

Campbell River August 3

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Ant, Ton and I were on the Campbell yesterday fishing primarily at lower island pool. Arrived at 730am ish and I caught and lost 5 or 6 in a row fishing (on jig hook purple-black sparkly fly with one wing each side of Orvis Krinkle mirror flash lime) at the lower post above the tailout and Ant was fishing just upstream of me and then he started to catch and it was all over for me ...for the day, as I was doing another research project and Dah switched to pink on an obvious off pink day...another failed project.... Then Ant stopped catching after a couple or three hook ups and the castaway gent upstream of him started catching so the small school was obviously moving upstream. Ton was fishing across from the power house and only hooked up on a couple then joined us. From my low post I saw Dennis stumble through the bush and practically do a header into the river on river left in front of the power house (the clean hat and attire gave him away...he looked like he should be on a golf course not fishing). And he was catching but not landing a pink every few minutes. Perhaps he had also perfected my touchless technique of releasing salmon.

After a half hour the three of us decided to call it a day and head for the estuary as it was getting close to flooding tide and anyway the sun was bright on the water and it was dead slow except for Dennis. We walked back to the car located across from the power station and got into a political discussion with a couple of Americans from Virginia at a viewing stand beside the trail, all the time watching Dennis hook and loss fish as he was directly across from us now. I recognized the casting technique and Dennis was fishing with trout beads and external weights (a no no in fly only water)....then I realized he could be fishing with jig hook fly.

On our way to the estuary we stopped at logging bridge to view the usual black out of pink salmon on the bottom....no fish observed and only a couple of downcast looking fishers fishing. Looking upstream....no fishers at all at the confluence pool....never ever seen that before...and no one between the two bridges neither.....and the estuary was fishless also.....so we headed to the Oyster River estuary and Saratoga beach area and same story.....perhaps Bob and June are correct.... "Its getting late... is the party over"???....to be continued next week...tick...tick...tick