



## December 2023 Rooster Tails Newsletter

### Message from the Board of Directors

Greetings Rooster Tails!

As this year winds down, we hope you have enjoyed the club's efforts in making our group interesting and informative. The Board of Directors strives to provide opportunities for members to meet and share up to date information as well as to share the success of your efforts.

We want to wish you all a wonderful holiday season and hope you find many blessings in the coming year. Remember, **we will not have a December meeting** so we will see you next year!

#### CLUB UPDATES

- NO MEETINGS IN DECEMBER
- 2024 Jackpot Contest opens January 1. All those participating will need to be a member in good standing, have a liability form on file, and have paid the Jackpot entry fee.
- Rooster Tails Board of Directors Meeting - January 15, 2pm, at Lyons Real Estate office (near Mel's Dinner in Auburn). Free pizza provided.
- Rooster Tails Monthly Breakfast Meeting - January 19

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Many Thanks to Monique Meador of [Quartz Creek Designs](https://www.quartzcreekdesigns.com) for her help in designing new artwork for the club. Our cost to replace and update name badges was running \$30+ per month and with the updated artwork we are able to make the name badges ourselves and save the club money. Monique is RTFC Director Yvette Meador's daughter. You can reach Monique at 916.955.3625 or through her website as listed above. Thanks Monique and Yvette for your support!



# Will Fish Tackle Report

## by Craig Newton



12/15/23

Fall trout fishing continues to be great as winter has yet to establish itself. However, storms in the coming days will likely make access to the sierra lakes difficult if not impossible soon. Make your last minute trips soon before it is too late. Winter striper action has continued to be good as trollers and spooners continue to get good numbers of fish. Like the fall trout, that could change in short order as cooling water temperatures in the delta continue to drop. Get out there while the getting is good.

Crabbing on the coast continues to be productive for the sport crabbers. That will change as soon as the commercial season opens so pull while the pulling is good.

**BULLARDS BAR:** Kokanee fishing continues to be good for next year's fish. Fish are all over the place depth-wise. Brett Brady landed a 16" late spawner last week which may be a sign of better thing to come as this year's fish mature.

**FOLSOM LAKE:** Action for kings is pretty consistent with a few larger fish mixed in. Kings are averaging 13-15" with a few nice ones in the mix. An 11<sup>#</sup> king was landed this week. Some decent rainbows are being caught as well and the lake was planted the first week in December so planters are on tap too.

**FRENCH MEADOWS/HELL HOLE:** French Meadows continues to produce for those willing to make the trip. This may be the last week that access is easy as winter conditions are on the horizon. Reports are that the great fall trout fishing continue to come in from FM. Hell Hole has dropped below the paved ramp and PCWA has not had any equipment up there to clean up the area below the ramp. So, check conditions of the gravel below the ramp before you drive on it. Access to both of these lakes is still through Georgetown via Wentworth Springs and 11 Pines Rd.

**OROVILLE LAKE:** The landlock kings are continuing to be caught in Oroville. Like Folsom, they are on the smaller size, about 13". East wall seems to be the place to find them.

**SIERRA LAKES:** Trout fishing at the upper elevation lakes has been very good. Weather will be the major factor to consider now. Donner, Davis Lake, Stampede, and Jackson Meadows are the prime candidates for late fall high sierra efforts.

**DELTA:** Striper fishing has been good once you locate the biters. There are fish scattered throughout the delta with swim bait casters doing very well once the fish are located. Spooners are getting big numbers but are going through a bunch of fish to get quality keepers. Sturgeon fishing has been so so in the last few weeks with lots of fish around but fewer biters. Please pay attention to new sturgeon regulations before you go.

**PYRAMID LAKE:** The Lake has been producing good numbers of LCTs but the size has come down a bit for trollers pulling plugs and spoons trolled from 20 to 40' down on the downriggers. Bigger fish are being taken closer to shore as the water temperature continues to decrease. Always worth the trip as long as the weather cooperates.

**NORTH COAST:** Crabbing continues to be good provided you find a weather window to get out. Limits of quality crabs is still the norm if you put the time in. The crabs have spread out a bit and it will take a few more time through the hoops to get limits. Offshore rockfishing, beyond the 50 fathom line, is great when the offshore weather is nice. No sign of the Blue Fin Tuna in the last few weeks so this may be it for the year.



## SPECIAL RECOGNITION

### CRAIG NEWTON & WILL FISH TACKLE

As many of you may know by now, Will Fish Tackle of Auburn will be closing it's doors at the end of the year. Craig Newton, owner of Will Fish, has been a strong supporter of the Rooster Tails Fishing Club for many years. The Board of Directors wishes to thank him for his efforts in not only supporting the club but also the fishing community in our area. Craig has offered guidance and support to professionals, youth groups, individuals and organizations who participate in the sport we all love.

While future endeavors are still open for Craig he will be maintaining his online store, [kokaneemart.com](http://kokaneemart.com). We wish him the best and look forward to supporting him in the upcoming years. Thanks Craig and good luck!



## ROOSTER TAILS 2023 YEAR END MESSAGE

Another year is passing by, and the Rooster Tails Fishing Club Board of Directors would like to say **Thank You** to the club members for their continuing support of the club and attendance at the Elks Lodge Breakfast meetings. This year the club had 2 successful Tournaments, Stampede Res and Collins Lake and 2 Ocean fishing trips, long with one group camping trip to Stampede Res.

This year's breakfast meeting Speakers for 2023 included;

- ◆ Randy Bergquist, RDB Tackle
- ◆ Brett Brady, Bare Bones Guide Service
- ◆ Gary Coe and Larry Abernathy, Kokanee Power
- ◆ Cory Keller, Rocky Mountain Tackle/Hendrix Outdoors
- ◆ Cal Kellogg, Fish Hunt Shoot Productions
- ◆ Jerry Lampkin, TNG Motorsport Guide Service
- ◆ Chris Martin, Bass Pro Shop
- ◆ Brian Potter, Sea Prowler, Fish Bodega Bay
- ◆ Shaun Rainsbarger, Shaun's Guide Service
- ◆ James Stone, Elite Sportsman Guide Service/NorCal Guide & Sportsman Assoc.

The club would like to thank them for their time and effort.

We hope to see you at the January 2024 Breakfast meeting on Friday the 19th.

Happy Holidays!

*Continued on page 4*

## 2023 SPEAKERS

*Rooster Tails 2023 Year End Message Continued from page 3*



Randy Bergquist  
RDB Tackle



Brett Brady  
Bare Bones Guide Service



Gary Coe  
Larry Abernathy  
Kokanee Power



Cory Keller  
Rocky Mtn. Tackle/  
Hendrix Outdoors



Cal Kellogg  
Hunt, Fish Productions



Jerry Lampkin  
TNG Guide Service



Chris Martin  
Bass Pro Shop



Brian Potter  
Sea Prowler  
Fish Bodega Bay



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# CDFW CONTINUES PARTIAL RECREATIONAL CRAB TRAP RESTRICTIONS AND DELAYS COMMERCIAL DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERY DUE TO ENTANGLEMENT RISK

December 7, 2023

(This article is taken from the CDFW website. Please click [here](#) for the entire article)

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is continuing the temporary recreational crab trap restriction from the Sonoma/Mendocino county line to Lopez Point, Monterey County, (Fishing Zones 3 and 4) due to the presence of humpback whales and the potential for entanglement of humpback whales and leatherback sea turtles with trap gear. The recreational trap restriction will be in effect until at least the next risk assessment. The temporary trap restriction currently in effect in Fishing Zone 1 (Cape Mendocino to the Oregon state line) will be lifted at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023, at which time the use of recreational crab traps in Fishing Zones 1, 2, 5 and 6 will be allowed. A Fleet Advisory remains in effect for the recreational fishery for all Fishing Zones (1-6). CDFW reminds recreational crabbers that take of Dungeness crab by other methods, including hoop nets and crab snares, is allowed during a temporary trap restriction. CDFW also encourages recreational crabbers to implement best practices, as described in the Best Practices Guide (PDF)(opens in new tab).



(Please click [here](#) for the rest of the article)

## CALL TO ACTION: SEND 10-15 MILLION SALMON EGGS TO COLEMAN HATCHERY IMMEDIATELY

### From Norcal Guide And Sportsman Association

Dear Director Souza and Director Bonham,

Over the past two years, the Northern California Guides and Sportsmen's Association, along with others that rely on the fall run fishery for our livelihoods, have participated with you in a series of collaborative and on-going discussions about managing our primary commercial and recreational salmon fishery. We expressed repeated concerns about not only the current state of the emergency closure and health of our fisheries, but extended consequences like our ability to meet egg harvest targets. Unfortunately, it appears that our fears are materializing in that Coleman National Fish Hatchery has been unable to meet its egg harvest obligations in 2023, and needs transferred eggs to meet its minimum obligations.

*Continued on page 6*

## *CALL TO ACTION: continued from page 5*

On December 15th, 2022, our organization wrote: “2022 Sacramento inland river fishery returns are among the worst our professional guides and sportsmen’s community have ever seen. In fact, the returns have been so poor that we believe egg harvest goals will be constrained this year requiring spawning of extra fish and possibly the need to transfer eggs between hatcheries. Further, there are nowhere near enough fish in the river to provide any meaningful opportunities for natural spawning salmon redds, let alone the robust recreational angling opportunity that historically has attracted California’s residents and out of state anglers to our formerly pristine waters and thriving fisheries.”

We urge you to immediately and swiftly supplement the egg harvest totals at Coleman by transferring 10-15 million Fall run eggs from elsewhere in the Sacramento system. In addition to eggs necessary to meeting the annual target of 12 million smolts (requiring 14 million eggs), we urge you to transfer additional eggs to ensure that Coleman can produce ADDITIONAL fish. This is something that every other hatchery in the system is doing, based on robust conversation between our group and the commercial and ocean recreational groups and resource managers on strategies to overcome the 2023 closure earlier this year. Coleman must do the same; missing egg harvest is not an excuse to return to status quo in the face of this existential crisis of our fishery.

Further, those fish MUST be released instream. Current proposals to truck 100% of any fish raised on transferred eggs make no sense, imperil the 2026 season with unacceptable high straying rates, and will not help to rebuild the Fall run cohort in future years. We must ensure that these fish are released in the river to imprint on the main stem of the Sacramento, to return as a cohort in 2026 and help rebuild the decimated Fall run fishery that you are all responsible for managing. Historically, when Sacramento River was healthy, hundreds of millions of eggs from natural spawners supported a robust commercial and recreational ocean and inland fishery. The proposal to truck these transferred fish will do nothing to help with this ever-increasing problem of the lack of natural spawning fish and will set you up for future egg harvest failures in the future. Do not perpetuate this death spiral, work to stop it.

[To read the entire letter and download a printable pdf file follow the link here.](#)

## **CDFW: PUBLIC INPUT REQUESTED ON A LOW-FLOW REGULATION CHANGE**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) invites you to provide input on the proposed fishing regulation change that would affect how CDFW distributes low-flow information. Low-flow restrictions provide protection to listed and targeted game fish when stream flows are low. Low-flow restrictions affect fishing seasons for ten coastal counties: Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, and Monterey. Currently, CDFW reports low-flow information via three different phone lines (Title 14 C.C.R. § 8.00). Each phone line is associated with specific waters and each line is supported by one of the three CDFW regions (Northern Region 1, Bay Delta Region 3, and Central Region 4). CDFW seeks to simplify and streamline access to low-flow information by transitioning the three low-flow phone lines to a CDFW webpage. This regulation will not impact where or when low-flow closures occur. The questionnaire will take approximately 3 to 5 minutes to complete. Questionnaire results will be used to 1) evaluate support and opposition to the regulation change, and 2) identify potential resources that may benefit constituents. The questionnaire is available until February 18 at 11:59pm. We appreciate your time and valuable feedback. [Click here to complete the questionnaire.](#)

# TIPS FOR ETHICAL ANGLING

## **CRIMP BARBS**

One of the simplest ways to help mitigate undue harm that can take place while fishing, crimping the barbs on your hooks typically allows for quick and easy hook removal with minimal damage occurring to your catches soft tissue. Bonus: hooks sans barbs are exponentially easier to remove from our own bodies and/or clothing in the case of any unexpected mishaps.

## **USE SAFE FISH HANDLING METHODS**

While handling fish that we plan on releasing it's ideal to minimize both handling itself as well as air exposure. If you are hoping to snap a quick photo before your release, consider either keeping the fish in the water or only lifting it out of the water for 3-5 seconds. Always be sure to wet your hands before touching a fish and avoid squeezing or applying any considerable pressure.

## **THOROUGHLY CLEAN BOATS AND ALL GEAR**

With the continual onset of invasive species having an adverse effect on the health of the ecosystems that support our fisheries, ensuring that all boats and wade fishing gear is clean and clear of any potential invasives is essential. Especially while traveling between different bodies of water, take the time to inspect your gear and clean it accordingly.

## **USE NON-TOXIC FISHING MATERIALS**

When choosing from the many brands available opt for both floatant and split shot varieties that are non-toxic and safer options for our fisheries and the many organisms that inhabit and support them.

## **AVOID LITTERING MICRO-TRASH**

It goes without saying that we always want to leave no trace and avoid littering in outdoor spaces. Even the small clippings from our leaders and tippets that accumulate while we're changing flies should be stored and disposed of properly.

## **UNDERSTANDING SPECIES, HARVESTING, AND SPAWNING SEASONS**

Supporting both catch and release and catch and keep fishing, it's important to know how to identify species and adhere to their corresponding regulations. At times that may require immediately releasing certain species, and in other circumstances there may be regulations in place that require the harvest of invasive non-native fish species. Additionally, putting the time in to research spawning seasons and understanding how to spot spawning beds(redds) and actively spawning fish is critical to the growth and preservation of our fish populations. When you observe spawning beds and actively spawning fish the most ethical approach is to both avoid stepping on the beds while also steering clear of casting to the fish that are engaged in spawning.

*Excerpt from Lindsay Kocka 10/17/23 article "TIPS FOR ETHICAL, CONSERVATION-FORWARD FLY ANGLING".*



## Rooster Tails BOD Needs Your Feedback

Rooster Tails Board of Directors currently consists of 8 members including Mike Walker, Yvette Meador, Steve Burgess, Dave Stallions, Bruce Hansen, Gregor Roschitsch, John Warren and Shawn Conlan. As we move into the new year we will need new blood and new ideas to keep the club interesting and plan meetings and events. Also, some of us travel and it would help out to have some backup for the breakfast meetings.

Our monthly Breakfast Meetings are the third Thursday of each month and the Board meets on the Monday before the breakfast meeting, 2pm at the Lyons Real Estate office, 1900 Grass Valley Highway, Suite 100. The first Board meeting of 2024 is on Monday January 15<sup>th</sup> with the Breakfast meeting the following Friday, the 19<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to join us as a guest at the Board, the meeting normally takes about an hour. We will have pizza at the meeting. Hope to see you Monday.

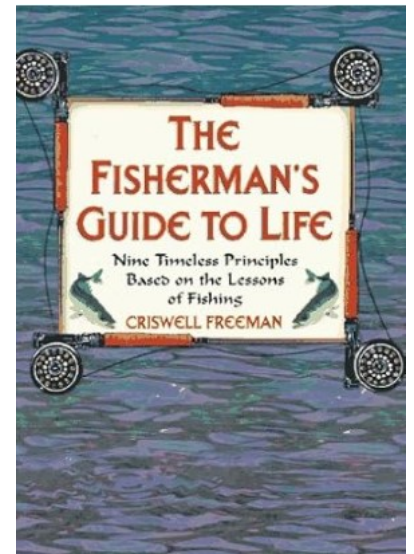
We also would be interested in hearing your feedback about our meetings, newsletter and fishing reports. We strive to make this club as inclusive and responsive as we possibly can so please let us know your thoughts by sending an email to [info@roostertailsfishingclub.org](mailto:info@roostertailsfishingclub.org).

## Rooster Tails Monthly Quote

*From "The Fisherman's Guide to Life - Nine Timeless Principles Based on the Lessons of Fishing" by Criswell Freeman.*

*"My advice is go often and visit many localities. Kill no more fish than you require for your own eating, and do that in the most scientific manner."*

*Charles Bradford*



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