

Albacore replace yellowfin on top shelf for San Diego fleet

SAN DIEGO — Talk about a hard turn in the fish counts, that bump of yellowfin experienced over the last week was suddenly replaced with a huge spike in albacore.

Yet the oddity is there are still lots of skipjack, plus some dorado in the water as well.

Sunday, H&M Landing's *First String* with 32 aboard made the highlight reel with limits of albacore, 8 yellowfin, 11 bluefin plus 100 skipjack as well. The *Producer*, also with 32 aboard returned with 48 albies, plus 25 skipjack, a yellowfin and a yellowtail.

Over at Fisherman's Landing, the song was the same, especially for the day and a half trips. *Pacific Dawn* with 16 aboard posted 80 albacore, 30 bluefin, 24 dorado and 5 yellowfin tuna. The *Islander*, also fishing day and a half with 33 aboard had 54 albies, plus 5 yellowfin tuna.

Two-day trips on the *Condor* and the *Pegasus* were strong as well. The *Condor* with 21 aboard had 80 longfin, 12 yellowfin, 8 bluefin and 15 dorado. The *Pegasus* with 13 aboard had 81 albacore, 20 yellowfin, 30 bluefin and 5 dorado.

The overnight trip from Point Loma Sportfishing was impressive as well. The *New Lo-An* with 29 aboard brought back 65 albacore, 50 skipjack and a yellowfin.

Two-day trips also got the hot longfin action as well. *El Capitan* had 81, *Eldorado* had 71 and *Black Pearl* nailed 99, plus 16 bluefin.

Over in Mission Bay, the overnight *Voyager* with 14 aboard took 30 albacore, 8 bluefin, 4 yellowfin and 14 skipjack, while the longer trips got even better numbers.

The *Outer Limits* fishing two days with 22 aboard had 112 albacore, 15 bluefin, 5 yellowfin and 7 dorado. *Pacific Voyager* with 22 passengers as well had 69 albies, 11 yellowfin, 44 skipjack and 17 dorado. The *Pacific Star*, also fishing 2 days with 26 passengers had 54 longfin, 8 yellowfin, 7 bluefin and 45 skippies.

The *Legend* fishing 1.5 days with 34 aboard got 40 albies, 5 yellowfin, 12 skipjack, plus a shortbill spearfish and a dorado.



TACKLE ROOM By Brandon Hayward

Promar's bait motel

When it comes to skiff fishing, sometimes it's the little things that make a big difference.

The biggest disadvantage that skiff anglers often have versus sportboats is bait capacity (and not having a side-scanning sonar, which is an entirely different topic). This season I started bridging the gap on my skiff trips with Promar's 36-inch x 38-inch, 165-gallon bait net. One of its biggest draws is that it's perfect for putting squid in while camped out on the bait grounds. The big net holds more squid than you could ever use on a skiff trip. With that said, it really comes in handy for a couple of other applications.

I found that the big net (that is more like a mini receiver) is perfect for when you already have anchovies and/or sardines in the bait tank and you need a place to put mackerel. Dropping mackerel in the bait tank with anchovies beats the bait up, both from the mackerel knocking the 'chovies around as well as from digging around and trying to dig the mackerel out with the net. When it comes to making mackerel on the spot and fishing them right there and then, the big Promar net is perfect. A prime example was when all that big seabass was biting along the coast. Instead of dropping the mackerel in with the sardine being used for chum, the Promar receiver worked great for shaking the mackerel

into. Getting a bait out is just as easy. Instead of using a bait net to try and scoop the mackerel out, we'd just pick the net up out of the water and grab a bait. It worked out perfect.

It's a huge tool for guys that are fishing out of really small skiffs with no bait tanks. You can jig bait on the spot and have bait capacity galore.

Getting back to squid, the big Promar net (it's just called the Deluxe Bait Motel — 36 inches x 38 inches) has another great application no matter how big the bait tank is on the skiff. When you're camped out for the night you can put your squid in the receiver for the night. While many anglers don't think about it — and have never had it happen to them — clogging up a bait tank while everyone is crashed out is a real possibility. With the big Promar net you can just chuck your bait in it for the night, turn the bait pump off, and not worry about it.

The Promar Bait Hotel is great for saving bait for a day or two. Back when I used to go down to L.A. Bay with a 14-foot skiff, we used to use a trash can with a bunch of holes in it and a couple of bricks in the bottom to keep our mackerel in overnight. Flow was always an issue. After all, the drilled in holes only let so much flow go in and out. There was more than one morning where we discovered we put too many



PROMAR'S 36" X 38", 165-GALLON BAIT NET has several applications for private boaters.

mackerel in the trash can during the previous night's bait making session. This isn't an issue with the bait motel thanks to its mesh design. You can wedge over a 100 pieces of mackerel in it, no problem.

Ultimately, with the bait motel, a lot of the bait problems

associated with private boating are solved.

Brandon Hayward is WON's Saltwater Editor, and the author of the 260-page book *The Southern California Angler*. It can be ordered at www.wonews.com by clicking on the "store" tab, or by calling (949) 366-0030, ext. 38.

Santa Barbara...

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aboard nailed 12 calico bass, 15 yellowtail and 7 rockfish. The *Pacific Islander* fishing full day with 28 aboard posted 168 rockfish, 8 calicos, 5 halibut, 6 barracuda, 22 sculpin and a white seabass.

Boats out of Capt. Hook's were hard on the rockfish, with five boats getting 754 and 49 vermilion, overall. The *Sea Biscuit* fishing overnight with 22 aboard posted 250 rockfish, 5

lings and a sheephead.

The full-day *Aloha Spirit* with 25 aboard scored 250 rockfish, 5 lings and a sheephead on Saturday, while the *New Bluefin* fishing full day with 5 aboard got 31 whitefish, 64 rockfish and a pair each of sculpin and sheephead.

The *Speed Twin* half day with 40 aboard got their share with 149 rockfish, 49 vermilion, 5 sole and 3 sculpin.

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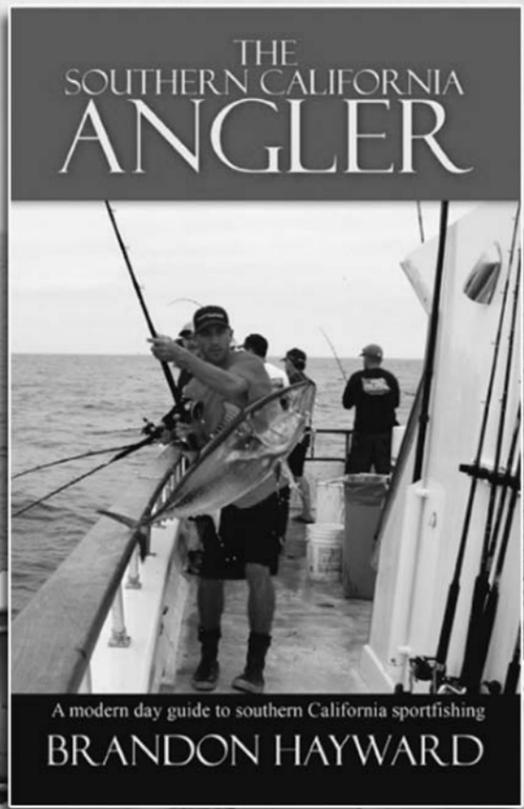


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