



Weekly Fishing Report for 06-13 October, 2002
Guests: Cliff Watts, Joe Macy and Alastair Dunbar

I have one word.....HELI-FISHING!!!!!! This week gave us the opportunity to explore the upper Nass and Iskut River systems for steelhead. The flexibility that one is granted when using a helicopter to fish is incredible. Although many of the rivers in the Skeena and Nass systems had received substantial rain over the last few days and had become coloured, we were able to locate some great looking, clear water to fish on the upper Nass. After doing considerable reconnaissance and flight planning we elected to concentrate our fishing efforts on the 5 kms of fantastic fly water around the confluence of the DAMDOCHAX and Nass Rivers. We soon learned that this was a good choice as the steelhead were hot, big, and chrome silver even after traveling some 300 kms up the very fast, log jammed and heavily canyoned Nass river.

I felt very privileged to fish with three men that taught me a few tricks as to how to get a steelhead on the line. Cliff Watts is the quintessential steelhead bum that loves adventure and needs to keep exploring new water in his search of a fish over 40". He wasted very little time in hooking up his first of three dozen or so steelhead that happened to cross paths with his famous "KillaWatt". We soon noticed that the average hen on the Nass weights about 12 lbs and is as feisty as any inland steelhead can be expected to perform. Although Joe Macy spent considerable time scouting ski lines that we use in the winter months with LAST FRONTIER HELISKIING, he also did his share of fish catching. After numerous trips to Russia to fish salmon and trout, Joe was able to land the first steelhead of his angling career. And then he had another, and then another.....it was that type of week. Alastair Dunbar, a seasoned salmon angler from Scotland enjoyed a dream week of steelheading. Some guys have the skill, some guys the luck and sometimes one guy has it all. Alastair had a 7 steelhead day to top off a week in which we hooked over 60 steelhead between 3 rods.

Did I mention the Coho fishing? We fished the Iskut river system for one day with the helicopter. We hooked over 40 cohos in 4 hours of fishing this special little stream only 60 kms from the ocean. This option for anglers creates a nice way to spend a day seeing different terrain and rivers as well as HOT action for big, bright aggressive coho salmon up to 20 lbs.

After the great results of our exploratory heli-fishing program this year, we will be offering this package to all guests on a weekly or daily basis for next season. This fly fishing opportunity is second to none in the world of steelheading. Already extremely high, the catch numbers will only get better after we gain experience and knowledge of this vast and remote fishery. It's so fun it should be illegal.

Other returning guests fished again with Rivers Edge Guide service and also stayed with us at Bell II Lodge. These included Joe Downing, big Mike Ward, Gary Wong, and Bill Evans