



The Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.

Educate ~ Entertain ~ Enhance

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Learn to Fish Kokanee with Pro Guide Captain Fishin' James

- Perfecting Winning Kokanee Strategies
- \$50 discount for any Military Veterans for a Guided Fishing Trip

The Rooster Tails Fishing Club have invited **Pro Fishing Guide, Captain Fishin' James Netzel, owner of Tighlines Guide Service**, for a special presentation on his **approach to fishing Kokanee** on July 21st breakfast meeting. Unlike the recreational angler, state licensed pro fishing guides like James are independent entrepreneurs that have invested thousands of dollars in their guide-boats, fishing electronics, tackle, and have virtually hundreds of hours perfecting their fishing catching expertise.

James is no exception and has taken many hours perfecting winning Kokanee strategies. This will be an informative presentation you don't want to miss. Plan on arriving early to speak to James one-on-one.

Tight Lines Guide Service with Capt. Fishin' James is considered to be our local fishing guide. He has been fishing since he was able to hold a fishing rod in the lakes and rivers all over Northern California and High Sierra. He specializes in King Salmon, Stripers, Kokanee, Trout, Land Locked King Salmon, and Mackinaw on the Sacramento River, Folsom Lake, Oroville Lake, Stampede Reservoir, Donner Lake, Lake Tahoe, and the

Delta. His goal is to allow his clients to sit back, relax, and enjoy themselves while he does whatever it takes to help create an enjoyable memory that will last a lifetime. He provides all the top quality equipment from Shimano and Abu Garcia reels, to Lamiglas and Shimano rods with the latest in electronics.

He runs 2 boats for different applications. A 2014 23' Rouge Chinook with 225hp tiller-model sled for rivers and the Delta and a 2006 22' Boulton Pro Sea Skiff with 225hp engine which is equipped to run 4 downriggers for lakes.

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August 18

Annual Table Top Swap Meet
Rooster Tails Breakfast

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Calendar of Events

July 12
RT Day with Jerry Lampkin
Klamath River

July 21
Rooster Tails Breakfast
James Netzel, Tighlines Guide Service

August 18
Rooster Tails Breakfast
Annual Table Top Swap Meet

July 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

The Kokanee Newsletter Special Edition

As said by a novice Kokanee angler and one reason for this special club newsletter edition... **"It ain't like fishing for trout!"** If you have had a hankerin' for a tasty salmon dinner, plan a Kokanee fishing trip to one of several northern California lakes that have large populations of these shiny little fish. However, fishing for 'Kokes' is far different than trolling for truck-trout, or for that matter... unlike any other fresh water fish. So put away your trout-tackle and dough-baits and learn more about Kokanee salmon. We are hopeful the following information will help you bring home a limit of this special salmonid. The following research contains a combination of scientific facts, first-hand fishing techniques, and expert opinions about Kokanee from various fishing guides, biologists and dedicated Koke anglers.

What is a Kokanee Salmon?

Kokanee is a word originating from the Okanagan language used by a group of ethnically and linguistically related indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest Coast. Kokanee salmon were experimentally introduced into northern California in the mid-1940s. The success of these introductions has since blossomed into a growing sport fishery in many coastal and central valley lakes and reservoirs. Lakes of the Pacific Coast, Siberia and Japan were the original fresh water homes of Kokanee salmon, which, for one reason or another, became land-locked and unable to migrate to the ocean like their cousins, the sockeye salmon. The Kokanee salmon spends its entire life cycle in fresh water and dies after spawning as does the ocean-going anadromous sockeye (*anadromous means, lives and matures in salt water and spawns in fresh water*). There are many strains of Kokanee, depending on the particular parent sockeye salmon run which contributed to the land-locked variety. Today, hatcheries and egg-taking sites on reservoirs, where Kokanee runs now occur, regularly provide millions of eggs to fish and wildlife agencies, many of which are shipped to supporting water impoundments to supplement trout fisheries throughout the United States.



Quality Stampede Kokanee



Daphnia plankton



Kokanee gill rake

Kokanee Life Cycle

Kokanee are also known as silver trout, sockeyes, silversides and most commonly as land-locked salmon. They have a life cycle which spans from two to seven years, depending on the particular strain, with most reaching adulthood in three to four years as do other salmon varieties. They are late summer or fall spawners that choose tributaries, outlet areas or the gravels around the shoreline of a lake or reservoir in which to complete their life cycle. Growth

and size in a particular body of water depends upon the abundance of **plankton**, their major food source, and also upon the numbers of other fish species competing for this food. Adult kokanee will range in size from 8" to 20"+ with most in the 9" to 14" class. Larger lakes and reservoirs where concentrations are small produce the largest fish, some to three and four pounds. 'Kokes' will feed on insect larva or nymphs, but not in their preference to plankton. At other times, they will also feed on insects, tiny plants, and small fresh water shrimp when available.

So What's Plankton?

Kokanee routinely dine on their favorite species of fresh water forage called *Daphnia* which are small, planktonic crustaceans, between 0.2 and 5 mm in length. *Daphnia* are members of the order *Cladocera* and are one of the several small aquatic crustaceans commonly called 'water fleas' because of their salutary swimming style which resembles the movements of the common terra flea. They live in various aquatic environments ranging from acidic swamps to

freshwater lakes, ponds, streams and rivers. Kokanee will swim through swarms of plankton and filter-in these small creatures through special combs located on their gills called 'gill rakes'.

Temperature Sensitivity of Kokanee

Kokanee prefer water temperatures of about 50° or colder, which is why many anglers fail to catch them. In some lakes they will spend the summer concentrated in a very narrow

The Kokanee Newsletter Special Edition—continued

band of 50° water. If an entire lake is warmer than 50°, they will be found close to the bottom or near underwater springs or in old river channels, where the coolest water is available. Downriggers are essential for reaching this deep water and often bottom hugging schools of fish. Kokanee can die if they stay in temperatures over 55 degrees for extended periods of time. When actively feeding, if the food source is in a warmer area, they will follow it for a short time then descend into cooler water. Find the right temperature and you will find the Kokanee. Schools of Kokes can be easily spotted on a decent fish-finder since they have larger air bladders than other fish reflecting a sonar signal. Without using your electronics properly to locate where Kokanee are holding, chances are you will be randomly trolling just enjoying the scenery

Kokanee Senses

Hearing:

Kokanee are attracted to moving objects that they can hear in the water. They are very territorial, so they will come to investigate. They are aggressive and attack the first thing they encounter that they see as the invader in their realm.

Sight:

Kokanee see color and strike at colors they do or do not like depending on the day, hour, or minute. Remember, Kokanee feed on plankton, not big orange or pink things in the water. The goal is to get them to strike out of anger and frustration that this 'thing' is in it's territory.

Smell:

Like all salmon, Kokanee have an incredible sense of smell that can work both for and against you. Make sure that you have plenty of Nitrile gloves on your boat. If you touch your gas can or motor with a gas or exhaust smell, you are done Kokanee fishing for the day. Always keep in mind when you are touching something, your hair (*what does your shampoo have that will keep Kokanee away?*); your face (*do you wearing a face lotion odor that will Kokanee away?*); bug spray (*the same type of smell problem*); and of course the major anti-Koke-catching odor is the use of sunscreen spray. Make sure all your rods, reels, bait, lures, and other tackle are covered or up-wind before applying sunscreen, especially anything being sprayed, otherwise you might as well head for the dock.

Kokanee Rods

When it comes to downrigger rods for Kokanee fishing, there are tons of choices out there... so many, in fact, that it can be a little overwhelming. To help narrow down your options, consider that for most Kokanee fishing you'll want a parabolic rod that's in the 7- to 7 1/2-foot range, (*a parabolic rod ends at same rate of curve from tip to butt with soft action and does not lock up at any point up on the blank - minimum lifting power for the diameter involved*). It should be rated for 4- to 8-pound test and you'll want light or ultralight action. Kokanee have very soft mouths so your rod needs to have a nice, forgiving tip so that you don't rip the hooks out of the fish. A good rod choice is the Okuma SST Kokanee Graphite 7 1/2-foot SST-C-762L.

Kokanee Reels

The Koke-rod should be teamed with a level wind high-speed reel that has an exceptionally smooth drag. As with rods there are a great many excellent reels available. Line counter reels are a good choice to keep track of how far behind the boat

you are fishing. For price and performance you'll be hard pressed to find a reel as good as the Abu Garcia 5500LC Line Counter reels.



Bringing Home Your Perfect Table Fare

Although hard-fighters, Kokanee are a very fragile fish. Never keep your catch in a live-well or on a stringer. If you squeeze them too hard you can actually make marks in the meat. The delicate flesh is also very susceptible to heat and will deteriorate without being quickly cooled. However, Kokes are one of the best eating fish around if you take care of them. The best way to preserve the quality of this cold water fish is to create an ice-bath when you first get to the lake.

Use 2-liter plastic bottles filled with frozen *salt water* allowing a little gap of an inch or two at the top of each bottle for expansion. Salt water will hold colder temperatures longer. Place 4 or 5 of the frozen saltwater bottles in your cooler and add some lake water as soon as you get to the lake to allow it to get cold. Then, when you get your catch in the boat and rods back in the water, cut the gills to bleed the Kokanee, carefully slide them into the cold water to preserve the wonderful delicate flesh for that gourmet dinner.



For more information about Kokanee fishing press control and click here:

https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?p=kokanee+salmon+fishing+videos+on+stampede+reservoir&hspart=att&hsimp=yhs-att_001#id=9&vid=c514ee405f9d67ed1dc82d1dcf3a8944&action=view

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The Science Of "Scent" - Kokanee and Shoepeg Corn

By Gary S. Gordon, Fish With Gary™ Tackle Co.

All fish have nares, which are scent detecting tubes on the snoot (nose) of the fish. A fish's ability to detect scent is flat out amazing, often measured in the parts per million. And salmonids are probably near the best in scent detection. For thousands of years, fishermen have used bait on hooks to persuade fish to bite. Some awesome Kokanee fisherman or fisherwoman discovered a long time ago that Kokanee will bite a lure baited with white shoepeg corn. And that discovery has been passed down many years to the present time. What has not been passed down is why white shoepeg corn works so well. *(The name "shoepeg corn" is derived from a shoemaking-term used during the 19th century. Shoepeg corn kernels resemble the wooden pegs used to attach soles to the upper part of shoes).*

It turns out that white shoepeg corn has an amino acid that is actually a bite stimulant for Kokanee, something that apparently yellow corn does not have. White shoepeg corn also manages to stay on the hook fairly well at Kokanee trolling speeds. My own research has revealed another interesting characteristic of white shoepeg corn: it stays white all the way down the water column without any fade. As such, it presents a clearly defined target for the fish to attack. *(For doubters, take a kernel of white shoepeg corn into a dark closet and shine a black light on it).* Over the years it has become popular to add additional scent to the corn by brining it first. Such scents have included anise, garlic, vanilla, and a host of others. Savvy Kokanee fishermen would have more than one type of scented corn to entice the Kokanee; in case the first one didn't seem to work, they would have a backup. I know that making up different scent combinations is part of the wonderful pre-fishing ritual. Some even dye the corn different colors. More ritual. In the past I endorsed using two kernels of corn on each of the tandem hooks in the lure.

Placing the corn on the leading hook takes advantage of a fish's biology. Since a fish cannot see directly in front of its snoot a distance of about two inches, placing the target scent corn on the leading hook will make the trailing hook invisible to the fish. The result is a higher percentage of hook-ups, and deeper penetration of the hooks. I have also studied the hydrodynamics of putting two kernels of corn on the leading and trailing hooks. At Kokanee trolling speeds, using two kernels on each hook significantly dampens the action of the lure. This poses an issue. I want maximum action on my lure, and I also want to maximize the scent on my lure. Can I have both action and scent without compromising the action of the lure? And I also want to prevent the "short" bite.

The best solution finally emerges as being obvious all along. Pro-Cure has been making scents for years, and mostly we have used them in making our white shoepeg corn brines. And they worked. But now Pro-Cure has created their scents with an available very sticky gel. In my opinion these scents are more powerful bite stimulants than anything that corn can produce by itself. I now use only a single kernel of undyed, and otherwise un-scented, white corn on the leading hook only, and place some Pro-Cure gel on the beads of my beaded spinners. This gives maximum scent to my lure without interfering with its action. If I am using a squid or a hoochie, I place some of the gel inside the squid or hoochie body, again using but a single piece of white shoepeg corn on the leading hook. I believe my success rate has increased using this setup. At the end of the day, do your best to rinse off the gel on your lures. Using generous amounts of hot water will help. I have now substituted my pre-fishing "brine the corn ritual" for a post-fishing "clean the lures ritual." I have found the gel scents of anise, Kokanee special, garlic and especially bloody tuna to be excellent.

Kokanee Fingerlings Released into California Lakes and Reservoirs—July 11, 2016

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife ([CDFW](#)) has recently completed the release of the 2016 allotment of Kokanee salmon fingerlings. Their 2016 allotment included 634,430 Kokanee released into 13 lakes and reservoirs throughout the state. "Anglers can expect excellent fishing opportunities in these waters two years from now, when these fish reach a catchable size," says Kyle Murphy, Senior Environmental Scientist and project leader of CDFW's Landlocked Salmon Program. "The stocking of fingerling-sized fish is a very cost-effective way to maintain this popular recreational fishery." The fish were planted in the following waters:

Water	County	Fish Planted
Boca Reservoir	Napa	25,042
Bullards Bar Reservoir	Yuba	70,140
Donner Lake	Nevada	25,042
Hell Hole Reservoir	Placer	25,042
Lake Tahoe	El Dorado	138,099
Little Grass Valley Reservoir	Plumas	15,052
Stampede Reservoir	Sierra	60,027
Union Valley Reservoir	El Dorado	49,995
Lake Berryessa	Napa	50,111
Bass Lake	Madera	50,064
Don Pedro Reservoir	Tuolumne	19,980
New Melones	Tuolumne	55,524
Shaver Lake	Fresno	50,312

CDFW typically stocks between 800,000 – 1,000,000 fingerlings annually in 18 waters statewide.

RT Members Only Tournament

The Striper Derby has held on the Delta on June 21st at Brannan Island State Park. We had a total of 6 boats and 12 fisherman. The morning started out with a light wind that slowed to a nice breeze for the rest of the day. A couple of boats Launched a little before 5 am and the majority splashed around 5:30 to 6:30 except for Steve and John who got lost on the way to Rio Vista. They launched about 8:30 after drinking a cup of coffee and eating a muffin at the dock. The morning was all fun!

The fish seemed to change their pattern lately. With the warm weather, they moved to deeper water. Most of our club members were trolling shallow (5' to 15') and marked fish on their depth finders down to 30ft. It was tough getting them to bite. A total of 14 Stripers were caught, and a few Black Bass. Ron and Char Retzlaff checked in at 11:00 with 2 fish that measured 38 5/8" total length. The winning team for the day was Mike Steer and Ron Jones who checked in at 1:30 with 2 fish that totaled 42 7/8". The teams stayed in touch with each other through out the day using their ship to shore radios. The weigh-in was wrapped up around 2:00 pm.

By Greg Hicks, Board member and Tournament Host



Ron & Charlotte Retzlaff



Ron Jones & Mike Steer

Jackpot Contest

2017		2016		LENGTH	WEIGHT	WATER	DATE	ANGLER
	Kokanee	17"				BOCA	7-7	D. CRITCHFIELD
	Landlocked Salmon	21"	36.4oz			DON PEDRO	4-28	SHAWN CONLAN
	River or Ocean King Salmon	36 7/8"				STINSON BEACH	8-16	LONNIE BROOKS
	Striped Bass	34 1/4"				FEATHER RIVER	4-25	TOM HYDE
	Rainbow Trout	25 1/2"	86.9oz			BLAIR LAKE	5-14	GARY ROBERTS
	Brown Trout	19"				LAKE SHASTA	9-6	CHUCK MIERKEY
	Steelhead	27 1/2"	96.7oz			AMERICAN RIVER	1-17	PETER ZITTERE
	Lake Trout (Mocknow)	36"	17Lbs			DOWNER LAKE	9-6	SHAWN CONLAN
	Large Mouth Bass	21 1/2"	4.4oz			BERRYESSA	4-21	RICHARD COX
	Small Mouth Bass	19"	3.6oz			BERRYESSA	5-4	RICHARD COX
	Catfish	31 1/2"				CLEARLAKE	11-30	MEL EWING
	Shad	16 1/2"				FEATHER RIVER	5-8	LARRY EDMONDSON
	Crappie	16 1/4"				CAMANACHE	3-9	JOHN HESS
	Sturgeon							

2017 Entries in Red

LANDLOCKED SALMON, **Shawn Conlon**, 21", 36 lbs. 4 oz, Don Pedro, 4/28/17

STRIPED BASS, **Tom Hyde**, 34 1/4", Feather River, 4/25/17

RAINBOW TROUT, **Gary Roberts**, 25 1/2" Blair Lake, 5/14/17

LARGE MOUTH BASS, **Richard Cox**, 19", 3 lbs., Berryessa, 2/14/17

SMALL MOUTH BASS, **Richard Cox**, 18", 3 lb. 4 oz., Berryessa, 2/23/17

SHAD, **Larry Edmondson**, 16 1/2", Feather River, 5/8/17

CRAPPIE, **John Hess**, 16 1/4", Camanche Lake, 3/9/17

Pro Guide Captain Fishin' James—continued

James holds something that is very important to him which is for us to remember and honor our veterans for the sacrifices they made for us. If you see James boat on the water flying an American flag, that means he has a veterans on board. Be sure to stop-by and say, "Thank you for your service," to the veterans he is providing guiding. James is an active supporter of **Purple Heart Anglers**, a non-profit organization founded in 2009 to help aid in the healing of disabled veterans through fishing and hunting trips. James provides a \$50 discount to any military veteran for a guided fishing trip.

