



### FISHERFOLK

At the Alioto-Lazio Fish Company on San Francisco's waterfront, members of the shop's founding family sell a range of fresh seafood, including Dungeness crab and Pacific king salmon. Page 28.

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The famed Galápagos Islands have evolved into an ecological playland. BY DEBORAH FRANKLIN

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Discover a salty past and a sparkling present where San Francisco meets the bay. BY DEBORAH FRANKLIN

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Can you identify the classic attraction pictured in our new photo puzzle?

**ON THE COVER**, beyond the piers jutting into San Francisco Bay, the Golden Gate Bridge fades into the setting sun. Page 28.



# Fisherman's Wharf

**WHEN ANNETTE TRAVERSO'S** grandfather, Tom Lazio, and his partners opened their wholesale fish company in the 1940s, only men were allowed to handle, clean, and sell fish. "Women stayed upstairs keeping the books," Traverso says. But after Lazio died in 1998, Traverso, her two sisters, their mom, and their grandmother took over.

Today, Alioto-Lazio Fish Company sells salmon, petrale sole, halibut, and more to the public from a countertop set on wooden crates at 440 Jefferson Street. Inside the store, ruddy, thick-legged West Coast crabs skitter along the bottom of saltwater tanks; nearby, whole fish and fillets glisten on beds of chopped ice.

"People come in and say, 'Oh, *that's* what fresh fish looks like,'" Traverso says.

Though souvenir shops seem to outnumber fisherfolk in the neighborhood these days, Pier 45 is still home to a working fleet that harkens back to Gold Rush days when Italian fishermen plied the seas. Adjacent to Pier 45, the small, nondenominational Fishermen's and Seamen's Memorial Chapel is easy to miss but worth a visit. The pretty chapel—its side altars draped in fishnets—was completed in 1978 and honors those who have been lost at sea.

Every year, the Italian American community celebrates its ties to the ocean on the first weekend in October with the two-day Madonna del Lume (Mother of Light) celebration and blessing of the fleet. It begins with a service at the chapel, followed by a parade of fishing boats, with flowers and memorial wreaths tossed into the waters beneath the Golden Gate Bridge. The next day, brass bands and commercial floats make their way from Sts. Peter and Paul Church at Washington Square to Fisherman's Wharf, where boats receive a sprinkling of holy water along with prayers for safety and a prosperous catch. [fishermanswharf.org](http://fishermanswharf.org).



**TOP, Annette Traverso, decked out in proper attire, poses with a Pacific king salmon. BOTTOM, the Alioto-Lazio seafood emporium opens at 6:30 a.m. on weekdays, 7 a.m. on Saturdays.**