

My thoughts #25

August 27, 2023

I had a couple of interesting experiences this week. The first day on the river, we got skunked. That means we did not catch a single fish...Now this might be a normal experience for some...lol but it was the end of a 5-year catching streak for me... sad day.

The fishing has been slow. We are targeting Silver Salmon. Sockeye Salmon are still in the river and the first run of the silver salmon aren't really in. That will push back the second salmon run and so we might miss it this year.

As I have been sitting on the river and not catching fish I have been reflecting on past years. Several years ago we had an epic fishing year. The fish were huge and there were so many of them. One particular day we had 5 people on the boat with 4 poles in the water. Because fish come up the river in schools, if you get one on your line you want to net it as quickly as possible so you can get your line back into the water as quickly as possible, because your chances of catching fish back to back is high. On the Kenai River when a fish bites your lure it needs to be reeled in on the right (bank) side of the boat in order to remove it from the current and successfully land the fish. Now this may seem easy, but with 4 poles in the water rotating the poles to the left so you can net on the right side of the boat is tricky. As I was saying, on this day the first rod bent down and each person took the pole they were assigned to move and started rotating the fish into the right position to net.

As one was reeling in a fish, another was netting, while another was getting the other poles back in the water- meanwhile, another fish took the next lure. Everyone was excited and mayhem started. The first fish was just dropped into the bottom of the boat while the next line was being brought around. The person who caught the first fish was trying to get the hook out of its mouth and get out of the way of the rotating people.

Before the second fish was in the boat a third was on another line. Again, we were rotating lines and had just a split second of trying to get all lines out when the next rod went down. At this point three fish were in the bottom of the boat and still not put into the fish box when we got another double (2 fish) on. These fish were big and we were trying to reel in other lines to get out of the way and not let the fish cross lines and get tangled. As I was reeling in one of the lines to get it out of the way another fish hooked up and we had a triple (Nearly impossible lol). It's hard to describe the mayhem. I am telling everyone what to do...lol, Ray is netting fish as fast as he can.

Others were reeling trying to bring the fish around to the net and I was just keeping mine out of the way before handing it off to someone else to reel it in.

Fish were coming into the boat so fast that there wasn't time to get them out of the way. They were flopping around in the boat. We were stepping over them getting lines back into the water- total mayhem. As all three fish were landed and lines put back into the water another fish was hooked. By the time it was all over we had caught our limit. 15 huge fish. It was madness in the most fun way!



Sadly, this is what the bottom of the boat looks like today...lol



As I think about life, the ONLY time in life we should feel mayhem is fishing. The piles of fish on the boat should not be piles of laundry on the floor we are stepping over. The fish flopping on the bottom of the boat should not be children throwing tantrums. The excitement of barking orders and telling everyone what they should be doing... lol should not be unkind and rough tones. Having a triple on the line should not be frantic children going in all directions at the same time. Blood and fish scales piling up on the boat should not be dirty dishes in the sink with caked on food. The lines crossing and having a tangled mess should not be little girl's hair that hasn't been combed.

In our homes there should be order to where everyone is and what they should be doing. Children respond much better when they know what is expected out of them. Parents should teach by example how to use their time and to keep their own things orderly. How to get up promptly, make their bed etc and keep a schedule. I hope that we can all create homes of order and love, and hope for mayhem in the boat!!!

With love,
Leslie

Back to "normal" fishing... lol



Fish during "Mayhem" Year







