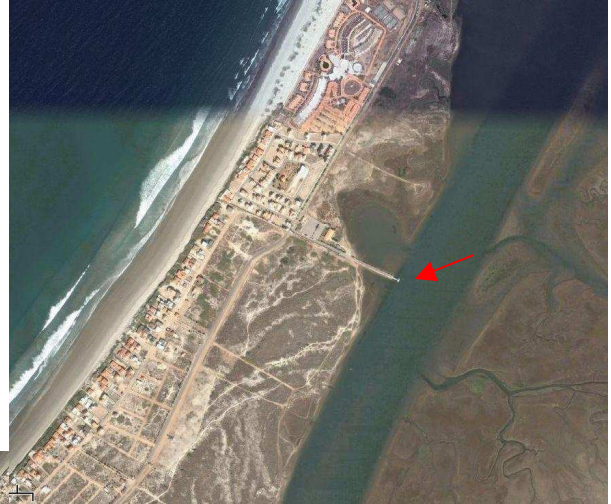


## ***Punta Banda – Estero Tackle & Fishing Suggestions***

The Estero behind the houses the opposite of the Beach has some great fishing as well. Many people fish there rather than go out in the Panga Boats. It takes a little more patience, but we have seen of some big fish pulled out of this area. It is obviously a lot cheaper sense it cost nothing, but bait. The Estero is famous for Halibut. Large and small they are good eating and unlike the states there is no length limit. The Halibut in the picture below fed four people for dinner not to mention a spirited fight to the shore. A complete beginner caught this Halibut. She did not even know she had a fish on her line.



The Halibut in this Estero get up to 15 pounds in Season. The Season is generally June through September, but smaller ones are caught year round. For those of you that do not know, Halibut have both their eyes on one side of the fish and the bottom of the fish is where all the meat is. So they are easy to clean. You just separate the meat from the top of the fish and you have a very

large fillet with no waste. It never taste fishy and is great with salsa or Pico de gallo.

In the picture above are three great places to catch fish in the Estero. We have been successful catching fish in these places and have heard of a good deal more success from the locals. Most certainly there are other places, but these are easy to get to, park, and set up a nice fishing day.

The first two arrows are along the old “Z” road. You can get there from the beach houses by turning on the old pot holed road to the left rather than go straight on the (brown) new gravel/dirt road toward La Jolla. Follow the road until it turns to the right and there



is a couple of great places to park your car off the road. The highest red arrow in the picture on the first page is the boat dock near the old hotel. You travel through the first guard gate. Then you pass the second guard gate and immediately turn right. At the end of the road is a boat dock in need of repair. Set up out on the float and you are almost assured of catching something. We have caught Bass, Halibut, and a shark off of this float.

The trick to fishing the Estero is the tides. The water must be moving to maximize your fishing. The tide comes in the water will be moving to your right. If the tide is going out, the water will be moving to your left. Either way, as long as the water is high and moving you have the best chance of catching fish. We have caught fish at the peak of high tide as well. You will have little chance of catching fish at the peak of low tide so bring a tide chart to insure maximum success.

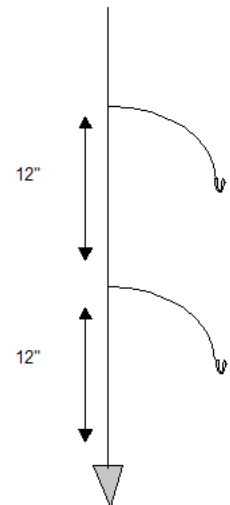
Standard Surf tackle will work in the Estero. Tie a weight on the bottom, tie a snelled hook up twelve inches, then tie another snelled hook up twelve inches from that. Use either 2 oz. to 4 oz round weights depending on how rough the tide is. In the surf you want the weight to hold to the bottom. In the Estero you want the weight to move a little. Dead bait on the bottom will not cut it in the Estero so move it once in awhile. I use Number 1.0 or Number 2.0 Hooks. Bigger hooks are fine in the Estero since the fish are bigger. Remember, if you are fishing in murky waters to tie the hooks up a little higher on the line. Also, increase the weight if the tide is really moving. Other bay rigs work here as well.

The Estero is opposite of the beach. Where Clams would help you catch edible fish on the beach, there is no certainty of that. Anchovies catch Halibut, Bass, Sand Sharks, and even real small regular sharks. For the Surf, we use half of an Anchovy on a hook. In the Estero we use the whole Anchovy hopping for a big bad Halibut or Bass.



Remember the Estero is more like fishing on a Panga Boat so several Lures and Scampi rigs do the job as well and sometimes better than bait. Insert the Scampi weighted hooks into the rubber scampi and just tie the scampi rig on your line and cast. The biggest key to catching halibut is to remember that they are not a scavenger, even though they work the bottom, they are a predator. Therefore if your bait just sits on the bottom, you probably will get skunked. Casting lures and using a slow retrieve is the best method for the shore angler. I have had the best luck with a 4-5 inch Scampi lure with split tail. I use the white and the florescent green. The nice thing about the Scampi lures is that you can catch bass on them as well. Rapala's work great in the Estero as well. You just have to remember that it is the opposite of Panga Boat Fishing. You do not reel it close to the surface, but just the opposite. Let it sink and then jump it up from the

bottom to the bottom a few feet away over and over again. If you reel it too fast you will catch only Bass. If you reel it slowly you will catch Bass and Halibut. Remember the Halibut are mostly on the bottom.



All you need to fish in the Estero is Poles, Fishing Tackle, Bait, a Beach Chair, and a cooler full of your favorite beverages. In addition, we recommend you have a hat, your sunglasses, and sunscreen. It is bright out there so come prepared.

The best place to buy bait is Vonny's Fleet in La Jolla towards La Bufadora. They always have an assortment of bait. See the map on the first page for directions to Vonny's Fleet for bait to fish with. Just follow the Beach Road South to the Gravel Road (Shown in Brown). Once you hit the main road to La Bufadora, turn right. You will come to a speed bump in the heart of La Jolla. One hundred feet past the speed bump you veer to the left side of the road. Go up the dirt road that parallels the main road to the top of the hill and Vonny's Fleet is left through the gate. Vonny's Fleet is the blue square on the picture on the first page. There is a small tackle shop there that has all that you need at better than reasonable costs and much cheaper than the states. In addition they have great prices all Rapala's and Scampi Lures. There are a lot of places to fish in the Estero. When in need of info on about where to fish or what to use, always ask Ivan at Vonny's Fleet. When stopping by Vonny's Fleet always tell them that the Kennedy's sent you.

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