



Weekly Fishing Report for 22-29 September, 2002

Guests: Rupert and James Beaumont

The steelhead season is beginning at Bell II Lodge for 2002. The feeling of anxiety always accompanies the last minute preparations that comes with the start of each new fishing season. After the months of talking, planning, tying and false casting yourself to sleep each night, the first guests of the year have arrived!! You hope for safety and success, seeing old friends and meeting new ones in an environment that is always a bit unpredictable.

Rupert and James visited British Columbia for the first time to fish for steelhead. These two experienced anglers from Britain fly fish for Atlantic Salmon religiously and have traveled as far as South America to pursue their game fish. Tackling BC's steelhead was their next challenge on a week when the river conditions did not fully cooperate with us. The river was high and quite muddy from 3 days of rain just prior to their arrival. We had been hooking steelhead for over a week so we knew there were fish around, but whether the river would give us a decent chance to catch them was a separate question. The weather was warm and sunny making the fishing enjoyable. This was the week of variety. We fished the Bell Irving River for 3 days, the Meziadin river for two and also spent a bay chasing Coho salmon in the Terrace area. Overall it was a tough week of fishing. We managed to hook up and land a few steelhead, including one memorable buck that will forever remain in James' dreams. Numerous rainbow and bull trout and the odd salmon were also caught under wonderful warm fall sunshine. The leaves were just starting to turn, the bears feeding frantically for winter and the wilderness experience was at its finest. James vows to return next year to cure his bad case of steelhead fever.