

# HAA NEE NAA NEWS

F I S H I N G N E W S F R O M H A A N E E N A A L O D G E

2000

## IN THIS ISSUE

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Hall of Fame 2

2001 Fishing Forecast 2

To Guide or Not to Guide 2

Memorable and Not So Memorable Moments 3

Focus Fishing Hole 3

The Tackle Shop 3

Recipe Box 4

Testimonials 4

Suggestion Box 4

## CAN YOU SAY TYEE?

*What a year for large chinook salmon. Haa Nee Naa Lodge guests boated an astonishing 134 Tyees (over 30 lbs.) in 2000. What started off as a rather spotty early June turned into some of the hottest action lodge guests have ever experienced in our 9 years of operation. Twenty-five fish over 40 pounds, seven whoppers over 50 and 2 mammoths over 60 pounds were tagged by ecstatic lodge fishermen. Although the runs were a little late last season, the majority of the big fish were crammed into a one month span. That made it a month to remember.*

Lodge guests boated a record breaking 777 chinook last season and harvested 553 of those. Unlike the Queen Charlotte Islands limits stayed at 2 chinook per day of any size and 4 in possession. The average

humpback whales made the island home for a better part of a month. Many times they were observed blowing bubbles around bait schools to disorient them and then coming up with their behemoth mouths wide open, tiny silver herring spewing out the sides, many of them wounded only to be picked off by waiting gulls or hungry salmon. As August approached several guests experienced one of our newest areas and techniques to fish. We call it the "Puget Sound mooch" because it is similar to the traditional fishery that takes place around Seattle and the Sound. The only differences are that we catch a heck of a lot more fish and we target several species at once. We first find the 'edge' where the bait fish are schooled up and send our cut plug herring spiraling to the bottom at a slow steady pace. If the cut plug makes it past the hungry coho in the top 100 feet it was a guarantee that either a chinook, halibut, ling cod, dogfish, or variety of other rockfish species would gobble it close to the bottom. It was a rare occasion on most days to drop down and not end up with something on your line. This area and method increased our chinook catches well into August for feeder chinook in the 10 - 25 pound range.

As August wore on fly fishermen starting appearing at the lodge to take in the incredible fly fishing that the island beholds. Although coho numbers were relatively low in comparison to previous years the fishing was still very good on the fly. Some fly fishermen hooked into over a dozen coho a day, throw in a few pink salmon a couple dozen grilse coho and a few rock fish and you have a great experience. A must for fly fishing enthusiasts will be the 2001 season

*Year in Review (Continued on Next Page)*



*We're sooo proud!*

take home weight of these hard fighting chrome bullets was 24.46 lbs. One hundred and eighty seven guests fished during our chinook season that equates to 4.15 chinook per person. Considering that only 45% of lodge guests were guided these are truly impressive numbers.

The weather was also very impressive last season and with the exception of a few groups the seas were as calm as I have seen them in recent memory. It makes fishing even that much more enjoyable when it's flat calm out.

Bait fish in schools like I have never seen before infested Dundas Island throughout the season. Monstrous schools of 4-6 inch herring were prevalent throughout most of June and July and as August came it was a wonder that any fish would take your bait or fly with the vast expanses of 2-3 inch jack herring. So much herring in fact that 3



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*Year in Review (Continued from Cover)*

when numbers of fish should be huge and catches on the fly could easily average 8 - 10 per day, depending on the angler of course. On those great days expectations of 20 plus fish are probable. Bring your 7-9 weight fly rod with a large capacity fly reel sporting at least 150 yards of backing and a full sink fly line; **Scientific Anglers** Type 5 full sink line is highly recommended for this type of fishing. If you don't have this outfit the lodge has several combos that can be borrowed for your trip. A selection of saltwater flies such as Clouser minnows or any needle fish and herring patterns will work well. A fully equipped fly tying bench is available for the guests to use at the lodge and experiment with their own creations. In 2001 look for Peter Morrison a professional caster, teacher and factory representative for Sage rods and Scientific Angler to be doing 2 seminars at the lodge in August. In 1999 Peter was selected as a member of the Team Canada that competed in the annual New Zealand saltfly tournament. He will go over all aspects of saltwater fly fishing for salmon from casting lessons, fly selection, fly tying, anchoring, productive areas and much more. These seminars are completely free of charge to our guests and are included when booking your trip at this time of year. It should be a great trip to partake in so book early as spots are limited and going fast.

Although coho fishing was open all season 10 miles from the lodge the waters surrounding Dundas Island did not open until Aug. 22 with a limit of 1 fish per day 2 in possession. Sept. 2 saw the limits double to 4 fish in possession. We're expecting the same to hold true in 2001 so if you're interested in keeping coho look at booking your trip a little later in the season. At this time however we are unsure of D.F.O. management plans and it would be hard to speculate what is going to happen.

In 2001 guests can expect much of the same great service from our staff as they've had in previous years. Add that to fabulous fishing; great food; calm, protected, uncrowded waters; clean, comfortable, cozy guest rooms and a relaxed family style atmosphere and this is what sets Haa Nee Naa Lodge apart from our competitors. Just ask one of the many 90% repeat guests that come back every year.

**H A L L O F F A M E**

**2000 LARGEST CHINOOK SALMON**

Paul Koehrsen	Albany, OR	66 lbs.	Guided
Chris Darby	Vancouver, B.C.	61 lbs.	Unguided
Kyle Alexander	Scotts Valley, AZ	55 lbs.	Guided
Roland Haebler	Vancouver, B.C.	54 lbs.	Guided
John Thompson	Redmond, WA	53 lbs.	Guided
Don Stewart	Vancouver, B.C.	52 lbs.	Unguided
Dean Thompson	Gig Harbor, WA	52 lbs.	Guided
Bob Fulton	Puyallup, WA	52 lbs.	Guided
Murdoch Macleod	Vancouver, B.C.	50 lbs.	Guided



**2001 FISHING FORECAST**

**S**almon fishing this upcoming year should be nothing short of spectacular. Coming off the fantastic broad year of 1997 chinook

numbers should be well above average on the north coast in 2001. Expect large runs of 30 pound plus fish again this coming summer.

The coho salmon cutbacks now reaching their fourth year are showing huge benefits of the non-retention recreational and commercial fisheries. Coho numbers should be as high or higher than ever seen in recent history, if ocean survival rates maintain at the levels they presently sit. Fly fishing should be just terrific for acrobatic 8 - 18 chrome fish. A retention of coho is expected again this year however at this time dates and numbers of fish are still to be announced by the Department of Fisheries.

Although the biomes of Pacific Halibut coast wide is on the decline this shouldn't effect fishing for the flat ones on Dundas Island all that much. Expect halibut to once again be good and hopefully the schools will enter the waters a little earlier this season. Although the great fishing took a little while to get going in 2000 it came on like gang busters and most guests that tried for these great table fare fish went home with their limits.

So get on the phone and book your trip to Haa Nee Naa lodge for what should be some outstanding action in 2001.

**TO GUIDE OR NOT TO GUIDE...**

**M**any guests ask me the question when booking a trip to HNNL; "Do I need to be guided at your resort?" The answer to that question is no, Haa Nee Naa Lodge provides all guests with top of the line boats, motors and fishing equipment needed to catch that trophy salmon or halibut. The resort is anchored close to the fishing grounds and only minutes away on calm protected waters. A thorough area and fishing orientation is given prior to any guests hitting the water. Guests can fish from dawn until dusk with unlimited time on the water in search of that fish of a lifetime.

Lodge statistics show however a much greater catch percentage on guided boats. In 2000 Haa Nee Naa guides caught over 71% of the chinook landed at the lodge. Only 45% of the lodge guests were guided last season. This equates to an average of over 7 chinook per guest on the guided boats and 1.78 chinook per guest on the unguided vessels.

For the first time salmon fisherman or those individuals who wish to relax a little more, the small daily fee for a guide is well worth the price. The average guided day is 10-12 hours which costs approximately \$8 per hour per person based on double occupancy. Guides need to be booked well in advance, because a limited amount of guides can be housed at the lodge. If you want to be guided call early. Haa Nee Naa Lodge guides are all local, professional, first class fishermen who will make your trip an experience to remember. Those of you who do fish a lot

and prefer to fish alone, our guides' local knowledge and fishing ability are still recommended for at least one day of your trip. It may make the difference in a fabulous trip or a so-so trip and it is money well spent.

**MEMORABLE AND NOT SO MEMORABLE MOMENTS OF 2000**

**SHRIMP PATE' ANYONE ?**

Who could ever forget the bottomfish trip that Steve Russell and Palmer Sather Jr. took with Clay in early June. In a moderate SW swell Palmer was getting quite green behind the gills and like a true sailor he fought off the urges to get sick, all until he boated a nice red snapper. When Clay clubbed the fish into submission it proceeded to send a projectile vomit at 110 miles per hour right into the face of Palmer who was sitting on the skippers chair 3 feet away. So much shrimp pate' that it covered his face and glasses rendering him momentarily blind. Needless to say the fish wasn't the only one vomiting now. Poor Palmer spent the next 2 hours looking at the interior wall lining of his stomach, while Steve reeled in all the fish.

**BEST LUCK—WORST LUCK**

How about young Klye Alexander the 15 year old from Santa Clara CA, who I featured in last year's column. The kid was on fire again this year as he landed a 55.5 pounder and a 47 pounder on the same trip. Add that to his two biggest last year which were 56.5 and 40 pounds and you've got one lucky fisherman. I'll be betting on him in any derby he enters next year! Congratulations Klye.

Honorable mention: goes to Don Stewart from Vancouver B.C. who hand lined in his 52 pound trophy chinook when the reel he was using seized. "That's what happens when you bring your own gear to the lodge that hasn't been serviced since it came out of the box in 1956, Don."

**TIP OF THE HAT**

Goes to Paul Koehrsen who on July 30 landed the second largest chinook ever taken at the lodge. The whopper was weighed in at an impressive 66 lbs. un-bled. After being bled it weighed in at a little more than 64 pounds. Congratulations Paul. Truly a once in a lifetime fish !!

Honorable mention goes to another huge fish over 60 pounds caught by Chris Darby

from Vancouver B.C. It weighed in at 61 pounds bled and was caught un-guided. Chris also took home 2 other respectable Tyees weighing 46 and 36 pounds not to mention all the fish he released while high grading the big ones. See you next year Chris, that's if your Dad will still invite you? You know how Jim likes to be the one to catch all the big fish.

**GILLIGAN'S ISLAND**

How about Mike Snorsky's 3 hour tour of Gilligan's Island. When Mike went to drop off his lovely wife on the beach to recuperate from seasickness he spent a little too long, doing what, I'm not quite sure. As circumstance would have it the tide was dropping fast and he became high and dry. He not only missed one of the best bites of the year but he had to hear us call on the radio every 5 minutes and tell him how hot it really was ! Frustrating! Chalk it up to experience Mike.



**FOCUS FISHING HOLE**

**R**EEL, REEL, REEL

screamed the guide, "it's coming up, it's coming up". As the line goes even more slack, 15 pounds of silver explodes out of the water a short distance from the boat... This scenario was an all too familiar one last August for several Haa Nee Naa Lodge guests as they converged on the Kelp Patch a 30 minute boat ride from the lodge. Cut plugged herring sent spiralling to the bottom was the bait of choice and would be picked off by hungry coho and chinook alike. One amazing statistic was the hook up ratio in comparison to motor mooching. We estimate that this type of fishing produced a 90% hook up rate compared to the 50-60% for motor mooched bait. A real hands on experience that guests thoroughly enjoyed. Working the rod and reel much more so than motor mooching adds a little more excitement to your day.

Locating the bait was the key at the Kelp Patch, and with the vast schools of herring and needle fish in the area all it took was slowly searching with the Lowrance sounders until a ball was located. Once a bait ball was found either free drifting or backing into the current to position the boat was crucial. The bait was then rigged on a 5 foot leader and sent into depths from 120 to 275 feet. The

largest chinook taken at the Patch was by Barbara Hall on Aug. 3, it weighed in at 40 pounds bled.

If you're interested in halibut you would leave your bait suspended 10 - 15 feet off the bottom for a couple of minutes before slowly retrieving it to the surface. More times than not the bait would last only seconds on the bottom before being engulfed by the hungry bottom dwellers. Many, many double headers were caught this way. Halibut and a chinook at the same time or a chinook and coho, you just never knew what it would be. That's what makes fishing at Haa Nee Naa Lodge such an adventure. Each year we learn more about fish habits and migratory patterns. Different techniques and areas are added to our repertoire, this keeps it exciting and different for our returning guests.

The experience of the sport is what keeps us all coming back; being in the fresh Pacific air while whales and porpoises dance playfully about your boat and majestic bald eagles soar the updrafts and currents waiting for that ever present meal. Good friends, laughter and the thrill of the chase are what make those ever lasting memories.

There are many places you can go catch fish , however none are quite like the adventure, comraderie and thrill you will experience at Haa Nee Naa Lodge.

**THE TACKLE SHOP THE PERFECT MOOCHING BOAT**

**S**ubtle designs in the boat you're fishing can make all the difference in the world when it comes to having a successful trip. Haa Nee Naa Lodge prides itself in having a fleet of extremely good boats to mooch from. As one of our happy guests Don Stewart said " I've been to countless lodges up and down the coast and your boats are truly the nicest unguided boats I have ever fished out of".

Start with safe, reliable, quiet 40 hp Honda 4 stroke motors that purr along smoke free all day and strap it on one of our custom built 16 foot welded aluminum fishing machines and you have a boat that can take all the abuse the north coast has to offer. But the boat and motor are not the only things that ensure you have a good mooching boat. Placement of the equipment, electronics, rod holders etc. all play an intricate part in how the boat fishes. All our outboards are

*The Tackle Shop (Continued on Next Page)*

**R E C I P E R B O X**  
**WINSOME'S CURRIED HALIBUT ENGLISH STYLE**

*INGREDIENTS:*

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>6 pieces Halibut</i> | <i>3 tbsp curry powder</i> |
| <i>6 Tbsp olive oil</i> | <i>4-1/2 cups milk</i>     |
| <i>3 medium onions</i>  | <i>3 tbsp brown sugar</i>  |
| <i>6 tbsp flour</i>     | <i>3 tbsp vinegar</i>      |
| <i>3 tbsp tumeric</i>   | <i>1 tsp salt</i>          |

Roll fish in flour and then dip in a beaten egg. Cook fish until just a little under done and then set aside.

**Sauce:** Put oil in large fry pan and add sliced onions; cook until soft but not brown. Add flour, curry powder, tumeric and salt and stir until mixture becomes a thick paste. Slowly stir in milk, at this add vinegar and sugar and stir well. If the mixture looks too thick slowly add more milk until the sauce is the consistency of a thick gravy or your desired thickness.

Place fish in ovenproof dish and pour the sauce over it. Place in a preheated oven at 350 degrees for about ten minutes, just enough to heat the fish but not cook.

Serve over rice or potatoes and enjoy how the wonderful mild curry enhances the taste of the pacific halibut.

*This recipe was sent to us by Winsome Morrison, who along with her husband Keith reside in Christchurch, England. The Morrison's have been long time visitors to B.C. and over the past 20 years they have fished at many resorts along the coast, including three trips to Haa Nee Naa Lodge.*

**TESTIMONIALS**

"I really appreciate everyone helping make what was an amazing experience for me. All the guides worked so hard to lead me to fish and help me land them. Your advice on how to land them must have been good, considering what I brought home. The lodge staff are simply outstanding. I can't find any more words except to say thank you. Your whole operation is very impressive and it's so nice to see people take so much pride in what they do. It is all the small details such as hot muffins for the morning break, the smiles, the congratulations and even Clayton nagging that make a good trip an outstanding one."

*Mike Munro The Pas, Manitoba July 2000*

"Thanks so much for undoubtedly the best fishing trip ever. I had to buy a new freezer to accommodate all the fish! My family was happy for two reasons: the old man had actually caught some fish, and I had some nice stories, pictures and memories to share."

*Duane Fagergren, Shelton, WA June 2000*

"I'm sorry I didn't get to thank you before we left the lodge for a wonderful fishing trip. We were again thoroughly pampered by you and your excellent crew. Bruce and I will remember the trip for a long time. In my case, probably for the rest of my life since I caught the fish of a lifetime on my own fishing equipment with my good friend and landing it in choppy water. Thanks for the memories."

*Fremont Burrows, Chehalis, WA June 2000*

**SUGGESTION BOX**

**M**ake your stay at Haa Nee Naa Lodge a more memorable one. Jenn and Clay would love to hear from you if you have any suggestions or comments that would help us serve you better. Please fax any comments to 1-800-668-8955 or e-mail us at silverbk@citytel.net

*The Tackle Shop (Continued from Previous Page)*

equipped with automatic troll plates to ensure the slow trolling speed that motor mooching requires. The boats are then equipped with Lowrance depth sounders and VHF radios so when there's a bite on you'll know about it. Safety was our number one goal in setting up these vessels, they are virtually unsinkable. The automatic bilge pump is backed up by a manual hand pump and a large bucket in case of an accident where the boat is taking on water. The boats are equipped with comfortable cushioned seats which can be moved around the boat for different situations. Built on cutting boards allow guests to sit in their seat while cutting bait and baiting their hooks, a definite advantage in rough seas. Three coolers accompany the guests, one for drinks, one for bait and one for brined herring. Once you've landed your trophy, place the fish into the built in fish locker where it can be bled easily and is kept cold until it can be sent to the lodge for processing. Other features include; a fully stocked tackle box, area charts, first aid kit, spare fuel can, fire extinguisher, paddle, flares, clean hand towels, tow line, gaff, large landing net, fish billy, toilet paper, built in drink holders, coffee thermos, cruiser suits, 2 sharp fillet knives, weight scale, 10.5 foot mooching rods, halibut rods. All of these features plus many more make fishing out of a Haa Nee Naa Lodge vessel a much more pleasurable experience for you.

**HAA NEE NAA**

**H**aa Nee Naa Lodge is a retreat in Paradise where you'll find:

Tiny blue umbrella jellyfish riding on the tide;

Herbie, the eagle, perched on a rock island, watching and waiting for his rock cod snack;

Porpoises skimming the surface, dancing and crashing the boat;

Killer whales gliding and breaching playfully along the shore;

Elusive or plentiful salmon depending on the day;

The call of "HAL--I--BUT," inviting other fishermen join the adventure;

HELLO AND WELCOME !

*Poem submitted by Barbara Hall of Jamul, California, after her 5 day stay in Aug. 2000 with husband Terry.*