



Meet "Baja Bev" Hooked On Fishing

How did you get hooked on fishing?

My folks had a luxury yacht in Newport Beach, California and we spent a lot of time on it going regularly to Catalina Island and down to Ensenada, Mexico. Fishing on the boat and at the dock became my biggest pastime starting at the early age of five. Horses and boys rivaled that for a while later but the fishing bug was persistent.

You worked in the commercial fishing industry for many years. What was that like, especially for a woman?

When I moved to the Bay Area in 1989 I had my boat in tow; an older Larson model. I was hanging out at the docks in Monterey when I saw a

vessel with my name on it. The Bev A! Her crew and I got to talking over a dart game at a local piano bar (yeah, it's a little classy in Monterey). I got an offer to crew for hagfish which was the gateway drug for my commercial career.

Women were still few and far between and most were in husband and wife teams or later in my case, boyfriend and girlfriend teams. I also crewed solo with several other friends who were platonic in nature. I was in my 30's and tough as nails.

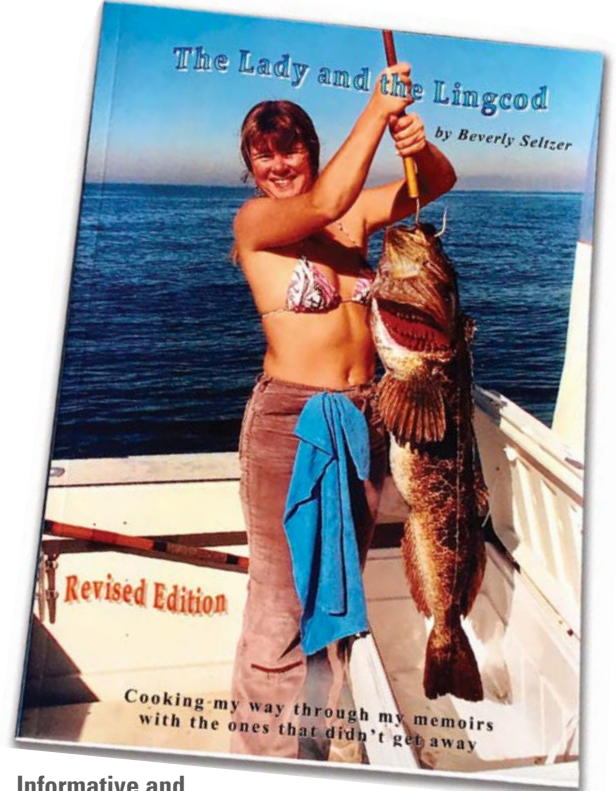
I could work the deck as hard as most men. I never went to sleep on a wheel watch, got seasick or went AWOL before a trip departure. Integrity and trust go a long way in this

field of work and I didn't want to give women a bad name since we were competing with men who had been doing this type of work for decades.

My fishing started off locally in the waters near San Francisco but in the last two to three years I really went all out and ranged up to Alaska and on to Hawaii before throwing in the towel in 1997.

During lulls in the commercial fishing, I would also deckhand for some party boats out of Pillar Point Harbor and in the off season I was an owner/operator courier; another male dominated job that I flourished in.

Commercial fishing is considered to be one of the most hazardous jobs as depicted on the TV series "Deadliest Catch." I would occasionally joke to my family about quitting to become a logger or resume my brief foray into being an apprentice jockey. I have had plenty of OMG moments on the sea, however, the closest call was when our 80' steel hull long-line vessel sank and we were rescued by the Coast Guard.



Informative and entertaining cookbook by Beverly Seltzer on how to cook Pacific saltwater fish. To order your copy, go to: bajabev.com.

You are one of the top female anglers on the Pacific Coast. How did you earn that title?

Time and dedication! Five decades in the making with an insatiable passion for learning the sport. Fishing every opportunity I could and being observant of the talent I was trying to emulate. I have accomplished catching over 150 Pacific saltwater species ranging from Panama to Alaska; have held a few IGFA world records; participated in tournaments, research trips and fishing clubs; pro staffed for numerous companies, published articles and devoted time to helping teach kids, assist veterans and promote the future of fishing for other women.

How often do you go fishing?

I usually average around 40 days a year but I can easily put the effort into twice that. I tend to gravitate to the spender side of the sport thus I'm curtailed by my bank account at times. Thankfully my husband picks up the tab when he goes with me once or twice a year.

What is it like to go on long-range fishing trips?

Heaven! I'm immersed in my element. Most boats I choose to fish have crews that love fishing with the same intensity that I do. There is camaraderie among the passengers as well. The food is outstanding! My number one reason to get people excited about long range is you get to experience fishing for species beyond the general scope of the day boat fleet and enjoy pristine waters and see amazing things.

Your favorite fish to catch?

Hands down, no contest; yellowtail! They are strong, savvy opponents and they taste wonderful.

Tips on ocean fishing?

I have been known to freshwater fish and I even own a fly rod, however, saltwater just has that intoxicating effect that keeps pulling me back. Most people who love the ocean avidly enjoy being on the water even if it's not a super calm day. So first off if you're prone to seasickness, it's

probably not going to be your cup of tea. Tides and ocean currents play a bigger part in ocean fishing. Your "target" species can change without notice so you have to be prepared for more challenges.

What is the best way to cook ocean fish?

Don't overcook it. Some fish are best suited to pan sautéing while others will hold up very well on a BBQ grill. I will admit that broiling fish is the most popular method in our home. I wrote a memoir cookbook titled "*The Lady and the Lingcod*" which covers most of the popular Pacific Ocean species as well as some alternates including fish found elsewhere in the world.

Editor's Note: Beverly Seltzer, a la "Baja Bev," serves as an advisor for the BASF Bay Area Sportfishers club. BASF is located in the San Francisco Bay Area with open membership to everyone including women and children. To learn more, go to bayareasportfishing.com.