

Herring Fishing at French Creek

From: Harry McLeod

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On Thursday I set out to try my luck at catching a few Herring on a fly rod, as both Ian Stewart and John Bane had told me earlier that this could be done. I used a full sink line, a leader, tippet and a small red and Krystal Flash fly. When I arrived at French Creek, Herring spawning had just started 15 minutes earlier, and about eight spin casters were trying their luck. I spoke with one of the fishermen who already had about 10 Herring in his pail. He said "You're never going to catch Herring with that rig....well, O.K., maybe you might catch one or two if that's a full sink line as you say". He was using a so called "Japanese "rig", which I later purchased at Keith's Coast Sportfish store in Parksville. Every angler I encountered was using this set of 6 flies branched out 3 on each side of a mono to which a weight is attached at the end. I wasn't having much luck but managed to catch one herring just as I was reeling in to leave after about half a half hour of trying.

Upon returning to French Creek with the Pline Herring Rig and encountered IWFF club members John Bane, Ant Elsdale , and a few other anglers , but no-one was catching herring. I headed up-Island as both boats and Sea Lions were heading in that direction. John and Ant went back to Nanaimo. I saw no sign of Herring activity anywhere between French Creek and Deep Bay , but I have since learned that John and Ant hit the Jackpot at Rocky Point in Nanaimo.

As I stopped in at French Creek again, I spotted with Binoc's what looked like a green slick at Parksville Bay so headed over to Doehle Avenue (opposite the Park) and took the five flights of stairs to the beach knowing I would not be able to catch Herring on that shallow shoreline. However, seeing lots of waterfowl there,I knew I would stand a good chance of getting some pictures. I had brought camera gear with me. The accompanying dozen pictures are some of the 125 shots I took that day.

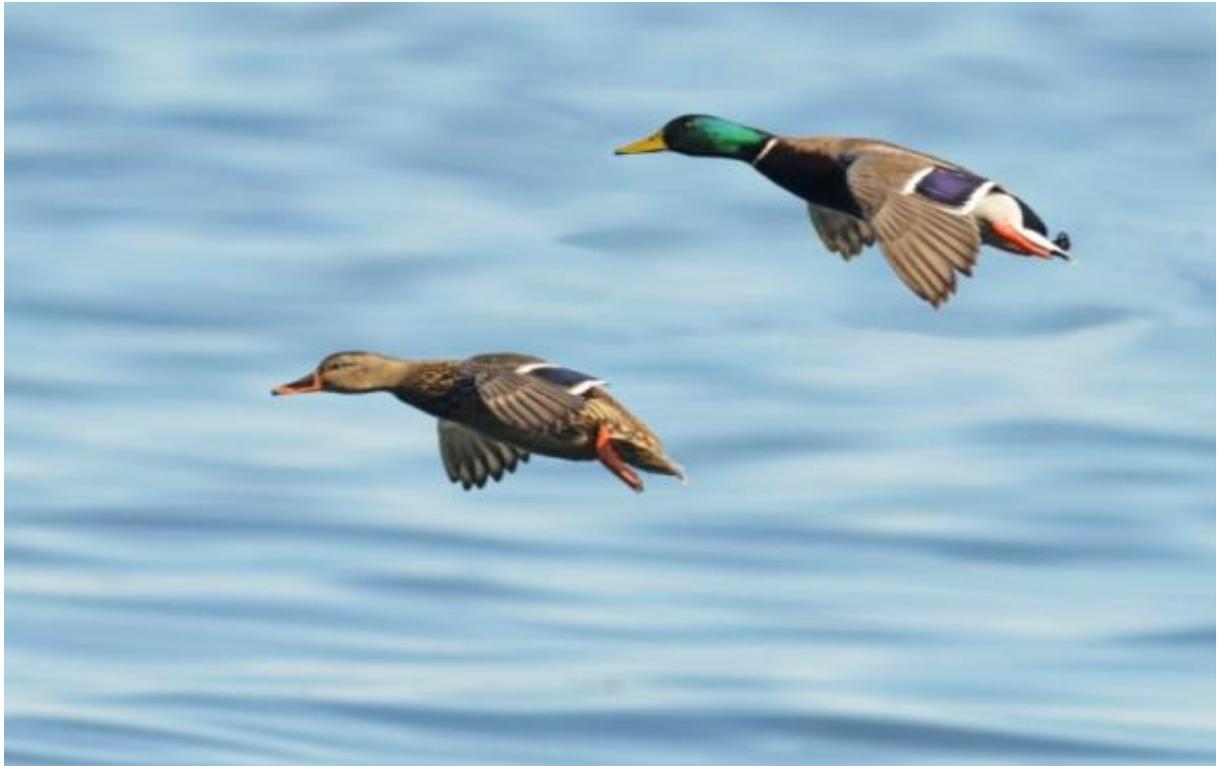




One for you and one for me and millions for Jimmy P



Mr and Mrs Pintail





.....Then the



Predators move in....



More predators move in.....



And more predators move in



And even more predators move in....