

LODI ENTERPRISE

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Not just breaded cod served up for this Friday night tradition

Fish Tales in Lodi also capitalizes on the fishy tradition, but owner Randy Kaltenberg said he and his wife Shelly, who have owned Fish Tales for eight years, have used the Friday Fish Fry phenomenon to bring the unique flavors of America's coasts to the Midwest's Dairy State.

"On Friday nights, we have options on our menu that you've never even heard of," Kaltenberg said. "People love our seafood specials because it reminds them of vacations on the coast and you just can't get that high-quality seafood for a reasonable, affordable price here in Wisconsin."

Each Friday, the Kaltenbergs serve as many as four different seafood specials ranging from teriyaki salmon with tropical fruit garnish to potato-crust sole. The specials cost between \$12.95 and \$17.95, and the seafood is flown-in fresh on Fridays from the coast. Shelly prepares the specials herself.

"She comes up with all the recipes, all the sides, and is constantly coming up with something new each week to provide different and exciting seafood options to our customers every Friday," Kaltenberg said.

Of course Fish Tales provides a Friday Fish Fry mainstay, beer-battered haddock, and Kaltenberg said he goes through about 50 pounds of the classic Fish Fry feature each Friday night. But the haddock's popularity pales in comparison to the approximate 80 pounds of alternative seafood options consumed at Fish Tales on Friday nights.

"We really go above and beyond what you'd expect at a typical Fish Fry," Kaltenberg said. "And that's why our clientele keeps coming back because they know they can get the classic Fish Fry here but if they feel like trying

something a little different, we got that too."

Kaltenberg's favorite of his wife's Friday night seafood creations? The Cajun sea bass served over pasta.

"Everything she comes up with is a hit, but that one especially," Kaltenberg said.



Photo by Gina Covelli

Teriyaki grilled salmon with a tropical fruit garnish is one Friday night option

offered at Fish Tales restaurant in Lodi.

Although you can enjoy a Friday Night Fish Fry each Friday of the year, warm summer nights provide the perfect opportunity to go for a drive, sample new places and get hooked on this Wisconsin Friday night tradition. Don't let the long lines scare you off

because after all, the best things in life are worth waiting for, right?

So get your friends together, find a patio corner, order a cold drink, and let laughter and conversation provide the soundtrack to your Friday Night Fish Fry fun.