

Port Walk #16



San Francisco's Fishing Fleet

Fishing equipment, like the fish it is designed to catch, comes in many shapes and sizes. If you look carefully at the fishing fleet here at Fisherman's Wharf, you'll see lures and lead cannonballs used for catching salmon, mesh traps for crab, long lines for rockfish and black cod, and nets for just about everything.



Trollers

The large poles on the sides of a troller are used to trail, or "troll," baited hooks through the water behind the boat. Trolling enables the fisherman to cover a wide area of ocean in search of salmon feeding along the California coast. The salmon season runs from spring through summer, after which many trollers refit their boats to fish for tuna, rockfish, or crab.



Crab Boats

During Dungeness crab season, many different types of boats are outfitted for crabbing. A typical crab boat heads out to sea with 100 to 300 crab traps, or "pots", stacked on deck. The 90-pound pots are baited with old fish, dropped to the ocean floor, and marked with buoys. Then, a day or a week later, they are hauled to the surface, emptied of crabs, and re-set.

Long Liners

These boats are used to catch halibut, black cod, and rockfish with baited lines as long as 2,000 feet. Set along the sea bottom, the lines are weighted down by an anchor while buoys mark their location. When fishing for rockfish, some long-line fishermen also use shorter lines, dropped vertically and weighted at one end only.