



BILL LOVEJOY/SENTINEL

There's plenty of room Saturday morning at Loch Lomond.

LOCH LOMOND FEELING PINCH OF NEW RULES

Loch Lomond

3.22.09

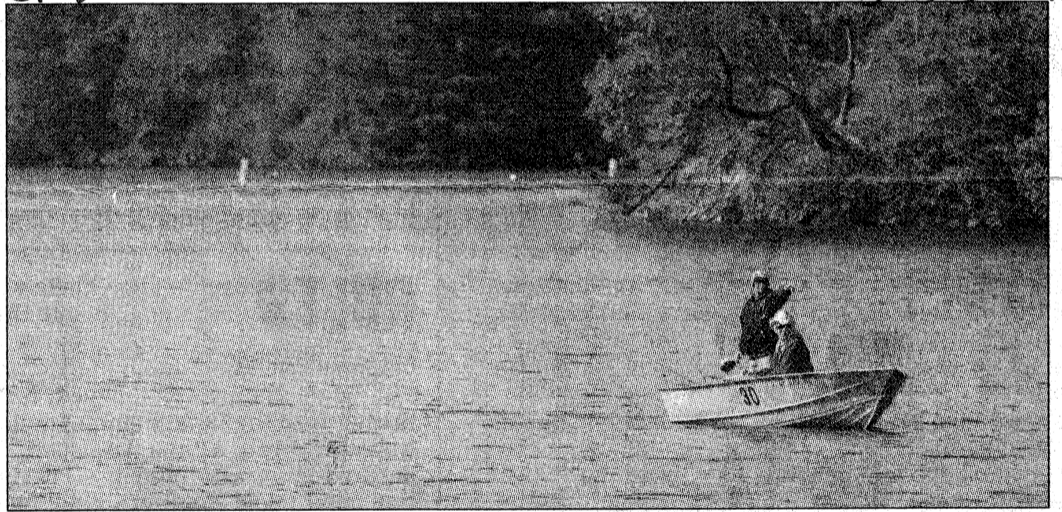
By ALIA WILSON

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FELTON — The California Department of Fish and Game has been planting trout in the Loch Lomond recreation area for nearly 50 years, but many local anglers noticed on opening day this month the trout were missing in action.

Local fishing and recreation took a hit last week when the Santa Cruz City Council voted 4-3 to close Loch Lomond to all outside boats, including canoes and kayaks, in response to the spreading infestation of quagga and zebra mussels. The invasive freshwater shellfish can clog intake pipes, necessitating expensive repairs, and, in great numbers, can reduce food supply for small fish and lower the oxygen content of lakes and reservoirs.

In addition to the boat ban, the reservoir is feeling the impact of a lawsuit from October 2006 taking effect. Pacific Rivers Council and Center for Biological Diversity, represented by Stanford Law students, sued the Fish and Game over fish stocking programs, claiming that no environmental impact report had been completed for the programs. The result of the case was a court order requiring Fish and Game to complete an environmental report. That process is not scheduled to be completed until January 2010. In the meantime, planting of trout is no longer permitted. Loch Lomond is already



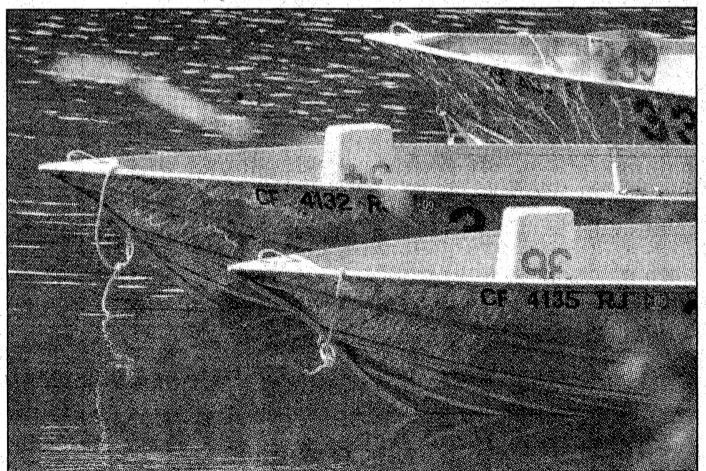
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Solitude is in abundance at Loch Lomond. Fish are a different story. Anglers troll the lake Saturday morning.

experiencing a decline in revenue as a result.

"We can already tell we're down," Head Ranger Scot Lang said. "We've refunded 14 season boat passes already, which is unpleasant for us to have to do, not so much because of the loss in revenue but because it's a service that can't be offered. There are 170 lakes that have also been pulled and placed in a line. Who knows where we are. I don't expect the problem to be solved anytime soon."

The order, with some exceptions, has a broad prohibition against Fish and Game stocking nonnative fish in any California body of fresh water where surveys have demonstrated the presence of 25 specified amphibian or fish species or where a survey for those species has not yet



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City-owned boats rest on Loch Lomond Saturday morning.

been done.

In hopes of allowing some outside boats into the reservoir, Loch Lomond made a proposal to the City Council

last week, suggesting boats being tagged or quarantined for 15 days before being per-

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