

# *The Weekly Fishing News*

September 7, 2018

Cordova

Alaska



WFN reader Alfred Gilbert with a beautiful Coho Salmon at Ibeck Creek. Albert travels all the way from Germany each season to fish on the beautiful Copper River Delta. Will Schreck took the photo.

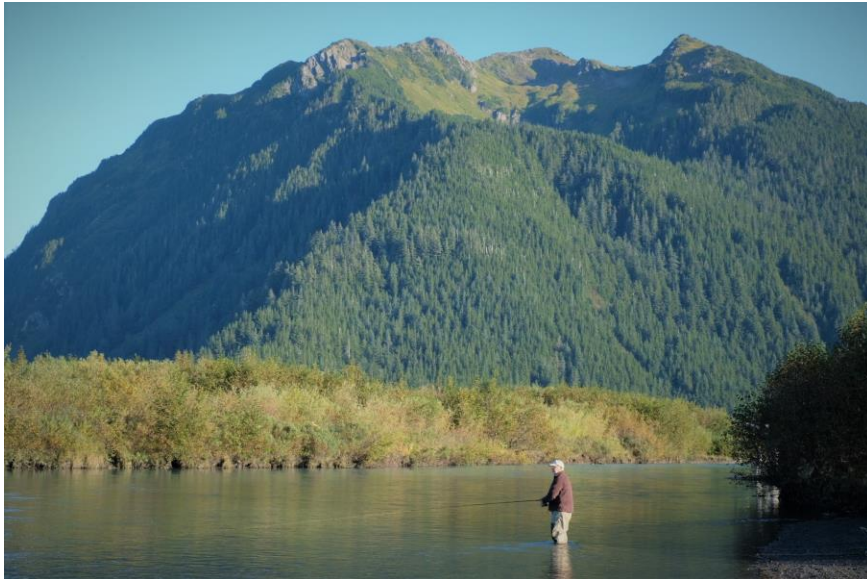
The Copper River Delta has been experiencing a second week of sunny conditions and local rivers are now running low and clear. Some anglers are wondering if all this fair weather is too much of a good thing. As the water has dropped, the Coho “silver” Salmon run has slowed and the fish have generally become easily spooked and less aggressive than normal. If there are any really hot spots out there, no one is telling me about them!

That said, limits of silvers are still being caught by anglers willing to put in the time and effort and, of course, those lucky few who happen to show up right when the fishing is hot! Fresh fish are arriving at Ibeck Creek, Eyak River, and Alaganik Slough with each high tide. The anglers reporting the most success have intercepted a school of these recent arrivals that are more willing to hit flies and lures. A WFN reader reported to me that few fish are returning to Fleming Lagoon (“Hippie Cove”), a stocked terminal harvest fishery. Brittany Blain, the local Alaska Department of Fish and Game Sportfish Biologist, is hopeful this run is simply late, just like the terminal harvest fisheries on the Kenai Peninsula this year.

Time on the water, a willingness to cover ground in search of lightly pressured areas, and a little good fortune, will be three key ingredients for angling success this weekend. Consider switching to lighter and smaller lures or flies if you are casting to uncooperative fish. The venerable Little Cleo spoon could produce when larger spoons and spinners aren’t working. A sparsely dressed Clouser Minnow may also be the ticket if the fish are easily spooked.

2018 has been a bad year for bears and we have had lots of bears, both brown and black, searching for food around town and at our local fishing holes. We will continue to have bear-human interactions throughout the rest of fishing season. Please travel in groups, make noise when hiking, carry bear deterrent spray, and keep a clean camp. A small black bear has been stealing stringers at Alaganik Slough. Keep your fish attached to your person or return each fish to your vehicle.

Dumping fish waste on streambanks and improper storage of coolers, garbage, and other odorous attractants is a public safety hazard and bad for bears. Please do your part and throw your fish waste into deep water. The fish cleaning station near the burn pile has been closed because so many bears are frequenting the area, but if you can dump waste into deep saltwater, that will help. The Sheridan River bridge is another good spot to drop fish entrails into deep, fast water where it will be swept away from populated areas. Consider using the fish cleaning tables in the harbor or bring your catch to the pros at Copper River Seafood or 60° North for custom processing. The blast freezing and commercial vacuum packing will keep your fish for longer and the processor will safely dispose of the fish waste.



An angler plying the waters of Ibeck Creek. Get out and enjoy the summer weather this weekend! Will Schreck Photo.

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