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COMPLIMENTARY ISSUE

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2017



# ISLAND Fisherman

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## CUTTHROAT!

**NOOTKA  
MARINE  
ADVENTURES**

**HUNTING  
VANCOUVER  
ISLAND:  
THE  
CALIBRE  
OF THE  
WEST**

**2017  
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**2017 SPORTSMEN'S SHOWS  
WEST COAST FLY FISHER • HUXLEY'S RUN • TIDES • LARRY'S TIPS**



# 2016 Nootka Marine Adventures Women's Derby

Larry E. Stefanyk



At dawn of the first day the boats starting pulling away from the dock. Everyone was on the water early, with most of the women fishing alongside their husbands or partners who had offered to be the captain for the next two days. No fishing, just running the boat. The crew from Manitoba hired the guides from Moutcha Bay Resort. Two wonderful ladies from Courtenay brought up their own 26-foot Lifetimer boat, and

they were in the lead with a 22-pound chinook after the first day.

Most of the boats headed out to Bajo Reef to north of the entrance to Nootka Sound, putting their gear down anywhere between 40 and 120 feet. What the anglers were using was all over the map, from hoochies to spoons to bait. Fishing was exciting as the ladies started landing chinooks. That evening the derby contestants enjoyed a social evening sponsored by 40 Knots Winery, swapping stories of the day with a glass of wine and appetizers before dinner.

**“Y**our West Coast Fishing Adventure Started Here” and for 29 ladies on July 2 and 3 of last year, it did!

What a great turnout for the first Women's Derby, at Moutcha Bay Resort. Ladies from all over British Columbia joined in the fun as well as eight diehard fisherwomen from Manitoba. With everyone registered on July 1, all were excited to start their adventure.

They were back on the water for another exciting day at the crack of dawn. With time put into fishing the pristine waters of Nootka Sound, these three ladies were the derby winners: First place winner was Kyla Landers, who weighed in a 26.4-pound chinook; second place was Brenda Stobbart with a 26.2 pound chinook; and in third place was Nadine Berger with a 22 pound chinook. Nadine was the leader from the first day. They all went home with a cash prize.

The husbands and partners enjoyed the derby so much that Moutcha Bay Resort is going to change this derby to the Bonnie and Clyde Derby which will be held on July 1 and 2, 2017 at Moutcha Bay Resort. All the Moutcha Bay Derbies are designed to raise funds for salmon enhancement and habitat restoration projects within the Nootka Sound Watershed Society area, benefiting not only the salmon fishing community, but our



local natural environment. You can count me in for next year as this is just a fun derby for a couple to enjoy.

Moutcha Bay Resort will serve as headquarters for the 2017 derby where the fish weigh-in and prize ceremonies will take place. There is a \$100 per contestant entry fee, with total cash prizes of \$3,000 plus some high value prizes.

**How to get to the resort**

What is unique is you can drive to world-class salmon fishing. From Campbell River head west on Hwy. 28, which meanders along the Upper Campbell Lake and mountainsides for about 91 kms (57 miles) towards Gold River. This is considered one of the most spectacular drives on Vancouver Island.

Upon arrival in Gold River, keep heading straight, following the signs to Tahsis. Moutcha Bay Resort, located at the mouth of the Conuma River, in the beautiful sheltered waters of Nootka Sound, is located 43 km (26.7 miles) north of Gold River. The resort is just 45 minutes from Gold River and is easily accessible by car. Keep in mind that this

is an active logging road that is well-maintained gravel with paving on the steepest hills. If you're towing a boat, make sure your brakes are functioning as the road has grades as much as 18 per



**First Place Winner  
Kyla Landers**



**Jessica Van Ierland holds a beautiful chinook**

cent. 6 km (3.7 miles) after the Conuma Fish Hatchery you will see the entrance to the resort on the lefthand side of the road. There is a boat launch, large marina with gas, diesel, tackle, bait and ice as well as fully-serviced campsites, lodge, chalet and yurt accommodations and a licensed restaurant. Parking is available on site. 

For more information:  
**Nootka Marine Adventures**  
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