



Reservoir Opens

LOCH LOMOND USE INCREASES OVER LAST YEAR'S OPENING

Loch Lomond

3-3-02

By **TRAVIS SEMMES**
Sentinel staff writer

Good weather and high water brought fishermen to Loch Lomond Friday for the annual opening of the Felton-area reservoir.

But city water officials warn the recent dry spell may require them to rely more heavily on Loch Lomond during the summer, lowering the lake's level.

By noon, more than 100 vehicles had visited the park. Compared with last year's 65-70 for the entire day, this year's opening was busy, said Bill Wolcott, chief park ranger at the Loch Lomond Recreation Area.

"We've had significantly better business today," he said.

Certainly the good weather had something to do with the high turnout — and the fact that the opening fell on a Friday — but it may also be due to new regulations adopted by the state Department of Fish and Game. The rules ban recreational rock cod and ling cod fishing during March and April.

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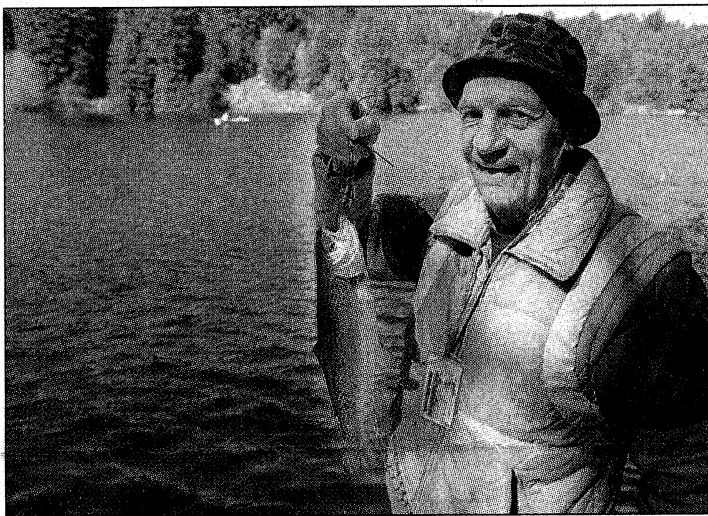
TIMOTHY LATIN

With the steelhead season closed since Thursday, and the regular salmon season not slated to start until March 30, many fishermen have no other place to enjoy their pastime than at Loch Lomond, which holds largemouth bass, trout, bluegill and the occasional monster catfish.

The Department of Fish and Game stocks the reservoir with captive-bred rainbow trout every two weeks from March through June. Last week, 1,600 pounds of trout were dumped in the lake.

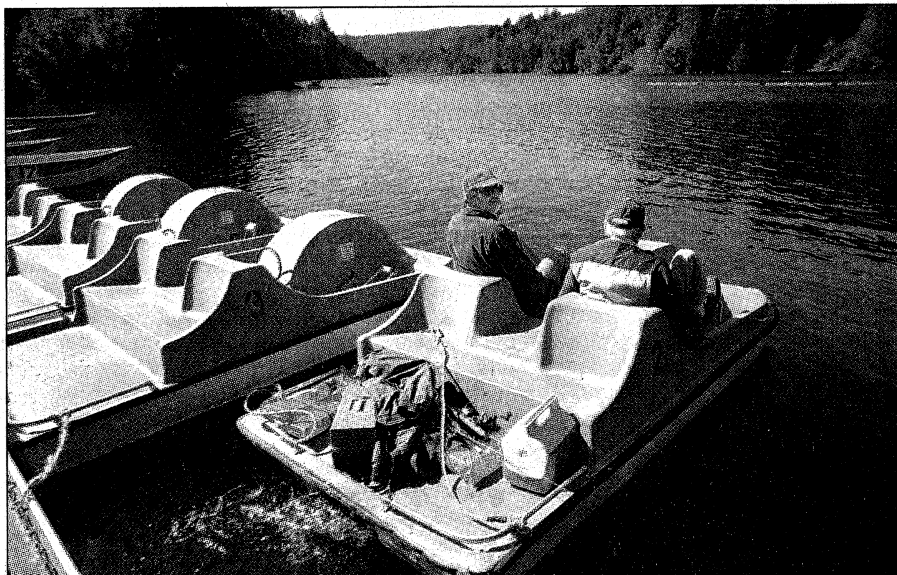
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ABOVE: An angler works his boat into position while fishing Loch Lomond on opening day of the reservoir.

LEFT: Bill Strate of Live Oak displays a trout he pulled from Loch Lomond on Friday.



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel photos

A full lake and bright sunshine greet Santa Cruzans Jim and Craig Boston as they set out for a day of fishing in a Loch Lomond paddle boat on Friday.