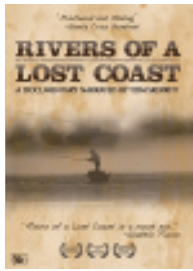


# MEDIA *RIVERS OF A LOST COAST*

A HISTORICAL DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF STEELHEADING



RIVERS OF A LOST  
COAST

A Documentary  
Narrated By Tom  
Skerritt from *A River  
Runs Through It*

Written and Directed  
by Justin Coupe and  
Palmer Taylor

\$29.95

riversofalostcoast.com



“Fishing these rivers today—it’s like visiting a dead friend’s grave.” FRANK BERTAINA, lifelong West Coast steelheader.

Words:  
Rob Elam

EVERY WEST COAST FISHERMAN understands the plight of native salmon and steelhead: They are vanishing, or have vanished altogether. *Rivers of a Lost Coast*, a wholly original documentary film by Justin Coupe and Palmer Taylor with narration by actor Tom Skerritt, offers an astonishing firsthand account of lost rivers and lost fish, through the eyes of California’s original dirtbag steelheaders. The same dirtbag steelheaders who contributed, in their own unique way, to the destruction of the rivers and fish and lifestyle they loved most.

The film traces the energetic ascent and devastating descent of steelhead and salmon flyfishing on the Smith, Eel, and Russian rivers of Northern California. The filmmakers have unearthed fascinating vintage photos and footage documenting the development of flyfishing techniques from the Golden Age of West

Coast flyfishing innovation, with its epicenter in San Francisco.

The original, prototypical steelhead-bum lifestyle is defined through the voices of its earliest practitioners. Larger-than-life characters such as Bill Schaadt and Ted Linder—the hardest of the hardcore fly anglers. Men who gave up family, work, and the trappings of comfortable life to wholly dedicate themselves to the disease of steelhead fly angling. This film is worth owning for the history lessons alone.

Ultimately, *Rivers of a Lost Coast* is a story of loss, how ample testosterone and status seeking led these pioneers into a myopic view of their sport that allowed anadromous species to disappear right beneath their fly lines.

As in most things West Coast, this historic California story is the current reality of Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. History repeats itself. The profoundly personal pleas for awareness and lessons learned should be heard loud and clear by all steelheaders. To some, this is a story about time and place, about a California that was. To others, it is a story about who we are, what we need to understand, and where we are going. ☞

◀ABOVE, PHOTO▶

ROLC studio wallpapered with steelhead ghosts and memories. “Our office looked like a crime investigation.” Quote: Palmer Taylor. Photo: Justin Coupe.