

Our 40th Year

"The Magazine for West Coast Sportsmen!"

INSIDE

Area Reports

Limits of Salmon Again on GSSA's Second 'Fish Like A Girl' Adventure

SAUSALITO - The superb salmon fishing that anglers have experienced off the San Francisco Bay Area coast this season was exemplified by this season's second "Fish Like a Girl" trip hosted by the Golden State Salmon Association (GSSA) on Thursday, August 18.

"Twenty fun, beautiful women on a fishing boat with a hard working crew went out into the Pacific Ocean to go salmon fishing in perfect weather," said Cat Kaiser, events director for the GSSA. "It started with a dance party and mimosas, and then the girls caught full limits of incredible salmon up to 32 pounds."

The fishing began with a bite by smaller salmon around the 20 inch minimum range off the San Mateo County Coast near Pedro Point.

"We joked that we were kokanee fishing," said Kaiser. "Then like a

Golden Gate Salmon Association (GSSA) events director Cat Kaiser, Tricia Nesler and Annie Nagel hold up their limits of king salmon caught off Pedro Point aboard the Salty Lady on August 18.

Photo courtesy of Jared Davis, Salty Lady Sportfishing

GONE FISHING
by
Dan Bacher

light switch, the bite for big fish turned on when Tricia Nesler caught the first real fish of the day at 26 pounds. She ended up catching her personal best six times. Pretty much all of the fish caught after that catch were between 18 and 32 pounds. Lorinne Otte won the day's jackpot with a 32 pound king."

"This trip featured the most new gals of any all ladies fishing trip that

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STAFF
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What We're Using

West Delta Stripers Continue Their Summer Assault

This summer has been hot in more ways than one. In addition to sweltering record daytime highs, the striper bite in the west delta has continued to be hot all summer long. For whatever reason, striped bass have abandoned saltwater bays for the most part, and instead stuck it out in the brackish waters of the west delta.

There is one caveat, however, when it comes to fishing the west delta during summer months: You have to be able to brave the delta breeze. While the cooling benefits for valley residents are nice, it's not exactly a fun weather phenomenon to be caught in the middle of on the water. When valley temperatures soar into triple-digits, it only kicks the westerly winds into a higher gear. I recently found this out the hard way while fishing near Sherman Island this past August.

After hearing reports of excellent striper fishing in the west delta, I enlisted trolling expert Jim Brittain to join me on my boat on August 21. Looking at the tides and weather, I noted the dreaded outgoing tide/west wind combination that whips up the worst possible water conditions. You see, when the winds and currents run into each other in opposite directions, sharp, speedy white caps form tight rows of waves. I have clocked the rollers at more than 12 miles-per-hour, and they are close together too! Even in my twenty-foot boat, I sometimes span two of the waves at one time. This makes 'riding them out' like an ocean swell impossible.

WHAT'S HOT
by
Jack Naves

Jim Brittain hoists a fourteen pound striper that was released immediately after the photo on August 21. The fish slammed a chrome and blue ¾ ounce 'Magnum' Rat-L-Trap southwest of the Rio Vista Bridge. The fish was caught at the end of the outgoing tide.

Photo Courtesy of Jack Naves

I am not going to provide navigation tips here. My only advice is: 1.) NEVER navigate in waters that are too rough for your craft or abilities, 2.) Be VERY aware of the tidal

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Ernie Marlan - fished the California Delta for striped bass. He used a Lew's Super Duty reel teamed up with a Lew's XD8 Cranking Rod. He threw a variety of lures that included topwater baits, glide baits, swimbaits, and spoons. He caught and released a few schoolie sized stripers with the largest weighing in at 6 pounds.

Paul Kneeland - fished Jackson Meadows Reservoir with John Brassfield of Trucksmart stores in the Fish Sniffer 21' Rogue Jet Coastal. They caught rainbow trout to 16 inches using a 7'6" Lamiglas Fish Sniffer Special graphite triggerstick with an Okuma Convector low profile Line counter reel loaded with 8 lb test Soft Steel line. They trolled Speedy Shiner and Al's Goldfish spoons in black/white/red and gold/red off the Canon Downriggers from 35 to 60 feet deep at 2.2 mph

Dan Bacher - fished for rainbow trout at Spicer Reservoir. He used a Berkley Ugly Stik GX2 6' 6" medium action spinning rod, teamed up with a Shakespeare GX235 spinning reel filled with 6 lb. test P-Line CX Premium Fluorocarbon Coated Line. He fished with rainbow glitter Berkley PowerBait and nightcrawlers on sliding sinker rigs with Size #4 and #6 Gamakatsu baitholder hooks.

WHAT'S HOT

continued from page 2

and weather forecasts, and 3.) Take a Coast Guard approved boating course.

After a white-knuckle ride out of the Sherman Island launching facility, Jim and I were both wet as we headed east towards the fishing grounds. We rode waves along the shoreline in an attempt to stay out of the worst that nature was throwing our way. It had been a while since either of us had donned long pants or jackets, but that's what you have to prepare for when dealing with delta summertime winds.

In contrast to the weather, the fishing was actually great! My plan was to troll for stripers until the end of the outgoing tide. Next, we would anchor up and switch to bait fishing so the wind would be at our backs. We started out trolling deep divers, and quickly landed a couple of keepers as we made our way east. As we approached low tide and the current slowed, I was finally able to turn west back into the rollers and try a new tactic.

Jim suggested that we switch to shallow trolling, so we both clipped some ¾ ounce 'Magnum' Rat-L-Traps onto our lines. I immediately boated a couple of nice keepers, and then Jim got in on the action. He was constantly pumping his rod and adjusting depths, while I had my full attention focused on driving the boat in sloppy conditions. Jim proved once again that anglers willing to put in the extra work will be rewarded with more fish.

The wind and waves were throwing me off my game, and instead of being locked into the seven to eight foot depth range, the boat was occasionally being shoved out into deeper water. As we were thrust into thirteen feet of water, Jim immediately swung his rod straight down towards the bottom to get his lure deeper. With his rod pointed towards the bottom, he hooked up on a nice keeper that we put onto ice. I circled back, and we had our lines out once again on the



These classic delta trolling lures will have you covered in anywhere between six to nineteen feet of water. TOP ROW: Run the ¾ ounce 'Magnum' Rat-L-Traps between 4 and 5 miles-per-hour in six to eight feet of water. BOTTOM ROW: The 5-1/4" Yo-Zuri Crystal Minnow deep divers should be trolled around 3 miles-per-hour in fourteen to nineteen feet of water. Don't forget to add the worm tail to the rear hook of the Yo-Zuri for maximum hookups.

Photo Courtesy Jack Naves

same stretch of water.

Only a few seconds had passed when another big white cap shoved the boat out into twelve feet of water. Jim lowered his rod, and then indicated that he was hooked up yet again! This time the fish was really taking some line, so I quickly cleared my rod and moved us out away from the shoreline.

The fish made several hard runs, and we wondered if he was hooked up with an early fall-run salmon. "It's fighting like a striper", Jim relayed,

Jump out there when you get the chance – quality striped bass will be the reward.

and moments later I caught a glimpse of its telltale stripes through the stained water. The big striper was almost in the net when it turned and

burned off another stretch of line from Jim's reel. He finally was able to lay the fish on its side, and I used my rubberized net to get it into the boat.

While we didn't take an official weight, both of us have seen enough stripers to estimate the weight at about fourteen pounds. I quickly revived the fish and it sped off in a flash. We were able to put a few more fish into the boat before the tide switched to incoming. We ran off to one of my favorite bait fishing locations: 'The Power Lines' on the Sacramento River.

By the time we reached our destination, the delta breeze had kicked it up a notch. Rollers made anchoring the boat in my deep-water spot out of the



The heads and bones of striped bass make for a great fish stock when prepared correctly. Once strained, the stock can be used to simmer up a spicy soup. The fillets dipped in tempura batter make for a nice side as striper nuggets with dipping sauce.

Photo Courtesy Jack Naves

question. Instead, we set pick near the shoreline in less choppy conditions. We were able to scratch out one more keeper before the winds pulled the curtains on our day of fishing. Although we had run into a worst-case scenario with the winds, we were still able to land over a dozen striped bass.

As the summer transitions into autumn, windy days will diminish, and the fall striper run will kick into high gear. In the meantime, keep an eye on those tides and weather forecasts. Jump out there when you get the chance - quality striped bass will be the reward.

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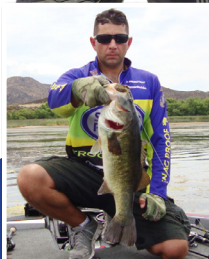
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