



Weekly Fishing Report for September 21-28, 2003

Weather: Hi 17C / Lo 5C. Mixed bag of sun, rain and overcast

Guests: Joe Macy, Loc Vetter, Fraser Blakely, Ron Walls, Chris Blakely, Joe Daniel, Roy Tanami and Vern Olson

Our first week of the season for 2003 proved to be a very memorable week for a number of reasons. We were joined by an interesting, even boisterous (by some standards) group of clients from the United States and Canada. For some clients, this week was their first ever steelhead experience, for other more experienced steelheaders it was an adventure like no other they had had before. It also marked the earliest we had fished both the Bell Irving and Nass Rivers as part of our regular guided program. We didn't know how the fishing would be and if the water conditions would be favourable. Overall, this week was a tremendous success and because of this fact we will be offering guided packages one week earlier in 2004.

The fish were very hot. Aggressive takes and long fights was the story of the week. The water temperature and weather (especially earlier in the week) was perfect for swinging big, dark flies. We landed at least 6 fish in the 20 lb category and had numerous double digit days. The rain did start mid week and water conditions deteriorated. The use of a helicopter to find clean water was an essential part of the program. Adding this service to your package is highly recommended to eliminate some of the risk of poor water conditions that can affect all steelhead rivers. Catch rates for this week are available by contacting us directly by phone.

Chris, Fraser and Ron fished the Bell Irving river everyday during their holiday. All anglers landed steelhead and hooked but lost others. The focus of the trip for these guys was to experience the wilderness of BC and learn how to fly fish. Not only did we accomplish these goals but the boys caught Coho salmon, bull trout and steelhead all in the same day. They all left with a bad case of "steelhead fever".

Joe Macy (returning guest from last year) fished with Dr. Loc Vetter for much of the week. These guys were steelhead magnets. Joe had a 4 fish day to start the week on the Bell Irving and didn't look back. Loc was relatively new at spey casting and spent time with our resident casting instructor, Josef Teschl perfecting his technique. By mid week, Loc was casting beautifully was hooking lots of fish. Keeping these hot fish on the line proved to be slightly more difficult as adjusting to longer, stiffer rods takes time - and repetition - which in the world of steelheading isn't always easy to achieve.

Joe, Roy and Vern - what can I say? the steelhead gods were shining on you! Vern landed three fish in the 20 pound range. Two of these fish came within 10 minutes of each other. Much of our time was spent exploring runs on the seldom fished Nass River with the goal of preparing a feature article in the fly fishing adventure travel magazine Wild on the Fly. Look for pictures of Vern and details on helifishing the Nass River in an upcoming edition. Virgin water and unmolested fish make for an amazing experience.

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