



Dark Skies, Bright Fishing Season on the Goodnews River

Due to mostly cloudy, sometimes rainy weather which kept the river in good shape throughout the entire summer, 2006 was one of the best fishing seasons ever. Slightly cooler water extended some runs for an extra week or two, and somewhat delayed the start of others, but at no time was there a shortage of fish.

The **king salmon** run was the best in more than a decade. It started during the last week of June and immediately went into high gear. The average weight was large, 30-plus pounds, and most of these were chrome bright silver. Many kings over 40 lbs were taken on both fly and plug, and even several over 50. Most boats fishing two anglers averaged 20 or more fish on fly per day, and over 30 on plug. Some boats even topped 40 of the chrome-plated giants in a single day. The bite stayed hot all the way through the 3rd week of July. Look for a repeat in 2007, say Alaska biologists.

We enjoyed larger than ever chrome bright **chum salmon** this year. The trend of increasing size has been going on for several years, and in 2006 chums over 15 pounds were not uncommon. The action started a few days late, around the 4th of July, but with lots of aerial fireworks. Thanks to a new innovative fly pattern developed by our guides we



now consistently take these sea-run chums even while they are on the move. Catches of 40 or more per angler per day were the norm.

As always happens on even-numbered years, the 2006 run of **pink salmon** was staggering in numbers, estimated to be the best since 1990. They averaged 4-5 lbs although a good number of 7-8 pound males were taken. Next year should be a slow year for pinks, but a decrease in their numbers usually seems to bode well for a strong run of silvers starting in late July.

Why the numbers of **sockeye salmon** continue to increase dramatically every year defies

explanation, but the trend continues. The 2006 run of these high-jumping chromers was the largest in living memory, peaking during the middle weeks of July with the hottest bite ever! As usual the Globug fly was the top producer, with lots and lots of exciting hookups every day. All signs point to this trend continuing through 2007.

Cooler than normal water put the **Dolly Vardens** off their usual topwater bite this year, but the trend toward an increase in size has continued and they seem to want the traditional wet flies as eagerly as ever. Leon Martuch fought a dollie estimated to be 32 inches (about 12

2006 continued ...

lbs) right to the water's edge before the hook pulled. The average size was close to 3-lbs, with over 5-bbs a daily event. Most will agree this more than makes up for a decrease in the numbers of smaller fish usually present.

The initial appearance of **silver salmon** started as usual during the last week of July, but because of the cooler river water the run was somewhat sporadic until the last week of August, and it actually peaked in early September. Even so, there were always such good numbers of silvers available that no one could find any reason to complain. As a bonus, topwater action on poppers and gurglers was better than the last few years. We expect a strong run with even bigger fish in 2007.■

LEASE CONFLICT RESOLVED

For the last few years GRL has been trying to resolve a difficult lease disagreement with Goodnews Village. This year the village came to the table represented by new legal counsel who recommended peaceful resolution, and that is exactly what happened. We now have a long term



lease with the tribal council that leaves everyone satisfied and happy. This also allows us to comfortably plan more new and long-term improvements (as we already have per many of your great suggestions over the years).

As a result of this new agreement, GRL will remain the only fishing lodge allowed to operate on this river system. Part of the accord also includes a \$25 per visiting angler fee for fishing and land use (e.g. mountain hiking, streamside lunches, etc), the income from which goes directly into a fund for the village children.

The village will also support our application with the state of Alaska for a license to sell alcoholic beverages at the lodge.■

BRING A KID

The next time you come to GRL, consider bringing a youngster with you. We offer special discounts for boys and girls under 16 who come with a parent or legal guardian. These discounts vary from week to week through the season, and are of course subject to space availability. Call us for details.

We feel strongly motivated to do this for a variety of reasons. Over the recent years we have enjoyed very successful Kids Weeks, usually during the last half of July, that were for both parents and staff alike among the major highlights of the year. So starting in 2007 we feel it would be very appropriate to encourage youngsters to come throughout the entire season.

And it isn't just the fishing. Youngsters of all ages also enjoy the wilderness experience available in our part of remote Alaska, and learn a lot from what they see and hear. Plus there's another major benefit: teach a kid how to enjoy fishing and you will create fond memories for the future, plus the odds become ever stronger that youngster will be a lot less likely to get into trouble.■

Custom Fit Float Trips

For the more adventurous, Goodnews River Lodge also offers both 3-day and 7-day Float Trips aboard Avon Rafts. You will be accompanied by one or more guides, depending upon group size. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the river as you fish and float during the day and setup camp in a new site each night. We promise plenty of fishing on your river excursion. The above rates includes round-trip airfare from Anchorage to Goodnews Bay, tents and camping gear, Sleeping bags, guide(s), rafts and meals. Other personal items for camping are not provided.

Float trips run from Wednesday-to-Wednesday and require a minimum of two anglers. The maximum is six. As with the Goodnews River Lodge Trips, guest are welcome to take home waxed lock boxes of fish they caught during the week.

- 7 Day float. \$3,900 per person
- 4 day float + 3 day lodge. . . . \$4,995 per person
- 3 day float + 4 day lodge. . . . \$4,710 per person



best of THE GOODNEWS FOLLIES

Since Wednesday has now become our guest arrival/departure day, Tuesday night has replaced Friday as the weekly celebration of all those wonderfully wacky and endlessly entertaining angling aberrations that transpired during the week. Here are only a few of the endlessly abundant highlights from the 2006 season.

Ralph Steele got top **Best Hookset** honors for the year by hooking himself in the only place you cannot get to... (don't ask!!). The **Best Fishfight Award** went to **Jack Jones** for sticking an 5 lb king immediately forward of the anal fin, right in the most anatomically sensitive place. The fish instantly went ballistic, whereupon Jack loudly proclaimed "It's a whopper!!"

The **Rookie Of The Week Award** was claimed by **Tommy Ohern**, who commented wistfully about a big king jumping right next to him while completely unaware that he had already hooked the critter. And no season is ever complete without its

share of **Jimmy Nix Swim Club** recipients; **Jonathan Tursky** took top honors in this category with his backward flip over the side (that scored 9.8 among the guides who observed the event) and also collected five gallons of Goodnews River in his waders (a new camp record). **Revik Walker** also scored almost as high (9.6) with a triple Lindy off a cutbank on the Middle Fork.

Fritz Kirner, here from Germany for his 20th consecutive year, received the **Top Gun Award** for striking a big king so hard that he ripped the plug right in half! It was his favorite, a survivor of many previous encounters with large king salmon. His comment in the heat of the moment was in German, which we cannot translate here (fortunately).■



FLY CASTING SEMINARS

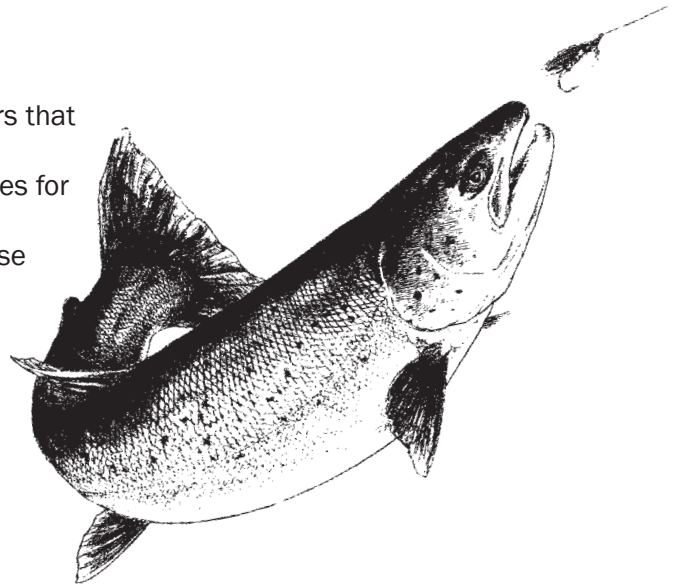
Over the years we've conducted informal fly casting seminars that were so well received we plan to do it again in 2006. Time permitting, a seminar will be conducted by our popular guides for those interested each Wednesday afternoon after everyone arrives in camp from the charter flight. Reservations for these seminars are not required.

SLIDE SHOW PROGRAMS

Mike Gorton or one of the GRL senior staff members would be happy to put on a slide show about the camp and the fishing for any interested group. Contact us for details.

TRIP INSURANCE

We urge you to consider trip insurance. Especially because our short season does not allow a deposit refund unless that space is filled after your request for cancellation. We offer Travelex Traveler's Insurance. Call for details. ■



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2006 - 2007 Newsletter

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2007 Rates & Fishing Information (All Dates are Wednesday-to-Wednesday)

Note: the rates below are the same as 2006, however because of increases in the cost of our charter flights we anticipate there will be an additional fuel surcharge of approximately \$325 per angler.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Weekly Rates*</u>	<u>Available Species (Boldface = peak weeks)</u>
June 20 - June 27	\$5,450/person	Kings, grayling , rainbows
June 27 - July 04	\$6,250/person	Kings, grayling , rainbows
July 04 - July 11	\$6,250/person	Kings , rainbows, chums, sockeyes
July 11 - July 18	\$4,850/person	Kings, rainbows, chums, sockeyes, dollies, pinks
July 18 - July 25	\$4,850/person	Kings, rainbows, chums, sockeyes, dollies, pinks
July 25 - Aug 01	\$4,850/person	Chums , rainbows, sockeyes, dollies, pinks
Aug 01 - Aug 08	\$5,950/person	Silvers , rainbows, chums, dollies, sockeyes, pinks
Aug 08 - Aug 15	\$6,250/person	Silvers , rainbows, chums, dollies
Aug 15 - Aug 22	\$6,250/person	Silvers , rainbows, dollies
Aug 22 - Aug 29	\$6,250/person	Silvers , rainbows, dollies
Aug 29 - Sept 5	\$6,250/person	Silvers , rainbows, dollies
Sept 5 - Sept 12	\$4,850/person	Silvers , rainbows, dollies (see Note 1 below)

* 3 Day (\$3,450/person) Lodge rates not available 8/8 - 9/5. Call for Discounts For Youngsters Under 16*

(1) Cast & Blast Week: \$5,450/Person. Available Sept 05-12, 2007 only. Morning & Evening duck hunts with fishing during the day.

The above prices include a round-trip charter flight from Anchorage to Goodnews Bay, deluxe tent accommodations, meals, amenities, six full days of fishing away from the camp, guides, lures and flies, terminal tackle and boat service. At the end of the week we seal your fish in waxed lock boxes to take home and share with family and friends. These rates are based on Wednesday-to-Wednesday stays. No minimum group size is required. Maximum group size is 18. Rates do not include fishing licenses, King Salmon tag (if applicable), or staff tips.

