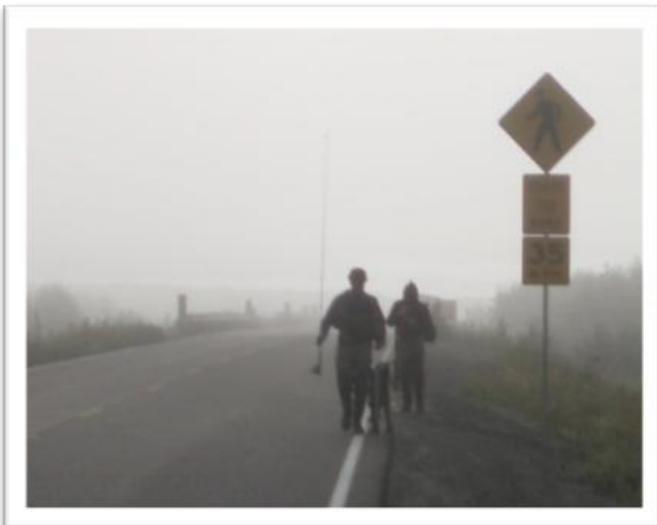


And it's back to the races! If you haven't noticed the line of cars parked on the highway at 7 mile, here's your official notice: The silvers are back at Ibeck!

The recent rains this past weekend encouraged the coho (silver) salmon to continue their progress up the rivers. Fishing has continued to be steady on Eyak River with the center of action focused on the stretch of river between the old cannery and the end of the Eyak River Trail. If you're on foot you can find the start of the Eyak River Trail across the road from the parking area at the weir. Pay attention to the tides as the fish will be moving up with the high tides.

Ibeck has steadily been picking up since the weekend (both the number of fish and fishermen). Most of the action has been concentrated upstream of the bridge in the Clearwater. If you haven't been out there yet this year, there's some glacial input coming in from the Scott that is joining the main stem of Ibeck right at the bridge. If you want to try your luck fishing in the murky water try some roe to draw the fish in. However, I've had several reports of people fishing downstream of the bridge with lures, so don't let the grey water intimidate you. Try a pixee (orange was a winner for me on Monday) or similar spinner. The most popular spots were directly above the bridge. But feel free to bring a friend, make some noise, and explore new stream territory. Maybe you'll find the next honey hole!



With the onset of lots of fish in Ibeck comes another concern: traffic. The warning signs are in place on either side of the Ibeck bridge. Please be aware of people and animals crossing the road in the area and slow down. It seems like our sunny summer is drawing to a close so keep an eye out during diminished visibility conditions. It's probably a good idea to watch out for cars pulling out or parking as well.

If you are dropping people off at Ibeck please pull off the road to allow traffic to pass.

The Forest Service has also installed cleaning tables at Ibeck and at the Eyak Boat Launch. Feel free to use these tables to clean your fish. Please throw the carcass and guts into deep, swift moving water. This helps return important nutrients to the river. Be a considerate fisherman and rinse the table when you are done. You will also notice brown wooden boxes for used fishing line. We recycle your old fishing line and urge you to place any line in these boxes instead of on the ground.

As the fishing continues on Ibeck please keep in mind that fishing is closed approximately 3 miles upstream of the bridge on the Copper River Highway.

Tip for the Week:

One esteemed local fisherman (who wished to remain unnamed) regaled me with an issue he ran into recently with rotten line on one of his poles. As some of us are pulling our rods out of storage check the line. If it is old, replace it with new line strong enough to handle the fish you're after.

After snagging a giant coho (probably 20 lbs) in the back and losing a lure in the process I was reminded to try a single hook instead of a treble hook on my spinning rod. A single hook will hopefully limit snags, both on fish and on trees or other brush in the water. It's worth a try with the current price of lures.

Forecast for Fishing:

It's looking to be an excellent (although slightly soggy) week for fishing. Check out both Ibeck and Eyak and see what is running hotter for silvers! I also have news of a couple of coho being caught at Alaganik. I went down to the boat launch on Monday and had no luck, but they are starting to move up. It is a bit early for the run in Alaganik, but this could be a good spot, especially later this week after a bit more rain. There are also Dolly Varden and cutthroat being caught both in Alaganik and Eyak.

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: amorin@fs.fed.us. Thank you!

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