

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

Spring 2026

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Hello Ladies

I am beginning my spring routines with all these beautiful warm days lately, and looking forward to summer, and I hope you are too. For CCWF, this spring is when we elect a new board of directors. I have loved being part of the leadership for this organization and have done it for many years now. But I feel for it to continue successfully, we must let new people with fresh ideas step in. I will continue to be involved and back them up but I plan to step aside. I want to encourage any of you to consider taking it on. If you have questions, are interested, or want to recommend someone for the board please let us know. I am proud of what this organization has done and will continue to do. From educational signs on the Morro Bay waterfront (Avila next) to student scholarships, and from taking kids fishing with Kids at Sea to designing a T-shirt that promotes fishermen, and more. What will these women do next? I encourage you to be a part of it and find out.

One more quick thing. If you have kids or your kids friends that you would like to have an opportunity to go fishing on the ocean, we are planning a few trips again this summer. We will be taking kids out on some of the local charter boats again to give them the fishing experience. We give fishing families first priority. I want to take this time also to thank everyone who helped with the boat parade, and those who helped make 649 trays of albacore enchiladas this year. Both of these events were successful fundraisers. Thanks to all of you, and that allows us to continue on serving the fishing community.

Lenore Ward, CCWF President.

Apply for Scholarships Now

May 31, 2026 is the deadline to get scholarship applications to CCWF. These are for San Luis Obispo county fishermen, their spouses, children or grandchildren. A printable application, recommendation form and guidelines can be found on the CCWF website: womenforfish.org

CCWF gives up to four years of scholarships per applicant. If renewing, it's not necessary to fill out the application again. Just send a note requesting to renew, the name of school and latest transcripts.

For more information, help or questions, contact Sharon Rowley: 805-674-4854 (can text also) or srowley303@gmail.com

2026 Albacore Enchilada Fundraiser



This year's Fundraiser on Saturday, February 7 was a record breaker. 649 trays of albacore enchiladas were made. We typically make close to 500 trays. With 4 to a tray, that 2,596 enchiladas!

A huge portion of the pre-sales were repeat customers, which many mentioned they were looking forward to having some again.

The albacore was top quality from Captain Derel Terra, from the *F/V Gusto*.

Luckily, enough CCWF members and volunteers showed up to complete this monumental task. Making the enchiladas for many years now, it's down to a science, but it always takes a lot of work to get the job done. A huge THANK YOU to all the amazing people who did this.



Members of the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization usually show up to help at the fundraiser, including cutting the albacore loins in chunks to get ready for sautéing.

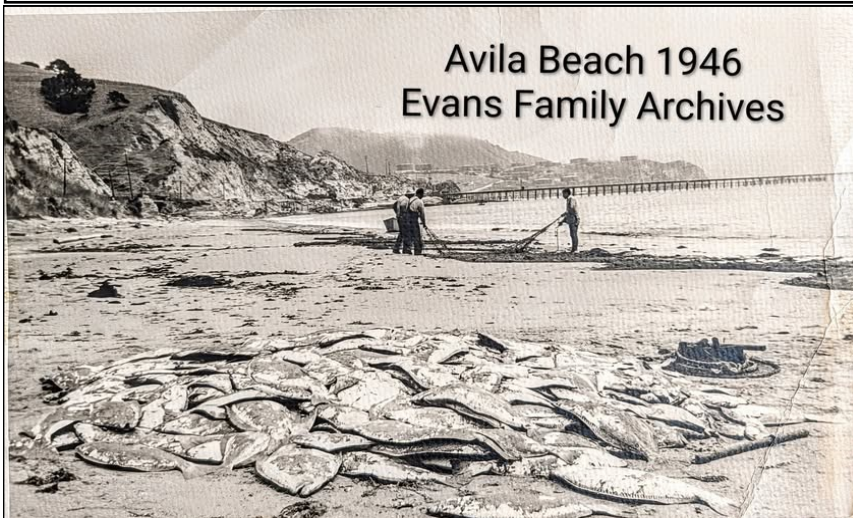
It's major help and much appreciated!

In the picture, these local long-time fishermen are having a break.

It's remarkable to think of the collective years of hard work and experiences these men have, all sitting at the same table.

From front left front and going around the table: Reed Hawkins, Jeremiah O'Brien, Bill Ward, Tom Hafer, Wayne Moody, and Alan Alward.

A Little Local History



Pictured right is Derel Terra cutting albacore loins into pieces for sautéing. Derel has been a commercial fisherman for many decades and CCWF bought his fish for the Albacore Enchilada Fundraiser this year, as well as years past.



These men are netting halibut from what is known as Dog Beach. Also mentioned was that white sea bass were caught this way too.

The photo and information was posted recently by Kerry Evans Nechodom on the *Salty History* Facebook Page. Barbara Stickel, a mostly retired commercial fisherman and historian has lots of west coast fishing history on this page. Her research is endless and makes *Salty History* an interesting place to scroll through.

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 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

A card was sent to the family of Travis Evans on his passing.



A card was sent to Jeremiah O'Brien.



A card was sent to The Black Brant Group For a donation to the CCWF Scholarship Program



A card was sent to Val Seymour, Becka Kelly's mother.

Tabby's Marine

831 Morro Bay Blvd.
Morro Bay, CA 93442
(805) 225-1313

tabbystam@gmail.com

On Facebook as Tabby's Marine

Hours:

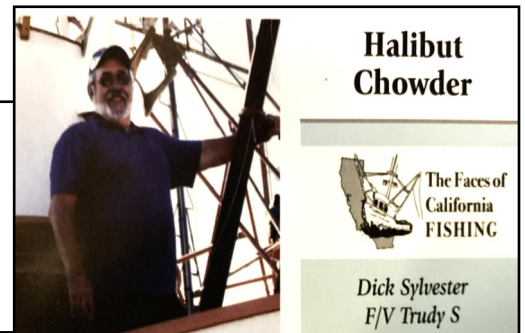
Mon.- Fri. 8:00-5:00

Sat. - Sun. 8:00-2:00

Tabby reports possible time change of opening the store earlier on weekends when fishing openers begin. She has bait now too.

COOKING WITH CCWF and FRIENDS

This is from one of the many recipe cards that was a project done by Lori French's *Faces of California Fishing* several years ago.



Ingredients

1 to 2 lbs. halibut fillets
5 to 6 large potatoes, peeled, chopped
1 large onion, chopped
3 stalks celery, chopped
6 slices crisp bacon, finely chopped
1 large can chicken broth
1 cup Vermouth
Garlic
1 teaspoon olive oil
seasoning salt
pepper

Directions

In a large pot add chicken broth, potatoes, Vermouth and water until pot is three-quarters full. Cook on medium heat until potatoes are done.
While potatoes are cooking, sauté onion and celery in olive oil until translucent. Add to broth and potatoes.
Fry bacon, chop and add to broth and potatoes.
Season with seasoning salt, pepper and garlic to taste.
When potatoes are done, add fish. The fish will break into smaller chunks when done, about 5 minutes.
Lingcod and most rockfish work well with this recipe.
Like with all soups, one can vary the fillers (ingredients) to make a full pot.

Pages From the Past

Bill Ward has been fishing his entire adult life. He claims he's not a "high-liner" fisherman, but it doesn't take away that he was a hard-worker and he did well enough to make a living for himself and family for many decades.

Born in 1945, he was raised in Nipomo, CA. When he was in junior high a friend in his 20's, took him and other friends to do fun things in the area. They went camping on the beaches, clamming, gathering abalone and fishing off the rocks by PSL lighthouse, plus crabbing off the Harford pier. These great times stirred Bill's love of the outdoors. They continued with these activities in San Luis Obispo County through high school.

Bill served in the Navy after high school and was stationed on a ship. He spent half his time in Hawaii and half in Viet Nam. While in Hawaii he picked up a True Magazine, which was a popular publication in the 60's for adventure and sports. An article he read by a Game Warden about busting some abalone divers for breaking a regulation inspired an interest in diving for abs. He subsequently checked out books from the library and read about it, because reading is what Bill does.

When out of the Navy in 1967, Lew Stevens, who was like a father to Bill while growing up (Bill's father passed when he was only 9) had a 19-foot boat, and was a welder. They decided to get set up for abalone diving. Bill went to Giannini's Marine Supply in Morro Bay and bought an air compressor for the small boat. Lew also made gurdies for hand cranking salmon.

Not long after doing that, Bill heard that Bob Knapp was looking for crew on the boat he had at the time, the *Katherine*. Bill spent 3 seasons with Bob, mostly trawling. One of their seasons jigging for albacore produced 52-tons around 1970. They went up and down the coast and unloaded fish from Astoria, Oregon to San Pedro, California.

Bill then bought his own boat named *Saint* that Eddie Sylvester had. It was a Monterey style with a round stern built in 1945. With that boat he gill netted for Sea Bass, fished Salmon and albacore as far north as Newport, Oregon. He also put in a short period harpooning basking sharks with Butch Sylvester as his crewman. He did a couple of short seasons on someone else's boat for herring and salmon in Alaska in 1977 and 78.

When his surrogate father Lew died tragically Bill bought his own boat, the *Carolyn F*, later renaming it the *Dancin Bear*, which he still has today. With this boat he fished herring with his father-in-law as crew in San Francisco Bay for several seasons, and also did some crab fishing. He did many years of dragging for halibut, and he's always fished salmon when in season, locally and as far north as Newport, Oregon. In 1991 Bill's wife Debbie passed away and he needed to fish closer to home to be with his 2 young children. His in-laws Ray and Elma Loyd assisted with the kids so he could continue to fish.

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Pages From the Past continued

Bill lives in Arroyo Grande now with his wife of 17 years, Lenore. Lenore has been president of the Central Coast Women for Fisheries for many years, and Bill is a director on the Central Coast Joint Cable/Fisheries Liaison Committee. He is also a member of the Port San Luis Fishermen's Association, and has been a lifelong director on the PCFFA for Port San Luis. Bill has a son, Harry and daughter, Agnes. For a time, Harry was interested in fishing and even had his own boat. Bill did crabbing mostly by himself, but Harry crewed for him for several years on the *Dancin Bear*, as well as his son-in-law Roger Sylvester for one year. Bill fished the *Dancin Bear* for many decades, and now in 2026 he is 80 years old and has the boat for sale. He still keeps one foot in commercial fishing as he has a small boat if he wants to run out of Port San Luis to fish salmon.



Bill Ward has fished for a living
his
entire career.
Pictured is Bill on his boat
Dancin Bear
out of his home port of Port San
Luis.

Blessing of the Fleet

The annual Blessing of the Fleet for Morro Bay will be held on May 3, 2026 on the north T-pier, which is located by the Coast Guard station.

The time is **1:00 PM** and following the ceremony lunch will be at the Morro Bay Veterans Hall just up the hill at 209 Surf Street.

Lunch provided by the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization and they invite all: "Bring friends and family to honor our local mariners for a safe and prosperous season with God's blessing."



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 . . . *Capt. Travis O. Evans*

By Sharon Rowley

Travis Evans passed away on January 4, 2026 at his eldest daughter Eileen's house. She had been caring for him there the last three years. He contributed many stories and poems in the CCWF newsletter for the last couple of decades. Born in 1922, he passed at 103. His wife Katherine, who passed before him, and he were married for 75 years. They had 8 kids, and a boatload of grandkids, great grandkids and great-great grandkids. He was still fishing in his 80's.

His daughter Susie Martin said there was so much to tell about him, but mentioned how frugal he was and how much he loved children; "I once saw him spend 7 hours taking apart an old drill to obtain the 5 cents worth of copper wire inside...he volunteered to do lessons at church for the children, and taught about fishing tools (gear) at public schools. He mentored many troubled youth from the El Paso Youth Authority in Paso Robles, for which he was honored with the *Senator Hayakawa Citizenship Award*."

His biography is in the book *The Remarkable Plans for Captain Travis O. Evans* by Louise Carroll George.