

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

1999

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'T WAS THE SEASON

Another season of Department of Fisheries and Oceans mismanagement again made life as a B.C. lodge owner extremely un-lucrative. A preview of coho management plans were announced in April by then fisheries minister David Anderson, he called for the 'loosing of the noose' that he had put around the necks of recreational fishermen in B.C. for the last 2 seasons. After all the promises he made in April Mr. Anderson went against all his western management staff and biologists advice and sold out to the political pressures from other interest groups.

He imposed the same strict conservation methods as last season which were fatal to many smaller operations around the province. The announcement was once again not until mid June which as

It is uncertain what the future will bring as far as coho management but with the decrease in pressure of the commercial fleet chinook numbers have also gone way up. Our chinook salmon fishery was second to none in 1999. Lodge guests boated 657 chinook salmon with the average weight being 20.75 pounds. The average weight was down from 1998 however the catch increased by almost 35% over our previously best season which was in 1997. Haa-Nee-Naa Lodge hosted 141 anglers during the chinook season they boated 126 Tyees (30 lb. plus) chinook of which 25 were over 40lbs., 5 over 50 lbs. and 2 over 60 lbs. The average catch per angler was 4.66 chinook per trip with an average take home weight of 22.57 pounds. Fabulous numbers of big fish, calm water and many double and triple headers made it an outstanding chinook fishery last summer. As the season wore on and customers became few the coho fishing got better and better. Lodge guests starting catching these chrome bullets using environmentally friendly fishing techniques. Fly fishing for coho in the saltwater is just in the pioneer stages on the north coast. Lodge guests starting to dial in fly patterns and specific areas with great success last summer. A truly unique experience that must be experienced to be appreciated. Casting a fly to hungry, feeding coho in the 8-15 pound range can make even the most experienced angler squeal with pleasure. You needn't be a fly fishing guru to hook these bullets on the fly, an average caster may expect to get 12-15 to the fly in an 6-8 hour day. On better days good anglers can exceed 20 fish to the fly per day. A very low mortality is associated with catch and release fly fishing, below 2%, we found it even lower under most circumstances.

Year in Review (Continued on Next Page)



Yours truly sampling the excellent and very exciting catch and release fly fishing in early August.

everyone knows spells death to those trying to market a coho fishery. Regardless of the limits anything shy of an early spring announcement makes it very hard to get the word out to potential clients. With the curtailing of all the fisheries coho numbers once again blossomed and with no commercial fishery taking place on Dundas Island, schools of coho infested the waters as early as July. Schools so large and in such numbers that fishing for chinook became very difficult on some days. Many a perfectly placed cut plug herring was mauled by hungry coho intent on fattening up for their upstream migrations. Ten miles to the north of the lodge (30 minutes by boat) an area was open to the retention of coho salmon with bag limits of 1 per day and 2 in possession. Several days saw lodge guests run over the calm waters of Dixon Entrance to harvest their limit of chrome bright silver salmon.



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Year in Review (Continued from Cover)

Putting these torpedoes back into the ocean to fight again is a truly unique thrill. While fly fishing for coho, anglers can also hook pink, chum and even the occasional chinook salmon which will push your 8 or 9 weight fly outfit to the max. Plenty of backing is required behind a full sinking line, topped off with an 8-10 foot leader of 10-15 pound test to fish effectively for saltwater salmon. Saltwater flies such as Clouser Minnow patterns or a needle fish replica pattern all work well with chartreuse, green and purple being favorite Dundas Island choices.

Crippled minnow patterns also can be very effective. With the salmon feeding on 99% bait fish in the Dundas Island area patterns should mimic either sandlance (needlefish) or herring which abound in the areas' rich waters. Guests may also target the vast variety of rockfish that reside in the area. Hooking large black sea bass up to 8lbs. is a common occurrence while fly fishing the rock piles and reefs.

Plans are already underway to make your 2000 stay at Haa-Nee-Naa Lodge a little more enjoyable. Lodge fishing tenders will again be upgraded with more dry storage space, better depth sounders and the reliable 40 hp Honda outboards serviced as always so they run like a top when you arrive. Bigger and wider docks will be added with your safety and comfort in mind. You can have great salmon fishing anywhere on the coast of B.C. but our attention to detail is the main reason why most of our guests continue to come back time and again. Fabulous fishing; great food; calm, protected, uncrowded waters; comfortable, clean and cozy guest rooms and a relaxed family style atmosphere are only a few of the things that sets Haa-Nee-Naa Lodge apart from the rest.



Fly fishermen can also target an array of rock fish like this chunky black bass.

H A L L O F F A M E

1999 LARGEST CHINOOK SALMON

Jenette Paquette	Cupertino, CA	62 lbs.	Guided
Norm Ralston	Aloha, OR	60.5 lbs.	Unguided
Kyle Alexander	Scotts Valley, AZ	56.5 lbs.	Guided
Francis Willis	Calgary, AB	56 lbs.	Unguided
Mike Levy	Toronto, ON	53 lbs.	Guided
Doug Halward	Abbotsford, BC	51 lbs.	Guided
Bob Smith	Red Deer, AB	51 lbs.	Guided



2000 FISHING FORECAST

With the signing of the Pacific Salmon Treaty in July recreational anglers in B.C. can expect even better fishing over the next few years. Among other things, the treaty called for Alaskan commercial fishermen to allow more chinook to bypass their gear which are destined for B.C. waters. The new millennium should bring some amazing chinook fishing to the shores of Dundas Island. With the cutbacks to coho fishing again eminent next season a harvest of coho on Dundas Island is doubtful until the end of August. The fishing should be absolutely phenomenal however so get those fly rods out and come experience the thrill of big northern coho on the fly and practice good catch and release techniques. An area just north of the lodge (30 minute run) should once again be open all season to the retention of coho salmon with limits being 1 per day 2 possession and hopefully 2 per day 4 possession. Call for limit information early in the spring. There is a strong possibility that Dundas Island will open for the retention of coho in late August, but at the time of this printing we are unsure of the D.F.O. fishing plans. Pink salmon should again be plentiful with the curtailing of the commercial fleet and there are always a few chrome bright chum to dazzle even the most experienced of salmon fishermen. So get on the phone and book your trip to Haa-Nee-Naa Lodge for some great fishing in 2000.

TO GUIDE OR NOT TO GUIDE...

Many guests ask me the question when booking a trip to Haa Nee Naa Lodge, "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 trophy salmon and bottomfish. The resort is anchored close to the fishing grounds only minutes away on calm protected waters, and 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 however show a much greater catch percentage on guided boats, in 1998 statistics showed a huge 7 times greater catch compared to unguided boats. For the first time salmon fisherman or those who wish to relax a little more the small daily fee for a guide is well worth the price. 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.



Chrome bright Chinook like this 31 pounder caught by Kim Hubner can be taken at the doorstep to the lodge.

MEMORABLE AND NOT SO MEMORABLE MOMENTS OF 1998

QUADRUPLE HEADER

This year's award goes to the Hans Koch group where with guide Jason (wonderboy) Tonelli tied into a quadruple header at 2 pull in June. Chinook of 34 and 27 pounds were landed but some questionable rod handling caused the untimely release of the other 2 large springs. You guys know who you are and next year you have to take the knuckle buster class before heading on the water.

BEST LUCK—WORST LUCK

Goes to 14 year old Klye Alexander from Santa Clara CA, while being guided by Clay had difficulty keeping a chinook on his line. Finally in the afternoon he hooked a beautiful 40 pounder but to disgruntled Klye the fish not only ate his bait but also his fathers'. It was synchronized salmon fishing at its' finest. Poor Klye ended up with only half a fish, a 20 pounder. Redemption was never finer when Klye then tied into one of the toughest fish of the year, a whopping 56.5 pounder on switch over morning that he successfully landed.

TIP OF THE HAT

Goes to Francis and Craig Willis from Calgary, Ab. who take 2 trips to the lodge annually. 1999 was very good to them as their 2 groups of four brought home 8 chinook over 20 lbs., 7 springs over 30 pounds, 3 over 40 pounds and 1 over 50 lbs. I'll let you guess who got the biggest fish.



FOCUS FISHING HOLE

The calm majestic waters of Dundas Island could be fished a lifetime without finding every good salmon fishing hole. This year we had tremendous fishing in many spots around the Island. One spot that truly stuck out was Two Pull. The constant surge of the tide makes this spot a natural feeding ground for large tye class salmon. Schools of herring and needlefish frequent the back eddies that are created with the strong push of tide. Lurking underneath, the prowling chinook hunt for their prey picking off first the wounded or sick and then the stragglers. This is where we present our cut plug herring and why it is so effective. Fished in close to shore and in the proximity of bait it is an irresistible attraction for big fish. Fish can be found as shallow as 10 pulls (20 feet) and down to 45 pulls a little farther off shore, present your bait with a very slow troll by kicking your motor in and out of gear. Spring salmon are often in groups and many double headers are hooked in this area. If you keep your other rods in the water for a short time while the first fish is on his initial run you stand a good chance of a multiple hook up. Do not leave the rods out too long however as this could cause the loss of the fist fish. A good rule of thumb is to bring all gear into the boat and store it once the fish has finished his first run and is heading back towards you. Remember all circumstances dictate a different response so use your better judgment and don't get too greedy or you may lose both fish. Two Pull is a great uncrowded area where salmon fishing dreams often come true.



Haa Nee Naa Lodge sits in her protected anchorage on the shores of Dundas Island.



THE TACKLE SHOP THE CHARTREUSE CLOUSER

A variation of Bob Clouser's Deep Minnow, this fly can be used for a number of saltwater species. By changing the retrieve it imitates a variety of different bait fish. The materials themselves lend the fly a wonderful lifelike action and the lead eyes serve two important purposes. Tied on top, they cause the fly to ride upside down, making it relatively weedless. Secondly, it ensures the fly is always fishing; during pauses in retrieve, the weighted eyes pull the fly downwards, imitating a wounded needlefish, an action the northern coho of Dundas Island find particularly irresistible. Finally, the chartreuse color is a proven salmon killer but other colors in this pattern also work well. It is a must to have at least half a dozen of these flies in your box when coming fly casting at Haa-Nee-Naa Lodge.



A fine morning of bottom fishing was had by JoAnne and Mike O'Connor of Gig Harbor, Washington.

R E C I P E B O X
C L A Y ' S S E A F O O D P A S T A
 "A DELICIOUS, EASY MEAL WITH A TASTE OF THE SEA"

INGREDIENTS:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <i>1 lb. chunked boneless salmon</i> | <i>1 Tsp. minced garlic</i> |
| <i>1 lb. chunked whitefish (halibut)</i> | <i>1/2 green pepper</i> |
| <i>1 lb. large scallops</i> | <i>1/2 red bell pepper</i> |
| <i>1 lb. large prawns (shelled-tail on)</i> | <i>3 green onions</i> |
| <i>6 heads fresh chopped parsley</i> | <i>olive oil</i> |
| <i>1 1/3 bunch fresh cilantro</i> | <i>salt and pepper to taste</i> |
| <i>8 fresh mushrooms</i> | <i>parmesan cheese to taste</i> |
| <i>2 handfuls of snow peas</i> | <i>1 lb fetticini noodles</i> |
| <i>2 carrots (julienne)</i> | <i>Alfredo white sauce</i> |
| <i>2 fresh tomatoes (cubed)</i> | <i>(packaged or home made)</i> |

In large skillet sauté all vegetables except tomatoes in olive oil until still firm, set aside in bowl. Using same pan lightly sauté garlic then heat pan to hot and put in scallops, after 60 seconds add prawns then fish, salt and pepper. Cook until 3/4 done. Do not overcook seafood! Add vegetables to seafood, tomatoes, cilantro and parsley and let cook until seafood is done. Place on top of fetticini alfredo and serve immediately. Garnish with parmesan cheese and breadsticks. This colorful, elegant dish can also be spiced up with hot chili peppers. Enjoy!

(Serves 4-6)



A glorious evening at Kelp Point which is a 10 minute run from the lodge.

SUGGESTION BOX

Make 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.



Another fly caught fish for mark Shimazu, this time a chrome bright coho which is shown here being released.

TYEE CLUB

With regrets. . . .

Due to the present coho management plans enforced in B.C. it is with our greatest regret that we must suspend all free trip giveaways. Unfortunately with all the uncertainty in regards to the coho season financial restraints do not allow us to continue Tye Club free trips and our guest appreciation free trip. We are very sorry that the Canadian government has put us in this unlikely situation.

Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to once again providing Tye Club prizes to our loyal customers when our financial situation improves.

TESTIMONIALS

"Thank you all so much for helping us to enjoy the short time we are able to spend in your beautiful country. Your untold hours of preparation, hard work and long hours are very much appreciated. Thanks a million for all you do".

Fred Finlayson, Idaho Falls, ID.

"Thanks for everything. We really enjoyed our stay. The fishing was great, crew was outstanding and the meals were fantastic . Please book us at the same time next year".

Bruce Walker, Seattle, WA.

"Just a brief note to thank you and your staff for the most enjoyable trip last weekend. The facilities were outstanding, the food and the travel arrangements were great and the fishing was most enjoyable. I certainly had a tremendous time and have many great memories. Clay really made the fishing memorable for all of us and I would never consider going unguided again. Please don't hesitate to use us for references".

Bob Flitton, West Vancouver, B.C.