

## Little Qualicum Sept 18

**From:** Ian STEWART [iandalestew@shaw.ca]

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Took the dory and Shawn and Mandy's kayaks up to Little Q yesterday . . . even with wheels it was a long haul out to the water at 1100 AM! The forecast high winds were there driving us nuts so we spent a lot of time paddling/rowing and moving boats into and out of the water and very little time actually fishing. My only bite happened on the way back to the launch when something grabbed my fly I was dragging behind the boat . . . seemed small, but was only on for a few seconds. There were fish there and to add insult to injury, most of them were up in the estuary where shore fishermen were landing good numbers of Chinooks! I even saw two fellows land a couple of coho. (their catch and release technique left somewhat to be desired . . . let's drag them up on the rocks, beat them up a bit, hold them up so a picture of the bleeding bodies can be preserved for posterity and then chuck them back into the water and hope they survive.) The recent rains are prompting the Chinook to head up the river in good numbers and I gather the pool at the old highway bridge is full of them at high tide. Presumably, the up-river pools will have good numbers as well. The Little Qualicum (along with all rivers on the East Coast of the Island) opened for fishing again on Sept 16. Fishers need to know that the Little Qualicum is fly fishing only (no floats, sinkers or swivels allowed and artificial fly only on the end of the line . . . sink tips allowed). The river will open for retention of 1 Chinook and 1 chum on October 1.

Andrew was fishing the river mouth and landed and released one Chinook and lost another bright one.

Ian