

Information provided by Reel-Lentless Guide Service. We provide guided fishing trips for Salmon, Steelhead, and Trout fishing from Brewster Wa.

August 22, 2011

Yes, I know we are more than two weeks from the last report. No excuses...lost a little focus on keeping the site up. Busy fishing, family, and other obligations like we all have. The fishing really went red hot for almost two weeks. The main reason was the Okanogan finally hit 70 degrees on August 5th. The derby was a great success with the Brewster Chamber of Commerce giving out close to \$20,000 in cash and prizes. The fishing was pretty tough with 54 fish weighed out of over 250 entrants. The derby has had previous years with low numbers being weighed in, and everyone was expecting a tough weekend of fishing. We were able to put three fish in the boat, but just could not get a "big" one. My daughter ended up 5th in the youth division. This was her last year as a youth, and she stuck it out all three days. Now she will be competing with the adults and she is excited for that.

The week after the derby the catch rates were like the Brewster Pool from old. Most boats with experience were getting 3-5 Kings a day. The best I saw was one experienced boat put eight adult Kings in the boat one day. Some days all that were being caught were Jacks, but the numbers of fish was still good. Again 3-5 Jacks was not uncommon for the more experienced anglers and boats. Now it has slowed down again with most people getting 1-3 Kings/Jacks in a day. The catch rate dipped when we had a temperature drop in the Okanogan for two days, and the expected leave of fish upriver occurred. The 1-3 fish has been holding for the last 5-6 days. I would not be surprised at all if it catch rate does not go back up as the Okanogan has warmed back to 70 or above the last couple of days. There are still a very large number of Kings that have not even crossed Wells Dam. (11-15 Thousand!) Wells Dam has been producing about the same as the Brewster pool, but it seems to be only a evening bite. That is ok, but to get a full day in we usually have to fish through the heat of the day. It can get pretty hot as many of you are aware over here.

I still believe September and October will be great as usual, and have almost all of my available days booked through September. There are just too many fish still to come for this fishery to not stabilize this crazy year. Last year was hard to figure out due to the run off, but this year is a topper for sure. The good thing for sure is we have some standard for future situations like this.

Sockeye: The Sockeye fishing this year has been dismal at best. Though I fished for them a few times the heavy bite was very short. Every now and then a boat will get one but pretty much they are gone or not biting. I thought the remaining numbers might turn on, but they really have not done much this year. The local Sockeye bite was another casualty of the record flows and low temperatures this year. At least now we have some experience on what to expect with a spring/summer like this one.

Triploids:

I have heard numerous times the Triploids are being fished out below Chief Joe Dam and it is over. I have to set the record straight. **THERE ARE HUGE NUMBERS ALL OVER THE PLACE!!** I know I have not been after them much as it is Salmon season, and until recently my clients wanted to fish for Kings. Last week my clients wanted to hit the Salmon in the morning, and then go after the triploids later on. With little effort we put 14 Triploids in the

boat in less than 3hrs, and the next day we put 7 in the boat in less than two hours. I don't know about others, but that tells me there are still huge amounts of these eating machines in the river. I need to set up some Triploid trips I guess to help make a dent in these fish before they shut it down. If you want to go after these fish there are still large numbers all through the river from the Bridgeport bridge to the Brewster bridge.

Rufus:

Has an algae bloom that can be dangerous to humans so fishing has really slowed. Not so much because of no fish, but the health concern. That is good for the Triploid removal below the dam.

Why I started Guiding:

I just have to relate a story that really sums up why I started guiding fishing trips. I get a lot of enjoyment and excitement helping someone catch a fish. Last week I had a client who was sponsored by a vendor. The vendor called me before and told me one of the clients "only wants to catch a trout". The vendor/sponsor and I explained there were Salmon, but that was not important to the client. We meet at 4am, and after shaking hands "THE" client immediately asks if we are going to catch trout. The client is baby boomer age, and tells me he has never caught a trout in his life. The other three with him joke and laugh, and we agree no matter what we will go after trout. Before we even launch I think the client asked at least two more times to make sure we were going after trout. Everyone is chuckling and enjoying the energy the client has to CATCH A TROUT! So we go after Salmon first and the "Trout" client lands the first Salmon of the day. We continue fishing, and the client continues to mention the trout and that the day is going by. We all agree on a time to go after trout, and when we took off after trout it was amazing. The client was almost bouncing around in his chair, and was ready to catch a trout before we came off plane. All three of the other clients caught a trout before THE client did. He does not care and is super focused, and then it happens "BOBBER DOWN..FISH...FISH...FISH". He sets the hook and I still get a chuckle thinking about it. He is reeling so fast against the drag I think the line will just twist up and bring the fish in. No matter what this fish has to come in the boat, and after a while it does.

Then I get to see the absolute joy and excitement fishing has on people when a 6lb trout just surpassed a 15lb King in one anglers life. That is why I decided to start guiding. To see people forget work, bad things, the heat, even to breath, and because they caught a fish that really meant something to them. There are a few things that are better but not too many. The client was so excited he did not even want to bonk the fish because he was worried he would not do it right. I told him no matter what it was not getting out of the boat, and of course his buddies got a laugh out of his worry. There was so much happiness and positive karma going on I think I could even have a banana in the boat that day. Well...maybe not a banana but at least a white cooler.

Ron