

GETTING STARTED

A few simple practices and gear choices can greatly enhance your enjoyment of Southern California's year-round fishing for surfperches, croakers, California corbina, and California halibut, among others.



WHEN TO GO FISHING ...

You are more likely to catch fish:

- In the early morning or an hour before dusk
- On an incoming high tide. The rising water level dislodges small invertebrates in sand bars, stimulating fish to feed.
- During mild to moderate surf



CASTING TIPS ...

- When you are beach fishing, cast to the edges of sand bars and drop-offs and be on the lookout for fish "highways," or channels with transiting fish in search of food.
- If you are surfperch or corbina fishing, try casting near sand crab beds and learn to spot feeding corbina in the white wash.
- If you are halibut or croaker fishing, look for signs of baitfish, such as feeding birds and marine mammals, and cast into these areas.

ROD AND REEL TIPS

For **heavy bait fishing** or "plugging," try a 10- to 12-ft rod rated for 2- to 8-oz casting, with spinning or conventional reels. The reel should be capable of holding 150 to 200 yds of 20- to 30-lb test line.



Carolina rig

DFG/K. Penttila

For **fly-fishing**, try a 9- to 11-ft rod, rated for a 6- to 8-weight line, with matching reel. Use a sink-tip or shooting head lines. Stripping baskets help manage line in the surf.

For **light bait fishing** or when using **Carolina rigged grubs**, try a 7- to 9-ft rod, with either a spinning or bait casting reel. Use 6- to 12-lb test line that can comfortably cast a ½- to 1-oz egg sinker, depending on surf conditions.

EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

- Waders, hat, polarized sunglasses, sunblock. Besides protecting your eyes, polarized sunglasses will help you see fish in the shore break and run up. Wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device if wading.
- Pack for fish, tackle, tape measure, and needle-nose pliers for removing hooks

Pack Out What You Pack In: Fishing Line, Hooks and Trash

To report lost fishing gear visit
www.lostfishinggear.org



TURN IN POACHERS AND POLLUTERS.

Cheaters ruin the resource and your sport. To bust them, make an anonymous call to CalTIP: 1 (888) DFG-CalTIP (1 (888) 334-2258)



Alternate communication formats available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed call (916) 322-8911 or the California Relay (Telephone) Service for the deaf or hearing impaired from TDD phones at 1 (800) 735-2929 or 711.



A Guide to SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BEACH FISHING

DFG/K. Penttila



Sea Grant