

FINNY FACTS

January 2022

San Diego Fly Fishers
Cleaner Water, Brighter Streams, Better Fishing

Volume 45 No. 01

Next club meeting!
[\(Zoom only\)](#)

Monday, January 3, 7:30 pm
Dave Smith



Lessons Learned from Competitive Angling

If you haven't done so already, it's time to renew your membership to the San Diego Fly Fishers!
Click: [Membership](#)

Access the Club Calendar [Sdff Calendar](#)

Follow all the action on the Club's [Facebook page](#)

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President's Message



Jim Castelluzzo
January 1, 2022

president@sandiegoflyfishers.com

Can you spot the elf in this picture?

Our December meeting and Award ceremony at SWYC was well attended and by all reports the informal heavy hors d'oeuvres format was enjoyed by all. Bruce Harris received the Gordon Foster award for outstanding service to the club. The Hubb Research center received the Stroud Award and was accepted by Gordy Zimm.

2022 holds the promise of outstanding fly-fishing opportunities as well as continuing outreach and conservation projects. As of this writing, we are receiving multiple storms over the Sierra Nevada. Hopefully these storms will move us out of the drought conditions of the past few years and provide great fishing into the summer and fall. The annual trip to Estero Coyote led by Kai Schumann is planned for June 4th and the good news is that Camp Rene will be opened. Tim Huckaby has two Montana Trips planned. An early trip to float the Stillwater River in Late July followed by the Clark Fork trip at the end of August. Finally, the annual trip to Palapas Ventana south of La Paz, in Baja Sur is scheduled for the end of September. Details for these trips are posted on the web site and will be noted on *The Indicator*. I enjoyed all these trips for the great saltwater fishing, variety of species and great times with fellow club members, fly fisherman and friends. Contact Kai Schumann and Tim Huckaby if you are interested in any of these trips.

I braved the cold morning air and light rain to support the hearty folks of the Wednesday group who braved the weather at Liberty Station this morning. It's a tough job, but one of my obligations as President. I bundled up with my Maine long Johns, thermal shirt, Simms Gortex rain jacket and headed to the Bagel Shop to pick up a coffee on the way to Liberty Station. I enjoyed a slow-paced walk along the bike trail, sipping my warm coffee as I watched for Mel and his crew to kick past me, submerged in the cool bay water.

Excerpts:

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world... Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness"

—Desmond Tutu (1931-2021)

Zoom!

Speaker Program

Join us!

Monday, January 3rd, 7:30 pm
(join in early for conversation with other club members.)

Lessons from Competitive Fly Fishing with Dave Smith

[Zoom link](#)



Competition Fly fishing is as polarizing in the Fly Fishing community as Pepsi or Coke, Ford or Chevy is in the non-fly fishing communities. While some frown upon the idea of fly fishing being a competition, there are lessons and tips and tricks can apply to all fly anglers of all skill levels. Despite the popularity of European nymphing, competition is much more than just euro nymphing on a river.

San Diego angler Dave Smith will focus on Competition Fly fishing and lessons learned that can easily be applied to our local Sierra fly fishing and beyond. Looking to share all the hard-earned information and tricks he has learned in competition fly fishing with you, he is confident that they will equate to more fish hooked, landed and you being more efficient with your fly angling.

Dave is a multi-faceted and multi-species fly angler and fly tier who chases everything from alpine trout to Belizean bonefish, carp and mako sharks. He's been a competition trout angler since 2012, with appearances nationally at two *Team USA National Championships*, *America's Cup* international competition, and many regional events throughout the western United States. In addition, Dave was on the Professional Fly Angling tour in 2014 and has competed internationally in New Zealand including the *Oceania Fly Fishing Championships* in 2012. Through his competition career, Dave has gathered tips and tricks from fishing a vast variety of waters all over the US and internationally.

You will often find Dave fishing with his wife, Lesley. Together they love traveling all over the world chasing fish that will eat a fly.

You can follow Dave on his websites:

<https://www.facebook.com/dave.smith3>

[Dave Smith \(@sdflyangler\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)

[Dave Smith Youtube – Weekly Fly Tying and Fishing Videos](#)

Happenings

Annual Club Awards Dinner and Holiday Party, December 13, 2021



Bruce Harris, winner of the Gordon Foster Award, presented by Art Reifman



The Prez gets the party started!



Gordy Zimm accepting the Stroud Award on behalf of Hubbs Research Institute, presented by Gary Strawn.

The annual club awards dinner and holiday party was our largest post-covid gathering and a good time was had by all! Shout out to all the volunteers who put in the time to make it happen! The event featured a rum horchata cocktail courtesy of Bruce Harris, wine donated by Mel Ochs, raffle prizes of mugs and glasses custom etched by Kai Schumann, a custom rod wrapped by Jack Duncan, with materials donated by Rick from Stroud's, and an impressive pot-luck dessert table. It was awesome to see so many familiar faces!



Sheri and Ray Mehl tempt Santa with one more sweet from the dessert table.



Paul assists Brooke calling on the next raffle winner!



Cheers from Bruce and Seven Caves!

Please send news, updates, reports, notes, tips, and photos to be shared on this page.
Editor: editor@sandiegoflyfishers.com

Happenings

Bishop Rendezvous **Tentatively: February 24—27, 2022**

What is the Bishop Rendezvous ?

This is a club sponsored event that is open to all members and their friends. Together we fish, we stay in the same motel, we have afternoon "discussions", and we eat dinner together.

When is this event?

We will leave San Diego early Thursday, Feb 24th, 2022 and stay until Sunday, Feb. 27th.

Why do we go this time of year?

The main reason is flow on the Lower Owens is generally lower and allows us to wade the river. The Upper Owens holds Snow-bows (very large rainbows holding over during the winter months). The gorge area flows are lower and fun to fish.

Where will we fish?

Past history of this weekend event saw many club members fishing the Lower Owens, Pleasant Valley Reservoir, the Owens Gorge, the Upper Owens, and Hot Creek.

Where do we stay?

The Elms Motel located in Bishop, California. Here are the details:

Contact the Elms Motel and ask for Harry at: 800-848-9226. There are nine rooms with one bed and seven rooms with 2 beds (includes 2 smoking rooms) ***Call the Elms directly to reserve your room.*** *If the Elms is full, contact the Travel Lodge next door at 844-422-5811.*

Where will we eat our dinners ?

Unless there is a change, Thursday night– **The Brewery** on Main Street, Friday Night– **The Bowling Alley**, and Saturday night– **La Casita Mexican**, on Main Street.

Questions?

See or contact the Event Coordinators **Lee McElravy or Alan Thompson.**

Once I decide to make reservations, what do I do next ?

Contact me [Alan Thompson](mailto:athompson64@hotmail.com) (athompson64@hotmail.com) so we will have a count for the evening meals.

Area Guide Services (that we have used)

[Sierra Drifters](#) 760-935-4250


[Sierra Troutdoorsman](#) 951-764-7146

[Pat Jaeger Fly Fishing](#) 760-872-7770

[Wild Fly Anglers](#) 760-258-6907

[Performance Anglers Guide Service](#) -Joe Contaldi– 760-965-6527





Feature Article

Fishing The Upper Kern

By Tim Huckaby

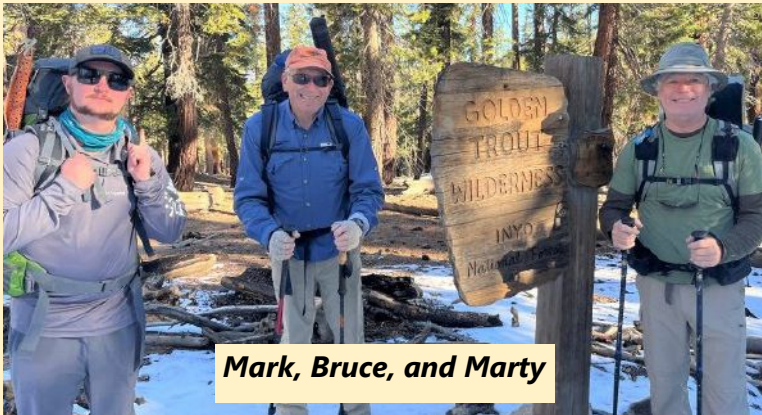
Click timhuckaby.com for the complete story, more great pictures, and video!

For over 20 years I've dreamed of accessing the Upper Kern River from the Eastern Side of the Sierras. The problem is that access is just brutal. For the first decade I hiked it, I always thought backpacking the Forks of the Kern Trail was difficult. I know now it is not. The Blackrock Trail is difficult. I never knew how spoiled I was on the Forks Trail until I tried accessing the Kern River miles above the Forks. From the Forks trail, I had never made it all the way up river to Painters Camp. It's a challenge just to make it to the first up river bridge crossing from the Forks, which I have fished to many times.



Feature Article, cont.

I was “jonesing” to get a backpacking fly fishing trip in before trout season closed in November. With most of the forests that encompass the Upper Kern River closed, it was a real challenge to figure out how to get to the Upper Kern River. I did hike all the way back from the forks to the Johnsondale bridge in the summer with my buddy Marty Jansen—and that was awful. The Rincon trail is a motorcycle trail which makes it awful. Well, sure enough, Marty talked me into hiking to the Upper Kern River with 45 pounds on my back from the east side, the 395 side. This time from the Blackrock Trailhead. We were joined by fellow SDFP member and buddy Bruce Bechard and my 26 year old son, Mark, who is a fly fishing guide at my two favorite lodges in Montana: [The Clark Fork Outpost](#) and the [Stillwater River Outpost](#).



Mark, Bruce, and Marty

The Blackrock Trail goes to Painters Camp on the Upper Kern River. It's only 8.8 miles, which doesn't sound that bad at all, but it starts at 9,000 feet of elevation and you lose 3,800 feet doing it. We did the entire 8.8 miles with 3800 feet in one hike. Never again. The hike in was not easy. It's steep and I had 45 pounds on my back, but it was sheer agony on the hike out: 6.5 hours of misery. The altitude and steepness was one thing, but doing it in November meant many parts of the trail were iced over or snow covered. Bruce went down three times and it was so slippery he had trouble getting back up.

From the Blackrock Trailhead you hike to Casa Vieja Meadow. From there you hike steeply downhill to Jordan hot springs in a canyon that follows 9 mile creek. And from Jordan Hot Springs it's a brutal downhill single track, through canyons and miles of fire damage that make it look like the moon down to the river. In hindsight we should have broken the trip out into two days. Was that hike worth it?

The Fishing

I'm not a counter, but my son Mark is. That is what guides do for their clients. That is how I know Mark and I caught and released over 150 Kern River Rainbows in two days. The fishing—my god—it was stupid good fishing.

Most of the time, I fished a large Huck Hopper on top and trailed it with [Huck Perdigon](#). And yes, I did catch most of the fish on the perdigon. I'd guess 75% of the fish I caught were on the Huck Midge Perdigon, size 16, but, it was November and I did catch a number of fish on size 4 Huck Hoppers. Where else in the western hemisphere can you consistently catch fish in mid-November on huge hoppers? During the witching hour, as the sun went down, I fished size 18 BWOs right in front of camp. And did well. At that time of year, other than the midge, the blue winged olive mayfly would be the only hatch on the Upper Kern. There were plenty of double hook-ups on this trip....



Summary

Would I do this again? Was it worth that awful hike out? Absolutely yes. I'd do almost anything for that type of success in fly fishing for wild natives. But, next time I'll break up that hike out into two days with an overnight at Jordan hot springs. And even then that hike from Jordan Hot Springs to the trailhead is pretty gruesome. Also three nights with only two fishing days for that amount of hike is too short, It should be at least a four night-er. Adding that extra night hiking out makes it five.

A man with a beard and a grey cap is sitting in a river, holding a large rainbow trout. He is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and a blue neck gaiter. The river is surrounded by rocks and trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of yellow, orange, and red. The background shows a dense forest of evergreen and deciduous trees under a clear blue sky.

Feature Article, cont.

***Mark Huckaby with just another huge Kern River Rainbow.
Notice the fall colors in the background***

Planned Trips 2022

Saturday, January 15, 7:00 am San Diego Bay at Grand Caribe, Coronado Cays

February 24-27	Bishop Rendezvous
March	Tidelands, San Diego Bay
April 16-17	Squaw Lake with Arizona Fly Fishers
May	Coronado Dog Beach, Shorepounders
June 4-11	Estero Coyote, Baja Sur
June 18	Lake Henshaw Shorepounders
July 9	Bayside Park
August 13	North Torrey Pines Shorepounders
September 1-4	Stillwater Montana unguided, (Arrangements with Huckaby)
September 4-7	Stillwater Montana guided
October 22	Lake Cuyamaca
November	Shelter Island
December	Otay Lakes

For more information contact [Kai Schumann](#)

or look for details in *The Indicator*.

Questions? Contact us at outings@sandiegoflyfishers.com



Fly of the Month

The Perdigon



Perdigons were first developed by the Spanish competitive fly-fishing team but were really popularized by the French. These simple nymphs epitomize what I look for in good fly design. They're simple, they sink like rocks due to their inherent weight and slim design, and when you put in a bit of effort, they can even be pretty. —Charlie Craven

Recipe:

Hook: #18 Firehole 317.
Bead: Copper 3/32" tungsten.
Weight: .010" lead wire.
Thread: Fire orange 14/0 Veevus.
Tail: Ginger speckled flor de Escobar coq de León fibers.
Underbody: Fine copper Holographic Tinsel.
Overbody: Hand-stripped Polish peacock quill, dyed brown.
Wingcase: Black marker, coated with resin.

[Tying instruction video](#)

Casting Corner

San Diego Fly Fishers Casting Program 2022

Sunday fly casting instruction at Lake Murray with [Alan Thompson](#) at 9:00 am.

In the meantime, if someone has a question or a trip planned and needs some assistance please email me at the email address below to discuss. I am often able to provide private or semi-private instruction.

Casting Skills Challenge Program: The FFI has reintroduced a program they call the Casting Skills Challenge. It is designed for the experienced beginner caster as well as intermediate and advanced fly fishers. It is meant to be a fun way to study, practice and challenge oneself in a progressive fashion. We will be offering this program to SDFP membership in 2022. More information on the program can be found on the FFI website.

Several of our club members have been working on completing the FFI Fly Casting Challenge Program.

Intermediate Casting Clinic: Activity continues with clinics at Mission Bay on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.



For questions please contact: [John Wylie](#)

Conservation & Education



The latest trout release was a class from King Chavez Academy.

Bruce Harris did all of the work setting them up. The education staff at the San Diego River Park Foundation helped set up the release. There were two other classes in the Fall, but they did their own release. We hope to have at least three more classes in the Spring.



Art Reifman leading the casting instruction with some students at the trout release.

If you know of a good conservation project that needs support, please share your ideas with the committee. Gary Strawn conservation@sandiegoflyfishers.com

Women's Programs



Stay tuned for activities and events in 2022!

Contact Brooke Sargent: [Women's Programs](#)

Project Healing Waters

Project Healing Waters

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing is a nationwide non-profit dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education, classes and outings. The Program has been in existence since 2006. Our San Diego Program is one of 200+ such programs in the U.S. Each Program is organized and maintained through a local fly fishing club, in our case the San Diego Fly Fishers. Our San Diego Program first started in 2009.

WHEN: The first and third Wednesdays of every month at 5:00 p.m.
Next class is Wednesday, November 3rd.

WHERE: Santee Historical Society Edgemoor Barn, (The White Barn),
9200 North Magnolia Avenue, Santee.

WHAT: Classes on fly tying, fly casting and general fly fishing information.
Some fishing outings are planned as conditions permit.

WHO: All disabled military, active duty or retired, are welcome to join us. No prior fly fishing (or any fishing) experience necessary. No charge. All fly fishing and fly tying equipment and material available free of charge.

Please RSVP to our San Diego Program Lead, [Lee McElravy](#)

We are happy to address any questions you may have to help you get started.

Please look at our Club's PHW Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/PHWFF.SDFF/>

SWCFFI



Check out all the details of this event at the Flybuy 2022 [Link](#)

Click here to directly link the [SWCFFI](#) web page!

The **San Diego Fly Fishers** is affiliated with the **Southwest Council of Fly Fishers International (SWCFFI)** [John Wylie](#), Representative

For more information or to join FFI visit: <https://flyfishersinternational.org/>

Who or What is the Southwest Council?

The Southwest Council of Fly Fishers International represents all of Southern California and Nevada. Fly Fishers International is a 54 year old international non-profit organization dedicated to the betterment of the sport of fly fishing through Conservation, Restoration and Education. Fly Fishers International and its Councils are the only organized advocate for fly fishers on an national and regional level.

Membership

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

**Ready to renew your membership with San Diego Fly Fishers?
Please support your club by planning to renew for 2022!**

[Renew online](#)

We are all about fishing and having fun!

Don't miss out! Join or renew!

You can renew your membership on-line through the SDFF website, or you can renew in person at our monthly programs; or you can download an application on our website and mail a check to

**SAN DIEGO FLY FISHERS
C/O Stroud Tackle
1457 Morena Blvd
San Diego, CA 92110**

Contact: [Alan Thompson](#)

Or Renew at the next Monthly SDFF Meeting

SDFF has four membership levels

Individual.....\$40

Family.....\$50

Individual Military.....FREE (Active Duty Only)



Don't disappoint Santa!

Renew your membership (or your family's). It's simple.

Click here to [Join](#) then follow the instructions.

Thank you,
Alan Thompson
Membership

Volunteers are needed

San Diego Fly Fishers is a service organization.
So please ask yourself...

“What service can I provide to my Club”?

Service Opportunities

Fishing Outings

This is a chance to help run a fishing outing for Club members. We are seeking volunteers to organize a day of fishing on our local waters. It's fun and easy. Pick your favorite water and contact [Kai Schumann](#) and we will help you get started.

- ◆ Pick a local lake
- ◆ Pick a location for the bay
- ◆ Pick a location for the surf

The whole idea is to involve more members in creating fishing events and get us on the water monthly.

Fundraising

- ◆ **We need 2 or 3 more volunteers to help serve on the committee**, please consider helping out. No volunteers, no fundraiser!

Greeters are needed at our Monthly meetings!

We are planning to have 2 or 3 greeters at each event to help new people into our Club. It's a great way to serve the Club and meet new Flyfishers.

Please contact [Jim Castelluzzo](#)

Project Healing Waters

- ◆ Help with this important program that serves Veterans in need.
- ◆ If you know of a Veteran in need Please let us know!
- ◆ Contact: [Lee McElravy](#) to learn how you can contribute.

Women's Program

- ◆ Please contact Brooke Sargent [Women's Programs](#) for information and way to get involved.

Fishing!



The Prez with a beautiful Owens Brown!



Mel's hali liked that chartreuse!



Big fly, big fish? Not always!



Barry plies the waters of Glorietta Bay.

Please share a picture of your catch at: Sandiegoflyfishers.com



A little one from Pyramid Lake.

Guides and Resources

San Diego Fly Fishers does not endorse nor recommend any particular Guide or Business. This Information is intended to provide the reader with known providers of services related to fly fishing in our local area and in California. This is not intended to be a complete list of available services.

Guides

Eastern Sierra:

[Sierra Drifters](#)

[Sierra Troutdoorsman](#)

[Pat Jaeger Fly Fishing](#)

[Kern River Fly Shop](#)

[Wild Fly Anglers](#)

Northern California:

[Acosta Fly Fishing](#) (Steelhead)

[Fine and Far Fly Fishing](#) (Steelhead/Spey Trips)

[Baiocchi's Troutfitters](#)

San Diego Bay/Surf/Lakes:

[Conway Bowman](#)

[Alex Cady @ Fly Stop](#)

Fly Fishing Equipment:

[STROUD TACKLE](#)

[THE FLY STOP](#)

[Flies by Favorite](#)

River Flows and Reports

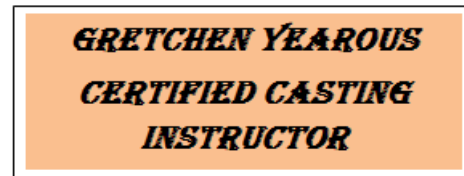
[Dreamflows](#)

[USGS Flows](#)

[California Data Exchange](#)

[Lower Owens River](#)

Thanks for supporting San Diego Fly Fishers



We need your help getting rid of Carp at Lake Cuyamaca!



CARP ANGLERS WANTED:
CONVENTIONAL ROD AND REEL, SPEAR OR BOW:
Kill a Carp and FISH FOR FREE! Or, TENT CAMP FOR FREE!
PROOF REQUIRED!

LAKE CUYAMACA NEEDS YOUR HELP! **KILL A CARP!**

Board of Directors

San Diego Fly Fishers Board of Directors 2021

James Castelluzzo	President
Vice President	vacant
Andrea Rae	Treasurer
Mel Ochs	Secretary
Alan Thompson	Membership Sunday Fly Casting
John Ashley	Communications Coordinator
Tim Garcia	Youth Programs
Bruce Harris	At large
Mark Hedderson	Editor Finny Facts / Indicator
Tim Huckaby	Speaker Programs
Warren Lew	Fundraising/At large
Brooke Sargent	Women's Programs
Kai Schumann	Outings Coordinator
Gary Strawn	Conservation
John Wylie	Casting Program Instruction SWC-FFI Liaison
	Committee Chairpersons
Jack Duncan	Rod Building
Lucky Ketcham	Fly Tying Congress
Lee McElravy	Project Healing Waters
	Web Master
David Collins	Internet Resources Admin

The Indicator

Emailed twice a month with updates and breaking news!
Make sure you are on the list to stay informed.

Follow SDFF adventures and news our FACEBOOK page. Post your own adventures and pictures.

[San Diego Fly Fishers](#)

The Board meets at 6:30 PM on the last Monday of each month at the San Diego River Park Foundation Office on Pacific Hwy. (Currently held on Zoom.)

For Directions to all Club Meetings, Clinics and Fly tying classes visit our website at: [Activities Maps](#)



Tailing Loops

Last summer, I took my 16-year-old son, Thomas, to fish the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska. The flight from San Diego included a long layover in Seattle, and then on to Anchorage, the carefully selected window seats rendered all but useless for viewing with the heavy cloud cover and scattered showers that would be our companion for much of the trip.

The two hour drive from the airport down to the town of Soldotna is famously scenic, but not so much when the impressive snow capped peaks are shrouded in mist. Even still, the vastness of Alaska is stunning.

By the time we'd grabbed a pizza in town and unpacked our gear, it was past 10:00 pm, but still twilight. I had a text message saying that due to weather, our halibut trip scheduled for the next morning was canceled. Thomas was disappointed, but frankly, after almost 10 hours of combined flying and driving, I wasn't looking forward to cranking on doormats from a pitching boat, and the savings gained from the cost of the charter made all those \$25 plates of halibut fish and chips seem downright reasonable.

We had a floatplane trip scheduled for the last day (it was awesome!) but in the meantime, it was DIY from shore, with the primary target being sockeye salmon.

Sockeye eventually turn brick red when in the river to spawn, they also turn down pretty much every opportunity to eat. The resourceful locals, however, have developed a technique to hook them. It's called lining or "flossing" and is intended to legally hook fish. Snagging is illegal, but if the hook ends up in the fish's jaw, well, who's to say?

When I last visited Alaska, some 20 years ago, I bought some "Kenai Flies" comprised of a 3/0 hook with a few strands of yellow and red flash fibers attached. When someone explained the technique to me I thought it sounded ridiculous. What are the chances of randomly hooking a fish I can't see? But, with a little time spent tossing an "S" shaped loop angled slightly upstream and pulling it tight on the drift, I actually hooked a surprising number—though landed very few.

We went to a popular riverbank spot and joined the line up of "flossers," with about a dozen people above and below us. My son, decked out in brand new waders

looked the part, but was not impressed with the concept.

It was slow a slow day for flossers, with only an occasional hookup from the chorus line. After about an hour, my son said "This kinda sucks. Can we try something else?" I encouraged him to give it a few more tries, our options being limited.

He thought he was hung up on the rocks at first and looked at me with disgust, then his rod arched downstream, and it was on. A sockeye riding the Kenai current pulls like a runaway train, but his "tippet" was a sturdy piece of monofilament, probably 20lb test.

For this type of fishing, there are two necessary items: a large net and a fillet knife. Of course we had neither. The net helps land the headstrong fish and the knife is for on-site cleaning, encouraged if not required, as the DFW wants all fish parts not taken home to remain in the river, recycling the nutrients.

"Combat" fishermen in a line up can be stoic, at best, if not downright hostile, but usually everyone relaxes into a somewhat cooperative state, and so someone waded over and bagged Thomas's fish. His first salmon, and his attitude improved instantly.



After a grip and grin, he tossed the fish back into the river, an action that surprised the nice guy who provided the net. This is not generally a catch and release fishery, unless your fish has a humped back, hooked jaw, and sports a color almost as bright as the hat Jim Castelluzzo wore at the Christmas party.