



**THE BARGE HOLE** on the Sacramento River above Red Bluff "only" had about 60 boats on the Saturday opener, and everyone was courteous and responsible, probably because of the good early-morning salmon bite! WON PHOTO BY BILL KARR



**30 YEARS OF** guiding the Sacramento River has made guide Robert Weese of Northern California Guide Service one of the top guides on the river, and he put his anglers on four big kings by 6 a.m. on the Saturday opener while fishing the Barge Hole. WON PHOTO BY BILL KARR

## Sacramento River...

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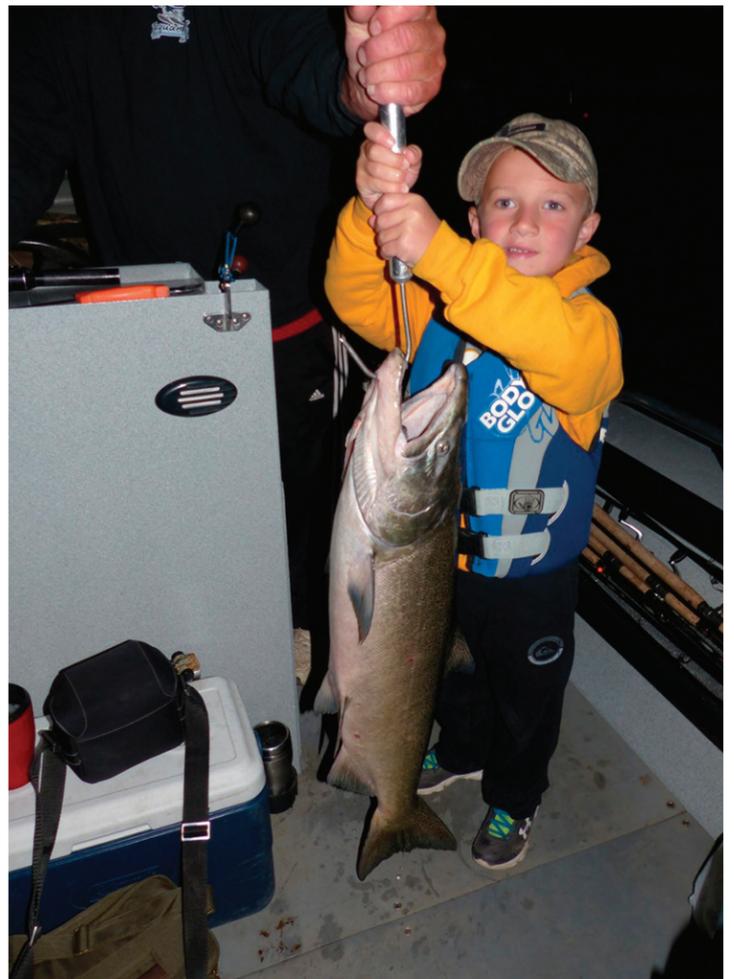
There were other boats fighting fish all morning, and at one point we asked guide Scott Farris Junior how his boat was doing, and he had 7 kings for 4 anglers, with just one more to go for client limits. Kevin Brock had two boats fishing there, and his clients were staying in the action, too.

We switched over to roe as the sun cleared the trees along this beautiful stretch of the Sacramento River, and I hooked two more kings, but lost them both. Harrison also lost another big one after a short battle. "Those fish are just swimming around the hole, and with all the boating activity, they're just grabbing at baits, not taking them," Weese explained. That didn't make me feel much better, however.

We all had a few more bites, but basically, once the sun was on the water the fishing definitely slowed, and we called it quits at noon with only 10 or 12 boats out of 60 still even trying. It was a great day of fishing and a good opener, although not the usual full limits that Weese is accustomed to on the opener. While warm flows have kept the numbers of fish in the river down so far, that will change as the season progresses, until the peak of the run in September and October.

Back at the launch ramp we had our licenses checked by a couple of good-natured DFW wardens and a BLM representative, and said our goodbyes after splitting about 65 pounds of salmon fillets!

Salmon fishing in the Red Bluff to Redding stretch of the Sacramento River will just keep on getting better, but it's already good in that upper stretch, and dates are going fast for Capt. Robert Weese of Northern California Guide Service, so call him at (530) 755-7196 or go to his website at [norcalsalmonguide.com](http://norcalsalmonguide.com) to book a trip. Stay tuned for information on the Fifth Annual Red Bluff Salmon Derby coming up in late September or early October — that will be another excellent event, and we at *Western Outdoor News* hope to be participating this year.



**SIX-YEAR-OLD** Wyatt Montoya of Loomis and his first ever king salmon caught before sunrise at the Barge Hole. The youngster was a trooper, joining his dad, Perry and grandfather Bill Devisscher for the 4:30 a.m. departure from Jellys Ferry. WON PHOTO BY BILL KARR



**BILL DEVISSCHER** with guide Robert Weese after landing a 17-pound class king caught on a sardine-wrapped Kwikfish at the Barge Hole on the Sacramento River on Saturday morning.

WON PHOTO BY BILL KARR

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**IT WAS PARTY** time for bank fishermen at the "Old Mouth" below the Barge Hole on Saturday, where families pitched tents and awnings for a fun time on the Sacramento River. WON PHOTO BY BILL KARR