

Tasty Capelin Spawning by The Millions

California has its grunion and Kodiak Island has a little known fish called capelin, (*Mallotus villosus*). The capelin is neither smelt, hooligan, or grunion but like the grunion has the peculiar habit of spawning on the land. The type of land chosen is always coarse sand or very small pebble beaches.

The fish are about six inches in length, very silvery and like the smelt very tasty. Capelin are abundant in Kodiak offshore areas and serve as an important food fish for the areas salmon and bottom fish population.

It is only during the last series of high tides in late May or early June that their unique habit of spawning puts them literally within the grasp of the fish connoisseur.

Capelin are unpredictable little brutes but here's how the spawning action usually happens: About mid May capelin will come into the offshore areas in schools.

A few of the more precocious fish may show up in earlier tides, but most spawning activity takes place during the last series of high tides in late May or early June.