

## Nature at Its Finest

Written by

Monday, 23 August 2004 00:00

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Today we hired a fishing guide to take us salmon fishing. In our lifestyle, waking up early is not our norm and our guide, Larry, wanted to be on the water by 7:00 AM so we were up at 5:00 AM. Leaving Salmon Point to meet Larry in Campbell River, we could see that it was overcast but by the time we arrived at the meeting point, we could also see that it was very foggy. Our only hope was that it would clear up quickly and that Larry knew exactly where to go.

We set out in thick fog up the channel towards a bay on Quadra Island where Larry dropped two crab traps and then we made our way up to a couple of favoured fishing spots. The fog was patchy and slowly lifting; the water was calm and the scenery breathtaking. The salmon aren't running well here this year but there have been some occasional good catches and we hoped that we would be among the lucky ones. I caught a small, tagged Coho (not a keeper) and Rick had a couple of hits but we were like the dozens of other fisher people out there and left with no salmon. What we did, though, was see three killer whales that came right into shore alongside the boats. They were so graceful, so majestic and fearless but so peaceful that we were humbled in their presence. I tried taking their picture but unfortunately, none are definable.

On our way back, we stopped near a rocky cove where we caught three rock cod (good eaters), one greenling (too small) and one big, really ugly but edible fish (I can't remember it's name). It put up a big fight but after I brought it in Larry filleted it and assured us that it would be tasty (it was). While we were floating there I could see a white head bobbing on the beach and upon closer inspection, saw that it was an eagle enjoying a meal. On our way back to the empty crab traps (someone had emptied them before we got there) we were met by Luseal, the bay's resident cutey. We may not have caught the prized salmon but we had a wonderful day seeing Mother Natures finest!