

I always get excited for this time of the year. May is when I head back up to Zeballos to fish the abundant waters of Esperanza. I have fished quite a few different spots on Vancouver Island, and there is something very special about the waters surrounding Zeballos.

The early season fishing has been fantastic the last couple of years. Honestly it has probably been the most consistent fishing we have seen through out the season.

The salmon last season for the first couple of months were in very close to shore. These fish were moving along the 20-30 fathom edge feeding on huge biomasses of needlefish. There were times when I had schools on the sounder that must have been up to half a square kilometer. During these times it was rather predictable fishing. If I got caught in the middle of a school, your lure or bait would be untouched, and for good reason. There is no way a salmon could see your bait in the middle of these huge schools. As soon as we would get to the edge of the school, you could almost bet on getting a strike. When the needlefish are around squirts and coyote spoons in 3.5-4 inch were working well. Purple haze, Rainbow warrior and jellyfish are some of my favorite squirts colors. Coyote spoons in Nasty boy, Silver green and silver blue are good choices.

Halibut fishing is the main focus of a lot of anglers in the early part of the season. Excellent halibut fishing for Chickens can be had quite close to shore. From Low rock to Tatchu point along the same edge as the early season salmon there is always great halibut fishing. In these areas where there is not a lot of structure I find it more productive to troll for them than drift or anchor. Six-inch Road Runner spoons in Cop Car, 602 and 203 work well. I run them on a six to seven foot leader behind a flasher. Hoochies on a 48-54 inch lead work good as well. I prefer these longer hoochie leads for halibut because it doesn't move your bait as quickly; halibut tend to be lazy at times.

Please give me a call or drop me a line to chat about a world-class fishing adventure anytime.

Adrian O'Connor
Reel Obsession Charters
www.reelobsession.ca
1 888 855 7335