

Alaska 8 May

Departed early, under grey skies and on a grey and windy sea, traveled 4 ½ hours to Pender Harbor, about 50 miles from Vancouver. By the time I got to the dock the sun was out and it was a glorious 55 degrees (up here that is equivalent to 80 in Ojai). The afternoon was spent doing a dingy tour of the harbor; I figured it was time to test the motor which had just been serviced in Sydney.

Thursday, off to Desolation Sound. The morning started off with a 15 knot wind and a 3' following sea. The autopilot worked but I got tired of the 20 degree swings so I took the helm and steered by hand. This went on for about ten miles then the seas decided to relent and the surface became as smooth as glass for the rest of the 50 miles to the sound. I anchored in a tiny bay no more than ¼ mile in diameter, of course I was alone, no cell coverage, no VHF, no internet, just me and a crab trap float that somehow found its way under the boat. On a boat with only one propeller this can be a problem. I fussed with it jerking the rope every which way but loose. I toyed with a dip in the 49 degree water but finally just put the boat in gear and let my line cutter do its job. After that excitement; dinner, a movie and an early start next morning.

I am now in Campbell River. A boat docked next to me just back from salmon fishing. I offered them a beer and they gave me eight pounds of fresh salmon filets. Pixie and I smell like fish but it's grilled salmon tomorrow for dinner, and the rest in the freezer waiting for Jim Graves.