



For Immediate Release: March 5, 2018
Contact: Castle Communications (916) 635-2728

45th ANNUAL BODEGA BAY FISHERMAN'S FESTIVAL
Bodega Bay Fishing. Real People. Real Food.

BODEGA BAY, CA – An event that has long been a backbone of the community, the 45th annual Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival will be held April 14 & 15 at Westside Park in Bodega Bay. The Fisherman's Festival honors and supports local fishermen and also raises funds for numerous local not-for-profit organizations. "This amazing event brings together the entire Bodega Bay community," stated Josh Perucchi, 2018 Chairperson. "Our volunteers put in endless hours to create a fun festival for the public that in turn raises money for numerous worthy local causes including supporting our men and women who fish for a living." Most recently the Fisherman's Festival did an emergency donation of over 100 t-shirts to fire victims.

The Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival is filled with entertainment for the whole family and includes live music, great food, numerous craft booths and much more. A favorite attraction is the wine tasting booth featuring Sonoma County wines and a beer booth with numerous local Sonoma County ales. When asked about crowd favorites, Wine Booth Chairperson Suzann Mathers answered, "Every year the mimosas are a big hit along with all the numerous other wonderful wines. We are so grateful for all the donations we receive from many of the Sonoma County wineries. They help make the Wine Booth a big part of the event fundraising effort."

This year, due to its extreme popularity by both participants and festival-goers, the Wooden Boat Challenge has been expanded to Saturday and Sunday. "This is truly one of the most fun parts of Fish Fest and we were really glad to be able to share this unique event with festival goers on both days," said Perucchi.

There is something at the Fisherman's Festival for every palate including barbecued oysters, local fish' n chips, clam chowder and a variety of interesting food trucks. Live music and entertainers perform all day Saturday and Sunday while artisans and vendors from all over California and beyond offer a wide selection of arts and crafts.

P.O. Box 576, Bodega Bay, CA 94923 • bodegabayfishfest@gmail.com

The Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival is a 501 (c) (3) California nonprofit charitable organization.

The Festival has its origin as a celebration of the opening of salmon fishing season and the annual Blessing of the Fleet which takes place on Sunday morning. The fishermen decorate their boats and take a ceremonial parade lap in the harbor before proceeding out to the bay for the actual blessing - which is performed by all the different local clergy. Each year's Festival theme is chosen by the Bodega Bay Fisherman's Marketing Association.

The Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival is a great venue for kids, with a play area that includes face painting, games, a touch tank tide pool and guest pets (well-behaved and leashed pets only please) on parade. Demonstrations by the Sonoma County Sheriff Rescue helicopter and US Coast Guard will take place in the harbor. Live music and performances will be on the Main Stage both days, with Saturday's headliner the Zins and Sunday's headliner Pride and Joy.

Ticket information and daily event schedule available online at www.bbfishfest.org. General admission is \$14, seniors over 65 are \$12, Police, Fire and Military with ID are \$12, kids 11 and under are free. Two-day passes are available for \$25. Festival hours are 10:00am to 5:00pm daily. There is free parking and handicap accessibility.

The Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival is a 501(c)(3) California non-profit charitable organization and is 100% volunteer run by local community members. Proceeds from the Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival benefit Bodega Bay Area community services. For more information visit www.bbfishfest.org. For additional press information contact Castle Communications, Inc. at (916) 635-2728.

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