
Another beautiful weekend here in Cordova. Plenty of fishing opportunities still exist out there as the run begins to turn. I've seen anglers fishing just about every little bit of water that looks deep enough to hold coho (which many of them do).

The fishing on Ibeck appears to have slowed, though as the water levels drop, and the silt is washed out of the stream the fishing may improve again.



A fellow angler brought up a good point to me recently: the coho are beginning to darken and preparing to spawn to the point where many anglers are going to release many of the fish they are catching. It is common for coho caught with roe to swallow the hook, which makes releasing the fish unharmed nearly impossible. So perhaps it is time to put the roe in the freezer for the season and switch to artificial lures and flies. Several artificial lures, such as Pixies, have an egg-mimicking element to them which would work well. I also had some good success this weekend using #4 or 5 spinners in a variety of colors to lure the coho out of their holes. I've already switched from treble to single hooks on many of my lures, and I will pinch the barb on those down to make releasing fish easier. Remember: any fish removed from the water should be kept!

We are expecting more rain throughout the week. As water levels rise again I urge caution when crossing rivers in high flows. I look for areas where the river is wide at the downstream side of pools on bends in the river. Cross facing upstream shuffling your feet as you cross. If you are unsure of your footing use a wading staff or walking stick to give you a third point of balance while in the river. I also avoid wading across water that is deeper than my waist. If you're not sure if you want to cross it because it looks to be moving fast and you can't tell how deep it is: Don't! There are plenty of places to cross, just take your time.



Several of the anglers I talked to this past week shared reports of bears around the Haystack Trail area of the Copper River Highway (Mile 19). I had secondhand reports of a couple of young bears that were scaring anglers from their catch on the creeks. This should serve as a reminder to everyone to cast their carcasses and guts into deep fast moving water so that hole is safe for future fishing.

If you encounter a bear looking for some easy fish please remember that even tasty coho are not worth a confrontation with a hungry bear! Please alert other anglers and law enforcement if you encounter a bear with an appetite for angler's coho.

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