

CEOs gone wild

Wilderness adventures are today's hottest corporate retreats, blending fishing, paddling or hiking with urban comfort and convenience. **CINDA CHAVICH** gets in on the action by hooking a monster off Haida Gwaii

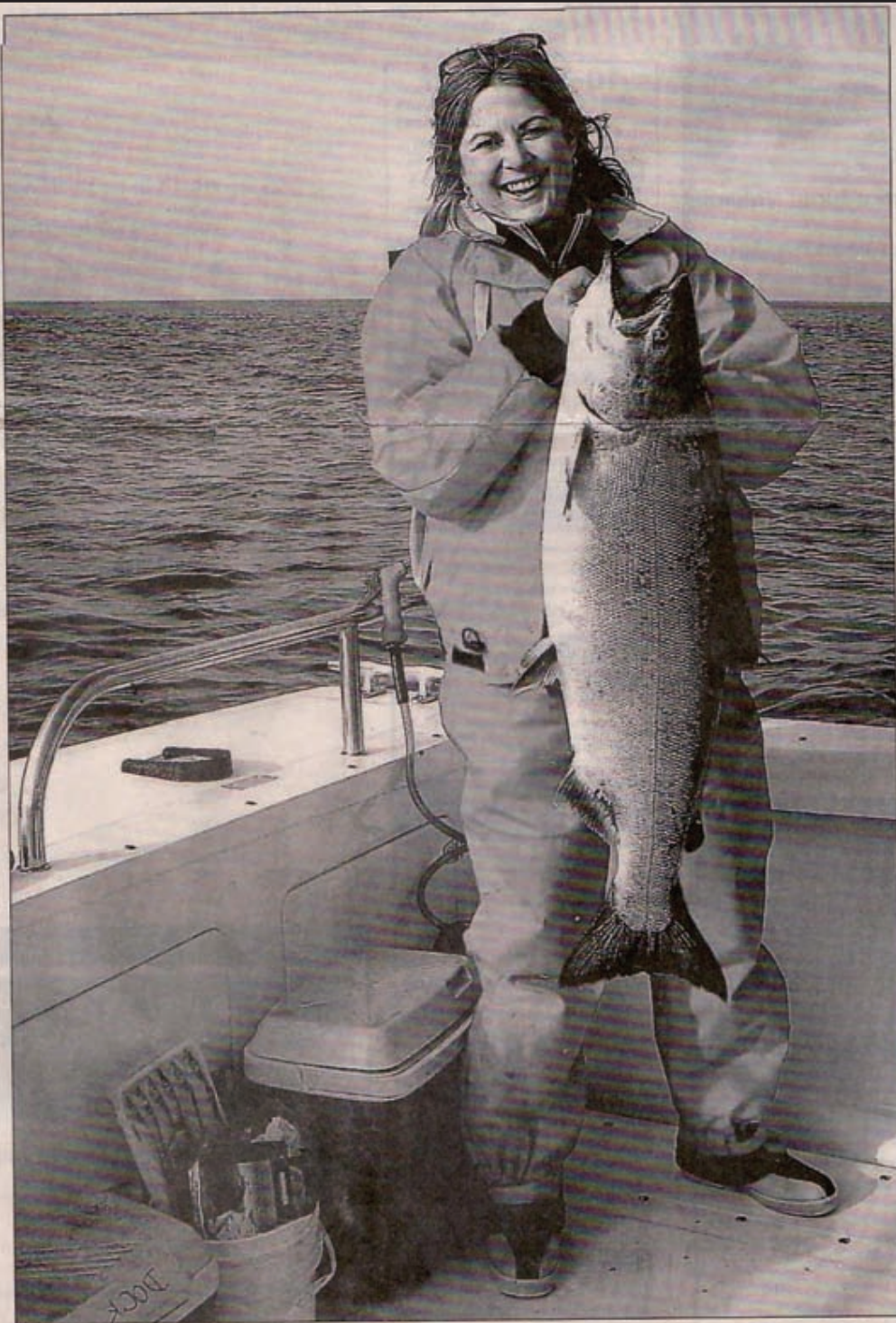
LANGARA ISLAND, B.C.

By the time I land "the big one" — a 25-pound king salmon the size of a small child — the businesswomen on our boat have definitely bonded.

We had talked about travel, film, food and the fashion statements we were making in our bulky Mustang survival suits. We had shivered in the rain, basked in the sunshine, slurped white wine and devoured fresh crab. We had laughed a lot and teased our quiet and thoughtful guide, Todd MacIntyre — a lot.

We hadn't even met a few days earlier, when we were whisked from Vancouver to a remote island by private jet and helicopter. But we are quickly dubbed "The Fisher Queens," a boatload of four women among a sea of mostly men, floating all day in the ocean in a 27-foot Boston Whaler and waiting for fat silver salmon to strike.

Like us, most of the other 50 guests at the West Coast Fishing Club are business types from the city — lawyers, stockbrokers and CEOs — who have come to the wild B.C. coast to schmooze with clients, bond with managers and generally chill out. And like us, many of them have never been on a fishing trip, or ventured into the spectacular old-growth rain forests of Haida Gwaii.



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