

Waterbar



Aquariums help set the mood at Waterbar.

Waterbar is a few blocks outside the normal lunchtime range of workers in San Francisco's Financial District. Yet its setting right on the water near the Bay Bridge is the seafood place's greatest draw.

"You can move outside of the office and get psychologically transported to a place that makes you feel really good," said Pete Sittnick, a managing partner at Waterbar. The restaurant has 35 patio seats and dozens more with views of the bay.

Waterbar, a rare new-construction project on the Embarcadero, took five years to build. It finally opened right before the recession hit. When business dropped, the restaurant started offering \$1 oysters between 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., a deal it has maintained.



Raw oysters, prepared by Anthony Rizzi, are \$1 each most of the day.

Keeping with the disclose-everything trend, Waterbar's menu lists where a fish was caught and in some cases includes the name of the boat, so diners who had the grilled Tombo tuna recently were told it was hook-and-line caught by the "Mariah" off Honolulu.

The shrimp tacos with homemade tortillas (\$16) are a popular lunchtime meal, said Mr. Sittnick. Other entrees, which start at \$15, include grilled Monterey calamari, seared whitefish and an Anchor Steam-battered cod sandwich.

"It's definitely nice on a sunny day," said Clay Stafford, an investment adviser in San Francisco.

Waterbar is located at 399 Embarcadero South in San Francisco and serves lunch between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.