

Hook, line ... and stinker

Fish + Fishing



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Beverly Bell of Scotts Valley raises a 6-inch whopper of a steelhead on Tuesday.

Fish stay away from opening day

✓ Sentinel staff report

SANTA CRUZ — The opening day of steelhead and salmon season in county streams proved less than thrilling for most fishermen Tuesday.

"It was the worst opening day ever," said Ernie Kinzli, owner of Ernie's Casting Pond. "The biggest fish I heard caught was six inches — and that's not six inches between the eyes, but six inches long."

Beverly Bell of Scotts Valley hooked such a specimen from her spot on the San Lorenzo River, directly under the Riverside

'I gotta remember ... this isn't Alaska.'

— Beverly Bell, angler

Bridge.

She took the news as well as can be expected.

"I gotta remember ... this isn't Alaska," she said with a laugh. She called it a day a short while

later.

The fishing is not expected to improve until more rains come and the streams swell with water. The season remains open Wednesdays, weekends and holidays through the end of February. This year fishermen will also be required by law to carry a "steelhead report card" along with their license to record their catches. Salmon and steelhead may be caught and kept in the San Lorenzo, while in Scott Creek only steelhead may be kept in an attempt to preserve the dwindling stocks of native coho salmon.