

The Nanaimo River is now officially blown out . . . in less than two days the level went from .7 m to 2.2 m (increase of 1.5 m or nearly 5 ft!) and the water flow increased from 10 cubic metres per second to 100. It's actually dangerous to wade the river. The water is approaching the colour of the Fraser River in freshet!

The Chum fest was an exercise in futility other than a chance to BS with fellow fly fishers and have lunch later. The water was so low, you could wade anywhere in the river and very few fresh fish showed up on the low tide.

Yesterday, the river was still fishable, but no bright fish were evident anywhere (although with the coloured water and high flow, they could have easily have slipped by unseen! I guess that's it until the rain stops. Rumour has it that there are still lots of chum out in the estuary, but there are gillnetters working the schools, so possibly not many more of the fish will make it into the river.

If the flow rates drop on east Vancouver Island rivers, there should still be some good fishing to be had on the Nanaimo, Chemainus and Big and Little Qualicum rivers as they are all open for fishing.

Ian



*Arrived Chumfest 1.5 hours before low tide expecting fresh fish*



*Fish proved to be anything but fresh*



*Water was so low, it was easy to wade anywhere in the river...stepping between chum redds was more difficult.*



*Just as many fishers upstream as down*