

# ***The Weekly Fishing News***

August 14, 2018

**Cordova**

**Alaska**

I saw shoppers in dripping wet waders perusing the aisles at the grocery store today, nearly as sure of a sign of autumn as shortening days and migrating sandhill cranes. Donning wet waders and raingear to go shopping is unlikely to be the next international fashion trend; however, such garb will continue to make sense in Cordova as a rainy weather pattern appears well-entrenched. Those hardy anglers willing to leave the comforts of Baja Taco and face the elements will likely be rewarded. The Coho (a.k.a. "silver") Salmon run is off to a strong start this season!

Albert and Steve, two dedicated anglers camped on the Copper River Delta, report increasing numbers of silvers migrating upstream at Ibeck Creek. As of yesterday, folks were catching a few in the overflow channel just west of the mainstem, which is running off color due to abundant glacier melt.



Photo caption: A birds-eye view of Ibeck Creek and Scott Glacier.

Better action was experienced by anglers accessing lower Eyak River by boat. Eyak River was running relatively clear as of yesterday, despite all the rain. Silvers, bright as freshly minted dimes, were aggressively hitting spinners. Look for the angling to continue to improve in both Eyak River and Ibeck Creek into the weekend. I don't want to "jinx it," but don't forget your sunglasses as we may even see a few glimpses of blue sky later this week, before the next big storm arrives, likely on Sunday.

Both on the river and around town, be careful about keeping fish and garbage away from bears. Numerous black bears have been roaming the streets of Cordova this summer, both day and night. A brown bear has been scavenging near the Eyak River Boat Ramp. Please store your catch properly and supervise your fish smoker, even in town. Improper disposal of garbage or fish waste can contribute to a public safety hazard and is bad for the bears too. Please pack out whole fish from Eyak River



Photo Caption: Don't let this happen to you! Keep bears and people safe by storing your fish and garbage properly.

and Ibeck Creek as leaving carcasses and entrails along the streambanks and boat ramp will quickly attract bears. My favorite place to safely dump fish waste is down the chute at the fish cleaning station near the burn pile, just past the lagoon on the Orca Road. If the tide is high, you may even get to watch a sea lion snatch the carcass before it sinks.

Finally, consider eating more of your catch to reduce waste. Belly meat, the piscatorial equivalent of bacon, is often discarded or used for bait. Smoked belly meat is so tasty, my wife would gladly trade an entire fillet for one small strip of the stuff. Collars are delicious right off the barbeque. Eggs can be cured and milt can be fried. Even after a clean fillet is taken, the backbone can be grilled, baked, or scraped with a spoon for burger meat. Mix the spoon-scraped strips with an egg white, bread crumbs, soy sauce, and a little brown sugar to make delicious paddies. Simmering heads and backbones makes excellent stock. Also, try substituting salmon for chicken in your favorite pot pie recipe, it is delicious!

Do you have kiddos in tow? Join us between 1 and 4 pm on Friday August 17<sup>th</sup> at Hartney Bay for our annual Kids Fishing Day event. This event provides a great introduction to salmon fishing and conservation for children, 5 to 12 years old. In addition to the fishing opportunities, we will be teaching casting and we will provide popular streamside activities including lure making and ink fish prints. Call our district office at (907) 424-7661 for more information. We hope to see you there!



**Photo caption: After filleting your catch, consider spoon-scraping or barbequing the backbone. Even after a clean fillet job, there is usually a serving of delicious meat left behind.**

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