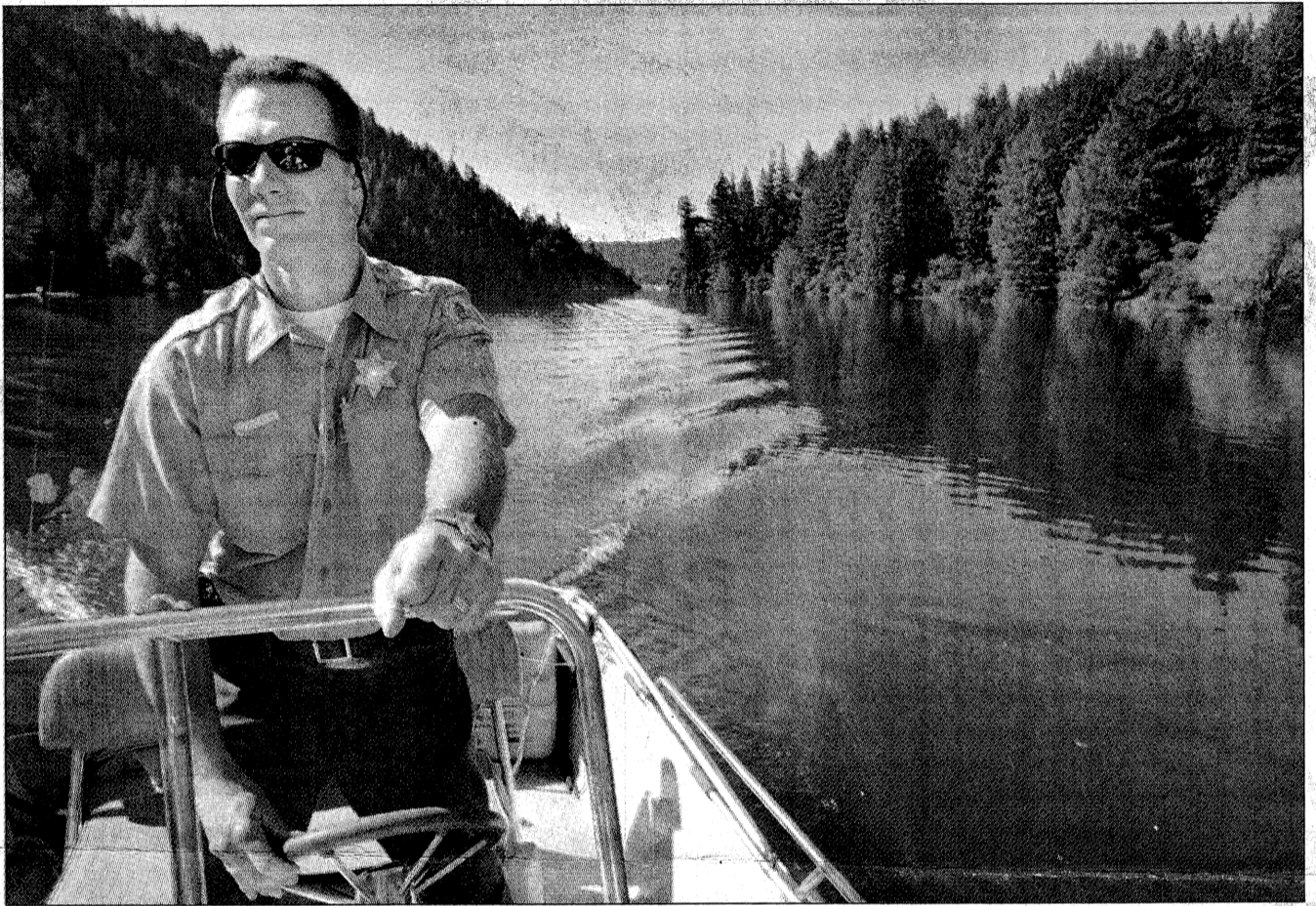


Gone Fishing



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel photos

Ranger Gar Eidam patrols a placid Loch Lomond Saturday morning. **TOP:** The lake has long been a popular place for families to fish and spend time together.

Loch Lomond

Anglers enjoy the first days of spring at Loch Lomond

SENTINEL STAFF REPORT

The opening of Loch Lomond Reservoir this month was ushered in with water levels at capacity and record-setting warm weather, and visitors have taken notice.

Already, fishermen have pulled 7-pound bass from the waters and boaters have rushed the paddle-boat docks in search of sunshine.

“With almost three weeks of gorgeous temperatures, it’s been pretty busy up here,” said Scot Lang, chief ranger of the Loch Lomond Recreation Area.

The reservoir, which is run by the city’s water department, opened for public recreation March 1 and remains open through Sept. 15. The city provides paddle boats and rowboats for rent, and the waters are stocked with trout for anglers.

While recreationists have enjoyed accommodating weather in recent weeks, water department officials are looking back at a successful rainy season they say will take care of the region’s thirst.

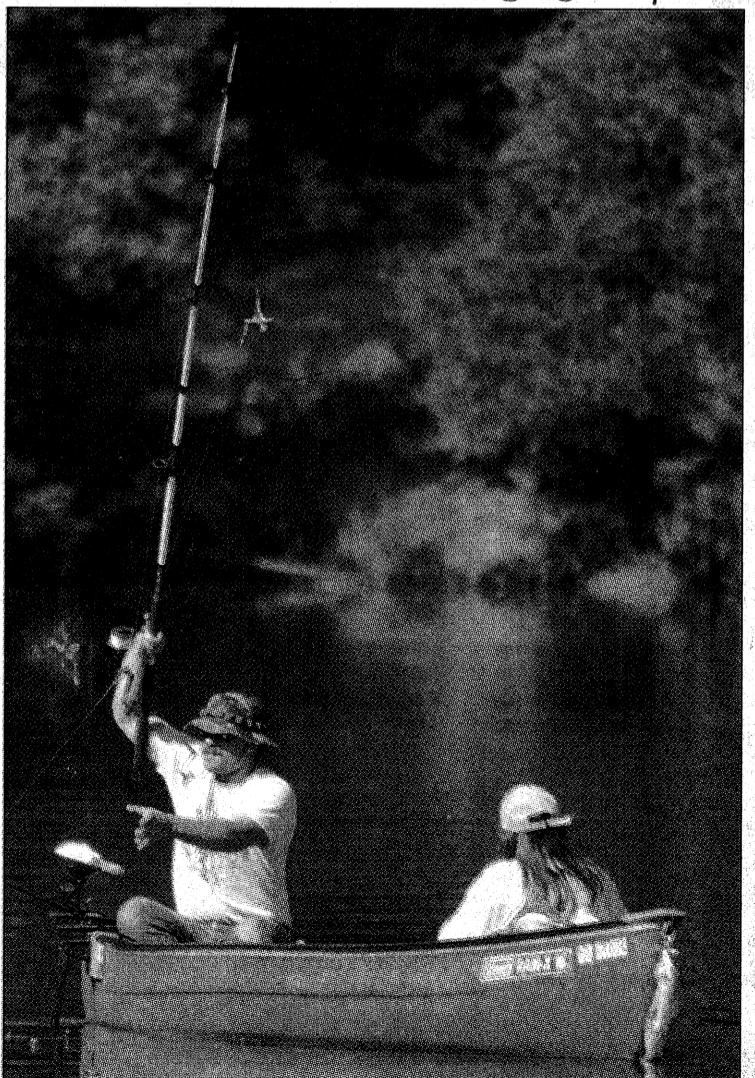
“We’re going to be OK for another year,” said Linette Almond, deputy water director for the city.

Almond said precipitation this past year was at normal levels. On average, seven of 10 years yield enough rain to leave the reservoir with plentiful supplies, she said.

Loch Lomond Reservoir is the primary source of drinking water for the city of Santa Cruz as well as areas east to 41st Avenue.

About 90,000 people are served by the city’s water system, which also obtains a small percentage of water from surface water sources like the San Lorenzo River and wells.

3-21-04



An angler comes up empty Saturday morning.