

## Chum Fest 2017

**From: Bob Kissinger** [basherbob@outlook.com] with color comments from **George McGladrey** [jgeorge@shaw.ca]

Well we had about a dozen members out for our annual chum fest on the Nanaimo river estuary.



It was a lovely morning, clear, crisp, with just a touch of frost on the grass as I walked to the river. The river on the other hand was the lowest that I've seen at any previous chum fest.



There were lots of fish but I didn't see any "chromers".





Considering that there have been up to 25 commercial fish boats working the river approaches for the past 5 days it is not a surprise.

As usual, lots of fun, lots of fish but no broken rods this year. The burger and beer at the Wheat Sheaf was its usual tasty self.



If we had a prize for the first person to break something I would get it. My reel with 8wt rio line, weighted leader and 16lb tippet broke before I even got to the water. Neil had his little dragon fly 6wt so I put that on my 8.5 rod and let me tell you that is an awful combination to cast even if I did manage to hook a couple more I landed up losing two flies. Thankfully Tony lent me his skagit setup and I landed a big ugly toothie monster who, after I retrieved the fly, Tony pushed back into the river.

As we drove alongside the river I noticed low lying fog floating Halloween like and white roofs. When we got to the parking lot we had frost when we arrived at 7:35am so it was a bit on the teeth chattering side. However once you have all the gear on, and of course you add an extra sweater, you quickly warm up. It reminded me of being a kid on the prairies when your mother

put so many winter clothes on you that if you fell down you were like a turtle on its back flailing away in a snow bank.



The chance for some bright fish should improve dramatically when the commercial fishing is over.

Cheers

Basher