

Fishing Reports for the week that was

1) Ian STEWART [<mailto:iandalestew@shaw.ca>]

Brother Wayne and I came back a day and a half early. We fished the Campbell, Eve, stopped at Cluxewe to look, the Keogh and out around the islands off stories beach and paddled up Rupert Inlet about half way. The only places we saw any fish were at the Eve and Campbell. The Eve has a small group of pinks that move in at the low tide and move up the river up to high tide then back out. Would be ok but there were close to 40 people fishing the mouth and then up the river, so we didn't join the fray! We tried toward the bluffs and also paddled almost down to Naka Creek looking for fish with no success. Only coho we heard of were on Wednesday at the Eve where 20 people fished all day for 2 coho landed. There are lots of sockeye going by off the drop off but they don't seem to have very many pinks with them. We zeroed out for the trip . . . not one fish landed and only a few bites.

We fished the Campbell from the pool at the top of the spawning channel (where we were fishing last fall) and walked all the way down to the Quinsam. There were only fish where we started and they were holding on the far bank where we couldn't get our flies down to them (two guys were holding a stretch of water about 150 feet long and moved in front of us whenever we tried to get into a position where we could cast! We had 45 minutes or so on the pool above the Quinsam before a fellow walked in beside me and started casting over my head from shore! We were down in the fish (lost 4 flies!) and tried all colours including trout beads with no success. Didn't see any fish landed at all the whole time we were on the river. At least we had some good days rowing the dory around (5 hours on Rupert Inlet!) and also dug some clams for a nice meal.

We're going to row out to the Winchelsea's tomorrow for a lark as long as the winds don't get too severe. I think we will try to launch at Schooner Cove.

Didn't stop at Nile Creek but heard up at the Campbell that there are some fish showing there (but the usual problem of more fishermen than fish!)

Cheers

Ian

2) Bruce Murray [drbm@shaw.ca]

July 31 – Aug 3 Jason and I headed out last Sunday morning for a four day reconnaissance of up island fisheries. As we were doing a lot of driving around forestry roads we decided to take a tent. First stop was the Eve River. It was very **crowded**



but with very friendly, mostly central island folks. Wasn't even considering staying there but Gerry

Stevens insisted, graciously moving his truck so we could squeeze our tent in.



Thank you Gerry, gave us more drinking and BSing time with very fine and informative fishing folks.

Fishers were leisurely coming and going to the estuary from dawn to dusk each day as the difference in height of consecutive low and high tides (tidal coefficient) was low or moderate, definitely not high ... the pinks were not coming in, in any numbers at one certain time of the day which spread out the angling pressure through the whole day or else it would have been a gong show perhaps. This coming week may be quite different with high and very high tidal coefficients which may bring in more fish and of course, fishing pressure.

Monday and Tuesday saw us on the road, first visiting the Cluxewe River (no Pinks on the beach) so visited with Devina and Ted Brookman to get directions to the "hot" fishing spots in the Rupert Inlet. Ted, who came in with a nice halibut that day, said that the good area they used to go to is gated and privatized now. So we went anyways, and yup the road was gated, so we drove to other access points along Rupert Inlet, which was cool, saw a sea otter doing the cute sea otter thing, then onto the Marble River and Alice Lake and heard excellent reports on the trout fishing there. A road closure due to bridge replacement forced us to backtrack to explore the Nimpkish and Woss areas before heading back to the Eve where the Pink fishing was mostly one or none for the day.

On Tuesday we explored the Salmon watershed, saw lots of low, low water and ended our day at the liquor store in Sayward to replenish our aqueous spirits of fermentie. Back at the Eve the fishing was again, one or none for the day for most.

Wednesday was our day to join in to go fishing. It was windy and the long casters had the advantage harassing the few pinks that were present. We ended up going home with two nice pinks for the smoker (one six pounds) thanks to Gerry.

3) Harry McLeod [hamcleod@shaw.ca]

Aug 1 - As I just returned from the Island Pool on the Campbell River, I thought I would send off a note on the pink salmon fishing (and lack thereof) . I fished between 9 am and 1:30 pm with a half hour off for lunch. In that time there was between three and five fishers at the Island pool at any one time , with most staying less than an hour. I saw only one small pink caught. Upstream there were between five and eight anglers. I didn't notice any fish being caught but I didn't pay close attention. One angler arrived and reported that there were around 2000 pinks seen at the bridge (which ?) and he had hoped to come upstream to intercept them. I didn't see any sign of fish other than the one caught . The water temperature at noon was 70 degrees F (21.1 C) according to my stream thermometer. On my return home, that had me browsing through my book "Pacific Salmon Life Histories" and the chapter on Pink Salmon. Here are a few pertinent excerpts on spawning temperatures: In southeastern Alaska, pink salmon spawn at temperatures ranging from 7 to 18 C, with most occurring around 10 C. In BC, a report of pink salmon spawning in Hooknose Creek occurred at temperatures of 8 to 14 C with most spawning at 12 C. In the Fraser River, pink salmon spawning peaked at 10 C. It was stated that" In general, when temperatures rise above 16-17 C pink salmon spawning activity drops sharply". The incoming tide was between 8:11 am and 3:36 pm in the Strait of Georgia, so the school of pinks reported may have arrived on the tide but stalled or turned back on encountering the warmer water. I could find nothing on pre spawning stream entering temperatures, but 21 C would seem to be well above their comfort levels, and with the warm weather yet to come, fishing may not get much better for a while yet.

4) Bob Kissinger [basherbob@outlook.com]

Aug 4th Gerry reported that the Eve was still slow, landing a fish a day although he would lose 2 to 3 others. His biggest was about 6 pounds caught on a blue and green. He added that although he never saw it, he felt that he had a chinook on for a while before the hook came away.

LOTS and LOTS of people.

5) John Ellis [<mailto:John.e25@telus.net>]

August 5, Cluxewe, Just returned from the Cluxewe fishing was poor no fish have arrived. One boat was out for seven hours and caught five Pinks. We got four fishing from a boat but very few were jumping. Called in at the Quinsam this morning very few fish there.

6) Gary & Marybeth Smith [smithgarymarybeth@gmail.com]

At Cluxewe. No fish seen or caught here yet this year. Are staying here for the week. Will let you know if thing change. Gary

7) Bob Kissinger [basherbob@outlook.com]

Aug 5th Lots of Pinks Limited out this morning at Country Grocer.

Caught them all on "greenbacks"

8) Ton Plynaar [ton.flyfisher@gmail.com]

Aug 5th - Today's score 7 beautiful pink salmon.

Where; Nanaimo's Country Grocer

Had to pay CAD 48 that's less than a tank of gas!

Tight lines,

Ton