

### [Sportfishing Association of California \(SAC\)](#)

The Sportfishing Association of California was formed in 1972 when members of the sportfishing industry, including skippers, boat owners and landing owners determined that a strong voice was needed to serve the greater Southern California passenger fishing and diving fleet. In 2008, Bob Fletcher, immediate past president of SAC, was awarded the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) *Special Recognition Award* for his dedication to the management, conservation and sustainable use of West Coast marine fisheries. SAC members participate in many activities and sit on a number of boards and committees to protect fisheries resources, including: NOAA Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC), Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC), Highly Migratory Species Panel, Groundfish Advisory Panel (PFMC), International Tuna Commission and Harbor Safety Committees in Southern California (DFG Pollution Prevention).

Additional information about SAC:

- Partners with the Friends of Rollo to take 50,000 children saltwater fishing pro bono. The Friends of Rollo is a non-profit educational organization that arranges marine awareness fishing trips for primarily economically and socially disadvantaged, at-risk, low income children as well as children with disabilities.
- SAC encourages its members, and all anglers, to catch and release fish. SAC also supports an annual effort to take all excess canned tuna to Ensenada for community-based food bank distribution.
- SAC vessels participate in a variety of education activities, including taking children out with marine biologists to study the coastal ocean conditions, includes study of plankton trails, and conducting whale watching trips. Captains speak at fellowship sessions at California universities regarding sustainable fisheries.
- SAC vessels participate in on-going marine research projects in conjunction with, but not limited to Seaworld Hubbs, NOAA, University of California San Diego, US Geological Survey and University of California Santa Barbara. The projects include:
  - Developing a new acoustic groundfish stock assessment process with NOAA, one of the top projects for the region.
  - Assisting NOAA in creating several research videos regarding stock assessments.
  - Assessing abalone stocks using ROV technology and sea urchin stocks.
  - Conducting thousands of miles of multi-beam mapping surveys of much of the offshore habitat in the California Bight. The Assistant Undersecretary of Commerce presented an award to SAC for the success of this project.
  - Conducting extensive acoustic biomass surveys of the California Bight.
  - Tagging and releasing tuna, rockfish and White Seabass, as well as brood stock collection of White Seabass and Yellowtail.