

The Weekly Fishing News

August 22, 2018

Cordova

Alaska



Ibeck Creek on Tuesday (8/21) in the evening. Most anglers were fishing roe, but spinners were working in pockets of clearer water.

Anglers arriving in Cordova this week were met with heavy rain and wind. An “atmospheric river” brought several inches of rain to town, leaving local rivers swollen. This hydrologic event occurs when tropical moisture in the atmosphere is transported in a narrow band or “river”, resulting in concentrated precipitation and strong winds. Anglers battling difficult water conditions can take solace in the fact that Cordova has experienced several of these impressive events already this year and streams have run clear as soon as 2 days after water levels crest. The Flood Advisory issued by National Weather Service for waterbodies in the Cordova area expires Wednesday evening, and the forecast for the remainder of the week promises less rain.

Eyak River is running high and a bit off color due to the rain, but anglers throwing spinners and streamers continue to catch fish. Some anglers have reported filling their limit of Coho Salmon in 3-4 hours. The fishing has been slower on Ibeck Creek, where glacial meltwater is now entering from the Scott River and water clarity is low. Conditions will likely improve on Ibeck towards the weekend. Other streams along the road, such as at 18-Mile and 20-Mile in the Alaganik watershed, are running high but are relatively clear and anglers are beginning to search for salmon. I haven't heard any reports of high catch rates from these streams yet, but access is quick and easy, so it could be worth investigating independently.



“Airstream Jack” wasn't too worried about the slow fishing at Ibeck Creek on 8/21; he'll wait 'em out!

With all the rushing flood water, be careful when wading. It takes surprisingly little water depth to sweep you off your feet during these periods of swift flows, resulting in a cold and potentially dangerous swim. I've observed anglers wading up to their armpits to reach "better water." Use good judgment and consider taking the longer route on dry ground. Also, some of our local fishing holes are subject to tidal influence. When wading near Alaganik Slough Boat Ramp remember that, although you may have access at normal flows, you risk being stranded by the high tide, which crests about 2 hours after the time listed on the tide charts. Watch water levels closely to avoid an unanticipated, long walk.

If you are having trouble finding a productive fishing hole in local streams, consider trying a few casts in the saltwater at Fleming Lagoon. Although most anglers are focused on silver salmon, the Pipeline Lakes Trail provides access to fast angling action for beautiful cutthroat trout using light tackle. Information about trail conditions is available at the Cordova Ranger District Office and website.



Avoid flooded trails and cutbanks... One slip and your fishing day is over!



Please use the monofilament recycling boxes recently installed at Eyak River, Ibeck Creek, Alaganik Boat Ramp, 20-Mile, and 22-Mile. These boxes help keep our banks clear of discarded line so everyone can feel like they're the first person to ever fish there.

Continue to pack out whole fish from Eyak River and Ibeck Creek. Leaving carcasses and entrails along the streambanks and boat ramps will quickly attract bears. A brown bear has already been scavenging near the Eyak River Boat Ramp. Safely dump fish carcasses at the fish cleaning station near the burn pile, just past the lagoon on the Orca Road. Most of the popular fishing sites have remained clean of fish waste this past week. Thanks for doing your part!

Left: Monofilament recycling box at Ibeck Creek. Used monofilament can be recycled into various products.



Left: A fisherman never forgets his first salmon. Congrats Matt!



Eyak Lake outlet weir, a handy visual discharge gauge for Eyak River.
This photo was captured on Tuesday (8/21) at 6 PM. The water was 6 inches over the platform.

Would you like to receive the Cordova Weekly Fishing News via e-mail? Please let us know and we will put you on the distribution list. Also, if you have a good photo from a recent Cordova fishing trip, e-mail us a copy and we will try to get it printed in the next edition of the Weekly Fishing News. E-mail Luca at: ladelfio@fs.fed.us. Thank you! –Will.



USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Reference herein to any specific commercial products, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government, and shall not be used for advertising or product endorsement purposes.