

## Fish'n Chips Log – July 2 – August 22, 2003

### Day 1 – Sunday, Departure Day, July 6, Anchorage – Buccaneer Bay

We left around 1430 after fueling up. Tide in the river was in our favour. It was a little rough at the end of the river but it soon improved further out. Kona was becoming a concern due to her never-ending panting. I kept her calmer by lying with her in a lounge chair in the stern cockpit.



We made it into Buccaneer Bay around 1900 hrs where we immediately took Kona to shore for a pee. This was the first stop for her, so that was pretty good. Lovely beach on North Thormanby Island with small cottages. It was a good place for Kona to run.



**View of beach from F&C anchorage**

**Day 2 – Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, Anchorage – Copeland Islands** – Weather: windy over night, some rain

We were awakened at 0530 next morning by Kona. CA was right; she had to go for a pee. I could tell by the look on her face. We took her to the public dock where all the small cottages are. After walking Kona, we decided to make away because Kona was okay and we had a good start on the day.



Stopped at Beach Garden Marina just south of Powell River to let Kona off and get water and gas at the front dock.

On to Copeland Islands – arrived mid afternoon. Went to shore to investigate and relieve Kona. Oysters around but better ones to be had up the way at “Oyster Haven”. Rick went for an unexpected dunk while leaning over to inspect the hull of the Catch-up. Rocky night when the wind came up on our beam.



**Waiting Ashore while Captain has a quick shower after his “dip in the drink”**

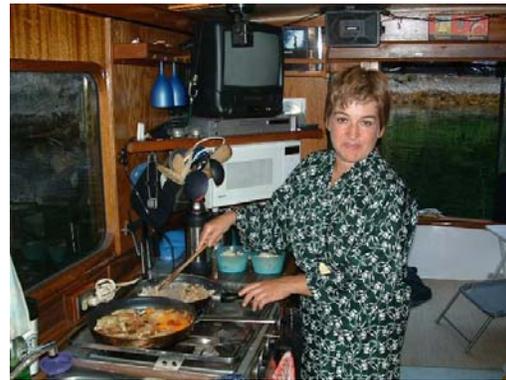
**Day 3 – Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, Anchorage – Otter Island** – Weather: Sun and Cloud

We woke up this morning to calm conditions. It was tempting to stay but on we must go. CA collected her oysters from our favorite spot but prawns are more plentiful in Desolation Sound. We had a following sea and smooth ride as a result. It was decided that we should anchor off Otter Island where prawns in this area are known to be plentiful. It was a little windy during our shore tie up but as soon as it died away that evening we got the tie we wanted (still smarting from last night's wind experience). We went to bed after 3 bottles of wine and a fine dinner.



**Day 4 – Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, Anchorage – Otter Island** – Weather, Sunny and Hot, some cloud

We checked our prawn traps after coffee and energy drink. We were up at about 0900 – Kona gave us a break. We brought up approx. 40 prawns and then we went for a ride around Otter Island. Upon our return, we started our first exercise routine, Rick on the ball and CA jumping to music. After that we went for a swim, and then some lunch. During this time the compressor was used for its first job to fill one tank. We didn't go diving today because Rick was not feeling his best. It was decided that a cold may be coming on and that taking it easy for the day would be wise. There's plenty of time left in this trip, no rush. We picked up another 28 prawns in the afternoon. So here we sit, Copeland Island oysters are now being prepared for dinner.



**Day 5 – Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, Anchorage – Otter Island** – Weather, Sunny and Hot

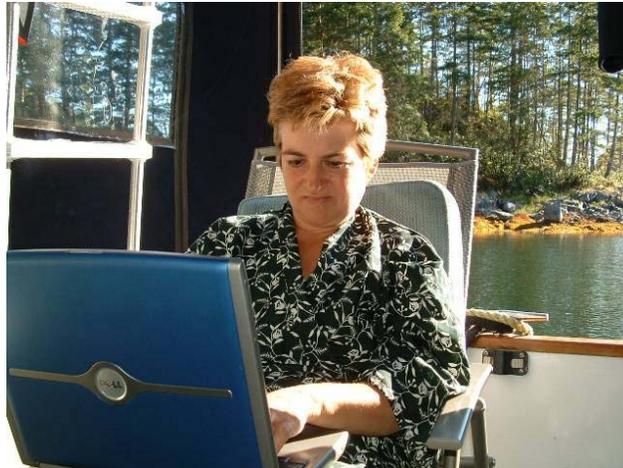
Woke up to Kona's beckoning at a decent hour of 0800 or so. We took her for shore duty and after a quick coffee we checked our prawn trap and came up with 60. We also visited a nearby island where Kona conducted another investigation. After breakfast we conducted our first dive of the trip in our anchor spot.

***Dive 1 Synopsis:*** *CA almost lost it with the heat when we had to take off her tank to put on her weight belt. She washed some cool sea water on her face and after that, she was back in action. Everything went smooth after that. There was lots of exploration on buoyancy control and then we began the dive circling around the anchor area. Near the end of the dive we ran into a rocky shoreline and found much*



*life in kelp and rocks. We ended the dive there and returned to the boat. CA later said that the dive ended too soon. More diving to come, yahoo!!*

After boarding the tied up “Catch-up” we discussed how things should work on our next dive away from the FnC. We packed our gear away and started early prawn dinner. Captain made away to check a.m. prawn trap and returned with 101. Maintained radio contact to report catch and ETA for dinner. It got really hot after that with the lack of wind on FnC’s starboard side so we decided not to go kayaking as planned. Instead we had wine (on our 4<sup>th</sup> now at 2230) and worked on the computer e-mailing, looking and editing photos etc. A very successful and relaxing day. One more night and another dive is planned for tomorrow. More prawns too with a.m. catch to come.



We were contacted by Kodiak (Dennis), on the radio. He is located in Roscoe Bay, taking extra time off with the “Olympic Shadow” before releasing her to a charter customer. CA also had a lengthy cell phone conversation with Margot before starting log and picture naming process.

**Day 6 – Friday, July 11, 2003, Anchorage – Otter Island** – Weather, Sunny and Hot



Woke up to Kona’s beckoning at an early hour of 0700. CA took her for shore duty and return to find coffee brewing and the captain relaxing in his bunk reading. After breakfast we went off to check our prawn trap. A total of 26 for an overnight harvest. Reset the trap and continued on to explore a bay up the way (Bold Head) and to go ashore to let Kona have some exercise. Hiked around a while and returned to the F&C to prepare a picnic lunch and make ready for a kayak trip to Prideaux Haven; about a four mile paddle round trip. Kona getting more used to being left behind now.

Paddled to Prideaux Haven, very sunny and hot. Had lunch there and returned between Eveleigh Island and the mainland – only possible at high tide. Kona was very happy to see us on our return. CA prepared bread for baking and prawns for currying. Captain took a power nap at 1830. A dive was planned on our return but sun took too much out of us for one day.



**Day 7 – Saturday, July 12, 2003, Anchorage – Otter Island** – Weather, Cloudy and rain at times

We dedicated this day to diving. After some coffee and smoothies and Kona shore duty, we checked our prawn trap and came up with 40. It was down for 24 hours.

It was exercise time upon our return.

And then after that some lunch - CA made up some Californian rolls.



It started to rain off and on and it became windy at times with strong gusts. I was concerned about going diving at this time for fear that waves would knock the rib onto the rocky shore. Two more boats came into the bay to settle in from the wind.



Soon after 12 people in kayaks showed up. One asked for some tea bags in exchange for a chocolate bar. We gave her the bags, no chocolate bar necessary.



Suddenly it became calm. After giving Kona one more shore patrol we decided to dive in the nearby cliff area. We finally got our dive in around 1700 hrs at a nearby bay beside a cliff.

***Dive 2 Synopsis:*** We went to a maximum depth of 79 ft/35 min where CA gained some valuable experience in buoyancy control. Her light went dead so I gave her mine and let her go ahead at the later half of the dive. At the end of the dive we came up too fast but that was because CA forgot to go slow – safety stop at 20 feet forgotten too. It was not due to an uncontrolled ascent. We are beginning to have this diving thing down to a



*routine. The rib packs dive gear well and there's plenty of room for conducting the dive.*

We were back late and didn't bother picking up our prawn trap again. It got windy and we decided to relocate our stern line so that the boat wouldn't drift ashore with a wind abeam. CA did a perfect job of untying the line and bringing it back after I relocated the boat into position while still anchored.

**Day 8 – Sunday, July 13, 2003, Anchorage – Squirrel Cove** – Weather, Cloudy, rainy and windy (SE)

We survived the night with the wind coming at our stern leaving the anchor line slack. We went out to get our prawns (40). We have decided that leaving the trap too long (all day and night) doesn't make for maximum catch. We next gave Kona a walk in the usual spot. While we were there, CA released the stern line and FnC was on anchor only until we decided to depart. With the weather predicted to blow from the SE in the mid afternoon, we decided that we should make our relocation trip short and go to Squirrel Cove. There we could get water and supplies before heading north.

Here we sit in Squirrel Cove. We took the trail to Van Donop Inlet shortly after anchoring. We determined that the trail goes to Van Donop Inlet *Lagoon*. The trail is marked all the way and necessary since it could be easy to lose your way but the path is well cleared most of the way. Look for a sign on the shore marked "Trail" in the NE section of Squirrel Cove. According to the sign, Van Donop is 2.51 km. It took us approx 1 hr each way, although we didn't have watches. Kona had a real good run this time and so did we of course. See Chart for trail location.



**Day 9, Monday, July 14, 2003, Anchorage – Squirrel Cove**- Weather, Cloudy with mostly sunny breaks, very blustery.

Woke up to shore duty with Kona at 0700. CA took her back to yesterday's trail but only a short way. Spooky in the woods at that hour all by yourself. Came back to fresh coffee brewing and breakfast of French toast. Took off after for a short rib ride to the government dock. Stopped to talk to the Castle Rock captain and his wife before proceeding on to the government wharf at Squirrel Cove. Arrive to find that we could not get water there, only in the grocery store for drinking. Walked on the beach with Kona and then returned to the F&C. Decided to have a very relaxing day. The captain read a book and his mate had a pedicure on the fly bridge. Mid afternoon the captain took Kona for another walk on the trail to Van Donop Lagoon and then a rib ride around the cove. Returned to fill two scuba tanks for the dives to come. Dinner of curried prawns, wine and on to the paper work of naming pictures, e-mailing and log writing.



**Day 10, Tuesday, July 15, 2003, Anchorage – Gowlland Island Harbour** - Mostly Sunny, Calm



**Ready for Departure in Calm Squirrel Cove**

We departed Squirrel Cove at 0900 and since it was such a nice calm day we decided to go directly to Campbell River for supplies.

Kona panted as usual even though the trip was quite smooth except for the rumpus caused by the odd passing high speed yacht. We had the push in by ebbing tide. After approx 3 hrs we went directly to the fuel dock at Discovery Harbour Marina and took on water and diesel. \$100 used so far on the trip. Anchored in Gowlland Island Harbour and backed over the rib tow line and got snagged up. Decided to dive later and attend to it and returned to Discover Harbour Marina in the Catch-up to get groceries and gas for the rib. When we returned CA put all supplies away while the captain dove under the F&C and freed up the tow line wrapped around the shaft about six times. No damage. After supper took Kona for shore duty on Stag Island. Eagles and Canadian geese overseeing our hike. Returned to F&C and to bed.



**Day 11, Wednesday, July 16, 2003, Anchorage – Gowlland Island Harbour** – Mostly Cloudy, some sun and rain.

CA came back to bed after walking Kona and then we slept in till 1030. Had breakfast and then prepared for dive.

**Dive 3 Synopsis:** *We planned to dive the Gowlland Island shoreline just behind southern tip of Steep Island but after tying up I noticed that the flood current was starting. So we moved over to the Northern tip of Gowlland Island and dove there instead. 70 ft / 35 min. All went smoothly. There was a fair amount of life – bullhead sculpin, many spider starfish, white sun fish, and rock cod. Vis was down to 20-25 ft. Low tide. CA getting better. She had a bit of trouble getting the air out of BC. Must be because the hose is Velcro to low.*



**Rick ready to Dive**



**CA after Dive near Steep Island**

We returned to the FnC and filled the tanks at the back deck with the doors closed. We think this is more convenient this way and the noise is not too bad.

**Day 12, Thursday, July 17, 2003, Anchorage – Otter Cove, Johnstone Strait** – Sunny, Fog Patches in the morning

We are back to good weather again. We departed Gowlland Harbour at 0830 to catch the slack at Seymour. We were concerned about the fog that could be seen in the distance over the trees. We could only hope that it would burn off by the time we got into Seymour Narrows. It turned out to be okay; the fog was low level only, but never the less it was close to being totally socked in. Had this been the case, the FnC radar was on standby ready to be put to task. It was a short 2 hr trip with a gentle push by ebbing tides.



Kona panted all the way. We decided to anchor in Otter Cove which offered the best protection from predicted west winds. We were lone anchorers. We took Kona ashore immediately upon arrival where she ran on a mud flat beach. We then made some gin drinks, dropped a crap trap and putted to Rock Bay for 2 hrs. We took pictures of Chatham Point, Fishing Charter Boats and the Rock Bay ramp and now trailer park.

After not visiting there for some 25 years while diving, Rock Bay has now turned into a trailer trash park. We slept and read upon our return to the ship for about an hour or two and then cleaned the FnC's starboard side hull. We are now about to have dinner. A beautiful day, no whales sighted but we did see a cruise ship and several hours later her sister ship came through. Another boat came into our anchorage and meandered about for over an hour before making his decision where to anchor for the night. After dark a prawn boat came in to join us as well.



**Day 13, July 18, 2003, North side of Hanson Island in an unnamed bay off of Spout Islet. Anchorage – Sunny**

Woke up at 0700 and the Captain made ready to go to shore with Kona.

Sighted whales and we all hopped in the rib and took off into Discovery Passage to get a closer look. Two orca whales sighted, rather skittish but surfaced long enough to get a good picture. Returned to the F&C after shore duty and failed crab trap pick-up. Had breakfast and headed out at 0930 up the Johnstone Strait headed for Alert Bay on an ebbing tide. At Sophia Islands decided to let Kona off for a pee. Captain left the F&C in the rib and took Kona to shore, returning and loading her up all on the run. On the shore was a tarp supported by driftwood and a sign “Welcome, Orca Beach”. Soon after we sighted a pod of Orcas off Blackney Passage heading into Blackfish Sound. Fought the current in Blackney Passage for the first time in the day – we faced up to 5 kts.



On the shore was a tarp supported by driftwood and a sign “Welcome, Orca Beach”. Soon after we sighted a pod of Orcas off Blackney Passage heading into Blackfish Sound. Fought the current in Blackney Passage for the first time in the day – we faced up to 5 kts.

Three guys working at the “Orca Lab” on Cracroft Point to record activities of the whales. Leastwise, this is what our American neighbour claims here at our anchorage.

**Day 14, July 19, 2003, North side of Hanson Island in an unnamed bay off of Spout Islet. Anchorage** – Rainy

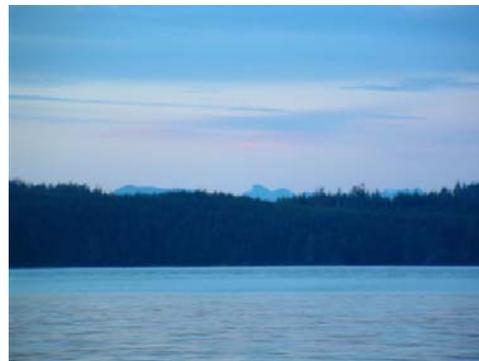
Woke up at 0600 and we both took Kona out for shore duty. Returned to bed until 1120. Decided to have a lazy day in. CA made cake, bread, and supper. Captain read and took



Kona out for shore duty and a ride in the rib.

On the first ride, the Captain scouted out a dive spot off Spout Islet for tomorrow's dive-weather permitting. Next outing, several hours and chapters later, went around to Double Bay and saw some docks there and found it to be Double Bay Resort, guests only! Then Captain headed south and gave Kona a walk through a forest and upon his return met two young men in a runabout picking up their crab traps. After some discussion about crabs in the area they

mentioned that there were two humpbacks out in Blackfish Sound. They cautioned that there was a 100 metre restriction but locals go as close as 50metres. They also said that Orcas have sonar but Humpbacks do not and therefore may not be aware that you are there. So say these experts. They also run a kayak touring company at Emerald Kayaks.ca. Kona and the Captain did venture off in search of the humpbacks and were successful. Both whales dove out of sight as soon as he approached. Returned back to F&C in one foot chop. Catch-Up performs admirably. Happy hour begins while dinner warms the F&C interior. Good protection in this bay from south-easterlies expected to blow up tonight. Cozy and warm in the F&C on this rainy day.



**Day 15, July 20, 2003, North side of Hanson Island in an unnamed bay off of Spout Islet. Anchorage** – Partly Sunny, light breeze

The wind picked up from the SE last night right after dinner and got worse while we slept. The boat pitched on her anchor most of the night while Kona panted. The Captain slept well and only woke up once when it got really bad and a roaster pan fell onto the floor. Kona was okay and was a very good dog – she only panted. CA had trouble sleeping due to the pitching. We were very secure with good holding ground and kellel out. Correction to last report, this anchorage is not good for south easterlies. It is also exposed to Cruise Ship waves.

This morning we took Kona for a walk and then ventured out to Blackfish Sound for a moment to possibly spot a whale. None spotted, we returned for breakfast and then it was time to dive.

**Dive 4 Synopsis:** *A rock off the NE side of Spout Island. 87 /29. Went down the anchor line and from there went directly to the rock. Saw two rat fish and CA said it wasn't that great of a dive. Water cold and visibility improved at 60 plus feet but not much life. CA, when instructed to go ahead, was quite fast. Appears to have improved in buoyancy and confidence. Able to descend quickly and control ascents now. Substantial current not noticed due to good swimming abilities.*



After diving we had a lunch break and loaded up the rib for a putt out into the sound. We investigated Stubbs Island for future diving and then went on to look around Plumper Islands for our next anchorage. Small bit of rain when we first started out but improved to overcast for the rest of the trip. Found a spot we liked and took Kona off for a walk in the woods. While walking in the forest we located a kayaking camp with several tents and all the necessary facilities for people to enjoy the area. Returned to the F&C and decided to move our anchorage tomorrow morning. Filled scuba tanks for tomorrow's dive, had dinner and relaxed with good music and wine.



After dinner took Kona to shore and then out to Blackfish Sound to watch for whales. Captain ordered rib motor turned off and to sit quietly while sipping a beverage and wait for the whales. After some time we heard their blow holes spouting and looked over to see a whale near this morning's dive spot. Appeared to be small whales with brown fin. Returned to F&C at 2200.

Right now the seas are calm and two boats have joined us in this bay. They must have the same idea as we had – good view of Blackfish Sound with seemingly good protection.

**Day 16, July 21, 2003, Plumper Island Group anchorage - cloudy**

Left Hanson Island anchorage and headed off for Alert Bay for water. Noticed whale watching boat out in Blackfish Sound. Another approached soon after carrying about 30 people. As we approached a whale spouted off our starboard side about 30 feet away. Turned off the engines and whale watched for awhile. What we think was a minke whale made a wide circle around the F&C while a pod of smaller whales, maybe dolphins, was further off in the distance. Proceeded on to Alert Bay and got water, gas and a few supplies.



Returned to anchor in Plumper Islands around 1800. Night was calm and only gentle rocking through the night. A good anchor spot.

**Day 17, July 22, 2003, Plumper Island Group Anchorage – Sunny**



Next morning, after taking Kona ashore, we decided to dive Decorated War Bonnet Point:



**Dive 5 Synopsis:** *A very smooth dive. All went well. Vis was good, at least 40 ft, and lots of life. When we got down, it was evident that following the wall into the channel was the best way to go. 80ft/26min profile. We went down at 1300 hrs (slack at 1410 according to Alert Bay station) it was not a moment to soon when the current started again as soon as we got back into the boat at 1400. We brought up two scallops so that CA could try them out. A great dive.*

**Day 18, July 23, 2003, Plumper Island Group anchorage 2 – Safety Boat Cove – Sunny**

Woke up around 0900 - anchorage rocky from 1800 on so decided to retire early. Eased off again during the night. Decided this a.m. to move to a different spot as same winds predicted for today. Picked up anchor after breakfast and made away to move over to “Safety Boat” cove. On route around the point we saw a pod of Dall’s porpoises and at the same time a tall ship was coming up behind us. Tried to take a photo of both but only the tall ship seemed to make an appearance.



After getting anchor set and shore line done we went for a putt in Catch-up to a grassy island in the Plumper Island Group overlooking Blackfish Sound. On the way there, we saw a large sea lion in the planned dive area. Kona got a chance to run in some wide open space when we arrived at the island. On our returned we prepared for today’s dive.



**Dive 6 – Tony’s Wall – Synopsis -** *We arrive early at the dive spot and decided to wait a bit longer until the current slowed down. From the beginning the dive did not go well for CA. She had trouble in the kelp and then when we moved over she had trouble getting down. Once she did make her descent she landed at sixty feet on a purple sea urchin and one of its spines went through her glove and into the palm of her hand. It was very dark even at 85 feet and the visibility wasn’t that great – a night dive. CA saw swimming scallops for the first time as well as a Scalyhead Sculpin. Because we didn’t need to swim much as there was still a bit of current pushing us along the wall, CA got quite cold. We came up short of the Catch-up and had to swim to it. By the time we got to the boat CA was pooped and cold. A dive from hell, but CA did just fine.*



After our dive we had lunch (1700) in the sun on the bow, shore duty for Kona and some pictures taken of the F&C at anchor. Relaxed, read, and napped in the sun. Even though the sun was out all day the breeze is very fresh and at times chilly – much different than the weather further south. Every day is like a beautiful spring day.



**Day 19, July 24, 2003, Plumper Island Group anchorage 2 – Safety Boat Cove – Windy, Sunny**

We woke up and decided that this day we would take it easy. It was quite windy out. CA made cake. We tried to venture out to Blackfish Sound for whale watching but it turned out to be too rough. So we went inside and visited our first dive site and then sat on the leeward side of a warm rocky island. As we sat drinking our gin drinks, we saw the “Luka” the whale tour boat come in as well. They must have had a ruff time of it as well. He seemed to be stopped and watching or waiting for something, hoping to see something to make his customers happy. We still don’t know what he was watching. We returned to the boat, had dinner and called it a day. CA still continues to have a sore fat lower lip (cold sores???). We watched the Queen Charlotte’s Video and went to bed.

**Day 20, July 25, 2003, Plumper Island Group anchorage 2 – Safety Boat Cove – Calm, Sunny, windy by the evening**

We decided to delay our diving to the evening and go out in the rib to Malcolm Island for a beach picnic. On our way, we began to see humpback whales. We learned to follow them by anticipating where they would head after each dive. They headed toward Malcolm Island luckily. We met up with other boats and the whale watcher tour boat eventually showed up as well. Orca’s started to show up as well, we started to follow them next. Enough, we decide to do our beach picnic. Another pod was passing when we were approaching the beach but we ignored them. We found a small sandy part and had lunch there. We saw no more whales after that. After a couple of hours we headed



back to the FnC. We encountered some wind and chop at Stubb's Island on the way back. We had a one hour nap and then it was time to dive. Dressed we traveled by rib to Stubb's Island south side.

### ***Dive 7 – Stubb's Island, SW – Synopsis***

*We are back to clear vis again. There must have been a plankton bloom during dive 6 day. 89/24 dive profile. Dive time, 1845. 50 deg F. We decide to dive the SW side of Stubb's even though it was windy and choppy because it was the leeward side of a flooding current. Slack tide had occurred about 2 hours earlier. CA kept her wits and there was no problem tying up the Catch-up in position. There was no problem dressing in the chop and once in the water we realized that there was a slight current (back eddy current from island side current, we entered too close to the current side of the island). We decided to go down and swim into it. It was the best dive yet despite the current where we found much life. We were able to find a few hiding places out of the current and we didn't go far nor did we have to. After 25 min we returned exactly to the shore where Catch-up was tied up.*

After our dive we returned to the F&C and had a hot shower, hot soup and dinner. A busy day full of adventure. We retired early which seems to be the pattern. The fresh air and adventure make for a full day.

### **Day 21, July 26, 2003, Plumper Island Group anchorage 2 – Safety Boat Cove – Calm, Cloudy, sunny by evening**

We took another easy day. Bread baking, exercising on the bow and then we decided to tour Pearse Islands and scope out a possible future anchorage and dive spot. We didn't see any whales, only porpoises and surprisingly few boats. CA's anchor spot turned out to be a dud (looks better on the chart than in real life). We returned for dinner and found that we had company, Allan and Margaret and their sailboat. After dinner we then took a short ride out to Blackfish Sound for more whale searching. Allan and Margaret were invited to come along but declined. We didn't see any whales but we did see more porpoises and a large flock of birds including eagles feasting on something in the waters near our anchorage.



### **Day 22, July 27, 2003, Plumper Island Group anchorage 2 – Safety Boat Cove – Calm, Sunny by mid day**

Our neighbours left this morning staying less than a day. We spent the morning sending pics on hotmail to everyone.

Later that afternoon, we went diving at the marked dive spot on the NE part of the Pearse Island Group.

### ***Dive 8 – NE Pearse – Synopsis***



*86/28 profile. We had to wait about 1 hour after Alert Bay's high slack until the water finally slowed. Beautiful sunny day. 40 ft Vis near surface and maybe down to 30 ft vis at depth. Beautiful kelp forest. Good life on the wall which was close by. Well worth the wait.*

### **Day 23, July 28, 2003, Plumper Island Group anchorage 2 – Safety Boat Cove – Calm, Sunny all day**

After breakfast we went to Alert Bay for gas and groceries in Catch-up. After getting gas, we went walking with Kona to find the world's largest totem pole. We talked to a carver at the museum next to a heritage building dated 1928. This section of the totem pole shows a "wild woman of the woods", named Dzunuk'wa who kidnaps and eats children and has pendulous breasts, covered in black hair and is twice the size of a man. She can also give treasures. After buying groceries we returned to the FnC and rested for a while. Then it was time to go diving.



### ***Dive 9 – NE Stubbs Island – Synopsis***

*91/27 profile. We arrived for 1 hour past Alert Bay's slack but found the tide to be still running, so we lay out on the rocks and waited it out for another hour. We started to see kayakers around our area when slack was nearing. We then went around to the north side of the island and retied the rib for our dive. The first thing we noticed about this spot was that plumose anemones were very much abundant to the point we found them to be too much. We did find two Puget Sound King Crabs. They were about 12 inches*



*across the body and their shells are all bumpy. They were very docile and both right in the same area together.*

*Visibility was quite good at 40-60 ft. SE side appears to be the better dive. We plan to do it again later in the week.*

*Then, if that wasn't enough, we came up from the dive, climbed into the little boat - Catch-up - and heard the blowing of a whale. We looked out and there was one in the near distance. BUT!!! Rick turned around and pointed to several coming right around the corner of the island we*

*were at and they swam right over the area we had just been diving in. Out came the*

*camera quick! Phew, that was close. We think we saw these same characters a few days earlier so they might be the resident kind; they eat plankton and stuff whereas the transients, they eat whatever they can find. All we could do was laugh at our good fortune to be at the surface and not under the water when they happened by. Lucky for us these guys only eat fish!! What a wild place in more ways than one!!*



*This picture shows the mom and a porpoise she was with. You can get an idea of how close they were to us. There were probably five of them all together. Some of them might have been porpoises too. We have another picture of some of the adolescents that were traveling with her and Rick took a video with his camera also because I didn't think anyone would believe what just happened if we didn't. Anyway, all very exciting.*

### **We got this information from the Stubbs Island Whale Watching website: DIFFERENT TERRITORIES**

The resident population is comprised of groups of genetically related clans or extended family groups of orcas. These clans have established territories and fairly predictable patterns of movement within those territories. They travel in pods and sub-pods, often groups of up to 20 whales or more with individuals scattered over a wide area.

Northern residents range from southern Alaska to the waters around North and Central Vancouver Island. Southern residents range from the Campbell River south to Puget Sound.

Transients, on the other hand, have neither established territories nor predictable patterns of movement. They swim in small groups of two to five or six, usually in close physical proximity.

Researchers have recently had several encounters with the third known West Coast orca population, currently labeled the "offshore". These whales have been encountered primarily in the open ocean, and in large groups of 30 to 60.

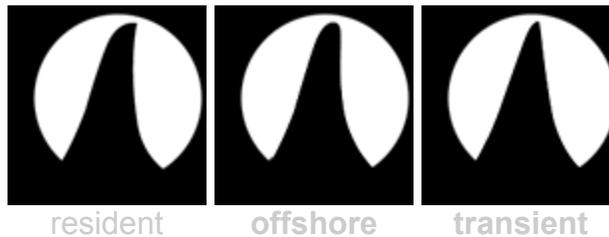
### **DIFFERENT DIETS**

One of the primary reasons residents, transients, and offshore exhibit different behaviors is that their diets are very different. Residents feed almost exclusively

on fish, and exhibit a strong preference for salmon. At the moment it is believed that the offshore are exclusively fish eaters as well, but, given the relatively small number of encounters with the offshore, it can't be said with certainty.

### DIFFERENT DORSAL FIN S

One evidence of genetic differences between the resident, transient, and offshore populations is that there are subtle differences in the shape of their dorsal fins. These differences are most consistently seen in females. One such consistent difference is the shape of the fin tip. Resident dorsal fins tend to have a rounded tip that terminates in a sharp corner. The dorsal fins of offshores tend to have tips that are continuously rounded. Transient dorsals tend to be more pointed at the tip, more closely resembling the dorsal fin of a shark. The examples below are a bit exaggerated, but illustrate the described differences.



### Day 24, July 29, 2003, Plumper Island Group anchorage 2 – Safety Boat Cove – Calm, Sunny all day, fog patches in the morning

CA was on the internet first thing this morning and responded to some e-mail from friends enjoying the pictures sent to them of the trip. We then had breakfast and set out for our 1100 dive to the reef. A low, low tide at this time.

#### ***Dive 10 – Decorated War Bonnet Point – Synopsis***

*We weren't able to dive the reef because of building current. Looks like we were late for the tide change. We tried Bob's Wall but after tying up the rib we soon realized that there was too much current for our liking there as well. So we dove Decorated Warbonnet Point again. 88/31 profile. The vis was excellent, must have been at least 60 ft or more. We didn't see any warbonnets but we did see many Basket Stars. We fed urchins to greenlings and Rick found an urchin shell for a souvenir of the dive. Fog started rolling in through the nearby pass so went the other way to get back to FnC. We also saw the whale watch boat "Luka" come in from out of the fog.*



We sat around all that afternoon and read and then went exploring to the Pearse Island SE - visited one island. We didn't see any whales.

**Day 25, July 30, 2003, Plumper Island Group anchorage 2 – Safety Boat Cove –  
Calm, Cloudy all day**

Woke up to a bit of fog. A cool day today and it was hard to get into our diving suits.

Rick disconnected the starboard battery because it was getting warm indicating a short.



***Dive 11 – Tony’s Wall second time – Synopsis***

*When we got in, the tide was beginning to run. The current underwater had picked up around the point so we went back and dove some back eddies and we were able to get down as far as 85 ft. 89/29 profile. Many basket stars at this dive spot. CA found an octopus all on her own. Very impressive seeing that this is only her 11<sup>th</sup> dive. The current was really running when we got back to the rib. No problems.*

*I saw and held an octopus today - neato!! I was swimming along at about 80 feet and saw something different draped over a rock. Rick was a ways ahead of me so I decided to catch up to him and then changed my mind and went back to investigate what was on the rock. I saw its tentacles on one leg so I flashed Rick with my light and he came back to look at it too. Its legs were about 15 inches long and its body was about 8 inches. It was beautiful when we gently pulled on one of its legs and it began to open up and move off the rock. When I touched its arm what a lot of sucking power it had as it was feeling my arm. It slowly moved away from us and it was a beige mottled color. Then it slipped into the smallest crack between two rocks and into its den. You would never know such a thing was hiding in there. It was so cool!! And to think that the first time we dove here I called it the “dive from hell.” Current and no visibility – the “night” dive.*

*We’re finding the timing of our dives tricky around these islands. The slack tide and the current turning times are different by around an hour and a half. We’re still getting to know the area and the best time to go down so the current isn’t making things uncomfortable. The temperature is chilling too – the octopus dive was 46 degrees- can only stay down for about 25 minutes! ‘Dry suits next year’ the captain says.*

When we got home we had some “scuba diving” soup to warm up, CA made bread, Rick worked on making a slide show of the trip to music with the 650 odd pictures we have taken so far. Later had dinner. Went ashore at dark and sat on a log and watched the night and Kona running around with her flashlight collar on. (Rick’s headlamp or Dr. Leblanc’s gynecologist light.)

**Day 26, July 31, 2003, Plumper Island Group anchorage 2 – Safety Boat Cove –  
Calm, Sunny all day**

Slept in this morning and missed our dive time. Had a visit from three fisheries folks, two men and a woman came by to ask what we were up to. Had breakfast at noon, Rick washed the port side of the boat. CA did the paper work and then it was time to dive.



***Dive 12 – SW Stubb's Island – Synopsis***

*Profile 96/22 We got into the water by 1800. There was only a slight current, so we swam west into it and then returned. We went past the crevice which we had seen from last dive here except we approached it from the west side. We believe that the first dive spot was better. Great Vis.*

**Day 27, August 1, 2003, Plumper Island Group anchorage 2 – Safety Boat Cove –  
Calm, Mostly Cloudy**

We got up in a decent time and were able to make the noon hour slack. After the dive and lunch (diver's soup and sandwiches), Rick worked on the computer and CA read on the bow.

***Dive 13 – East Stephenson – Synopsis***

*Profile 70/30. We dove at low tide off the 2<sup>nd</sup> rock in heading north. We timed it just right by diving 1 hour before the Weynton Passage tabled slack time. Wall dive to 60-70 feet and then gradually it gets deeper further out. The rocks were populated by many miniature plumose type anemones. Rick found a Pacific Giant Octopus ¼ way through the dive. This one was again out in the open and later retreated to its cave. Good dive, lots to see. I think I prefer this over Stubb's island. Good vis. Lots of kelp.*



CA in the Kelp and on her Snorkel



We decided to take Kona out for a good outing. We took her to the grassy island so that she could run around. There we saw whales off in the distance. We decided to go after them with the rib. We were only there for a ½ hour and when we got back to the rib, we found her to be aground at the motor leg. It took us about 2 min to free

her and then we were off. There was no problem finding the whales as we were guided by their blow sprays. Rick managed to get some pictures but with the shutter delay of the digital camera, pictures were hard to get. Here's what we got. Now that's why they call this whale a humpback. They hump first, and then they dive.



## **Day 28, August 2, 2003, Beware Bay – Calm, Sunny in the afternoon**

Today we spent our last bit of fresh water washing the decks of the FnC for a couple of hours and weighed anchor and proceeded to Alert Bay. It was a bit tricky removing ourselves from a 2 week stay due to long shoreline and collected bull kelp on the anchor line. In Alert Bay we got our laundry done, grocery shopped, rinsed our scuba gear and got gas for the outboard etc. We left Alert Bay by 1700 and on our way around Pearse Islands we spotted two whale watch charter boats. Sure enough there were humpbacks ahead of them. We didn't pursue them any further and made our own way to Whitebeach Passage. We saw one Orca near there. It was getting late so we decide to anchor in Beware Cove rather than negotiate Beware Passage. We plan to kayak ahead and explore tomorrow.

## **Day 29, August 3, 2003, Beware Bay – Calm, Sunny and windy in the afternoon**

After taking Kona for shore duty and setting prawn and crab traps we prepared for a kayak trip east through Beware Passage and to the anchorages we intended to go to the night before.



We passed Care Island and saw abandoned Indian buildings called Karlukwees Ru Band on the chart. All ruins - perhaps Ru stands for ruins. Then we cut across to Klaoitsis Island where we found our intended anchorages. They were catching the wind in most places. The bay near Potts Lagoon had a dock where someone had set up a business called "Cracroft Adventures". We talked to some of the guests there beside their



Sea Ray. They weren't our types so we moved onto the next bay. We tried to settle on the beach at the foot of the bay but aborted that idea because of too much mud and rocks. We later found a spot around the corner from the bay where we had lunch and wine. The wind had picked up for the afternoon so we decided to return home by hiding behind islands on our way up through Beware Passage. We discovered a white shell beach on the west side of Klaoitsis Island. The worst spot for waves and



wind was after passing Jamieson Is. but after that we got home safely by sticking close to the southern shore until finally we were across from Beware Cove. By then the wind was starting to diminish and we made our crossing without incident. Kona was very happy to see us. Later, while CA was tending to Kona's shore duties, Rick picked up the prawn

trap. Only about 8-10 small prawns, so it was decided to pull the trap. On our way back to the boat we tried to find our crab trap but were unsuccessful. We are still not sure what happen to it. Two people (in their 60's) on a sailboat beside us, who came in while we were away kayaking, said that they saw our float near their boat. They talked about sites to see: Booker Lagoon where we could see friendly porpoises, Dead Pt where "New Vancouver" is located and a Native Big House. Monk wall along one side of the bay south of Dead Pt and Lagoon Cove near Minstrel Island where it is fun to dock due to the entertaining owner.

**Day 30, August 4, 2003, Beware Bay – Calm, Sunny and windy in the afternoon**

Woke up at usual time – around 0930 – to take Kona to shore. On our way out looked once again for our crab trap but with no luck. This has become a big mystery. Came back and discussed the day's agenda over breakfast.



We decided to kayak east to Dead Point and find Monk's Wall and visit the Indian Reserve around Dead Point. It was a much nicer day going there and we came back with the wind and waves. We talked to a sail boater "Rum Runner II", Gerry, who happened to have a guide book that illustrated Monk's Wall and coincidentally he had just arrive that morning and also planned to visit the wall. We weren't too sure where to enter the forest but Gerry came along and showed the way. The wall was very close to shore but nevertheless within a forested area. We had lunch on the nearby rocks and left for the IR "Tsatsisnukwomi".

We met the chief and his fish boat there and his son in a red hard hat "Bruce". CA asked many questions with answers – the IR's that have been abandoned because the DIA (Department of Indian Affairs) won't send them any teachers – the crab and prawn traps everywhere that all belong to 'blue eyes' and they hope to have the business in the future. They have almost new concrete dock with steel piles. The chief and his extend family



live there now but there are five families and houses to come and others waiting. They are building their village back up he said. Right now there was only a big house, two homes and a generator plant. When we asked the chief about "Monk's Wall" he said it

was a homestead and the decedents of the people then live in Alert Bay now. There are two springs in that area that they would have used for water long ago.

We traveled back with the wind on our backs and as soon as we arrived CA expedited a salvage dive operation to recover our lost crab trap. The captain was very impressed with her stamina and her performance underwater while we circled a suspected area with a rope tied to the RIB anchor. We didn't find the trap but CA gained some very valuable experience.

#### ***Dive 14 – Beware Cove – Salvage Dive - Synopsis***

*40/30 profile approx. We were in the water by 1830. Dive computer not used. Search for crab trap. No success.*

#### **Day 31, August 5, 2003, Beware Bay – Calm, Sunny and windy in the afternoon**

We watched our sailboat neighbours, “WY’East” from Portland, leave, and despite what we hoped, our lost crab trap was not fouled up on their anchor line. About an hour later we dressed and attempted to find the crab trap a 2<sup>nd</sup> time.

#### ***Dive 15 – Beware Cove – Salvage Dive No 2- Synopsis***

*We dove in the area under and out from the sailboat “WY’East”. We came up when Rick ran out of air, empty handed.*

We prepared to leave for our next destination, Lagoon Cove, although it is now reported that CA wanted to stay and not give up. Rick was thinking for a \$100 trap, that's \$50 labour for two divers for two dives – a 3<sup>rd</sup> dive would make it \$33 per dive or \$16 per dive for each diver. In short - it's not worth it!!!'

It was a pleasant putt down Clio Channel and before long, taking our time at 6 kts; we arrived at Lagoon Cove, just south of Minstrel Island. We anchored in the head waters



of Lagoon Cove. We went to the Marina and were happy to find that there are paths going to Blowhole Channel – a great walk for Kona, finally. Her last good romp was in Squirrel Cove when we hiked to Van Donop Lagoon.



**Day 32, August 6, 2003, Lagoon Cove – Calm, Sunny**



Our first activity for the day was to take a hike with Kona to ‘The Blow Hole’ by the trail from Lagoon Cove Marina. It was a very good trail lasting for about ½ hour each way. When we got back we took off in our kayaks through the Blow Hole to Minstrel Island Marina. We found the Marina

to be quite quiet with only three yachts there. The lady in charge complained about a poor showing this year and that this was the reason she had no fresh bread or vegetables. It appears that all her customers are back at Lagoon Cove Marina where they are enjoying “free prawns at happy hour”. Most of the boaters we see here are American (90% or more). They, of course, like to gather in groups and Cove Marina has lucked out this year. Neat, tidy and entertaining seems to attract those American Yachters, not to mention the owners, Bill and Jean, are also Americans. We, of course, are on the hook in the bay, maintaining our record of not docking on the trip so far. Bought a few groceries before paddling back.



**Day 33, August 7, 2003, Lagoon Cove - Calm, Sunny**



After breakfast decided to take a kayak trip through narrow piece of lagoon between East Cracroft Island and West Cracroft Island. At low tide the water was about two feet deep where we started. As we got further down the lagoon the water shallowed and the rocks appeared stopping further progress. We thought we would land and have lunch and then spotted a small black bear where we were thinking of lunching. Continued our paddle back towards Lagoon Cove and went down

the west side of Farquharson Island through Cracroft Inlet. We had lunch between Farquharson and Dormon Islands. After lunch continued to paddle along Dormon Island into Clio Channel and back into Lagoon Cove. After putting away our kayaking gear we picked up our prawn trap, collected about 35 and reset it for the night. Returned for dinner of prawns and turned in early.

### **Day 34, August 8, 2003, Bessborough Bay - Calm, Sunny**

Picked up prawns, (about 45) gas at Marina, headed out at 1400 for Port Neville. While weighing anchor, winch was found to be defective – nut on end of drive shaft fell off. The captain pulled the anchor rode by hand and we were off without delay. We went through the Blow Hole, down Chatham channel through a shallow and narrow stretch and negotiated our way through using range markers. We continued on south past Hull Island and made our way into Johnstone Strait. We had thought we would anchor in Port Neville for the night but the weather and sea conditions were so good

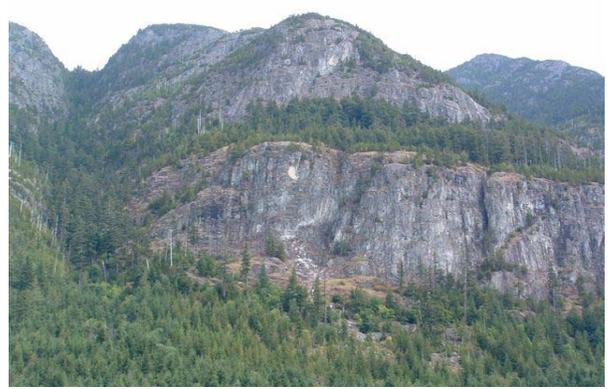


we decided to go on to Forward Harbour. We spotted a pod of orcas just past Port Neville bay off Jesse Island. About eight whales in total. We proceeded up Sunderland Channel by Hardwicke Island heading for Forward Harbour. When we got closer we decided that we would be better off from the wind if we anchored in Bessborough Bay. We had been monitoring the conversations between two American Yachts, “Duck Soup” and “Sun Dance”. They came up

from behind us and passed us while we were watching the whales. Later we were mentioned in their conversation as the boat with the red tender as seeing whales. They also complained about the wind in Forward Bay so that’s why we decided to settle in Bessborough Bay with a shore line for the night. A bit rocky but expected things to calm later as it did in the evening. Took Kona for shore duty along a nice sandy beach. One more yacht came into the bay to anchor for the night. The anchor winch was repair that evening – nut replaced and lubed.

### **Day 35, August 9, 2003, Cordero Islands - Calm, Sunny**

Woke up to calm conditions and sunshine breaking through the clouds. Took Kona to shore and returned for breakfast. Before pulling up anchor went again to shore and saw a man walking on the beach. We discovered a trail through the bush that was marked by miscellaneous household items. We walked part way into the woods and returned to the beach. We talked to the man now sitting on a rock and discovered it was Gerry who we had met at Dead Point who helped us find Monk’s wall. We told us the trail we had just come out from went to Douglas Bay in Forward Harbour and that’s where he had anchored for the night. He said that the trail had been marked by various boaters anchored in either bay.



We returned to the FnC, pulled anchor and headed through Chancellor Channel, past Loughborough Inlet, into Cordero Channel and arrived at Greene Point Rapids/Cordero Islands at 1345.

We anchored and had lunch and prepared to head down Mayne Passage to Blind Channel Marina (between West and East Thurlow Islands) for some groceries.

We were soon visited by two people in their tender from the boat “Wilco”. They told us they had been anchoring in this spot for 20 years and just last year when they pulled up their anchor they pulled up a great big cable along with it. Lucky for them they had a powerful winch but still had quite a time and had to cut their anchor line. We told them we were divers and could handle the problem should it arise.

They said it was a great anchorage, even though most people anchored on the other side of the islands and that they would be back in a few days to anchor here as well. After they left we noticed an old rusty “steam donkey” on the small island in front of us and decided that might be what the cable was attached too.

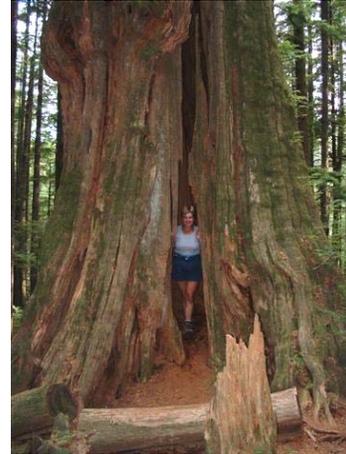




We climbed in the Catch-up and went the short distance to Blind Channel Resort. When we got there we went hiking in the forest trails maintained by Canfor. Kona got a good run and we took pictures of a 100 year old second growth tree and a big cedar snag. After the hike we bought some groceries and liquor and headed back to our anchorage.

When we went out earlier it was slack and now the current was running. There is a reef next to the light on Cordero Islands hence the name Green Rapids. We checked out a dive spot nearby and think we might give it a go tomorrow.

Returned to the FnC, read and rested a bit, made supper, did paper work and retired early.



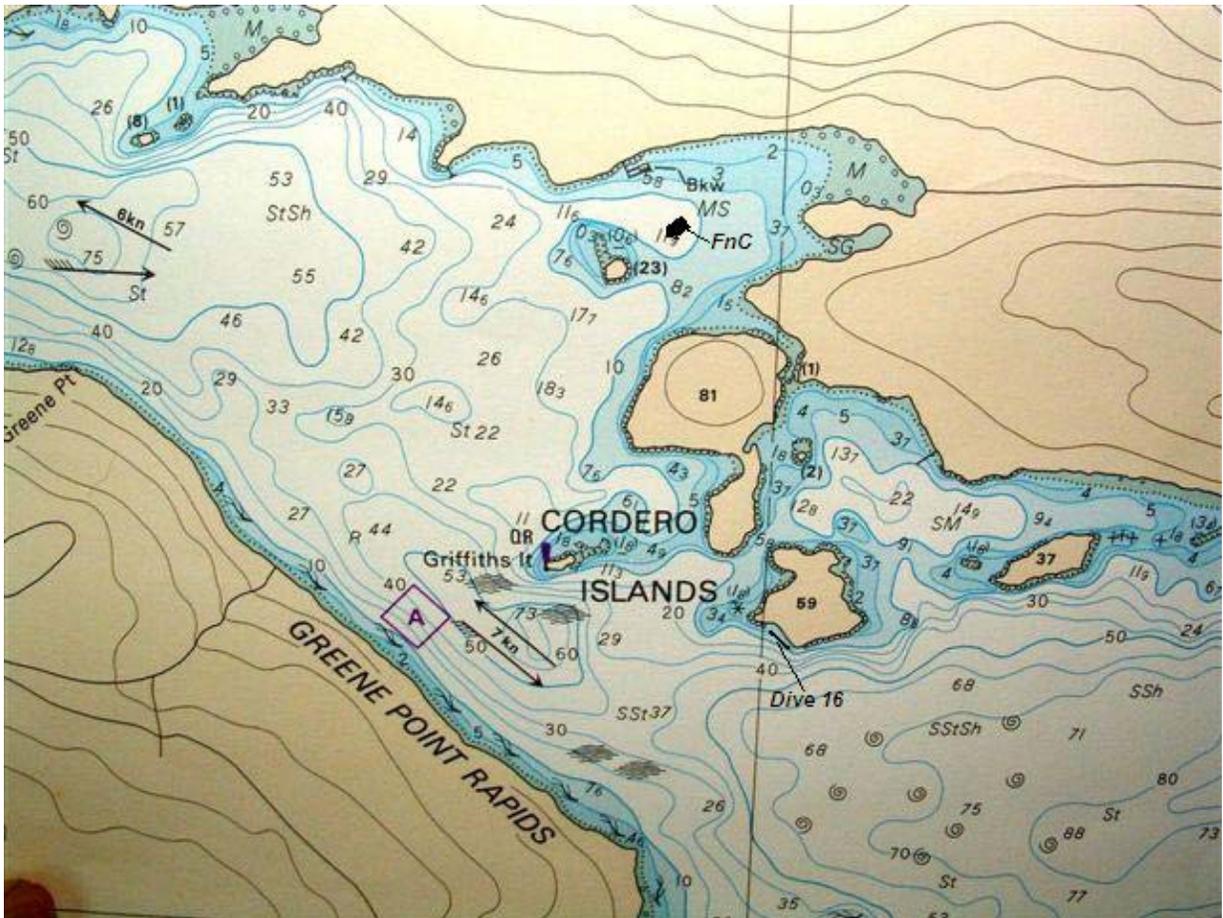
### **Day 36, August 10, 2003, Cordero Islands - Calm, Sunny**

Took Kona for shore duty and in the process, Catch-up started to drift away. The line had come off at the bow due to a loose bolt on a shackle. The Captain has now replaced the whole system with a knotted line – a better system that doesn't suddenly fail (although the captain does admit that the shackle bolt was not 'moused').

### ***Dive 16 – Cordero Islands – Synopsis***

*Dive time 1531 Profile 90/28. This was our first exploration dive. Not a lot of life but enough to make it a good dive. Very rocky bottom. We went towards the point and found a wall there. On the way there we ran into a legal size Ling, medium size Puget Sound King Crab and a Sea Blubberjelly fish. Visibility about 25 feet. It seemed to be*

*better vis at shallow depths. The current started to pick up in the ebb direction at the end of the dive.*



After our dive we returned and relaxed, had supper. Took Kona to shore and watched several seals investigate us and play around. Thunderclouds rolled in and we had a small rain shower. Turned in early and set the alarm for 0700 to make the 0930 slack at Dent Rapids.



**Day 37, August 11, 2003, Dent Island – Started with fog, some sun, ended with rain and some thunderstorming.**



Woke up at 0700 expecting to get ready to depart but there was fog and we decided to wait until 1735 for the next slack. Slept in, had breakfast and went to Blind Channel Resort to check CA's e-mail. Explored in the Catch-up up Cordero Channel to a floating resort off Lorte Island – Cordero Resort. Took Kona walking in the woods at their “pet path”.



Returned to the FnC and pulled anchor at 1430. Went to Blind Channel resort for fuel, water and fresh homemade bread. It turns out that we were at the right place for water because a lady on board a ChrisCraft named “Hull Island” from Ladysmith, told us that they took on “yellow” water at Big Bay that they had to boil before drinking. Had we left late for Big Bay that morning missing the Blind Channel fuel and water pick up we would have landed up with the bad water too.

Fuel was probably just as much or more expensive in Big Bay. Continued on to Dent Island across from Big Bay to anchor for the night. Smooth all the way until we reached the north end of Sonora Island and a thunderstorm and rain were threatening. By the time we reached Little Dent Island at 1735 the lightening, thunder and rain had begun. We anchored in the bay near Dent Island Resort and the rain came down harder. Still fishermen in charter boats were going out to catch the big ones. We had supper, took Kona to shore and the fog was rolling in. At 2100 we settled down to read and do paperwork.





**Day 38, August 12, 2003, Dent Island – Morning Cloud, clear and sunny in the afternoon**

After breakfast we moved the boat closer (we were in front of the resort on the west side of the bay – 7 feet at low low tide and 4 feet in the swing area) to deeper water near the Dent Resort Marina where “Molly” was and no reef to the side. Afterwards the three of us took the rib into Big Bay. We walked along the road/path behind the cabins to the public dock at the far end. Returned and noticed the sign for a hike to Eagle Lake, where Rick recalls there is good swimming. Building that used to be the pub is now a private residence and for sale. Went into Big Bay store and bought a few things, not a very good store for groceries but lots of expensive soap stone carvings (6000.00 for a breadbasket sized bear) and many bobbles. Good bakery but poor veggies and fruit. Left Stuart Island and “rode the waves” of the currents in Big Bay coming in through Barber, Innes and Gillard Passages around Jimmy Judd and Gillard Islands. Went over to the resort at Gillard Island to have a look from the shore. Took videos of the swirling water all around the bay. Went over to Dent Rapids and took pictures and more videos.





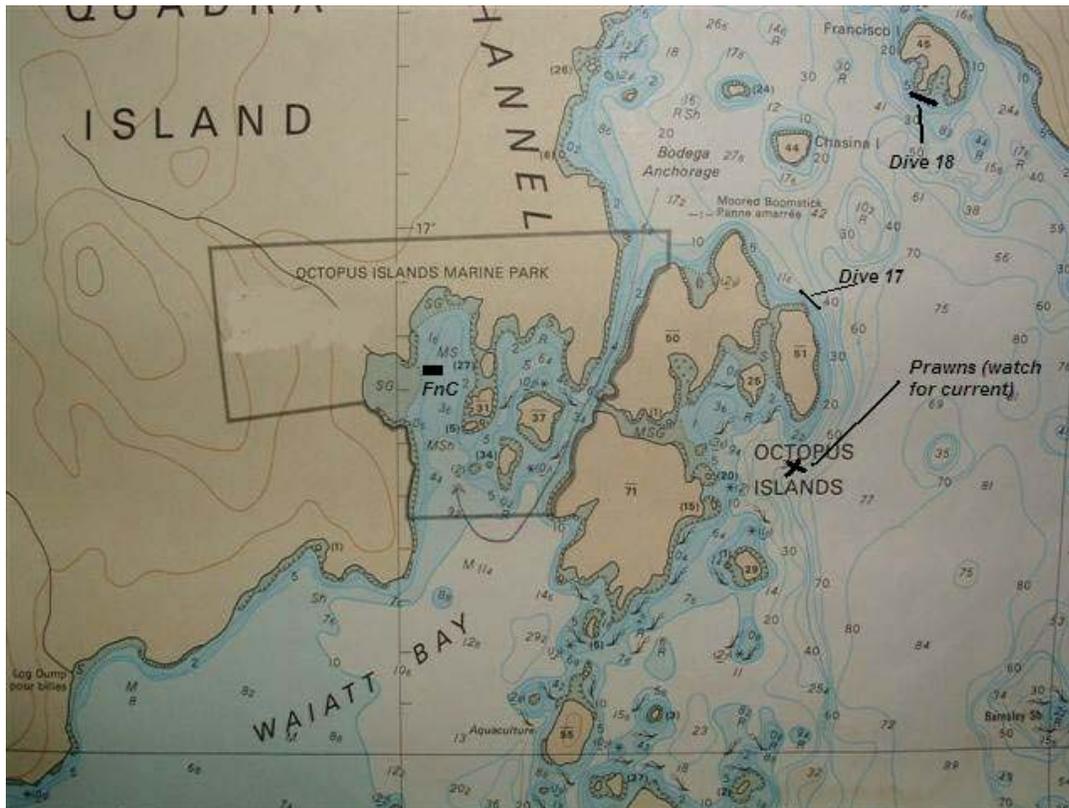
Went into Tugboat Passage and took pictures of seals sitting on a rock there where the shallow water was rushing around and through. Came back and looked at the signs all over the shore at Mermaid Bay on Little Dent Island. Noticed a sign that said that bay is for tugboat anchorages only while they wait for the slack tides. Return to the FnC and relaxed reading, e-mailing and napping. Took Kona for shore duty, had supper and discussed the possibilities for diving in the area. Wind picked up and the captain let out

more rode and we retired.



### **Day 39, August 13, 2003, Octopus Islands – Morning Cloud, windy**

Wind picked up during the night and the captain checked the anchor and let out more line. Kona woke up whining during the early hours and wanted to go to shore. Too dark and windy – told her to hold on. She didn't manage it and made an executive decision and had an "accident" in the stern cockpit. Captain took her to shore later at 0630. Slept in until 1100 because of a disturbed night's sleep. Breezy in the bay but well protected. Missed the slack so diving out for today and the weather isn't encouraging. Later that day we went for a hike to Eagle Lake and returned for slack and our departure for Octopus Islands. We arrived in the Octopus Island 1.5 hrs after departure with a slight push all the way. Skies were clear and no wind. We picked a spot in the populated area in shallow water.



**Day 40, August 14, 2003, Octopus Islands – Sunny all day, no wind**

Lots of boats here but this time there were more Canadians. We are getting closer to home it seems. Weather is better and the water is very calm. After the dive we set a prawn trap but were careful not to leave it too long or over night for fear that the current would take it away. We were reasonably successful getting about 50, many large, over a few sets.



***Dive 17 – Octopus Island – Synopsis***

*Profile: 84/29 down at 1251. Good dive. CA rates it 8. CA saw her first dog fish. Small Puget Sound Crab. Found a small wall and started to follow it northward across the bay. Current started to pick up but no problem fighting it. Vis 25 ft.*

After our dive we set our prawn trap, relaxed, read, napped and then took Kona for a hike on the trail from Waiatt Bay to Small Inlet on the other side of Quadra Island. Met four other people from Vancouver coming out of the trail and they told us it was about 40 minutes round trip. Nice walk, only one boat anchored on the other side in Small Inlet.



**Day 41, August 15, 2003, Octopus Islands – Cloudy morning, sunny with clouds in the afternoon, slight breeze.**

After taking Kona to shore CA set a prawn trap before breakfast. After breakfast went back to Waiatt Bay. CA realized she left her hiking boots on the shore when she waded out in her water shoes to get the Catch-up into shore. Boots were gone and the orthotics inside them! – another mystery. Checked the prawn trap on our return and found only two. Decided to reset and pick it up after our dive in the afternoon.

***Dive 18 – Francisco Island – Synopsis***

*Profile 93/27 down at 1322*

*Great wall dive but not as much life as Dive 17. Ling cod sited but very skittish. Lots of rock cod. Great dive, very dimensional and simple following northward along wall. Vis 40 ft.*



Checked prawn trap after dive and found about 20 big prawns. Reset and returned to the FnC for lunch and relaxing after the dive. Napped and read. Returned to Waiatt Bay for another look for CA's hiking boots – no luck. Checked prawn trap and it had drifted with the current and produced no prawns. Went back to the boat and feasted on the 60 prawns we had caught in total. Retired early and read a while. Wind picked up and the captain let out

more anchor line and put the kellet down for extra security. The wind died early in the night.

**Day 42, August 16, 2003, Quartz Bay – Cloudy and some sun**

We took our time this morning intending to catch the slack at around 1400 for Hole in the Wall. We visited Owen Bay where we went for a short walk. We met one of the residence there while he was fixing his water line. He said he had just got a puppy (Great Pyrenees, Newfoundland, and St. Bernard together to make a “Lunenburg”). We visited him and his pup and his two kids on his dock on the way out. A pleasant fellow and his two kids, his wife was up in the cottage.



It was time to go as soon as we got back to the FnC. The bay was almost empty when we pulled anchor. We went through the Hole in the Wall and down through Drew Passage past Rendezvous Islands and through the Penn Islands. Rick did a quick study of where we could dive in the Penn Islands. We went directly to Quartz Bay where we found anchorage in 60 ft of water (deep bay) beside an American occupied cottage. The reason why we know they are Americans is because they have their boat and visitors’ boat at their dock with the US flag on both.



We anchored and took Kona to shore. Found an oyster lease on the small island in the bay. Several loose oysters on the shore line. Next set a prawn trap and checked it later in the evening after supper. It was caught on the steep wall where we set it. We managed to get it free by pulling it off the wall with the Catch-up. Consequently, the trap was totally empty. Reset it and moved it into somewhat shallower water.



### **Day 43, August 17, Rebecca Spit, 2003 – Sun and Clouds**

After shore duty, prawn trap pick-up (empty), breakfast and a bit of reading and tank filling, we prepared to dive the Penn Islands. We got there at slack tide, not really necessary but why not for the added security.

#### ***Dive 19 – Penn Islands – Synopsis***

*We dove at the southern tip of the most easterly island just below rock as shown in the chart. Dive profile 118/27 dive time: 1428. We descended almost immediately from the rib and turned right toward the rock where seals sat. Visibility cleared at 40-60 and even got better deeper. We ran into shallowing water near the rock. The rock wasn't interesting so we went back along the wall deeper. We hung and slowly scanned that section of the wall. It was more colourful there. Many different sea stars spotted, tube sponges and a snakelock anemone. This was CA's deepest dive for the season.*

We picked up anchor as soon as we got back from our dive and headed south to Rebecca Spit. On the way here we listened to Mark W's lengthy voice mails (28 minutes total) while we had good reception. We were able



to get our e-mail during the evening. It was flat calm when we arrived and many boats were at anchor. We found a spot about half

way down. Took Kona to shore for a walk along the beach and the inside trails. It was calm all night with forecasted SE winds.

### **Day 44, August 18, Copeland Islands – Sunny and windy.**

NW winds as predicted were upon us but no problems. Most boats have left. No e-mail reception this morning. Beautiful sunny morning on the beach. After breakfast went to Heriot Bay for gas and groceries. Headed for Copeland Islands with a following sea. Beautiful sunny cruise. Phoned Louise in Winnipeg and caught up on news to date. Arrived around 1830 and the anchor spot we wanted (North island, NE side off Thulin Passage) was, unfortunately, full of sailboats. Had to go around to the middle island and anchor in the same spot we did last year to avoid a strong NW wind. Shore line from cable hanging from the cliffs behind. Had a short chat with our sailboat neighbour with



his wife and two children, Bill and Ann from Tswawassen aboard “Sway” returning from as far north as Cape Caution after 5 weeks of sailing. Shore duty, dinner and the wind picked up and the rocking began. Rocky all night and CA had little sleep. Captain slept like a baby, as usual.

### **Day 45, August 19, – Pender Harbour, Sunny and windy.**

Waves died down somewhat in the early morning. Sunny and breezy. Same sea and wind conditions as yesterday forecasted for today. After shore duty, breakfast, and some reading/paper work time we picked up anchor and continued on south.

Following sea all the way to Pender Harbour – and glad of it wouldn’t want to have been going north into 5 foot waves. CA laid in the sun up in the fly bridge and answered e-mail with the lap-top, updated the log and named the most recent pictures while the captain drove. Anchored and went to shore with Kona, happy hour, supper and reading.



### **Day 46, August 20, – Plumper Cove, Keats Island, Sunny and windy.**

Early morning shore duty with Kona. Had another accident in the stern cockpit. After breakfast went to Madiera Park dock to buy some groceries. Left Pender Harbour and headed for Keats Island. Five foot waves from a following sea. Sunny and hot. Arrived at Plumper Cove and took Kona walking on Keats Landing Trail. A bit rocky at anchor until the day’s boating activity in the area calmed down in the evening.

**Day 47, August 21, Richmond Marina, Sunny and hot.**

Left for the river after shore duty and breakfast. Five to six foot waves taking on our stern quarter starboard. Phone call from Running Bear confirming dinner attendance on the FnC this evening. Oysters were prepared this morning for this eventuality. Arrived at Richmond Marina and docked on the outside finger. CA met with Margot on the dock and left for Costco to buy supplies for tomorrow night's party. On her return Running Bear had arrived with Sondra and the evening gaiety began. Had a visit from neighbors welcoming the FnC back from her long trip. (Bob, Doug, Roger, Dee, Jimmy, Paul, Mary) After dinner we went to Mary's for more music and festivities. Evening concluded in the early morning hours. CA returned to the FnC with Kona first and then Kona returned to Mary's to get Rick. Very faithful dog.

**Day 48, August 22, Richmond Marina, Sunny and breezy.**

Woke up and started to prepare the food and appetizers for the party. Rick worked on the slide show and videos to show at the party. Some problems with the program but a solution was found. Went to the AYC and set up for the party – DVD player readied for the pictures; food placed in the fridge for later. Running Bear prepared a salmon for the barbeque on the FnC. Had an afternoon nap, got up and left for the party. Good time had by all. Everyone loved the pictures, videos and the stories of the Honeymoon Cruise. Another late night. Had Dianne Smith as an overnight guest.

**Day 49, August 23, Richmond Marina, Sunny and breezy.**

Woke up and took Kona for a walk on the dyke with Dianne. Had breakfast and had a visit from Al and Barb after spending the night at the Delta across the river. Captain heard their "Ahoy" from the Delta docks and picked them up in the Catch-up. Around 1300 they left and the captain began to wash the boat and CA left for Ikea with Dianne. Returned to FnC, Dianne left for home. Spent the rest of the day relaxing. Took Kona for a walk at McDonald beach and back for supper and an early night after two days of excitement.

**Day 50, August 24, Gill Netter Pub Dock, Sunny and breezy.**

Woke up early and prepared to depart. Washed the boat and said goodbyes on the dock. Headed up the river and enjoyed the sights on route.



Arrived at the Gill Netter Pub dock late afternoon and awaited the arrival of Running Bear and his girls returning from Pitt Lake after a day in the sunshine. About a four hour trip from the Richmond Marina. Also met with Steve Harris (QAI) to hand-off documents to the Captain for his consideration. Had happy hour with Running Bear, Sondra, Cheryl, and Hyda. After they departed at dusk we had supper and retired early. Rocky until all the boat action of the day was over.



**Day 51, August 25<sup>th</sup>, Mission, Fraser River, Sunny and Breezy.**

After breakfast continued up river for Mission. Another beautiful day and many sights to see in new territory between the Gill Netter Pub and Fort Langley. CA has traveled from Fort Langley to Mission in her old run-about but a first for the Captain. Discussed possible sites for future anchorages for the FnC's weekend mini-vacations.

Called ahead to Mission Marina to tell them of our pending arrival and inquire if they have dock space. They replied they do not at this time but would make every attempt to make room for us in the next few days. Approached Mission with a beautiful view of Mt. Baker awaiting us.



Anchored in the river adjacent to the Mission Marina with easy shore access to the dyke for Kona and full view of the Marina Manager so as not to be forgotten. A new home for the FnC, Captain and crew and the end of a glorious honeymoon.