



CARL NEIBURGER — MERCURY NEWS

Loch Lomond lures hordes of anglers

■ FISHING

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been allowed to fish since 1987, catches and fish were expected to be large.

With only 200 parking spaces and twice that many cars by midnight, rangers turned away early arrivals all night. They rerouted motorists south to wait in the Free Evangelical Church parking lot in Felton, then handed out numbers.

About 3 a.m., California Highway Patrol officers lined up the cars. The vehicles formed a procession two miles long that stretched all the way from the church, at Graham Hill and East Zayante roads, to the entrance of Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park on Highway 9.

Trouble was, motorists without numbers — and no chance of getting into the park — drove ahead. They parked along narrow roads and in driveways, creating a traffic snarl on steep West Drive that stranded Lompico residents trying to get to work and filled the air with the smell of burning clutches.

One towing company reported towing more than 40 cars.

"It didn't turn out the way we wanted," said Loch Lomond's chief ranger, Walt Cacace.

Down at the lake, things were much more serene.

Night crawlers, red worms and salmon eggs were on hooks by sunrise and cast en masse as a thick mist rose over the water.

Ironically, by mid-day, few large fish had been caught.

Anglers started in on their excuses: The fish were spooked, they didn't recognize the bait, the big ones ate the little ones and lost their appetites.

"We're not leaving till we get our limit," joked San Jose resident John Norred, 33, to his 4-year-old son, Sam. "We might be here a few days."