

Santa Cruz angling to open reservoir

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The fish are jumping at Loch Lomond reservoir in the Santa Cruz Mountains, but it will take another three or four good storms before you can launch a boat and go after them, say Santa Cruz water officials.

Loch Lomond, near Lompico, is both a hallowed fishing spot and the city of Santa Cruz's only reservoir. Traditionally it opens to the public every March.

But because of the drought, the once popular recreation area and its surrounding 3,200 acres of wilderness have been closed to fishing and hiking

for the last four years.

This year might be different — emphasize might — said city water director Bill Kocher on Wednesday.

"If we get the rain, we could open within a day or two of that point," said Kocher.

Kocher and the rangers who monitor Loch Lomond say they are more optimistic this year that the reservoir will open than they have been at any time since the drought began in 1987.

Cautious but hopeful, they say steady rain is needed through mid-March for the reservoir to have a chance of opening by April.

So far, the numbers are looking good.

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