

09 July, 2006

Telegraph Cove, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada

Hello to all,

While in Telegraph Cove, a picturesque former lumber mill town on the east side of Vancouver Island, we decided to take a chance on a whale watching tour.

Just outside of Telegraph Cove the straight that separates the island from the next land mass narrows to less than a kilometer in width. The tidal flows are forced through these narrows, along with all the migrating salmon and their predators such as the orcas, commonly known as killer whales.

Because of the concentration of sea life and the large local population of orcas this area is known as a place where your chances of spotting an orca are good. We hoped for the best, although we'd talked to a couple the day before who paid for two trips and didn't see a single whale while enduring rain, wind and rough seas.

Our luck was better.

Be well,  
Doug



Telegraph Cove, B.C.

Shamu @ home



Kayakers heading out into the straight.



First contact.



Incoming.



Orcas are marine mammals, so they must surface to breathe. This is the exhalation or “blowing” phase.



Breaching



Various forms of play

Shamu @ home



Typical fishing day in B.C.



Male orca

Shamu @ home



Female humpback whale and calf.



A pair of bald eagles, which mate for life. They are extremely numerous and about as common as seagulls in this geographic area.