

SALTWATER NEWS »

Sand dabs do it for the Sea Angler out of 22nd Street Landing

■ *Good bass fishing for other L.A./San Pedro boats*

BY BRANDON HAYWARD
WON Staff Writer

SAN PEDRO — Sand dab fishing is a novelty for some and a regular trip for others who

jump on the *Sea Angler* out of 22nd Street Landing in San Pedro.

On Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the boat runs ¾-day trips in pursuit of the tasty little flatfish that are great eating and are an expensive item on the menus at restaurants.

"The sand dab fishing has been really good lately," said

Jim Cutter at 22nd Street, who had the following to say about going out after the 8- to 14-inch sand dabs: "The guys fish them rockcod style with 50-pound Dacron and 10 to 12 hooks and 2 pounds of lead. We sell 10-hook beaded ganions."

Little squid rings are pinned onto the ganions and the rigs are dropped in 250 to 300 feet of water.

"They fish exclusively for sand dabs. The regulations let them fish up to 12 hooks," adds Cutter, who says that having the right tackle is the

only prerequisite for a successful day of sand dab fishing. "You can't do it with spinning rods and light gear," he says. The landing has all the necessary gear for rent (in terms of rods and reels) and for sale (as far as 10-hook rigs and sinkers go).

Plenty of fresh dead squid has been translating into good local bass fishing at times for the half-days. On Saturday morning, the *Matt Walsh* out of L.A. Harbor Sportfishing sacked 57 sand bass and 9 sculpin for 13 anglers. A morning trip on the *Southern Cal* the same day returned to Pierpoint with 50 sand bass, 57 sculpin, 23 perch and a halibut.



OCEANSIDE SAND BLAST — A mini mackerel fished off Oceanside produced this grumpy sand bass for young Anthony Fuentes of Murrieta.

Humboldt squid go wild for Seaforth Landing boats

MISSION BAY — Seaforth Sportfishing in Mission Bay is squid city right now thanks to being the only landing sending out twilight squid trips for Humboldt squid.

The big inkers have been ranging from 20 to nearly 40 pounds, and the action has been fast and furious on the twilights that leave every day at 4:30 p.m. There was enough interest last Saturday that both the *New Seaforth* and the *Dolphin* made it out on squid runs. The *New Seaforth* turned in 390 squid for 70 anglers, while the *Dolphin* had its 67 anglers put 180 squid in the sacks.

The "fishing" for squid is a lesson in simplicity: heavy tackle like you'd use for trolling, tuna or rockfishing is the way to go. Just tie on a heavy squid jig and you're all set.

"We don't use jigs (like yo-yo jigs used for yellowtail) on here," says RJ Hudson on the *New Seaforth*. "It's just too dangerous."

Instead, the big squid jigs like the ones used by AHI USA are what the crews like to see anglers using. The big jigs weigh 24 ounces and are 20 inches long. They hook the squid good enough that they don't rip out and come flying back at anglers like yo-yo jigs often do.

IGFA Observer Training Class to be held Feb. 21 at Balboa Bay Club

NEWPORT BEACH — The Balboa Bay Club will be the site of the next IGFA Observer Training Class (OTC) on Saturday, Feb. 21, at 9 a.m. The class instructs experienced anglers, boat captains and crew members as observers for fishing tournaments held across the globe. The course includes species identification, IGFA saltwater fishing rules and regulations, safety at sea and boating etiquette.

Pre-registration is required and the cost of the class is \$150. The registration fee includes a one-year IGFA membership, training manual and two instructional (IGFA Rules & Billfish Identification) DVDs. Individuals that have completed the IGFA Observer Course are notified of tournaments requiring Observers by e-mail blasts and posts on the IGFA Observer Online Talk Forum. There is no annual fee to receive these notices, but Observers must keep their IGFA membership current.

Contact IGFA Conservation Director Jason Schratwieser at (954) 924-4320, or e-mail jschratwieser@igfa.org for additional information.

The IGFA OTC applications are available at the IGFA Web site, www.igfa.org.



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Thur, Jun 18	Sun, Jun 21	3	\$775	25	Western Outdoor News Open
Sun, Jun 21	Fri, Jun 26	5	\$1325	22	Penn University Open
Fri, Jun 26	Tues, Jun 30	4	\$1095	25	976-Tuna Open
Wed, Jul 1	Fri, Jul 3	1.5	\$360	32	
Fri, Jul 3	Tues, Jul 7	4	\$1195	27	Izorline Open
Tues, Jul 7	Thur, Jul 9	1.5	\$360	32	
Thur, Jul 9	Sat, Jul 11	1.5	\$360	32	Let's Talk Hook-up Seminar
Sat, Jul 11	Tues, Jul 14	3	\$895	27	Gary Iwamura Charter
Tues, Jul 14	Thur, Jul 16	1.5	\$375	30	
Thur, Jul 16	Tues, Jul 21	5	\$1750	20	3rd Annual Idaho Open
Tues, Jul 21	Sun, Jul 26	5	\$1450	25	ADG Family Open
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Wed. July 15	Mon. July 20	5	\$1740

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Hurricane Bank becomes the center of long range attention

Royal Polaris picks up where it last left off at the Hurricane; Red Rooster III, Independence also hit the bank

BY BRANDON HAYWARD
WON Staff Writer

SAN DIEGO — After “super cow Monday” hopes were high that the greatest show on 300-plus-pound yellowfin in the history of long range fishing would continue for the next round of boats to check out the lower banks.



LOWER BANKS LUNKER — Corey Burke will be going back to New York with tales of catching a monster yellowfin thanks to landing this beauty that hit 269 on the boat's scale.

The *Royal Polaris* started its long trip in the same zone that had kicked out 20 yellowfin over 300 pounds for the 10-day trips that fished over the start of the New Year. Bad news was that it found no willing yellowfin. Good news is that it found great fishing on 140- to 180-pound yellowfin at the Hurricane to go with some 200-plus pounders and one fish over 300 pounds after spending 5 days on the bank.

That's not to say that the signs aren't there on the Lower Banks. There is potential galore. The *American Angler* is fishing the Lower Banks on its 10½-day trip that is geared around fishing the banks pretty much exclusively. The anglers on the trip have seen incredible signs of fish at times, but getting them to bite has been, in a word, “tough.” A 269-pound yellowfin by Corey Burak and a few others over 200 pounds and the high 100s has given everybody reasons to stay at the rail. The *Royal Star* started its 15-day trip on the

Lower Banks in the same zone, but it also has had a hard time getting the fish to cooperate. Having a 15-day trip to work with means that it has the option to bend it out towards the Hurricane Bank and/or Buffer Zone.

In addition to the *Royal Polaris*, the *Independence* and *Red Rooster III* are also set up on the bank. As



WELCOME TO THE 300-POUND CLUB — The Hurricane Bank is plenty capable of kicking out 300-plus pounders, as Blake Pulford proved while fishing on the *Royal Polaris*.

mentioned earlier, the *RP* was the first to get set up there, and the Alpha spot has been good on “Hurricane Bank grade” 140 to 180s with a handful of shots at 200 pounders available everyday. Big fish after 5 days on the banks was a 318 (on the boat's scale) by Craig Drummond.

The *Independence* is off to a great start on the 'Cane. It also is getting into great action on the 140-plus-pound tuna to go with some 70 to 90 pounders and a sample of wahoo. Its second day on the banks was good for 40 tuna, half of which were from 120 to 200-plus pounds. This was after day one 35 tuna from 70 to 200-plus pounds and 10 wahoo.

The *Red Rooster III* has a nice start to kick off its long trip thanks to the first day giving up a pair of cows to go with the fishing on 140 to 180 pounders.

For more info on what's going on at the Hurricane, check out Brandon Hayward's blog at woneews.com.

Polaris Supreme hits two hot spots for 10 cows

SAN DIEGO — Tom Rothery brought his *Polaris Supreme* home to Fisherman's Landing January 11 after a 16-day trip to the Hurricane Bank and the Southern Banks of Baja. There were 7 anglers on the annual George Davis expedition, and they produced 10 more cows for the record.

In his report from the boat on Friday Jan. 2, Tom reported a good day of fishing.

Chartermaster George Davis of San Dimas won the jackpot after catching 4 cows. His tuna weighed 241.8, 219.8, 213.6 and 208 pounds. The big one came on squid on the kite, he said.

George fished with 7/0 Mustad 7691 hooks, 130-pound Momoi line and 130-pound Line One Spectra on a Penn 70 VSW reel and a Calstar 655 XXH rod. He said the big one came to gaff in just 20 minutes.

Allen Tokunaga of North Hollywood won second place for a 224.6-pounder.

“These Hurricane Bank fish seemed a little tougher than the ones on the inside,” he remarked. “This one took me 40 minutes. He went around the boat a couple of times, and then came up on the port side of the stern.”

Scott Brown of Costa mesa won third place for his 213.2-pounder.

— Courtesy of Bill Roecker



REIGNING SUPREME — The *Polaris Supreme* slid back to Fisherman's Landing with 10 tuna over 200 pounds on Jan. 11.

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