

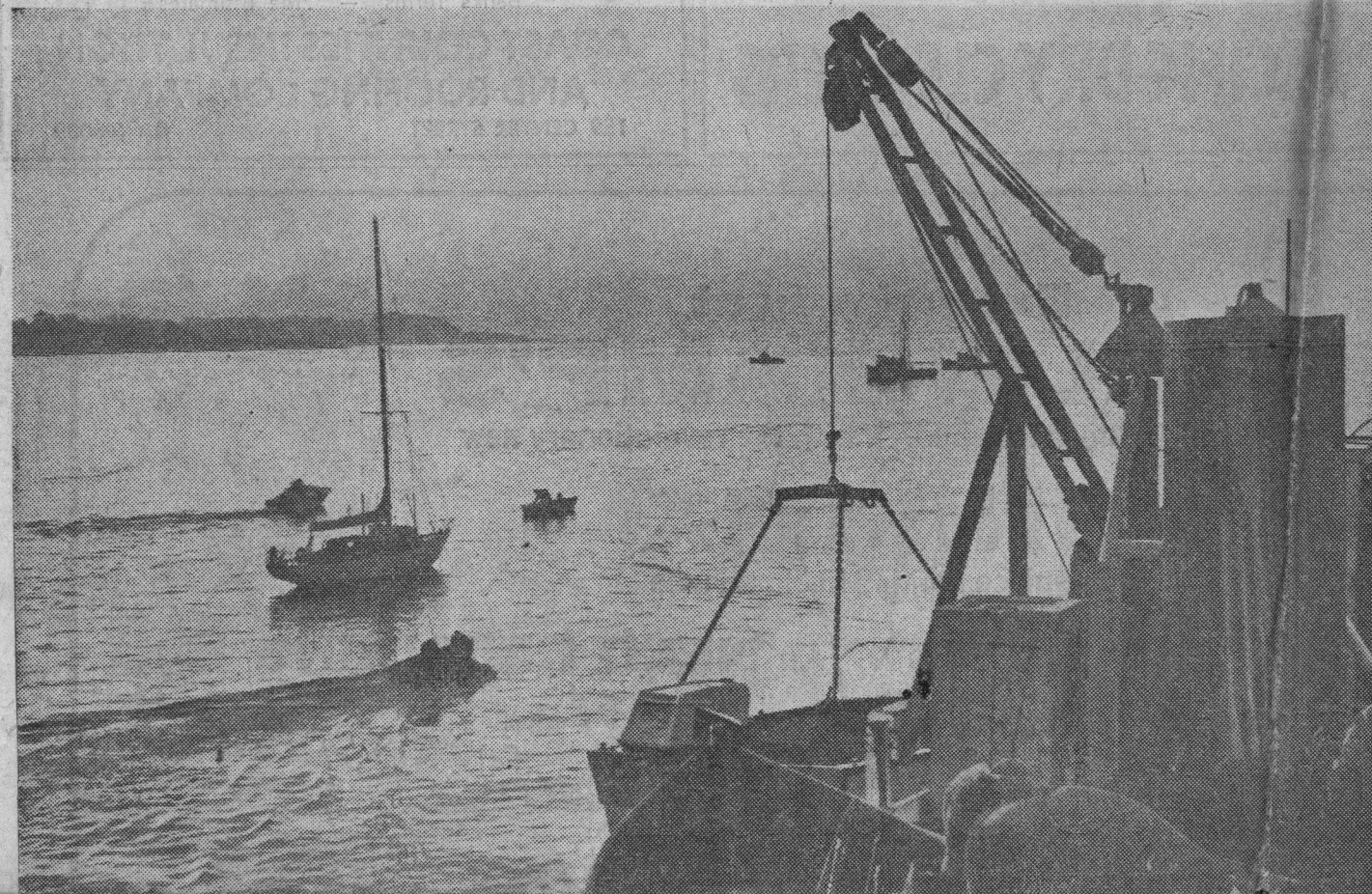
It's Go, Man, Go, When The Salmon Run

Fish + Fishing 8/19/62



"SALMON RUN" travels like wildfire, and in a flash the municipal wharf is lined with private boats from Ed Twohig's Boat Rental landing to Beach street. It takes more

than an hour to lower your boat to the water. On the return at the end of the day, boats line up for half a mile waiting their turn to be hoisted back onto the wharf.



Fishing Lasts Until November — If You Can Find The Fish

Story by Daryl Wagner
Pictures by Wally Trabing

"Salmon! All schooled up just off the whistling buoy!" When these words spread to the legions of salmon addicts, there is a mass exodus to the wharf and the boat launching facilities.

The pictures on this page and this story will show those of you who are not afflicted with salmonitis a typical day on Monterey Bay salmon fishing.

The day begins when the alarm sounds off well before dawn. Breakfast is eaten, the gear carefully arranged and sorted the evening before, is loaded in the car and you head for the wharf.

Upon arrival, if you have your own boat, you take your place in line waiting to use the davits to lower the craft to the water. If you are renting a boat and motor, there is another line, waiting for the same service.

While you are waiting in one of these lines, your partner takes the car and tries to find a parking place. That's right. At 5 a.m. you have trouble finding a parking place on the wharf. You either have to park in a 12-hour meter or in an unmetered area.

He finally comes walking back to where you are waiting so you change places with him, letting him rest waiting in line, and you go inside to purchase bait, extra easy-baiters, weights and other last-minute needs.

You stow these items in the boat, and by this time you are about ready to be lowered to the water. You back the trailer under the davits, hook on the lines and dash down to the landing below while the boat is being lowered. You carefully climb down the steps and into the boat, release the davit lines and give a hopeful pull on the motor.

It purrs into action and you are off to the fishing grounds.

The foregoing is a typical beginning for a day's fishing in small craft, and regardless of the wharf, Santa Cruz or Capitola, the story is about the same. If you prefer a little more boat under your feet, there are party boats that carry from five to 15 anglers. The C. Stagnaro trollers carry up to 15 passengers, and some of the other party boats haul five to seven.

When you arrive at the fishing grounds you find there are already many other boats fishing, so you cut the motor to trolling speed, rig the lines and start fishing. You slow the motor down until it just barely makes headway, letting the lines trail behind the boat.

Anchovies are the preferred bait. They are harnessed to an "easy-baiter," which is a hook with a long flat shank. The shank is inserted near the tail of the anchovy and carefully guided up the center of the bait and out the mouth. A pin is inserted through the top of the anchovy's

When a salmon hits your line, you first feel a couple of light taps, almost too gentle to notice if you are not paying attention, then a heavy pull as the fish is hooked. Fishing from a small boat, we generally kill the motor, pull up the other fishing lines and let the one who has the fish on play him out. When the fish is finally tired out, the angler guides him to the boat and the net is slipped under the water behind the fish, and the angler lets a little slack out, causing the fish to slide backwards as the net moves forward and up, ending the first of a three-fish daily limit.

The salmon is sort of a bully of the sea in his eating habits, and it will help to know these habits in angling for them. When the salmon spots a school of bait fish, he slashes through the school, killing and maiming as many anchovies as possible. He then turns and at his leisure, goes back and dines on the injured fish.

He seems to prefer an injured fish to a dead one for dinner, and that is why it is important to have your bait or lure travel in an erratic manner, to imitate an injured bait fish.

When there are large schools of salmon in the bay, it is not uncommon to see 150 to 200 boats of all sizes and descriptions trolling back and forth. They range from small private and rented skiffs to large yachts and sail boats.

Presently there are quite a few salmon being taken in local waters, though not like the run earlier in the season.

And for the economy-minded, the revenue this ocean industry brings to Santa Cruz is tremendous. These sportsmen spend money for gas, oil, food, lodging, equipment, clothing and even parking meters. There are quite a few of us who reside in Santa Cruz and spend our money here as a matter of course, but you would be surprised at the number of out-of-town fishermen who fish out of Santa Cruz regularly.

The accompanying pictures show just a few of the scenes you will see when the salmon are running in Monterey Bay.



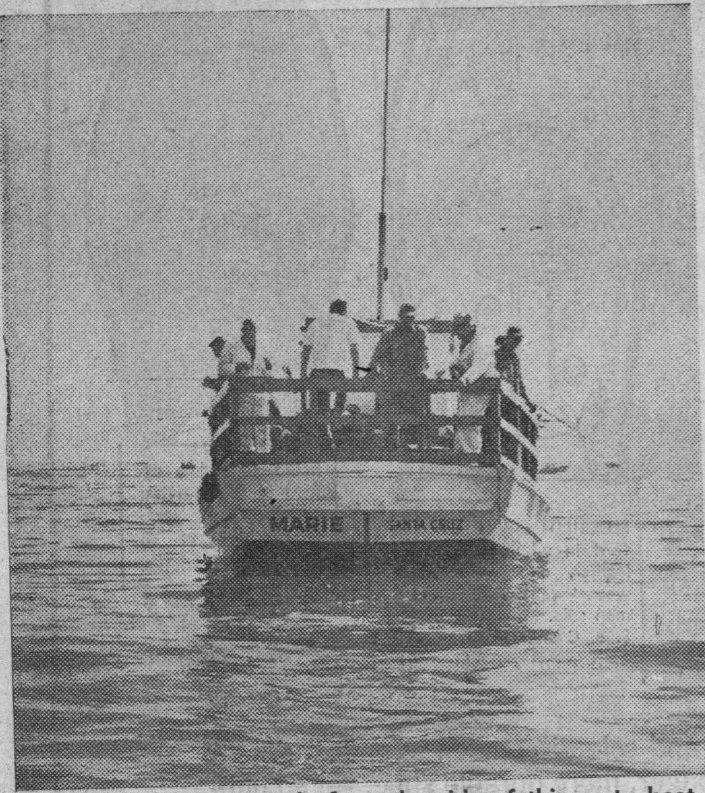
ANOTHER CATCH is made off the backend of a Stagnaro Brothers boat which is usually used for commercial fishing. But sometimes the commercial boys like to fish for fun.



TWO FISHERMEN in a private outboard cruiser hit paydirt and cut their engine to pull a fine salmon aboard. Nearly 200 boats, from skiffs to luxury yachts, were trolling in a three-mile circle in salmon water during the run this year.

ONE-BY-ONE, in the dawn, as the boats are lowered from the municipal wharf, they head for sea, fishermen eagerly preparing their lines and baits. It's an exhilarating ride out

to the fishing area, three or four miles off the wharf. Three boats are shown here as they begin their trip at 5 a.m.



FISHING POLES protrude from the side of this party boat like bug antennas in the salmon arena off Santa Cruz. The shout of "fish on" or "net" heard across the water indicates a salmon has been hooked, and with luck, will be netted.

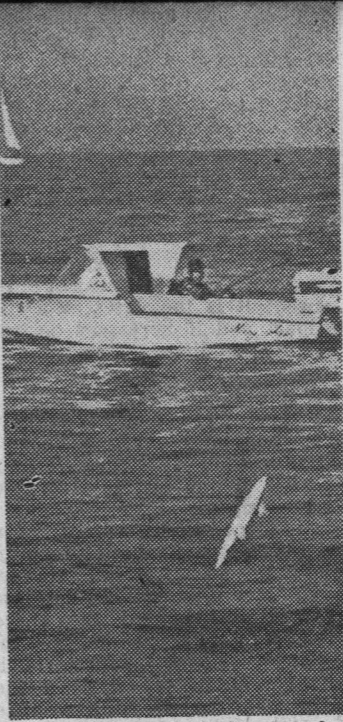
"STAGO" STAGNARO, skipper of the "Marie," a party boat, nets a real beauty for one of the salmon fishermen. It's a happy and encouraging moment for the sportsmen aboard. This one weighed in at 22 pounds. The C. Stagnaro Fishing corporation runs party boats when salmon are in the bay.

mouth, through a hole in the shank of the easy-baiter and out through the bottom jaw and a fine piece of wire clamps the jaws shut and holds the easy-baiter in place.

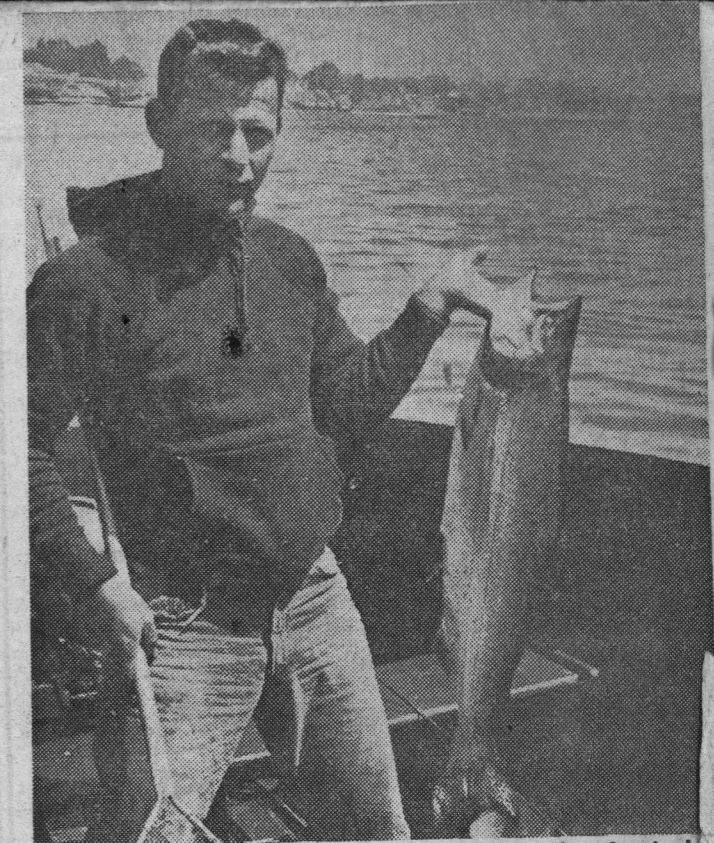
Many of us prefer a sliding rig which accomplishes the same result, but allows changing the action of the bait to suit various trolling speeds. Personally, I have never been able to tie a good sliding knot, so I buy the rigs already tied from Ed Twohig, who ties them up for his customers. I also believe that once you get the hang of using the sliding rig, you will hook more fish, as the hook can be placed in a better position near the tail of the bait.

You attach the bait to a long leader joined to the line through a sinker release, which drops the one or two pound weight when a fish strikes the line. And if you don't get action from bait, there are hundreds of spoons and other artificial lures that are used. Probably the most widely used is a number five Andy Reeker silver spoon, which most us consider to be the "old reliable."

CLOSE TO 200 BOATS worked back and forth across the salmon fishing area during the big run in April. In this shot, you can pick out skiffs, party boats, commercial fishing boats, runabouts, a sailboat and a large yacht. A good run of salmon brings out anything that will safely float.



A FIGHTING SALMON breaks water off the whistling bouy trying to shake the hook from his mouth. On the other end was Daryl Wagner. The fish hit air about four times during the 25-minute fight. The fisherman in the background looks on enviously as he trolls past the struggle.



DARYL WAGNER, outdoor columnist for The Sentinel, found the touch and came home with this 18-pound salmon. This will make many a good meal out of the freezer. Wagner hooked three good fish during the day. The sports-fishing ocean season closes November fifteenth this year.

