

## Sep's Outdoors

### 2010 WESTERN WILDLIFE TAXIDERMY CONTEST WINNER

Sep,

Attached is an important picture to my family. It is a picture of the first Salmon caught by my youngest (7 years old at the time). We caught that fish last September while trolling for Stripers on the Sacramento River out of Knights Landing. Since it was out of season, we had to quickly let it go. Luckily we got a quick picture, weighted it on a boga grip (9lbs). The kids were really disappointed when we released it, as it was my youngest biggest fish, first salmon, and favorite fish to eat. But in the end, they learned a good lesson about wildlife conservation and following fishing regulations.

Winning the contest would be important to me because it would allow me to give my son something that would help him remember that fish for the rest of his life. I still remember my first Salmon, I wish I had a mount to remember it. We still talk about that fish, my son talks about how he released it and how it went on to swim upstream to spawn so we can all catch more salmon in a few years.

It isn't always about the size or rarity of the fish, sometimes it is about the story behind it and the memory that can last a lifetime.

Thanks,  
Craig Iwata

