

## North Island Fishing Trip, Aug 10

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

**Sent:** Wed 2016-08-10@8:29pm

Just returned from a 3 day trip up to North Island. Stayed at Cluxewe campsite, but as you can see from the pictures, didn't do much fishing at the Cluxewe. The great fishing that brother Wayne and I (and son Shawn) was totally finished with very few pinks being caught. The good numbers that were there 2 weeks ago have all headed up the river and very few new ones have arrived to replace them.

We heard from a few people at the campsite that the Keogh had some willing fish so spent two days up there having excellent fishing both days.



*Arriving at Keogh Estuary on an Ebbing Tide*

(especially excellent for Andrew who fished circles around me . . . don't think I have seen very many people who can keep up the hook-up rate that Andrew did over a two day period!



***Hefty Keogh Pink***

Maybe if I wasn't too busy tripping over rocks and ripping my hands and waders to shreds, I would have hooked a few more fish! (not that I am complaining . . . I did manage to catch 5 times more fish in two days than in 5 days of fishing on the Eve.



***Bright Pink caught on ....what else.... A Pink Handlebar ...***

Even though there was some good fishing to be had (the fish were definitely more willing to bite than the Eve fish), the numbers were extremely low for what should be a major year for the river. Probably under a 1000 fish in the whole area where there should be 50 or 60



thousand.



***Wearing down a Pink prior to releasing it***

The fish up in the estuary were very close mouthed with few fish caught. We had to fish out in the chuck away from the estuary where the fish were often a long cast from shore. Usually they would bite if you could drop a fly near the school but many times the cast was too long for

us ordinary mortals to make.



*Someone else was interested in catching Pinks.....a good place to teach Junior how to fish....*

The black bears provided some diverting moments, with Mom teaching junior how to catch the fish heading up above the little waterfall. Not sure how many fish have gone up the river so far.



***This Hefty Briun looks like he's had his share of Pinks***

It's looking more and more like the pinks are not late this year . . . just arriving in drastically reduced numbers. I guess that would explain the large size some of the fish are attaining. A couple of the pinks we kept were in the 7 - 8 lb class. The boneless fillets of 9 fish weighed in at 27 lbs, indicating an average filleted weight of 3 lbs, which means the average size in the round was probably 4 1/2 to 5 lbs. Pretty good average since we didn't just select out the big ones. (it's a long carry from the river back to the truck!)

Ian

PS The only fish I got at the Cluxewe was a 3 lb sockeye! Not on a fly rod unfortunately. I helped a First Nations lady clean her 10 sockeye received from the food fishery the night before so we could get at the cleaning table before midnight (she was a little slow on the filleting and hubby wasn't helping much except to keep the knife sharp). After we finished, he gave me one of the small sockeye for my efforts. Great supper that night . . . barbecued sockeye fillets!