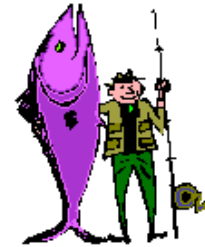




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The Home of the Big Fish!

Fall 2003

Volume 3, Issue 2

From the Ranch...

Dear Members,

Well, another summer goes by at Kelsey Bass Ranch. The lake has provided a lot of fishing this year including a lot of weed fishing in the last few months. Don't worry, new members - the aquatic weeds die off during the fall and winter and don't come back until next summer. They are actually necessary for maintaining a good fishery even though they are a pain in the butt when they are thick.

Use strong leaders, barb-less hooks, and small senkos

This year I've seen fewer damaged and dead fish than ever before. I think the number of floaters I've noticed can't be more than a half dozen the whole year. However during one week in the month of August, three floaters were found.

Each dead fish had a broken single line leader, a barbed hook, and a seven inch senko lodged in the throat. So, Members, it is important to follow the rules of KBR, that is, use strong braided leaders, barb-less hooks, and senkos 5 inches long or less. Although there are rumors of fish-rustlers making off with fish at the lake, the number one cause of a decrease in large fish

being caught is mortal injury in the catch and release process—especially from breaking leaders, barbed hooks, and/or roughness in removing them.

Please, Members: follow the rules.

Planting bait fish

On September 4th, we planted bait fish in the lake to provide more forage for the bass and to bolster the small blue gill population. Member Carmin Rosato ferried half of the 10,000 Fathead Minnows, 5,000 Sacramento Blackfish and 6,300 Green Sunfish in 5-gallon buckets to various weed beds around the lake to aid in their survival and hopefully their reproduction.

The number one suspected cause of a low Blue Gill population is the large Catfish population in the lake. These big bruisers literally vacuum up the Blue Gill eggs. Nobody has been stopping them since some weigh over 30 lbs. Hey Members, how about a Catfish Derby? Interested? Read on!

Member's Tournament moved to March 13th, 2004

Based on the low turn out at the fishing clinic held in June, KBR has rescheduled the Member's Tournament on March 13th, 2004, instead of October. Please be aware that we will close the lake to all fishing one week in advance of the tournament.

Bass Fishing Tournament and Catfish Derby to benefit Merced High School Wrestling Team Nov. 15th

Kelsey Bass Ranch is pleased to announce a benefit tournament – fishing derby for the Merced High School Wrestling Team Nov. 15th. All members are invited to participate. Prizes include a corporate membership for two! There will be a bank fishing Catfish Derby and a Kelsey Ranch Barbeque, as well.

Coach Clayton Schrieder: (385-3460) will take Catfish reservations and provide general information. All checks should be made to Merced High Wrestling Bears Club. I hope to see everyone out there supporting the MHS wrestlers.

New corporate membership enrollment ends Dec. 31

After December 31, 2003, we will no longer offer new corporate memberships. As of Jan. 1, 2004, we will only offer family and individual memberships. Existing corporate memberships will be continued. For more information, contact me at 209-563-6573.

Jon Kelsey



The real deal! A nice little Bass!



Blue Gill nest robber—a Kelsey Cat...fish



Carmin planting bait!