

## ISLAND WATERS FLY FISHERS

## IWFF NEWSLETTER

## In Search of the Illusive Fall Coho

### Salmon Fishing Tips:

If the salmon are in a taking mood, they'll take anything. If they are not in a taking mood, they'll ignore everything.

Salmon do not feed while in the river. However, they do strike because it is a learned behavior.

Adjust your weight and the length of your tippet to match both the depth of the water and the depth of the fish. Your line should touch the bottom once in a while.

Coho, or Silver Salmon as they are often called, get their name from their beautiful silver color. A favorite amongst fly anglers, Coho Salmon are well known for both their aggressiveness toward a fly and for their acrobatics once hooked. The size of the salmon vary widely depending upon the individual strains. In general, these salmon vary in size from 7 to 20+ pounds, with 10-12 lbs. being average.

Coho spawn in many small coastal streams and the tributaries of larger rivers. They prefer streams with moderate flow and utilize small to medium sized gravel to deposit their

eggs. Spawning takes place in the fall and the fry emerge the following spring. The fry spend approximately 18 months in fresh water prior to migrating to the sea.

Coho can be very aggressive one moment, crashing anything that you put in front of them, and tight lipped the next. It is this interesting phenomenon that makes Coho such a wonderful fish to pursue with a fly rod. Fly color, size, and retrieval rate are important factors in successfully catching these fish. It often pays off to continue to switch any or all of these variables until you are able to



Fresh Kenai Coho

hook into fish. ( The Northwest Fly Fisherman, September, 2013)

### Inside this issue:

Kasilof River Steelhead	2
Trout Beads as Flies	2
Thompson River	2
Alaska Summer Fly Fishing	3
Kissinger Lake	3
Favorite Flies	3
Wayne's World	4

## Vancouver Island Trout Hatchery

The Vancouver Island Trout Hatchery was built in 1993 and is the newest of the five hatcheries owned by the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC (FFSBC). The hatchery stocks approximately 350,000 fish into 75 lakes, streams, and rivers

on Vancouver Island and the surrounding islands in Region 1. The hatchery is located 1 kilometre east of the Trans-Canada Highway in Duncan. For more information and stocking reports goto: <http://www.gofishbc.com>





"Tyee" with 27" Summer Run Kasilof Steelhead.

## Kasilof River Provides Steelhead for Tyee!

IWFF member Dennis Mullins travelled to Alaska in search of his first ever "fly caught" steelhead. The Kasilof river provided him with the opportunity to fulfill his goal with a 27" Summer run fish. With high water conditions it first appeared that the river would be unfishable, but alas, a lunch stop at a fishy looking run provided the prize as well as a bright Coho salmon, 1/2 dozen other Steelhead and a large 35Lb+ Chinook salmon! The large Chinook hit a 8mm

trout bead and proceeded to tear of line into backing on several occasions. After following the fish downstream 1.5 km, and two more arial jumps, the large beast became separated from the rod by breaking the leader! A perfect LLR (long line release). Tyee took the loss in typical fashion exclaiming " I don't care if he got off as we were going to release him anyway! Good job Denny and welcome to the fly-caught Steelhead Society!



Kasilof River Summer Run

## Trout Beads as Flies?

*"The gods do not deduct from man's allotted span the hours spent in fishing."  
~ Herber Hoover*

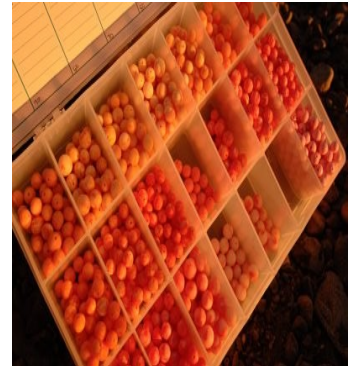
In the early days of bead fishing, some people claimed that fishing a bead "isn't fly fishing". Others had a problem with the fact that the lure (the bead) isn't attached to the hook.

It's fun, you do it with a fly rod and a fly line, and it's very effective. One thing is for certain – fishing a pegged bead properly is much easier on the fish than fishing egg flies like Glo Bugs. Trout can be

aggressive when they see an egg, and standard egg flies often wind up hooking a fish deeply. Pegged beads tend to result in a hook that's slid neatly into the outer part of a fish's mouth, and that's good for everyone.

Note: Some fisheries have rules regarding how/where beads can be used . Can they be used in a fly fishing only area? You be the judge by reading the regulations!

(Deneki Outdoors, 2013)



Thompson River Rainbow

## Thompson River Rainbows on the Dry

Just got back from a trip to the very hot banks of the Thompson at Pinecrest Estates just downstream of the Deadman River. The hot weather brought on some impressive Caddis hatches with a few stones and may-

flies thrown in as well. The fish were plentiful and biting eagerly on small dry flies-- Parachute Adams worked the best but a cinnamon Elk Hair Caddis seemed to be effective as well. The majority of the fish were in the 11-13 inch

size range but we did catch a fair number of 14 to 19 inch ones as well. The fishing seemed to improve each day with the final day (Sept 12) being one of the best days of dry fly fishing I've had.

Ian Stewart

## Alaska Summer Fly Fishing

Do you love fly fishing? Have you heard of the Kenai River in Alaska? Kenai River fly fishing is an angler's dream come true, truly the mother lode of fly fishing. The river runs a spectacular 82 miles, from Kenai Lake in southern Alaska to the Pacific Ocean, at Cook's Inlet.

From early May, until sometime in mid-October, the Ke-

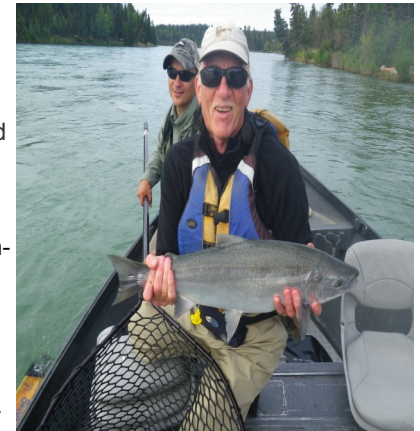
nai Peninsula, a reasonable three hours south of Anchorage, provides fly fishing adventures you may never forget.

The salmon varieties that can be found here include the King, Sockeye, Silver and Pink, each with two runs a year. And, as if that wasn't enough to keep you busy, Kenai River fishing offers

Steelhead, Rainbow trout and Dolly Varden.

If you are truly addicted to fly fishing, the Kenai River peninsula is heaven on earth.

Over the past two years we have fished the Kenai river with fantastic opportunities and results. Put it on your "fly fishing bucket list"!

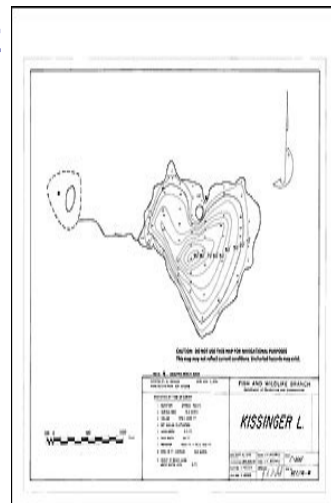


The Kenai River Rewards

## Kissinger Lake Abounds With Trout

Kissinger Lake is a popular spot for fly fishing and trolling for Rainbow Trout. Fly fishing for Rainbow Trout is best in the spring and fall. The water is so clear that you can often see them swimming near the dock. Boating is restricted to electric motors. This is a great lake for taking leisurely paddles to investigate the shore-

line, watch for beavers and various lake birds and just enjoy being out on the water. The wind does frequently come up in the afternoon if someone wants more of a cardio workout or the challenge of navigating a canoe in the wind. To get to the lake go through lake Cowichan on the Nitnat River road..




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*"The difference between fly fishers and worm dunkers is the quality of their excuses."*  
 ~ Anonymous

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## Favorite Coho Flies

With the Coho Salmon season looming in the tomorrow many of us are trying to fill our fly boxes with new patterns.

Mickey Finns have been a great producer of Coho, jacks and adults, An Olive Green

Sparkle Woolley Bugger, will sometimes out produce everything else. (including Mickey Finns). It seems, early in the Coho season, the Mickey Finn, produces well, but, as the season progresses, the Olive Sparkle Bugger kicks

it's ass. There are many patterns to try, so experiment. An old streamer pattern, the Mickey Finn is still in use. It might resemble [baitfish](#), or maybe it's just something fish like to stick in their mouth. Give it a try on your next trip!



The Mickey Finn Fly

## ISLAND WATERS FLY FISHERS

Island Waters Fly Fishers  
Meetings the fourth Tuesday of the  
month

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*The Island Waters Fly Fishers are an active fly fishing club in Nanaimo.*



*The purpose of the club is to practice  
and promote the sport of fly fishing.*

**[[www.iwff1.ca](http://www.iwff1.ca)]**

## Welcome to Wayne's World

With the fall fishing season upon us now my attention has been drawn toward fishing for Coho salmon. 2013 has seen incredible numbers of Coho in the Georgia Straits including the return of Bluebacks to the Nanaimo area. Many of these fish have been identified as "wild fish", ie, they do not have the clipped adipose fin of the hatchery fish. I can't help but wonder how many "wild Coho" are actually hatchery fish?

Almost all of the major hatcheries still clip the fins of some Coho smolts and in fact most of the smaller volunteer run hatcheries do not clip Coho adipose fins. So what is the impact of

this situation on the sport fishery? Have we reached a point where there should be a legal retention of Coho salmon, wild and/or hatchery in Georgia Strait? Some areas on the west coast of the Island this summer were allowed to keep four Coho, wild and/or hatchery because of the positive health of the wild stocks.

Each hatchery Coho costs about \$.40/fish to clip the adipose fin and this is usually completed by a private contractor. To this end, it appears that the future of the Coho fishery for both wild and hatchery fish is positive. As sport fishers, let's ensure we do not kill any wild fish and enjoy the fishery for the sport. Take a few mo-

ments to identify the differences between wild and hatchery fish. Tight lines. (Wild vs Hatchery Coho below)

