

The Weekly Fishing News

September 6th, 2019

Cordova

Alaska

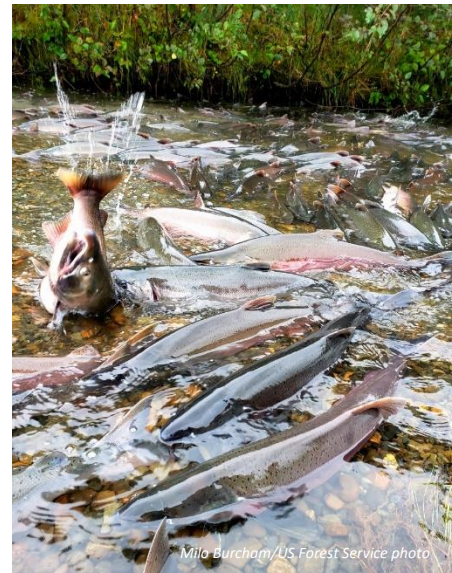
We enjoyed yet another beautiful week on the Copper River Delta and the forecast is excellent for the upcoming weekend. What a fantastic time of year to be out on the river under fair skies and large flocks of migrating cranes. To top it off, schools of bright coho ("silver") salmon have been arriving into Alaganik, Eyak, and Ibeck this week.



The Dahl brothers shared these photos of two beautiful coho salmon caught at Ibeck Creek.

Nearly 3 inches of much needed rain fell over the Labor Day weekend, reviving stream flows and encouraging a pulse of silvers to enter local streams. Unfortunately, many hundreds of these beautiful salmon met an early demise when they were trapped by falling water in the side channel adjacent to Ibeck Creek and the Copper River Highway (pictured). Visiting sport anglers may have noticed Cordovans netting large numbers of these trapped fish, using unconventional methods of take and exceeding sport fishing limits. Local rural residents are allowed subsistence harvest under a federal permit available through the Forest Service (424-7661). Nearly 90 subsistence permits have been issued this season and many households filled their freezers with these doomed salmon.

Despite these efforts, hundreds of carcasses remain near the Ibeck bridges and downstream. We haven't observed signs of bears in the area so far, but these carcasses may become a strong attractant. It will be important to remain vigilant this weekend on Ibeck and other local waterways. Travel in groups and make noise when walking to your fishing spot, particularly in the



Milo Burcham/US Forest Service photo

twilight hours. We don't want bears to associate anglers with an easy meal, so please continue to be mindful of your garbage and dispose of salmon carcasses into a bear-proof municipal garbage container or into deep saltwater.

Angling pressure was spread nicely across the delta yesterday. I saw more than a few successful anglers at both Ibeck and Alaganik. Schools of salmon were pulsing into Alaganik on the highest tide of the day. Peak high tide at the boat ramp is about 2 hours after the time posted on the [tide chart](#). The water is usually turbid right at the peak of the high tide, so angling seems to be most effective several hours into the falling tide. On these bright sunny days, the "early birds" do seem to enjoy the best action, but I didn't hear many complaints from the afternoon crowd yesterday particularly since the weather was so beautiful. Based on the forecast, this weekend would be a great time to get outside onto the forest to enjoy some quality time with family and friends!



If you are releasing a silver salmon, remember to keep the fish in the water. A landing net is a really helpful tool! Will Schreck photo.

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