

Chum Line



Published by the Los Angeles Rod & Reel Club

March 1993

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had a really great awards banquet. Earl Warren did an excellent job of Master of Ceremonies. The disc jockey was also great. All and all I think everyone had a really good time. I again want to thank everyone who helped me make this a great event. Earl and Pam Warren, Tammy and Joel Steinman, Otto Painter and Bob Beaver, Barry Fischer and especially my wife Sandi.

KIDS' FISHING TRIP

We still need volunteers to help us get donations of gifts for kids' trip. Don't forget the date—Monday, July 12, 1993.

NEW MEMBERS

Our final tabulation of members for 1993 is 113. This is way too small. We need new members. The best place to find new members is by recommendations of the current members. My goal this year is 20 new members. Please help me out. When you see a new face at one of our functions please go out of your way to make them feel at home.

We need our membership to support our fishing charters. We had to cancel one trip this month for lack of fishermen. The next Indian fishing trip, March 24, only has 7 players. We need more. We will fish either Catalina or San Clemente.

At the next board of directors meeting we are considering changing some of the fish categories. If any member would like to have any input into these decisions, please call or write me prior to the March 15 board meeting.

At our last meeting we had an excellent talk by "Worm King". However, someone from our club stole some lures from them. Some lures were taken off the table and other lures were clipped off the line on their fishing poles. This is very embarrassing to the club. I have sent the owner Marv Bendalin a letter telling him how sorry we were and an offer to pay for the lures. But, to this date I have not heard back from him. Next month we will have "Taddy Lures" give a talk. I hope the members will act in a manner that will bring honor to the club.

The March meeting will be one week early. March 22, 1993. Please plan to be there and see the new president get initiated.

Norman Weinstock

818 881-9689



Dinner Item

A reminder that you should make your dinner reservation (March 22nd) at Andre's. Fish, Meat or Poultry are on the menu. Dave Wende asks you not fall to call the hot line unless you've been contacted directly. (818) 710-7701



GUEST EDITORIALS

Where do we go from here....

This is the first issue of *Chum Line* generated by someone other than Otto Painter. Otto has done this for twenty years and what an admirable way to help hold the LARRC together! A hearty salute to Otto and my invitation to have him contribute at any time.

I start this job with the best of intentions but I don't have the same sort of experiences that Otto can point to nor do I know as many people as he does. Perhaps this is as it should be since there are newer administrations around. Just as the fishing has changed so should the fishermen!


So let me give this yardstick just once. You will note some changes in format, length of the *Chum Line*, perhaps a little more slant on ocean problems, solicitations for more *Chum Line* involvement and contributions from the members. I plan to call you and ask and you may be assured that nothing that has to do with the *Chum Line* will be etched in stone.

If you have constructive ideas my door is open. If you have a serious difficulty come to a board meeting!

One of my guidelines would be alternating editorial writers. The board is talking about paid ads on one page to help underwrite *Chum Line* expenses. These issues will be coming to you with professional, but free-lance, help. So we have to watch our budget, i.e. wasted space and number of pages, needless repetitions. The masthead nor the charter dates need to be in every issue! Let's see if we can't fill the paper with items related to a fishing club...if I can't find 16 pages of interesting material perhaps 12 will suffice.

Having said this I want you to read the attached note from "Lucille Goodman". I thought it was funny and clever but I really hope the Goodmans get a couple of sharks for their pool instead of their pet dogs. I'm also under constraints; Jeanne has threatened to withhold her conjugal favors if I don't stick to my policies...

Looking forward to a great old *Chum Line* time.

Eric 

Send all material to me:

Eric Rogger
2625 Westridge Road
Los Angeles, CA 90049
or
you can FAX me at
(310) 476-6811

Phone:
(310) 476-5936

THANKS!

Contributions Needed for the *Chum Line*

Chum Line needs reporters and contributors with interesting articles that relate to the club and its members. When you see an article in the media, cut it out and mail it in, when you travel and fish elsewhere others would like to know about it. Any unusual experiences etc.. This is OUR newspaper! Articles should be in my hands by the last week of the month. If the news is dated please indicate so. We lay out the pages on the basis of available and expected articles. If you promise to send *Chum Line* something and don't do it....you're creating a lot of additional work—you'll hear from me. All submissions should be factual and cite the source. i.e. no second hand gossip!

LETTERS TO LARRC

15 February, 1993

Dear Mr. Rogger,

I hope you will forgive me for bothering you with my problems, knowing how busy your life must be. It's my husband, Harold. He is a manic-depressive. I suppose I shouldn't be telling you this but I am desperate.

Ever since he learned that he would not be allowed to write for the *Chum Line* he has been in his depressed state. Yesterday he wouldn't come out of his room at all. He put the cover on his word processor for the first time in years and won't even go into the study where it is located. He's been working on a book and now I am afraid that it will never be finished and now he is threatening never to go fishing again. Mr. Rogger, I've looked forward to the days when he goes fishing.

Sir, I've no way of knowing how tenuous your marriage may be. Ours has been hanging by a thread for forty-one years. I know that I shouldn't be telling you this but please consider that you hold the key to my husband's marginal grasp on anything like stability. Poor pedantic soul, he feels that there is so much to share with the world. There is a need to explain music, laundry techniques, literature, bread-baking, first-aid and many other areas. He was about to instruct your readers on how to identify field birds by their mating songs. He happens to know very little about fishing and is honest enough not to hold forth on that subject. Yet, the directive from your board forbids him to stray into other fields.

Can you not make an exception?

Mr. Rogger, I will do anything to hold this marriage together. Anything.

Lucille Goodman



From the California Fish and Game Commission

- 3. Request of Rodolphe Streichenberger, Marine Forests Society, Balboa Island, for an allotment of approximately 10 acres of state water bottoms located off Balboa Pier, Orange County, for aquaculture purposes and for a waiver of support buoy requirement.
 - 5. Request of Nautilus Farms, Inc. Irvine, for an allotment of approximately 177 acres of state water bottoms located 1/4 mile off Huntington State Beach, Orange County, for the purpose of cultivation of giant kelp, dungeness crab, mussels, abalone and sea urchins.
 - 35. Request of David E. Nix, Rate and Wild Presentations, Valley Center, for Authorization to import and possess one black vulture, one king vulture, one Harris hawk, one red-tailed hawk, one kestrel and one armadillo for educational purposes.
- Ed. Comment - We didn't even know they could read!

Source: Feb. '93 Agenda of the State of California Fish and Game Commission

Thursday evening, Feb. 18th, the time of a torrential rain, saw the complete destruction, by fire, apparently caused by an electrical short, of Irv. (Judge) Harris' home. Irv told "Chum Line" that he built this house and lived there for 44 years. Option regarding rebuilding or moving are being considered. LARRC wishes the family an early resolution of their dilemma.

Otto Painter missed the installation dinner and Chum Line talked to him. It seems that wife Henny is going in for surgery on March 9th to treat an aneurism. Otto says she will be in intensive care for six days and have an extended recuperative period. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Memberships

Frank Polak has applied for membership in LARRC!

Comments?

CALENDAR

LARRC OTHER EVENTS

LAARC DINNER MEETING

Monday, March 22nd
Andre's Restaurant
8635 Wilshire Blvd.
Cocktails: 6:00PM
Dinner: 7:00PM



MARCH BOARD MEETING

DATE: March 15th
PLACE: Alan Field's
5440 Lindley Ave
#105
Encino, CA 91316
TIME: 7:00PM
Dinner (if you care)
at 6 pm
Rosie's BBQ
16348 Ventura Blvd.
Encino
Call (818) 785-7306
for info.

Meetings

	Dinner Meetings	Board Meetings
Feb.	None	
Mar.	22	15
Apr.	26	19
May	24	17
Jun.	28	21
Jul.	26	19
Aug.	30	23
Sep.	27	20
Oct.	25	18
Nov.	29	22
Dec.	None	13
Jan.	31, 1994	24, 1994
Feb.		7, 1994

Shows

March 3 - March 7th.
 Western Fishing & Tackle Show
 Long Beach Convention Center,
 Hrs.: Wed-Fri 2-10 pm, Sat. 10-10 pm,
 Sun. 7-10 pm

March 13

Tackle Swap Meet at Fishermen's
 Spot, 8-3 pm 14423 Burbank Bl.,
 Van Nuys, (818) 785-7306 for info.

LARRC CHARTERS

Wednesday Trips

	Seahawk Santa Barbara	Indian San Pedro
Feb.	17	24
Mar.	3, 17, 31	24
Apr.	14, 28	21
May	11/12*, 26	19
Jun.	9, 23	30
Jul.	7, 21	28
Aug.	4, 18	25
Sep.	1, 22	29
Oct.	6, 20	27
Nov.	2/3*, 17	
Dec.	1	

* = Two-Day Trips to San Miguel

Annual Kids' Trip

July 12
 LARRC Annual Kids' Trip - LA Harbor -
 Details to follow

Long Range Trips

Sept. 8 - 13
 LARRC Annual Long Range Trip
 - Qualifier 105

Tournaments

1993 King of the Calicos Tournament
 Date to be announced

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.

THE ENVIRONMENT

BLUEFIN TUNA NEWS

The National Marine Fisheries Service admits that many of our marine fish stocks are being overfished. We need your help to raise public concern over this situation and to generate political pressure on Congress and the federal government to take immediate action on the most pressing conservation issues.

The magnificent Atlantic bluefin tuna is one of the species of greatest concern. In the last two decades, overfishing for export to Japan has caused the bluefin's spawning population to plummet. The decline has been nothing short of catastrophic: NMFS scientists estimate that the western Atlantic spawning population has declined by 90% since 1970. Currently, one giant bluefin tuna can bring up to \$30,000 on the export market, a value that has led to their relentless pursuit by a small group of commercial net fishermen known as purse seiners. Today, more than 30% of the annual U.S. bluefin quota is taken by just five purse seine boats. The lopsided allocation gives a disproportionate percentage of the overall catch to an industry that represents only 2-3% of the jobs in the fishery. In other words, the seiners are allocated nearly 15 times their fair share based on total employment. The small commercial and sport boat hook and line fishermen—and more importantly the bluefin tuna itself—are being hurt by a handful of people and their Washington lobbyists.

Let's not allow the greed of a few to drive one of nature's most beautiful creatures to extinction. Let's keep our marine fisheries healthy for future generations. Support the groups that are pushing hard for the conservation and responsible management of the bluefin tuna and other species. **To find out what you can do, contact: World Wildlife Fund, Marine Fisheries Program, Dept. ZG31, 1250 24th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037, or call (202) 778-9688.**

ACCENTUATE

California commercial fishermen denied experimental long-line permits: Thanks to testimony by the United Anglers of California (UAC) at a public hearing last October, the California Fish and Game commission unanimously denied a request by August "Augie" Felando, representing commercial fishing interests, for six experimental long-line permits. Testimony by UAC representatives and others convinced the Commission that the long-lines would severely impact the local ocean resource.

Source: *SW Sportsman* 12/92 ▲

ELIMINATE

Baja California's sportfishing is threatened by a fleet of Japanese commercial long-line vessels that could "devastate the area," especially for billfish, according to one member of the industry.

PESCA, Mexico's governing body for fisheries, has scheduled a hearing Monday to consider granting 12 long-line permits to the Japanese boat owners. Mexican law otherwise prohibits commercial fishing for billfish within 50 miles of shore, and sportfishermen say billfish would account for far more than an incidental catch for the long-liners, whose hooks trail for miles.

Larry Edwards of Cortez Yacht Charters said: "If they open it up, it'll devastate the area."

But Luis Bulnes, owner of the Solmar Hotel in Cabo San Lucas and director of the local

Continued on next page

Did You Know?

The highest price ever paid for an Atlantic bluefin tuna was \$67,000 for a 715-pound fish at the Tsukiji fish market in Tokyo, Japan. That amounts to \$94.40 a pound. It was estimated that the fish would yield 2,400 servings of sushi at \$75 a serving for a total retail value of \$180,000.

Source: *Salt Water Fisherman* 2/93

UNITED ANGLER NEWS

UAC News Item

The White Sea Bass Hatchery in Northern San Diego County is about to break ground and construction is expected to be completed by the end of the year. To accommodate the increased number of fingerlings, United Anglers has been coordinating the construction of additional grow-out facilities along the coast. UASC affiliates—Balboa Angling Club, Marina Del Rey Anglers and the King Harbor Marlin Club—have received permits from the California Coastal Commission.

The National Coalition For Marine Conservation and United Anglers of Southern California have merged. The new organization will be named United Anglers of Southern California. Both have worked towards a common goal of improving the fisheries management system of California's marine resources for years, and with the merger in place, the recreational angler now has one unified voice.

A fisheries Management Committee has been formed with representatives of UASC and former members of the NCMC-PR Board of Directors. This group will work towards improving the fisheries management system.

The NCMC-PR office in San Diego will remain open until about July to insure an orderly transition.

We in UASC are excited about what this merger means — a stronger voice for the recreational angler and an opportunity to work side by side with the resourceful members from NCMC-PR.

For more information, call Jim Paulk, UASC Director at 714/891-5055

sportfishing association, said he thinks he has organized enough outrage among the sportfishing industry throughout Baja California to persuade PESCA to deny the permits.

"The Japanese fishermen are the most predatory fishermen in the world," Bulnes said.

"Everywhere they have gone fishing they have made the waters a Sahara. We are going to fight. It is not going to be easy for them."

Bulnes said the long-liners are trying to get the permits under the "camouflage" of a scientific survey on marlin.

"We don't need to do any studies to find out what we already know from 25 years of doing this," Bulnes said.

Source: LA Times 1/13/93

Baja Tourism Magazine Reports Billfish Violations

The Baja Sun, a monthly Mexican tourism magazine published in Ensenada, Baja California, reported in its August issue the growth

of a major domestic market for sailfish and marlin that are being caught illegally in Mexican waters off Mazatlan and Manzanillo. It also charged that local commercial fishermen were bribing corrupt federal fisheries officials to look the other way.

The sun reported that some officials received as much as two million pesos (\$650) a month for allowing commercial fishermen to fish openly for marlin and sailfish, both supposedly protected species in Mexico. The magazine revealed the existence of a domestic market for billfish, which is competing with the Japanese long-line fleet and driving prices at the dock as high as 3,000 pesos (\$1) a kilogram for sailfish and 8,000 (\$2.75) pesos a kilogram for marlin. Marlin fillets are bringing as much as 20,000 pesos (\$7) a kilo in local butcher shops, the magazine said.

Source: Salt Water Sportsman 1/93

Your New Fishing License

"They arbitrarily raise the price whenever they want some more money at the Department of Fish & Game," some folks say.

This year the price of a fishing license went up about a quarter. The reason? Inflation. The license fee is tied to the rate of inflation index. That would seem to be the state taking care of its (taxpayers') money. It's not much of an increase.

Many anglers think license costs are too high. Costs doubled during the eighties. Figures for 1992 aren't available yet, according to the Department of Fish & Game, but the word is in regarding fishing license statistics for 1991.

During 1991, 1,441,800 resident fresh and saltwater fishing licenses were sold in California. Cost was \$21.50.

Non-resident licenses cost \$57.75, and 9,560 were sold.

Resident or non-resident ocean-only licenses cost \$12.75, and 170,530 sold.

Resident or non-resident one-day saltwater licenses cost \$5.75, and 301,320 were sold.

Ocean enhancement stamps, required for fishing below Santa Barbara, cost \$3.00, and 494,000 were sold in 1991.

Striped bass stamps cost \$3.50, and 404,000 sold.

From these figures we can probably safely assume that Californians prefer to buy both fresh and saltwater licenses at the same time. This would seem to indicate most anglers fish in both fresh and saltwater, which makes sense when you consider that the most populated areas are San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego—big cities at the sea's edge.

When you add the figures for Ocean Enhancement Stamps and Striped Bass Stamps it would appear that the majority of the state's anglers fish in saltwater, and a half million of them fish south of Santa Barbara.

These figures don't show how many people fished without buying a license.

Some tackle store owners like to emphasize how much they spend just to offer customers the privilege of buying a license. "I have to put up \$6,000 just to sell licenses," said one.

Well, not quite, maybe. According to the Department, a \$6,000 bond is needed to sell licenses, which doesn't cost \$6,000—maybe 10 or 20 percent of that. A store that wants to carry more than \$6,000 in licenses must merely post a larger bond, equal to the dollar amount of licenses requested.

Again, this would seem to be the state trying to protect its money (yours and mine). Funds from licenses go for management of fish and wildlife projects and for hatcheries. *Cal Angler* contributor Ed Zieralski recently reported the state has 19 hatcheries, which produce, 55 million fish per year. Soon there will be a new saltwater hatchery for white sea bass.

How much does the store make for selling you a license? Five percent, or one dollar on twenty. Whether that's reasonable or not depends on your point of view; but it's not out of line with the way things are done in other states with lots of anglers.

And why do stores want to carry licenses? As a service to regular customers and as an inducement; an angler who comes in to buy a license is very likely to buy a box of worms or frozen squid, a few hooks, maybe some new line or even a rod and reel. Most anglers, including myself, find buying a license at a tackle store to be a welcome convenience.

Now anglers will have a new choice: buying a license by telephone. Call the Sacramento license office Monday through Friday from 8-5 at 916/739-4140 and you can charge your license on your Visa or Mastercard.

How much will a new license cost? The fresh/saltwater combined license is \$22.75. Add \$1.05, if you fish below Point Arguello, for an Ocean Enhancement Stamp, and \$3.15 for a California Sport Marine Resources Protection Stamp. An ocean-only license will be \$13.50. You'll still have to buy the stamps. But you'll save the five percent the license sellers charge. The added convenience of ordering a license by telephone should sell more licenses.

I drove down to my local bait and tackle shop to buy my 1993 license, so I could pick up a couple of lures and the latest hot fishing info, which is worth much more than a buck or two.

If you haven't already done it, better buy your 1993 fishing license soon. It only costs about as much as you'd spend on taking someone to a movie and enjoying popcorn and sodas. For a year's fishing privileges in some of the prettiest and most productive waters in the U.S., that may almost be a bargain.

Now, if they'd just make the dang thing into a little plastic card like your driver's license...

W.A. Roecker, Editor
California Angler 2/93

FISHING LICENSES -

The Department of Fish & Game is making it easy for anglers to renew their '93 California Sportfishing licenses. You can call the Department's license line and order your tags on the phone.

"Chum Line" confirmed this phone number (916) 227-2246. Have your credit card ready!

Sharks: The endangered species

Hunted for their fins, sharks are vanishing from the oceans, William Stevens reports

Bangkok Post Friday December 25, 1992

THE shark, that mythic terror of the deep, has been top predator of the seas for nearly 400 million years. But sharks themselves are now being wiped out en masse by the human appetite for shark flesh, and their disappearance could disrupt the ecology of the world's oceans.

The threat comes just as scientists are reaching beyond the "Jaws" image of the shark as a primitive, mindlessly malevolent eating machine that has long shrouded the beast's true nature. Behind the legend, researchers are finding a wondrously sophisticated animal whose biology, once understood, could also yield important medical benefits.

Lured by a shark-fin and shark-meat market that has soared in the last decade, fishermen are killing sharks so fast that scientists fear entire populations are threatened. If the pace of the killing continues, the decimation of the oceans' top predator could throw marine ecosystems and food webs severely out of kilter, with possibly catastrophic consequences for other commercial fisheries.

The US Marine Fisheries Service has been struggling for more than three years to come up with a plan for stemming the slaughter. The agency is being criticised as too slow by scientists and conservationists, who note that shark's slow reproduction rate cannot keep up with the depletion of their numbers.

The great white shark—the ultimate marine predator and knife-toothed subject of movies and nightmares alike—may be one of the most threatened as a species. Great whites "are in trouble everywhere in the world," said Samuel Gruber of the University of Miami, a leading authority on sharks. Shark experts recognise that the public will never come to view sharks with affection. The great white, after all is "not an affable teddy bear whose reputation is completely undeserved," Richard Ellis and John McCosker wrote in a 1991 book, *Great White Shark* (Harper Collins). But biologists insist that popular myth is wrong in many respects and that there is much to appreciate about the animals.

There are more than 350 species of shark, ranging from the tiny pygmy shark to the giant whale shark. Some prey on large marine creatures; others live by straining plankton from water.

As a group, they are seen by scientists not as dull, primitive gobblers but as extraordinary biological machines.

Their sensory system "has got to be one of the most advanced among vertebrates if not the most advanced," says Dr. Timothy Tricas, a shark biologist at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne.

They are able to hear the sounds of fish swimming at a distance.

They can detect the smell of as little as one

drop of fish extract in a quarter-acre lagoon six and a half feet deep.

Their eyes, which equip them to distinguish colors, employ a lens seven times as powerful as a human's and include a sort of mirror behind the retina, called the tapetum, that reflects images and increases visual power.

Microscopic nerve and hair cells on sharks' skin enable them to feel the presence of moving objects in their vicinity.

A sixth sense, seated in small jelly-filled canals on the shark's snout and lower jaw, and poetically named the ampullae of Lorenzini, enables it to sense bioelectric fields radiated by other sea creatures. Through these electroreceptors a shark can detect, for instance, the heartbeat of flatfish buried in the sand. The receptors may also allow sharks to navigate by sensing variations in the earth's magnetic field.

The information from this array of sensors, made to order for the role of top predator, is analysed, integrated and acted upon by a relatively large and complex brain, comparable in size and function to that of supposedly more advanced animals like mammals and birds.

The immune system of sharks and their close relatives, skates and rays, appears to make them all but invulnerable to cancer and infectious diseases. Dr. Carl Luer, a biochemist and shark biologist at Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, Florida, injected many nurse sharks with potent chemicals known to cause cancer in other laboratory animals over an eight-year period.

"We were not able to produce even early changes that would indicate a tumour was being formed," Dr. Luer said.

If scientists can find out what is responsible for this resistance, and for sharks' resistance to infection generally, it could open the way to vast medical benefits. To that end Dr. Luer and others are investigating the immune cells of sharks to determine whether they are more efficient than those of humans and, if so, why.

"If we can describe the difference and similarities, we might be able to pinpoint what's responsible for sharks' success," Dr. Luer said. "But we've got a long way to go."

Some sharks, including the great white, the mako and the thresher, are warm-blooded. And contrary to the myth, sharks are not eating machines constantly on the lookout for a victim.

Dr. Gruber, working with lemon sharks in the Bahamas, has found that they feed only about every second or third day. (Lemon sharks can be studied in captivity because, unlike many other sharks, they do not have to swim constantly to force water over their gills).

Dr. Gruber found that a shark's digestive

tract works very slowly. It may take four days to digest a meal. This may be why sharks take 15 years or longer to grow to maturity, and why they grow even more slowly during the rest of a life span that can reach 100 years in some species.

"I think this has an important evolutionary meaning," says Dr. Gruber, "It allows the shark a kind of luxury that we see in many predators. It is not forced to eat all the time to keep up with demands for growth and activity. It can go on a feast-or-famine regime" as the availability of prey allows or requires.

Shark reproduction can be a somewhat violent affair, since the male typically holds the female with his teeth. Females have consequently evolved thicker skin. In most species the foetus is nourished through a placenta, just like a human foetus, and the young are born fully developed. But some species lay eggs. In others, some eggs are fertilised inside the mother. But others remain unfertilised, and when the unborn baby sharks develop teeth, they eat the unfertilised ones.

In one species, the sand tiger shark, several fertilised eggs develop in each of two wombs. When the babies develop teeth, they eat each other while still inside the mother and only two survivors, one per uterus, are subsequently born.

Because sharks produce few offspring, grow slowly and mature late in life, they do not recover rapidly from overfishing and are extremely vulnerable to mass killing. This is the root of their survival plight.

Like lions, wolves and an array of other predators at the apex of terrestrial food webs, sharks face little competition from animals lower in the chain; the only thing that eats them is larger sharks. Except for humans.

The Asian market for shark fins, which soared in the 1980's has driven the price of fins and tails to as high as US\$100 (2,500 baht) a pound in the case of the great white shark, the most prized species for soup ingredients. This has led to the widely deplored but equally widespread practice of "finning"—catching sharks, cutting off their fins and dumping the live but helpless bodies back into the sea.

A strong market for shark meat has also developed in the United States in recent years, and many sharks are killed and wasted when inadvertently caught by fishermen who are after tuna and other food fish.

According to the US Marine Fisheries Service, large coastal sharks, the group most affected by fishing, have been killed in numbers that exceed their reproduction rate every year since 1987. The peak year was 1989, when an estimated 488,000 large coastal sharks were killed. The catch has dropped off somewhat since then to 370,000 in 1991 and probably a little more this year, but killings nevertheless continue to outstrip reproduction, suggesting that the population is shrinking.

Twenty-two species, including some better known ones, fit the category of large coastal

sharks, among them are the great white, the lemon, the nurse, the tiger, the sand tiger, the bull and three species of hammerhead. The two other categories consist of small coastal sharks and pelagic, or high-seas, sharks. The Federal assessment does not consider these categories to be overfished.

A mass removal of sharks in a given locality could play havoc with ecological relationships. If an "apex" predator like the shark is removed, its loss could cascade throughout the food web.

"They affect everything below them," said Dr. Robert Hueter, a shark biologist who directs the federally sponsored Centre for Shark Research at the Mote Laboratory.

Some years ago in Tasmania a shark population crashed because of overfishing. As a result, octopuses on which the sharks preyed proliferated and overwhelmed their own prey, the spiny lobster. The lobster population crashed and an important commercial fishery with it. Some scientists fear that the same thing could happen soon in Florida, where stone crabs that are the basis of a lucrative fishery are preyed on octopuses, which in turn are eaten by sharks.

Conservation efforts are greatly handicapped by a lack of detailed information about the ecological effects of shark overfishing and, for that matter, about the extent of the overfishing itself. In general, said Dr. Hueter, the shark "is one of the most difficult animals on the planet to study because it's large, free-ranging and oceanic."

Dr. Bill Fox, the director of the Marine Fisheries Service, attributes the delay in producing a shark conservation plan to "poor data on sharks' and shark populations; either new data have come out or the science has caught up and caused us to take a new direction."

Dr. Fox has declined to specify what the planned shark-fishing regulations might require but he indicated that at a minimum they would prohibit the practice of finning. The rules could also set bag limits on recreational fishing for sharks and establish quotas for live commercial fishermen.

Dr. Fox said any further harm to shark populations caused by the delay in regulations "is not something they can't recover from," although the regulations might have to be more stringent to make up for lost time.

"We won't tolerate any more inaction," said Sonja Fordham, fisheries programme specialist for the Centre for Marine Conservation, a Washington-based research and advocacy group.

Summing up the feeling of many scientists, Dr. Gruber said:

"The hammering that sharks are taking simply cannot be sustained. There's so much that's fascinating about sharks that to have them killed off before we've explored the wonders of their biology and ecology, especially in ignorance and just to make a quick buck, is a crime." — *The New York Times*

According to the US Marine Fisheries Service, large coastal sharks, the group most affected by fishing, have been killed in numbers that exceed their reproduction rate every year since 1987.

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Published by the Los Angeles Rod & Reel Club
Eric Rogger.....Editor

1993 OFFICERS

President Norman Weinstock
Vice President Joel Steinman
Secretary Larry Clark
Treasurer Tony Mindlin
Historian Dan Felger

1993 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<u>First Year</u>	<u>Second Year</u>
Bob Beaver	Mike Grossman
Lawrence Clark	Joe Mahfet
Allan Fields	Earl Shimon
Barry Fischer	Joel Steinman
Robert Press	Norman Weinstock
Eric Rogger	

1993 FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

Phil Bardack	Marvin Smith
Harold Goodman	Ben Sussman
Allan M. Mannheim	Bill Adams
Anthony Mindlin	

1993 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Awards Banquet (1994)	Joel Steinman
By-laws and Legal	Allan M. Mannheim
Charters, Multiday	Eric Rogger
Charters, Wednesday	Dan Felger & Abe Zide
Charters, Saturday	Open
Chum Line Editor	Eric Rogger
Assistant Editor	Stan Richstone
Election	Shelly Balzac
Environmental Affairs	Eric Rogger & Marvin Smith
Goodwill and Cheer	Bob Press
Kids' Fishing Trip	LARRC Board
Meetings	Dave Wende
Membership	Allan Fields
Merchandise	Michael Grossman
Programs	Joel Steinman
Raffles	Joe Mahfet
Sargent of Arms	Barry Fischer
Tournament King of the Calicos	Bill Alpert & Dave Neufeld
Tournaments - Interclub	Joe Mahfet
Trophies	Bob Beaver
Year Book	Tony Mindlin
Financial Auditor	Sherwood Kingsley

Los Angeles Rod & Reel Club

C/O Eric Rogger
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Los Angeles, CA 90049-1234



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