

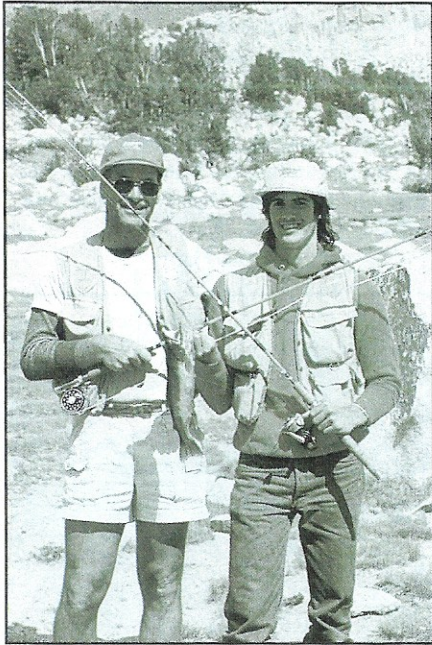
# News

DFG office in Bishop, predicts even better results in the future. He even feels the next state record could be finning in these forlorn waters.

## FATHER/SON TEAM FINDS SIERRA GOLD

Nestled high in the Eastern Sierra above French Canyon, a trio of backcountry lakes are noted for growing some of the largest golden trout in California.

Since June 23, 1987, Steelhead, Royce #2



*Don Vachini (left) and Jason Vachini (right) have taken 12 world records from High Sierra lakes.*

and Puppet lakes, located in the John Muir Wilderness between Fresno and Bishop, have produced a dozen line or tippet class world records for outdoor writer (and California Angler contributor) Don Vachini and his 19 year-old son, Jason. Using meticulous stalking approaches with tiny nymphs and yellow-hued spinners, this father/son team has managed to unlock the mysteries of these vast, deep and completely rockbound waters near 12,000 feet.

Most recent standards were established on an August 21-22, 1990 trek to Puppet Lake, when Don bettered his own 10-pound line class record with a 1-pound, 13-ounce *Salmo aqua-bonita*. Jason set the new 8-pound tippet class with a 1-pound, 14-ounce lunger. Joining this duo was Andy Gough, who claimed the 4-pound tippet class with a 1-pound, 14-ounce golden. All records are with the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame.

With several unverified catches up to 5 pounds and frequent reports of leviathans in the 6-8 pound range, Darrell Wong, of the