I am submitting a fishing report for you. I was in the Okanagan on

>business on Thursday and Friday and took advantage of that fact to go

>to Sawmill Lake near Oliver. This was my first time fishing there.

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>I fished Friday afternoon and Saturday most of the day. On Friday I

>hooked 6 fish, but only landed 4 of them. I was fishing two rods, one

>with a chironomid set up and the other with a leech pattern. I caught

>all my fish on the chironomid. Two of the fish were on the smallish

>size, but two of them were very big. As is often the case the one that

>got away was the largest. Weather was cool for the Okanagan, only 13

>degrees with threatening looking rain clouds. I pumped the stomachs of

>some of the fish and there were full of chironomids and some shrimp.

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>On Saturday I was a little more productive. I hooked 9 fish and landed 6.

>Three of four were on damsel fly nymphs and the rest were on chironomids.

>The weather was a little warmer than Friday, but not much. It didn¹t

>rain, but there were dark clouds about and it was windy at times. I

>caught what I think was my largest rainbow ever. It actually ripped the

>rod right out of my hand. I fortunately was able to retrieve the rod

>and reel in the fish. The fish was very thick and I estimate it at

>least 20 inches based on the size of my net. Compared to the pink

>salmon I catch I would have to estimate this as close to 5 pounds and

>it took a long time to reel in.

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>There weren¹t many people at the lake.

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>It you want a higher resolution picture let me know.

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>Please pass on to Andre, I don¹t have his email address.

>

>

>Regards,

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>Mark Liedemann

We had a couple of unsettled weather patterns push trough the last couple of weeks but it looks like the heat is on finally. I remember going to Merrit at this time last year and the lakes were  done. The air temp was 30 degrees and the water temps were above 70 degrees so this year we are having a normal season with lake temperatures at around 4000 feet and under still not exceeding 60 degrees. Some lakes at 4500 and above have just turned over or are in the process like Hahnium which is at 4600 feet. It is important to have this info when choosing a lake before you are on your way  as this will determine what hatches to expect and be more prepared. A lot of people last week were heading out to higher elevation lakes which got snow  while others enjoyed a little nicer weather with lots of hatches. Another tip I can give you is if you are going to lakes regularly every week pay attention to signs of upcoming hatches i.e while fishing on a lake last week with chronomide hatching I noticed a couple of caddis nymphs swim to the surface but this doesn't mean that there is going to be a burst of caddis hatch all of a sudden, it is indicating that soon that lake you are on at that elevation will turn on this hatch as the water temperature rises.Below is a write on a hatch that is next on the lakes.

Happy fishing,

Andre

**MIGRATING DAMSELS**  
By virtue of sheer numbers, damselfly nymphs rank high on the aquatic menu, available to trout year-round but at their most helpless when struck by the urge to emerge. Damsels, however, don't hatch on the surface film. They migrate toward whatever, in their tiny worldview, constitutes dry land: downed timber, tules, or reeds sticking above the waterline; rocks or docks; or the shoreline itself. There they shed the nymphal skin to become airborne. If you see these papery, castoff shucks, and the presence of adult flies, you're in the right place at the right time.

As they make their shoreward exodus, most damsel nymphs crawl along the bottom. Getting your fly down among the naturals usually produces the best action. In water depths of 4 feet or less, go with a floating line, an unweighted or lightly weighted fly, and a 9- to 12-foot leader. Cast out perpendicular to the shoreline, and let the fly sink for, say, 10 seconds, and then begin a slow, steady retrieve; a hand-twist works well. Inch the fly back into shallower water to replicate the natural insect's path. Increase the countdown on each cast until you touch bottom, and then back off a few counts to keep your fly snag-free. Use the same technique in deeper water with a sink-tip or full-sinking line.

Some damsel nymphs, however, swim to shore on or just under the surface, triggering the violent, take-and-turn boils of every angler's fantasy. Target these trout with a floating line and an unweighted fly. Damsels appear to swim at a pretty good clip, but if you look closely, there's a lot of shoulder-shrugging, butt-wiggling body motion, with frequent stops to rest, for precious little forward progress—it's a lot like me paddling a canoe. Duplicate this movement with slow, 8- to 12-inch strips, pausing between pulls. And stay sharp. Trout frequently grab the fly when it's motionless.

On gusty days, freshly hatched adult damsels (and dragonflies) may be blown into the water and picked off. But it's not a bankable occurrence—I've witnessed it once or twice in 20 years—and unimportant to fishermen.

Norwegian Whaling Fleet caught on camera at Pennask