

Steelhead Trip 2021

Just returned from my annual Steelhead trip, day before yesterday. I usually spend four days, but I have extended it an extra day when the fishing is great. Temps this year were not as cold as a few in the past, but still frosty in the mornings. Every morning it was 28 or 29 and warmed up into the 40s. Thursday it got all the way up to 50 for what seemed like about 15 minutes then the wind kicked up so 50 didn't feel like 50 anymore. The first day was a long float with very little to show for it. My buddy hooked three and I hooked a grand total of zero. We spent the next three days fishing in the swamp-like section of the lower river. The steelhead were holding back in the timber apparently waiting for a rise in the stream before shooting up to the nice water about 20 miles upstream. Because of the small open areas, where we were restricted to fish and the tremendous amount of fallen timber anything over 10 pounds was impossible to handle. Usually, we are more than tickled to catch double digit fish, but we were actually hoping to hook up with a 5-6 or even a first-year run. All in all, we hooked about 30 over the four days and only landed a third of them.



Fortunately, she was hooked in an open area that had a lot more room to play her, so she was one of the few we put in the boat. About 7-8 pounds. If you look to the right that type of water was more common than the open water behind me.

I have always remembered the first rules of fishing my father taught me:

“There has to be fish to catch fish”

and

“Don't leave fish to find fish”