



Orca Scare

Monday August 24th – Our plan today is to get a late checkout at Roche Harbor (1pm), do some crabbing and fishing in the area, then head for La Conner. Todd, Zach, Skylar, Julie and I all climbed in Todd's 17' dinghy for a morning out on the water, hunting the crab and salmon!

We took off through Mosquito pass, to the west side of San Juan Island where we had intel that the salmon were running. With the downriggers dropped to the desired depth (just a guess) we trolled around for an hour or so with not even a bite. We decided to break out from the pack of other fishing boats and explore new grounds. We fished there all alone, starting to get a little discouraged. Then all of the sudden our spirits perked! We spotted Orca whales surfacing! And not just one or two, there were at least three groups of them, maybe 8 or so in total, hunting the salmon in the area! They were a good distance away but so incredible to watch. Julie started filming them with her phone as we watched in awe. Then, all of the sudden, not more than 50' away, a group of 3 surfaced right next to our boat! It was so awesome and really kind of scary at the same time. These suckers are much bigger than our boat and so close! We all got a little nervous and raised the downriggers as fast as we could. Can you imagine one of those things tangled in the line! Julie captured the

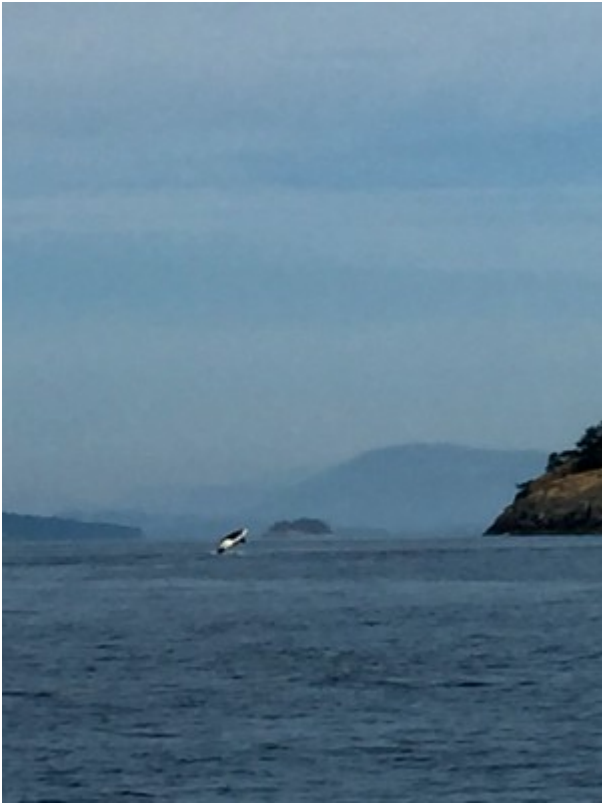
surface perfect with the camera, and they stuck around for a while all around us as we just sat there trying to blend in.

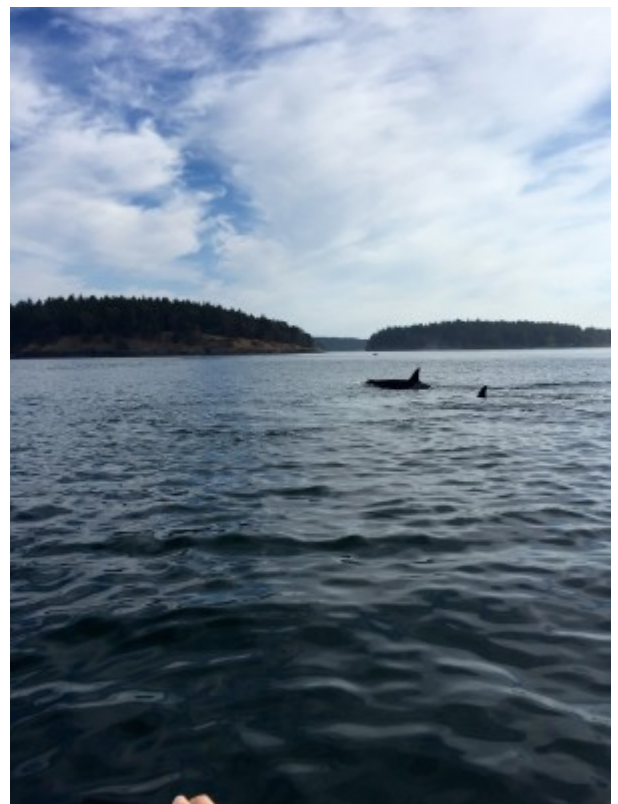
The whales moved on and so did we. We gave ourselves 30 more minutes in a new fishing spot to try and land the big one, before we needed to take off. Right away Todd got one on and Zach reeled in a nice Coho! Then 15 minutes later my pole struck and Skylar reeled in another nice Coho! On our way back to the boats we pulled up our crab pots for a nice catch. All together 16 nice Dungeness crabs!

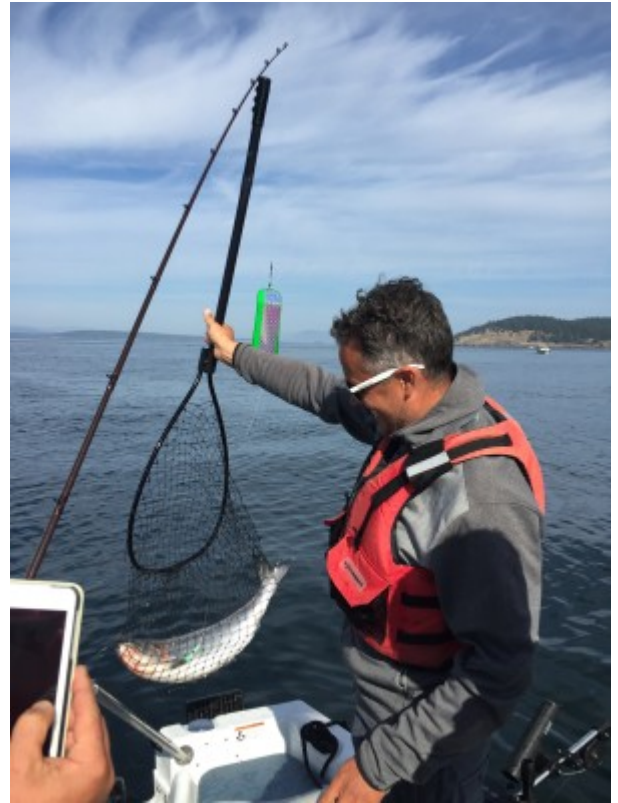
We packed up and took off headed for La Conner (35.40nm) where we are going to meet with American Tugs tomorrow to check on the progress of our new boat. After getting tied up at the La Conner Marina we headed to town and picked up some pizza and growlers of beer to go. We had a feast of pizza, beer and fresh Dungeness Crab! What could be better! We cooked the crab on the dock, ate as much as we could, then vacuum packed the rest for a later date. We all noticed fall is coming. It was a hot wonderful day, but we all froze our butts off eating dinner and cracking crab that night.

Trip Log – 516.30nm

[Roche Whales](#) from [Chris Heyer](#) on [Vimeo](#).











Kids got hot chocolate!