

November 22nd, 2010

Wow I'm just over a month from my last report. Elk season went very well. No legal bulls were seen, but I had some great experiences and memories.

Klickitat Silvers: More of a story than a report but worth telling...one of those trips like my elk hunting this year. I headed down to Hood River Oregon to fish the Klickitat River for Silvers/Coho with family. We were at the end of the major bite and best part of the season but fish were still biting. What a great time fishing new water, new area, new people, new fish, SAME OLD TECHNIQUE!!!

I was told that anglers down in this area do not use down riggers, flashers, or pretty much anything we use near Brewster. So we head on out to see how it works and what the "locals" are doing. After seeing what is going on, and the troll pattern the other boats are using (I think that is a courtesy all anglers really should use when in new water or areas) we turn out the down riggers, clip on the flashers followed by Cut Plug Super baits, and release the brakes. Oh yeah...we ran one flasher/Super Bait behind a diver and one long lined plug. It was like an alien space ship had just landed in Times Square when we hit the troll line. The finger pointing, head turning, and stares of wonder came from every single boat. Some laughed, some shook their head, and a lot could be seen saying things similar to "What the hell are those guys doing?!" We laughed harder than anyone else when we thought about what we were doing. We were the only boat (out of 50) running riggers, flashers, or trolling anything other than plugs or prawn spinners. In fact we only saw one other boat that even had down riggers. So....our first pass...FISH ON...18' deep on a Super Bait! What every angler wants to happen or does not want to see happen depending what part of the situation you are. We did exceptional compared to others...and ended up with three in the boat...missed several...and lost a couple. The next day was the exact same with four in the boat. Not only did we get some Silvers but also some Kings. I will be making that trip again next year if possible.

Steelhead:

After getting back I checked in with the local anglers, WDFW creel staff, and other information sources. Overall the report was pretty much the same. Most people who were catching fish were getting 1-2 a day, and a few had days of 3-4. There were rumors of some people catching double digit numbers, but I have been unable to find anyone who can confirm it happened. The catch rate overall has pretty much remained the same for this month. There are days were 3-4 are being caught, but those days still have not become the norm for most. I have been averaging 1-2 per trip through last weekend. I realize it is hard to release those wild fish but hopefully the science will hold true and in the long run it will be a benefit. We had several hits with no fish hooked, so I made an adjustment in the gear. The adjustment seemed to work as I have not missed any more strikes on that particular set up.

Winter finally hit Friday night with snow, and colder temperatures every day. Luckily for the clients I was able to re-schedule a trip for tomorrow due to the cold weather. The weather has been slightly worse than the forecast the last few days, and it was forecasted to be -8 degrees at the start of the day. Then add in some predicted wind and that is bitterly cold. Cold and Steelhead just go together and is part of the experience for our area. I want people to have an enjoyable fishing experience, and even with heaters that

would have been a difficult day of fishing for anyone. The Methow and Okanogan rivers are having very similar catch rates. I talked to a WDFW creel counter, and they had checked only two fish from the Methow just the other day. This cold weather is really going to help as the Columbia was still over 56 degrees Sunday.

Caution: Triploid Trout can be caught near Bridgeport cannot be kept. They still look like a Triploid, but seem to be slimmer and not quite so football shaped. Triploids are sterilized Rainbow Trout so their coloring is the same. Their tails are still broomed off and stubby, and their heads appear smaller than they should be.

Rufus Woods: Hearing reports of more and more triploids being caught by both bank and boat anglers.

Lake Chelan: Has been turning out good numbers of Lake Trout. The winter and spring months are great times to fish for Lakers on Chelan. I hope to spend more time after Lake Trout this year as it is a really fun fishery on a beautiful lake. When you get into a double digit Laker they put up a decent fight.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and hope you can spend some time with your family.

Ron