

Information by Reel-Lentless Guide Service providing Guided Salmon, Steelhead, and Trout fishing services from Brewster Washington.

July 5, 2011

Well, the 2011 July 1st Salmon opener has passed with some expected low results for the upper river. The low numbers of fish and very high river flows put the expected dampener on the opening weekend. The fishing below Wells was pretty crazy, and I lost one of the guys in less than an hour to sea sickness. Being sea sick is miserable, and we left him on the beach for a few hours. According to Wells Dam staff they are running 30% more water now then the same time last year. I can tell you it was the wildest water I have ever seen or been in below Wells.

The numbers of fish being caught is not all that surprising...basically in the single digits a day so far. I talked with the WDFW creel/enforcement staff, and they checked no fish on Friday or Sunday at their stations with only one King on Saturday.

We did boat one King on the opening day, and lost one on Saturday before getting it in the boat. One person who I believe says they boated five Kings on opening day. One boat landed a King at Brewster on Saturday according to WDFW staff.

I just got off the phone with two boats who have fished the Brewster Pool for the last three days for 12hr days. Both boats have a lot of experience in the Brewster pool. One of them had just released a radio tagged King!!! Of all the luck....three days hard fishing and have to release the first and only one you have landed.

I have never fished the Brewster pool on opening weekend and been able to see the muddy line between the Okanogan water and cleaner Columbia water. There is a huge amount of debris floating and just under the surface so be very careful in a boat. Looking at the dam counts the fish are down river and are on the way for sure. I have had some pretty good reports from people fishing Wanapum dam area. The Okanogan is still way too cold (59f) now to keep any arriving fish in the Columbia. As much as I don't like to admit it, but it is a good thing for this area the fish are arriving late.

I have been getting quite a few calls on when I think it will pick up and I really don't know. We need the flows to reduce and the numbers to get here. Best guess is a week to 10 days. The launch below Wells Dam is washed out and according to Douglas County PUD the earliest

they will start repair work is July 11th. So you will have to launch at Bebee park and motor up, and it takes about 30 minutes at 30mph. If you have not seen the water flow I would suggest you ask someone who has been there or drive and look yourself first. Only two boats fished it opening day, and we saw at least eight show up and immediately leave. It will happen for sure, but we just have to wait a little while longer.

Rufus:

The catch rate has dropped and can be cyclical at times. There are still a lot of fish to be caught for sure. They have been hammered hard, and I am seeing more boats on Rufus than I have ever before. I think it is still a very viable and productive fishery for sure.

Ron