

Welcoming Dave Graybill To The Nickel Ads Classifieds

The Fishin' Magician



made navigating the small eddy below the dam very interesting last year.

There were lots of boats at the launch in the morning. I would say that if you wanted to avoid the line you would have had to be there by about 3 a.m. By five there were at least twenty boats lined up above the narrow put in. The water was very high, too, which is actually a blessing here. It reduces the distance you have to back down between the barriers.

The bite was pretty fair all morning long. I watched boats land kings all around us, throughout the morning. There was no particular "bite", just sporadic action, and no particularly hot spot below the dam. Amanda Davis was first up, and had her king in the boat by 7:30. Shane put me into a fish about two hours later, and about an hour after that Zach Robinson brought a fish to the net. The kings ranged in size from about 10 to just under 20 pounds. Two of the salmon hit Super Bait Cut Plugs, and the other took a plug cut herring.

All were fished behind large flashers.

There were sockeye rolling all along the face of the rip rap below the dam and there were very good numbers of them hooked by salmon anglers. Sockeye may be retained, and the ones we saw being kept were quite large and of course the

meat was that deep red that these fish are famous for. The daily limit this season is six salmon, with up to three being adult Chinook. Only one of which may be wild. Sockeye must be at least 12 inches to be retained, and all coho and steelhead must be released. All tagged Chinook and sockeye must also be released. There is an anti-snagging and night closure in effect for Rocky Reach Dam to Turtle Rock and the Okanogan and Similkameen rivers.

A few days before the opening of salmon season I got the chance to fish Long Lake with Brian Muller and Velma Dunkin of Moses Lake. My wife Eileen and I were particularly excited about this trip, as we had never fished for walleye on Long Lake, and Brian had indicated that the fishing here was something special. I usually have a few trips to Moses Lake for walleye under my belt by this time of year, but this would be my first walleye trip of the season.

I was also anxious to have Muller show me the ropes on Long Lake. He had told me that there were some things to know about Long Lake and the general area we would be fishing before I would want to try it myself. He was right. There is a sunken rock not far from the launch, and now that I know where it is I know what to avoid. He also showed us the canal that leads to Crescent Lake. To run this canal for the first time would be a white knuckle affair. Now I know there is plenty of water and no "surprises" and am looking forward to another trip.

We were into fish in a short time after we left the rough launch the east end of Long Lake. Once Brian found a fish we were able to land several, all within a short distance of where we put the Duckworth in the water. The minimum size for walleye on Long Lake is 16 inches, and we released several fish at our first spot. I was very busy "feeding" the fish. As I mentioned, this was my first walleye trip of the year and I was a bit rusty on the hook set technique that makes walleye fishing so challenging.

We left Long Lake and traveled down the canal, passing under a bridge that I often cross over when visiting the Seep Lakes. The canal can get very narrow at times, with basalt rock right down to the water. The water ranged from 12 to 25 feet deep, and in places where the canal opened up we were in water up to 50 feet deep. When the wind is blowing one way and the current running the other, it can be tricky in the canal.

We found good fishing in Crescent Lake, and then ran up the canal back in the direction of Long Lake. We drifted down the canal with our bottom walker and spinner rigs and caught some nice fish. As we headed back to the launch, we had five keepers in the box, measuring from 16 to 20 inches. Thanks Brian!

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