

September report 09

Once again Zeballos has lived up to its expectations of being a world-class fishing destination. As we expected the 2009 summer turned out to be another fantastic fishing season. I was expecting business to be down with the economy in a very bad state. By the end of May the calendar was full and I was looking at another very busy summer. Arriving up in Zeballos about a week behind normal I found myself with a 25-day workweek to start the season.

Looking back at previous logbooks there has been a definite pattern of early Chinook migrating past us at the mouth of Esperanza. We have been finding this fish for years traveling along the 15-25 fathom lines. The majority of these fish are heading to US waters as far down as California. We tend to get quite a few hatchery fish in the early season and from DNA taken from the fish they tell us these are southern fish. With such great fishing early in the season I always get excited about heading back to the north west coast, this also makes it tough to leave in the fall time.

Angling opportunities are endless in the fall with even more opportunities at hand. The Coho run always comes on strong in early September and with great action in close to shore it is a great fishery even small boats can enjoy. Fly fishing opportunities are at their peak with local rivers and estuaries becoming a popular spot for some great light tackle action. Some of the biggest Chinook of the season are caught in the first part of September along our rocky shorelines. These fish have one thing on their mind now and that is getting to the river. They are not as aggressive as they were earlier in the season, so slow your troll right down to just get your bait or lure working. With great weather and calm seas the bottom and halibut fishing is as good as it gets. With so many salmon in the water at this time, I definitely recommend a salmon belly!

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