

August rains have brought coho and anglers alike up streams across the delta. Schools of coho have been spotted running up both Ibeck and Eyak River. There have even been reports of fish moving upstream further east, where streams tend to have a bit later run timing than those closer to town. All the same, the run in Ibeck Creek seems young yet, as the bulk of fish caught appear to be male. Male salmon are the first to show up in streams, with females showing up in higher numbers as a salmon run progresses.



Great success! Coho salmon caught at Ibeck creek.

This past week, large numbers of fish were seen moving up the often dry, side channel of Ibeck Creek at the bridge, which was holding water after the most recent deluge of rain. Although, as of the weekend, it had about dried up. But as the saying goes, when one channel closes, another opens, and the good news over the weekend was improving water clarity with the drier weather last week. This seemed to open up opportunities in rivers and streams that have been off color due to recent flooding. Anglers concentrated upstream of the bridge at Ibeck were able to spread out somewhat, as the Scott River turned down the fire hose pumping murky, glacial soup into Ibeck Creek at the bridge.

Unfortunately, as I write these very words, our weather window has slammed shut. It seems we are set to enter another period of “active” weather infused with an abundance of subtropical moisture. Sounds like we are in for more rain, and lots of it. Perhaps, if rivers and streams across the delta once again creep up to a muddy bankfull, side channels with slower moving water may once again prove to be the fishiest spots looking ahead into the week.



A bit faster water in this hole...might be a dolly varden or two tucked away... Dollys can be found in faster currents where coho are unlikely to hole up.

When looking for fishy spots, be mindful of water velocity, depth and clarity. Salmon take the path of least resistance upstream and are unlikely to hang around in fast moving water. Likewise, fishing a spot where the fish can't see the lure is a bit of a fool's errand. If there is no choice but to fish in muddy waters, stick to bright pinks and other highly visible colors for artificial lures and flies. Vibrating lures with the additional auditory cue for fish are also a good bet. Certainly with the current weather outlook, water

velocity and clarity are going to change, and the fishiest spots will likely change with it.

Likewise, as rainfall increases in the coming days, be conscious of rising water and faster current when wading. Streams around Cordova are likely to rise rapidly. Wade safely, and bear in mind that channels previously wade-able, may become impassable with additional rainfall. When wading, take small steps and face upstream. Bring a friend or two if you plan on wading across channels, and remember to wear a wading belt. Wading belts prevent water from pooling in the legs of topped waders, and can help trap air in the legs of waders and act as a floatation device if necessary. If you do feel the streambed come out from under you, keep your feet up, face downstream, and wait till your downstream momentum has ceased to try to stand or swim.

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