

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

July 20, 2011

We are two weeks later but not a lot of change. I have held off a little on getting this report out only because just now has there been some change in the catch rates. We are getting kings regularly, but it has been hard and generally slow. We have been able to get a couple limits of 3 kings, but that definitely is not the norm.

Without a doubt this is the toughest year since the start of our Salmon fishery. Far more difficult than last year. It has been so slow I can hardly believe it., but I do feel we are on the front end of the 2011 season. The Brewster Pool is very slow with minimal fish being caught. In talking to the anglers I know who have been fishing it hard for the entire season most days are single fish days. That is not saying one fish per boat, but one fish being caught out of 8-10 boats. The Okanogan is still super muddy and cold with surface temperatures at the mouth in the 62-64 degree range since July 4th. Again this has never happened since this fishery opened. The WDFW creel staff has the same numbers of fish being caught at almost all locations in the area except below Wells Dam when I talk to them.

The section of river between Wells Dam and the Brewster bridge opened on the 16th, and the reports for that area are the same as the Brewster Pool. One to two fish being caught out of 8-10 boats is the norm. This historically has been a good location to fish for the first two weeks it is open.

The area below Wells Dam has produced the largest number of fish for our area so far. This is very typical for the early season, and matches about where the fish numbers are. This area currently is NOT for the average boater. The water is really rough and going all different directions. It eventually will be much more fishable, but pretty much not fishable for most people. I have had three people have to get out of the boat due to sea sickness so far. The fishing is super tough, and the catching is only slightly better. There are a few fish being caught each day with the best day so far being the 17th. Not counting the Sockeye based on what I know was caught and what the WDFW staff on sight told me there were about 15-18 kings caught out of 12 boats. But if you check the river data on the dam count link you will see Wells Dam flow was the lowest it has been this spring. It was still plenty rough but better. Still not what I would call good fishing water. The number being caught really depends on the flow, and as you can see from the chart it is not very predictable.

When is this going to change and start to be the norm from previous years? I have really studied the data and believe I have the answer. I have no identifiable date at this point... is my answer. My best guess is that we are on the very front edge as I said before, and it will only get better as the river flow starts to slow and the temperatures rise. There are still a lot of fish that have not come over Wells Dam. Hopefully by the time they come over Wells Dam, the Okanogan will be warm enough to hold them. Currently I think the major majority are staying in the Brewster pool for a very short time if at all, and continuing their migration up the Okanogan. Only time and Mother Nature will let us know how it will all work out.

I will put out another report as soon as I see a noticeable increase in the catch rate and fishable water in the Brewster area.

Late August and September is always amazing fishing in the Brewster area. Far better than most people realize, and every day it is looking like this year has the potential to be the best ever. That is the silver lining I continue to hope for this year, and that August will continue to be a great month like always.

Rufus Woods:

Is still turning out decent numbers of Triploids, but nothing like the last month or so. So a person might have to fish harder and longer. My last trip to Rufus was on July 10th, and it took us 6hrs to get our limit of 14 keepers. Just a week or two before we were able to catch that many in half the time. I am not complaining at all. Who would complain about catching over 70lbs of great eating Triploids in less than 8hrs? I don't anticipate fishing Rufus for a while as I am working hard on the available Salmon.

Ron