

Striving to be recognized as the best fishing lodge in Alaska and... as always...
Closest to the Fish!



2020 STILL LIVIN' THE DREAM! SEASON REPORT



**Steve's first halibut 45 years ago -
220 lbs!**

Hello (Contact First Name)

I hope that you are healthy and the *worst* complaint that you have is that you *didn't* get to go fishing this year. Stay healthy, hunker down if you must... but start planning to live again!

Come what may over the next six months or so, we will continue to find beauty and meaning in our lives. We will accept that which we have no control over and adapt. We won't give up on our dreams, we won't lose our sense of humor... and finally, we won't let the bastards get us down!

THE SPECTER OF COVID

Initially, I gave the Highliner Lodge about a 10% chance of opening and staying open this season. In May, I figured it was about 50%; but we forged ahead anyway, assembling our crew to prepare the lodge and boats. We *did* open in June! We hired our full crew. About 40% of our guests showed up and most who didn't show rebooked for 2021. The Pelican locals were understandably nervous, and we were concerned that the city government might take some unilateral action to shut us down. There was a little fear mongering... at one point a guest who was concerned that he was having heart issues had to be medivaced out... immediately the rumor was circulated on the Pelican boardwalk and on Pelican's unofficial facebook page that he had... **CORONA VIRUS!**

There was the inevitable backlash... the Highliner Lodge was accused of aiding and abetting a known covid carrying terrorist!

CANCEL THE HIGHLINER LODGE!

The guest returned to fish the next day... tested covid negative. His heart was ok too! The accusing Facebook posts disappeared. We are back to being one happy little family in Pelican again.





"My" First king Salmon (Well, OK, my mom caught it and gave it to me... 45 years ago!)

To be clear to those who think I have a political "agenda"... I do! That agenda is to make the Highliner Lodge the best fishing lodge in all of Alaska and to promote what I can prove is the best fishing lodge in all of Alaska! I do have opinions, and they are strongly held... however, knowing that they are mine based on my own *peculiar* 66 years experience, I recognize that your opinions are likely to be different than mine. As an American, I am proud to say that I support your right to disagree with me on any issue.

OK, ENOUGH ABOUT ME... LET'S TALK ABOUT MY LODGE!

We had about 200 guests this year and the fishing was pretty darn good! The halibut were bigger, and we were able to keep bigger fish this season because Alaska Fish & Game allowed more liberal size limits due to Covid keeping many anglers away from Alaska.





OUR GUESTS WERE ABLE TO KEEP MANY VERY LARGE HALIBUT!

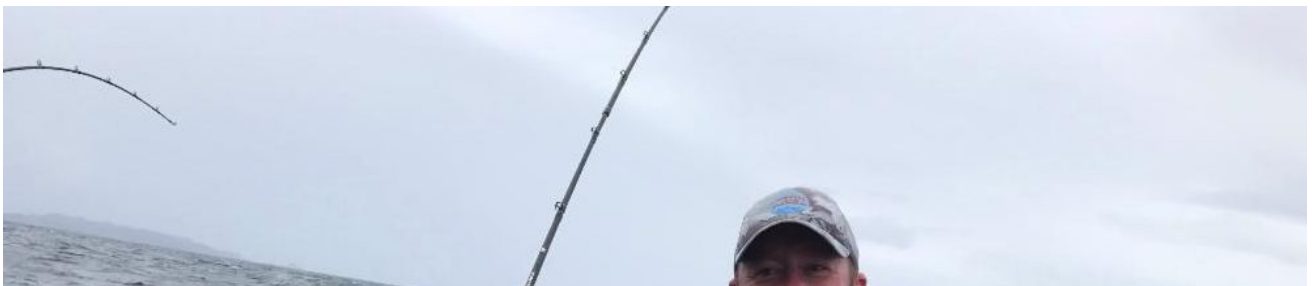
As usual, we provided opportunities for our guests to keep some very large halibut, that they would have had to release at other lodges. Our investment in Guided Angler Fish (GAF) provided these opportunities.





DEADLIEST CATCHING ON THE F/V PELICAN!

While the silver salmon season was disappointing, we still caught many kings and enough silvers to keep everyone pretty happy!





KING SALMON HAVE BEEN GETTING BIGGER THE PAST FEW YEARS!





JACOB HARPOONS A 150# HALIBUT!





HALIBUT ALSO HAVE BEEN GETTING BIGGER THE PAST FEW YEARS!





OVER 1,000 HALIBUT OVER 100 POUNDS!!

We have given out over a THOUSAND "One Hundred Pounder with Cheese Club" awards over these past 15 years! This stack of six awards actually represents a single day that we had 12 halibut over 100 pounds caught by 7 of our guests! We have probably released another thousand halibut over 100 pounds!

WE HAD A REALLY GOOD SEASON IN SPITE OF THE CORONAVIRUS!

Was it stressful? Was it strange not to shake hands or accept a hug? Was it hard to keep my social distance and not sit at a table with our guests? Was it hard not knowing if someone would get sick and that we could be shut down mid-season? Yes, it definitely was, but we did it and I believe that we are stronger for making the effort!

I am still living my dream! I still have grand ambitions. I acknowledge that I have had a privileged life... I was born in the USA!

What about you? Are you livin' your dream?

If not, what are you waiting for?

In this Issue:

- **Complaint Department: Did the Highliner Lodge Covid-19 Mitigation Plan Work?**
- **Sermon on the Seamount: Does keeping big halibut have a negative impact on the health of the fishery?**
- **EMERALD ISLAND MOTHERSHIP OPERATION IS BACK!**
- **NEW HIGHLINER VIDEO**

Next issue:

- **VALUE FISHING**
- **FRESHWATER FISHING EXPEDITIONS**
- **DEADLIEST CATCHING**

Complaint Department



WARNING!

Contrary to what you may have heard on social media, spinach IS NOT a treatment for Covid-19!

Did the Highliner Lodge Covid-19 Mitigation Plan Work?

Did we follow through with our Covid-19 plan? Aside from an occasional hug and handshake we did the best that we could. Was our plan foolproof? I don't think there is such a thing at this point.

There is some risk in just about anything that we do. Let's try to put that into perspective.

If you go out to dinner at a restaurant that has 20-30 employees and 100 to 300 diners coming and going every night, in a city with many thousands of people, how does that compare to going to dinner at Highliner Lodge where we averaged 12 guests a night?

- For the entire 3 month season we had a total of 200 guests
- Most tested negative a couple days before they arrived
- Our employees have quarantined in Pelican more than 15 days before any of our guests arrived
- Highliner employees live at the lodge, they don't go home at night to their families, or party with friends who might expose them to Coronavirus
- All this happens in the "City" of Pelican, which has a summer population of about 100 people.

Four guests (usually traveling together) on a boat with a single quarantined captain is not a comparable risk. Your local hardware and grocery store present much more opportunity for contact with a virus than a trip to the Highliner Lodge!

I'm not a infectious disease expert, but IMO, the relative risk in fishing at the Highliner Lodge, especially when compared to other recreational activities, is miniscule.

One more thought: the average guest at the Highliner Lodge is, shall we say a dignified mature age. Most have been responsibly limiting their contact with others and taking precautions to protect themselves... not going to tailgate parties, or raves, or rallies and demonstrations.

It's not that difficult... I've been social distancing before it was cool!

EMERALD ISLAND MOTHERSHIP OPERATION IS BACK!

As you may know the US Coast Guard (USCG) unexpectedly shut down the Emerald Island Operation about two years ago, just before our season started. We were seeing a tremendous demand for this option but the USCG told us to shut it down. They said it was "too risky" for the season. It's back!

but, the USCG told me I didn't have the proper license after approving the operation two years ago!



The Emerald Island (EI) is a 91' steel vessel that can accommodate up to 10 fishing guests at a time. Each guest has their own private stateroom. We anchor the EI near the mouth of the Lisianski Inlet, only 5-10 minutes from the proven best fishing in Alaska! We tether two of our charter boats to the EI to take you fishing each morning for 10+ hours of fishing adventure with no wasted travel time! In the evening, you will be returned to the boat for dinner, drinks, and a hot shower.

At this time I am pleased to offer you this trip for simply \$1000 more than our Highliner Lodge per guest price (see rates below). Considering our very considerable extra expenses to offer this, and the extraordinary experience that is provided, I think it is great value!

Benefits to staying on the Emerald Island:

- 2-3 extra hours of fishing each day!
- You do not have to spend 2 hours a day transiting to and from the fishing grounds
- Your group will have exclusive use of the 91' Emerald Island and two charter boats
- You will fish from an extraordinary secluded location with drop dead gorgeous views
- You will have the flexibility to fish early and/or stay out later
- There is no bed or sales tax charged

I don't believe there is anything like this offered in Alaska! I am very excited about getting this operation going again!

2021 Emerald Island All-Inclusive Guided Fishing Packages

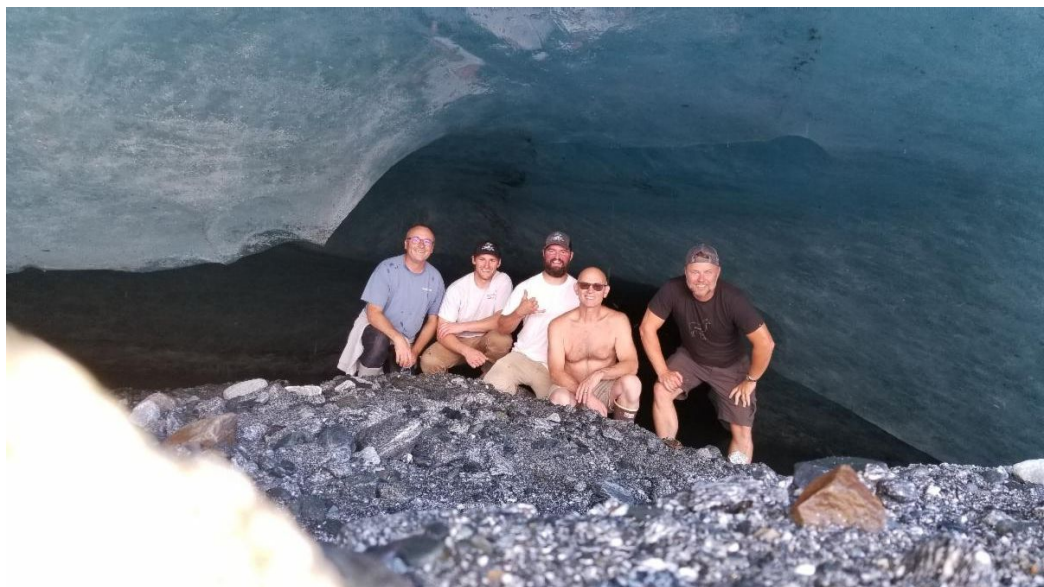
**3 days fishing and 4 nights lodging \$5575 per guest
4 days fishing and 5 nights lodging \$6275 per guest
5 days fishing and 6 nights lodging \$6975 per guest**

**Additional days add only \$700 per guest
\$200 discount per guest for groups of 4 or more!**



THE EMERALD ISLAND GOES TO LITUYA BAY!

The Highliner Lodge A team took the EI to Lituya Bay last September. I invited my friend and Alaska Seaplanes owner, Kent Craford, to join us and bring some of his people. We brought two charter boats and our group of 8 and had a fabulous time! We had excellent shrimping AND crabbing and some really good silver salmon fishing! The weather was extraordinary!



We hiked on and explored one of the glaciers at the head of the bay! Kent had a seaplane meet us there and we all went on an extended flight-

seeing trip at the base of Mt Fairweather and over several glaciers and along the outer coast! It was spectacular!!



VIEW OF ONE OF THE GLACIERS FROM THE SEAPLANE



**THE EMERALD ISLAND & BURNING
DAYLIGHT AT LITUYA BAY SEPT 2019**

Kent said, "It was a trip of a lifetime!"

I will get my USCG 200 ton masters credential in February 2021 which will allow us to offer the Emerald Island Mothership option once again!

I don't want to oversell it... but this two and a half minute video says it all! Gets your blood pumping better than any little blue pill!

[TO PLAY NEW HIGHLINER LODGE VIDEO CLICK HERE](#)

CURRENTLY WE ARE OVER 50% BOOKED FOR 2021
To insure you get the dates that you want, please book early!

Call toll free (877) 386-0397 or email our operations manager Dylan at dylan@highlinerlodge.com for details or click the "BOOK ONLINE NOW!" link:

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Highliner Lodge & Charters, Inc. | All-Inclusive Alaska Fishing Charters | (877)-386-0397 | [Email Us](#) | [Website](#)

