

Brag Board

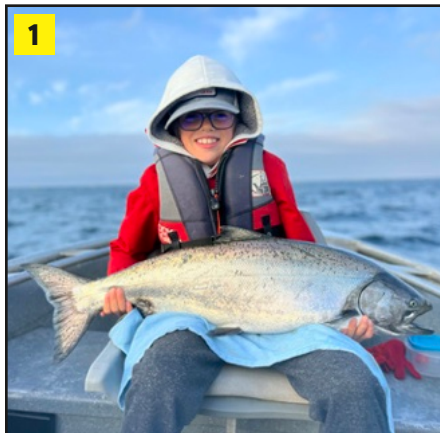
2025 Reader Highlights



Leigh Unickow gently releases a fall river Chinook while coho fishing spinners with pro river guide of Murphy's Sportfishing, Curtis Leyenaar.

This year delivered an unforgettable season on the water, marked by thrilling battles, stunning scenery, laughter, and unforgettable catches. We asked our readers for remarkable moments and received too many photos to squeeze in this one issue, so we'll continue this expanded section in the next issue. Flip through these pages to relive the defining catches, majestic landscapes, and sheer joy that made this season one for the record books across the Island and beyond.

Send us your favourite photos! Fish, scenery, weird stuff, and antics.



- 1** Rhys La Rose, age 9, with an 80 cm clipped Chinook that he caught on August 3, the first outing after our fishery opening and the first bite of the morning. Fishing with his dad, Russ, out of East Sooke, he reeled in his largest to date!
- 2** Grayson Davis picked his gear and his spot, and he landed a very nice 76-cm spring off the Five Fingers in Nanaimo!
- 3** Michael Zimmermann took his good friend Troy (left) and his son Ryder (right) out to Nootka Sound on their first ocean trip, and this was Ryder's first salmon. Michael felt very privileged to be a part of this moment for them. Wouldn't you?
- 4** Taly Ziemer caught her biggest Chinook by far! Photo snapped by Chad Ziemer.
- 5** A foggy September day by the kelp beds in Uke delivered a beauty 25-lb Chinook for John Gray! Look at the tail on that Long John!

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6 Wait ... fish story?? Blake Stotzer says, “Many, many hours were put in to catch this XXXL cutthroat on Vancouver Island.” That’s Rolf Stotzer with the proud grin holding this lake lunger.

7 Jory Colton reports it was the white hoochie for the win in Bamfield during August.

8 Pro guide Karly Skakun releases a beautiful 46-pounder (approximately) off boat 99 (the great one) in beautiful Haida Gwaii. “The smiles, laughs, and unforgettable moments on the water are the best reminders that I’m doing my dream job right!”

9 Dianne Gavilan says this is her first Tyee—look at that beast! Wow, what a day!

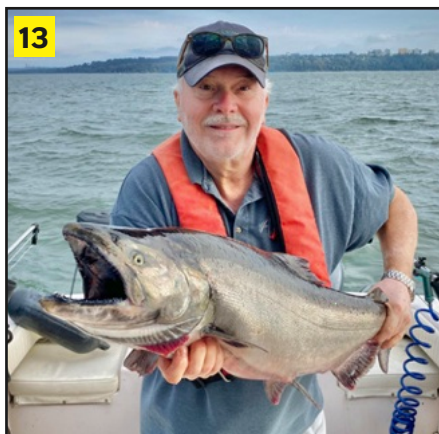
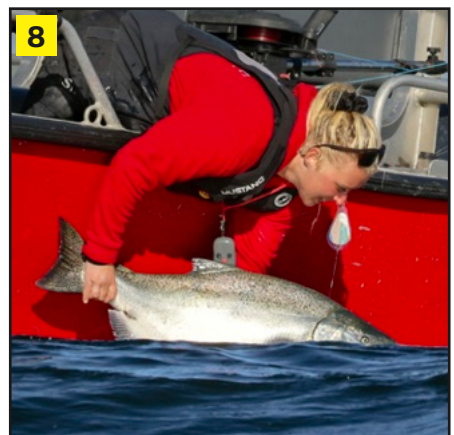
10 Manny, you sure do grow them big in your garden! Are you using Miracle-Gro or what??

11 Charlie (hey no gang signs!) and guest Keigh Dugas fishing up a storm—peace!!

12 Stacey Trudgian takes a snap of Stephen Becker with 2 Trap Shack Chinook! Nice bookends to the day, guys!

13 Greg Morton’s 17-lb fall-caught Chinook from near the T10 buoy in the Area 29 Strait of Georgia. Photo by Jill Greenwood.

14 Here’s Ashley Morton’s 16-lb Chinook with Greg Morton. Thanks, Matt Dryden for the camera work!



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15 It wouldn't be a family affair without Kyle Morton's fall-caught 'nook, too. Thanks for the album, Greg! Clearly fishing is in your blood!

16 Wade Lundstrom shows us what an 8' sturgeon looks like. That ain't no goldfish!

17 There are too many productive lakes to count (or name where this sweetheart was caught) on Vancouver Island! Nice one, Chase Henstridge! Great photo by Tyler Lopez.

18 Dustin Semrok captures his son Maxwell with one of the many pink salmon that showed up this year.



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19 How about Jameson Proteau's Alberni Inlet catch! Well done, Jameson! Looks like Auntie Angela is as impressed as we are!

20 Meanwhile, Thatcher Proteau manages his first pink salmon! Yeah, buddy!

21 Jigging near Lasqueti Island with Steven Burgess and Dean Isenberg, Chris Ormiston reels up a prize! Isn't jigging the best?

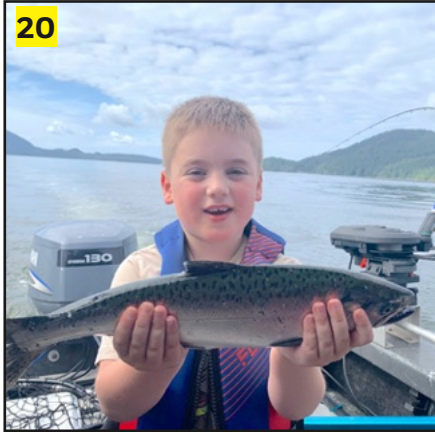
22 Clayton and Rick Lamb with four beauties from Port Renfrew! There's nothing like a father and son trip!

23 Check out Billi Humchitt fishing in beautiful Heiltsuk Territory near Bella Bella, BC. Amy, remember that day?

24 Lingcod fishing by kayak in Ucluelet? Yes, please! Nicely done, Christopher Williams!

25 James Jerome found that putting squid in a teaser head not only upped the size they were catching, but it lit up the rods—double-header city!

26 On an 8-day island hopping cruise and out of protein, Kent Summers thought he hooked bottom or a big rock. Suddenly, head shakes from this sea monster told him different! Colin Osmond with the assist, Alanna Summers the photographer. A trip of a lifetime!



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27 Who wore it best—Lee Robertson (1st place) or James McMillan (2nd place) at their annual Bamfield Derby at the Seabeam? Great photo, Patrick Peplow—next year let's see you in there!

28 Make no mistake, there be bass on Vancouver Island, too! Erick Pay's personal best 6-lb, 4-oz largemouth on a spinnerbait at Noneyerbiz Lake. Or was it Nevertell? It's so hard to keep track.

29 Kim Stephenson took up saltwater fishing just a few weeks ago. Looks like she's getting the hang of it!

30 Just bead it! Gil d'Oliveira has been at it again on the local rivers! Thanks to Jim Simmons for the photo.



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31 There's a first for everything! Congrats on joining the West Coast Halibut club, Jacob! In the photo, left to right: Jacob Garton, Levon Garton, and Jarod Garton.

32 Darcie McFarlane breaks her all-time record with this tank! Hmmm, what do you think—could it have been that Sointula flasher?

33 In 20' of water on a L'il Nib jig! That's awesome coho fishing in Nootka Sound—well done, Keri Knierim-Brown!

34 The boys are back in town! 7-year-old Beau Maton and 9-year-old Calvin Wong catching sockeye out of Brown's Bay in August! That's living! Bonus points to Scott Maton for helping make those memories.

35 Chris Ormiston with last light delight. You got that right, Chris. 'Nuff said.



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