

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

Happy Spring Everyone.

I have a quick update on CCWF's recent activities for you. The albacore enchilada fundraiser was another success. We made and sold 466 trays of enchiladas. It was a busy day and thank you to many of you for helping make it happen. We were able to sell our new endangered species T shirts that day also. Thank you to Hope Padalino and her family for doing so much work on that project. We hope to bring more public awareness of the challenges to our fishing industry through these T shirts. There is a hang tag on the shirt with a link to more information about these challenges on our website.

CCWF is working to keep current on what is happening with the wind energy project along with REACT and the local fishermen's organizations. CCWF also has two projects that are in the planning stages. We want to install interpretive signs in Port San Luis, similar to the ones in Morro Bay, and we are trying to revive some local version of the Kids at Sea program that Michele Leary used to do. If you are interested in being involved with either of these projects, please speak to one of the board members. We have more ideas than people to make them happen, so if you have an interest, there is a place for you.

One more thing, don't forget our scholarships, if you have a family member that qualifies get your application turned in – we want to support our fishing community.

Lenore Ward, President

Apply for Scholarships Now!

The deadline is **May 31, 2025** to send in applications for our Fishing Heritage Scholarship Program. If you are renewing, send a short letter stating so with name of school and copy of latest transcripts. These scholarships are for fishermen, their spouse, children and grandchildren. The qualifying fisherman must be from San Luis Obispo County. For guidelines, application and recommendation forms, go to our website www.womenforfish.org, then click on **scholarships**. For any questions or help, including getting the application, contact Sharon Rowley, srowley303@gmail.com

Congratulations Emilie!

CCWF annual scholarships can be used by a student up to 4 times. Emilie Giannini used her last one in 2024 attending Cal State University East Bay for four years. She will be graduating this May. She has now been accepted into a Doctor of Physical Therapy program at the University of Utah in St. George. If you want to check out her profile, go to our Facebook page; Central Coast Women for Fisheries. You don't have to scroll down the posts very far to find her.

Spring 2025

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2025 Albacore Enchilada Fundraiser

Our biggest annual fundraiser was another success. 466 trays were made on Saturday, February 8th at the Morro Bay Community Center. With 4 in each tray, that's a lotta enchiladas! The albacore was high quality from fisherman Derel Terra, which he caught on his boat, *Gusto*. We received a lot of feedback this year on how delicious they were and there's a growing list of customers for next year.

We also sold several T-Shirts, which is one of our latest projects. There's a great picture with a message of fishermen as an endangered species. We are in the process of making these T-shirts available for sale in Morro Bay and Port San Luis.

Besides putting these enchiladas together, it was a pleasant get-together of fishermen, families, friends and others. We Thank all of them for helping with this fundraiser!

Another Big Thank You goes to our great community that came out to buy the trays of albacore enchiladas.



From front: Tom Hafer, Derel Terra, Alan Alward and Jeremiah O'Brien. All fishermen that helped CCWF with getting the albacore enchiladas made.



Wayne Moody cutting albacore loins. In past years, he and his wife Diane supplied albacore they caught for the yearly fundraiser.



Sheri Hafer, CCWF secretary, sautéing albacore.



Above in front:
CCWF members
Trudy O'Brien,
Andria Lueker, Pam Sines.

Below:
CCWF members and friends



Above
Diane Arnaldi and
Harbor Patrolman Becka
Kelly



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
Diane Schoditsch,
who again gave a generous
donation to
the CCWF Fishing Heritage
Scholarship Program

A Huge Thank You to
CCWF member Hope Padalino and her husband
Larry. They did a lot of work on our new T-Shirt
project, including designing. They not only do-
nated their talent, but a good portion of the expens-
es to make the shirts.

They also did the graphics for a
cornhole game that was used at the
Maritime Family Fun Day.

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

CCWF Board of Directors

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A card was sent to the family of
Charlie Clark,
Who passed December 2024.

There is a story about this good father and long time Morro
Bay fisherman in one of our past newsletters-Winter 2022
edition. You can find our newsletters on our website:
www.womenforfish.org Look under the “More” tab

COOKING WITH CCWF and FRIENDS

Submitted by Sheri Hafer

Ingredients

For the coconut lime fish:

4 cod fillets
Salt & pepper to taste
Zest of 1 lime
1/2 cup coconut milk
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 cloves garlic, minced
1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes (optional)
Fresh cilantro, chopped, for garnish

For Avocado Salsa:

1 large avocado, diced
1/2 cup cherry tomatoes, quartered
1/4 cup red onion, finely diced
Juice of 1 lime
Salt & pepper to taste
Fresh cilantro, chopped

Cook the fish with the coconut lime ingredients until the fish
is done. Can try with halibut, too.
Top with the avocado salsa.



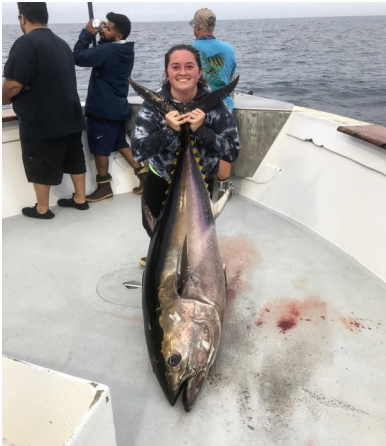
Where are They Now?

One in a series of stories about past recipients of the Fishing Heritage Scholarship Program

by Sharon Rowley

In 2020, CCWF wished all the best for a bright future to Meghan Fox. It was her fourth year receiving a scholarship from our Fishing Heritage Scholarship Program. She attended Humboldt State in Northern California for the four years and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Fisheries Biology with a focus in Marine Fisheries. Before college, she became a skilled deckhand in the Morro Bay/Port San Luis area and made a name for herself as a hard worker and pleasant person to work with. During college summers, when back home, she got a job as an intern for the fish lab at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. Most of the work was with the California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program (CCFRP), part of it being research on the ocean.

After graduation from Humboldt, Meghan went back to crewing on the passenger boats in Morro bay. Then, about a year later, she wanted other experiences, so went to work tuna fishing on a sport boat in San Diego. After two and half years of that, she then decided to get a 100 ton Merchant Mariners Document, known as a captain's license. After attending a rigorous two week school and receiving the license, Meghan got a job offer on a sport boat in San Francisco, where she is now a part-time captain. The rest of time she's a deckhand on that boat, as well as a deckhand in Half Moon Bay on the *New Captain Pete*. Meghan is a focused, hard-working lady captain, doing very well for herself and living a life of adventures. The 3 pictures below are of the lovely Meghan Fox.



Tom Hafer

Pages From the Past

The ocean may seem a vast, boring desert of water to some, but as a fisherman steers his vessel on it for a day's work, he sees so much more. He reads the water, the direction of winds and rolling swells, and his interest is high as he anticipates his days catch that will come up from the depths.

Tom Hafer has been working on the ocean for well over 50 years, and like many fishermen, he knows the elements of it well, and that it can be unpredictable. He loves his job on the ocean.

"I don't have anyone telling me what to do. I like the hunt. I like a good running boat with plenty of room. I guess I'm lucky to have the *Kathryn H*, a boat I can make money on."

Tom knew how to use a rod and reel from his dad when he was growing up, but he had an unlikely start as a fisherman when he was a teenager in the early 1970's. He was dating a girl whose father was a fisherman that was out to sea much of the time. To not worry about his daughter getting too serious, he asked Tom to go fishing with him. From July to October, they chased albacore from Baja to Washington. The father was glad to keep Tom away from his daughter and Tom became hooked on being a fisherman.

For several years Tom continued working as crew on several commercial fishing boats. He garnered lots of experience in several fisheries, such as albacore, other tuna, swordfish, and dragging for rock fish. He fished from Puerto Vallarta in Mexico to the Canadian Border. In 1985 Tom became captain of his own boats in San Diego fishing for lobster. In 1992 he continued his fishing career in Morro Bay, fishing mainly for spot prawns and near shore live fishing. He had the *Nikki R*, *Reel Tight* and his main boat, the *Kathryn H*, a 43-foot Donelle, which he fishes today.

Pages From the Past continued

He's lived a lifetime of hard work, many great catches and some slow trips. He's racked up experiences that fishermen face when they've been on the ocean for years, including hair-raising storms, big swells, stressful fog and the sadness of boats sinking and loss of other fishermen.

One close call was coming in from a trip on the Columbia River to Ilwaco, Washington. The Sea Chase ran aground so the only alternative was to pump all the wells out and dump all the bait to lighten the boat. Eventually they broke loose and were able to back out. Another time, "I was going to San Clemente Island lobster fishing and broke down in bad weather, the crew that was with me was freaking out, but I had a sea anchor so the bow would kick into it and I was fine. I had to get towed about 30 miles home to San Diego by the Coast Guard at night."

Once, he caught another lobster fisherman pulling his gear, so he rammed him. Tom then gained the nickname "Captain Nemo." In another interesting incident, he saw bubbles around his trap, which indicated divers poaching. Tom ran his lobster skiff around the trap several times to scare them. The culprit ended up being the sheriff's daughter. He got a ticket right after for "speeding in the ocean." The judge threw it out. Tom said one time, when he was straddling the railing on his boat, a killer whale came up looking at him and close enough to bite his leg. He felt lucky when it didn't. Another lucky time was when he came upon a leatherback turtle stuck in kelp and was able to save it. There's a 1 min 45 sec. video of it on You Tube. Type in *Raw Video Rescue of leatherback sea turtle near Big Sur*. A few seconds of the video goes by before the action can be seen.

Tom has another big love in his life-his family. He met Sheri in 1984 when she was a physical therapist at a Veterans Hospital and caring for Tom's dad who was there. They married in 1986, then moved to Atascadero to be closer to family members. They raised three kids; Lucas, Katie and Ben. Growing up, they all at times fished with Tom, but then followed different paths. Sheri has always been a huge support for their fishing business as well as taking care of her family. As empty nesters, they are now grandparents of cute little Ellimae.

Tom still loves going to sea, the independence of the job and bringing in fresh seafood for people to enjoy, but he's also busy with constant fights trying to save the livelihoods of fishermen. Together, Tom and Sheri have forged through many years of dealing with new regulations, management plans and the offshore wind projects. They have attended thousands of hours of meetings and written hundreds of letters to defend commercial fishing. Tom has been president of the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization since 2012. Sheri has been in different organizations and is currently Secretary of Central Coast Women for Fisheries.



Tom traps for Spot prawns, the tastiest shrimp, which can get close to 12 inches. Picture to right: Tom and Sheri getting to experience the joys of being grandparents.



Tom and Lucas Hafer several years ago. While growing up, all 3 of the Hafer kids helped with the family fishing Operation.





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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 and this one has been in the Pelorus before. A lot of them are inspired by his experiences on the ocean.

So Very Much More

We gaze out upon the ocean
As we walk along the shore
We can see to the far horizon,
But beyond there is so much more.

We can see God's creation
In all nature's treasured store,
But beyond our wildest visions
There is much, much more.

And so in God's boundless mercy,
He beckons from yonder shore,
Waiting with love, peace and rest,
And so very, very much more.



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