

# SALTWATER GAZETTE

MARCH 2006

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\*\*\*\*\* *HDSA ALERT* \*\*\*\*\*

***Fishing is starting up!***

The 2006 fishing schedule is set and we are accepting deposits. Don't get left on the dock this year because you were thinking about it and the boat filled up. Take action **NOW!**

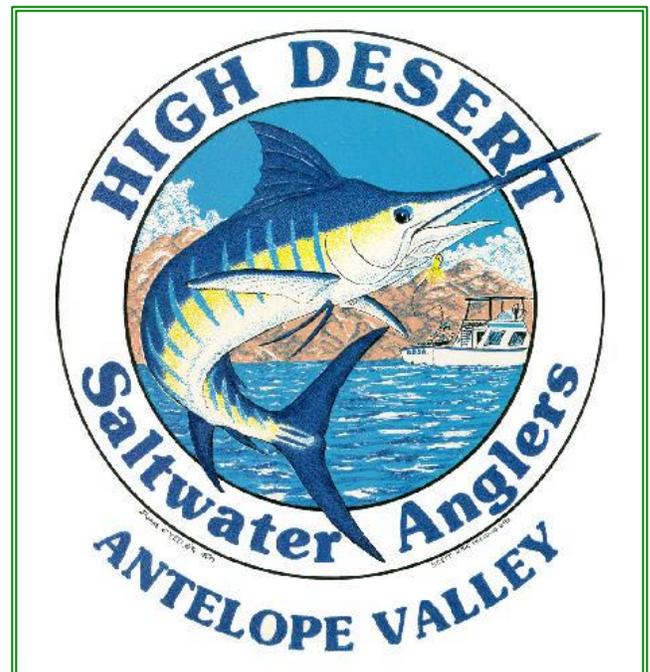


### March Raffle;

Custom Wrapped Rod and Reel by  
Jim Ptacnik Custom Rod Building and Repairs.  
7 foot bait stick (12-30lb) & Shimano  
TLD 20/40s Star Drag Reel

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## Apollo Trip Report – John Nutt

We pulled out of port Friday night at around 8 PM, loaded up with some fin bait and headed out with beautiful weather. The next morning JJ (the Captain) put us on a rock pile that had produced a nice catch the week earlier. Well the squid had arrived. These aren't your tender little bait squid, we're talking 25-30# beast. So JJ moved us hoping to ditch the squid. Third drop, squid. Guess what another move, and you guessed it, squid. Well JJ decided to make a big move to some shallower grounds. Finally we were away from those squid and into some nice ling cod and red fishing. The rest of the day it was a little drift here, little drift there, and the fishing was great. Everybody limited and there were grins all around. For the money first place went to Ralph Bhirdo with a 9# ling, second was Marty Bardon with an 8# ling, and third place was John Mills with a 7# ling. For points it was Marty, John, and Jack Nocera (6# ling).

That night we all settled in for a sit down dinner and a good nights rest while the boat headed back to the landing, boy do I love 1.5 day trips. Got up in the morning, rested and *then* drove home. JJ and the crew of the Apollo were professional, courteous, and fun. The chow was great (food package) and the 1.5 day was a nice way to start our the 2006 fishing season. Everybody seemed to be pretty jazzed about the trip so we went ahead and booked the boat for 2007.

**Sea Biscuit** – March 17<sup>th</sup> was cancelled do to weather.

## HIGH DESERT SALTWATER ANGLERS CONTACT INFORMATION

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Jack Nocera: [chart.hdsa@saltwateranglers.org](mailto:chart.hdsa@saltwateranglers.org)

Jim Allen: [srgtarm.hdsa@saltwateranglers.org](mailto:srgtarm.hdsa@saltwateranglers.org)



### ALUMINUM CAN DRIVE

Jack Nocera is our "Can Man," so everyone remember to bring your cans to our meeting or arrange with Jack to drop them off. The cans help pay for monthly raffles and to cover club expenses. Please clean and crush so we don't collect ants, too.

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## **V.P. Comments:**

I'd like to take the opportunity to use this forum to let everyone know that the HDSA is alive and well and has a meeting in a few days...April 28th...Tuesday....7:00 PM..Crazy Otto's on Av I in Lancaster. It seems that we get the same dedicated members every month to take advantage of all the HDSA has to offer....Raffle.....50/50 with prizes and CASH !!

We all have a good time....get to renew friendships, tell lies (all fishermen lie) plan trips, picnics, and get together, and generally lend a hand in the direction your club will go in.

This month I have the opportunity to share, with the club, the "how to" I managed to acquire on the use of artificial baits. I will have a limited supply of JAXJIGS for sale and our friend, Joe Ortega...the JERKIT lure inventor, will have some of his killer plastics for sale.

My presentation will be brief.....but will cover the basics and some of the specialized equipment that, I have learned, works best when fishing lures rather than bait.

Another item on the agenda will be a discussion about a club trip to the beach to try our hand at surf/pier fishing. This kind of fishing can be very productive and does fall under the heading of "salt water angling". It may even be counted as a club points trip in 2007 if all goes well this year. The many advantages to a trip of this nature include.....no seasickness, very affordable for the entire family, come and go as you please, bonfire and roasted marshmallows (yum), no specialized equipment (anything from 10-40 lb will work) and no cancellations due to weather. Hopefully it will be nice.....but even if it's blowing we can still fish and have fun. We are trying to pick a location that will suit everyone. We want it either on or close to the beach with possibly a pier close by. We also would like overnight camping available. Some of us can make a rather nice weekend out of a deal like this. Your input here is critical. We need a place that is close enough for you to drive to, without being overcrowded. We need a fishable beach/pier. We need restroom facilities. We need to know if you would even consider doing this. There's no sense in us planning a trip no one will attend. This is why your participation in the HDSA is critical. It's YOUR club.

Fred Erickson, V.P.

Included this month is a reprint of an article from the UPSAC web site on surf fishing in Southern California.

Other resources are [www.UPSAC.org](http://www.UPSAC.org) website which has great stories and pictures.

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## *Subject: UPSAC Fishing Article*

The 2 questions I get most when I am surf fishing are “What can you catch here? and “Are there really fish here?”. Well I hope to answer those questions here and more importantly that I make you think about taking a rod with you next time you head down to your local beach.

The Beaches of Southern California are alive with fish and the opportunity to catch them. Many people think that the water is too polluted or there can't possibly be fish in the same water I am swimming in. Well the truth is that as you are swimming out to the waves, you may very well be surrounded by Halibut, Perch, Sharks, Corbina and many others.

Before you head out, you should know what to rod to pull from your quiver. Well the short answer is any rod will catch you fish, but I use a different type of rod for each species, because the bigger the fish the heavier the line, which in turn requires different rods. For most situations, a 7'-9' rod that handles and easily casts 6-10 pound test will be just fine. Spinning works well in the surf for a number of reason, but I feel the best reasons are spinning is easier to clean, usually cheaper to replace and does not get as much sand in it. Cleaning the sand out of your worm gear on a baitcasting reel can be well... challenging. I have used the same Shimano Sedona for 6 years in the surf and it has never failed me. There are nicer reels, and I own a few of them, but this is a good workhorse to get started with.

As is true with all fishing, the key is finding where the fish live what they eat and when they eat it. Seems simple enough, and most standards hold true for fishing from the beaches of Southern California to anywhere in the world. Now, when I say structure, that can mean many things, basically it means places for fish to seek cover for feeding, seeking cover from bigger fish and from the swift current. The main sources of cover on sandy beaches are holes. Holes are depressions in the sand created by waves and current, they can be a couple of feet wide or 50+ feet wide, they are generally created during high surf periods and storms. These offer all of the things mentioned, cover, food and calmer water. The fish can sit in a hole and wait for food to float past, burrow into the sand for worms and crabs, or just relax for a bit and conserve energy.

Most fish on the beach are seasonal; the best fishing for most species is going to be in the summer months. However, starting in February is when you want to start looking for the larger Barred Surf Perch. From Jan through April you will have a shot at some of the bigger females in the 1.5-2.5# range as they come in to spawn\*. Spring is definitely the time for the bigger models, but there will be plenty of smaller fish less than 1#, to keep you entertained and to try these techniques out throughout the year.

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My favorite rig to fish for perch is using a carolina rig with a 1/8-1/2 ounce egg sinker, a 2-3 foot leader with a 1.5"-2" grub on a #6 hook. I say hook, because there is more than one way to hook a grub. I prefer a #6 bait holder, and I thread the grub so the head of the hook is barely exposed, but the point of the hook is fully exposed. However some like to hook it like a drop shot bait, just barely hooking the tip of the grub with either a drop shot or octopus hook. All hooks should be from size 4-6 regardless of how you hook it. The best rig to use is up to you, try them both and see which one produces the best for you. The standard perch grub color for all beaches is Motor Oil with Red Flake, but other colors work very well. My personal favorite grub is the Big Hammer Perch Grub, but most brands will work very well. Just make sure that the grub is soft, fairly durable and has a good tail action in the water.

Halibut are most prevalent starting in the spring on through fall. They are around during other times as well or course, but this is the best time for them. The best bait is live. Anchovy and sardine work great, but top smelt are the smart bet. Anchovies and sardines are not as hearty as smelt and require much more maintenance including water changes and lots of aeration. Just know ahead of time this can be a tough venture, carrying a 5 gallon bucket with live bait and a battery operated aerator, which weighs around 30 pounds, can rival any workout video. While this may be difficult to do, live bait is far superior to frozen and will increase your chances of hook-up. But if you aren't up for lugging around a mobile bait tank you can fish cut bait, frozen anchovies or sardines, Grunion (when in season) and Fresh dead smelt work well on a sliding sinker set-up or on a reverse Dropper Loop Rig. If you aren't up for bait fishing, break out the artificials!

My bait of choice is a 3" Big Hammer swimbait with a 1/8-3/8 ounce darter lead head. Also, 3-4" grubs work great, fished on the same basic style of lead head, in 1/8-1/2 ounce, bullet or darter head with fine wire hooks are prime. A slow to medium retrieve, just over the bottom, seems to work best for me, but I will also, do short pops off the bottom or a constant retrieve while shaking the rod tip. The point is to try something, and give it some time to work, but if it isn't working, try something else until you find what is successful for you.

Summer is the time for corbina, the sandcrabs start showing all over the local beaches, just look for some beds, and either dig for them, or much better yet, use a sand crab trap. Walk out onto to a sand crab bed, and wait for a wave to come and wash over the bed. As the wave stops its forward motion, put the trap down in front of you while you are facing the water. Dig your big tow into the sand moving it back and forth, parallel to the length of the trap. Lift up the trap, and pick out any softshell sandcrabs, especially ones with eggs, along with any hard shells with eggs. The best bait is a nice softshell, about an inch long or so that is ripe with orange eggs. Down the list the best baits are softshell with no eggs, hardshell with eggs and then of course hardshell with no eggs. Mussel and blood worms will also work, but softshell sand crabs are the best bait. My favorite rig is always a carolina rig when fishing corbina. I usually will use a 6# setup and a 6# Seaguar fluorocarbon leader varying from 2.5'- 5'. I use a spinning setup, and fish with my rod tip high, and moving the rod tip back and forth following the pressure of the surge. Corbina will bite very softly; often the bite will feel

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like the surge moving your bait. Get to know what the wave pressure feels like, if it feels "off", give a gentle pull back, and if you feel the fish, set the hook! This can also be done with a bait casting setup by going in and out of freespool. These fish are excellent fighters, but are not huge in numbers, so please do all you can to release these fish when you can in a healthy state.

Sharks and rays can be a blast to fish for, and can easily be fit into your schedule as well. Most shark and ray fishing is done at night, try fishing during a full moon, for the added light and tidal swing. You can leave work, pick up some squid or mackerel at the local bait shop, and be on the beach relaxing, waiting for your clicker to scream! Use a 20-30# set up, a sliding rig with a 2-3' 30#-40# mono or steel leader and a 3-6 ounce pyramid weight. The weight will vary with your rod set up as well as the current, and you want to do your best to fish the deepest water you can get to. So that means casting far on a shallow beach, looking for deep holes or fishing a beach with a good drop off. The best way to locate those beaches is to watch the waves. A beach that has a shore-break, where the waves build and break right at the shore will show that the water is deeper than a beach where the waves break further out. But remember those fish can be in the skinny water, so fish that bait right up to your feet.

The template just below should help you get an idea of what you can catch on ocean facing sandy beaches in Southern California. This is only a brief description of the most commonly caught fish along with the rigs used to catch them and the baits used on those rigs. The depths are guidelines to increase your chances of catching certain species. These are these fish's standard home waters, but like humans, fish will travel and be caught outside of their home zones as well. Use this template as just that, a template in order to increase your chance at catching certain species.

\* A word on spawning perch - Surf Perch are viviparous, meaning they give birth to live young. Some people feel that there is a moral issue of catching fish during this time and this very issue may pop into your head when you catch a 3# gravid perch that starts releasing live baby perch. But how many people, including myself, look at it as part of life in the sea. You can release these fry into the water and they will most likely swim away but they do have a limited chance of survival. With that said, this is true if the fry were released without human contact, as with all species who give birth to litters, the goal is to release as many as possible, to ensure the survival of the species. The best option is to adopt a personal policy with all species to handle the fish as gently and appropriately as possible while causing the least amount of stress necessary prior to releasing it.

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## Barred Surfperch

### **Species:**

Amphistichus (from Greek words that mean a double series, concerning the two rows of teeth in each jaw) and argenteus (Latin silvery).

### **Alternate Names:**

Silver perch, barred, or surfperch.

### **Identification:**

Barred surfperch are one of three large surfperch with bronze or brassy bars on the side. The lower jaw is slightly shorter than the upper jaw and the spiny dorsal fin is shorter than the rays in the soft dorsal. Their coloring is olive green to yellow green on the back, silvery below; they have vertical yellow or gold bars on the sides, generally with a few spots between the bars.

### **Size:**

Up to 17 inches and 4 1/2 pounds; most caught off piers are under 14 inches in length.

### **Range:**

From Playa Maria Bay, Baja California, to Bodega Bay.

### **Habitat:**

Shallow-water, sandy-shore areas.

### **Piers:**

Barred surfperch are common at almost all sandy-shore, oceanfront piers, north to the San Simeon Pier. Best bets would be at Crystal Pier, Oceanside Pier, Malibu Pier, Ventura Pier, Goleta Pier, Gaviota Pier, Pismo Beach Pier, Cayucos Pier and San Simeon Pier. Quite a few are also taken further north, especially at the Santa Cruz Wharf and at the Pacifica Pier.

### **Bait and Tackle:**

By far, the best bait for these perch is live sand crabs (which make up 90% of the diet of barred surfperch). Live sea worms, mussels and clams would be the next best baits but barred are landed on just about every bait imaginable (and many regulars use nothing but rubber grubs). Light to medium tackle can be used depending on conditions. Since the best water to fish is found just outside the first set of breakers, most anglers use a pyramid sinker (with whatever size sinker is needed to hold the bait in place). Line can be 8-to 20-pound test. A high/low leader is most often used with size 6 to 2 hooks. Barred surfperch are caught year-round, but December-January are the best months in Southern California according to the California Fish & Game studies - studies that found the Oceanside area to be the top producer of fish.

### **Comments:**

There are three species of surfperch that are large and which are predominate in the inshore surf area: barred surfperch, calico surfperch and redbtail surfperch. Barred surfperch are the number one surf-area fish caught on southern California piers. North of Morro Bay, calico surfperch starts to replace barred surfperch as the main inshore perch species; north of San Francisco, redbtail surfperch replace the calico surfperch. Barred surfperch put up a spirited fight and are good eating

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## Calendar of Events

### March Meeting

Crazy Otto's, 1228 West Avenue I, Lancaster, Tuesday the 28 @ 7:00 PM

### April Meeting

Crazy Otto's, 1228 West Avenue I, Lancaster, Tuesday the 25 @ 7:00 PM

### May Meeting

Crazy Otto's, 1228 West Avenue I, Lancaster, Tuesday the 30 @ 7:00 PM

### Kids Trip

Sea Biscuit , June 23 boards at 5 AM.

### June Meeting

Crazy Otto's, 1228 West Avenue I, Lancaster, Tuesday the 27 @ 7:00 PM

### Club Picnic

Fin & Feather, July 15 from Noon to 5PM, Chili Cook Off!

### July Meeting

Crazy Otto's, 1228 West Avenue I, Lancaster, Tuesday the 25 @ 7:00 PM

### July Surf Fishing

North of Ventura, possibly 7/29 – *this is in work*

### August Meeting

Crazy Otto's, 1228 West Avenue I, Lancaster, Tuesday the 29 @ 7:00 PM

### September Meeting

Crazy Otto's, 1228 West Avenue I, Lancaster, Tuesday the 26 @ 7:00 PM

### October Meeting

Crazy Otto's, 1228 West Avenue I, Lancaster, Tuesday the 31 @ 7:00 PM

### November Meeting

Crazy Otto's, 1228 West Avenue I, Lancaster, Tuesday the 28 @ 7:00 PM

### December Meeting

Awards Banquet TBD date

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## Recipes of the Month

### Smoked Tuna Dip

*By Eric Thomas*

5 oz smoked tuna, flaked ( 1 cup)  
1 pkg (8 oz) cream cheese, softened  
¼ cup sour cream  
½ teaspoon lime juice  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
1/8 teaspoon cayenne  
1 clove garlic  
¼ cup pimento stuffed green olives, sliced

Makes 2 cups

In bowl, combine fish, cream cheese and sour cream. Add remaining ingredients, except for olives and mix. Gently stir in olive slices. Chill at least 1 hour prior to serving.

### Spiced Fried Squid

1 pound squid, cleaned and sliced  
2 egg whites  
¾ cup all-purpose flour  
1 tablespoon (or more to taste) cayenne pepper  
Oil for deep-frying: 4 inches of neutral-flavored oil in large heavy pot  
Lime wedges for garnish

In a medium bowl, combine squid pieces and egg white, mixing gently but thoroughly. Sift together flour and cayenne. Drain squid.

Heat oil to 360 degrees.

Working in batches, drop a handful of squid into seasoned flour and toss to coat evenly. Lift out of flour, shake to remove excess, and drop carefully into hot oil. Cook briefly until golden, about 1 to 2 minutes. Remove squid from oil with slotted spoon and drain on paper towels. Repeat with remaining squid until all are cooked. Sprinkle with salt and serve with lime wedges

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## High Desert Saltwater Anglers 2006 Charter Schedule

Board	Departs	Days	Boat	Landing	Member	Non-Member	# of Anglers	Location
April 7	9:00 PM	1	Sea Biscuit	Ciscos Sportfishing	100	110	Wait List	Oxnard
April 28	9:00 PM	1	Tracer	Pier Point	120	130	Wait List	Long Beach
May 19	9:00 PM	1	Tracer	Pier Point	120	130	Wait List	Long Beach
June 9	9:00 PM	1	Sea Biscuit	Ciscos Sportfishing	100	110	Wait List	Oxnard
July 21	9:00 PM	1	Tracer	Fisherman's Landing	230	250	14	San Diego
August 2	9:00 PM	2	Tracer	Fisherman's Landing	490	510	Wait List	San Diego
August 18	9:00 PM	2	Relentless	Fisherman's Landing	490	510	Wait List	San Diego
Sept 10	9:00 PM	2	Tracer	Fisherman's Landing	475	495	14	San Diego
Oct 20	9:00 PM	1.5	Tracer	Fisherman's Landing	365	385	14	San Diego
Nov 3	9:00 PM	1	Sea Biscuit	Ciscos Sportfishing	100	110	20	Oxnard

**NOTE:** Prices are subject to change and Charters may be subjected to **FUEL SURCHARGES**

- o Be at the landing **TWO** hours prior to departure time.
- o San Diego charter prices includes Mexican permit.
- o Apollo trip and September Relentless include food.
- o August, September, and October Tracer trips include food.
- o HDSA Reserves the right to overbook all trips by 1 passenger.

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*Time is running short  
space is limited if you want  
to go fishing, it is time to  
sign up!*

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Quartz Hill, CA 93536



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED