

PELORUS



Pelorus: a fixed compass used to take bearings relative to a ship's heading.

The Quarterly Newsletter of

Central Coast Women for Fisheries, Inc.

Incorporated May 4, 2006

A Message From the President

Hello Friends,

Just a quick note this time. I just want to invite and encourage you to all attend our general membership meeting. We'll give you a quick update of what's happening with CCWF and then just spend some time chatting. It is always a good time to get together with friends. This year we have the Morro Bay Yacht Club, which is a beautiful setting for an evening out. It will be **July 29th from 4:00 to 7:00pm**. Come out and join us – drinks and a light dinner on us. Your plus 1 is invited too.

Also please don't forget to send in your membership renewal, which you should have recently received by mail.

See you on the 29th.

Lenore Ward, CCWF president

Upcoming 2025 Events

Marine Swap Meet

Saturday, June 28 at the Morro Bay Maritime Museum 1210 Embarcadero.

Admission is free. 8:00 to 1:00

Marine supplies, Fishing gear, surfboards, nautical art, antiques, and more.

Maritime Family Fun Day

Saturday, October 11 at the Morro Bay Maritime Museum.

Admission is free. 10:00 to 4:00.

Many activities, including CCWF's corn hole game and fish print booth. We will also be selling our T-shirts.

CCWF Board of Directors

President:

Lenore Ward lenoredw@gmail.com

Vice President:

Sharon Rowley srowley303@gmail.com

Secretary:

Sheri Hafer somethingsfishy@charter.net

Treasurer:

Tacy Lee 4tacyl@gmail.com

Director:

Becka Kelly bkelly@morrobayca.gov

CCWF email:

ccwf@womenforfish.org

Summer 2025

Volume 20, Issue 2

Inside this issue:

Blessing of
The Fleet 2

Kids at Sea 2

Aloha 3

Scholarships
at Morro Bay
High 3

Cooking with
CCWF 4

CCWF
Scholarships 4

Pages From the
Past 4

Pages From
Past continued 5

The Last Word 6

Check out the CCWF website:

www.womenforfish.org

For news, events, projects, programs and much more, including past issues of the newsletter.

We are also on Facebook;
Central Coast Women for Fisheries

Blessing of the Fleet 2025

Blessing of the Fleet is a centuries old tradition that originated in Mediterranean fishing communities. It was mostly a Catholic ceremony, but is now led by Christian religious leaders for everybody. It's a blessing meant to ensure a safe and bountiful season. It's usually an April event in Morro Bay and the blessing is done on the north T-pier, then the Pastor gets on the harbor patrol boat and blesses the boats and fishermen all along the harbor. The Coast Guard, community members and the fishing families come together on the pier, then are all invited to the Veterans Hall to continue the get-together and eat lunch.

The food is provided by the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization and the dessert by Central Coast Women for Fisheries. Restaurant and fish company owner, Mark Tognazzini, who has been fishing almost six decades usually plans the lunch. This year it happened on Sunday, April 27th.



Some of these fishermen have been coming to the Blessing of the Fleet since they were young men and women, full of energy, and all the hopes of having good fishing trips for many years. Some still work, and some are retired, but the proudness of the way they lived and worked hard shows on their faces.

New Kids at Sea Trips

CCWF is starting up free fishing trips for kids. We are beginning with 3 half day trips this first year; June 24 on the Black Pearl and July 23 on the Avenger., both out of Morro Bay. The 3rd trip will be August 12th out of Port San Luis on the Patriot. The kids will get help learning how to fish from the crewmembers and volunteers. The trip, use of fishing gear, fish cleaning and lunch is all free for the kids. This is a great opportunity for local kids to experience being on the ocean, view the sea life and have fun catching their own dinner. We hope to continue this every year and possibly add more trips.

A Big Thank You to Morro Bay Landing, Patriot Sport Fishing and Black Pearl Sport Fishing for helping to make this happen by offering discounts to CCWF for the trips and related expenses.

We get to live by the vast and awesome Pacific Ocean with it's beauty to look at, walk it's beaches, swim and play in it's surf. However, some people live here and never have an opportunity to go on a boat or fish and experience the sea life and elements that are only on the ocean. We are excited to provide an avenue for our youth to have these experiences, as well as the fun of being on a boat and catching their own rock fish, which is some of the tastiest fish there are.

Our priority is to have family members from our fishing community, ages 8 to 15 come out on these trips. If you know kids interested, contact Sharon Rowley for information and reservations: srowley303@gmail.com 805-674-4854.

ALOHA: (In Hawaiian, “Aloha “ means love: CCWF uses it to say both “hello” and “farewell” with love.)



Our Aloha committee is there for you. The committee sends cards and flowers, but we need you to make the call and let us know of the need and the address. Members are encouraged to contact the committee and help CCWF observe occurrences throughout our community, whether happy or sad.

CCWF sent a card to
Garett and Whitney Rose
Congratulating on their new
baby!



A card was sent to
Janice House on the passing of Stan
House, a man that was much appreciated
by the fishing community, as well as the
town of Morro Bay.

Thank You!
To Diane Schoditsch
For her compassion for students
and children,
And her generosity of donations to the
Fishing Heritage Scholarship Program
And the Kids at Sea trips.

Morro Bay High Scholarship News

The 13th annual Michele Leary Memorial Scholarships were given to 2 Morro Bay High seniors on Tribute Night, June 3. Angie Perez Cruz and Fatima Martinez each received \$1,000. Fatima will be attending Cuesta College pursuing studies in Public Health. Angie will be attending Cal State Chico, majoring in pre-nursing. A big Thank You from Michele's daughter and mother, Amanda Leary and Sharon Rowley, to Diane Schoditsch for her generous donation to this scholarship fund.

Thank you, too, to retired commercial fishermen, Jeremiah and Trudy O'Brien. They have been presenting scholarships at the high school for many years, for the Michele Scholarship and the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization, which this year was for students Frank Ainley and Lucy Fortini.

COOKING WITH CCWF and FRIENDS

From a friend's cookbook called *A Couple Cooks*
It's the friend's family favorite and quick to make.

Note: I tried this recipe. It's good, but I would add a little more chopped or crushed garlic.
I also doubled the sauce recipe so there would be more to put on rice. *Sharon Rowley*

Ingredients

About 1 and 1/2 lbs. medium or large shrimp
3 garlic cloves
1/2 tsp. onion powder
1/4 tsp. salt

1/4 cup honey
3 Tbsp.. soy sauce
1 and 1/2 Tbsp. rice vinegar
2 tsp. corn starch

3 Tbsp. sesame oil

Directions

Thaw shrimp if frozen. Stir together garlic, onion powder and salt, then coat the shrimp well.

Separately, mix honey, soy sauce, rice vinegar, and corn-starch-mix until smooth.

In a large skillet, heat sesame oil to medium high. Cook coated shrimp 1 to 2 minutes on each side until done. Then turn down heat to low and remove shrimp from pan.

Add the sauce to the pan and stir until thickened. Once thickened, add shrimp back into pan with sauce and serve.
It's good with rice.

Fishing Heritage Scholarship Program 2025 Recipients

Student	College	Major	Fisherman related to
Leah O'Brien	Curry College	Early Education	Jeremiah O'Brien
Amanda Leary	Auguste Escoffier	Culinary	Michele Leary
Gregory Cullen	Colombia College	Business/Marketing	Roger Cullen
Lyla Boughton-Proano	Colorado School of Mines	Engineering	Larry Stoffle
Nicholas Cefalu	Georgetown University	Political Science	Fred Cefalu
Hailee Brinckerhoff	San Joaquin Valley	Dental Assistant	Travis Evans
Lindsey Giannini	Barry University	Nurse	Joe Giannini
Otis Kelly	Cal Poly, Humboldt	Geospatial Science	Self & Becca Kelly
Braxten Lintner	Cal Poly, SLO	Business	Brent Lintner
Isabella Giles	Cal Poly SLO	Economics	Al French
Devon Brebes	Cuesta	Elec. Engineering	Frank/Bruce Brebes
Keyton Brebes	Cuesta	Physics	Frank/Bruce Brebes
Elizabeth Cota	Cal Poly SLO	Teaching Credential	Gordon Cota

Congratulations to these 13 well-deserving students!

Pages From the Past-Tommy St. John

Tommy St. John, and several of his family members, are a big part of Port San Luis and Morro Bay fishing history. Some of it can only be preserved through their stories. Some of the way things used to be may never happen again.

Tommy's history involves generations of fishermen. They mainly worked out of Port San Luis, and Tommy began as a kid, helping out on boats. In the 50's, sometimes his mother Audry would drive him to San Diego so they could visit his dad, grandfather and uncles when they came in to unload their catches from fishing in Mexican waters. Several other fishermen from the central coast would travel to fish there too, including Travis Evans. Audry generally had more than one job, and at times worked at the post office in Avila, a store, and processed abalone. Tommy grew up surrounded by hard-working people, and he followed suit. He got his first commercial license in 1962.

One of his uncles, Mike St. John, was a popular sport boat captain as well as a commercial fisherman. He took passengers deep sea fishing out of Port San Luis to San Simeon and had his own business in Morro Bay for a while. Mike had a few boats over the years, his first being the *DooDad*, which he fished with Tommy's dad out of Cayucos, from the pier. Over the years, Mike also fished the *Little Joe*, the *Mess*, *RaeLinda KD*, and the *Veda L*.

After a couple of years in the Marines, including duty in Viet Nam, fishing is all Tommy has done, except for crewing for a short while on Sylvester tug boats. He went to elementary school with some of the Sylvesters and later fished with them. He worked with Dick Sylvester for herring and fished alongside Butch Sylvester when he had the *Little Joe*. Tommy then had the *Farr Horizon*, a boat he had for 17 years. At times in the earlier years, he fished for rock crab and used trammel nets for halibut and white sea bass. He also hook-and-lined for rock fish. Most of the years, salmon was his main fishery.

Continued on Page

Tommy had a few boats during his decades as a commercial fisherman. The *Farr Horizon*, *Hobo*, and the *Joey Lee*, which he had for a long time that was built in Monterey in 1932. Currently it's located at Fisherman's Wharf. He also fished the *Merry I*, then finally the *Leah C*.

Tommy has fished up and down the California coast. In early days the weather forecasting wasn't like it is today and there were no buoy reports, so at times he was caught in some harrowing seas. One time he had to anchor at Pfeiffer's, just below Big Sur, for a week. He had to wait-out the big seas and 50 knot winds to subside before heading home to Morro Bay. He was always on top of making sure his boat was well-maintained and sea worthy.

As a young man, Tommy once met a girl at a dance in Santa Margarita. He said she just "vanished" after that pleasant evening. He inquired with friends if they knew where the lady with the red dress was. It wasn't until a few years later he encountered her again and they eventually got married. He and Sheela were together for 35 years until she passed away over 12 years ago. They raised two daughters, one sadly passing, and he has five grandchildren.

"Fishermen used to be able to make enough to buy a house" Tommy says, "but not anymore". His oldest grandson fished with him for a year, but decided not to make it a career, as he could see the writing on the wall. He went to college and will be graduating this year.

Being pretty much regulated out of business, Tommy sold the *Leah C*. He still has a mooring in Port San Luis, which is one of some still in his family, including his grandfather's. His "retirement" is fishing a small commercial skiff. You can't keep this good fisherman off the water.

"Not sure what I can catch, where or when, but still trying."



The *Joey Lee*, a boat Tommy had for several years.

Salmon was his main fishery.



Holy Mackerel!



Central Coast Women for
Fisheries, Inc.

785 Quintana Road, #106
Morro Bay, CA 93442

www.womenforfish.org

Please Note: The Quintana Road address for mail is a postal box only.

The Last Word . . . *by Capt. Travis O. Evans*

Travis has submitted poems and stories to CCWF for many years. He's 102 years old and retired from commercial fishing. He still loves to write stories and poems.

Forgetful

Just a line to say I'm living, I'm not yet among the dead,
though I'm getting more forgetful and slightly mixed up in my head.
For sometimes I can't remember when I'm standing at the foot of the stairs,
if I'm going up for something, or did I just come down from there?
And standing before the fridge, so often my poor mind is filled with doubt,
Did I just put some food away, or did I come to take some out?
And there's times when it's dark out, with my fishing cap on my head,
I don't know if I'm retiring, or did I just get out of bed?
So if it's my turn to write you, there's no need in you getting sore,
I may think that I've already written and don't want to be a bore.
Just remember I do love you, and I wish that you were here,
Now it's nearly mail time, so for now I'll say goodbye dear.
Here I stand at the mailbox, with my face so very red.
Instead of mailing you my letter, I opened it instead.

Travis Evans