

## Steelhead Trip 2019

Steelhead fishing is a challenge when fishing with a single hook. Not quite as challenging with a treble and certainly not as challenging with three or four treble hooks. The fight is, I assume, about the same but the landing percentage must be considerably higher with the more hooks you have stuck in their mouth. For us fishing a single hook with a bead or a fly certainly makes it much more difficult to put fish in the net. When the number of fish in the system is low and the landing percentage is low the outcome is usually not good. This Fall the outcome was not good. A combination of low numbers, few takes and very few landed made this trip the low point of my steelhead experiences. Now that could be because we have been spoiled in the past with lots of fish, lots of hookups and lots of landings. I did catch considerably fewer fish the first two years that I started steelheading, but I wash that off to inexperience.

Day 1 only saw three fish in the boat with a half dozen hook ups. They were all small steelhead so landing them wasn't that difficult, the problem was timber getting in the way.

Day 2 was worse than day 1. Fished all day and put one fish in the boat. We only hooked three and saw zero swimming up stream. We didn't see any salmon and of course without salmon the likely hood of steelhead being around diminishes greatly.

Day 3 was about the same as day 1, except that we did manage to hook a couple that were much larger than any we had hooked the previous two days. As the day drew on the temperatures began to drop and every now and then we saw snowflakes. Some spitting rain then more snow flakes, then a little sleet mixed in with Big silver dollar size snowflakes and finally it opened up and we were no where near the take out. The snow didn't help the fishing, but it did help make decisions about getting off the river before the boat ramp gets iced up.



Time to head home to a cozy fire



Adding new tippet



Wet snow piles up



The only boat at the ramp