

## Community Comment 5/12/2014

By Jon Sapper

### Get Ready for Fishing

This is Jon Sapper for Community Comment.

If any of you have friends or relatives who want to visit our area this summer and they like to fish, you better give them a call and tell them to book it soon. With the tremendous salmon fishing we have had the last few years, spots on charter boats are getting booked quickly. I was talking with Tim Klausen the other day from Reelsteelsportfishing out of Eureka. He said another banner year is forecasted for halibut, rock fish and salmon fishing including Eureka, Trinidad, Crescent City and the Southern Oregon Coast, with tuna as an added benefit later in the season. Tim has a new boat that is set up for fishing and comfort and although I fish with other friends, I have to go out with Tim this year...at least once. It will be a five star experience.

To say it has been incredible fishing the last couple of years is an understatement. Many boats go out in the morning and are back on shore in a few hours with beautiful fresh Chinook salmon. You are allowed to catch two per day.

This is a welcome change from several years ago when salmon were tough to find. But the combination of great ocean conditions, Spring rains, a healthy survival rate among young fry returning to the ocean from our rivers, and the recovery of our watersheds have all contributed to the unbelievable bounty that we have been enjoying the last couple of years.

If you're not a salmon fan, but like halibut, you can try your hand at catching this delicacy of the sea. Local charter boat operators can take you to the halibut grounds with a good chance of catching one of those bottom dwellers. Freshly caught halibut is great table faire.

An added experience will be gray whales showing up near shore. It's magnificent seeing these giant creatures of the sea. Sometimes they feed within a few hundred yards of shore and put on a spectacular show laying on the surface, breaching and giving you a bird's eye view of the largest mammals on earth.

We truly live in one of the most beautiful places anywhere. Let's invite and welcome others who want a fishing experience of a lifetime. These visitors don't just go fishing. They stay in motels, eat at restaurants, go into local shops and see other parts of our area.

In addition to Reelsteelsportfishing, there are other charter boat operators that would love to show you how to catch a salmon or halibut. Let's support these businesses. I'm going to do my part. My 10 lb. salmon will grow to 25 lbs. after a few weeks of telling the story. I'll keep you posted.

This has been Jon Sapper for Community Comment.