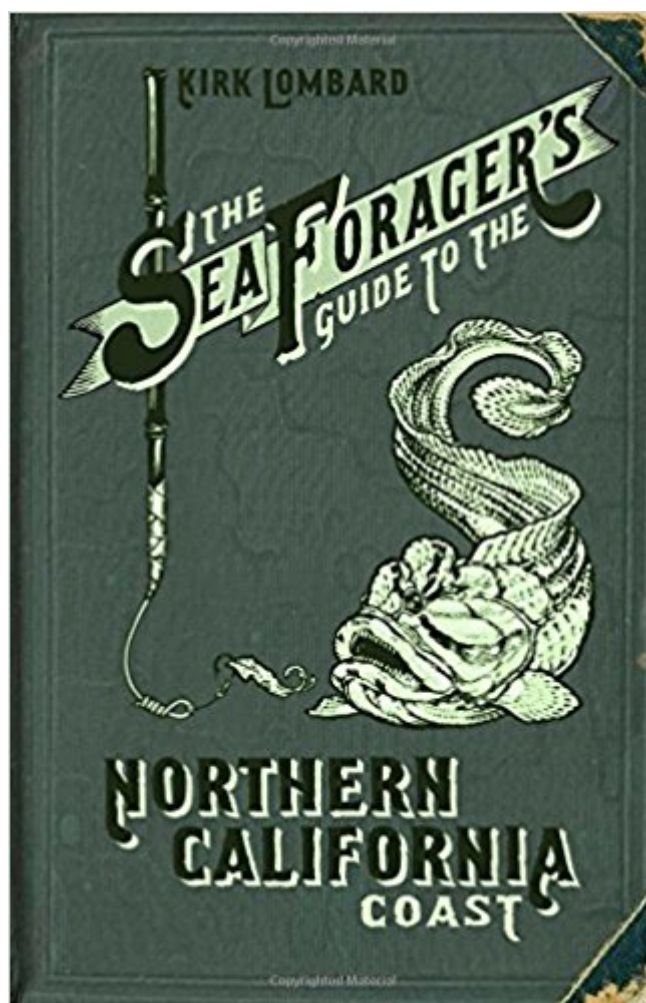


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# The Sea Forager's Guide To The Northern California Coast



## Synopsis

Winner of the 2017 NCIBA Book of the Year Award (Regional Interest) *In The Sea Forager's Guide to the Northern California Coast*, Kirk Lombard combines a startling depth of knowledge with wry humor and colorful storytelling to guide readers' quests to hook fish, dig clams, and pick seaweed for themselves. Leighton Kelly's stunning, occasionally idiosyncratic illustrations complement practical instructions for gathering a variety of fish and seafood and delicious recipes for what to do with each catch. Lombard, a former staff member at the state Department of Fish and Game and founder of the foraging tour company/seafood delivery service *Sea Forager Seafood*, insists that his readers follow all regulations and encourages sustainable practices above and beyond what the State of California requires. This quirky and useful how-to is sure to inspire an empowering epicurean adventure.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Through wit, poetry, and anecdotes, Lombard makes the case that the sincerest stewards of wild sea creatures are often those who intend to have them for dinner.” --Alastair Bland, NPR's *The Salt*

“An unusual tome: part guide to urban fishery, part poetic ramble, part collection of anecdotes, part recipe book, it advocates for an ethical, considered approach to fishing the waterways of the Northern California coast.” --Eillie Anzilotti, CityLab

“Really, the book is for anyone who loves the ocean because you can open it to almost any passage and learn and laugh.” --Tara Duggan, San Francisco Chronicle

“[Lombard's] direct, conversational writing style makes readers feel like they're learning the ropes from an old friend who tells it exactly as he

sees it.â • --Kristine Wong, Civil Eatsâ œA helpful reference for fisherfolk, cooks, coastal explorers, and anyone interested in our local marine environment.â • --Kristina Sepetys, Edible East Bayâ œLombard is a divinely inspired whack jobâ ”think Frank Zappa meets Aldo Leopold. If you have ever considered the idea of gathering something good to eat from the beach or surf...you need this book.â • --Bill Heavey, editor-at-large, Field & Streamâ œLombard is a master of the nearshore environment, knowledgeable (and hilarious). This is, simply put, the best book on this subject ever written.â • --Hank Shaw, James Beard Award-winning author, Hunter Angler Gardener Cookbookâ œThe definitive guide to foraging the Northern Californian coast. Kirk has created an ecosystem that allows us to be sustainable citizens and, more importantly, sustainable eaters.â • --Andrew Zimmern, James Beard Award-winning television host, Bizarre Foods with Andrew Zimmern

In *The Sea Forager's Guide to the Northern California Coast*, Kirk Lombard combines a startling depth of knowledge with wry humor and colorful storytelling to guide readers' quests to hook fish, dig clams, and pick seaweed for themselves. Leighton Kelly's stunning, occasionally idiosyncratic illustrations complement practical instructions for gathering a variety of fish and seafood and delicious recipes for what to do with each catch. Lombard, a former staff member at the state Department of Fish and Game and founder of the foraging tour company/seafood delivery service *Sea Forager Seafood*, insists that his readers follow all regulations and encourages sustainable practices above and beyond what the State of California requires. This quirky and useful how-to is sure to inspire an empowering epicurean adventure.

Anyone who fishes (or clams or collects anything from the California coast) will love this book. In fact, anyone on the west coast of the USA, from Baja California up to BC, will learn how to catch, gather, clean, and cook fish, clams, mussels, eels, crabs, and seaweed from this witty and complete fishing compendium. Kirk Lombard worked for 7 years as an observer for The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission before becoming "The Sea Forager" in the San Francisco Bay Area. He conducts fishing classes, does demonstrations, and sells sustainable seafood. Info on all his coastal activities at: [...]  
Full disclosure: I've been to one of Kirk's fishing demos, attended a seminar on making pickled herring, and went fishing with him for night smelt (caught 15 lbs. that night, netting them in the surf.) I've gotten a ton of useful info from him, including tonight, when I used his technique for getting the skin off horseneck clam siphons (slit lengthwise, soak in warm water for 10 min.) before making clam fritters. He tells you how to catch salmon, halibut, rockfish, striped bass,

and 8-10 other kinds of fish, how to gather 15 different types of shellfish, how to pickle seaweed (I've got a jar of pickled kelp in the frig right now, and put ground-up dried seaweed on omelets, potatoes, anything hot). He's big on the small fish in the area "herring, anchovies, smelt, grunion, and mackerel" because they're low on the food chain, super healthy, and take pressure off the popular fish. He's got a sense of humor, plays in a band, and has fun with his work and teaching. The book is very nicely illustrated by Leighton Kelly.

An absolutely fantastic resource for anyone who loves seafood, California, the ocean, and getting your hands dirty (or wet as it were). Kirk does a fantastic job of putting together the details with the lore (and some recipes as well). The stories and anecdotes alone are worth the read, even if you never pick up a poke pole! It's not a list of places to fish, but contains all the other essential information you need to inspire and prepare you for some coastal sea food exploring and experimenting. For those of us who have been sort of "mini sea foragers" our whole lives, this book opens your eyes to what's really out there and how and why to start getting it yourself. I've been reading about poke poling in California for a decade or more but it took Kirk's book (and some of his videos) to convince me I wanted to try it myself, and I am now hooked (pun intended).

You don't have to collect your meals from the sea to love this book though there is more than a little practical information here for you if you do. I have only rarely done so, but I read the entire book in one sitting (though not in sequence). The storytelling and illustrations are fun and elucidating. Anyone mindful of our relationship with nature will relate. Kirk's reverence and thoughtfulness for the sea and its creatures (and plants) are compelling. He may be the Aldo Leopold of tide pools: "The last word in ignorance is the man who says of [a sea creature]: 'What good is it?'" Recommended.

Amazing book! As a new resident of the Bay Area, I had actually stumbled upon the Sea Forager when visiting SF about a year ago. When I moved here, I saw this book on display at a big box book store, and thumbed through it. It was exactly what I was looking for. A must-have for any new angler to the Bay, whether looking for advice on how to get started to surf and pier fishing, or if you're new to the area and trying to figure the West Coast species and locations out. Had this book stolen when my car was broken into (it was in a backpack, I know, can't do that in the city), and I purchased it to have with me when I'm out fishing.

Awesome book full of priceless information and wit. I keep chuckling as I read through it from all the humorous anecdotes. The info on N Cal ocean fishing is unparalleled in print or internet. I am a big do-it-yourself type, learn-as-I-go. This book has something to offer even the most seasoned ocean foragers. I write a good review because I think more people should buy his book, even though it pains me to let more people in on the secrets of the near-shore bounty. The ocean is a dangerous and fickle mother. ;)

This book is a wealth of knowledge about all the sea has to offer on the west coast. Not only is it fun to read, but it also contains very descriptive and practical information on methods of foraging as well as a couple of DIY projects. I have taken one of Kirk's classes on the marina, and after reading this book I'm ready to take a couple more. Thank you, Kirk, for sharing your decades of experience!

Well written, funny, interesting. Tons of great information, especially if you already know something about the coastal Sea Life of Northern California. Best parts: eating shark ceviche, description of the taste of one of the more disgusting small fish... Look for it and you will know when you find it...

A VERY entertaining and informative read. The recipes are tried and true. The book is the real deal and many of the honorable mentions are local, legends on the water!

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