

October 6th, 2010

I apologize for being late with this report. Between fishing, coaching little guy tackle football, family time/activities, I did get behind on a couple things. Salmon fishing has been very good for the last month overall. Even though the numbers of Salmon being boated is less than last year during this time of the season. We did have a few days where the bite really dropped off, but it picked right back up a short time later. September has always been the best time to catch numbers of fish and this year is no different. As predicted the number of bites is up noticeably per trip, but the number of fish hooked solid or landed is down. The single barbless hook is the reason for less fish solidly hooked at the bite. In the last two trips we averaged 10 boated/released fish per 8hr trip. The overall size was down with most in the 10-12lb range.

I have a theory as to why we have less fish solidly hooked this time of year. It also would apply to all fish for that matter. There are times a fish will strike/bite/eat a lure or bait and then swim away continually or "run" right after the bite. Most of the time the fish bites, gets stuck with the hook point, and then shakes its head to try to spit the bait/hook. Especially true when you are trolling off from down riggers. That is why the majority of times the pole lightly "bounces" instead of just being ripped off the rigger then a constant bend. The fish has stopped its major "Strike" swimming action and is now just head shaking. The barb holds the hook in place to give you that extra second to really set the hook.

I have been asked why I do not fish the Hanford Reach area for those great fall Kings. For me logistically it is not something I want to do at this time. I just do not want to spend that much time away from my family now. If you want to fish that great fishery for some big fall fish I would recommend you call Jerrod at Okanogan Valley Guide Service or Shane at Upper Columbia Guide Service. Plus we are still catching good numbers of Kings right here near Brewster with only a couple other boats out. Just the other day we were the only boat out fishing for Kings.

Steelhead is getting going pretty good with more and more fish being caught. I have not even tried to catch a Steelhead yet because Salmon is still doing real well. October 1st will be my first attempt at Steelhead for this season. It still has not come close to the best time of year yet for Steelhead. Most of what I know many anglers are getting 1-2 a day with a few getting more every once in a while. I do know of a few that caught 4-5 in a day with one or two hatchery. The count over Wells is looking very good with consistent numbers daily confirming the best is yet to come. I want to emphasize the rule of keeping hatchery fish. The mandatory keep of hatchery fish is a management tool used by WDFW to allow the Steelhead fishery to remain open. I have never had a problem being able to give away the Steelhead I do not want to keep myself. If we don't remove these fish WDFW will institute other means of removal and that will mean less fishing opportunity for everyone. Again, please do not release hatchery fish not only because of the requirement but for more fishing opportunity in the future.

Ron