

March 15, 2011

I don't know if spring is here or not. It is getting warm then it snows and is cold. Overall I am pretty confident we are finally starting to warm up. In reality the normal spring will start about now. We have been pretty spoiled for a lot of years with pretty mild winters and early springs. Last year the spring was fairly early down low, but the high country was later than previous years. We have been getting a little rain lately in town, but it is snow on the hills. I hope the melt comes a little earlier than last year. It would be perfect for our area if it held off until April then the major spring flow would be done by June. If we could get some warmer weather to get the Okanogan warmed up we can keep those great summer Kings in the Columbia.

Steelhead,

Steelhead bites and catch rate has stayed the same with 5-7 fish being boated the norm. They seem to be biting in cycles instead of through out. Lately we have been getting a few fish and bites, and then when they slow down it may take a couple hours for them to start again. The weather has been getting better every day for comfortable fishing. The mornings are cold enough to need light gloves, but they can be taken off before noon on most days. We did have one day with some wind and it was actually darn cold. You could feel the cold wind coming right off the snow filled hills with two different temperatures. The last day I fished this weekend it was over 50 degrees in the afternoon with the sun shining. I did jump in with some friends on one trip and ended up with six Steelhead, three Triploids, a sucker, with only one keeper. There were four other boats out and between them they caught a total of 12 Steelhead with 11 keepers! One of those things only Mother Nature can explain. Regardless that is a pretty solid and consistent day of Steelhead fishing. Last weekend we had a better than average day fishing with 16 Steelhead and five being keepers. I had my first ever triple and it was just hectic and absolutely a blast. So I am hoping the last two weeks of this month are fairly active like the last few March bites have been.

I just took a break to run out to the shop to put some new fluorocarbon line in the boat for this weekend. It was raining again just like the last three evenings. I hope it stays cool in the higher elevations and the river does not get blown out.

Lake Chelan,

I took one exploratory trip up to Lake Chelan for Lakers with another angler. We were looking and covering a lot of water in anticipation of Steelhead season closing. We boated seven decent Lakers in about the same amount of hours. Looking forward to heading up to Lake Chelan in the coming months to spend a little time focused on catching some Lakers.

Rufus Woods,

Numbers of fish being caught has fluctuated depending on the day and location being fished. Some anglers are getting skunked and some are getting 4-6 fish a day. The majority of fish being caught are on plunked bait more than trolling. Some are being caught by casting spinners into the shallower water, but plunking bait seems to be the most productive. It has been reported the CCT will be releasing more Triploids on a fairly regular basis, but no one knows when these will occur.

Ron