

# **The Weekly Fishing News**

**August 16, 2019**

**Cordova**

**Alaska**

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Hello Anglers! The fireweed flowers are creeping up to the top of their stems, and excitement is building around Cordova as another coho salmon fishing season gets underway. So far, this summer has been unusually dry and warm, and water is low over most of the streams in the area. Despite that, silvers are still beginning to work their way in and determined anglers are starting to hook up!

The upper reach of Eyak River is crystal clear and low right now. Those conditions have made spotting fish relatively easy, and this week I have seen several groups of silvers mixed in with the many pink salmon that are still hanging around. Fishing in some of the deeper bends of Eyak River out on the delta above the confluence with Ibeck Creek has produced silvers for folks able to get into a skiff and get downstream. A word of caution though: stay in the channel and keep an eye out for the shallows. Dodging sandbars can get your heart beating faster than hooking a 12-pound silver if you're not paying attention! Further down the river, meltwater from the Scott glacier coming in through Ibeck Creek is making the water very silty and success drops off sharply downstream of that.



*Folks have needed more sunscreen than raingear around Cordova lately.*

Speaking of Ibeck Creek, I have had several reports of people catching fish upstream of the highway bridge for a good mile. There are some pink salmon and Dolly Varden mixed in with the catch right now so you may have to sort through some other fish to get the silvers you're looking for, but it's always a thrill to have something pulling back on the other end of your line regardless of the species! The clear water may require a smaller spinner or fly, and roe will usually still work. Remember though, you cannot continue to fish bait after you have retained your daily limit of three, even if you are planning on releasing any fish you may catch.



*Yours truly with a bright Ibeck Creek coho in the bright sun!*

For those of you who fished with us last season, you may remember some of the larger furry residents of Cordova that were prowling streams looking for the same salmon you were after. While this year we haven't had the same high number of bear interactions *yet*, we still want to encourage everyone to pack out their fish whole to reduce the smell of an easy meal and keep bear-human conflicts to a minimum. There are now four public use cleaning stations with running water in the harbor, and another one out by Fleming Spit on Orca Road. Please use them and make sure your carcasses make it out into deeper water below the tide line at Fleming Spit. Properly disposing of your carcasses will go a long way in keeping the Fleming Spit station clean and open throughout the whole fishing season.

The weather forecast for the next few days is calling for cooler temperatures and a chance of showers heading into next week. Hopefully that will mean a little more water in the creeks and a few more fish moving up. This is still just the beginning, and we are looking forward to another fantastic year of Coho fishing on the Copper River Delta!

Good Luck and I'll see you on the water!

--Dan

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