

Campbell River July 28/29 Harry's Report

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I fished the "Island" pool on the Campbell for 6 hours on Thursday July 28th and 4 hours the following day. Thursday I got 5 pinks in the net and another 11 got off. On Friday it was 3 in the net and 16 got off. As to other fisher's success, I watched 3 fellows across from me for about an hour and only one had a fish on. A fisher in the flat waters upstream landed 5 and another 16 got off. Others near me either got none or 1 or 2 fish for an hour or two of effort and often their fish got off. I weighed a couple of pinks in the net, and subtracting the weight of the net later, they were 3.75 and 4.75 pounds. I'm certain that there were some larger so will weigh a few more just out of curiosity. All fish were silvery at this early stage of the run and some had sea lice in the vent area. They were strong fighters, and that may partly explain why so many got off. If they decided to make a run for it downstream, they usually broke off. I usually increased the brake pressure in a last ditch effort to stop them as they were well into the backing and disrupting other fishers downstream. At first I thought that I had foul hooked them, but on two occasions I was able to bring them back and they were hooked in the mouth.

The main problem I seem to have right now is not so much fish with "lockjaw" as having fish break off. I plan to increase my tippet strength from 8.5 pounds to 16, and have more flies in the 1.0 grams range. With no lead and a normal bead the weight is around 0.2 grams; with a half shank of .020 lead wrap and a chartreuse bead 5/32 (0.2 g) with a tinsel wrap will give you a 0.5 fly. That will get the fly down to where you want it in the waist deep water upstream and at the end of the swing in quieter water in the "Island Pool" sections, but to get to the one gram level and increase your success rate will require a heavy 0.5 gram bead as well. Some fishers in the upstream area just use a floating line, a leader, and tippet.

Here are a few flies that worked for me: A long shank (3XL) with chartreuse bead (Keith has them-none in town), lead wrapped to half along shank, add sparkly tail last half, gold holo tinsel (get wide) covering, then protect with head cement. None unravelled. I tried red holo tinsel as well but no takers on that.

As above but with Dyed Pearl Diamond Braid in blue. Or Wrap with a light blue medium size crystal chenille- simple, and it worked well.

To get down deep I use Jig hooks with a 0.5 g bead, lead wrap, a sparkly blue/purple dubbing mix wrapped with copper wire to give me a 1.0 gram fly. Pink works equally well.

The next fly that works well is a long shank, lead wrapped as above with chartreuse 5/16 bead, tail, and wrapped with silver holo tinsel. Follow this with Scud back Midge in magenta (slightly purple red) stretched as it is wrapped over the tinsel. Do a down and

back with the tinsel and magenta wraps. The pinks really like this one but it comes in at 0.5 grams.

I should also mention that I have been using 10 feet of type 4 (4"/sec sink rate) , sink tip and around 30" of the 8.5 pound tippet (no more - just bought 15 pound fluorocarbon). I have not been using a leader....Just a 2"/sec fly line, sink tip , and tippet. I was using 3XL for the tinsel flies. I have somehow misplaced a half length of the magenta Scud back midge material and could not find any at the 3 stores here. I bought some Dyed Pearl Diamond Braid Fl. Hot Pink as a substitute . It's the same idea as the braided blue mentioned below, which worked well. Also, I couldn't find the Tiemco 60 degree Jig Hooks (TMC BLJ size 8 Qty 25, \$12.99) in town. With regard to sink tips, I tried heavier but soon retreated to the type 4 as I hooked bottom more often with anything heavier. Most fish are caught near the end of the swing out of the heavier current although I did catch some mid- swing in the downstream shallower section where the river is widest.

I hope this increases your fishing success.