

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

August 4, 2011

We are two more weeks into the season, and finally are starting to see some changes for the better. The fish numbers were and are definitely here, but being able to fish the water they are in was pretty tough. The river flows are still very high, and the place to catch Salmon has been below Wells Dam. It has been super hard to determine when and if they were going to run a lot of water. When they opened up the dam it was almost impossible to fish. I talked to a lot of frustrated anglers waiting for hours and finally leaving after driving to Wells. The times they did turn the water down the fishing was very good. We were getting at least 2 kings a trip in the boat. There were several days with four to five in the boat. The highest number we had was six Kings in the boat, and by far that was the best day on Kings we have had this year so far. We were doing really well as long as the water allowed us to fish. Finally these last several days the water below Wells Dam has been fishable. It appears it will stay fishable below Wells Dam for the remainder of the season based on the river flows. We have also seen a decline in the bite, but have been able to put at least one King a trip in the boat. The decline in the overall King bite might be caused by the change in the water flow as the fish are present. I am confident the bite will pick back up as the fish get used to the new flows.

I have not fished for Sockeye very much, but have talked with others who have. Some people are getting quite a few, and most are hit and miss on catching limits. Most anglers are getting at least 2-3 a day. We did have one good day after catching a couple Kings and we kept 11 nice Sockeye. They seem to be running much smaller this year, and we are releasing a lot back due to size. Again most of the Sockeye being caught are below Wells Dam.

The Brewster Pool has just started to pick up on both Kings and Sockeye being caught. Instead of one fish a day they are getting 3-4 a day with numerous Sockeye. I have not fished the pool lately, and am getting my information from trusted anglers and WDFW creel staff. The surface temperature yesterday in the Okanogan was 68.5, and the Malott (Core Water) was over 66 degrees. The last temp shown this evening was 19.1 Celsius, and when it hits 21 at the mouth of the Okanogan the door is closed. The Malott reading station is about 10 miles up river, and with these hot days lately it could close at any time. Based on the increase in caught fish the last couple of days at least the fish are hesitating and not just heading right up. It should only get better from here on out, and there are still very good numbers of fish that have not reached the Brewster Pool. No matter what it will only get better as the season moves along.

This is the second tough year for this fishery. I think the major positive for me is I will be better at finding and catching Kings during future tough years. Sure, I would prefer nice "Normal" weather, but we have to deal with what we have and make the best of it. I really believe we need to try to change the things we can, and learn to deal with the things we can not.

The Brewster Salmon Derby is this weekend, and it will require a lot of work to find the Kings. Most anglers understand the situation, and are more than willing to fish when it is hard not just when it is easier. Regardless of the number of Kings caught this weekend

the Derby will be a fun and enjoyable time for everyone. I am looking forward to seeing the return anglers and all the new ones we have this year.

Rufus Woods:

Is still turning out decent numbers of Triploids, but nothing like the last month or so. The size of fish being caught has also decreased from what I have seen. Many people are still getting limits with some time on the water. The best locations are still closer to the net pens, but they can be caught throughout the entire area.

Please read my report on the Brewster Pool Triploids. Here is a great opportunity to target some nice fish in great numbers. Not only will you catch fish you will be helping the Salmon and Steelhead fishery.

Ron