

The rain has arrived this week although we are enjoying a nice break today. The rivers are up and colored across the delta after a dry summer with low water flows. Ibeck Creek is receiving silty water from the Scott River near the highway bridge.

It has been a slow start to the Coho ("silver") Salmon run this year. Fish started moving into Eyak River and Ibeck Creek last week, but so far the numbers seem low. Coho are being seen far downstream on both rivers and a few are being caught around the highway. Anglers are reporting success with spinners and typical flashy Coho flies.

A slow start to the Coho season isn't uncommon, look for more salmon to arrive anytime now! While the silvers are making their way upstream you can take advantage of the large number of Dolly Varden lying in wait in Ibeck or Power Creek, or go track down some cutthroat in the Pipeline or McKinley Lakes. The road at Power Creek was washed out about two miles from the best fishing water during the last rainfall event and will remain closed to motor vehicles for at least a couple weeks. Anglers willing to walk the road will have the water to themselves! A 3 to 4 mile round trip hike is also required to access the cutthroat ponds in the Pipeline and McKinley Lake area, but the trail is easy to follow and relatively flat. The ponds and lakes can offer great angling, even when local creeks are blown out during heavy rainfall periods.

A Forest Service Fisheries Technician shows a young angler the proper way to release a fish.

Please help reduce the accumulation of fish carcasses along local streams this season by packing your fish out whole within a ¼ mile up and downstream of the highway bridge. This is important because bears can quickly learn to associate anglers with an easy meal, setting the stage for dangerous encounters with wildlife. Please do your part and pack out your catch whole. Also, please take your trash with you when you are done fishing. Empty roe bags and wrappers also attract curious bears into areas where anglers are present. As rainfall increases in the coming days, be conscious of rising water and faster current when wading. Streams around



Cordova can rise rapidly during storms. Alaganik Slough is tidally influenced, so many an angler has returned to a side slough after a few hours of fishing only to find the crossing is considerably deeper than they remember! When wading in deep or swift water, remember to take small steps and don't walk downstream with the current. 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. If you do feel the streambed come out from under you, keep your feet up, face downstream, and control your motion by backstroking your arms. Wait until -your downstream momentum has ceased entirely before trying to stand to avoid foot entrapment, particularly around large rocks or logs..

Would you like to receive the Cordova Weekly Fishing News via e-mail? Please let me know and I will put you on the distribution list. Also, if you have a good photo from a recent Cordova fishing trip, e-mail me a copy and I will try to get it printed in the next edition of the Weekly Fishing News. My e-mail address is: nealwschoenfelder@fs.fed.us Thank you! -Neal.



USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Reference herein to any specific commercial products, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government, and shall not be used for advertising or product endorsement purposes.