

HAA NEE NAA

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YEAR IN REVIEW

ONLY IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS!

When Ian Brown from Coquitlam B.C. stepped off the float plane on Dundas Island in July of last summer only in his wildest dreams did he think what was about to happen to him would become a reality. It's every anglers dream to catch that trophy of a lifetime and in Ian's case many lifetimes. Fishing with his newly made friend and partner Don Schwartz from California the keen anglers boated several large chinook and coho during their stay and for every one boated there were just as many lost. When Ian stepped back on the float plane to leave he had done what no other angler has ever achieved while fishing at Haa Nee Naa Lodge, he boated a mammoth 70.5 lb chinook salmon. A new lodge record that shattered the 69 lb record fish that was caught several years ago by Jesse Jacobs.

Ian's story was only one of many big fish stories in last year's record breaking season. This past season so many tyees were caught that lodge guests almost doubled the 2000 season which was our previous high. Lodge guests boated over 250 tyees (30 lb+) in 2001 with an astonishing 70 of these over 40 lb. 25 over 50 lb. 6 over 60 lb. and of course Ian's 70 pound whopper. This influx of big chinook wasn't just localized to Dundas Island it was felt coast wide. We can only hope that we will be blessed with such a great season again.

The weather last season left a little to be desired. Many groups saw heavy rains pounding down upon them. In one 12 hour span in August I recorded an eight inch rain fall. Hard to believe that some places don't see that much rain in a whole year. The fish didn't seem to mind however, as a matter of fact the cloudy weather may have increased our catches, we'll never know for sure but everyone knows those dark days can be some of the best for salmon fishing.

Last season was a very trying season on several fronts for me personally, I was forced to become a chef for three and a half weeks in prime time

Fish The Magic

chinook season when I realized that the chef I had hired simply wasn't qualified for the job. When he couldn't even cook rice you know you have problems so I traded in the mooching rods, cruiser suit and rain gear for an apron and spatulas. We eventually found an amazing replacement in Tracy Kelly but we had to wait until she finished her pastry course at the end of June to get her into camp. So I did what all owners would have done I cooked. Judging from the letters and compliments I got I think it worked out O.K. hopefully all of you just weren't being polite to me and you really enjoyed the food.

The bait crisis of 2001 will go down in infamy. Coastal shortages of frozen herring left almost all lodges reeling for bait last season. With thanks to guide Jason Tonelli and Derrick Krefling of Active Tackle they managed to supply us with just enough bait to make it through the season. We managed to jig fresh herring as often as we could which supplemented our bait supply as well as caught us more fish using the freshies. We were one of the lucky lodges who didn't have to switch over and drag around flashers and hoochies and for that I'm thankful. My thanks to all our guests for their patience and understanding during the bait crisis of 2001. Plans are underway for that never to happen again, bait is being pre-bought and stored in advance this year so that if the freshie jigging is slow then we'll have frozen herring coming out of our ears.

As June wound down and I was able to escape the kitchen just in time for the big fish to roll in. I managed to guide a few days to some of the most spectacular chinook fishing I have ever experienced. Many days limits would be caught by 8 am which left the rest of the day to take in the halibut action that started to turn on towards month end. As August came along fly fishermen invaded the lodge and our first ever fly fishing seminar hosted by Peter Morrison went off with huge success. It went so well that in 2002 Peter will again be doing the seminar for 2 trips Aug. 12-16 and Aug. 16-19th. If you'd like to take in one of the fastest growing sports in North America come try salt water

angling on the fly, you won't be disappointed. Peter's fun, humorous style of teaching was very refreshing and knowledgeable. The seminar attracted fly fishermen at all levels from beginner to advanced. The beginner fly caster was shown the basic steps to casting a fly and the more advanced casters were given personal lessons to increase



distance and accuracy. Peter also fished with several of the guests personally to give them hands on instructions. All in all the seminars were a great way to promote this fine fishery, so if you're interested in fly fishing or are curious to learn then take a look at one of these trips in August of 2002.

The large hungry coho of the north coast are extremely fun to catch on either the fly rod or conventional methods. Last seasons with limits of 2 coho per day and 4 in possession allowed anglers the first opportunity to harvest this beautiful fish all season on Dundas Island since the coho cutbacks in 1998. Runs were strong and the fish were big on average.

We tried several different ways of catching these hard fighting bullets, from using bucktail flies, jigging to casting spoons. All proved to have great success but if you really wanted to get them you hooked up your 6 inch cut plug herring, used a 4 oz. lead and slowly mooched through the schools of baitfish. This method is absolutely dynamite.

In 2002 guests can expect much of the same type of great service and fishing that Haa Nee Naa Lodge is known for. Plans are underway to add more dock facilities and even a gazebo out front so the bugs can't get at you while you're enjoying the beautiful scenery from the front dock. I hope to see you all back in 2002 and hopefully some new faces too!

FOCUS FISHING HOLE

There are those exceptional days when the winds are absent and the seas flat, the type of days you dream about as a salmon fisherman. If you're a fly fisherman chasing the silver bounty you not only dream about weather like this you pray for it. Early in August 2001 all our prayers were answered as our first group of fly fishermen emerged on Haa Nee Naa Lodge. The weather was calm the seas



were flat and the sun was shining, a combination that is hard to get on the north coast. Some 30 minutes from the lodge the "Little Brain" stands surrounded by massive kelp forests thick with a wide array of ocean life. Needlefish (sand-lance), juvenile and mature herring abound near the deep shelf that stirs up water and hosts aquatic life by the surging and uplifting of the hard currents. The thick kelp beds hang on like willow branches in a storm as the ocean swells, tides and

currents tug and pull at them. Schools of hungry coho, always on the move, and always looking for a meal visit the area with big appetites from the long crossing of Dixon Entrance. Cruising the area and boiling schools of bait to the surface giving the angler with a straight cast and steady hand the chance of a lifetime. Wolf packs of silver streaks many ranging in 10-12 lb fish aggressive and poised to feed on anything that looks like a wounded baitfish. Adrenaline rushes as these torpedo like shapes can be seen chasing your clouser minnow right to the boat through the gin clear water. Some days wave after wave of coho can be spotted cruising by, sparking some unforgettable action. Once your arm gets tired and the tide slackens simply rig up the halibut gear and hit one of the best chicken halibut holes in the area a mere half mile from the "Little Brain". Should the salmon fishing slow let your sinking fly line sit a little longer and catch an array of bottom dwellers from ling cod, copper, brown, black and quillback rockfish. Another great spot to be investigated when you arrive with fly rod in hand at Haa Nee Naa Lodge.

2002 FISHING FORECAST

Did I hit the nail on the head with forecasting last year's fishing or what? Thought I'd brag a little about my well educated guess work. In 2002 I don't expect to see the size of the chinook in the numbers we saw last summer. Last year was truly a special year for big fish and it will be hard to duplicate. Chinook numbers however should be very strong coming off the 1998 brood year which also had great returns to north coast rivers. I expect a lot more fish coming through our waters in the high teens and low twenty pound class this year which we didn't see a lot of in 2001. Add this to the ever present tyee class and the usual big fish and the action should be very hot. Now in its third year, the Pacific Salmon Treaty between Alaska and B.C. which allows more chinook to pass into north coast waters has shown dramatic results with catches increasing every year. I expect good fishing again in 2002.



The coho salmon cutbacks now reaching their fifth year have fabulous results for coho reaching the B.C. coast. Coho numbers should again be high in 2002. Preliminary talks with the Department of Fisheries have gone well with an estimated catch limit of 2 coho per day with a possession of 4, up until mid August when it could go to the old pre coho crisis limits of 4 coho per day with a possession of 8.

On Dundas Island we saw no slot limit for chinook and limits for aggregate salmon will once again be 4 per day with a possession limit of 8 of which 4 can be chinook.

The fly fishing has started attracting more and more guests targeting acrobatic 8-18 lb. chrome coho on the cast fly. In early August of 2001 Gary Sandstrom owner of *The Morning Hatch* fly shop in Tacoma, WA was the first angler at Haa Nee Naa Lodge to hook and land a chinook on the cast fly. Gary boated a beautiful 18 lb spring fishing a large white squid pattern in 80 feet of water. Gary and I boated close to 20 salmon on the fly that morning with many more takes and lost fish, add that to the 75° weather and flat calm seas and it was a day to remember.

Although the biomass of Pacific Halibut coast wide is still 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 2001 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 2002.

MEMORABLE & NOT SO MEMORABLE MOMENTS

TIP OF THE HAT

Goes to Phil Paquette out of Santa Clara, CA who landed a 56 and a 60 pound chinook on the same trip in July. If you've been following the Haa Nee Naa News over the past few years you've read about Kyle Alexander who is the son of Phil's good friend Steve. They come on the same trip annually and yes Kyle once again caught a fish over 50 lbs. it weighed in at 56 lbs. Congrats to the Paquette group who have become some of the best unguided fishermen that come to Haa Nee Naa Lodge.

Honourable mention goes to another huge fish over 60 pounds caught by Lynette Wilkins of Edmonton AB with her bruiser of 66.5 pounds which was the second largest chinook weighed in last year.

DIVORCE HALIBUT?

In early June my sister Joanne and her husband Boyd were fishing close to the lodge for halibut. While I was slaving away in the kitchen I got a call on the radio from an anxious and panic stricken sister. They had a huge halibut next to the boat and didn't know what to do. Upon quizzing them on the length I got

2 conflicting stories, one said it was 6 feet long the other 3 feet long. I was asked to come harpoon the behemoth and save the day as my sister threatened her husband with divorce proceedings if he lost the fish. I quickly donned my gear, spatula in hand and raced to their aid. I reached over and gaffed the 50 lb halibut. It was the first time ever that a man was correct on the length of something!

HEADS UP!

To say I get excited when fly fishing is the understatement of the year. When a hungry coho is swirling and chasing a baitfish on the surface it is known that I've totally lost control. On a fine day last August while fishing with Darren Richardson from northern Alberta such a situation took place. A beautiful silver coho was rolling on the surface, the excitement took over, I lost control, Darren didn't duck quite far or fast enough even after being yelled at. The rest you can probably figure out for yourself. For those of you who haven't been struck by a Clouser minnow it's much like getting hit by a pellet gun, it stings a lot. I felt so, so bad, I missed the fish because of him.

TESTIMONIALS

"Thanks for the great memories. I look forward all year to our Haa Nee Naa trip. It is a highlight for us and we have never been disappointed. I still can't believe I caught a 66.5 pound salmon. Thanks again for everything." *LYNETTE WILKINS - EDMONTON, AB.*

"Just wanted to let you know what a great time we had at your lodge. It had to be one of my all time best vacations. I can't wait until next year. We were all impressed with the crew of hard workers you have, you and Jennifer should be proud! See you next year!" *SHAWN O'CONNOR, GIG HARBOR, WA.*

"Just a brief note to thank you all for an excellent 4 days at Haa Nee Naa. The fishing, the food and the lodge were all superb. Please pass on my personal thanks to Tracy, Matt, Dillon and most importantly Mary, who found my passport and forwarded it to me. Thanks again for everything and I hope the fly fishing went well." *ANDREW WEBSTER, ENGLAND*

"Gordon and I had the very best week of fun, food and fish ever. The food was just great, and the fishing, the best we have ever experienced. It was truly one of the best of the west coast's supernatural experiences. We would recommend your lodge as the first choice to our friends. Cheers!" *ROLAND BEAULIEU & GORDON CHAMBERS, VICTORIA, B.C.*

TO GUIDE OR NOT TO GUIDE...

Many guests ask me the question when booking a trip to HNHL; "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, only minutes away on calm protected waters. A thorough area and fishing orientation is given before guests hit 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 2001 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.

HALL OF FAME 2001 LARGEST SALMON	
GUIDED	
IAN BROWN	70.5 LB.
LYNETTE WILKINS	66.5 LB.
JOHN THOMPSON	62.0 LB.
DON SMITH SR.	62.0 LB.
JIM ROBB	61.0 LB.
UNGUIDED	
PHIL PAQUETTE	60.0 LB.
JACK HOCKMAN	60.0 LB.

THE TACKLE SHOP

In this segment I would like to talk about fly fishing and the tackle you need to saltwater salmon fish. Basically you should start off with a good quality fly rod in the 7, 8 or 9 weight class with a rod length from 9-10.5 feet. All the leading manufactures such as Sage, Loomis, Redington, Powell etc. all have several choices of rods in many actions. I prefer graphite rods with a faster action, this allows me to cast the sinking lines longer and with more ease.

A good quality saltwater reel with a minimum 150 yards of 20 lb. backing is essential in saltwater salmon fishing. I prefer a large arbour reel which allows for a much faster retrieval rate when playing fish. Again all the major manufacturers carry saltwater reels in a variety of sizes and shapes.

Fly lines are a matter of preference, I like to use a full sinking line such as Scientific Anglers Uniform sink Type 5 or 6. I feel this line fishes better under most circumstances and it keeps your

fly at the depth you want it longer than the shooting heads.

Leader lengths vary depending upon conditions but I prefer an 8-10 foot tapered leader with a tip strength of 10-12 lb. test. Conventional store bought tapered leaders are fine but I prefer to tie my own using blood or Orvis knots. I start with 2 feet of 30 LB at the fly line then go to 2 feet of 20 lb. and then 6 feet of 12 LB test as the tippet. One reason I like the longer leaders is that when you're changing lots of flies it's easy to go through your tippet very fast so having that extra couple of feet allows me more time fishing and less time tying on new leaders.

The last but not least most important part of your arsenal are the flies. Clouser minnows in various colors is our fly of choice however many other patterns work extremely well. Most times it is more important where and how the fly is fished and not what fly is being used.

RECIPE BOX

HAA NEE NAA BEER BATTER FOR ALL FISH

INGREDIENTS:

Beer	Flour (as needed)
1/2 teaspoon Baking powder	1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. garlic powder	1 tsp. onion powder
2 tsp. turmeric	

Mix flour into beer until batter becomes the consistency of a pancake batter. Add other ingredients and mix thoroughly. Preheat cooking oil in deep fryer or large pot. Dry off boneless fish fillets and role fillets in flour then in batter. Deep fry until golden brown and place on pan lined with paper towel to absorb excess oil. Sprinkle with salt. Serve hot and enjoy with homemade tartar sauce.

This recipe won't get you any slimmer but it sure is a nice treat every now and then and there may not be a better way to cook fish.

TARTAR SAUCE

INGREDIENTS:

2 cups mayonnaise (I prefer Hellmans)	1/2 cup dill relish
1 tsp. lemon juice	1/2 tsp. onion powder
1/4 tsp. garlic powder	

Stir up and serve cold. Measurements are approximate, I never measure ingredients in the sauce, I do it to taste.

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. Thank you to several guests last year who made recommendations. Many of these suggestions will be implemented in coming seasons. Please fax us any comments to: 1-800-668-8955 or e-mail us at: silverbk@citytel.net.