

EPL EXPRESS NEWSLETTER 2022



"where BC's Pacific Coast meets Alaska..."

Eagle Pointe Lodge



What a great feeling to welcome our guests this season with open arms! We were back at full capacity with each group of 12 enjoying themselves in our intimate wilderness setting to which they can call home during their stay.

We welcomed many corporate trips as well as families and friend groups for incredible fishing adventures, creating memories to share around the dinner table for years to come.

The beautiful scenery, beginning with the quick 15-minute scenic helicopter ride in, our stunning weather throughout this summer and action-packed angling on the remote shores of Wales Island did not disappoint.



May

May started out a bit slow. The Nass River run we concentrate on early season seemed to be a bit behind schedule this year. However, our experienced and knowledgeable guides quickly found the mighty chinook and by months end we had steady action for a strong May finish. Every year is hard to predict when they will start rolling in, but once they do there is always plenty of fish to go around.

The early chinook run continues to be strong up in our area, which we feel very fortunate to partake in. All our attention this time of year is targeted to the strong athletic spring salmon, which are always exciting to catch and test your skills. Finding the beauty 20lb chinook is the absolute perfect size for an ultimate salmon dinner on the BBQ.

It is always nice to fish so close to home with some of our favorite fishing spots producing big chinooks just a short 10-20-minute boat ride from the lodge. Limits at this time of year allowed for 2 chinook per day and 4 in possession. Fisheries continued with this right until mid-June which was very fortunate for our guests during early season.



Nice 39lb spring salmon caught in May



Early chinook just minutes from the lodge



Three happy guys with three beauty spring salmon



Perfect dinner-sized chinook on a stellar calm day on the water



June

June tends to be a prime time to target chinook salmon, continuing through to the end of July. It is such a thrill when the chinooks are biting, pulling it off the clip as guides call it, a "pin popper,"; the vibes are electrifying on the boat. Big or small, you always know when you have a chinook on the line. Their deep runs are obvious, and you must be ready for the battle.

As always, the halibut fishery was consistent with several in the high sixties and many more big ones released. Fantastic memories are made. It is always an exciting time when that reel is barking out line and your guide reaches for the tape measure hoping that it was within the size to bring home. Even if it is not, it is a good feeling to be able to rattle in, successfully land a big fish and then let it swim away to replenish our stocks.

Fisheries announced the sudden closure of chinook salmon from June 15 - July 15. These management measures were implemented to address the on-going concerns for Skeena River chinook. The closure caused our guides to have to venture out further in search for the early coho.

The first coho did not arrive until mid-June and slowly trickled in. Thankfully the bottom fish, halibut, lingcod, and rock fish were usually quite active and willing to give us some fun and good eats. It doesn't always have to be about filling the box as we are so fortunate to be in such breathtaking scenery and enjoying friends and family in the ultimate paradise.



Three generations - Great family and friends trip = a lifetime of memories



The pristine wilderness around us made for some fascinating scenic tours this month. Taking in the sights of grizzly bears and black bears seen along the shorelines grazing and clam digging. It is exciting when we have the possibility of seeing deer or wolves swimming across channels and bonus additions of wildlife anywhere. Humpback feeding and breaching, killer whales, porpoises, sea lions, harbor seals and sea otters were seen by many. Some were even right off our dock where an abundance of eagles are usually feeding.



Incredible skies to look out at for a relaxing evening



Two of our guests enjoying the new 2022 tandem kayaks



Our new Highfield 2022 Zodiac

July

By early July, guests were consistently limiting out on coho and venturing off trying for the bottom fish, halibut, lingcod, and many forms of rock fish. Many change days were spent close to the lodge catch and releasing some nice sized chinook salmon. These are the days when the big boys are trickling through 30-50 pounders.

The full days with beautiful sunny weather and limited winds allowed for plenty of travel out to the reef in search of the bright silver coho. While travel to the reef tends to be a long ride, it never lets us down whilst producing an assortment of species. It can be a one stop shop.

Two tandem kayaks and a new Zodiac were additions to our lodge amenities this summer. Once the guests had their limits, they had opportunities to venture out and enjoy more scenery and wildlife while getting in some exercise.

Fisheries extended the closure at the last minute to further implement retention until the end of July.

There were still several out there for a nice gentle catch and release. Thankfully, the coho's were hot and heavy to be sure guests got to fill their boxes with their full limits of salmon to take home.



Nice productive day of fishing.
Taking home coho, halibut and lingcod



Sights caught straight off our dock as guests began to venture out for the day on the water

August

Thankfully, fisheries finally reopened chinooks. There were still a few out there for those fortunate enough to catch one.

Once again, coho fishing was off the charts with steady action and limits caught quickly, finding it hard to get time to sit down and enjoy your lunch. It was off to the halibut grounds to top off the boxes with the prized white meat its known for and makes the ultimate fish and chips.

Many beautiful sunsets and gourmet dining at the gazebo overlooking the ocean were enjoyed once returning from a good days fishing. For the few rainy days we had, the sauna and hot tub came in handy to take the chill off.

The weather was the best we have seen in well over a decade with an abundance of hot sunny days. In combination with moderate summer winds, this provided for very comfortable fishing conditions. This contributed to very few days this season with any restrictions on fishing grounds that we were able to venture to.



It was one "Halibut" of a day for all!



Some very happy guests on the annual Myshak trip

LEADER BOARD FOR THE SEASON

Chinook



- 1- Tony DeFord Jr. - 39.4lbs
- 2- Trevor English - 39lbs
- 3- Tom Troppmann - 35.7lbs
- 4- Kirt Hodge - 34.4lbs
- 5- Anna McKilligan - 33lbs
- 6- Dary Bissonnette - 33lbs
- 7- Laura Grant - 31lbs
- 8- Cole McAleese - 30.1lbs
- 9- Trevor Anderson - 30lbs



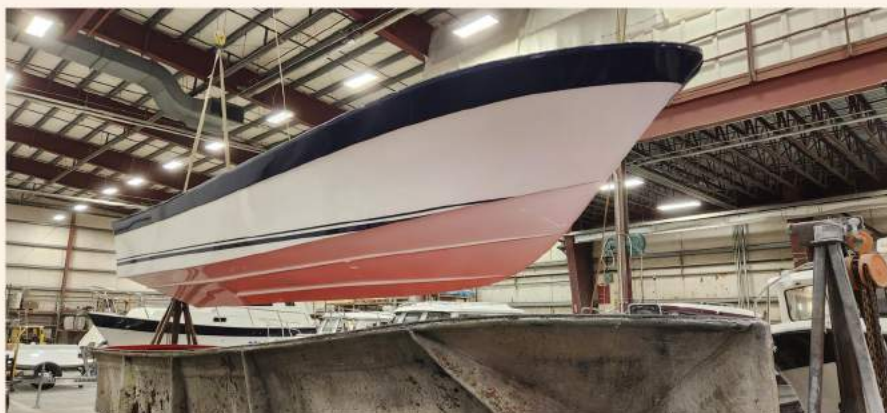
Largest spring of the season weighed in at 39.4lbs on June 8th. Caught by the proud Tony Deford Jr. 11 years old.

Halibut



- 1- Mark Mills - 69lbs
- 2- Lee Lischka - 69lbs
- 3- Steve Halliday - 68lbs
- 4- Don Cottam - 65lbs
- 5- Jesse Myshak - 64.5lbs

We are committed as ownership, management, and staff to continually improve the guest experience each year. For 2023, we have 2 brand new Skagit Orca's currently being built in Washington by Northwest Marine Industries. They are coming soon to complete a full fleet of 8, 27' Skagit Orca's. Boasting the finest in fishing comfort with closed heated cabins, washrooms on-board, a large deck for fishing, top of the line electronics and fishing gear. All 9 of our boats will have brand new 23 - 300hp, 4 stroke Yamaha engines from Port Boathouse, Port Alberni.



EPL Sunsets





A big thank you to our hard-working, passionate EPL crew! None of this would be possible without you. It takes a team to contribute so passionately to the full operations of a successful season. Lastly, we would like to thank every one of you who visited EPL this season for your continued loyalty and support. We truly value and appreciate the time spent on and off the water with our incredible guests. We look forward to fishing with many of you again next season in 2023.



Tight Lines,

Nikki Andersen
Manager, Eagle Pointe Lodge