

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 Vice President

Hello Friends.

In May of 2026, CCWF will have existed for 20 years. During this time, your organization has completed many projects, such as dock carts, giving fishermen marine spill kits, free computer training classes for members, educational displays on the waterfront, completing the statue by Morro Rock, and much more. CCWF's invaluable membership has helped with fundraisers every year to make the projects happen. In the past we've had rummage sales, sold albacore-stuffed avocados at events, and raffled off a large beautiful fish quilt, which went on display at different locations for a year. We have a few products to sell such as logo coffee cups and shirts and hats, including the new *Endangered Species* T-shirts.

There has been many more activities, and even little things like passing out candy at Halloween or setting up an educational display about local fishing at the library, has helped put a face on CCWF as part of the community. For the upcoming year we anticipate the albacore enchilada fundraiser in February, as well as being part of the Maritime Family Fun Day and having a booth at the boat parade again. We also plan on Kids at Sea fishing trips in the summer. Also, we are working on a project for fishery display signs for Port San Luis.

Besides the CCWF members, a big part of our success is the grants we received from the Central California Joint Cable/Fisheries Liaison Committee, especially for the Fishing Heritage Scholarship Program. Established in 2007 CCWF has awarded \$351,467 to students. So a huge thank you to the Cable Committee.

Another project, is this quarterly newsletter. It's our hope to be informative about our activities, including capturing stories about the fishermen, their families, their way of life, and the past. We would love any contributions you have, even if it's just one experience or a picture. Seafood recipes are always welcome too.

Best wishes for a good Christmas and the new year.

Sharon Rowley

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Winter 2025

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2025 Crab Pot Christmas Tree in Morro Bay
Photo by CCWF member Lori French

2025 Maritime Family Fun Day

Saturday, October 11 was the one day event and CCWF had the ever-popular fish print booth and educational information about Morro Bay's fishing industry. They also provided a corn hole game for kids with prizes. There was plenty of other things to keep the kids and visitors busy on this sunny day.

CCWF member Diane Moody has been organizing the fish print booth at different events for many years now and has it down to a science. She obtains sanddabs, other small fish and squid that kids can paint, then make a print. With different colors, glitter and their imaginations, many interesting and unusual pictures have been created.

Thank you to Diane for her dedication and compassion she has for the kids.



Left:
Proof that adults are just as interested as kids at the fish print booth.

Right:
CCWF members Diane Moody (white hat) and Lenore Ward assisting with supplies so the kids can make their unique fish prints.



Morro Bay 2025 Lighted Boat Parade

CCWF had their booth on the South T-pier which is one of the popular places for the community and visitors to watch the boat parade. Different kinds of cookies were for sale, including gluten-free snickerdoodles. Along with different treats there were cream cheese filled croissants. Hot coffee, tea, and apple cider were available, and hot chocolate with homemade marshmallows shaped like fish, by CCWF member Siobhan Loiseau. *We Fish Wild* sweatshirt and beanies were for sale too.

Thank you to all that donated the cookies and treats. It's what made this fundraiser successful. Also, thank you to the members and their families that helped to set up, sell and clean up for the event.



Set up and ready on the south t-pier for the onslaught of boat parade watchers.



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

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.

A card was sent to retired fisherman,
Travis Evans.

He turned 103 on October 30.
Thank you Travis for contributing stories
and poems to this newsletter for many years.

There's a New Store in Town...

...and it's an important one to have in the fishing town of Morro Bay. Tabby's Marine has supplies that include boat parts, fishing tackle, foul weather gear, and more. Gift certificates are available just in time for Christmas. Check out her Facebook page for more details, as she has more supplies coming in, and a load of good used rods and reels were just delivered. Tabby has knowledge of some of the fishermen's needs and what works well as far as tackle in this area, as she has worked on commercial and sport boats for several years. including as captain. On Fridays you can come shop and grab a muffin with a cup of coffee.

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COOKING WITH CCWF and FRIENDS

Sweet and Sour Fish

This recipe is by an unknown fish lover.
It was a hand written note between the pages of a very old book found at a garage sale.
Written at the end of the recipe was;
Very Good!

Ingredients

Rock fish or halibut, 2 to 3 pounds
Soy Sauce
Brown sugar
Ginger
Crushed pineapple, 15 oz. can
2 cups cooked rice

Directions

Cut fish into bite size pieces.
Marinate the fish at least 1 hour in a container of Soy sauce, brown sugar and ginger-all to taste.
Save the marinade.
Batter the fish with what you normally use and deep fry.
Cook 2 cups rice and heat the pineapple separately.
When the fish and rice are ready, mix in a bowl with the heated pineapple.
Pour saved marinade over top and mix all thoroughly, then serve.

I come by my passion naturally for the ocean and all it has to offer.

When I was growing up in San Clemente and the Capistrano area, my father Norman Barbre was a summertime sport fishing boat captain and wintertime commercial lobster and white seabass fisherman. I spent everyday and every minute I could with him on the water. Days on the sport fishing boats from San Clemente pier were amazing. The catch was white seabass, halibut, calico bass, barracuda, yellowtail, sand bass, bonita and more, plus an occasional giant black seabass.

Winter was special in it's own right! In our 18-foot skiff we would pull up to one of our lobster traps and I could often see the rope going all the way down to the trap on the bottom in the clear blue water. I would see the burnt red color of the lobsters captured in our traps, as well as the colorful garibaldi and sheepshead swimming through the rocks and kelp on the bottom. On occasion, a trap would hit the deck and a moray eel would slither out, sending me to the bow to avoid their dangerous mouths full of teeth.

In the 1950's and early 60's the ocean waters off Dana Point and San Clemente were amazing in their clarity. Those clear waters so entranced me that I became an avid free diver, and at age 12 became a certified scuba diver. Often, schools of dolphin would accompany us on our way to our trap strings and whales passing through the area was a regular event. On one occasion, when I was about 10 or 12, we chanced upon a pack of orcas attacking a whale, either a grey or humpback. This large whale came leaping clear out of the sea, shedding bloody water with orcas hanging from its fins and head. I asked my dad if we could help it and maybe shoot the orcas. He said no, this is nature's business, not ours!

As I grew older, I still spent all the time I could on the water, in the water and on fishing boats. From 12 years until my 19th year, I spent most summers working on the various sport boats of the San Clemente Sportfishing fleet.

When my family moved to Morro Bay in 1967, I chose to stay in southern California for my senior year in high school and a year and a half of junior college. Around 1970 I longed for more time on the ocean. So, I joined my family in Morro Bay and went to work for Virg's Sport Fishing.

My father was working there for Virgil Moore, who was a good friend of his and hell of a nice man. I worked as a deckhand for my father, Ed Ewing, Cap Cole and others. After a period of time I fell in love, joined the Navy, got married to Deborah VanDenBerg, went to war in Viet Nam on an aircraft carrier, then came back home at the end of my tour.

My next duty station, by choice, was Naval Station Argentia, on the island of Newfoundland Canada. The history of the Grand Banks and the fleets from around the world who came there after cod fish had me fascinated.

Newfoundland was a place of ice floes, moose, rocky cliffs full of marine birds and a small-boat fishing culture rooted in the past.

To get to the island we had to drive our van onto an icebreaker ferry in Port Abask, Canada and break blue ice most of the way. As a Naval Ocean System Technician, my job was to track Russian nuclear submarines through the ocean using sound signature images generated by deep ocean hydrophones throughout the Atlantic, as well as airplane dropped Sono buoys.

From there, I finished my time in the Navy. Deb and I returned to Morro Bay to continue our work on Virg's Sport Fishing boats out of San Simeon. We worked with Boyce Brown on the Harbor Pathfinder and became friends with the Mallard crew; Rita, who later became a much-loved fishing boat captain, Charlie Lanini, Billie Lester, and captain Bob Gannon. Rita's daughter, Sharon Rowley, and her husband John also worked at San Simeon, filleting the customers fish on the pier. Sharon and John later became fishing boat captains too.

After a period of time, Deb and I burnt out on working with the public and bought a partially finished 47-foot commercial fishing boat later named the Sunshine Lady. We completed her construction in Goleta, California then began fishing rock cod and soupfin shark out of Santa Barbara harbor. After a few years, we moved the boat and our operation to Avila.

Still fishing, we eventually decided to start a family. From the time Deb became pregnant and on through the birth of our daughter Laura, I continued to fish the Sunshine Lady with a crew. Because local fishing became not enough, it was necessary to travel to other areas and begin targeting salmon and albacore, as well as other fish stocks to stay profitable in the industry.

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Pages From the Past continued

Eventually, my marriage to Deb began to suffer, and finally ended in divorce.

My new partner, Marlyse, plus a great friend Mike Ricketts, and I decided to open a retail fish market in San Luis Obispo. Marlyse managed the market and Mike and I each used our boats to supply fresh, local seafood for the market's cases and seafood meals.

Around 1988, the Sunshine Lady was sold and Marlyse and I bought a beautiful Skookum troller named Preamble. We commercial fished it in a wide-ranging way. Preamble totally lived up to her name as the "Beginning" of our many long years of wanderings up and down the Pacific coast. Our market excelled and increased its following through the whole time we operated it. Eventually, the 3 of us decided to sell the business and go back to just being a part of the fishing fleet.

Often, daughter Laura would join Marlyse and I in our summers of fishing along California and Oregon for salmon and albacore, even after she moved with her mom to live in Colorado.

The Mexican border to Lituya Bay, Alaska and many harbors and bays in between became no strangers to us. Port Angeles Washington, Coal Harbor British Colombia, Sitka Alaska; we were in and out of many harbors, bays, inlets and anchorages up and down the entire west coast. Preamble was a great boat and always brought us home safely. Albacore, salmon, black cod and rock fish were our targets and we seemed able to bring a load in where ever we roamed.

We experienced things like seeing a massive white shark leap out of the water with one of our hooked albacore in its mouth to orcas eating sea lions in the icy straights in Alaska. Brown bears suddenly standing in a pasture we were walking to, 50 lb. halibut coming up on our salmon gear off the Fair Weather grounds, seeing the northern lights over Alaskan glaciers and a massive blue whale traveling beside us, passing back and forth under our boat while off Clemente Island. Also, sad things. We saw our friend's boat, the Frieda M submerged in all but the stern in terrible weather outside the Farallon Islands. The loss of the owner, his son and a crew member were a sad loss to the fleet.

We have been fortunate to experience an amazing number of adventures. One of the biggest highlights of our travels has been all of the terrific people we have met and the great friends we have worked with through the years.

Through most of our career, Marlyse and I both stayed active in politics of fishery issues, local and statewide. We tried to help keep the industry healthy and viable for the future. We both have been presidents, directors, members and political participants in many local and multi-state organizations.

We are retired now and travel by plane instead of boat, but our great memories and love of the ocean still keep the smiles on our faces as we continue to wander.

Craig's daughter Laura came on trips in the summers.



Craig's dad Norm, 2nd from left.



Laura and Marlyse



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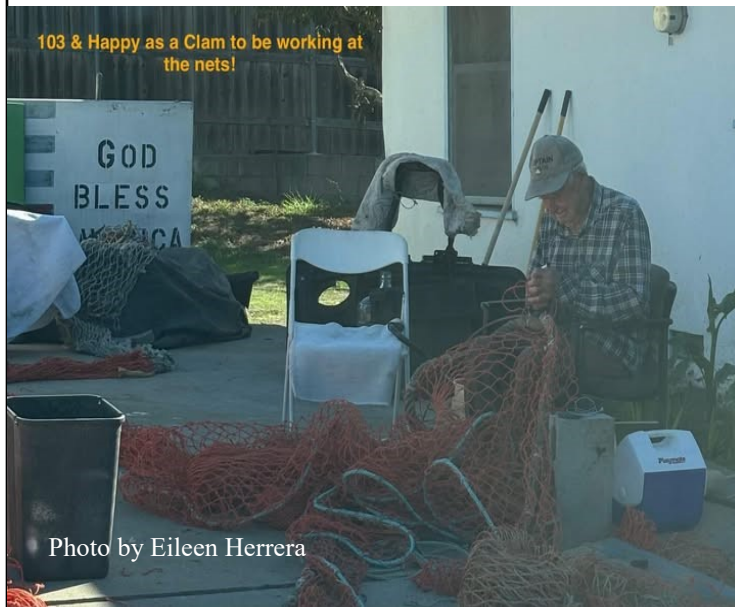
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Please Note: The Quintana Road address for mail is a postal box only.

Travis Evans daughter, Susie Martin, posted this on the Salty History Facebook Page. Salty History, by Barbara Stickel, is a treasure trove of west coast fishing history, fishermen, boats and incidences.

“Happy Birthday Dad! Captain Travis Evans reaches 103 years old today. Out mending nets on his birthday.... He may not remember your name but will tell you what kind of engine you had in your boat! He has owned many vessels, here are just few; Katherine, San Guiseppe, Bountiful, Seeadler, Tralee, Satumia, Lucy L, Yankee Girl, and skippered ships all the way up to the largest drilling ship, the Glomar Explorer. A legend, Outlived the doctor that said he would never fish again after a heart attack at 32.”



Above:
Photo by Travis's daughter, Susie Martin. She took the picture just before his 103rd birthday this year.