

Fall 2014 NEWSLETTER



Eagle Pointe Lodge
fishing retreat

Another season has come to an end up at Eagle Pointe Lodge and we can sit back with fond memories of the splendor that took place this summer. To try and put the 2014 fishing season down onto a single newsletter can be a bit of a daunting task as there are countless memories that come flooding back.



Amazing sunset at EPL.

The fishing was outstanding this summer with plenty of salmon and halibut for everyone to enjoy. Amongst the guiding staff, there were numerous days when everyone was saying that this is the best halibut fishing that we have ever seen. There are quite a few decades of guiding experience between the guides so that is a pretty bold statement to make but it was completely true.

To have a beautiful day on the water and be blessed to head out to the “reef” for some bottom fish, it was assured to be a treat this past summer.

The overall size and volume of halibut that were hungrily cruising around looking for a meal was impressive. The new halibut size restrictions that fisheries implemented several years ago seem to be working well for both us and the halibut.



Lady Luck is the best luck to have. At 132 cm, this halibut is 1 cm under the legal limit.

As we troll the picturesque water of beautiful Dixon Entrance for the mighty salmon, there are not many days that disappoint. With the interception of world class Chinook and Coho

salmon that call the Skeena and Nass rivers their home, life-long memories are created. Granted, there are many tributary and southern fish that find themselves in our local waters, but the majority is heading back to these two powerhouse rivers.



Alvin Libin and a sweet 16-lb Coho.

In turn, the distinct possibility of hooking a trophy is always present which happens every year. As summer progressed this past year, we were quite lucky with the weather and water conditions. Zayas Island turned out to be the place where most of the guides directed their boats to in late July and August.



Stellar day for the boys with some large Springs.

There was a late run of Chinook salmon that seemed to hang around longer than usual which was welcomed by everyone. Catching a limit of Chinook and Coho on the same day in August was a pretty special experience for a lot of our guests as usually it is just Coho at that time of the season. This is an exciting fishery that is available to us, and I know we will be out there next season trying to capitalize on these fish for all our guests.



Nora Libin with Brad Andersen and a 39-lb Spring.



Pointe Cabin guests Lucy Cicuto and Sophie Carreiro with 57.5 lbs of Chinook.

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

The first 40-plus-pound Chinook came quickly this year with Ross Middleton hooking up on May 20th on a gorgeous specimen. Cory Cicuto was guiding Ross that day not far from the lodge at an EPL early season hot spot which came through once again.

The next several trips fishing was a little bit challenging but a fair share of Chinook with many Tyee class were taken by our lucky guests.



Ross Middleton and his early season 40-pounder.



Jody Folwell and her slab of glory.

It wasn't until early June that Jody Folwell (Ladies Invitational trip) landed a 46-pounder in the last few minutes of her trip. Time was running out on Eagle 2 and Sam Noble was about to announce that the last morning was about to come to an end when this tank bit the line. A lengthy battle of 45 minutes and Jody had the biggest salmon of her life on the bottom of the boat.

The appreciation and gratitude that the girls from the Ladies Invitational have toward our fishing resource is truly inspirational, and it is a pleasure to take them fishing year after year.

Next, it was Alex Siry's turn to wrestle in the largest Chinook of the year.

When Alex Siry and Frank Lovsin set off that morning in mid June with Cory, thoughts of big salmon were most likely running through their heads, but nobody knew the King fish for the season was going to be caught. Close to shore, tight to triangle point, this massive salmon was hanging out; but as the fresh-cut plug herring came trolling by, he couldn't help himself. Upwards of an hour later and some sore arms, 58 lbs of awesomeness was lifted into the boat. Congratulations, Alex on your amazing Chinook and you have definitely set the bar pretty high to beat next year.



Alex Siry and his 58-lb beauty.

Brad Andersen, our fish master at the lodge, was guiding Ron Graham from the Qualico group in late June and landed our second-largest Chinook of the season. When the scale settled at 47 lbs, Ron knew that was going to be a tough one for the rest of the group to beat and he was right. He went home with the bragging rights and enough salmon and halibut to keep the freezer stocked for the winter.



Ron Graham, Brad Andersen and Glynn Hendry with the second largest salmon of the season.

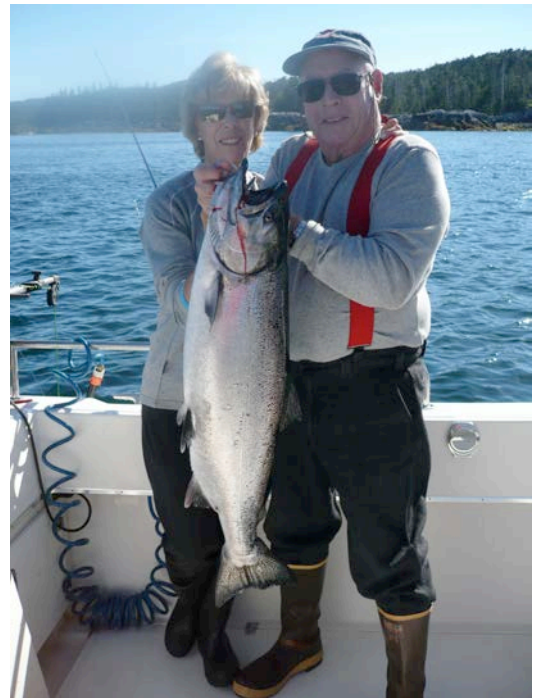
We had the honor to be involved with the Lynn Crawford "Pitchin In" show this summer. Lynn and crew arrived at the lodge to film a show with halibut being the main focus. It was an incredible experience to be able to participate in the production of a show that is aired on The Food Network. Brad and I were fortunate enough to take Lynn out halibut fishing that day.



Lynn Crawford and an impressive haul of halibut.

We had perfect water conditions and the halibut cooperated beautifully. The whole production ended up working out great in which a wonderful representation of Eagle Pointe and all it has to offer was portrayed perfectly. Be sure to stay tuned to The Food Network this winter as the show will be aired at different times.

As summer progressed, the Chinook kept coming and the Cohos started to show up. We all know how fortunate we are with the amazing Coho fishery that is present up north. The run remained strong right to the last day of operation this year in early September. With an average size of 10 – 15 lbs and an uncontrollable appetite, these fish kept everyone active.



John and Shirley Graham with a healthy Chinook.

Fisheries raised the legal size of halibut that we were allowed to retain this year. Everyone was allowed one halibut up to 133 cms (approx 70 lbs) and one up to 90 cms (approx 20 lbs). It was a pretty routine occurrence to pull the tape measure out to see if it was a legal halibut. The stocks were so strong this year that almost all the groups had a fish that was pushing the 133-cm mark. Quite a few fish were over the mark and released back to the bottom without harm.

There was one fish that was definitely over 200 lbs that was released and others in the 100-plus range. All large halibut are females and so to be released back to be able to spawn is a wonderful asset to the industry's future.



Marly Allen with a halibut that hit the magical 133 cm mark.

We had a total of 68 Tyees this past season and an average of 105 lbs of salmon and halibut retained per person. This is not including all the fish that were released.



Joe Mathes is all smiles with his Tye.

2015's booking schedule is just about full already, and we all are looking forward to getting back to Eagle Pointe and kicking off another season.

There are a few renovations happening this winter season which will include a new hot tub and raised deck that will be flush with our existing exterior deck. There will also be a new sauna/steam room below the hot tub that will be available to relax in after a day on the water. A new cabin and boardwalk are being built and some staff accommodation upgrades are taking place. We are set to start May 15th and run straight through until Sept 2nd.



Bill Yuill and Jim Marshall with a fine example of the late season Chinooks encountered this year.

We realize at Eagle Pointe that the whole experience is not about always catching the big one or winning the derby money. The remote setting with a small capacity of guests allows each person to have an intimate experience in their own way.

Dinner out at the gazebo which chef Nikki Andersen orchestrates is a hit with everyone or out fishing for the day with only two guests per boat gives everyone the time to get to know their partner for the day. A special thank you goes out to each and every guest that came out this summer for an Eagle Pointe experience.



A prime August Coho.



Welcome to what August has to offer.

On behalf of the ownership and staff, we wish everybody a safe and healthy winter season and look forward to seeing you all next summer.

LEADER BOARD SUMMARY					
Top Chinook of 2014			Top Halibut of 2014 (maximum length of 133 cm)		
1	Alex Siry	58 lbs	1	Joe Mathes	76 lbs
2	Ron Graham	47 lbs	2	Marly Allen	74 lbs
3	Jody Folwell	46 lbs	3	Gary Goetsch	72 lbs
4	Jennifer Snow	45 lbs	4	Dan Lovsin	71 lbs
5	Steve Wong	44 lbs	5	Lynn Crawford	70 lbs
6	Jim Stinson	43 lbs			
7	Bob McDonald	42 lbs			
8	Riley McDougall	41 lbs			
9	Ross Middleton	40 lbs			
10	Garth Doyle	39 lbs			

For booking information, please call toll-free Denise Isaman at 1-888-988-8388 or look us up on the web @ www.eaglepointelodge.com



Tight lines,

Jonathan Beaty, Manager