

The Weekly Fishing News

August 31, 2018

Cordova

Alaska



Ibeck Creek is flowing low and clear. More Coho Salmon are arriving. Anglers are also arriving in waves on Alaska Flight #66.

Town is bustling with wader-clad anglers with, wait...sunburns? That's right, the sky has parted and Cordova is basking in the sunshine this week. Coho fishing has been excellent and the forecast for next week even more sun! The beautiful weather will surely draw even more people out to fish, so be prepared to exert a little extra effort to spread out. The angling can be best before the sun hits the surface of the water on sunny days, particularly when angling pressure is high, so consider an early start.

Most anglers are targeting Coho on Ibeck Creek, but the Alaganik Slough and its tributaries are also producing. Folks fishing the mainstem of Alaganik have been successful along the road near 22 Mile Boat Ramp and lower on the river near the Alaganik Slough Boat Ramp. Eyak River remains a good option for those with access to a skiff. Now that the waters have cleared, artificial lures and flies are effective once again so pick your technique- streamer or spinner.



Dime bright coho harvested from Ibeck Creek week of the 27th.

Smelly fish carcasses are the byproduct of all the recent angling success and the bears know it. Please 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. Bear sightings are on the rise. Last Sunday (August 23), a brown bear was fishing amongst anglers immediately upstream of the bridge at Ibeck Creek. People are now referring to the fish cleaning station on Orca Road as the “bear viewing station”. Please be sure to use the installed chutes so fish waste slides out beyond the low tide line. Seals and sea lions are often waiting for your scraps. Enjoy the wildlife but be try to keep a safe distance. Wildlife biologists recommend carrying a bear deterrent spray, just in case. Become familiar with the operation and the effective range of your deterrent spray and practice removing the safety, so you can perform the task quickly if needed. The Cordova Bear Watch Facebook Page is good resource for updates about bear sightings.



Watch for bears at the Fleming Spit fish cleaning station on Orca Road (a.k.a. Hippie Cove). Black bears have been frequenting the site.



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.

Also, if your casting arms are tired, the Cordova Fungus Festival is taking place this weekend. There will be a myriad of fun and educational events. The foraging forays with experts are an excellent way to learn about the forest ecosystem and useful mushrooms, including edibles that pair excellently with salmon. Stop by the Cordova Center or visit the Cordova Chamber of Commerce website for more information.



Starting 'em young! First casts for the Morse twins at Ibeck Creek.

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