

VANCOUVER ISLAND FISHING

For fly fishing on Vancouver Island, those waters 40 to 50 miles north of Victoria are the earliest. Steelhead trout up to ten pounds are in their best condition from January to March, taking the Jock Scott and Silver Doctor flies and also small spinners. Their condition becomes poorer as the season advances. From April the sea trout, rainbow and cut-throat trout are at their best till the middle of October.

The Cowichan river, 40 miles from Victoria, is the first to offer sport, the fish rising to the Jock Scott, Silver Doctor, March Brown, Cowichan, Coachman, Dr. Dixon, and other varieties of flies. Good sport mainly depends upon the condition of the water, and it is at its best after the snow water has gone. One of the most delightful experiences is to run the river in canoes manned by the Indians, who are wonderfully expert in shooting the rapids, and thus placing the sportsman in the best position for sport.

At Alberni, 125 miles from Victoria, the Great Central Lake and Somass river are the favorite spots, the Campbell river further north on the east side being noted for its heavy fish about July. Small spinners with the fly attached, used on a light rod, are also very deadly and afford good sport.

Fine auto roads lead to all these resorts and the necessary information can be obtained from local experts upon the conditions of the water, etc., at any time.

For spinning and trolling the angler will find the grilse and the small spring salmon are to be had in estuaries contiguous to the larger rivers flowing into the sea. The Saanich Arm and Cowichan Bay are the earliest spots, but later on, in July to September, these waters offer their heaviest fish, the spring salmon running up to 65 pounds and the coho salmon from four to fifteen pounds.

They are taken on the spoon bait, and either by hand lines or on short rods. About Victoria splendid sport is to be had, and when light tackle is used, nothing can excel it.

The Campbell river is specially noted for its heavy fish, and at Alberni, on the west coast, heavy fish are the rule about September.

For those who do not object to roughing it a bit, the exploration of the northern portion of Strathcona Park should prove singularly attractive. Arrangements can be made for cabin and cooking requisites—and the fishing is incomparable.