



The Marlin Club  
Since 1931

# The Gaff Line



January 2009

## From the Helm

by Art Ponce, Club President

Greetings club members. The New Year is here, and on behalf of the board of directors we want to wish all of you a happy new year. This year will be a difficult year for the economy and for the club as well. We have experienced a downturn of income for the 2008 season. I want to remind all the club members that it is very important to renew your membership early. Your dues are a main portion of the income we generate. I will shortly ask one of our house committees to come together to map a strategy to increase our financial resources. We will need the input from as many members as possible, so I will keep you posted.

I also want to remind all the voting members to return your ballot with your choices for the 2009 Board of Directors. January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009, is the deadline for your ballots.

Another item that I want to remind you of, is that the awards banquet for the 2008 season will be Saturday, February 21st, at the Bali Hai. I would love to see you all there.

Finally I would like to express our sorrow and sympathy to Lil, upon learning of the passing of Leona Belle Blackman last week. May she rest in peace.

*Arthur J. Ponce*

**2009 Board Of Directors**  
**Three positions open – Vote for 3**  
**Ballots have been mailed to current active members.**

**Carl Demelo, Joined 9/19/05, Active 7/27/06**  
**William Le Master, Joined 5/11/02, Active 10/02/04**  
**Jon Pendarvis, Joined 6/15/04, Active 9/15/06**  
**Steve Pitts, Joined 8/11/99, Active 8/26/05**  
**John Plaziak, Joined 9/11/04, Active 8/31/07**  
**Wayne Slahor, Joined 9/10/88, Active 9/04/93**

**New Member**  
**Steve Pfohl and his son Timothy- 24' Glasply**

**Dues Due**  
**In accordance with Club By-Laws, Article XI, dues are payable by March 31, 2009.**  
**Note: Dues become delinquent after March 31, and a \$10.00 reinstatement fee shall be charged.**

**Individual Membership..... \$125**  
**Family Membership (husband & wife)..... \$240**  
**Sustaining Member Family..... \$250**  
**Sponsor Member/Family..... \$500**  
**Benefactor Member/Family..... \$1,000**

## Anglers' high marlin catch in Cabo San Lucas raises concerns

There has been a phenomenal marlin bite at the Golden Gate Bank north of Cabo San Lucas on the Pacific side of the Baja California peninsula.

Just how good has the bite been?

Tracy Ehrenberg of Pisces Sportfishing boasts of the capture of more than 7,000 striped marlin this season, and of a 98.6% release rate. This is just from her fleet, so the overall tally must be incredible.

"After talking to captains with more than two decades' experience, they agreed that they have never seen fishing so good so long in one location," Ehrenberg reports.

Perhaps. But there's a troubling trend off Land's End. Crews aboard the top boats have been aggressively trying to out-perform one another, catching and releasing marlin as fast as they can, striving to make theirs the high boat for a given day.

Captains too. The more marlin flags they fly, the bigger their reputations become.

One-day, single-vessel counts have been as high as 30. When the marlin are bunched up that tightly they simply become too vulnerable.

Thankfully, marlin are now dispersing from the Golden Gate. But they'll be back next winter. Hopefully, the same serious marlin fishermen (and captains) who became powerful advocates of catch-and-release will give up the numbers game and exercise reasonable restraint.

Consider this a New Year's wish.

-- Pete Thomas LA Times

### **The Marlin Club of San Diego**

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

**ENSO Cycle: Recent Evolution, Current Status and Predictions**  
**El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)**; commonly referred to as simply El Niño)  
**NOAA Operational Definitions for El Niño and La Niña**

**Oceanic Niño Index (ONI)**

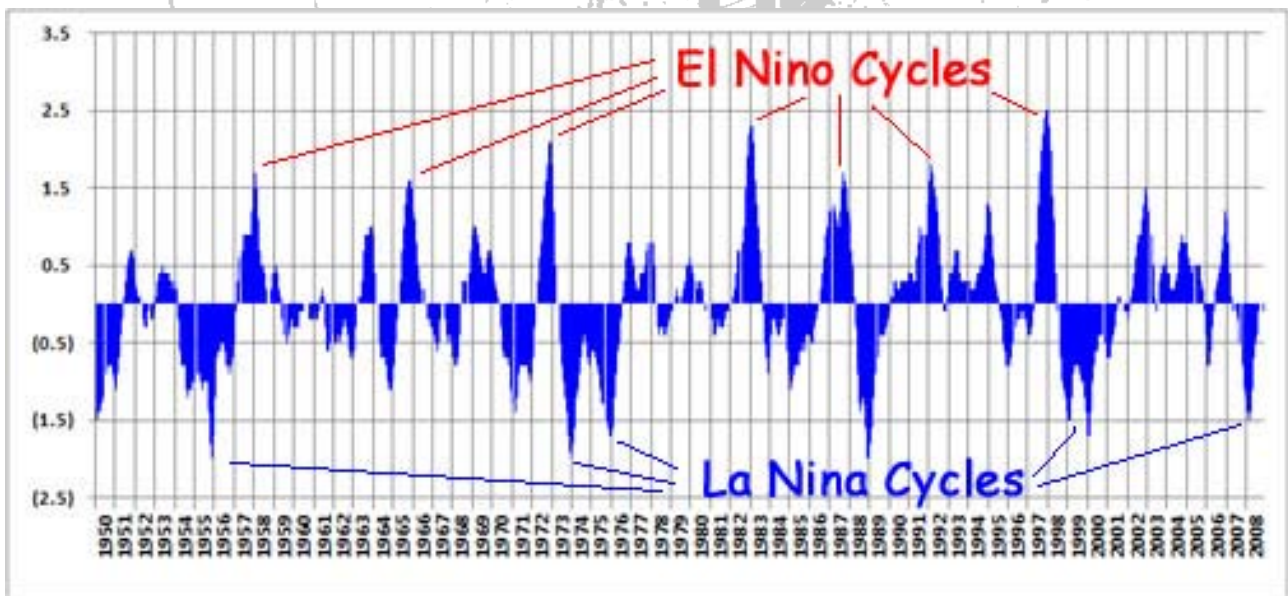
- The ONI is based on SST departures from average in the Niño 3.4 region, and is a principal measure for monitoring, assessing, and predicting ENSO.
- Defined as the three-month running-mean SST departures in the Niño 3.4 region. Departures are based on a set of improved homogeneous historical SST analyses (Extended Reconstructed SST –ERSST.v3). The SST reconstruction methodology is described in Smith et al., 2007, J. Climate, in press.
- Used to place current events into a historical perspective
- NOAA’s operational definitions of El Niño and La Niña are keyed to the ONI index.

El Niño:characterized by a positiveONI greater than or equal to +0.5°C.

La Niña:characterized by a negativeONI less than or equal to -0.5°C.

By historical standards, to be classified as a full-fledged El Niño or La Niña episode, these thresholds must be exceeded for a period of at least 5 consecutive overlapping 3-month seasons.

CPC considers El Niño or La Niña conditions to occur when the monthly Niño3.4 SST departures meet or exceed +/-0.5°C along with consistent atmospheric features. These anomalies must also be forecasted to persist for 3 consecutive months.



**Summary**

- Atmospheric and oceanic features are consistent with La Niña conditions.
- Recently, negative equatorial SST anomalies have strengthened across portions of the central and eastern Pacific Ocean.
- Based on recent trends in the observations and some model forecasts, La Niña conditions are likely through early 2009.

Full report at:

[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/lanina/enso\\_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/enso_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf)





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## Words of Wisdom

"Don't tell fish stories where the people know you; but particularly, don't tell them where they know the fish."

Mark Twain

### 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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