

Wishing You Were Here Fishing Report -- June 25, 2002



Hello fellow anglers. I would first like to welcome all of our newest additions to the fishing report. Hopefully you will enjoy the photos as much as we do taking them. The only way to enjoy them more is to be up here and be in the pictures for yourselves. Of course all of the pictures that are sent along with the report are also available for viewing on our website as well as some other fantastic pics. www.westcoastfishing.ca

We capped off the end of May with some very high and dirty water. Brent Hanson, Frank Raspo, Clint Bailey and of course, fabulous Fred Cantaoi were here. After one muddy day on the Kitimat it was off to the ocean. We did well fishing out of Prince Rupert catching some nice Kings during our three days on the chuck. The most notable catch was by Clint. The ensuing story has been dubbed Baileys Battle. Some of you who fish the ocean more often than we do will appreciate this tail. (No pun intended)

The five of us were fishing in a little inlet out of a 24 footer mooching while on anchor in about 25 ft of water. The bay we were fishing in is unique in the sense that the tide comes in pushing the water through a narrow opening in the mountain side creating a short river about 250 yards long with a fairly strong current including some smallish rapids. The river then creates a small bay on the inside which covers a few hundred acres. When the tide changes you actually have turn your boat on its anchor to mooch the out going tide or the incoming tide while sitting at the head of the inlet. The bait gets pushed to the narrows and stack up against the rock walls being held there by the strong current. Of course the big Kings just love the easy pickings. The end result is you end up fighting the fish as well as the current just as you would in the river making for some truly great battles on the ocean.

Well Clint ended up tying into a nice fish and we were bugging him about how long he was fighting his for. About 10 minutes into the fight Fred made a half hearted attempt to land the fish. For those of you who know Fred, he can clown around a little. So as he attempted to net the fish he purposely banged Clint's fishing rod couple of times with the net, spooking the fishing at the same time hollering, come on fish show us your stuff! The King took off spooling Clint while the rest of us laughed ourselves silly, all at Clint's expense! By the time we were off anchor and chasing the fish it had entangled itself in a down snagged on the edge of the water! Clint wasn't laughing any more. He was huffing and puffing! After a few minutes and huge yank on the rod Clint's fish came free.

What ensued was an hour long fight with none other than a seal! Apparently the seal had the same sense of hum our as Freddy! We landed the fish only after the seal finally let go. I guess Clint wanted his Salmon more than the seal did. In the end we had a great time but if any of you go fishing with Fred do not let him net your fish. The first picture in this weeks report is of Brent and Clint holding the toughest 13lb Chinook any of us have ever seen.

Now on to the fishing around our house.

The Copper River had a huge mud slide recently wiping out the road and the natural gas lines at the 15 km mark. The river was actually dammed up for over 6 hours and went completely dry for that whole time on the lower end. We will keep you up to date as to the rivers status and even it will be fishable or opened for this season. The flooding on the Skeena is over for the year as it peaked a week ago. We are expecting it to be clean for the start of July providing mother nature keeps helping us with some drier weather. If we get some rain it will still be fishable by the first week of July. We are expecting some monster Chinook fish this year on the Skeena as the fisheries branch is telling us that the returning brood stock are mostly six year old fish. This means that a large number of this year's run have been feeding for an extra year out in the ocean putting on the beef. We might see last year's 99 lb. fish topped by a bigger 100 plus lb whale!



The Kitimat, despite all the high water every where else has been fishing great for Kings as expected. During last week we were hooking up between 7 and 15 fish every day. Even the guides had half a day on the river. The second set of pictures show Gill and his son Austin, Gord and myself with our nice fish. I was the lucky one landing the biggest so far tipping the scales at 46 pounds. We are expecting more than a few of our guests to smash that weight.

The bottom line is that the Kings are back for another season. Our summer season is under way and with a bright out look for the rest of the year we are looking forward to it.

We are proud to announce that we will be hosting a crew from ESPN for the first week of July. The TV shows will be airing next spring. Stay tuned for more information. As for bookings for this year we have just had a week open up in August. The 20th to the 27th. If you are interested drop us a line quickly as I expect those dates to fill by next week. We are starting to fill up for next season. For all of our past guests we will be giving you the first dib on next season's prime times until the end of the month. After that the flood gates will be opened.

I hope that you all enjoy this report and the photos. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact us either by phone or email. Remember to keep your tip up and tight lines!

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