

Harbor 12-1-77

# The Great Outdoors

## Harbor Score

### It's Surfers 2, Boat Owners 0

By **ARNOLD WECHTER**, Sentinel Boating Editor  
Score for the past week is Surfers 2, Boat Owners 0.  
Two boats have been beached

this past week because skippers were forced to broach to miss surfers using the harbor channel entrance.  
Fortunately the two mishaps did not lead to any injuries. But

the situation remains dangerous and Harbormaster Brian Foss will begin citing illegal surfers in the channel this week.

The most serious mishap occurred when Robert Wieland, 411 El Salto Ave., Capitola, lost control of his boat avoiding a surfer and his boat went aground. The hull of the 24-foot bartender-type motorboat was not badly damaged. But Wieland lost all his electronic gear and the boat's superstructure was badly damaged.

A second craft, a 16-foot motorboat, also beached to avoid a surfer but apparently was undamaged in the incident.

Foss said surfers were warned about using the harbor channel this past weekend and those caught this weekend will be cited. He said reaction among the surfers ranged from cooperation to open defiance.

Surfers should remember that last year during the clogged harbor conditions the score ended up Boat Owners 1, Surfers 0.



Surfers continue to ride at the Santa Cruz yacht harbor despite warnings from officials.

### Hooking A 'Steelie' Takes Luck, Patience

SEATTLE (AP) — Thousands of Northwest fishermen line riverbanks in cold, wet weather each winter, pounding the water with garish lures. Hour after hour, they endure hardship and disappointment.

Their hope: to hook an almost legendary gamefish, the steelhead.

Chances are they'll fail.

Many fishermen go decades without catching a steelhead. Those who succeed, do so rarely.

The steelhead is a sea-run rainbow trout that looks a lot like a salmon but doesn't have the salmon's girth. Its name attests to its toughness, endurance and strength, but says nothing of its silvery beauty and grace.

"When you hook the fish you don't know whether the fish is going to control you or you're going to control the fish," says Stan Jones, a veteran steelheader and author of two books on fishing in Washington.

The Pacific Northwest has been called a fisherman's paradise. But steelheading provides a little hell for the fisherman, too, who typically must tramp through dense forest to stand waist deep in near-freezing water at that perfect hole.

The best time for steelhead fishing — December through March — also is the coldest and wettest time of the year. Dedicated steelheaders sometimes fish when it's snowing.

"It gets to be a religion with you," says Enos Bradner, 85, a pioneer steelheader who has been at it since 1930 and is the author of a book on the subject.

"You get a couple of steelhead and you get the fever and you can't get over it. You've got to do it and that's it. There's nothing you can do about it."

Born in the swirling waters of mountain streams and rivers, steelhead, which range up to 35 pounds but average five to seven pounds at maturity, descend to the ocean to grow rich, tough and fat. After two to four years in the "salt chuck," they begin epic, salmon-like migrations, back to their birthplaces.

"It's a challenge," says Jones. "After hooking the fish you don't know what's going to happen. It's a trophy fish in size and then also there's a pride or there's maybe a little ego involved in it."

"Statistics show that perhaps 10 per cent of steelhead fishermen get like 80 per cent of the fish, or some ratio close to that. The guys who are really good at it just get out there and drive."

Washington State Game Department records show 123,639 fishermen tried their hand at steelhead fishing during the season from April 1975 to May 1976, but only 47,887 steelhead were taken.

But a department spokesman says that season, the latest for which the department has statistics, was the worst since the 1971-72 season, when 69,730 fish were taken.

When hooked, steelhead go crazy, stripping line out in sudden bursts, diving, jumping and shaking violently — often throwing the hook — and dashing for the nearest snag.

Bradner says he's caught all five species of Pacific salmon, but pound for pound, the steelhead is one of the best fighting fish there is.

The entrance to the harbor is iffy at this writing, according to Foss and skippers should use caution entering and leaving the harbor.

He reported that the center of the channel has a five-foot depth at low tide and seven feet on the east side.

The good news is that by the time you read this the dredge should be in position to pump sand and will be able to reduce the bar within approximately 36 hours.

The new dredging contract is a two-year pact which calls for Shellmaker to dredge the harbor anytime the channel depth is less than 10 feet. It is a \$945,000 contract.

There is other good news: The jet pump system has stabilized the bar for the past two weeks and it remains a promising system to keep the harbor clear.

The Santana 22 fleet will start its first winter racing season Saturday. It is the only scheduled race activity this weekend on the north side of Monterey Bay.

The 1978 Boat Owner's Buyer's Guide is currently at your favorite newsstand.

This book remains a favorite of both sail and power enthusiast. It is complete and should prove invaluable to both boat owners and those who like to dream.

## Hatcheries Produced 56 Million Trout In '77

Department of Fish and Game hatcheries produced more than 56 million trout weighing in excess of 1,860 tons at an average cost of slightly over \$1 per pound during the

1976-77 fiscal year. Catchable-size trout production totaled 13,699,845 fish weighing 3,549,435 pounds, the DFG reported, up five per cent in number and two per cent in

weight from the totals of 1975-76.

Average size of the catchable trout was down slightly, from 3.7 per pound during the previous year to 3.9 to the pound last year.

Less than catchable-size trout production was 937,325 fish weighing 92,768 pounds, down by 285,431 fish and 38,768 pounds from 1975-76 figures.

Included in the trout figures were silver salmon, kokanee salmon and king salmon planted in inland waters. By species, rainbow trout dominated the production, accounting for 68 per cent of the total weight of fish produced in department hatcheries.

Hatchery operations for the year cost \$6,611,395, but, be-



### Duck Hunters Still On A Hit-And-Miss Schedule

Thanksgiving Day has come and gone, and for those of us

### Cycle Scene

