

# VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

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**MATT NEWMAN**



**JAN 07**  
[WWW.VCSC.INFO](http://WWW.VCSC.INFO)



January

2026

CHUMLINE NEWS



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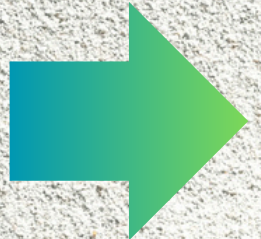




# Welcome to our “**new**” online “**magazine style**” newsletter

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!



## ***A Strong Finish to 2025***

2025 was an excellent year for the club, capped off by our Holiday Party at The Bellringer Restaurant in downtown Ventura. Restaurant Manager Dan White and his team prepared a wonderful buffet dinner, and our members showed their appreciation with generous contributions to the tip jar.

We also sold a remarkable number of raffle tickets, with all proceeds supporting our annual kid's fishing trip—a tradition we're proud to continue.

## ***Membership on the Rise***

The club now has 80 members and continues to grow, thanks in part to our social media outreach and The Chum Line, our monthly newsletter prepared by club member Cece Rubin.



## ***January General Meeting***

**Date:** January 7, 2026

**Location:** Black Bear Diner, Ventura

**Guest Speaker:** Matt Newman, owner of iRods.

Kick off the new year with us as Matt shares insights from his work in rod design and innovation.

## ***February Meeting & Charter Signups***

**Date:** February 4, 2026

**Location:** Black Bear Diner, Ventura

**Guest Speaker:** Tucker McCombs, owner of Ventura Sportfishing.

This is a meeting you won't want to miss. Our charter master, Rick Lane, will begin taking signups for this year's club charters. We have seven trips scheduled for 2026, and spots tend to fill quickly.

**Art Hernandez, VCSC president**



VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

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meeting location



***take note:***  
JANUARY Meeting

**“BLACK BEAR DINER”**

2401 E Harbor Blvd  
Ventura, CA 93001



## VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

# club meeting

## MATT NEWMAN



## JAN 07



[WWW.VCSC.INFO](http://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**





## MONTHLY MEETING - WEDNESDAY January 7, 2026

**Special Guest Speaker: Matt Newman** is the founder and owner of iRod, a California-based fishing tackle company known for its innovative bass rods and swimbait designs.

He's a longtime competitive angler who turned his passion for fishing into a business, creating rods that blend lightweight performance with input from professional anglers

Our meetings are free and open to the public! You just need to purchase a meal/dessert of food item and a beverage. Easy Peasy! [www.vcsc.info](http://www.vcsc.info)

### Location:

**BLACK BEAR DINER**  
**2401 E Harbor Blvd**  
**Ventura, CA 93001**



**\*\* Right off the 101-Ventura freeway!**

5:30/6:00 – Social & Dinner  
6:30 – Club Meeting & Speaker  
8:15 – Wrap up



## 2026 Meetings > [click here](#)

January 7 - Matt Newman - iRod

February 4 - Tucker McCombs & charter signups

March 4 - Aren Antounian > Bob Sands Tackle

April 1 - to be determined

May 6 - to be determined

June 3 - to be determined

## CHARTER DATES FOR 2026

- Charters will be listed soon.
- All dates on the website are “tentative”

More info on our website: [www.vcsc.info](http://www.vcsc.info)



**2026 CHARTER**  
**SIGNUPS**  
**FEBRUARY 4TH MEETING**





## VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

# appreciation

**HEARTFELT “THANK YOU” TO CHUCK BRINKMAN FOR HIS YEARS OF LEADERSHIP, DEDICATION, AND STEADY HAND AT THE HELM OF THE VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB.**

**HIS COMMITMENT AND CONSISTENCY STRENGTHENED THE CLUB’S FOUNDATION AND HELPED ENSURE ITS ONGOING VITALITY.**





**🎀 Cancer Awareness Event & Auction Honoring JoAnn Morse**

**There will be raffle's and silent auctions.**

**This is a family event so kids are welcome to come.**

**Event organized by**

**Mike Armenta (Turner's Outdoors) & [Mission Fish USA](#)**

 **Date: Saturday, January 24, 2026**

 **Time: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

 **Location: [MadeWest Brewing Company](#)**

**1744 Donlon St, Ventura, CA 93003**

**\*\* Mike Armenta will attend our January meeting  
and club members can donate in person at that time!**





# VCSC - 2026 board members

## **FOUNDING MEMBER**

BRIAN ZIMMERMAN

## **PRESIDENT / MEMBERSHIP**

ART HERNANDEZ

## **PAST PRESIDENTS**

CHUCK BRINKMAN

NORM RODEWALD

## **VICE PRESIDENT**

JOHN WHITE

## **SECRETARY**

RICHARD HARTMAN

## **TREASURER / CHARTER MSTR**

RICK LANE



## **MEETINGS/PROGRAMS**

BOARD MEMBERS

## **NEWSLETTER**

CECE RUBIN

## **DRAWINGS**

PETER SYAPIN

## **HONORARY**

WAYNE JACKSON

## **MEMBERS AT LARGE:**

IRA NEPUS

ROBERT GROEBER

KAI LU

MICHAEL STAFFORDCRANE





## 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!**





## **2026 CHARTERS REGISTRATIONS / SIGN-UPS WILL TAKE PLACE AT OUR FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup> 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!



VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

# newsletter photos



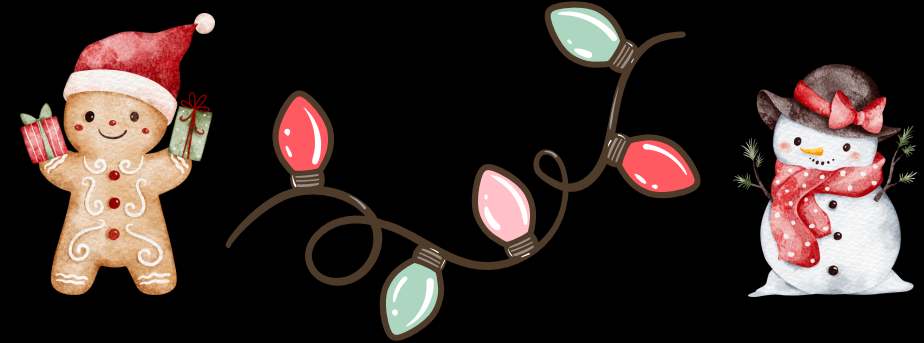
**Our members FISH and  
we like to share their  
adventures here in  
our monthly newsletters!**

**Email your images,  
with names and  
info on your trip to:  
[vcsc.webmaster@gmail.com](mailto:vcsc.webmaster@gmail.com)**





Images by Rick Lane (thank you!)



**The holiday part was a HUGE success  
being hosted at he Bellringer  
Brewery in Ventura.**

**Thank you to those who helped in  
every way to organize and make it a  
success!**

**Wishing everyone a Happy New Year!**





**Thank you Michael & Marcello Falcone for the music!**



































## *A Special Thank You*

**to Walt & Do Kaintz!**

**They provided the gorgeous table flower arrangements that brought a festive & classy tone to the holiday event!**

**Did you know that Do made the arrangements? What talent.**

**Again - thank you to the Kaintz'!**





*A Sweet Filled - Thank you ....*

**to GINA & MICHAEL STAFFORDCRANE  
for the gorgeous cake that celebrated  
Gina's birthday and was shared with the  
whole club at the holiday party!**

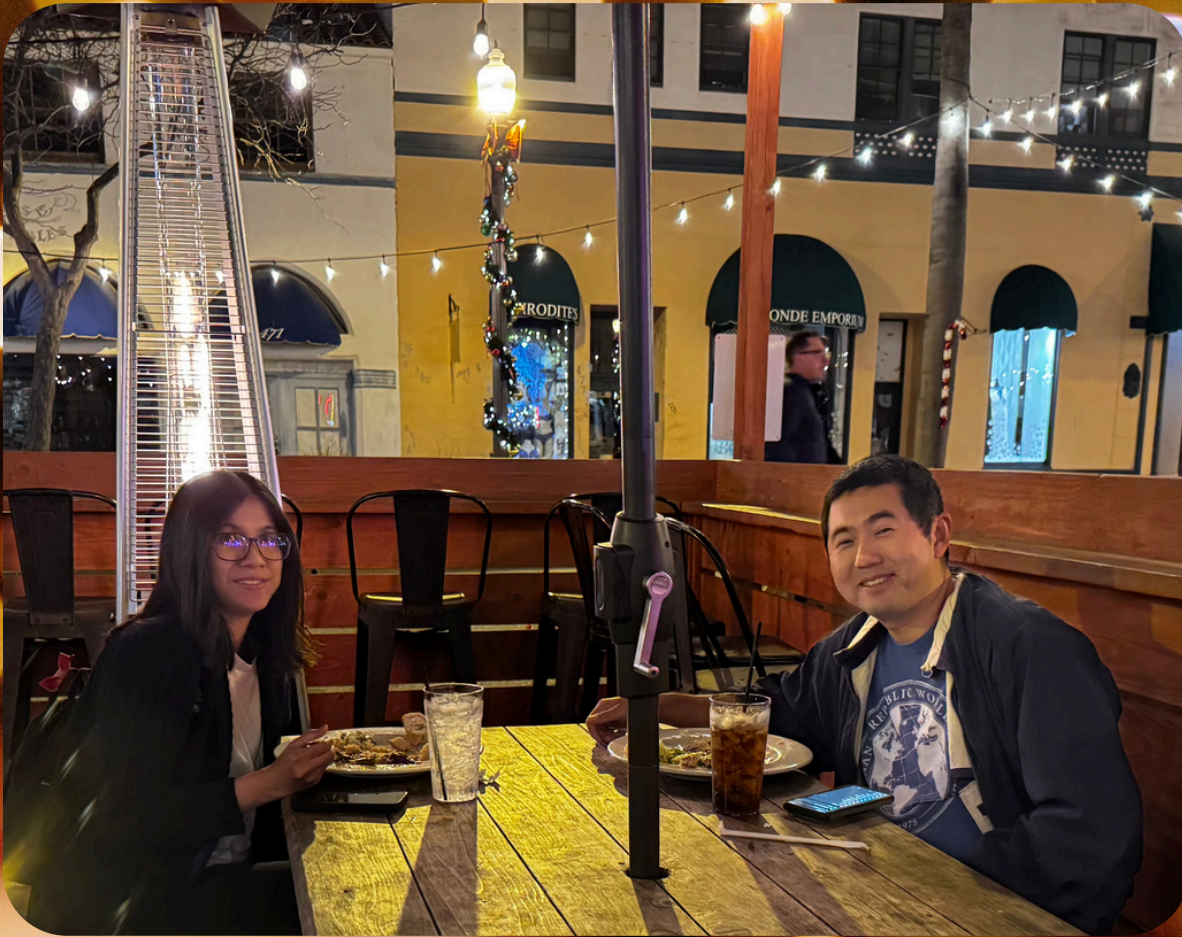
**If anyone wants to know, it was baked by  
Whole Foods - and they know how to  
bake a cake and create a work of art!**



































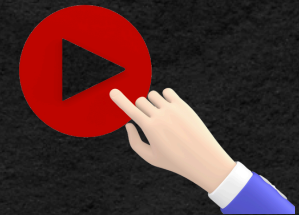
[Watch video on YouTube](#)

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Check out Tucker McComb's  
YouTube video - that'll be a  
GREAT TEASER for the  
upcoming 2026 charters!  
Sign-ups for the charters  
will be at our February  
meeting - don't miss it!

Click on the "play button"







## LEFT: Matt Newman “on the meat!!”

COME HEAR MATT - Wednesday January 7, 2026

VCSC Monthly meeting - Matt Newman is the founder and owner of iRod, a California-based fishing tackle company known for its innovative bass rods and swimbait designs.

He's a longtime competitive angler who turned his passion for fishing into a business, creating rods that blend lightweight performance with input from professional anglers.

5:30 – dinner & social time

6:30 – meeting

The Black Bear Diner, 2401 E Harbor Blvd, Ventura, CA 93001

More info > [click here](#)





VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

Richard Osuna – Sunday, December 28, 2025

These beauties were caught on the Speed Twin Boat out of Channel Islands



## ALOHA SPIRIT FISHING REPORT

Just got off the Aloha Spirit for what may be her last trip here outta Ciscos unless she goes in the rain and wind tomorrow. She is Alaska bound to be converted to a six pack charter boat. The new to Cisco's Aloha Spirit will arrive in January, 65x20' with bunks from Bodega Bay.

We fished up the coast off Carpentaria shallow for limit style calico bass fishing with a smattering of sand bass, bonito, whitefish; apparently no one told the fish it's December!

After finishing off the calico limits we headed offshore towards the hump for some cod fishing, got sportier the further off the coast we went, picked off a few but was unfishable by early afternoon. Headed for home straight into the wind for a wet ride home! Travis (pictured right) got the JP calico at over 7 pounds!

Stay safe and healthy! Carpe Diem!  
Robert Groeber





VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

blast from the past!



**YUP! THAT'S OUR  
FOUNDING MEMBER  
BRIAN ZIMMERMAN.  
WHO ORIGINALLY COINED  
OUR CLUB'S MOTTO:  
"FISH WITH FRIENDS"**



VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

newsletter photos

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Santa Cruz Island – Channel Island State Park



Photo credit: Cece Rubin



VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

Santa Cruz Island – Channel Island State Park



Photo credit: Cece Rubin



# VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

## Ventura Harbor Christmas Boat Parade



Photo credit: Cece Rubin



# VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

## Ventura Harbor Christmas Boat Parade



Photo credit: Cece Rubin



VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

thank you!



**A BIG THANK YOU TO ERIC  
FROM "ERIC'S TACKLE"  
FOR DONATING TWO  
GIFT CERTIFICATES  
AS RAFFLE PRIZES!**

<https://www.wegetbit.com/>

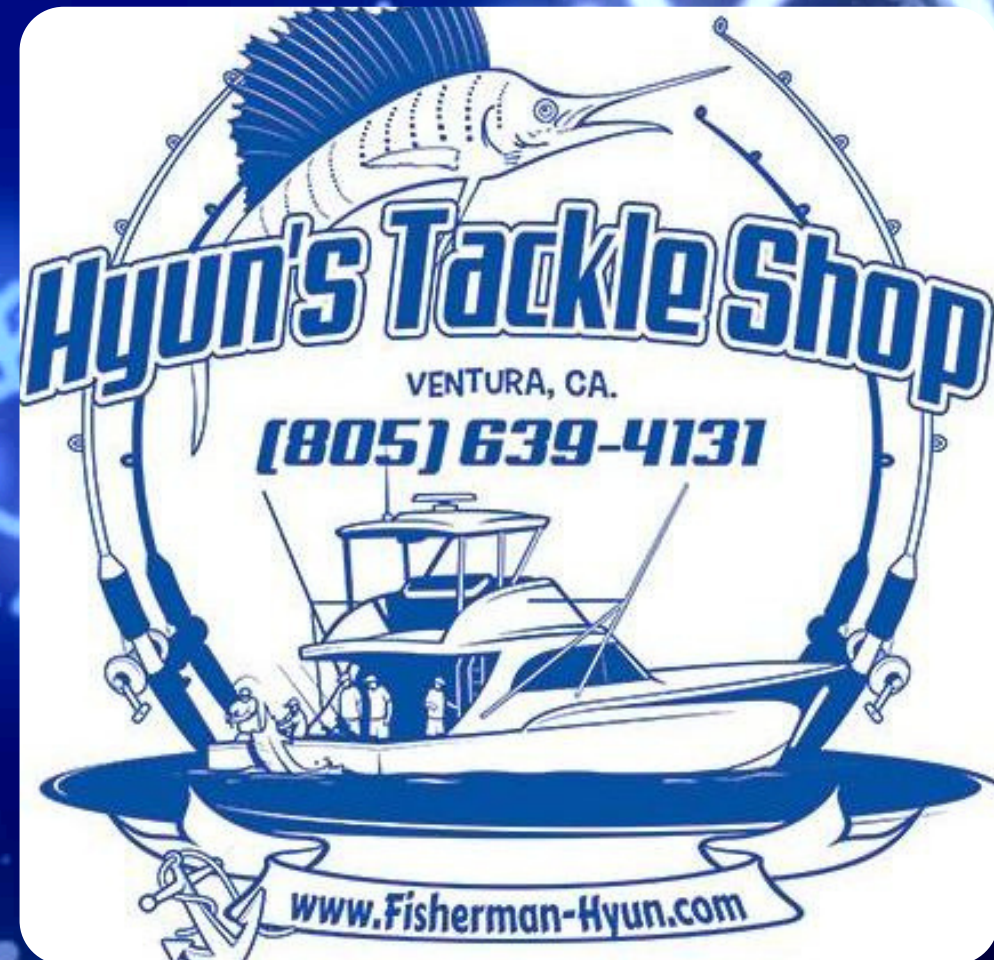


VENTURA COUNTY SPORTFISHING CLUB

thank you!

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

[www.fisherman-hyun.com](http://www.fisherman-hyun.com)







## Brian Nguyen “the cigar afishinado” & the “medicare guy”

### **FACT: IT HURTS TO LOSE A FISH . . .**

and it really stings to lose one in the end game. It may not be the cause of every lost fish, but a surprising number of heartbreaks can be traced back to one culprit: UNCONTROLLED SLACK LINE.

**UNCONTROLLED SLACK LINE** from other anglers crossing over your line while you're tight to a fish...

**UNCONTROLLED SLACK LINE** from not turning the handle fast enough when the fish charges the boat...

**UNCONTROLLED SLACK LINE** from not walking and winding—turning the handle while following your fish up and down the rail...

**UNCONTROLLED SLACK LINE** from relying too heavily on the low gear of your two-speed reel...

**UNCONTROLLED SLACK LINE** when you lift the rod too high against a circling fish...

**UNCONTROLLED SLACK LINE** from chasing your line while your fish is in its death spiral, letting it widen its circle...

**UNCONTROLLED SLACK LINE** from seesawing between tight, slack, tight, slack throughout the fight—often ending in a pulled hook...

**UNCONTROLLED SLACK LINE** from not following your fish...

Staying in front of your fish buys you more time to get out of trouble. Staying tight—more connected—to your fish boosts your hook-to-land ratio. And interestingly enough, your heart goes slack when you lose a fish...

**“Keep your spirit light, YOUR LINES TIGHT, and your goals in sight.”**

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



# PACIFIC COAST SPORTFISHING SHOW

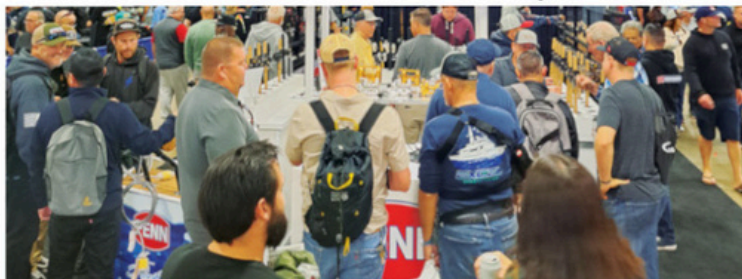
TACKLE x BOAT TRAVEL x OUTDOORS

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







## January's Recipe: Baked White Seabass with Lemon Herb Sauce Fish

Written By Camilla Lombard

Fast, fresh, and tasty, just like you!  
Photo by Sea Forager superstar Matt McElroy

### Ingredients:

- 1 lb white sea bass, cut into two pieces
- olive oil
- Chopped fresh herbs - any combo will do, but I like dill, mint & parsley. Use whatever's in season!
- 1-2 lemons, zest half of one and reserve the zest
- 6 Tbsp olive oil
- sea salt & pepper, to taste
- splash of white wine (plus more for the chef)

### [RECIPE LINK](#)

### Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 375
2. Put your beautiful fish in a baking pan with a drizzle of olive oil and a pinch of sea salt.
3. Put it on the middle oven rack and bake it for about 15-25 minutes, depending on the size and type of your fillets. Check after 15 minutes for doneness.
4. While the fish is cooking, make the lemon herb sauce: toss your herbs, olive oil, lemon zest and salt in a food processor and give it a whiz. Add olive oil and white wine until it becomes a thick but spreadable paste.
5. When your fish is cooked, plate it and spoon your sauce over the fish. The extra sauce goes great with roasted or boiled potatoes and greens of your choice. Add lemon wedges, and kiss the chef!



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH by Mikee Rijavec (rest in peace)

- Mikey or "Key" – A San Diego–based fisherman and content creator behind the SD Fish and Sips YouTube channel. Known for his positivity, adventurous spirit, and deep connection to the fishing community. Widely loved by anglers across Southern California and Baja for his generosity, humor, and passion for the ocean.
- Sad news that on Nov. 11, 2025, Mikey issued a mayday call while fishing solo about eight miles off Baja California, reporting engine trouble. His call abruptly cut off, and a massive search began involving the U.S. Coast Guard, Mexican Navy, local fishermen, private pilots, and volunteers. After five days of searching, Mikey's body was recovered near San Cristobal on Nov. 16, 2025. Tributes poured in across social media, fishing forums, and news outlets, reflecting the profound loss felt across the fishing world.
- He will continue to enrich other's lives through his YouTube channel. And this month we are proud to share his recipe for "Christmas Cioppino". Rest in peace Mikey.
- YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/CaVSjJM7Jsw>



[Watch video on YouTube](#)

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# LINKS TO GREAT STUFF



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[endeavorsportfishing](#)



[royal\\_starsportfishing](#)



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



[bobsands tackle](#)



[ericstackleshop](#)



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[californiasurffishing](#)



[hyun’s tackle, ventura](#)



[Angler’s Den, Camarillo](#)



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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](http://mhlis.com) for more information! -



## 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **FOUNDING MEMBER:** Brian Zimmerman
- **PRESIDENT:** Art Hernandez
- **PAST PRESIDENT:** Chuck Brinkman
- **PAST PRESIDENT:** Norm Rodewald
- **VICE PRESIDENT:** John White
- **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, Robert Groeber
  - Kai Lu, Michael StaffordCrane
- **NEWSLETTER, Social Media, Website:** Cece Rubin





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