

Despite the inclement weather and high water, anglers are catching lots of silver (coho) salmon in Cordova. Here is the scoop on popular local waters:

Ibeck: It seems like at least one angler is hooked into a silver every time I drive over the Ibeck Creek bridge! One successful angler told me that a spin-and-glo and roe was

her go-to setup this last weekend, but that Pixees were producing as well. While the bridge pool seems to produce a lot of fish, good angling can be had both up- and down-stream, and getting away from the crowds is refreshing. Take a hike!

With so many people enjoying the creek, it is particularly important that everyone respects the fish and wildlife, the stream banks, and the other users.

If you are planning on releasing your catch, use artificial lures, not roe, and keep the fish in the water at all times. If you do kill your catch, try "bleeding" the fish by ripping out the gills instead of beating it over the head; doing so can actually improve the quality of the meat.

Cleaning or filleting your catch on site returns essential nutrients to the system. Throw the carcass and all the entrails back into deep water, don't leave these scraps on shore where they will attract bears.



Watch for pedestrians, particularly during low light conditions

Please walk gently on trampled banks to protect fish habitat by minimizing bank erosion.

Use caution when driving and walking on the Copper River Highway near Ibeck Creek! One local motorist complained to me about anglers loitering on the blacktop. While the bridge may offer a good vantage point for fish spotting, standing here for extended periods of time is unsafe.

Eyak: Local fly anglers are reporting good fishing at the Eyak Lake weir. I like the "dark day, dark fly" theory and a black and silver zonker was my best fly this last weekend. Remember the water within 200 yards of the weir is protected by special regulations until the end of the month. Per the regulations: "Only single-hook, artificial flies with a hook gap of less than 3/8 inch... are allowed [and] no additional weight may be attached to the line."

Farther downstream, the fishing is still very good from "the houses" all the way to the river's mouth. Anglers are using kayaks, canoes, and jet boats to reach the salmon and bring home their limit.

Alaganik: The side sloughs and tributaries of the Alaganik have been producing bright silvers. Yesterday, I watched one angler land a limit of salmon on a chartreuse vibrax spinner. When the water clarity is good, the main river has been producing as well. Try walking the Alaganik Angler Trail if you aren't catching fish at the boat ramp. 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 a brown fishing line collection box and 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 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 Alaganik is about 2 hours after the time listed for Cordova in the tide book. As of last Thursday, we did not see any salmon above the "22 Mile Bridge," but all this water should encourage the fish to push upstream sometime this week.

Fleming Lagoon: Longtime local fish guru, Ken Hodges, informed me there are coho in Fleming Lagoon (a.k.a. "Hippie Cove") at all tides right now. Ken reports that, while these silvers are not quite as "dime bright" as the ones out the Delta, they are still plenty fresh for eating. What should you throw at them? It is hard to go wrong with a pink or chartreuse Pixee.



Public Service Announcement! Watch your footing while wading! This 4-foot long octopus was recently seen in a local Cordova stream. Many thanks to Milo Burcham for this great photo.

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