

August 09 Report

With fantastic fishing opportunities though out the entire summer, August is still my favorite month to fish. We have great weather and great fishing to go along with it. Big Chinook are at their peak and hunting for trophy fish gets me excited!

August is when we se pilchards (sardines) show up in vast numbers along the Islands west coast. Chinook Salmon make them a major part of their diet, filling their bellies with only two or three of these oily treats. The pilchards range in size from about 7-12 inches. Trolling 6-7 inch tomic plugs and 6-inch tomic spoons are about as close as you get to imitate a pilchard using artificial bait. I have even added some black spots to some of my favorite plugs to get an even closer imitation. Two of my favorites are the 500 and 602. Tomic also makes various patterns with spots already on them.

If you have the opportunity to catch your own pilchards, it is well worth it. Not only do I catch Chinook on them, but they are great for halibut as well. When trolling them for salmon I rig them as I would a large herring. They are a little soft even if you brine them, so I find running a piece of wire off of your teaser head or feeding a few toothpicks along there body helps you get the proper roll. I also find I need to use very large hooks in order to get a good number of hook ups. I found that I needed to use 3/O-5/O to hold on to fish using these big baits. I also clip my mainline in to the release clip a little more than normal to help bury these larger hooks better in the fish.

If Halibut fishing remains half as good as it was earlier in the year there will be more than enough fish to go around. Try any of the under water structure from tatchu point to ferrer point in 30m of water or more. August produces some of the largest fish we see all year. These big females are some of our best egg producers and are not that good to eat. One of my favorite parts of the job is releasing fish back to be caught another day.

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