

Upland Idaho

Date	November 3, 2005	Time	1:00-3:00
Location	Boise River - Downtown	Weather	Overcast
Fish Species	"A-run" Steelhead	Size Range	Released 4 lbs – 10 lbs
Fish Caught	1 Steelhead – I witnessed a half-dozen Steelhead caught in the two hours.		
Flies Used	Purple Egg-Sucking Leech		
Techniques	Wet fly swing		
Comments	Catching Steelhead on a 6-weight fly rod using 9lb test is a kick!		

Idaho Fish and Game dumped Steelhead captured at Hells Canyon dam into the Boise River today. The first week of fishing is always the best due to the low crowds. There were only around 15 people at the release site so it made for some decent fishing. The crowd will double by next week and probably triple by the following week. They are dumped at 5 locations in downtown Boise between Barber Park and Glenwood Bridge.

The fishing really slows down after the first ½ hour of being dumped. The Steelhead spread out up and down the river and it becomes very challenging! All the fish that I saw caught were 4-6 lbs but there were a few up to 10 lb Steelhead that were released. My fish was 4 lbs. There's always next week to hook the big one (relatively speaking)!



Date	November 17, 2005	Time	1:00-4:00
Location	Boise River - Downtown	Weather	Mostly sunny
Fish Species	"A-run" Steelhead	Size Range	Released 4 lbs – 10 lbs
Fish Caught	2 Steelhead – I witnessed a dozen Steelhead caught in the three hours.		
Flies Used	Purple Egg-Sucking Leech		
Techniques	Wet fly swing		
Comments	I was right about the crowds. I counted around 40 fishermen! 1,000 Steelhead have been released into the Boise River over the last 3 weeks.		

I got to the river and my hole (yes, I own it!) was taken and I had arrived two hours early! I fished a little above the release sight and it ended up being a good spot. I was more worried about getting a good drift because of all the lines in the water than finding a Steelhead. It was a circus on the third week just like last year. I had to cut my line and untangle my line several times and I thought I was doing good compared to others.

I landed the first Steelhead and there was a big cheer because the fishing was slower than normal for just being released. People were glad to see a fish in the net. It didn't take long before a couple of others yelled "fish on". I landed an 8 lb Steelhead that was about 28" and the largest I saw caught for the day. You can generally figure that a 30" Idaho Steelhead weighs about 10 lbs. Every inch after that generally adds another pound. I've also found that a 25" Steelhead generally weighs around 5 lbs as well.



I mentioned that these were “A-run” Steelhead from the Snake River in Hells Canyon. “B-run” Steelhead stay an extra year or two in the ocean before migrating up the Columbia River to Idaho. The “B-run” strain of Steelhead is much larger and can be found on the Clearwater river between Lewiston and Orofino in central Idaho. The Clearwater River is world renowned for its Steelhead fishing.

It was another hour and a half before I landed my second Steelhead that was about 6 lbs. Dan Barth, who does the outdoor segment on channel 2 news netted my fish for me. He had just aired a segment the previous week about how he had attempted to net his buddies first Steelhead and caused it to escape. I guess he’s taken quite a bit of flack for that. Dan redeemed himself this week by netting my fish. Thanks Dan!



Check out Dan’s outdoor website at <http://www.kbcitv.com/x53547.xml>