

Dear Sam,

I hope you are enjoying North Carolina. How is the weather there? It has been pretty foggy and cool here. I sure miss you here in Newport, Oregon. Now that you have moved, I have been fishing alone. Just like we used to do, I head down to the mud flats before I go fishing to dig for shrimp to use as bait. But it is getting harder and harder to find shrimp! I have been spending more time finding bait than I have been fishing. The other strange thing is that every once and a while the mud flats have the strangest odor. They smell kind of like rotten eggs. We've had an unusually warm summer...I wonder if that has anything to do with it.

Michelle and I traveled to Portland last weekend to have a nice dinner, but salmon prices have gone through the roof! So, we ended up ordering chicken instead! Not exactly Michelle's idea of a nice dinner!

Yaquina Bay is getting really busy with deep port ships coming and going all the time. It is getting harder for us commercial fisherman to compete with all the traffic. I saw in the news that one of those ships had an oil spill off the coast two weeks ago. That sure made a lot of people up here very upset!

Things sure have changed since you moved. I hope you can come visit soon, and then we'll have a good time out on the boat just like old times! Just maybe, we'll find some fish!

Your friend,

Allen