want to improve? If so, are you willing to put in the practice time needed to improve? Million dollar questions.

"To each there comes during their trip a special moment when they are figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a very special thing, unique to them and fitted to their talents. What a tragedy if at the sight of terns diving and fish boiling, this opportunity finds them missing their target or picking out a backlash for that which could have been their finest hour."

PACIFIC COAST SPORTFISHING SHOW

TACKLE x BOAT

TRAVEL x OUTDOORS

PRESENTED BY

GEICO

Orange County - March 5-8, 2026

OC Fair & Event Center

88 Fair Drive - Costa Mesa, CA 92626

San Diego - March 19-22, 2026

Del Mar Fairgrounds

San Diego 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd, Del Mar, CA 92014



TURNER'S
OUTDOORS



www.vcsc.info

LINKS TO GREAT STUFF



[venturaharborsportfishing](#)



[endeavorsportfishing](#)



[royal_starsportfishing](#)



[brian & bob sands \(aran\)_podcast](#)
“Smokin’ Drags Session”



[bobsands tackle](#)



[ericstackleshop](#)



[islandspirit_805](#)



[californiasurffishing](#)



[hyun’s tackle,ventura](#)



[Angler’s Den, Camarillo](#)



Brian Nguyen
President

680 E. Colorado Blvd., Suite 180
2nd Floor #18001
Pasadena, CA 91101

(323) 376-2827
mhlis.com
briann@mhlis.com
Lic OK66784

The MEDICARE Open Enrollment Period is upon us! All the mail you've been receiving, and the calls you've been receiving....it's signature hunters - and I'm not! So what do I do?

First: No charge for conversation... No charge for consultation... Never any obligation...

Let Brian Nguyen, help you either find or create LONG-TERM MEDICARE SOLUTIONS for you, your Medicare eligible friends, families, or loved ones who have been blessed with 65 years or more on this Earth.

I standby ready, willing, eager, and able to assist! Thanks for your time and have a great weekend!
Ask me about MEDICARE! Visit mhlis.com for more information! -

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **FOUNDING MEMBER:** Brian Zimmerman
- **PRESIDENT:** Chuck Brinkman
- **PAST PRESIDENT:** Norm Rodewald
- **VICE PRESIDENT: OPEN**
- **SECRETARY:** Richard Hartman
- **TREASURER:** Rick Lane
- **MEMBERSHIP:** Art Hernandez
- **HONORARY MEMBER:** Wayne Jackson
- **CHARTER MASTER:** Rick Lane
- **MEETINGS/PROGRAMS:** Board Members
- **DRAWINGS:** Peter Syapin
- **MEMBERS AT LARGE:**
 - Ira Nepus, Matt Rubin, Norm Rodewald, Kai Lu
- **NEWSLETTER, Social Media, Website:** [Cece Rubin](#)



VISIT US ONLINE AT



[vcsc website](#)



[facebook](#)



[instagram](#)



[twitter.com](#)



[linktree](#)



Questions? Email us at:

venturacountysportfishingclub@gmail.com

Any problems with this newsletter? email Cece at: vcsc.webmaster@gmail.com