

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

Triploid Update:
August 4, 2011

Please refer to my earlier report on the problem with Triploids below Chief Joseph Dam for a little history on this.

As many people know there was a huge release or escapement of non-clipped or tagged triploids (over 117,00) into the Rufus Woods lake. I could not find all of the data on other releases or escapements, but I believe this release was twice as large as any previous. This release could not have happened at a worse time for the Salmon and Steelhead fishery below Chief Joseph Dam. Chief Joseph Dam was spilling all of its gates 24hrs a day for over a month at the same time. These released Triploids were washed downstream almost 40 miles from their release point in less than two days. Obviously the number of Triploids below Chief Joseph Dam is literally uncountable but extremely large. We and many others are regularly catching Triploids below Wells Dam, and before this release I have never caught one below Wells. There is no doubt in my mind at all this release is going to have a major negative impact on our future Salmon and Steelhead returns. The only way to help this situation is to remove as many Triploids from these waters as we can. We finally have a way to do this on a trial basis. Now it is up to us anglers to continue to help WDFW with this problem.

WE HAVE TO HELP PROTECT AND CONTINUE THIS AMAZING SALMON AND STEELHEAD FISHERY IN ALL WATERS BELOW CHIEF JOSEPH DAM!!

In talking with WDFW they recognize this problem all along, and this was the situation all were very afraid of happening. All of the "HOPE" this would not occur proved not very effective at preventing the inevitable. Luckily for us this did prompt NOAA to let WDFW open a short term fishery to try to help with this situation. Many people want to point blame and accuse the WDFW of not doing anything, but the reality is they have tried to deal with this problem for years. There are many, many people at WDFW we need to thank for this latest fishery. I would ask all of you to please send a email thank you to Bob Jateff (robert.jateff@dfw.wa.gov), Jeff Korth (jeffrey.korth@dfw.wa.gov), and Dennis Beich (dennis.beich@dfw.wa.gov). All of these people and their staff worked very hard to show the importance of taking these extremely voracious predators out of important Salmon and Steelhead water.

Here is the news release for this fishery from WDFW:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/news/release.php?id=jul2911c>

Please read this and look at the pictures. Triploids are easy to tell the difference in, but if you have any doubts please release the fish. We do not want incidental catching of Steelhead to stop this important predator removal.

The Fishing:

I have talked to numerous people who have been targeting these fish and everyone is getting their limit in very short order. Just talked to a guy and they caught 16 in less than three hours by Bridgeport. The bottom line is these fish are so thick in this water it takes very little effort to catch your limit of four. These fish can be caught through the entire system that is open with the largest numbers near Bridgeport. I know several people who are getting limits close to the mouth of the Okanogan.

Hot to catch Triploids:

You will notice I don't normally tell how to catch fish in my reports. These fish need to be removed, and I will do my best to show some good ways to catch these. Any technique used on Rufus Woods works in these waters. Target the banks on both sides of the river as they are everywhere. Look for any water seams or riffles, and work all depths, but the majority of fish like the shallower water. Jig/Bobber tipped with shrimp. Power bait drifted under bobber or plunked on bottom. Troll or back Troll plugs Tad Polly, Hot Shots, Brads, in the smaller sizes. Trolling Needle Fish, Wedding Rings. Casting spoons such as Krocodiles works great. A Crawfish looking plug works amazingly well. Don't forget your bass gear from plastics to plugs. These fish will eat anything that moves. Bouncing a plastic worm, crawdad, tube bait along the bottom will get bites very well. Colors really don't matter so much, but if they stop biting one color change and fish the same water. Normally they start biting again right away with a new color.

Don't try to pull them against the current as they have soft mouths and will tear free. Just drift with them and they will not tear loose. A softer rod and a little lighter drag will help a lot.

Please report some details of what you are catching to WDFW in regards to how many, size, location, and time spent fishing. The more we do this the more WDFW can show NOAA and the agencies who control this fishery the true amount of predatory fish (Triploids) are in this water.

Ron