

2000 SALMON REPORT RESULTS

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A number of years ago the Great Planers Trout and Salmon Club's salmon report coupon program was pioneered. The intent of the program was two-fold. It would give salmon anglers a weekly update on salmon activity, fishing depths, "hot" locations and presentations that were working best at the time. The other benefit of the program was an annual summary of the salmon activity. The report coupons are made available at bait and tackle shops and anglers are encouraged to pick them up, complete one for each salmon caught and mail them in. Each week the coupon results are compiled into a report and this report is broadcast Thursday, Friday and Saturday on **KFYR 550 Radio**. 2000 sponsors of the program were **Moritz Sport and Marine**, Bismarck; **KFYR 550 Radio**, Bismarck; **Gibbons Fiberglass & Aluminum Boat Repair**, Bismarck; and **Dakota Tackle**, Bismarck. A special thank you to Gene Werre, an account executive with KFYR, for his continued support of the project.

As an encouragement to anglers to submit coupons, weekly prize packages and two major prizes were given away this year. The major prizes are awarded at mid-season and at the season's end. In each case, the drawing is from all coupons submitted prior to the date of the drawing. The mid-season drawing winners was **Dan Anderson** of Washburn. Dan won a **Mitchell rod and reel combo**. The season end prize was won by **Jack Long** of Bismarck. Jack won a **Mitchell rod and reel combo along with a soft side tackle box**. Prizes were donated by **Wade Anderson and Dakota Tackle** of Bismarck. The weekly prize packages winners are selected from those coupons turned in for that week. The packages are a combination of lures and attractors and were donated by **Rhys Davis Ltd.** maker of the **Teaser** and **Anchovy Special** lures, **O'Ki Tackle** maker of the **Big Shooter** flasher, and **Silver Strike Distributing** of Bismarck.

Through the summer 727 report coupons were submitted. The leading lure for the summer was the squid at 390 followed by the squish or needlefish with 159 and cutbait at 93. These three lures caught 89% of the salmon reported. Five main colors caught 83% of the fish. They were, in order, blue, green, white, pink and rainbow. The flasher was again the leading attractor and the favorite color was blue. It is interesting to note, however, that it is becoming less important to anglers to put a flasher on every line they have in the water. Anglers are finding success in running terminal tackle - bait, spoons and crankbaits - without an attractor. Some are running the attractor directly off the cannonball and then running their lines above the ball with just the terminal tackle. Those with more than one downrigger choose not to put attractors on every rod. These options allow the angler to enjoy the fight of the fish alone without the drag of an attractor and it greatly reduces the chance of a tangle. Some of the anglers who run stackers are only using attractors on one of the rods, usually the deeper line. This allows one to reduce the vertical separation

between lines and to get both set-ups in the "fish zone". The salmon weighed a total of 6,740 pounds or about a 9.3 pound average for the season. This was the best season average we have ever experienced since report coupon records have been kept. For the summer, the average lure depth was 63 feet and the lure was fished over an average of 87 feet of water. 233 salmon were picked up between 9am and noon, 193 between noon and 3pm and 120 between 6 and 9am. Five areas produced 77% of the salmon. The face of the dam led the way producing 258 fish and was followed by Pochant Bay, the Riverdale Bluffs, Government Bay, and Deadman's Bay.

April, May, and June started extremely slow in 2000 with only 35 report coupons being filled out and sent in. The face of the dam produced 15 salmon as the leading location. Seventeen salmon were caught on a crankbait. Blue and green were the favorite lure colors and noon to 3pm was the best time of the day. The fish averaged 6.1 pounds and were caught 23 feet down in 35 feet of water.

July saw a huge increase with 204 coupons being turned in. Again, the face of the dam was the best place to catch a salmon. The squid led the charge with 104 salmon. Blue became the color of the month with 61 fish. The best time of the day was between 9am and noon when 72 fish were caught. A blue flasher was the preferred attractor. The average salmon weighed 8.3 pounds and was caught 50 feet down over 70 feet of water.

August, as in past years, saw a definite change in angling success. In all, 424 coupons were submitted in August. Where else but, the face of the dam accounted for 112 of the salmon caught in August, followed by Pochant Bay (79), the Riverdale Bluffs (65) and Government Bay with (62). The prime time of the day to fish was 9am to noon (142), followed by noon to 3pm (115), and 6am to 9am (71). Three main lure presentations were key to August fishing. A squid led the way with 270, followed by cutbait at 74 and a squish or needlefish at 69. Lure color was spread out primarily between five choices. Those top five were: blue (93), white (83), green (82), pink (49), and rainbow at (48). As usual, a blue flasher (158) led the way. The average fish size increased to 10.1 pounds and the average depths were 75 over 103 feet. In 12 years of reporting coupon results, this is the first time a monthly average has exceeded 10 pounds.

During September good fishing continued with 64 report coupons being sent in. Scoria Bay broke the face of the dam's hold on best producer with 24 fish. The squish caught 29 salmon and was followed closely by the squid (14) and cutbait (14). Blue at 28 remained the favorite color of the salmon, followed by green (12). From 6am until 9am 24 salmon were netted while 9am to noon and 3pm to 6pm accounted for 12 salmon each. As usual, the blue flasher (32) led the attractor charge. The average September salmon weighed 9.5 pounds. The September salmon were caught at an average lure depth of 40 over 56 feet of water.

As a quick review of the season, in April, May, and June a 6.1 pound salmon could be caught on the face of the dam on a blue crankbait. If you were fishing between noon and 3pm and fishing 23 feet down in 35 feet of water, you were in the right place at the right time.

As we moved into July, you should stay on the face of the dam. Keep a squid handy, but make sure it is blue and trailing a blue flasher. Do your fishing between 9am and noon and stay in 70 feet water with your lure down 50 feet. Following all these directions should land you a 8.3 pound salmon.

In August you could catch that 10.1 pound salmon still on the face of the dam between 9am and noon. You had to be using a blue squid behind a blue flasher. Finally fish that squid 75 feet down over 103 feet of water.

As we moved into September, Scoria Bay became the hot place to be. Fishing there between 6am and 9am with a blue squish and a blue flasher would get you a 9.5 pound salmon. By the way, that salmon came at 40 feet over 56 feet of water.

As data is compared going back to 1989 for the months of August and September, the prime salmon fishing months for many anglers, it is encouraging to look at some of last year's numbers. In 1989 the average size fish reported for the year was 6.0 pounds. 1990 saw this dip slightly to 5.8 pounds and then during the period 1991-1999 the average weights were 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, 4.4, 5.3, 6.0, 5.6, 6.0, and 6.2 pounds. 2000 saw the average weight return to the period high of 10.0 pounds. The number of salmon caught during August and September continues it's rebound. 1989 saw 448 salmon caught during those two months while 607 were caught in 1990, 520 in 1991, 334 in 1992, 341 in 1993, 305 in 1994, 596 in 1995, 943 in 1996, 631 in 1997, 614 in 1998, 597 in 1999 and 488 in 2000. For the whole summer 67% of the salmon caught weighed 9 pounds or greater and 49% were 10 pounds or greater. Seeing increases in both numbers of fish caught and the size of fish is encouraging.

As in the past, thank you to all who took the time to fill out and send in the coupons.

MOST PRODUCTIVE FISHING AREAS BY MONTH

DC = Douglas Creek PB = Pochant Bay
 DF = Face of the Dam SB = Scoria Bay
 RB = Riverdale Bluffs DB = Deadman's Bay
 ST = Steinke's Bay GB = Government Bay
 GA = Garrison Bay DT = DeTrobriand Bay
 TR = Tailrace HB = Hazen Bay

(There was no data available for 1989)

YEAR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT
1990	DC	DF	DF	PB	DB
1991	DC	DF	DF	DB	PB
1992	DF	DF	RB	DB	SB
1993	DC	DF	DF	DF	SB
1994	DF	DF	DF	DF	DF
1995	SB & ST	DF	DF & RB	GB	RB
1996	GA	DF	RB	DB	GB
1997	DT	DF	DF	DB	DF
1998	TR	TR	DF	PB	DB
1999	TR	TR	HB	DB	DF
2000	DF	DF	DF	DF	SB

AVERAGE LURE DEPTH BY MONTH
(FEET)

YEAR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT
1989	25	25	37	79	37
1990	10	32	61	87	78
1991	12	40	67	86	83
1992	25	25	63	86	14
1993	13	17	22	81	25
1994	13	12	45	78	43
1995	6	34	73	80	82
1996	10	25	45	80	72
1997	12	22	55	92	64
1998	18	12	48	74	79
1999	20	24	49	95	59
2000	26	26	50	75	40

AVERAGE WATER DEPTH FISHED BY MONTH
(FEET)

YEAR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT
1989	47	47	61	113	60
1990	34	53	91	120	104
1991	36	71	96	119	111
1992	54	54	97	120	27
1993	38	48	44	105	45
1994	30	28	63	110	69
1995	21	62	118	123	114
1996	37	58	91	123	96
1997	39	47	71	138	103
1998	30	23	73	105	103
1999	28	34	69	132	87
2000	37	37	70	103	56

NUMBER OF FISH CAUGHT
AND
AVERAGE FISH WEIGHT
AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

YEAR	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	TOTAL	WEIGHT
1989	290	158	448	6.0
1990	397	210	607	5.8
1991	380	140	520	4.3
1992	293	41	334	4.5
1993	276	65	341	4.6
1994	221	84	305	4.4
1995	332	264	596	5.3
1996	669	274	943	6.0
1997	431	200	631	5.6
1998	442	172	614	6.0
1999	455	142	597	6.2
2000	424	64	488	10.0

AVERAGE FISH SIZE BY MONTH
(POUNDS)

YEAR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT
1989	4.4	4.4	5.2	6.4	7.1
1990	4.6	4.0	5.4	6.9	6.3
1991	3.2	3.8	3.3	5.1	4.7
1992	3.7	3.7	4.0	4.9	5.2
1993	2.2	2.2	3.8	5.7	5.5
1994	2.3	2.7	3.6	4.6	5.1
1995	2.3	4.1	3.1	5.3	6.3
1996	3.5	3.9	4.7	6.0	5.9
1997	3.8	4.1	4.2	5.5	5.9
1998	3.2	5.4	4.4	6.1	5.8
1999	3.8	6.6	5.9	6.1	6.4
2000	6.1	6.1	8.3	10.1	9.5

TERMINAL TACKLE BY MONTH

YEAR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT
1989	CRANK	CRANK	SQUID	SQUID	SQUID
1990	CRANK	SQUISH	SQUID	SQUID	SQUID
1991	CRANK	SQUISH	SQUISH	CUTBAIT	SQUID
1992	CRANK	CRANK	SQUISH	CUTBAIT	SPOON
1993	SPOON	SPOON	CRANK	SQUISH	CRANK
1994	CRANK	CRANK	CRANK	SQUID	SQUID
1995	SPOON	SQUISH	SQUISH	SQUID	SQUID
1996	CRANK	CRANK	SQUID	SQUID	SQUID
1997	CRANK	SPOON	SQUISH	SQUID	SQUID
1998	CRANK	CRANK	SQUISH	SQUISH	CUTBAIT
1999	CRANK	LIVEBAIT	SQUISH	SQUID	SQUID
2000	CRANK	CRANK	SQUID	SQUID	SQUISH

TERMINAL TACKLE COLOR BY MONTH

BL = BLUE PK = PINK CH = CHARTREUSE
 WH = WHITE GR = GREEN RB = RAINBOW

YEAR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT
1989	BL	BL	PK	PK	PK
1990	CH	WH	WH	GR	RB
1991	BL	BL	BL	PK	PK
1992	BL	BL	BL	GR	GR
1993	GR	GR	BL	WH	PK
1994	GR	BL	BL	WH	PK
1995	BL	PK	BL	BL	PK
1996	RB	BL	PK	GR	PK
1997	GR	GR	BL	PK	PK
1998	GR & BL	CH	BL	PK	PK
1999	GR	WH	BL	BL & PK	PK
2000	BL	BL	BL	BL	BL