

The Lost Anchovy

Kayak Fishing Magazine

5

SPRING TIME HALIBUT FISHING TIPS

In this issue

Vietnamese Halibut Salad

Covid-19 and The Impact on Kayak Fishing

Fish Finder Maintenance

A close-up photograph of two halibut fish lying on a bright yellow surface. The fish are dark grey and brown, with their scales and fins clearly visible. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the title text. In the bottom left corner, there is a small white tag with some text, and a black strap is visible across the fish.

Spring Time Halibut Tips From TLA

TLA: 5 Spring Time Halibut Tips

Spring Time halibut is an exciting time in the Bay Area. It offers the first chance, after a cold winter, for kayak anglers to enjoy the bay area weather and get fresh halibut on the grill. California Halibut start their migration into the San Francisco Bay in April and will stay into the fall before making their way out the gate. There are some resident fish that stay year round, but the larger commercial size fish will leave by the fall.

Halibut are a flaky white delicate fish that are great baked, grilled and steamed. The one common complaint about California Halibut is that they are dry. In my opinion, nothing is further from the truth. The halibut fillets are delicate and must be taken with great care when cooking and preparing. Yes! over cooking this fish will can and will dry it out – so take care to not over cook my spirit fish!!

The majority of the larger halibut that I catch in the bay come in the spring from April to May. Here are five tips to catch more spring time halibut.

1 TROLL

Halibut, especially in the early spring, are often scattered around the bay. Historically the south bay tends to see the arrival of the first fish, because of the warmer waters; however trends can change and they often do. Nothing in fishing is for sure so stay open to different areas that may produce if the south bay doesn't heat up right away. Troll the bay until you find the fish.

2 STAY ON THE FISH

Halibut are schooling fish and where there is one fish, often times there will be many more of the same size in the area. When the tides trigger the bite, locate the school and stay on top of them. Keep working the area until the bite slows down. Often times this will lead to multiple hook ups and fish. Using this technique is how I bring home multiple fish per trip if they are biting.



3 PICK THE RIGHT TIDES

In the spring changes in the wind, rain and tides often dramatically change the conditions in the bay. Halibut are sight feeders so clear water is very important. Target days with low wind, slow tides and clear skies. These conditions are optimal for the halibut bite.



Bay halibut are tide dependent fish and understanding this behavior will exponentially increase your chances of hooking up. Steady and slow moving tides will produce the best results. Two hours before the incoming and outgoing tide is the best time to target halibut. The bite will happen when the water starts to move and when it slows down before going to slack tide.

4 FISH THE LEDGES

Ledges and eddies are good locations to find halibut because baitfish prefer to congregate around these areas. Productive ledges in the bay include the ARW flag pole; oyster point channel marks, and paradise park shelf (straight outside the pier).

5 BRINE AND SHINE

Most of the fish caught in the early season will be on the troll. Experienced Kayak Anglers will likely be trolling one of three things: herring, anchovy, or a hoochie, either behind a dodger or straight up on a three way halibut rig. I recommend keeping the bait in the best looking condition by brining it with Ms. Stewards Bluing agent, powdered milk, salt and some de-chlorinated water. Check out Moos brining tutorial on his channel.



PROFESSIONAL WEB DESIGNER

The good part of having your own magazine is that you don't need to pay for advertisement space!!! I'm a freelance web designer, photographer and developer by trade.

Are you a small business or large company looking for a professional web designer to provide immediate services at an affordable rate? I am a professional web designer and developer. Contact me for a personalized consultation and pricing. I care about getting your business results and will work on a price point that works best for you.

Contact Me
keith@thelostanchovy.com

Services

- * Custom Website Design (Mobile Responsive)
- * Ecommerce Integration
- * Estate, Product and Family Photography
- * Google Analytics & Search Engine Integration
- * Content Creation- Articles and Blogs (Copyright)
- * Website Redesign
- * Website Training
- * Targeted Email Campaigns
- * SEO (Search Engine Optimization)
- * Create print and electronic marketing material
- * Social Media Marketing and Management



A close-up photograph of a white bowl filled with a vibrant Vietnamese Halibut Salad. The salad consists of large, white, flaky pieces of halibut fish, shredded orange carrots, green bell peppers, and a generous amount of crushed, golden-brown peanuts. The ingredients are mixed together, creating a colorful and textured dish. A semi-transparent white text box is overlaid in the center of the image, containing the title and a short description of the salad.

Vietnamese Halibut Salad

The Vietnamese Halibut fish salad is a fresh and healthy dish that is easy to make and tastes great. The fish salad is a great complimentary dish to any main course and is a family favorite in my household.

Ingredients

- (12 oz) california halibut
- 1/2 red bell pepper
- 1/2 yellow bell pepper
- (2) carrots
- 4 oz pickled lotus roots
- 1/4 cup fish sauce
- 1 tbs white sugar
- 1 cup lemon juice
- (8) tiger shrimp (13/15 size)

Vinegar Solution

- 1 cup white vinegar
- 1 cup white sugar
- 3 cup warm water
- 1 tbs salt

Optional Ingredients

- cucumber
- celery stock
- 1/2 cup peanuts
- 1/2 cup fried white onions
- (1) red chilli

1

Julian & pickled vegetables - On a cutting board julian vegetables and place into a large bowl. Mix the white vinegar, water, sugar and salt combination to create the pickling mixture. Combine the Julian vinegar with the vinegar mixture. Set aside in the refrigerator for (4 hours minimum). This will provide the base of the salad.

2

Tiger Prawns – Clean the large tiger prawns and boil until fully cooked. Remove any veins and half each prawn. Place in a small bowl and set aside in the refrigerator.

3

Acid Cooked Halibut – Cut the halibut fillets into 1/2 inch portions. Combine with the lemon juice until halibut fillets are covered. Set aside the halibut until acid has cooked the fillets and have turned them white. Remove the halibut from the acid solution and squeeze any remaining from juice from the fish.

Note: I recommend halibut fillets be frozen in a freezer for a week to kill any potential harmful parasites.

4

Combining the Salad – remove the pickled vegetables from the refrigerator and squeeze any excess vinegar solution from the vegetables. In a large bowl combine pickled vegetables, halibut, and prawns into a serving bowl.

In a small mixing bowl combine the fish sauce and sugar and add the mixture to the salad to taste.

Optional: Peanuts, Red Chilli and Fried Onions are optional ingredients to enhanced the taste.

This dish is best served chilled.





Spring time halibut locations

Many anglers start waking up from the winter fishing slumber, except for die hard year round fisherman, to start trolling for spring time halibut starting in March. California halibut, my spirit fish, start making their yearly migration into San Francisco bay starting from March – April.

The waters of the south bay tend to warm up first and drive the bait and halibut in that direction. From April – early June is a great time to target the south bay halibut bite. Many of my largest bay fish come from trolling the south bay during this time.

Oyster Point

A favorite early season halibut area is Oyster Point located a little north of the San Francisco Airport. The area between Candlestick point to the birdcage is often targeted by early season halibut trollers using herring or an anchovy behind a dodger and three way set up. Try targeting the channel markers and look for natural ledges to find the fish.

Alameda Rock Wall

The Alameda Rock Wall, or ARW for short, is another early season kayak fishing honey hole. This area has a lot of contour changes, rocks and drop offs that halibut like. Here are a few productive areas that produce consistent action through out the spring.



The Flag Pole

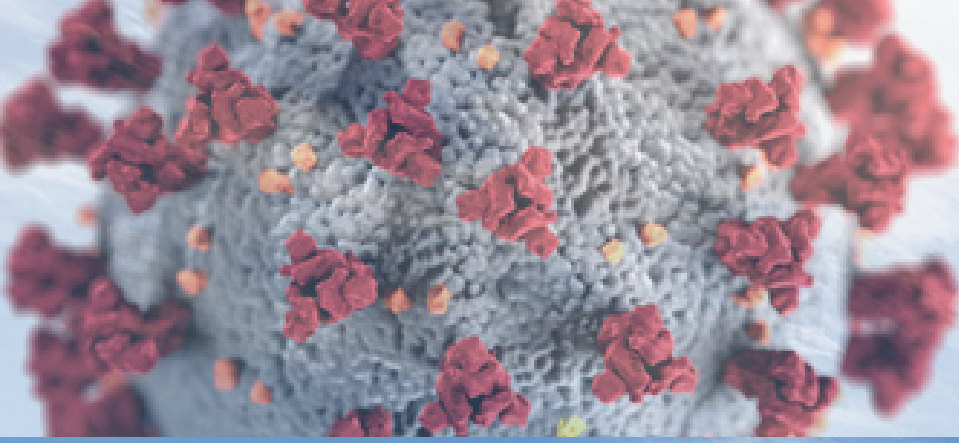
The flagpole is located straight outside the Marina and the left. It is a flagpole with a large American flag. Line up with the flagpole to find the ledge to the right and troll along the ledge. If the bait are stacking up along the ledge, so will the halibut.

God Fathers Point

The end of the first wall near the “L” is what I call God fathers point. The Godfather of the wall, NCKA original, Martinfish likes to frequent this area for large halibut. When the tides are running, this area will often hold bait. Hungry halibut and stripers will be waiting underneath to attack large schools of anchovies, top smelt or jack smelt. Check out Ensei Kaneko who worked ARW and found a nice limit of early season halibut.



Ensei Kaneko with a Halibut Limit at ARW



COV

CORONAVIR



COVID-19

US DISEASE 2019

“Past pandemics have killed MILLIONS!!! It shouldn’t and it doesn’t need to be this way.”

CORONAVIRUS AND THE IMPACTS ON KAYAK FISHING

Written By The Lost Anchovy

Let’s talk about the coronavirus – Everyone else in the world is. Families, town, cities, entire nations and the world are being disrupted. Many lives will change forever. Some of us won’t make it. Many of us will.

This article will cover the impacts of the pandemic on the Kayak fishing world. – a reality many of us are intimately involved in. In the larger scope of things a few weeks or even months of no fishing isn’t a big deal. It is a small price to pay to keep your loved ones safe, reduce the pandemic and to get things back to normal. As kids when we were sick, we hated to take our medicine, but we did so or we were forced to, and it helped us get better.

Let me be clear. I’ve sporadically fish throughout this pandemic. I’ve socially distanced myself from good fishing friends, for their safety and mine, but I’ve also recently given this a tremendous amount of thought and self-reflection.

This sucks – I need to take my medicine. I’ll stop fishing until this pandemic is over.

The Past Pandemics

Humanity has been through this before and humanity has recovered. The human species is a resilient species. You and I probably haven’t been around long enough to experience such a life altering event, but the human species has. Let me name a few from recent history:

- 1918 Pandemic (H1N1 Virus)
- 1957 – 1958 Pandemic (H2N2 Virus)
- 1968 (H3N2 Virus)
- 2009 (H1N1 Virus)

Past pandemics have killed MILLIONS!!! It shouldn’t and it doesn’t need to be this way.

As a species we have been here before



We rationalized our addictions

For many of us Kayak fishing is a pass time. For many of us Kayak Fishing is an addiction. Ok, let's all have a good laugh together at the realness of this statement.

DONE? haha

When we are addicted our minds rationalize and justify actions that can get us our high. We trust it. We believe it. It makes logical sense. Right?

Let me name a few of my own past rationalizations:

- The virus is contagious only if I contact it from someone who has it. The numbers are relatively low. Thousands die from the common influenza every year. Get a grip TLA!!
- I'm young and healthy. It probably won't affect me much, if at all. I'll isolate myself and recover like the 80,000+ people. 3% die. I'll take my chances.
- I'm fishing on a kayak by myself! Who the heck is going to infect me or who can I infect if I'm a carrier?

These are all valid points, and they make logical sense. It balks at the unreasonableness and fear mongering of the news and social media. It holds truth, and *so it has truth* for me. It gets me my high. It's a win-win situation right?

Here is also a truth. **What if I'm wrong?** Let that set in. I had to ask myself the same question. I'm probably the biggest addict out there. It hit me hard.

Does the impacts to my life, my family and financially outweigh a few hours of water therapy, even if the probability is low that I will not contract it? This is my conclusion. This is my truth. It doesn't need to be yours, and I'm not trying to convince you. It's a tough one. I know, and I'm right there with you.

Confusion and Fake News

Let's be honest. There are a lot of mixed messages right now from our government officials. From Washington D.C, to states, to counties, cities and towns, it seems like everyone has a different message and there are no set standards for enforcement of policy. Throw in social media fake news and random interpretations of federal, state and local policy and you basically have mass confusion.

I believe the intention is clear from the government. Mass gatherings of people can and will lead to growth of the pandemic, and should be stopped.

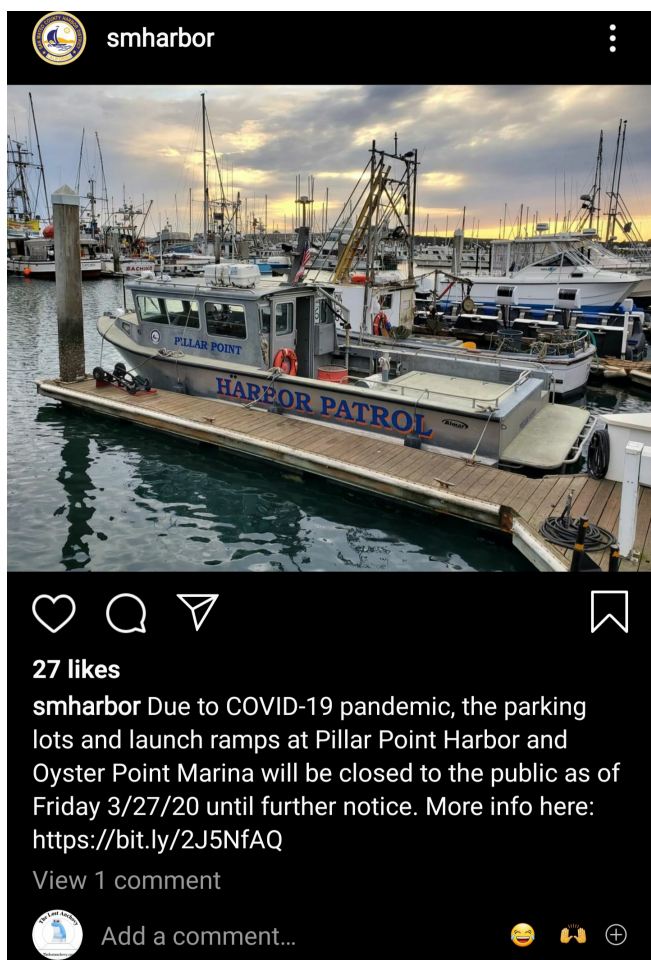
What does this mean to the mass public who got 200 years of toilet paper stocked up? The kids are bored, and driving them NUTS! Weather looks great!!!

LET'S GO TO THE BEACH!!! You see the disconnect?

And so they go, and this is why our harbors, beaches, and probably the bay is going to be closed to recreational fishing.

Harbors, Beaches and SF bay closed for recreational fishing?

There is some truth to this statement. However, there are some gray areas that I am unsure of and I will not comment on. What is known? I know that the San Mateo Harbor District is closing Half Moon bay, Oyster point harbors.



Marin County public health department closed down county parks. Paradise Park, a popular park for kayak fisherman, is closed starting March 22, 2020

“Marin County public health officials shut down all county parks to motorized vehicles Sunday as waves of outdoor enthusiasts continued to pack into West Marin in violation of a “shelter in place” order aimed at stopping the spread of the coronavirus. All Marin parks from large to small are closed to motorized traffic effective immediately until further notice ... ”

As crowds continue to defy the shelter in place order, governments are tightening enforcement and restricting freedoms and liberties most of us are accustomed to.

As a country founded on freedom and personal liberties, the next several months will challenge our core values as Americans. Will we accept Marshal Law if things get out of hand? Will this invisible virus change what we are willing to accept and/or tolerate for our safety and security?

Impacts on Tournaments, Events, Gatherings and Non-Essential Business.

I recently had an online meeting with the CCK fishing team. We had a series of events, seminars and the ARW tournament lined up through out the summer; However, with the shelter in place order enacted, those events have been impacted and we are taking a wait and see approach over the next several weeks and months.

Additionally, previously sanctioned fishing tournaments though out the state have also been adversely affected by the order, with some permits suspended or revoked.

Small business, such as CCK, have shut down store operations due to the order, but are actively taking online orders to meet customer and business needs.

Conclusion

No matter where you stand on the issue, and I am not advocating one way or another to stay home or to fish, but we can all agree that the coronavirus pandemic has reshaped our lives at least for the immediate present. How long this will last is up to all of us and the trajectory of the virus.

How we arise from the pandemic will be based on the actions we take today. The days ahead will be challenging for us all. We need kayak fishing during these times more than ever. However, as we emerge from these challenges, I know we are all looking forward to getting back on the water and opening a cold one with our friends. Good luck, and stay safe. --TLA



(SD Card Slot Corrosion is why most Lowrance Units Fail)

Fish Finder Maintenance Tips

Corrosion X is an amazing chemical. It has saved me hundreds on protecting my gear. I use corrosion X on everything, and I mean everything on my kayak. This miracle chemical saves gear – plain and simple. Most fish finders are waterproof which means the internal electronics are sealed from all forms of moisture. However, there are sensitive points on each FF that is susceptible to corrosion, wear and tear.

One sensitive point are the connector pins. Kayaks are closer to the water as opposed to boats which means our fish finders are more adversely affected by the corrosive power of the salt water. Often times these points that pay the price for our neglect. Neglected pins will often corrode slowly and eventually break off leading to busted fish finders.

TIP: Take some corrosion x and spray it on the connector pins. Leave the chemical over night to let it adhere to the pins. This will greatly extend the life of the pins and ward off pin corrosion.

Besides corrosion X, dielectric grease is a great combatant against corrosion. Once the corrosion X is removed I immediately place some dielectric grease over the connection points.

The dielectric grease serves two functions. One, it prevents unwanted sparks and jumps that can short circuit electronics (so do fuses), and two it also protect the pins from corrosion. The combination of corrosion x and dielectric grease play a key role in my equipment longevity. Try it out and let me know your thoughts!



What do you want to know about kayak fishing? What article or products would you like covered?

If you have a question feel free to email me at keith@thelostanchovy.com

If your question is picked I will answer it in the next edition of the TLA magazine

ASK AN ANCHOVY