

# Fishing Report: Somass River Sockeye

From: Bruce Murray

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Wayne recently retired and relocated from Penticton has been active looking for new water to fish and heard about Somass legal flossing of Sockeye and Paper Mill Dam so I took him last Monday to view the "Tent City on the Somass" (how people can fish and leave so much garbage is beyond me). After a few minutes of gasping for fresh air, we noticed that three fly fishers were on the downstream island. Recognizing that one was "Elbows Courtney Olgilvy" we headed up to Somass Park. The day was bright and sunny, not good conditions for flossing migrating Sockeye. The catching was poor for most of us except for a couple of cracker young fellas who showed up a couple of hours après us and caught their limit of Sockeye (2 each) and then headed down to the previous mentioned island below Paper Mill Dam which is in salt water where one can get 2 more Sockeye on a Tidal Licence.

Tuesday was much the same as Monday for weather conditions and poor catching except for these same two crackers who limited out in minutes but were very educational and courteous to novice flossers like myself.

Wednesday was overcast, high tide and a bit wet and the floss catching was terrific with lots of Sockeye moving through the system. My buddy Wayne limited out while I was sacrificing my day to meet up with Dan Hooper to retrieve the software for this newsletter (boohoo).

Could Thursday be as good as Wednesday? Conditions were just a crappy with an early morning high tide so I went along and wow catching was good, even for the Fly Guys.

Friday was even wetter with lots of people fishing as the word was out....but no or few fish. Unknown to most of us was the natives were allotted an opening at Paper Mill Dam Pool Friday morning and netted most of the holding Sockeye and the Sporting Community got holding the (empty) bag as usual these days.

So if you wish to partake in this very entertaining Fishery as Sockeye are very energized, high jumping fish, be sure to check the weather, tides and phone ahead to Gone Fishing or check DFO Pacific Region website for commercial/native openings and closures. I obviously didn't but it did not matter as soon after arriving at 5:30am the screw fell out of my C-pin reel and disappeared into the Somass; shortly there afterwards, my reel left me. So I went back to shore to enjoy my Mc Coffee that was too hot to drink when purchased in Port Alberni and there on the lid were two large black slugs enjoying my brew. Oh, did I mention that McDonalds do not use powered eggs in their McMuffin....I know that first hand, as the egg shell was in the McMuffin....ever have a day like this one? I think I will return to matching the hatch with dry flies.

