



APRIL 1992

Chum Line



Published by the Los Angeles Rod & Reel Club

APRIL DINNER MEETING
MONDAY APRIL 27 TH, 1992

ANDRE'S RESTAURANT
8635 WILSHIRE BLVD, B. H.

6:00 P.M. B. S. PERIOD

7:00 P.M. DINNER IS SERVED

Dr. ROBBIN LOVE-a Marine biologist
will be our guest speaker.

APRIL BOARD MEETING

MONDAY APRIL 20 TH, 1992

To be held at the home of Eric Rogger. 2625 Westridge Rd. Call him at (310) 4765936 for instructions.

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

Arthur Stanman has applied for membership. Michael Grossman & Jim Holland were approved for membership by the Board. Good Fishing men.

Dr. Fred Polesky had cataract surgery in March & is doing fine.

Maurice Levy's B.W. had surgery in March also & is home & now has to contend with Maurice. We wish you a speedy recovery Shirley.

Al Wild fell & broke his hip & had to have a hip replacement. He will be ok.

We would like to wish a "Mazel Tov" to Terry & Jeff Ellis on the upcoming Bar Mitzvah of their Son

ARI BENJAMIN & ELLIS, May 9 th. 1992

Jay Flanzig was awarded the EMERITUS at the Awards affair. He was ill & could not attend. Did anyone take it home for him or does anyone know where it is. If you do, call Otto at (213) 652-5261.

Those of you who did not attend the March Dinner meeting missed out on a treat. Abe Zide made a beautiful creamy pie for one of his customers which was to initiate Abe to the Presidency of LARRC. The pie in the face did not break his glasses but he had dessert before dinner was served.

The 1992 "KING OF THE CALICO TOURNAMENT" will be held on Wednesday, Sept, 2 nd. We will be fishing on the Sea Hawk. Merit will run the boat, but will not fish. There will be 7 teams competing for the Trophy, cash & many other prizes. The format will be the same as last year. More info will be published in the next Chum Line. There are only a few openings left. Please call Bill Alpert (818) 789-1637 if you want to sign up or have any questions.

Dave Radner had an accident on 11/4/91 and has been in bad shape but he is on the mend now & we should see him in the near future. Get well Dave.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

MEMBERSHIP:

Your club needs your help!!!!

At the time the 1992 year book went to press LARRC had 129 active members, 16 inactive members & 5 Honorary members. The club functions best when we have 140 to 160 active members. We need the help of every member to build LARRC'S membership back up. We need people who will participate & help in the clubs functions.

BOARD MEETINGS:

The March Board Meeting was held at the Adam's Rib restaurant in the Valley & was very well attended. I was happy to see members there who are not on the Board, such as Otto Painter & his Son Paul, Seymour Rimland, Don Lee, & Dan Felger who by the way is showing great recovery. Oh yes Tony Mindlin was there too. Tony came even though the food wasn't free. It was an all you can eat buffet. The guy really made a pig out of himself. He went back to the trough 5 times. I want to thank all of you who attended, you made the meeting a success. All members are invited to attend the Board Meetings. We need your input.

CHARTERS:

LARRC'S long range trip is sold out, Eric you did a great job and erased the fears that the old timers had. With "EL NINO" it should be great fishing. The Wednesday charters are filling up fast & if you are interested in going contact Dan Felger or myself.

Saturdays charters has openings, bring the kids or Grand-kids, contact Allan Mannheim about going.

KIDS TRIP:

The kids trip will be held on Monday July 13 th this year. Bill Adam's and Joel Steinman can use all the help & donations they can get. We also need help in getting the fishing gear in shape. Contact them if you can help. Let's make this a great year for the kids.

Abe

S P E C I A L N O T I C E

By popular acclamation the Hunting Season on Abe Zaid (Homo Sapien Dingbatamus) has been extended indefinitely. All those wishing to take pot shots at LARRC's "Mildred Filmore", please feel free to do so.

Some of the recently overheard zingers are:

1. Why was whitefish the "catch of the day" at his Northridge deli the day after the 2 day trip on the Seahawk?
2. Does Zaid really offset Felger's fishing lessons with tunafish sandwiches?
3. When will the toothpick be surgically implanted? Is it true that Maurice Levy has volunteered to perform said surgery without anethesia?
4. If his jeans are worn any lower, several members have promised to boycott the meetings ala "last year's Crystal incident".

Warning! Rumor has it that President Zaid does not intend to take cheap shots without striking back. As a matter of fact, a very reliable source has informed this reporter that Harold Goodman and Tony Mindlin have agreed to be his "ghost writers". So, watch out!

To All My Friends in The Los Angeles Rod & Reel Club:

You are a great bunch of guys. The flowers, little gifts, cards, visits, and phone calls all meant something very special to me. The worst is behind me. I feel great and expect to be fishing on the Wednesday charter on April 8.

Before and after my surgery I did alot of homework on prostatic cancer. Although it is slow growing and chances for survival are excellent, early detection is essential. Please, please, if you or anyone you know wish to know more about it, call me at anytime.

Thanks again,

Dan Felger

1992 Wednesday Seahawk Charters

May/6-20
Sep/16-30

Jun/3-17
Oct/14-28

Jul/1-15-29
Nov/4-18

Apr/8-22
Aug/12-19
Dec/1&2*-16

* 2 day trips to San Miguel

Charter Data and Policies

1. Departure Time will be 5:00 a.m. from Sea Landing, Santa Barbara. However, some trips may depart as early as 12:00 a.m. These earlier departures will be at the sole discretion of the CHARTER MASTER after consultation with the skipper.
 2. Generally speaking the trips will be planned for local surface calico bass. However, opportunities to fish for exotics, such as white sea bass and yellowtail, will take precedent. Also, several trips will be for light tackle rockfish and/or halibut at Santa Rosa or San Miguel Island. Other trips may be to Point Conception.
 3. Return time will usually be 4:30 - 5:00 p.m., but could be earlier or later depending on fishing conditions and weather, and will be determined by skipper and CHARTER MASTER.
 4. Two days prior to the scheduled charter the six (6) outside bunks and the double bunk will be assigned by the CHARTER MASTER to those seven (7) individuals who committed to the charter the earliest.
 5. The boat will be available for boarding after 9:00 p.m., or after 11:00 p.m. when the Seahawk is on a twilight trip.
 6. Reservations are restricted to club members and their guests up to 30 days prior to trip date. Then they will be open for nonmember participation.
 7. Loads will be limited to 14 adults or 15 people if juniors are participating.
 8. Cost: \$ 70.00 5:00 a.m. departure 2 Day Trips - \$235 2 a.m. departure
 \$ 90.00 2:00 a.m. departure (All meals included)
- Junior members pay 50% (up to 2 per trip). With the uncertainty of fuel costs there may be a fare adjustment.
9. Soft drinks and beer are included. The galley will not be open--Be sure to bring your own food.
 10. Reservations should be made through Dan Felger at his business, 5530 Corbin Avenue, Suite 120, Tarzana, California 91356, (818) 708-3278. Your reservation, written or verbal, is your commitment to pay, even if you do not go, and your agreement to abide by club charter policies as established by the CHARTER MASTER.

Dan Felger
Charter Master

1992 TROPHY CONTENDERS AS OF MARCH 31, 1992

SPECIES	LINE TEST	ANGLER	LB	OZ
FOREIGN WATERS				
BONEFISH	4	OTTO PAINTER	10	5*
BONEFISH	12	NORMAN SCHINDLER	10	0*
MARLIN, STRIPED	20	LAD RUBAUM	170	0
MARLIN, STRIPED	30	BARRY TAPER	128	8
MARLIN, STRIPED	30	LAD RUBAUM	122	0
PERMIT	8	OTTO PAINTER	11	12*
SALMON, KING	16	EARL WARREN	16	2*
STEELHEAD	12	EARL WARREN	11	2
TARPON	20	OTTO PAINTER	71	0*
TUNA, YELLOWFIN	80	ERIC ROGGER	334	8*
TUNA, YELLOWFIN	80	LARRY CLARK	122	5
TUNA, YELLOWFIN	130	JIM MARSHALL	271	10*
WAHOO	20	LAD RUBAUM	82	0
WAHOO	30	LAD RUBAUM	65	0*
YELLOWTAIL	50	JOEL STEINMAN	30	0

MEN'S RELEASED

MARLIN, STRIPED	30	BARRY TAPER	N/A
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JUNIOR

YELLOWTAIL	50	ROBIN STEINMAN	30	0
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FIRST GAME FISH OF THE YEAR

STILL AT LARGE

*Club Record

**Released

REMINDER:

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A TROPHY A MEMBER SHALL HAVE ATTENDED A MINIMUM OF THREE REGULAR MEETINGS DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR. THIS RULE DOES NOT APPLY TO JUNIOR MEMBERS OR LADIES.

Weight certificates must be signed by a witness to the catch and a witness to the weight, other than the angler.

Weight certificates must be postmarked within 15 days of the catch, unless a written explanation is submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.

WEIGHT SLIPS ARE TO BE SENT TO:

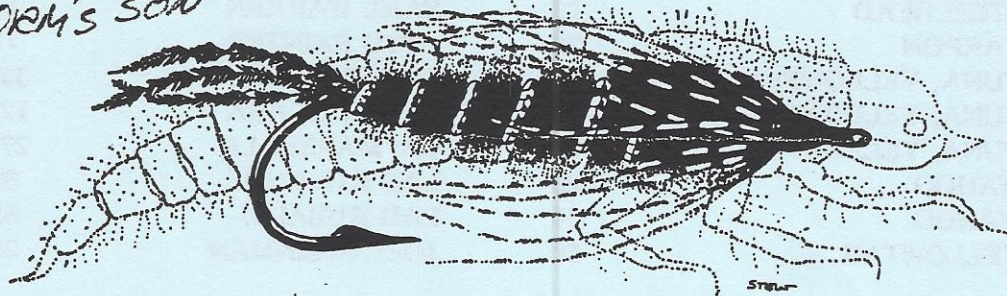
Dan Felger
5530 Corbin Avenue, Suite 120
Tarzana, CA 91356

Should Chemical Attractants Be Used In Fly Fishing

Robert M. Weinstock

Illustration by Stewart Wallace

NORM'S SON



Chemical attractants are a liquid which, when placed upon bait, lures or even a fly, are designed to attract fish due to their smell. They are available at most fishing tackle stores under the names of Berkley "Strike," "Dr. Juice" and others. The topic of this editorial is whether it is appropriate to use chemical attractants when fly fishing.

I recently had the opportunity to go fishing on a private stream which is posted as "fly fishing only." After a long day of relatively slow fishing (where only several brown trout in the six- to nine-inch range were caught), I asked the management of the fishing resort if the use of chemical attractants were permitted. They had no idea.

The next day, just to see if it would work, I placed a drop of chemical attractant on a size 12 Parachute Adams. On my first cast I hooked a 20-25 inch rainbow trout which quickly broke my leader. I could not believe how well the attractant worked! I quickly attached a new leader to my line and decided to try applying the chemical attractant to the fly one more time. Sure enough, another large rainbow was hooked within my first few casts. Feeling guilty about the use of the chemical attractant and not knowing for sure whether or not it was legal, I put the attractant in my vest pocket and did not use it again.

There is almost no way that what occurred was purely by chance. No one

else on the river was having any success. I cannot say if the reason that I caught only rainbow trout or larger fish was due to the chemical attractant. What I can say is that I had much more action in five minutes that I had in the prior six hours of fishing.

After my fishing trip, I called the California Department of Fish and Game to ask their opinion as to whether or not chemical attractants are legal in the State of California. I could hear two or three of the officers arguing over the dilemma. After several minutes of waiting, two of the three officers felt that the use of the chemical attractants was legal. They could not agree as to whether or not these chemical attractants could be considered "bait." They asked for my phone number to call me back.

Later that same day, after speaking to one of their supervisors, the officers in that office all agreed that the use of the chemical attractants would be legal in California. They additionally mentioned that to the best of their knowledge, no citation had ever been written in the State of California for the use of a commercial chemical attractant. They noted the similarity between fly floatants and chemical attractants (a comparison which I cannot completely agree with).

The officers did note that several citations had been issued for the use of WD-40 which is often placed on lures.

Though WD-40 was developed as a lubricant, it has a sweet smell which I have heard many say attracts fish. The reason that citations are issued for the use of WD-40 is not because WD-40 is used as a chemical attractant, but rather WD-40 is a petroleum product which therefore pollutes our water supply.

Since it does not appear that the use of a chemical attractant is illegal, the issue therefore becomes a moral one rather than a legal one. Fly fishing only streams are enforced for the purpose of maintaining the quality of various fisheries from those who use bait and empirically are more likely to kill or remove the fish from a stream.

As fly fisherman, we pride ourselves in being environmentalists and protecting the fish. We use barbless hooks, carefully release the fish, and cut the line if the fish has swallowed the hook.

Surveys have shown that even with caution employed a significant percentage of fish caught by fly fisherman do not survive. By the use of chemical attractants, more fish will be caught and therefore more will die. The end result would be that the quality of our fisheries would begin to lessen.

Though no one likes poor or slow fishing, the decision to use or not to use chemical attractants is one that each of us should weigh. I would hope that readers would agree that the application of chemical attractants is not one which should be followed. □

ATTENTION ALL FISHERMEN:

OUR SATURDAY CHARTERS ARE A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO BRING YOUR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, SPOUSES AND/OR FRIENDS TO ENJOY A GREAT FISHING EXPERIENCE WITH YOU AND OTHER CLUB MEMBERS AND GUESTS. SATURDAY CHARTERS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNLESS YOU SUPPORT THEM. PLEASE SIGN UP A.S.A.P.

1992 SATURDAY SEAHAWK CHARTERS

Dates: June 20, July 18, Aug. 22, Sept 19, Oct. 17

Charter Policies:

1. Departure Time will be 5:00 a.m. from Sea Landing, Santa Barbara. The boat may be boarded after 10:30 p.m. Return time will usually be 4:30 - 5:00 p.m., but could be earlier or later depending on fishing conditions and weather, and will be determined by the Skipper and Charter Master.

2. Generally, the trips will be planned for local surface fishing of Calico Bass. However, when there is an opportunity to fish game fish such as White Sea Bass or Yellowtail, they will take precedent.

3. The six (6) outside bunks and the double bunk will be assigned by the Charter Master to the first seven (7) individuals who commit to the charter.

4. Reservations are restricted to club members and their guests up to 45 prior to the trip date. Then they will be open for nonmember participation. Trips not sold out within 30 days of departure are subject to cancellation.

5. Load will be limited to 16 players, including juniors.

6. Cost to be: \$80.00 per player
\$40.00 Juniors

Price includes boat, temporary fish bags and ice for fish. Food, drinks, fish cleaning and tips are extra.

7. Reservations should be made through Allan Mannheim (310) 457-9237. Your reservation is your commitment to pay, even if you do not go, and your agreement to abide by club charter policies as established by the Charter Master.

LARRC

***2 Day Trips to San Miguel**

1992 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DINNER MEETINGS

BOARD MEETINGS

SATURDAY CHARTERS

WEDNESDAY CHARTERS

APR. 27
MAY. 18
JUN. 29
JUL. 27
AUG. 31
SEP. 21
OCT. 26
NOV. 30
DEC. NONE
JAN. 25 '93

APR. 20
MAY. 11
JUN. 22
JUL. 20
AUG. 24
SEP. 14
OCT. 19
NOV. 23
DEC. 14
JAN. 11 '93
FEB. 8 '93

JUN. 20
JUL. 18
AUG. 22
SEP. 19
OCT. 17

APR.
MAY. 6 & 20
JUN. 3 & 17
JUL. 1, 15 & 29
AUG. 12 & 19
SEP. 2, 16 & 30
OCT. 14 & 28
NOV. 4 & 18
DEC. 1/2* & 16

1992 KIDS' FISHING TRIP
JULY 13, 1992

1992 LONG-RANGE FISHING TRIP
SEPTEMBER 16-20, 1992

1992 KING OF THE CALICOS TOURNAMENT
SEPTEMBER 2, 1992

MEMORANDUM

TO: Otto Painter
FROM: William Adams
DATE: March 6, 1992
SUBJECT: 1992 Kids Trip Update/SHELLY BALZAC - OUR HERO

Shelly Balzac comes through! Shelly Balzac recently met Susan Meyerhoff while Susan was admitting her father to Cedar's Medical Center. Somehow Shelly got on the subject of the LA Rod & Reel Annual Kids Trip. And as it turns out, Susan and her family own Sportcap, Inc. Net result, 42 dozen hats. I picked them up this morning and they are fantastic. Seems to be a mixture of all the odd lots, accumulated by Sportcap. So now we have caps, t-shirts, and pens, (obtained by Dr. Epstein). The annual Kids Trip will be Monday, July 13 and I am hoping that those members who have the contacts will start pushing for additional donations.

NEW CHARTER RULES

The LARRC Board has instituted a new rule regarding all club charters. Effective immediately, all players on a club charter will be subject to standards of good conduct and sportsmanship. The Charter Master, along with the boat Captain, have the complete discretion on where to fish and how long to fish and their determination shall not be interfered with by the players. If, in the opinion of the Charter Master, a member gets out of line he will be given a warning. If, after one warning, a player continues to be out of line, he can be prohibited from joining a future charter by the Charter Master.

Re: Los Angeles Rod & Reel, 1992 Kids Fishing Trip
From: William B. Adams, Chairman

Fellow Members:

Believe it or not, there are only six months left prior to the 1992, Los Angeles Rod & Reel Annual Kids Fishing Trip.

This is the time of year that we should be gathering gifts to be handed out to the kids needing anything from sports' teams, t-shirts, baseball hats, watches, pens and any item that would be appropriate for the kids that come out on our annual day in the sun. To date, we have only one donor; my poor cousin, and she is not even a member of LARRC. She has come up with 400 t-shirts. I wouldn't want to think that our members are going to be outdone a third year in a row by my cousin.

Please contact me if you have any leads. If you are unable to follow up with the leads, I certainly will.

Thank you for your help.

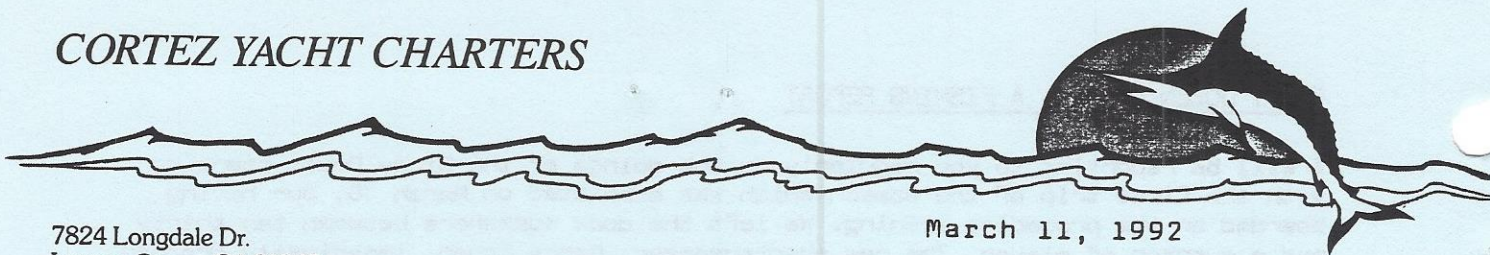
DIRTY DOZEN DIARY - A FISHING REPORT

I will be reporting to you regularly on the doings of the Dirty Dozen starting with the first trip of the season which was completed on March 18, our having boarded on the preceding evening. We left the dock somewhere between ten-thirty and a quarter of eleven. The new chartermaster, Gerry Cohen, immediately dropped the ball by not ensuring that someone brought doughnuts. Normally a member is assigned on each trip to bring the doughnuts. Three dozen is the standard which works out to about two and a half doughnuts per player on the average but some don't eat doughnuts at all while others have more so that by breakfast time the next morning there are only a few left; if any. No one was willing to go back into town to get doughnuts even though there is a Winchell's on Gaffey no more than five minutes from the landing. Cohen claims that he didn't know it was the chartermaster's responsibility to give the doughnut assignment to different individuals on each trip so no one got the word this first time. That won't happen again. We gave up on the New Hustler for reasons best not gone into and chartered the Encore instead. Since some of the players were not familiar with the Encore I was set to give an escorted tour of the boat for orientation purposes. It has two circular stairways (ladders, in naval parlance) to below decks. At the bottom of the portside ladder there are piled some innocent looking cardboard cartons which contain the boat's supply of individual size potatoe chip bags. It may be Roger's intention to store these in an ill-lit area to discourage their discovery but that doesn't work in our case. The only problem is that, because of the darkness, it is impossible to know whether one is picking up regular potatoe chips or the bar-b-que flavored ones. I prefer the former but cannot tell 'til coming topside again. There is a long cabinet running down the center of the galley and on the starboard side, the middle compartment, is where they keep the boxes of Milky Ways and Snickers and various other candies. One nice thing about the Encore is that there is a softdrink dispensing machine whereby one need only push any one of a half dozen buttons to get the desired brand and just below that is a bin of fresh ice cubes as opposed to the cold box on the New Hustler where cans of beer and jugs of milk and mustard jars and mayonaisse are intermixed with the soft drinks. The bunk lights below are individually controlled but those in the passageway on the portside can be turned on and off only from a control panel located on the back of the forward banquet bench on the portside up in the galley while those on the starboard side are located in the overhead at the bottom of the starboard ladder which makes for a nuisance to those sleeping on the portside open bunks in midcompartment as opposed to those in the staterooms laterally which have doors which shut out the light. The airconditioning outlet blow hard and cold over every bunk and are not equipped with shut-off panels. This can require sleeping with heads under blankets. I always come equipped with a piece of cardboard cut to the proper shape and size and plenty of tape to fix it over the airconditioning vent and so advised the uninitiated. Those who arrive earliest learn to stash their rods in the few tubular rodholders mounted above the standard line of rubber rodholders lining the superstructure outer walls (bulkheads, in naval parlance) as the rubber is hard as iron and once the rod is grasped it is almost impossible to release the damned things. Some people bring their own pillows while others, like Julie Wolf, bring complete bed rolls with pressed pajamas. The choice is entirely with the individual. The Encore was designed with a nice broad beam so that ten people at a time can comfortably fish the stern if they will only observe the shift rule. Cohen must take a leaf from Schwartz' book. Schwartz was not only tough but mean where it came to the shift rule, among other things. The Encore broke down and we took the Indian instead.

The fishing was pretty good for early in the season.

Dirty Dozen Reporter

CORTEZ YACHT CHARTERS



7824 Longdale Dr.
Lemon Grove, CA 91945
(619) 469-4255 FAX-(619) 461-9303

March 11, 1992

Mr. Otto Painter
1444 South Shenandoah Street
Los Angeles, CA 90035

Dear Otto:

First, I truly hope this letter finds you in good health, and good spirits.

The enclosure is an excerpt from the News Letter for the San Diego Sportfishing Association, and I thought it might be of some interest to the Optimistic Constituency of the LARRC. Finally, a glimmer of hope, on the horizon, even if the prospects for albacore are a bit downsidled.

I had the opportunity to listen to, and see the presentation by Dr. Tim Barnett, also of the NMFS, La Jolla, regarding the upcoming "EL NINO". Truly interesting, and enormously upbeat and positive.

The good Dr. Scientist brought our organization through a several month, "blow-by-blow" presentation, reflecting a significant "EL NINO" condition, already developed, and expanding. Already in the area of Cabo San Lucas, and extending north, nearly to Mag Bay. Then, San Diego is already substantially above normal, and though a bit of cold water streaks offshore, it is still above normal. Barring any of the unknown effects of Mother Nature, should the trend continue, we should experience a very good fishing season. (Already, we are seeing fair amounts of yellowtail in the area of San Martin, and the reports of Yellowfin Tuna, just outside San Geronimo Island, only 200 miles south of San Diego. Hence, and just maybe, we will have something to begin an early season.

All we have to do now is keep our fingers crossed. It's onward and upward, with all justifiable optimisms.

Warmest personal regards,

Larry Edwards
CORTEZ YACHT CHARTERS

LE:lm

Enclosure

El Nino Conditions Extend to Ocean Waters Off California

Dr. Michael Laurs
 NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center
 La Jolla, California

Warm water conditions associated with El Nino spread to waters off of California during January, 1992. Surface ocean temperatures were above normal in a band extending from the coast to about 100 to 250 miles offshore from Baja, California to San Francisco and reaching several hundred miles offshore north of San Francisco. Cooler than normal sea surface temperatures (SST) prevailed in ocean waters offshore the belt of warmer than normal ocean waters found adjacent to the coast.

The ordinary pattern of ocean temperature distribution is that SSTs decrease from south to north and increase from inshore to offshore. So while waters nearer to the coast are warmer than normal, they are cooler in absolute value than those further offshore. Likewise, while the warm water anomaly is more intense in nearshore waters off San Francisco than in coastal waters between Los Angeles and Monterey, the absolute temperatures are cooler in the region off San Francisco. Warm water conditions associated with El Nino have been developing in equatorial and tropical Pacific regions for numerous months. However, coastal waters off the U.S. generally have been below normal for approximately the past year prior to the shift to above normal pattern that occurred in January.

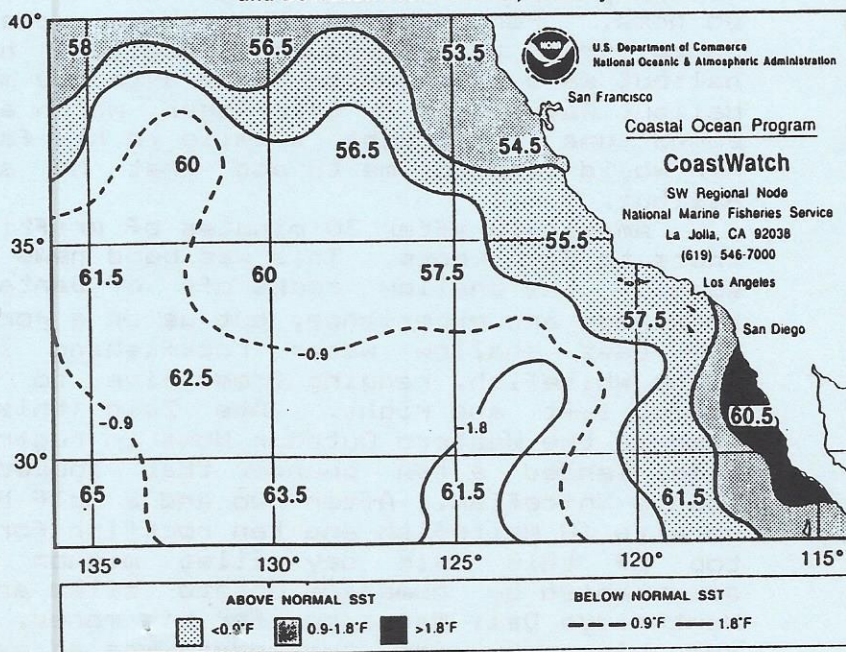
A figure showing coastal ocean average SST (F°) and deviation

from normal for January 1992 is shown below. In the figure, areas where temperatures are above normal are depicted by stippling, with the magnitude of the deviation indicated in the stippling patterns shown at the bottom of the figure. Offshore waters where SSTs are below normal are bounded by dashed and solid lines. The figure was provided by the new El NINO WATCH project headquartered at the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, California under the direction of Dr. Michael Laurs. The El NINO WATCH project primarily involves analyzing satellite imagery and shipboard and buoy data. It is part of NOAA's Coastal Ocean Program called Coast Watch, which is responsible for monitoring and disseminating data on various unusual environmental events in U.S. coastal waters. Similar monthly ocean temperature charts will be available approximately a week after the end of the month.

In addition to causing changes in

rainfall and weather patterns along the U.S. west coast, El Nino conditions can have dramatic impacts on ocean plant and animal species. It is favorable for some species of fish and unfavorable for others. For example, El Nino warm waters cause a northward extension of the geographic range of several tropical species. As a result there should be excellent sportsfishing in northern Baja, California and southern California waters for exotic species such as bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas and dorado, especially during late summer and fall months this year. The outlook for albacore is not as favorable. Albacore tend to be somewhat scarce in waters of southern California during El Nino years. However, albacore fishermen have something for which to look forward, since historically unusually large catches of albacore are made in the fishing season following an El Nino. For example, California sport-fishermen caught 17,161 albacore in El Nino year 1983, but took 211,285 albacore in 1984.

El Niño Watch, Advisory no. 92-1. Coastal Ocean Mean SST (°F) and Deviation From Normal, January 1992.



(Based on data from NOAA/NWS Redwood City, CA)

**Two days aboard the Sea Hawk by Joel Zide
(Son of the Northridge Deli Man)**

This two day extravaganza aboard the Sea Hawk was not only a fishing safari, but an eatorama as well, catered by none other than the Northridge Deli Man (A.K.A. our fearless leader). Along for the ride on this journey was a light load of ten players, four crew members, two dozen cinnamon rolls, five pounds of lox, a whitefish, two and a half dozen bagels, two quarts of cream cheese, and a twelve pound filet mignon, which were well prepared for the two days at sea.

Upon waking up the first morning at San Miguel Island we arose to the smell of fresh brewed coffee and indulged in fresh bagels (or a day old at most) along with lox, cream cheese, onions, and tomatoes. Delicious! Thank God that deli guy was on the trip. Unfortunately, after this excellent breakfast was demolished we hit into some rough seas which didn't go over well with everyone. Despite the fact that the seas were a little rough the fishing was almost wide open. For ten guys there were 18 Lings landed, almost two per rod. Four were caught by the Northridge Deli Man (He wanted me to write that). Along with the Lings there were a lot of quality reds brought on board.

For lunch Merit nestled the Hawk into a quiet little cove out of the choppy water where we ate. Fajitas were prepared to perfection by the beautiful Galley Girl, which everyone enjoyed. (The fajitas that is, or maybe the Galley Girl too for all I know). After this delicious lunch we went back out into the choppy water to try and fish. Unfortunately, it was too rough and we had to retreat to the sheltered side of San Miguel Island.

Come nightfall, once again we were tucked inside a sheltered cove anticipating stuffing our faces. The filet mignon was barbecued to perfection by Chef McCrea, who was subsequently offered a job by the Northridge Deli Man. Merit had to decline this offer although he was tempted. After this delicious five course meal was settled, we made our way over to Santa Rosa Island in the hopes of catching White Seabass.

Unfortunately, when we woke up on the back side of Santa Rosa, which is the sheltered side, the white caps were nearly blowing over the side of the boat. The twenty five knot winds almost prompted the Northridge Deli Man to tell Captain McCrea to go home. Fortunately, Merit knew some good sheltered coves at Santa Rosa that produced excellent halibut fishing. Three halibut were brought on board after 30 minutes of drifting. One Halibut was caught by Eric Roger, which although it wasn't a 360 pound tuna it brought a smile to his face. The Northridge Deli Man would like for me to add that he also landed one of the Halibut.

Amazingly after 30 minutes of drifting the wind died from 25 knots to five knots. This was good news and meant we could fish some of the shallow rocks off of Santa Rosa. Merit, with his knowledge and experience, put us on a rock that provided some of the best shallow water rockfishing I have ever encountered. Giant Whitefish, ranging from five to ten pounds, were being gaffed left and right. Abe Zaid (this is how they spelled his name in the Western Outdoor News in regards to the same fishing trip) landed a ten pounder that looked more like a Yellowtail than a Whitefish. After two and a half hours of fishing I ended up with 18 Whitefish and ten rockfish for a total of 28 fish. To top of this epic day filet mignon sandwiches were served, accompanied by homemade potato salad and coleslaw that gave the Northridge Deli Man a run for his money. Being pampered by Merit and his crew for two days was an excellent experience and I recommend the trip to all those that can make it.

More on Hooks in Fish...

You've printed several letters lately concerning the fate of hooks left in fishes' mouths. Most recently Hal Lyman pointed to his experience of finding partially rusted hooks in fish. Unfortunately, such observations may not tell the whole story.

Several years ago the Maryland Fisheries Division initiated hook-retention studies as part of the reopening of the state's striped bass fishery. Mustad #2 bait hooks with finishes of lacquer/bronze, nickel plate, tin/cadmium plate, and stainless steel were used. Each hook type was inserted into the gullet behind the pharyngeal plates to simulate a fish deeply hooked. Thirty fish were in each hook-type group, plus controls.

After 120 days, 78 percent of the hooks were still in the fish. All the rejected hooks were lost in the first 60 days. The fish formed a thick fibrosis around the inserted portion of the hook. The follow-up question is: What effect does the retained hook have on the fish? Our studies were done in the fall and early winter when stresses on striped bass are probably least. Further studies will be done this summer with the additional stresses of warm water.

This high and consistent rate of retention is significant to fishermen's perception of the fate of hooks they leave in fish when releasing them. As we promote catch-and-release fishing as being a conservative use of the resource, we need to point out that leaving a hook in a fish's gullet may not be as harmless as previously believed. Barbless bait hooks would help, but they are not yet available in sizes and styles for use with large salt water species. Crimping the barb does not remove enough of the barb to permit the fish to throw the hook, according to our work.

While more studies need to be done on the fate of hooks in fish, the myth of hooks rusting or falling out also needs to be dispelled. — John W. S. Foster, Recreational Fisheries Coordinator, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources

Commercial Fisheries Management

Based on a 1976 law, marine fisheries are the property of the American public to the 200-mile limit. Nevertheless, this public resource is managed as if it were the exclusive domain of the commercial fishing industry. For example, while commercial fishermen pay license fees to participate in some fisheries, these costs are minute; an annual permit to catch giant bluefin tuna that are worth as much as \$25,000 each costs just \$20.

In 1990, U.S. commercial fishermen harvested 9.7 billion pounds of fish worth \$3.6 billion at dockside, without paying a penny to the public. In addition, commercial fishermen received \$22 million in fishery development monies and had \$290 million in outstanding vessel loans that are guaranteed by the federal government. The federal management costs for these fisheries totalled \$126 million, not including the costs of research ships and Coast Guard enforcement.

Commercial fishermen are also exempt from fuel taxes. The exemption from the 15-cent-a-gallon fuel tax is a subsidy of \$75 million to \$112.5 million a year.

Many fish stocks in the U.S. are overfished due to near total open access to commercial fishing combined with economic incentives that encourage additional fishing. A recent report by the National Marine Fisheries Service classifies 64 species as overfished out of 101 species for which information is available.

Calicos

These innovative bass techniques will keep southern California saltwater anglers playing tug-o-war with big bulls of world-class proportion.

By Ben Secret

IT WAS AN HOUR BEFORE DARK and the magic moment was upon us. Fishing partner, Greg Stotesbury, and I had already released close to 15 calicos up to seven pounds. Our next stop was a finger-reef where we had caught some nice fish earlier that afternoon. As we started working our way down the reef with the aid of a trolling motor, Greg's rod bent with a powerful surge. He reared back and stuck his formidable opponent with a quick, swift backward movement. After Greg fought this fish for a few minutes on a hammered drag, I reached down to lip it. The fish felt hefty, so we pulled out our scale for a weight before we released it. This calico bass tipped the scale at 8½ pounds — a real nice fish for an afternoon session.

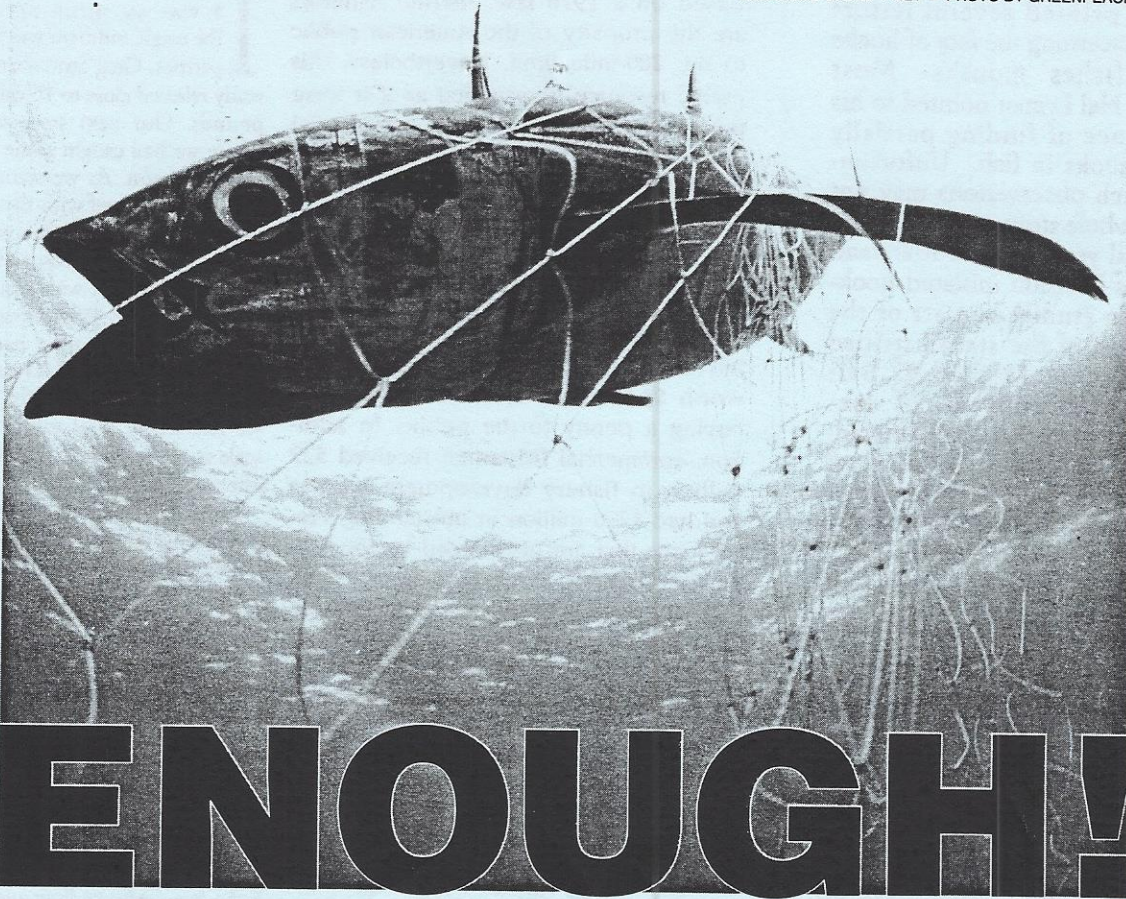
Many anglers are unaware of the quality fishing available just 15 minutes from Orange Coast harbors. There are numerous spots within a 10- to 25-minute run from our South County harbors that produce a variety of fish, including white seabass, sandbass, halibut and, my personal favorite, calico bass. If the conditions are right, the inshore areas adjacent to our South Coast harbors can provide some outstanding angling opportunities.

There are a number of factors that when combined turn an average fishing trip into an outstanding one. The right tackle, line, and lures are a must but the most important factor is the knowledge of how and when to apply them. The most important factor in calico bass fishing is learning their environment. To find the right "neighborhood," several conditions have to be present:

- 1) a good current caused by strong tidal movement.
- 2) a swell to churn up the bait.
- 3) off-colored water.

If any of these conditions are missing, it could be a little more difficult to locate fish. Lure selection is also a factor because it varies depending on water clarity and light conditions. The general rule is the darker the water (due to dirty water, cloudy weather, or lack of sunlight), the darker the bait; the clearer the water, the lighter the bait.

There are three basic types of artificial lures that we use with a variety of techniques. The different lures and techniques can be used from Point Conception to the tip of Baja, but our main focus is the local South County waters.



If you love fishing . . . take this quick test . . .

- Would you like to exclude the Horseshoe Kelp area as a potential dumpsite for toxic dredgings from Long Beach and Los Angeles harbors?
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If you answered four or more questions with a yes, then you qualify for membership in United Anglers.



UNITED ANGLERS OF CALIFORNIA
Southern California Council

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There's a big family gathering at my cousin Eileen's house. Aunt Nettie is in town from Chicago and most of us haven't seen her for at least twenty years. Lucille and I arrive late. I get a drink and go over to kiss Aunt Nettie and listen dutifully to how she used to diaper me and wasn't I such a nice fat baby and so smart and she knew I was going to be a doctor. Aunt Nettie is eighty-seven and can still remember how I was already reading at age four.

Some of the crowd was in the kitchen, others were going over scraps on the dining room table and a few of the gals were telling dirty jokes far enough away that Aunt Nettie couldn't hear them. I knew all the jokes so followed my ears to the den where a mixed group of about twenty was whooping and hollering in front of the TV. The East-West basketball game was on. I brought in a plate of food and asked what was going on.

Beverly: What does it look like? (Cousin Beverly is a rabid Lakers fan.)
Me: Some kind of game?
Beverly: Oh, my God.
Me: This isn't right. We're supposed to be sitting with Aunt Nettie.
John: We all sat with her. Go away.
Me: Did she tell you about when she used to diaper me?
Ruth: Go away, Harold.
Me: Who's that big black guy in the white shorts and undershirt?
Richie: Air Jordan.
Me: Air, did you say?
Richie: Harold, if you're going to stay be quiet.
Me: Looks like the idea is to get the ball through that ring.
Goggy: Very good, sport.
Me: There's a hole in the bottom. Ball keeps falling through.
Richie: It's called a net and that's supposed to happen.
Me: Seems pretty pointless to me.
Beverly: Harold, go get some more food.
Me: Why do they keep flashing which end is which?
Goggy: What?
Me: They keep telling us which end is east and which end is west.
Beverly: That's the score, stupid.
Me: Ah, I see. This is very interesting. That little guy in the striped shirt doesn't seem to have a chance against those big guys.
Ruth: Oh, Gawd!
Me: Well, when he gets hold of the ball he always hands it to one of the big guys. I don't blame him.
Goggy: Look, Harold, we'll explain it to you during the half.
Me: Boy, that guy in the suit really gets excited.
Bob: He's the coach. Coaches are paid to get excited.
Me: I'm getting tired from just watching.
Beverly: Why don't you have another drink and go upstairs and lie down?
Me: And miss all this? No way!
Group: Hey, Magic!! Atta boy, Magic!! That's fourteen! Way to go, Magic!!
Me: What happened? What happened?
Beverly: Is he terrific or is he terrific?
Richie: Fantastic! Would you believe he's been away?
Me: Who's been away? Who's been away? Won't somebody tell me what happened?
Beverly: Why don't you go talk to Aunt Nettie about her gout?
Eileen: Harold, Lucille is looking all over for you.
Me: Sorry, gang. Gotta go.
Jody: Grandma, didn't he grow up in Indiana, too? Doesn't he know basketball?
Beverly: Of course he knows basketball, darling.
Jody: Then why was he asking all those dumb questions?
Beverly: That's his sickness, dear. He thinks he's funny.

H. Goodman



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 1, 1992

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CLEARING THE AIR ON SEAFOOD SAFETY

The February 1992 *Consumer Reports* article "Is Our Fish Fit to Eat?" broadly implies that much of the seafood available in the United States may be contaminated, of poor quality, unsafe. The report allegedly based its conclusions on a six month investigation. However, the investigation encompassed only 113 samples from two limited geographic areas -- New York City and Chicago. Moreover, many conclusions were drawn from inaccurate, or erroneous, interpretation of scientific research.

Following are highlights of a critique of the *Consumer Reports* article compiled by Dr. Robert Price, eminent seafood technologist at the University of California, Sea Grant Cooperative Extension Program.

BACTERIA and AEROBIC PLATE COUNTS: The *Consumer Reports* article noted that bacteria are the main culprits in the fish spoilage process; the article found nearly 40% of the fish tested to be of fair or poor quality. Aerobic plate counts give a rough indication of the remaining "shelf life" of fresh seafood. The International Commission on Microbiological Specifications for Foods suggests the following guidelines for fresh seafood:

Good quality	< 1,000,000 bacteria per gram
Acceptable quality	1,000,000 to <10,000,000 bacteria per gram
Unacceptable quality	>10,000,000 bacteria per gram

The *Consumer Reports* article stated on page 104, "Though bacteria counts higher than 500,000 indicate deteriorating quality, fish truly begin to spoil when bacteria grow to between 1 million and 10 million colonies per gram."

"The statement is erroneous and misleading," says Dr. Price, noting that *Consumer Reports'* aerobic plate counts were higher than those found in similar surveys, with no explanation for the differences. For example, a recent FDA survey of Puget Sound retail seafood products included 287 samples from a small geographic area (Abeyta, 1983). Only 2% of 287 samples were found to have bacterial levels greater than 10,000,000 bacteria per gram. The FDA sample was over twice as large as the *Consumer Reports* sample. "The *Consumer Reports* results may reflect retail seafood samples in Chicago and New York, but there is no evidence that the results reflect seafoods anywhere else," Dr. Price states.

THE TRUTH ABOUT FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA: Statements on pages 103 and 104 of the *Consumer Reports* article are scientifically inaccurate:

- "Nearly half the fish tested was contaminated by bacteria from human or animal feces. . ."
- "Coliform bacteria are generally found in the intestinal tract of humans and other warm-blooded animals."
- "In general, the higher the level of fecal coliforms, the higher the probability that harmful organisms are present."

Coliforms comprise a large group, including numerous environmental bacteria as well as human intestinal bacteria. Fecal coliforms are a subgroup of coliforms and once were thought to contain a higher percentage of intestinal bacteria and fewer environmental bacteria. However, several species of bacteria found naturally in the environment produce positive "fecal coliform" reactions in the laboratory. The FDA tests fresh fish for *Escherichia coli*, a human intestinal bacteria, rather than for fecal coliforms, because "fecal coliform" data are unreliable. "The *Consumer Reports* data for "fecal coliforms" is meaningless," says Dr. Price. "If the (*Consumer Reports*) investigation had tested for *E. coli* rather than fecal coliforms, the article might have had more credibility."

The FDA reported very low levels of *E. coli* in Puget Sound retail seafoods. Only 4.2% of 287 samples were positive for *E. coli*, and none of the samples exceeded the maximum recommended limit for acceptability of 400 *E. coli* bacteria per gram (Abeyta, 1983).

CLEARING THE AIR ON SEAFOOD SAFETY

LABELING: Skinless fish filets are difficult, if not impossible, for experts to identify. The more times a fish changes hands during distribution, the greater the chance of labeling error. Mislabeling likely is unintentional in most cases because store clerks are not fish identification experts.

However, the mislabeling claims against "Pacific red snapper" are questionable. Pacific red snapper is a marketing term, not a species. The name is legal in California, Oregon, and Washington for 13 species of rockfish. It is unlikely that the testing laboratory checked samples of rockfish against all 13 species legally entitled to the marketing appellation "Pacific Red Snapper."

(The 13 species are: widow rockfish; yellowtail rockfish; chillipepper; shortbelly rockfish; cowcod; black rockfish; vermillion rockfish; speckled rockfish; bocaccio; canary rockfish; yelloweye rockfish; bank rockfish; olive rockfish.)

CHEMICALS: Chemical contamination of fish and shellfish is a problem in specific geographic areas with some species. The major consumers at risk are recreational fishermen and subsistence fishermen, not consumers of commercial seafood states. Dr. Price, referring to findings in "Seafood Safety," a report by the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Price adds, "Consumer Reports implies that trace amounts of chemical contaminants in fish are a public health risk." "There is no scientific evidence to support this implication."

Regulatory tolerances and action levels are NOT safety tolerances. Regulatory tolerances and action levels have built-in "safety factors."

MERCURY: Mercury enters the environment naturally and through industrial pollution. Bacteria convert inorganic mercury to methylmercury. Large amounts of methylmercury can be toxic to humans. The FDA has established a 1.0 part per million (ppm) regulatory action level for methylmercury in fish. The FDA has suggested that consumers should avoid consuming fish containing over 10 ppm of inorganic mercury.

Consumer Reports states: "Almost all the mercury in fish is the compound methylmercury." This assumption has persisted in the literature, but it is not a valid assumption, according to Dr. Price. He points out that the percent of total mercury in fish that is methylmercury varies widely from 20% to 100% (Luten, et al, 1980).

"Consumer Reports did not test for methylmercury, only for total mercury, therefore the data cannot be evaluated," says Dr. Price, who adds, "The statement that '40% (of sampled fish) contained mercury that exceeded the action level' is in error because the action level of 1 ppm is for methylmercury, not total mercury." The lab did not measure methylmercury for the Consumer Reports article.

There has been only one suspected case of mercury poisoning from eating fish in the United States. In this case, the person consumed 12 1/2 ounces of swordfish daily for 10 months, and later returned to the diet for 4 or 8 week periods. The woman developed what appeared to be mild mercury poisoning symptoms. However, the cause of the symptoms was never confirmed.

LEAD: Consumer Reports implies that the lead in fish impairs the behavioral development in children. There is no scientific evidence to support this implication.

FOODBORNE DISEASE OUTBREAKS IN THE U.S., 1973-1987: Between 1973 and 1987, 237,545 cases of foodborne disease were reported to the Centers for Disease Control. Bacterial pathogens accounted for 87% of cases, and of those, Salmonella accounted for 51% of cases. Virtually none of the salmonella cases was attributed to seafood.

In this and other studies, seafood exhibited the best safety record of any muscle meat. Shellfish constituted only 2.3% of foodborne illnesses, and finfish constituted only 1.2% of foodborne illnesses.

At a Congressional hearing in June, 1989, on the subject of seafood safety, Frank E. Young, MD, PhD, Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, testified:

"The Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control agree, based on estimates of acute disease occurrences, not just those reported, that on a per weight consumed basis, fish is by far the safest source of muscle protein available."

For more information on seafood safety and seafood safety regulations in California, see "Fish Facts - SEAFOOD SAFETY," compiled by the California Seafood Council.

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