

Fishing Extravaganza at Pt. Baker Alaska

By Bob Kruger

I just returned from a great trip to Pt. Baker, Alaska on the northern tip of Prince of Whales Island, the third largest island in United States (so they say). Two friends, Craig Wood and Jess Gilley joined me for the trip. We are all Coastside Fishing Club members.



We arrived in Petersburg, Alaska on the 11th; it was clear skies and 75 degrees. We had a great float plane trip to Pt. Baker where the weather is always like this (for a couple days a year). We stayed in a floating lodge, called The Outpost where our hosts Herb and Judy took great care of us. We had 1st class meals and they even a packed lunch for us each day while we fished on our own in a 21 ft fiberglass boat. We did some exploring and lots of fishing.



We targeted Halibut most of the time. They said there were King Salmon around so we put in an hour of so of trolling with no luck before returning to bottom fish. After searching around for a day and catching lots of rock cod (commonly called

Bottom Ugly), I caught the first Halibut right off of Pt Baker about ½ mile from our lodge. It was a 55 lb fish, just perfect size for the table. As I got this fish to the boat two Orca Whales surfaced about 100 ft from our boat. I had to yell at my buddies to put down the cameras and gaff the fish.

As the week progressed we had great weather, calm seas for the most part, and good fishing. The scenery is awesome here. Bald Eagles are about as common as Sea Gulls here.

One day the eagles were picking up herring off the top of a boiling school, right off the point. Very few people and hundreds of miles of protected waters, wooded islands, unmarked reefs and giant tidal movements (20 ft changes in depth twice a day) add up to a challenging scenic trip. One day we took a 4 mile skiff ride to a road head where Herb has a truck. We drove about 20 mi each way and did some trout fishing. We caught a few cutthroat and Dolly Varden trout. We also saw a couple deer and a black bear scampering through the forest ahead of us.



We ended up with about a dozen Halibut 40 – 65 lbs. We kept a few so we could bring home a couple ice chests full of fish. We released about as many as we kept. These fish were really fun to catch and a few of the larger ones tried their best to thrash the boat. The real highlight of the trip was the lodge. Since we went relatively early in the season, we were the only guests at the lodge. Herb and Judy treated us like family.

They really enjoyed the 15 artichokes we brought them. Breakfast was ready every morning at 7am and our boat was right outside our room. The restaurant, bar and our room were all floating, on the dock. We did find, after visiting the bar, the dock sloped quite a bit and had some Halibut slime on it, making the walk home a little challenging, all 50 ft of the trip. Herb boasts this is the only remaining floating bar in the state!