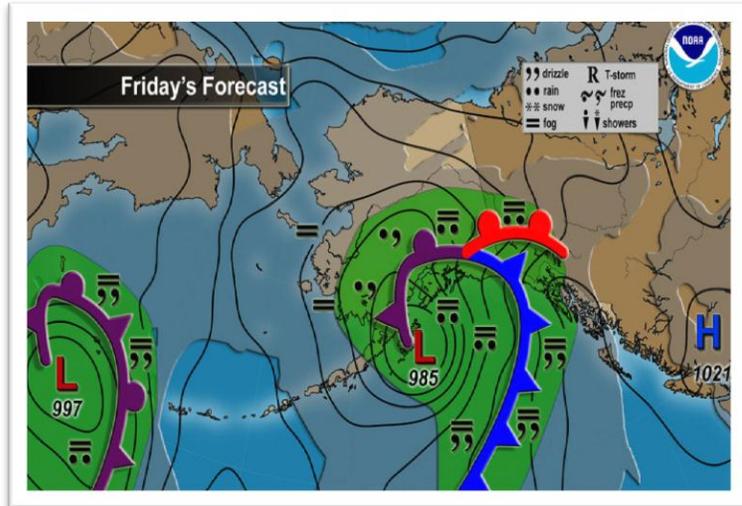


It has been said before and it will be said again: Alaska is a land of superlatives. The landscape is the biggest, the salmon stocks are the healthiest, and this part of the state receives more precipitation than just about anywhere else. Today is one of those days that gives Cordova weather its notorious reputation. It is raining sideways out there. To quote a favorite local quip, "It's not too bad out... If you are a duck!"



With local rivers swelling over their banks, the number of good fishing holes is shrinking by the hour. Of course, the silver salmon are still pouring into our streams and rivers, but it is becoming increasingly tough to get a lure in front of their faces. That said, lots of anglers will stay in town and a good fishing spot might be easier to find than an empty bar stool this evening.

If you are looking to get out and enjoy the weather, the terminal harvest fishery at Fleming Lagoon (near the burn pile off the Orca Rd) is a good spot to try. I hear the silvers are thick inside the lagoon itself and dime bright ones can still be caught in the saltwater near the creek mouth at around high tide.

With all this water, silver salmon are running into side sloughs and small streams across the Delta. If you aren't catching fish in the bigger rivers such as Eyak and Alaganik, consider exploring some of the smaller creeks and ditches. Two easily accessible side waters are the first bridge at 7 mile and the slough just north and east of the Sheridan River bridge (first major bridge east of the airport).

As is usually the case, getting your lure down towards the bottom is helpful. A sinking tip line will be nearly essential for the fly angler this week. The silver salmon also seem to prefer dark colored flies/lures during these dark rainy days, so if you aren't having success with your usual offerings, try something black or dark purple.

If you are looking to come in and dry out, the Fungus Festival is going on this weekend and there will be mushrooms on display as well as indoor and outdoor activities. Stop by the Forest Service office on Second Street for more information. Also, if you are interested in real-time weather information including stream flows and web cams, the Alaska Ocean Observing System real-time sensor map offers great access to federal weather station data. Check it out at aos.org.

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