



The Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc.

Educate ~ Entertain ~ Enhance

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Vance Staplin—2018 Salmon Season Update

- What to Expect Fishing for Salmon
- Professional Fishing Guide for 20 years
- Owns Vance's Tackle Manufacturing
- Sits on the Board of the Golden State Salmon Association

Adventure Travel & Kokanee Tournament
August 7 & 8
Stampede Reservoir

The Rooster Tails membership and the greater fishing community has kicked-off what hopefully will be a banner salmon fishing season which opened to Central Valley rivers on July 16th. However, there is some consternation as to mixed messages found in various fishing media on the potential salmon migration runs. There are very few resources that have a comprehensive perspective of what we can expect... or better still, predict the number of salmon that will enter our local waters.

Rooster Tail Members and non-member guests are invited to hear a special presentation by Vance Staplin at their August 17th breakfast meeting. Vance will provide breakfast meeting attendees with an insight of what to expect. Vance is well known by recreational as well as by commercial fishermen as an expert on salmon. He sits on the **Board of Directors for the Golden Gate Salmon Association** (GGSA) and owns Vance's Tackle Manufacturing. Vance has been a professional fishing guide for twenty years spending many years on the water fishing for King Salmon on the upper Sacramento River. As a native northern Californian born to outdoor enthusiast parents, he spent his early years sharing in fishing and hunting.

Vance was recruited by John McManus, President of the GGSA, to contribute his expertise as a Board of Directors Member. Although Vance no longer is a fishing guide, he regularly fishes for salmon and is in regular contact with the salmon fishing community via the many resources of the GGSA.

For those unfamiliar with the GGSA, their mission is to protect and restore California's largest salmon producing habitat comprised of the Central Valley rivers that feed both the Bay-Delta ecosystem and the communities that rely on salmon as a long-term, sustainable commercial, recreational and cultural resource.

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Calendar of Events

August 7 & 8
Adventure Travel & Kokanee Tournament

August 17
Vance Staplin, Golden Gate Salmon Association
Status of Salmon Season

September 21
Breakfast Speaker TBA
On Ocean Trip for Rock Fish

August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	15	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Popular Fishing Tackle would be Banned Under New California Bill Sacramento Bee - March 2, 2018

COMMENT/OPINION ON THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE: While lead is a naturally occurring element; it is usually bound up and not in the free form. In most cases, lead enters bodies of water from things like improperly disposed of industrial waste, air pollution from coal burning power plants lacking adequate remediation equipment, and leaching from improperly disposed of manufacturing products that contain lead (i.e. batteries and various manufacturing processes including electronics). Landfills have significant quantities of lead buried in them, and many of them are located in marshes and similar sites near

water bodies. Some homes, especially older ones, have lead paint that leaches lead into the environment, into storm drains, and into water bodies. Lead can also leach from mining trailing and get into streams, which in turn feed into larger bodies of water. Acid rain speeds up the leaching process, creating soluble lead salts that find their way to water bodies through run-off. It is doubtful that very much lead is actually contributed by the very small amounts used in fishing weights and lures... it does however make for political fodder.

Assembly Bill 2787 — A California lawmaker wants to ban most lead fishing weights, arguing they are harmful to wildlife. Assemblyman Bill Quirk, D-Hayward, introduced Assembly Bill 2787 on Feb. 16, 2018. The bill would outlaw the manufacture, sale and purchase of lead fishing weights that are less than 50 grams (50 grams equals 1.76 ounces). "There's no question about the toxicity of lead," Quirk said. "Weights of these sizes can be and are ingested by wildlife. These weights are also the most likely to result in human exposure from, for example, an angler clamping a (lead) weight onto the line with his or her teeth." (*Comment: This quote is obviously made by a non-fisherman*).

Opponents from the fishing industry, however, say studies that illustrate the impact of lead weights on animals in California are lacking and that a ban would financially cripple anglers and fishing guides. Six states along with Canada have some form of a ban on lead fishing weights. Quirk pointed to studies done in New York and New England that showed the common loon, a species of bird, was dying after ingesting lead fishing baits. A study published last year in *The Journal of Wildlife Management* found that 49 percent of adult loon deaths in New Hampshire resulted from the ingestion of lead fishing tackle. In California, Quirk said autopsies of pelicans and harbor seals revealed the ingestion of lead fishing weights as the cause of death. "I think the science is good enough at this point to act," Quirk said.

Marko Mlikotin, executive director of the California Sportfishing League, said a California-specific study of the harm caused to wildlife by lead fishing weights is needed before Quirk's bill moves forward. Otherwise, the bill is a "solution in search of a problem," Mlikotin said. The study on harbor seals only involved one harbor seal that died in 2004, Mlikotin added. "We invite a scientific review, because at the end of the day, anglers are conservationists," he said. "California is not New Hampshire. It is not Canada."

Lead harms wildlife no matter where it is found, said Jeff Miller, conservation advocate with the Center for Biological Diversity, which supports Quirk's proposal. "Everywhere this issue has been studied, lead exposure has been significant to many species of wildlife," Miller said.

Quirk's proposal would increase the cost of fishing and have a "devastating impact" on the state's fishing participation rate and fishing license sales, Mlikotin said, "Annual state fishing license sales have declined 55 percent since 1980, resulting in less funding for state conservation and hatchery programs. Further, Mlikotin said "The consequences of a ban are significant for communities that depend on outdoor recreation for tax revenue and jobs". James Stone, a fishing guide and owner of Yuba City-based Elite Sportsmen Guide Service, (and past RT guest speaker), said the ban would hurt fishing guides who rely on smaller lead weights that usually cost about 30 cents per ounce. Alternatives, such as copper and tungsten weights, are not as cost-effective to use, with tungsten weights costing about \$8 each, Sacramento-based fishing guide JD Richey said. "It would be a pain but not the end of the world to use alternative weights," Richey said. "I think most fishermen are conservation-minded as far as wanting to see the rivers clean and their favorite species doing well, but I haven't really seen hard data that these little weights are hurting anything."

Quirk said using more expensive alternative weights is a small cost when factored-in to the overall cost of a fishing trip. (*Comment: Further proof that Quirk knows nothing about fishing and has little concern for the drop in recreational fishing's contribution to CA's bottom line*). The California Sportfishing League has launched an online petition and social media campaign opposing AB 2787. Mlikotin said the petition already has more than 2,000 signatures.

Lead fishing weights have previously come under scrutiny from California's Department of Toxic Substances Control, and state efforts to reduce lead in the environment are not limited to fishing weights. California began to prohibit the use of lead ammunition for hunting on state lands in 2015, and that ban will extend to hunting anywhere in California beginning July 1, 2019. Shortly before President Barack Obama left office, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service moved to ban lead fishing weights on lands managed by the agency by 2022, but President Donald Trump's administration overturned that effort on federal lands. However, according to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) whose mission is to "protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing

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Try Downstream Trolling to Nab King Salmon on the Sac - By J.D. Richey, Fishing Guide

Since the opener a week or so back, things have been about like we expected... not a lot of fish around, but diligent (and/or lucky) anglers have been finding a few chrome fish to 30 pounds. One of the more popular areas to fish is from Discovery Park in Sacramento down to Isleton and my favorite way to approach this sluggish section of river is to troll downstream.



The idea here is to go fast enough to keep the thing spinning but slow enough that you can read individual pulses of the blade on your rod tip. **Rigging Up**— There are places I've found where trolling spinners or Kwikfish downriver without weight works just fine. However, I mainly stick to running a 3-way swivel off my main line, with a dropper for my sinker off eye number two and the leader coming off the third. There are no hard and fast rules governing the length of your droppers and leaders because it depends on the type of

Why it works- In this area, the fish don't usually linger for long (except maybe around the mouth of the American). They're already above the salt-to-fresh acclimation zone and well below the spawning areas, so they're typically blasting through. Not only are the kings in these slack-water spots moving quickly, but they're also fresh from the salt and extremely aggressive biters.

By going downhill, you can crank up the trolling speed — which allows you to cover the water (and find fish) more quickly. I stick to 1 mph, but some of the guides I know do extremely well by throttling up to 2.3 mph and slightly higher. Since we're not trying to coax stale upriver fish to bite, going slowly isn't a priority here. This technique also works because kings down there are still so dialed into their ocean feeding habits that, when a plug or spinner goes whizzing downstream past them, it triggers the "eat me" response. All the salmon I catch this way turn around and chase the lure down — which doesn't exactly fit into the "they bite lures because they're annoying" theory.

For this method, I primarily pull sardine-wrapped **K14 Kwikfish**, which have a hyper, scared-to-death baitfish kind of action to them. Offshore, our kings eat a lot of small anchovies so I like the smaller plugs for that reason as well — it's sort of a match the hatch type of deal. Spinners like single and double bladed **Silvertrons** which work well when trolling quickly. The idea here is to go fast enough to keep the thing spinning but slow enough that you can read individual pulses of the blade on your rod tip.

lures you're running and how much lead you've got on. What I can tell you is the lure should be running 1 to 3 feet up off the bottom with minimal contact with the riverbed. The fish are not line shy, so go heavy. I run 60-pound braid as my main line and then 40-pound Maxima or Berkley Big Game for leader. You never know when that 50-plus pounder is going to come-calling!

The Fun Part! - The bite you get when trolling downstream is quite different from the ones you get when fishing a more conventional method like back-trolling. When a king spins on a dime and chases down your lure, he'll often pick it up and continue swimming with you for a moment. This is known as a "slack line" bite and the only thing that will key you into what's happening is the rod tip will straighten up and throbbing (from the lure's action) will go away. At that point, you've got about a nanosecond to set up on him before the big slug spits out your hardware. For that reason, it's a really good idea to hold onto your rod all day — slack line bites are hard to capitalize on when you've got your stick in a holder. The other type of bite you may encounter looks more like a traditional takedown — the rod tip pumps a few times and then the rod doubles over. If you get this kind of strike, let the fish eat the lure until your rod really loads up and then stick it to him! While you may not see the limit-style action we used to back in past years, you've still got a shot at a nice king or two this month. Get out there and cover some ground by trolling downriver and you'll eventually get bit!



Jean Hafelfinger wins the raffle for the Kokanee Rod and Reel - presented by Mac McKendree at the July 20 RT breakfast



Burt Jansen fishing with Shawn Conlan caught this 22" rainbow on a gold and red speedy shiner just before sunup on July 9th at Spaulding Lake

Vance Staplin – continued

Jackpot Contest

Here are some recent GGSA Accomplishments:

- After GGSA urging, State agrees in April 2018 to pulse flow on Feather River to help baby spring run salmon make their way to the ocean.
- Proposal to raise Shasta Dam, robbing more water needed by salmon, stopped in Congress after GGSA action.
- GGSA and others file suit to stop proposal to build two gigantic Delta diversion intakes and tunnels to siphon off Sacramento River water needed by salmon.
- GGSA mounts public education effort spotlighting harm to salmon if the Sites Reservoir and dams are built as currently proposed in the Sacramento Valley.
- GGSA gets state legislators to successfully push CA Dept. of Water Resources to drop opposition and support restoration of a key piece of salmon rearing habitat in the Feather River.
- GGSA action helps steer \$20 million in federal salmon restoration funds to projects aimed primarily at habitat restoration for Central Valley salmon runs.
- GGSA and allies win state approval for new flood control strategy that reduces flood threats while creating more salmon habitat.
- GGSA part of successful effort blocking increased pumping from the Delta by federal government.
- GGSA successfully prods State to advance work to open Yolo Bypass, one of the last great places in the Central Valley for salmon rearing.
- GGSA played key role in winning passage of State Legislature resolution making salmon restoration a high priority for all state agencies.
- GGSA continues to insure a voice for salmon in the press and public debate.
- Californians had a 2017 fishing season, in large part thanks to GGSA-inspired extra trucking of hatchery fish at height of 2015 drought.
- GGSA led the successful effort to get the CA Dept. of Water Resources to pay for tagging Feather River hatchery salmon.

2018	2017	LENGTH	WEIGHT	WATER	DATE	ANGLER
	Kokanee	16 1/2"		WHISKEY TOWN	6-10	B. MIERKEY
	Landlocked Salmon	22 3/4"		OROVILLE	6-10	R. CORRAO
	River or Ocean King Salmon	24 3/4"		OCEAN	7-14	R. CORRAO
	Striped Bass	34"		S.F. BAY		O. SOUDERS
	Rainbow Trout	24 1/2"	5.43	DON PEDRO R.	3-15	B. MIERKEY
	Brown Trout	23"	5.10 ^{oz}	SHASTA LAKE	5-6	B. MIERKEY
	Steelhead	27 1/2"	9lb 7oz	AMERICAN RIVER	1-17	PETER ZITTERE
	Lake Trout (Mackinaw)	23 1/2"		DONNER LAKE	6-23	SHAWN CONLAN
	Large Mouth Bass	18 1/2"	3lb 4oz	LAKE SHASTA	5-16	B. ZANDER
	Small Mouth Bass	19 1/2"	4lb 4oz	BERRYESSA	2-15	Rik Cox
	Catfish	28 1/2"		CLEARLAKE	11-18	MEL EWING
	Shad	19 3/4"		AMERICAN RIVER	6-23	GREG HICKS
	Crappie	14"		CAMP FAR WEST	5-21	SHAWN CONLAN
	Sturgeon	34"		SACRO DELTA	11-18	MEL TAKAHASHI

2017 entries in red – 2018 entries in black

- KOKANEE— **Bev Mierkey**, 16", Whiskeytown, 5/22/18
- LANDLOCKED SALMON, **Mel Ewing**, 22", Folsom Lake, 5/24/18
- RIVER/OCEAN KING SALMON, **Ray Corrao**, Ocean, 24 3/4", 7/14/18
- STRIPED BASS, **Olin Souders**, S.F. Bay, 34", 7/14/18
- RAINBOW TROUT, **Bev Mierkey**, 24 1/2", 5.43 lbs., Don Pedro, 3/15/18
- BROWN TROUT, **Bev Mierkey**, 23", 5.10", Shasta Lake, 5/6/18
- STEELHEAD, **Peter Zittere**, 27 1/2", 9 lbs. 7 oz., American River, 1/17/18
- LARGE MOUTH BASS, **Bill Zander**, 18 1/2", 3 lbs 4 oz., Lake Shasta, 5/16/18
- SMALL MOUTH BASS, **Rik Cox**, 19 1/2", 4 lbs. 4 oz., Berryessa, 2/15/18
- CRAPPIE, **Shawn Conlon**, 14", Camp Far West, 5/21/18

AB 2787 - continued from page 2

hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.” **Have there been any scientific studies that show lead fishing tackle is a hazard to wildlife? No.** In fact, in spite of laws requiring the DTSC to conduct such studies, they have provided no scientific evidence that lead fishing tackle should be a cause for concern. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has repeatedly turned down proposals banning lead, citing that such plans are scientifically unjustified.

So can fishing weights and other tackle be made from other materials? Yes, of course... Materials such as steel, tin, tungsten, bismuth, and brass could be used for sinkers but none of them give the same dollar-for-dollar performance as lead. However, the price of some types of gear could increase ten to twenty fold. For example, if made of tungsten, the 23 cent lead bullet sinker in your tackle box would cost \$3.49 and a 20 cent jig could cost as much as \$6.99! Some alternate materials are so hard to work with that manufacturers say they would have to stop production.

