

Chum Line



Good Sportsmanship is Worth More Than all the Fish in the Ocean DECEMBER 2023

*happy
Holidays*

A Message from the President

By Andrew Ratzky

Dear Fellow Anglers,

As December unfolds, I find myself reflecting on the incredible year we've had in our fishing club. The holiday season is here, and it's the perfect time to express my heartfelt appreciation to each member.

Your shared enthusiasm for sportfishing, the camaraderie on our charters, the time you gave during our swap meets, on the veteran's trips and the kid's trips, and the lasting memories we've created have truly defined this year.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our eagerly anticipated banquet on Sunday, February 25, 2024. Save the date! Invitations will reach you in mid-January, promising a celebration filled with stories, recognition of achievements, and our shared passion for fishing.

Wishing you all tight lines, joyous holidays, and a fantastic New Year!

Andrew Ratzky
President, Los Angeles Rod and Reel Club

Los Angeles Rod & Reel Club Foundation

Tribute Opportunity

Tribute Cards are available when you want to send your thoughts or feelings for

• Congratulations • Graduation
Anniversary • Illness • Appreciation
Best Wishes • New Home
Baby Announcement
Bar/Bat Mitzvahs
In Memoriam

Your LARRC Foundation is a
charitable organization.

Donations maybe deducted.

Tributes will be posted in the Chum Line.
Tribute cards will be sent to recipient.

Information Request and Donations may be
addressed to:

Mrs. Tammy Steinman
1941 Majorca Drive, Oxnard, CA 93035
818-987-2645 • 818-345-6104 Fax
tammy2508@socal.rr.com

EARN MONEY for LARRC Foundation By Shopping at Ralphs!



Here's How:

Step #1: Enroll in the Ralphs Reward Program if you are not currently enrolled.

Step #2: Print out this page and take it with you the next time you shop at Ralphs.


Step #3: At check-out, have the LARRC barcode swiped by the cashier together with your Ralphs Rewards Card/phone number.

Notice: The Ralphs LARRC Barcode needs to be swiped only once to link your Rewards Card to LARRC. Future shopping trips will help raise money for LARRC when you use your Ralphs Reward Card at check-out.


CONSERVATION MATTERS

By Theresa Labriola


To close out this year, I thought I'd focus on reasons to be cheerful and conservation successes witnessed this year. While many of us are mindful of the many challenges facing our oceans, there are many reasons to feel cheerful. This is a reminder to be curious about how the world can be better, and to ask ourselves how we can be part of that change.

 **The EU Just Banned Microplastics** - Microplastics, solid plastic particles up to five millimeters in size that are not biodegradable — are pretty much everywhere. They have been detected in over 1,500 different marine animal species. A blue whale can ingest about 10 million pieces of microplastics per day. They also find their way into our bodies via the water cycle and the food chain. In fact, the average person consumes up to five grams of microplastics per week. That's as much as a credit card. In a move to stave off further damage, the European Union has now banned intentionally added microplastics.

This will lead to changes in the manufacture of diverse products including cosmetics, artificial turf and tires. When combined with ecodesign guidelines, the EU will tap into the greatest potential for reducing microplastics - not producing them in the first place. Something to look forward to, for humans and blue whales alike. <https://reasonstobecheerful.world/microplastics-europe-ban-natural-alternatives>

 **EPA to Investigate Tire Chemical Linked to West Coast Salmon Deaths** - In the world of carbon offset trading, kelp is a The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced plans to review the use of, and consider prohibiting, the rubber preservative found in tires known as 6PPD, in response to a petition from the Yurok Tribe, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. The chemical 6PPD is a rubber preservative used in tires as well as other applications, such as playground flooring, shoes and synthetic turf infill. It makes the rubber more durable, the EPA explained. However, tires and other objects can shed small particles containing this chemical. Once in the water, this chemical proves acutely toxic to aquatic life, especially salmon. Chinook salmon, rainbow trout and steelhead trout.


"This is a victory for salmon and all species and people," the Puyallup Tribal Council said in a statement. "6PPD is a major and uniquely lethal threat to the health of salmon in urban streams on our reservation. Banning this chemical from tires will be hugely important in protecting fish. We thank the EPA for taking our concerns seriously. We will always act to protect the fish, the water and our lands." <https://www.ecowatch.com/epa-to-investigate-tire-chemical-linked-to-west-coast-salmon-deaths.html>

 **NOAA Fisheries Announce New Funding and Coordinated Action to Help Bring California Salmon Back from the Brink — More Than 40 Projects Planned** - NOAA and its partners are implementing dozens of projects to benefit endangered Central California Coast coho salmon. An unprecedented \$27.8 million has been awarded to bring Central California Coast coho salmon back

to California rivers. NOAA designated CCC coho as a Species in the Spotlight a due to its high risk of extinction. Trout Unlimited, the San Mateo and Tule River Resource Conservation Districts, and The Nature Conservancy will implement or design more than 40 projects over the next 3 to 4 years with these funds.


These projects will allow salmon to reach their historic spawning grounds by removing barriers and increase their survival rates by restoring degraded habitat and increasing floodplain access.

<https://goldrushcam.com/sierrasuntimes/index.php/news/local-news/51443-noaa-fisheries-announce-new-funding-and-coordinated-action-to-help-bring-california-salmon-back-from-the-brink-more-than-40-projects-planned>

 **Blue Sharks Find the Spotlight** - At the beginning of 2023, Oceana published a revealing study about the global catch of blue sharks estimated at more than seven million individuals. Blue shark make up a whopping 60% of all reported global shark catch and 36% of all traded shark meat. Forty-one percent of all traded shark fins come from blue sharks. The sheer volume of catch makes blue shark a high value industry. Oceana estimated the value of blue shark fisheries at \$411 million — which surpasses that of any of the prized bluefin tuna species served at high-end sushi joints. Despite this, international fishery organizations have few limits on blue sharks. The absence of comprehensive management procedures threatens the long-term sustainability for fishing and for maintaining populations at levels to perform their vital role in marine ecosystems.

This year, Wild Oceans joined several other ocean conservation organizations to call for the precautionary management of blue sharks. In the Atlantic, managers adopted new recommendations on total allowable catch and quota allocation for both the northern stock (30,000 mt) and southern stock (27,700 mt). While the limits don't reach the level of precaution and management needed, this is a step in the right direction and acknowledges the importance of managing the blue shark fishery for conservation.


<https://oceana.org/reports/bycatch-no-more-blue-shark-is-a-411-million-fishery-that-deserves-proper-management>

 **Federal Action Opens Fishing Areas After a 20 Year Closure** - In the early 2000s, large areas along the West Coast were set aside to promote the recovery of various species. The conservation areas allowed fish stocks inside their boundaries to rebuild, and act as nurseries for rockfish along the entire West Coast. Effective January 1, Amendment 32 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan:

- Reopens part of the Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area off California and Oregon, granting access to approximately 2,400 square miles of historically important fishing grounds that have been closed since 2002
- Removes Cowcod Conservation Area restrictions for non-trawl groundfish fisheries areas off southern California, opening roughly 4,600 square miles of historical fishing grounds to non-trawl groundfish commercial and recreational fisheries, previously closed since 2001
- Creates new closures to protect rebuilding yelloweye rockfish, groundfish essential fish habitat, and other sensitive areas, including

abundant coral and sponges

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/long-term-conservation-efforts-pay-rockfish-along-west-coast>

 **Millionth Spiny Superhero Released to Devour Hawai'i's Coral-Smothering Algae** - One million sea urchins have now been deployed to restore corals on an O'ahu reef. A non-native algae was introduced to Kāne'ohe Bay in the 1970s and found an ideal habitat with few natural predators. Like many invasive species, it ended up taking over. It smothered coral and blocked light from getting to them. Corals are the foundation habitat for many fish and other species. This essential fish habitat was being suffocated out, which can have a trickle effect for the ecosystem relying on them as a base.

Luckily, scientists identified a sea urchin native to the area with an appetite for invasive algae. The problem, though, was that there weren't many sea urchins at the site. To help boost the population, National Marine Fisheries Service and the State of Hawai'i partnered to grow and release these sea urchins capable of restoring damaged corals in Hawai'i. <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/millionth-spiny-superhero-released-devour-hawaiis-coral-smothering-algae>

Advertise Your Business or Service in the Chum Line

The monthly prices are as follows:

1/8 page: \$20 1/4 page: \$40
1/2 page: \$80 Full page: \$160

The page format is 8.5 x 11 with 3/4" margins all around

**One month FREE with 6 months of
paid advertising!**

Contact John Ballotti
johnballotti1@gmail.com

CALENDAR

Board Meeting

December 18, 2023

Via Zoom • 7pm

Please email the Club President for link information.

Dinner Meeting

NO DECEMBER DINNER MEETING

Annual Banquet

February 25, 2024

Message from the Editor

Dear Fellow Los Angeles Rod and Reel Club Members,

I hope this letter and Chum Line finds you well and ready for the holidays!

Thank you to all the contributors this year who shared their stories, photos, memories and adventures. I really must give big thanks to Theresa Labriola who continues to write our "Conservation Matters" section. We are so lucky to have someone who gathers all the information on what is going on and has their finger on the pulse of these important issues. Thank You Theresa!!

Thank you Barry Cohn for your monthly adventures. I hope everyone was able to enjoy and feel the thrill of those fish.

The biggest thank you goes to Debbie Norris, our graphic designer, the lady who makes the Chum Line the amazing newsletter you receive in your email each month. I wouldn't be able to do this without her. Cheers to another year and many, many more.

Things have been different this year for everyone, and I know many didn't go fishing as much as they would have liked. It's ok though. Our love of fishing, tackle, boat rides, boat burgers or burritos and the sea is what keeps this Club and our friendships going. I hope 2024 is better and you can fish more or target that elusive fish. Or if not, know we are all here for each other. It is always great to see fellow club members at the Club events. With our Annual Banquet in February, or volunteer to lend a hand on one of the Mentor or Vets trips. Then you can send me some photos or a little blurb about your trip!!

If you are on the water and want to share your experience with us please send me an email fishnsoph@gmail.com or if you are on Facebook or Instagram add me as a friend by my username: fishnsoph You can send me your pictures and caption through there too.

I wish you all Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!
Sophia Huynh



VETERANS' TRIP ABOARD THE BETTY-O

By Capt Mike Reinsch

On Thursday December 7, the Betty O with the Marina Del Rey Anglers took 30 disabled veterans and volunteers on a seven-hour fishing trip from Marina Del Rey Sportfishing to catch scorpionfish and whitefish on Santa Monica Bay. The guests consisted of two groups, one drawn from the Domiciliary at the WLA V.A. facility under the direction of Stephanie Simon, Recreational Therapist, and the second drawn from the Long Beach V.A. Blind Rehabilitation Services under the direction of Liz Greco.

Chef Patty served the guests a hearty welcome meal of fresh hot breakfast burritos with William Davis' homemade chicken sausage as a key ingredient. This was followed up by an equally welcoming midday repast of carefully grilled hamburgers presented on a toasted bun with a choice of all the freshest toppings. Dessert was an offering of her delicate homemade chocolate chip and walnut cookies. MDRA volunteer mentor Terrie Lavery handled duty nicely as runner to ensure hot - off - the - grill delivery of orders to individual blind veterans as they remained stationed at the aft bench fishing.

"Fisherman Phil" Bell organized the outing, and he is the MDRA Vets Fishing Chair, the position held by Steve Simon with the LARRC. Phil and Steve have done admirable jobs directing the veterans fishing program for the respective clubs the past ten years. This was the last outing of the year, which is funded jointly by the two fishing clubs and by Larry Brown.

Volunteer mentors included Josh Gerson, Dave Morgan, and Robert from Best Tackle in Hawthorne.



Patty manning the grill in a sunlit galley.



Dave, who landed a California Sheephead for biggest fish honors, and Aaron, who landed the most fish, stand on either side of Phil in the accompanying photo. Dave and Aaron received Betty O apparel to commend their prowess.

Health and Happenings

Linda Simon is our contact for
"Health and Happenings"
Please contact Linda either by phone
(818-980-7470) or email

(simonmurphy08@sbcglobal.net)

for any information about our club members/
family - i.e., happy or sad news; health issues;
graduation or congratulations, etc.

MOVING FORWARD... LOOKING BACKWARDS

By Barry Cohn

Club Member Since 2001 • Club President 2011

This is my final Chum Line article for 2023. I have really enjoyed reminiscing on some of the fishing highlights that I experienced over my many years on the water. But first, I want to thank Sophia Huynh, our terrific Chum Line editor, for encouraging me to write these monthly stories looking back on my special fishing adventures. I also want to give a shout out to Kevin Boyle for including me in what turned my Biggest and Best fishing adventure ever.

One evening a few years ago at one of our Los Angeles Rod & Reel Club dinner meetings Sophia and Kevin were talking about their recent trip to Puerto Vallarta. It was such a good trip that they wanted to do it again. So, this was the deal---Fly direct from LAX to Puerto Vallarta. Hang out at the yacht club in the afternoon for cocktail. Get a great dinner in town. Board the Maximus. Arrive on the fishing grounds the next morning. What were we going to fish for? Giant Yellowfin Tuna. Sign me up. I really want to go!

Had I ever caught a giant yellowfin? Nope, my previous best was a 67 pounder in Cabo San Lucas.

Monday:

Everything went without a hitch. It was a six-hour plane ride and a 45-minute taxi to the marina. We dropped our gear off at the boat, had a few cocktails, a great dinner and then off we went for the 100 mile ride to the Tres Marias Islands.

Tuesday:

We were on the spot first thing in the morning. The sky was blue. The seas were calm. We found some porpoise schools and quickly caught a few 50 pounders. "Too small" announced Captain Keith Dennett. "Let's find a real school."



We did get a couple of legitimate strikes, but nothing landed.

Wednesday:

The next morning, I was first up on the rotation. Almost instantly the water erupted. A huge yellowfin flew through the air. Fish on!!! It was the biggest fish I had ever fought. This one had to be far in excess of 200 pounds. The first 30 minutes of the battle were so exciting and fun! The remaining two and half hours not so much!!

Ultimately, I landed my first Super Cow, with the help of a lot of cheerleading from everyone on board!!! It was a beautiful 288-pound Giant Yellowfin Tuna. Several other big fish were landed that day.

Thursday:

More big fish. By the end of the day, everyone had landed their personal best!!!! It was time to head back to port.

Friday:

We arrived back at the marina bright and early. Taxied to the airport. Caught our non-stop flight back to Los Angeles. The total trip was five days door to door. Unbelievable!!!!

Thank you readers for following my exploits.

Next time, another memorable trip? Of course, and I will be anxiously LOOKING FORWARD to another great fishing adventure.



Charters 2023

RULES REGARDING CLUB CHARTERS

All LARRC charter participants signing up for club charters are obligated to pay the full fare to reserve a spot. In the event a participant cannot make a trip, the club will attempt to fill the space once a waitlist forms. A participant may try to fill their space prior to departure. There may be surcharges this year based on fuel price increases. Bunk preference is assigned by the charter master based on the order received. So book early! If you have any special needs please make the charter master aware of them at the time of booking.

TROPHY CONTENDERS 2023 as of November 30, 2023

SPECIES	LINE TEST	ANGLER	LBS.	OZ.	SPECIES	LINE TEST	ANGLER	LBS.	OZ.
MEN'S OCEAN WATER					WOMEN'S OCEAN WATER				
Bass, Calico	20	Paul Varenchik	5	5	Albacore	30	Cathy Needleman	3	0*
Bass, Calico	25	Ed Liberman	4	2	Halibut, California	50	Cathy Needleman	5	10
Dorado	40	Bob Tuttle	35	5	Swordfish	65	Cathy Needleman	209	0*
					Swordfish	80	Cathy Needleman	265	0
					White Sea Bass	50	Cathy Needleman	13	5
MEN'S FLY ROD					WOMEN'S FLY ROD				
Perch, Sac	8	Rob Baldwin	3	3*					
Perch, Sac	10	Rob Baldwin	3	5*					
Trout, Cutthroat	8	Rob Baldwin	14	2*					
Trout, Cutthroat	10	Rob Baldwin	13	7*					
MEN'S FRESH WATER					WOMEN'S FRESH WATER				
Bass, Lg Mouth	20	Joel Steinman	6	0					
Salmon, Char	8	Norman Weinstock	17	0*					
MEN'S OCEAN RELEASED					WOMEN'S OCEAN WATER RELEASED				
Roosterfish	30	Chas Schoemaker	Released						
Roosterfish	40	Bob Tuttle	Released						
					JUNIOR MEMBERS				
					FIRST GAME FISH OF THE YEAR				
					White Sea Bass	50	Cathy Needleman	13	5
							7-Apr-23		
					FIRST ALBACORE OF THE YEAR				
						30	Cathy Needleman	3	0



Los Angeles Rod & Reel Club

c/o Andrew Ratzky

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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Published by the Los Angeles Rod & Reel Club @ www.larrc.org

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