**Christmas Eve**

***MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE STAFF OF H&M LANDING!***

***WE WILL BE CLOSED ON CHRISTMAS DAY.***

**‘T-was the night before Christmas, and all across the water not a creature was stirring, not even an otter**

**Rods were geared up with fresh line and plastics, in hope that Bluefin trips shall be so fantastic.**

**Anglers were nestled all snug in their beds, visions of tuna danced in their heads.**

**We all were set in rubbers and glory, while the crew sat down to watch A Christmas Story.**

**When out on the water arose such a clatter, I sprang from the galley to see what was the matter.**

**Away to the rail I dashed like a runner, I leaped up and started to chum her.**

**The moonlight showed the remains of a ripple, the excitement had me frozen, almost a cripple,**

**When to my wondering eyes did appear, but a giant bluefin I had to commandeer.**

**Like a little old angler, so quiet and quick, I grabbed the Ugly Stick.**

**More rapid than eagle claws my casts how they flew, only to get a nibble or two.**

**Now Penn! Now Daiwa! Now Calstar and Plano! On Crankers! On Spinners! On Divers and Irons!**

**To the top of the water! To the bottom and all, cast away, cast away, cast away all!**

**As squids to the light, like wild pelicans fly, the Big One’s silhouette I see on the fly!**

**So up went my rod as I set the hook, surprised that a few cranks was all that it took.**

**Then in a twinkling, I heard a small sound, but no other creature was even around.**

**As I drew in my catch, and extracted the bait, the fish said, “What’s up? My name is Nate.”**

**He was dressed all in scales, from his mouth to his tail, his color was deep and mine had turned pale.**

**I set him down easy upon the deck, and he waved at me with the fin on his pec.**

**His eyes how they twinkled! His tail, how strong! His gills were like roses, his body so long!**

**His droll little mouth was drawn up like a smile, I stood there frozen for what seemed like a while.**

**I had cut my fingers on his sharp little teeth, his wide open mouth was the size of a wreath.**

**He had a scarred face and a huge round belly that shook when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.**

**He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old fish, I laughed when I saw him, in spite of my wish.**

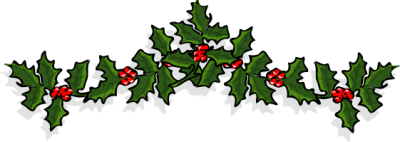
**A wink of his eye and a twist of his head told me to know I had nothing to dread!**

**He said, “Thanks for letting me catch you tonight, since it’s Christmas I feared I’d have nothing to bite,**

**But I splashed and you came, like I called you by name.**

**Now put me back in and I’ll take a breath, and tell you the secrets from down in the depths.**

**Then I heard him exclaim, ere he swam out of sight, “Merry Christmas to all, and to all … fish at night.”**



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