

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

October 26, 2011

Well it has been a while since my last report. In fact as many of you know Salmon season closed locally on the 15th. I was able to fish the last two weeks a few times, but other commitments definitely affected how many times I could get out. The catching and fishing remained the same through the end of the season. Most days resulted in 5-6 adults being caught with a jack or two. Every now and then we would get 3 adults in a trip. This held to the end of the season. I had several reports with the same numbers from several trusted friends. Compared to previous years 2011 was not a banner year for the Salmon fishing in the Upper Columbia. When you consider the number of tough years compared to the good ones during this fishery we are not doing too bad.

Hanford Area:

I have had numerous people ask me if I fished the Hanford Reach area. Several more are asking me to schedule a trip for them in that area. I have declined to fish the Hanford area, but it appears I need to at least spend a weekend or two fishing it. Until I had fished it and knew I could put fish in the boat I did not want to take paying clients with me. One of my very regular customers lives reasonably close, and had some time to fish with me. So we spent two and a half days fishing the Ringold section. The first day we put two adults and a jack in the boat. Talking to a few people we did pretty good considering the overall catch rate. The second day we limited with two fish each, and obviously I was very satisfied. The last half day we put two more in the boat. We did not hook or boat any of those monster 40+ pound Kings but all were good solid fish. I am pretty sure I will be making it back down to another section (Vernita, White Bluffs, Wanapum) next year to see how it goes.

Clarkston/Lewiston Area:

I had to go to Lewiston one weekend for fishing related trip. I was lucky enough to be invited to go after Steelhead with two great people. Last year the younger one tied for 1st in the Triangle Shell derby. I was given the chance to try for some Steelhead, and WOW did we catch some fish. We put 16 Steelhead and three smaller Kings in the boat in about 8hrs. I know we could have put more in the boat, but they were kind enough to show me several different areas. I was lucky enough to catch the largest Steelhead I have personally hooked and landed a 14lb hen! I am going to have to get back down to that area when the big fish show up as I was a little early.

Klickitat River:

I fished this area last year to see how it went. I was reasonably happy with the results, and I made it back down this year. We had another great two and a half days of fishing the Columbia just at the mouth of the Klickitat River. I will try to schedule a trip or two this next year on a weekend in this area. I realize down riggers are not common in this area, but for the life of me I can not figure out why. Day one we had six take downs, and put six fish in the boat in just over three hours. We ended up with two Coho/Silvers and four super nice Kings. The largest was a 20lb chrome bright buck. Day two was a little harder with seven take downs, but we were only able to boat three nice Kings. The last half day we had four

take downs, but were only able to boat one King. When I compared what we were able to boat against the other boats....GIVE ME A DOWN RIGGER...any day. On day two we had a local (non-rigger user) fishing with us. He even said "I guess I better take back everything bad I said about people who use down riggers".

Steelhead:

The limit reduced as I heard it might. The limit has been reduced back to where it used to be at two clipped fish. This was the norm until we had some very good returns to justify the higher catch limit. There is still a mandatory retention on clipped fish, and it has proven to be a hugely affective management tool.

I have only been out one time for Steelhead with everything else I have been doing. We caught a lot of fish (21) but just not a lot of Steelhead. The triploids are still thick in some areas of the river as expected. There are decent numbers of Steelhead being caught, and it is not uncommon for people to get their keeper limit. Most anglers are getting 2-4 fish a day. As the water cools it should pick up as usual.

It will be mid-November before I get another report out as it is the start of my hunting seasons. Elk starts this weekend and I will be out in the hills. It is a nice change to spend the day in the mountains enjoying another outdoor activity.

Ron