



# A Steelhead for Corine

It was a quest several years in the making, but finally in April of 2012, it happened, my wife Corine caught her first steelhead.

This adventure began several springs before, when Corine decided she wanted to try her hand at steelhead fishing. Now it may seem silly to some, but catching your first river run steelhead in the spring can be quite a monumental affair, and one I can personally say I began my quest for several years before it actually happened. I remember getting into steelhead fishing early in high school, and I remember quite vividly setting out on seemingly countless fishing trips and watching my friend, and steelhead fanatic/expert/maniac Kevin Wilson catch fish after fish, after fish, after fish, but I was entirely unable to understand why I couldn't catch one of my own. Again, I can recall quite well the day that things all came together - it was a late spring day on one of our beautiful North shore rivers, when I hooked and landed my first steelhead; a modest sized chrome male fresh into the river, and what a monumental day it was!

Back to Corine, she dutifully came along numerous times over the past several springs, trying her hand at casting spoons at river mouths, or floating a roe bag through a pool, but after several close calls, was still left wanting (she may blame the guide, but I beg to differ). Finally, one day in late April last year, the two of us along with my friend Ryan headed to another of our local rivers to try our luck. Unfortunately for us, this was a bit of a tough spring, and due to weather and water conditions, as well as a declining number over recent years of fish in this system we were fishing, the odds were stacked against us. As we moved to one of my favourite runs, Corine waded out into the head of the pool, and began making a drift at the head of the pool. As I started to try and impart my wisdom on her, and give her some

instruction on where to fish this pool and how, I saw her float slip below the surface, and watched as she set the hook into a thrashing, jumping, drag melting steelhead! After an epic battle, and me excitedly and nervously landing her fish, finally we had Corine's first steelhead on the bank; a gorgeous chrome hen, fresh on her spawning journey upriver. Several very excited moments, congratulations, and a few photos later, she was sent back to the river, to continue her voyage upstream.

Now I do love steelhead fishing, and I love catching steelhead, and in my mind there's little that matches the excitement in the angling world than battling one of these chrome beasts, while waist deep in a gorgeous Lake Superior Tributary; I think the only thing that was more exciting than catching a steelhead was watching Corine catch her first. It was quite an exciting morning, and quite a proud moment. Now saying that, I believe we fished several more rivers, for about 5 more hours, and ended up with a collective total of one fish (yes, Corine's fish-out fished again), but it was still an incredible, memorable day. It's hard to beat a day on the river and it can only be made better by a day out with friends and family.

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