



The Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.

Educate ~ Entertain ~ Enhance

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Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.
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Salmon Fishing the Central Valley Rivers with Jack Naves

- Fishing the Central Valley Rivers for Salmon
- How to use the latest lures on the market
- Best rigging for the opportunity to nail that 'hog-salmon'
- How weather conditions affect fishing

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Judy Miller, Editor
Thank you for reading our newsletter!

One of the Rooster Tails favorite fishing expert guest speakers, Mr. Jack Naves will have a special seminar on salmon fishing the Central Valley Rivers on November 15th. For those anglers that have heard of the exploits of 'Bass Jack' fishing reputation, you will not want to miss this refined salmon fishing techniques seminar.

Jack's seminar will include how to use the latest lures on the market, including the best rigging for the opportunity to nail that 'hog-salmon'. In addition, Jack will give you the best locations to fish and how weather conditions affect salmon fishing.

Jack is not a fishing guide but most local guides know him and attest to his fishing accomplishments. He is a regular contributor to fishing magazines and in high demand as a guest speaker.

Jack inherited his father's and grandfather's knowledge of fishing which has inspired him to share his personal 30 years of fishing skills with you. He will not be selling anything or asking you to buy a product, but invites you to go fishing using his tips.

Jack's 'day job' is in the technology industry. He and his family live in Folsom.

Doors to the Auburn Elks Lodge, 195 Pine Street, Auburn, 95603, open at 7:00 a.m. to share fresh-brewed coffee. Get there early to share fishing stories, meet new members, and make arrangements for fishing outings.

This free event is open to club members, spouses, and non-member guests. A fantastic \$15 wide-selection buffet breakfast is served at 8:00 am, followed at 9:00 am with our special guest speaker.



Jack Naves and large salmon

Calendar of Events

November 6
Turkey Tourney—Collins Lake
No Entry Fee
Sign up at Friday breakfast

November 20
Rock Cod & Crab Combo
Emeryville Marina

December 13
Annual RTFC Holiday Party

November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

10 Tips to Catch More Salmon on Plugs *by Andy Martin*

The Set Up

Perhaps the biggest mistake I see people make when pulling plugs for fall kings is completely missing the fish when they come through a likely holding area. On many rivers, some of the best pools for salmon are located in the deeper water just downstream from a faster riffle. Salmon will often hold at the top of these pools, right where the deep water begins to shallow up. I've seen many boaters drift into a pool and by the time the anglers get their plugs out, they are already downstream of the fish. Remember, if you let out 50 feet of line, that's nearly the equivalent of three boat lengths. A good set up is *vital* to catching more fish. Slow the boat down as quickly as you can when you come down a riffle to a hole, and get the plugs in the water so they are working as soon as they hit the seam where the river slows down and begins to deepen.

If you wait until the boat gets to the spot you think the fish may be, it may be too late, as your plugs will be well downstream from that point. Ideally, you want to have the plugs fishing well ahead of where the fish are, and slowly slip down to the sweet spot.

Wait, wait, wait...

It happens all the time. An angler is holding his or her rod and a big king smacks the plug. For many beginning salmon fishermen, it's the hardest strike they've ever felt. They immediately jerk back, and the fish is gone. Wait until a salmon is taking line off your reel before setting the hook.

By then the fish is already hooked and you have the highest odds of landing it. Even after a couple of really hard whacks, a salmon can still spit the plug. Often a salmon is still swimming upstream when it grabs a plug by its back. Kings will usually chomp on a plug several times and then clamp down and turn, burying the hooks in their jaw as they change directions and run downstream.

Many guides will urge their customers to use rod holders when fishing plugs. If you don't use the holder, at least rest the rod against the gunnels as you hold the rod across your lap. Then make sure you wait, wait, wait.

Keep 'em Fresh

Starting the day with a fresh sardine wrap and then replacing the wraps every 45 minutes to hour will result in more strikes.

Salmon will hit plugs without a bait wrap - it happens all the time but adding a sardine fillet will increase the number of fish you hook. The fresher the fillet the better. I usually launch a few minutes early and wrap four plugs, two to begin fishing immediately, and a few more for back-ups once a fish is hooked, or when it's time for a refresher.

Don't wrap the plugs too early. You want them to be juicy and fresh when they hit the water, not dried out.

As soon as the bait wrap turns brown, replace it with a fresh one. Adding scents such as krill, herring oil, anise or sand shrimp oil can also help attract more fish. If you are switching back and forth from back-bouncing or divers to plugs, put on a fresh wrap before putting the plugs back out.

There have been numerous times when I've been fishing a hole and then put on fresh wraps and hooked up almost instantly.



'Sticky' Sharp

You'd be surprised how many anglers run plugs with dull hooks. A plug out of the package has super sharp hooks. But once it's been used a few times, or caught a few fish, the hooks will dull. The sharper the hooks, the more fish you'll hook, and land. I touch up the hooks on my plugs every day with a few swipes against a file.

If you replace hooks, use a similar size to ensure the plug will run the way it was intended to.

Aside from the sharp hooks, I make sure the plugs are clean. At the end of the day, each plug gets a scrubbing with toothpaste and a toothbrush to get all the oils, unwanted scents and dried bait off.



Wall of Death

Although it's not quite as important as it is when running plugs for steelhead, you should have all your salmon plugs out the same distance. Line counter reels will take all the guess work out of this, but you can also count asses on the level wind. Before I started using line counters, I'd let out anywhere from four and a half passes to seven passes. A pass is simply left to right, or right to left, one time across. Four and a half passes is around 35 to 40 feet, while seven is usually a little more than

10 Tips to Catch More Salmon on Plugs by Andy Martin—continued

50 feet, depending on line diameter. Of course, in deeper water you may have to let out a little more line. By having all the plugs out the same distance, you ensure you are maximizing your presentation. There are also times when a salmon sees the first plug and moves to the side instead of hitting it, only to run into the next plug and strike it as its first reaction.

Tipping Plugs

The last few years “tipping” plugs with Berkley Gulp! worms has gained in popularity. The added action of a worm twirling around behind the plug seems to produce a few more hookups. Buzz Ramsey of Yakima Bait Co. has found tipping plugs to be particularly effective. Some anglers also add a small hoochie or squid to the rear hook.



Slower is Better

When running plugs through a likely salmon hole, slow it down. Slower is better. When you quickly move through a pool, a fast presentation may not get any of the fish to bite. But a slow, methodical pass down the slot will often lure the aggressive and territorial fish into striking.

Salmon don't like a 5- or 6-inch lure dancing in front of their face very long. If it stays there, they will often try to remove it. I like to watch the rod tips and make sure the plugs are working, and then stroke enough to barely hold the boat in place and drop down a foot or so every 10 or 15 seconds, sometimes even slower. The slower you go, the deeper the plugs will dive. If there are a lot of fish in a run, I want to spend as much time there as I can.

Seams, Pockets and Drop-offs

Any place you have a sudden change in depth or speed you have a chance of finding salmon. In long runs, salmon will often hold behind large boulders, changes in depth (which create a slight current break) and along the seam between the fast water and slower water. Some of the obvious salmon spots are along steep banks and rock walls, opposite the gravel bars. Salmon like 5 to 10 feet of water where the current is slow enough they can comfortably hold. In faster stretches, salmon may still be there, holding behind large rocks, logs or along the underwater eddy created by a sudden increase in depth.

Getting Down

In water more than 10 feet, you may need to add a diver, dropper with weight or use a deep-diving plug. The last few years, Yakima Bait Co.'s Mag Lip, which is a modified Flat Fish, has been hot for deeper, faster runs. The Mag Lips dive to 18 feet, and the “skip-beat” has proven to trigger strikes. If I'm using a T50 FlatFish or a K15 Kwikfish in fairly deep water, I'll place an 18-inch dropper four feet above my plug and use two or three ounces of lead to get it down. Back-bouncing plugs takes a little getting used to for some people, but is effective for pulling fish out of the deeper slots.

Colors and size matter

Switch out colors and size combinations, chartreuse being the predominate choice. Good luck!



November 20 Ocean Fishing Trip

Don't miss this last ocean fishing trip of the year with an exclusive Rooster Tail Member price of \$120 per space (normal rate \$150) to fish for rock cod, ling cod, and best of all... Dungeness Crab! Bring your limit of crabs and have them cooked at the marina for \$15. You will be fishing from the sleek 56' Salty Lady, with career Captain Jared Davis, normally out of Sausalito except during crab season moving to Emeryville Marina. The boat normally fishes thirty anglers, so there will be plenty of 'elbow room' for less tangles and more fishing fun!

We have a few more spaces available. Call Mike Walker at 530-320-1750 to reserve your space before they are all gone. You can mail your check (non-refundable) for \$120 to RTFC, PO Box 7441, Auburn, CA 95604. The no refund policy is due to the club commitment to pay the \$3,000 total boat reservation fee despite the number of anglers on board. Gratuities, tackle rentals, and any miscellaneous expenses are the responsibility of the individual angler.

