

Ibeck: What a perfect morning at Ibeck Creek! The sunrise was beautiful, the temperature was pleasant, and the river was full of dime bright silver salmon. To top it off, the breeze was just strong enough to keep the biting flies at bay, but not so stiff that casting was difficult.

The 45 minutes before the first rays of sunshine hit the river's surface seemed particularly productive. It is well worth your effort to hit the river early, before the crowds.

The fish were concentrated in knee-to-thigh deep runs. Take a look at the run just downstream from the highway bridge for a good example. The silvers really seem to like holding in water of that depth and velocity, so I recommend looking for similar water both up- and downstream.

With flies, a dead drift or a slow swing seems to work well a lot of the time. The best fly pattern seems to change by the day, or even the hour. I usually start with a rabbit strip streamer with a glittery body and heavy lead eyes to keep the fly close to the bottom. What color is best? Good question! Some days they hit pink, other days orange or green, and every now and then white or black... I wish I could explain it, but I can't.

The silvers in Ibeck often take the fly very softly, so pay attention to every bump. It is sometimes difficult to keep the fish attached to your line after a subtle take, but sharp hooks really seem to help.

Eyak: All reports indicate good fishing on Eyak River. It didn't take long for the early birds to catch their limit this morning. Vibrax spinners and Pixees sure catch their share of fish in this river. If you don't have access to a boat, you can still get to the good fishing water by hiking the Eyak River Trail. Park in the pullout along the lake on the west side of the Eyak River Weir, the trailhead is right across the highway. An easy one mile hike will take you to a productive stretch of water, but bring a friend and make noise along the way, brown bears have recently been spotted in the area.

Alaganik: Looking to get away from the crowds? The Alaganik River isn't exactly a secret, but you will find a little more elbow room, particularly if you hike away from the road. Try walking to the end of the Alaganik Angler Trail. 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



Gordie Reeves with a beautiful coho salmon 8/28/12

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.

Fleming Lagoon: Another spot to try is Fleming Lagoon, also known as “Hippie Cove.” Head out the Orca Lodge Road and look for the lagoon and culvert just before the burn pile and the fish cleaning station. Fleming Lagoon can offer fast angling on an incoming tide and is an excellent place to take the kids.

FISHING TIP:

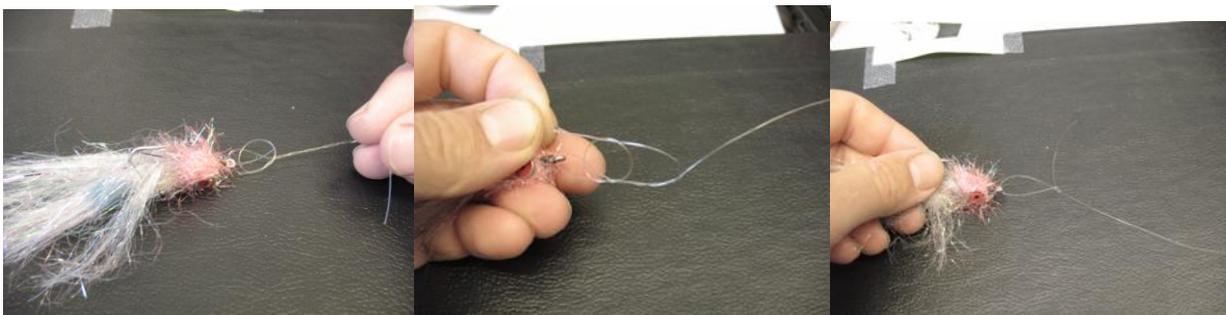
To coax every bit of fish attracting wiggle out of my flies, I like to use a loop knot. Here is how you tie it:



1) Tie a loose overhand

2) Thread your fly/lure

3) Pass the tag end thru the overhand



4) Wrap the tag end around the leader 3-5 times 5) Pass the tag end back thru your overhand 6) Tighten the knot.

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