

Nanaimo and Little Qualicum Fishing Report

Ian STEWART [iandalestew@shaw.ca]

People might be interested to know that there have been good numbers of chums showing up in the Nanaimo. The river is quite low but they are collecting in the deeper areas while waiting to spawn. Trout beads or flies fished on a trout bead set up are working quite well. Fishers are reminded that this is a catch and release fishery in the waters above Cedar Bridge (and the river is closed between Cedar Bridge and the Duke Point highway bridge as well as above the highway bridge at Cassidy.) The bridge will have some retention opportunities between Duke Pt highway bridge and the Fire Hall pool from Nov 1 to 30. (seems to be a bit of confusion in the regs so I am asking them for clarification . . . current regs say coho retention allowed, not chum!)

The little Q has good numbers of chum building up off the mouth and they are starting to head up the river now. Most of the chinook are up the river now and the nice bright fish of the last few weeks are darkening up rapidly. So far, there has been no retention fishery for any salmon in the river. If you can convince the fish in the estuary to bite, you can keep hatchery marked coho, chum and chinook. (seemed to have terminal lockjaw last time I was there!)