



The Marlin Club
Since 1931

The Gaff Line



February 2009

From the Helm

by Art Ponce, Club President

Hello club members, on behalf of the new board, we want to wish you all a happy and prosperous new year. The New Year begins with the addition of three newly elected directors. The new directors are, Bill Lemaster, Steve Pitts, and Wayne Slahor. We thank them for their interest and dedication. I would also like to thank the nominees that weren't elected for taking part in our electoral system. We hope you will try again next year.

The New Year is going to be very challenging for the board of directors. Foremost on the list of concerns, is our financial picture. The year end statement revealed that our income didn't cover our expenses. We can't afford to have a repeat for 2009. It will be a real challenge in lieu of the national recession we are in. To address this and other issues, we have established a Finance committee, which will be composed of directors and interested club members. We will be meeting during the second week of February at a time and date to be determined. We have also established a Tournament committee, as we need to centralize our donations requests, and explore tournament revenues possibilities.

I encourage all of you to attend our Awards Dinner of February 21st. Please return your RSVP card with dinner selection as soon as possible. We need to have an approximate number of guests for the restaurant. I will look forward to seeing you all.

Arthur J. Ponce

New Members

Kent Schellin - MONITOR

Judd Hallenza - OL' DIRTY HOOKER

Darren Ryland - 20' - NO NAME

Darrell Crane -

Schwarzenegger Freezes Funding for MLPA-Related Activities Due to State Budget Crisis

Partnership for Sustainable Oceans (PSO) Urges Governor to Closely Examine Potential Impacts on Recreational Fishing

SACRAMENTO, CA, January 22, 2009 – Governor Schwarzenegger’s December 19, 2008 Executive Order (S-16-08), designed to help prevent a state budget shortfall, suspended indefinitely funding for essential Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) oversight initiatives. The budget cuts have created concern among stakeholders that, with a loss of funding, critical scientific and enforcement safeguards in newly created marine protected areas (MPAs) may unnecessarily restrict recreational angling or prohibit it entirely.

Proposed cutbacks related to the MLPA implementation total more than \$6,756,000. This does not include work stoppages or potential furloughs or cutbacks within the Department of Fish and Game itself. In response, the Partnership for Sustainable Oceans (PSO) recently sent a letter to the governor urging him to consider the impact of such funding restrictions on the effectiveness of the implementation process and the impacts on anglers, boaters and local economies.

The California Department of Finance has released a 161-page, 5,300-item list of public works projects that will be suspended or delayed indefinitely because of the state's cash crunch which can be found on the following Website: http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/pmia-laif/pmib-staff/20090116_projects.pdf

“The MLPA is supposed to be a science-based initiative, and with the current budget crisis in California, that will no longer be the case,” said Gordon Robertson, vice president of the American Sportfishing Association and a member of the PSO, a coalition of angling and boating groups. “Without funding, the MPA review process will lack basic enforcement safeguards. In addition, without a scientific basis and required scientific baseline and monitoring data, there cannot be a proper five-year review and a chance for adaptive management, which is clearly prescribed in the statute.”

In order for the MLPA process to work, MPA management requires a scientific baseline, along with continued monitoring and enforcement. Absent such enforcement and scientific monitoring, future scientists will not have the data to analyze the success or failure of a marine protected area, significantly curtailing its utility.

“California cannot pick and choose which part of the statute to implement,” Robertson continued. “Without scientific monitoring and adequate enforcement, vast areas of the California coast will be closed to public access and public resources. In the end, such piecemeal implementation only costs California more jobs and more economic woes, with coastal communities taking the brunt of the economic hit.”

The PSO has requested a meeting with Governor Schwarzenegger to develop a strategy to ensure the future health of the marine environment without unnecessary restrictions on recreational anglers and boaters. To download a copy of the PSO letter to the governor, go to <http://www.keepamericafishing.org/california.asp>.

PSO members include the American Sportfishing Association, Berkley Conservation Institute, Coastside Fishing Club, International Game Fish Association, Kayak Fishing Association of California, National Marine Manufacturers Association, Nor-Cal Kayak Anglers, Shimano Sport Fisheries Initiative, Southern California Marine Association and the Sportfishing Association of California.

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We encourage all our member to enlist the services of our sponsors.

They're Back

The giant Humboldt squid are back. The NEW SEAFORTH is doing half day twilights, usually departing around 4:30pm. They have been caught at the upper 9 mile bank drop off and the 182 ledge.

Marty Morris took Lan Tran and Dennis Albert out on the KEN-DANDY and they picked up 6 Humboldts.



Bob Vanian is down south with Bob and Pat Woodard. Here are some excerpts from his reports:

I have spent the past few days down in mainland Mexico cruising and fishing with Bob and Pat Woodard aboard their boat Christina Lynn. I am having a excellent time down here and am enjoying the getaway as well as being with great friends.

On Wednesday, 1/21, we spent the day fishing outside of Ixtapa and Zihuatanejo and found the fishing to be slow. Bob and Pat had seen some excellent fishing for sailfish last week in this zone but I came down and shut it off as we had a couple of blind strikes on the jigs about 4 to 5 miles off the coast but nothing out where the fleet was spread out trying to find some fish 12 to 15 miles offshore. We trolled rigged baits most of the day but the two bites came on the jigs. Bob had fished for live bait a couple of nights before I arrived and had a tanks full of small jacks and caballito and we put the drop back live baits in after every strike to no avail.

A good thing is that the water is nice and warm and blue and a lot better looking than some of the other times that I have been down here in January and found lots of green water.

On Sunday, 1/25, we were once again underway and the area outside of Acapulco provided some of the best fishing of the trip. We found good action on sailfish and big black skipjack, caught and released 2 sailfish and several of the black skipjack. The black skipjack were aggressive and were readily biting the marlin/sailfish jigs.

One of the sailfish bites was very cool. The sailfish bit while I was catching a black skipjack that had bit while we were raising the line in the outrigger clip with the reel in free spool. Pat Woodard was winding in the line from the other outrigger when the sailfish came in and grabbed the orange and white KK Pono jig. It all happened close to the boat and we got a good view of the sailfish coming in and grabbing the jig.

A short while after releasing that sailfish we got another sailfish jig strike on a black and purple Sevenstrand EAL jig with no battery. I got the honor of getting to catch and release that sailfish.



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Words of Wisdom

Fishing is a...
discipline in the equality of men -
for all men are equal before fish.

Herbert Hoover

DATES TO REMEMBER for 2009

Awards/ Trophy Dinner	February 21, 2009
General Membership Meeting	April, 2009
Club Clean Up Day	April, 2009
Open House/Day at the Docks	April, 2009
Sundowner	May, 2009
Spring Shootout*	May, 2009
Don Blackman Memorial Halibut Derby*	June, 2009
Juniors' Tournament	August, 2009
Presidents' Tournament	August, 2009
Labor Day Tournament	August, 2009
ILTT Tournament & Dinner Awards Banquet	September, 2009
Small Boat Tournament*	September, 2009
Sundowner	October, 2009

*Open to the public



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