

Chilcotin Trip---

Wayne and I set off for a Highway 20 reprise of our trip of 2016 with high hopes. The colder weather and rain abated just before we left and with the warmer weather coming on, it seemed that there should be some good insect hatches on the way! There were certainly hatches happening, but the major species involved were mosquitoes (in the zillions) and a few black flies.

We fished 6 lakes including Becher Pond, Fletcher Lake, Duck Lake, Cochin Lake, Bluff Lake and Sapeye Lake. Fishing at all but Fletcher was very slow with the large mayflies not arriving yet at any of the lakes. We caught the largest fish at Cochin, but they were only biting attractor flies despite a small mayfly hatch happening.

Becher had a heavy algal bloom on it and the fish would only bite on micro leeches under an indicator which put the fly under the bloom layer. Duck Lake was quite weedy as well but we managed a few fish on dry flies as well as various bugger type flies. Cochin had very few fly fishermen there and the only successful fishermen were trolling hardware with power bait. We were quite insulted when the fellow from South Carolina drawled at us "I kept 6 fish today over 18 inches and my wife caught hers on a gang troll with power bait but I used a fly rod . . . a Doc Spratley with a little gob of power bait on the tip!". We managed to scratch up a half a dozen fish on gaudy nymph flies we had tied in imitation of one the Morley from the Comox Valley Club was using. The flies were the strangest concoctions of materials I have ever seen. It looked like he had smashed a coke can onto the hook and gathered remnants of any fluorescent material he could find into a ragged bundle around the can material. (we found out later he actually had only landed one fish on his "whore" fly.). We figure the fish must have seen the fly and thought it was going to attack him so he struck first!

Bluff and Sapeye Lake were another disappointment with the highlight being the capture of 2 bull trout out of Bluff using microleeches under an indicator!

We ended up spending 5 1/2 days of the trip fishing Fletcher with the fishing being so incredible we kind of forgave the fish gods for short changing us on the other lakes. We spent long hours on the lake each day (mainly to avoid going in and slapping at mosquitoes) with amazing success on weighted bugger flies fished up on the shoals in as little as 3 ft of water. The shallow water promoted lots of acrobatics from the trout! Despite the fact that a number of the fish (perhaps a third) were kelts, they had fed up so well on the numerous scud in the lake, they were almost back in their prime. We did have one day where there was a damsel hatch starting and had some success on damsel nymphs and larger dry flies as well. The fishing was virtually non-stop with the fish averaging 15 to 16 inches but nothing over 18.

We headed back to Savona hoping to get some action on the Thompson before heading home. Unfortunately, the major storm that hit the interior on the 24th and 25th sent the river up into fast moving high water and dampened down the caddis hatches which had been getting going the previous week

We saw really variable weather on the trip with thunderstorms an almost daily occurrence. Two forest fires started up near Cochin Lake that had us a bit worried . . . in one of the attached photos of a Cochin Lake sunset, you can see the smoke on the mountains in the centre part of the picture. They seemed to get them under control quite quickly.

From: Ian STEWART iandalestew@shaw.ca

Date: Thu 2018-06-28 3:38 PM

Chilcotin Trip---



Becher Pond with near loss of campsite from Hanceville Fire summer of 2017



Bluff Lake bull trout

Chilcotin Trip---



Bluff Lake scenic surroundings



Cochin Lake rainbow 17 in

Chilcotin Trip---



Cochin Lake rainbow 20 in



Cochin Lake sunset

Chilcotin Trip---



Fletcher Lake rainbow