

August 26th, 2010

Fishing was very consistent for the last 10-12 days. Many of the boats were getting 1-3 Kings, and several Sockeye both morning and night. I averaged two kings and three Sockeye for each trip. The size of the fish dropped, and most that I know of were in the 8-12lb range. There were the 20's here and there, but the majority were low double digit fish. A lot of the Sockeye only anglers have left, but there were several still going after them. There were several days they were getting two limits (12) in some boats, but most were getting 5-6 a trip.

Then I took six days off to take my wife to Stehekin for a few days, and our college kids last day in town, and other work requirements. Yes I did get to go fishing twice while on vacation. I hired Stehekin fishing guide John Wilsey to fly fish the Stehekin River for trout. The last time I fished the Stehekin River was 84-85, so I went with some current knowledge. We fished hard and John worked to get me on some big fish. Did not land a large one, but did catch some smaller "Cutbow". Jeez I forgot how much work it takes to stand thigh deep in flowing water for five-six hours. We stayed at the Stehekin Ranch and you have to go at least one time to eat the amazing home cooked food. I tried to fish just off Stehekin but the wind blew us off the lake. Marked a lot of large fish, but could not fish at all in the wind. BUUUUUUT after spending some great time just enjoying life in Stehekin we headed down, and I got to fish for Lakers on the lower end. I boated four in less than two hours with only one rod. The largest was 12lb. (See Trout photos) Also just so your aware just after Manson you no longer have cell service, so I had no contact with local anglers for three days.

The fishing report from trusted anglers and friends was the fishing had stayed the same. One boat put SIX Kings on their card in one day! That was/is the highest number I have heard of all year. Most boats were still getting 1-2 a trip on Kings and a few Sockeye, and then we have had a drop the last 3-4 days. My trip yesterday did not result in any adult Kings or Sockeye. We released one Steelhead, four small Jack Kings, lost one King half way to the boat, and missed one good hit. First trip of the year without at least one keeper fish in the boat. Sorry D and R I know I jinxed (I'm a little superstitious) the trip by saying the wrong thing, but it really did just slip out. The fish were rolling, and I was marking them on the finder. It might have been the full moon phase that turned them off the bite, and the wind was so bad today no one was able to fish.

I only saw 2-3 Sockeye caught yesterday, but I know the tribal seine boat had two full sets. We could see the fish boiling and splashing easily, so they had good numbers of Sockeye. I am willing to say based on the fish finder, catch rates, and amount of fish rolling the Sockeye are definitely leaving in large numbers very fast.

I still do not have any solid information on the Steelhead opener, but I know it is going to be before Oct 1st. I would ask anglers if they agree to send comments and suggestions to WDFW Biologist Jeff Korth. Please ask him to leave the Main Stem Columbia as it is without the "Selective Gear" ruling until Salmon Season closes. The reason they choose open the Steelhead season early is to get the larger numbers of hatchery fish caught. The selective gear rule does affect the number of fish hooked up and brought in the boat. Just does not seem right to hurt one short season (3 mo) over a season that runs six to seven months.

Ron