



# Reeling in the Salmon

The season  
begins for  
salmon and  
local  
fishermen  
are taking  
to the ocean

*Fish and Fishing*

*3.31.02*

SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

If Saturday was any indication, there could be a bumper crop of salmon this season.

More than 500 boats launched from Santa Cruz and Moss Landing harbors for the season opener Saturday morning. Besides an overcast sky, the weather was perfect, with low winds and calm seas.

## SANTA CRUZ

Anglers are now free to roam the waters from Pigeon Point Lighthouse, about 20 miles north of Santa Cruz, all the way to the Mexican border.

"It was a real good opener," said Larry Wolf of Aptos, who cruised the ocean in his powerboat, Steppenwolf. "A lot of people got limits. ... Most peo-

ple caught fish. They looked a lot bigger this year — I heard there were some fish over 20 pounds."

Santa Cruz Small Craft Harbor worker Tim Morley said many people caught fish in the 12- to 15-pound range, a good size for the time of year.

Last year, sport fisherman caught about 97,000 fish, half of what was caught the preceding year. Although there were plenty of salmon, the bait went north and salmon followed, giving Oregon-area anglers the best season in 20 years.

In two weeks, the Monterey Bay Salmon & Trout Project, a Davenport fishery, will release 240,000 salmon into bay at Monterey and Santa Cruz harbors.

Photos by BILL LOVEJOY *Sentinel photographer*



**TOP:** A party boat leads a flotilla of fishing boats out of the harbor early Saturday morning.

**ABOVE:** A well-outfitted fisherman secures some equipment on his boat before casting off.

**LEFT:** Three young anglers set out in an electric motor-powered rubber raft at the harbor.