

The old adage, "You can't catch a fish if your line isn't in the water" was particularly true this last week. Many anglers brought home limits of coho (silver) salmon, but the catching was hit-or-miss. Persistence and time on the water were key as dime bright salmon were actively migrating in tight and localized schools. Catch rates should increase this weekend and into next week. Commercial fisherman are reporting large numbers of salmon approaching the mouths of local rivers. These salmon will likely move into freshwater soon and the angling should be excellent this upcoming week. Here are some suggestions for local waters:



Ibeck: The Ibeck bridge pool continues to produce silver

salmon for many anglers. The deep water around the bridge provides a resting pool and concentrates fish. While the fishing is usual productive here, consider hiking up- or downstream from the bridge if you want to escape the crowds. You will find salmon holding in knee-to-thigh deep runs. What exactly is a "knee to thigh deep run?" Take a look at the water just downstream from the highway bridge for a good example (see the photo below). The silvers like to hold in water of that depth and velocity.

With flies, a dead drift or a slow swing seems to work well a lot of the time. The best fly pattern seems to change by the day, or even the hour. I usually start with a rabbit strip streamer with a glittery body and heavy lead eyes to keep the fly close to the bottom. The silvers in Ibeck often take the fly very softly, so pay attention to every bump. Sharp hooks really seem to help.



Caption: The "knee to thigh deep run" below the Ibeck Bridge

Eyak: Anglers report good fishing on Eyak River. It doesn't take long for the early birds to catch their limits. Spinners and spoons sure produce a lot of fish. If you don't have access to a boat, you can still get to the good fishing water by hiking the Eyak River Trail. Park in the pullout along the lake on the west side of the Eyak River Weir; the trailhead is right across the highway. The one mile hike will take you to a productive stretch of water, but bring a friend and make noise along the way as brown bears sometimes frequent the area.

Alaganik: Looking to get away from the crowds? The Alaganik River isn't exactly a secret, but you will find a little more elbow room than at Ibeck Creek, particularly if you hike away from the road. Try walking to the end of the Alaganik Angler Trail. To get to the trail, turn right off the Copper River Highway onto the Alaganik Access Road (near mile post 16). Just before you reach the parking area at the end of the road, look for an informational sign on your left. This marks the head of the 1/2 mile long trail. This section of the Alaganik is tidal, and anglers have been stranded on the wrong side of feeder creeks, so bring a tide chart (provided below) and keep your eye on the water level. The best time to fish is several hours after high tide. At the peak of the high tide, silvers are scattered and wading is difficult. The tide at this section of the Alaganik is about 2 hours after the time listed for Cordova in the tide book.

High/Low Tide Predictions

Station Name: CORDOVA,AK

Parameter: Weekly

Product: Tide Prediction

Start Date & Time: 2014/08/29 12:00AM

End Date & Time: 2014/09/04 11:59PM

Source: NOAA/NOS/CO-OPS

Prediction Type: Harmonic

Datum: MLLW

Height Units: Feet

Time Zone: LST/LDT

Date	Day	Time	Hgt	Time	Hgt	Time	Hgt	Time	Hgt
2014/08/29	Fri	04:00 AM	11.72 H	10:08 AM	0.94 L	04:13 PM	12.38 H	10:36 PM	1.02 L
2014/08/30	Sat	04:34 AM	11.03 H	10:42 AM	1.72 L	04:42 PM	12.22 H	11:18 PM	1.27 L
2014/08/31	Sun	05:15 AM	10.2 H	11:20 AM	2.58 L	05:17 PM	11.93 H		
2014/09/01	Mon	12:06 AM	1.6 L	06:11 AM	9.33 H	12:04 PM	3.46 L	06:06 PM	11.54 H
2014/09/02	Tue	01:03 AM	1.91 L	07:37 AM	8.71 H	12:59 PM	4.25 L	07:19 PM	11.23 H
2014/09/03	Wed	02:12 AM	2.02 L	09:10 AM	8.78 H	02:10 PM	4.72 L	08:47 PM	11.34 H
2014/09/04	Thu	03:31 AM	1.65 L	10:23 AM	9.44 H	03:36 PM	4.52 L	10:02 PM	11.92 H

Caption: Tide Chart for Cordova, AK from NOAA's Tides and Currents website. At the Alaganik Boat Ramp, high tides will be about two hours later than the times listed here.

Other News: It can be hard to leave the stream when the fishing is good, but the Cordova Fungus Festival is a fun event that is happening this weekend (Aug 29-31). Stop by the Forest Service office on Second Street for information on guided forays and speakers and to see the display tables. More information is also available online at:

<http://cordovachamber.com/community/festivals-and-events/cordova-fungus-festival/>

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ladelfio@fs.fed.us. Thank you! -Luca