



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel file

Loch Lomond drew devoted anglers on opening day in March. The state says it no longer will stock the lake with trout.

## Stocking

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"Decades of research shows planting trout has a serious impact on native fish and amphibians, and Fish and Game hasn't considered those impacts," said Greenwald, citing the work of UC biologist Roland Knapp on the Sierra Nevada ecosystem and Peter Moile of UC Davis.

As for Loch Lomond, Greenwald said, "You can still fish for trout — they just won't be planting (trout)."

Santa Cruz, which operates the 175-acre Loch Lomond reservoir, expects a decline in visitors because of the decision.

Loch Lomond is one of the state's smaller lakes, but the city sold \$40,000 in fishing licenses last year.

"A lot of the licenses are for one day, and they're people who want to catch trout," Terry Tompkins, operations manager for the city water department, noting the lake is also known for bass.

This year, one-day permits cost \$12.60. Most of that money goes back to the state Department of Fish and Game.

The city hires up to eight temporary staffers during the fishing season, which runs March 1 to Sept. 15, to sell

licenses, worms and gear, rent boats and handle cleanup.

"We might have a need for fewer temporaries," Tompkins said.

Pat Steele, 67, newsletter editor for the Santa Cruz Fly Fishermen, sees the temporary ban as an ominous trend coming in the wake of the salmon fishing shutdown.

"Pretty soon there won't be anyone fishing," he said. "It's all environmental protection."

Mark Dingler, who owns Angler's Choice, a tackle shop in Capitola, is more optimistic.

"If there is good scientific data that it's hurting the environment, I'm in favor," he said. "It sounds like it's temporary and it could be resolved and reworked. A couple hundred lakes will continue to be stocked. We have the list."

Still, having fewer trout available at Loch Lomond will bite into the thousands of dollars of tackle he sells to customers with that destination in mind.

"Freshwater fishing in Santa Cruz County is limited," Dingler said. "There are not a lot of reservoirs or streams. To have that go away for the next year it's going to hurt."

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