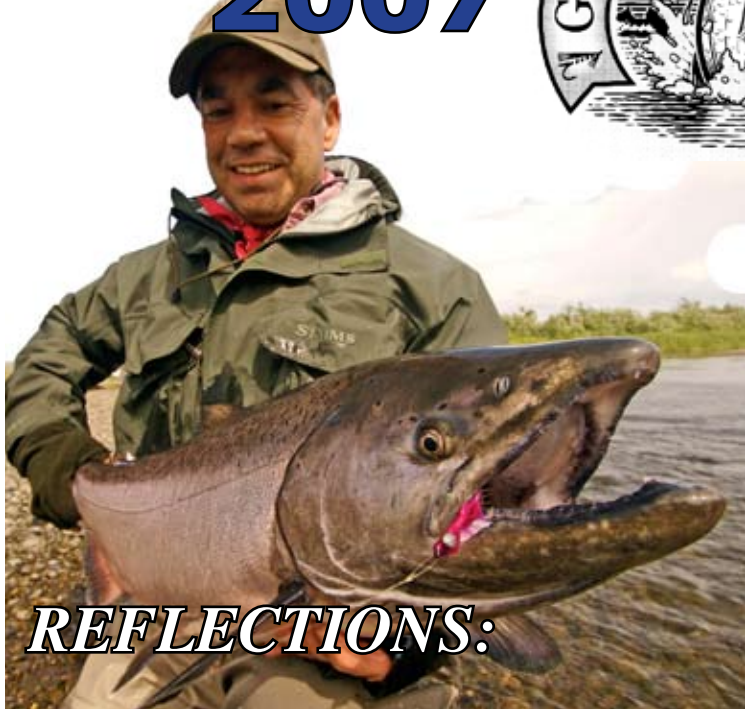


2007



2008

**REFLECTIONS:**

I've fished the Goodnews River every year since I first came there in the middle 1980s, and so far the this area has defied all of my previous experiences with other fishing camps. As a rule every other place I've ever fished over the years has seen a steady decline in numbers of fish due to a steady increase in numbers of anglers. But because the Goodnews River Lodge is the only camp on this river, and also because the only other way to fish this river is via a float trip starting 80 miles upriver on Goodnews Lake, angling pressure has not increased. If anything, the fishing in this river is even better than it was when I first came here over 20 years ago. No wonder I keep coming back year after year.

Leon Martuch (Orlando, FL)

I first came to the Goodnews River in 1981, and I haven't missed a year since. Many years I've even made two trips here during the same season; the fishing on this river is that good! I especially like the fact that this is not a fly-out fishing camp, so weather is almost never a factor and there is no reason to miss a single day on the water. I also like the fact that this is the only camp on the river. Other than a few float trips that start on Goodnews Lake 80 miles upriver, there is no other way for other anglers to even get to this river. End result: the fish has remained consistently very good over the years.

Add to this the fact that there is no high seas fishing for the salmon that spawn in this river (because they never leave the Bering Sea), and the angling future for this river remains extremely bright!

Bob Stearns (Miami, FL)

I think the best is yet to come. For instance, in 2008 we look for the "Return of the Really BIG Kings!" And, of course, Goodnews Silvers are known to munch dynamite for breakfast; how else could they explode out of the water like that? We are also expecting an even year flood of Pink Salmon, (great on poppers, too!) And, our chrome chums can flat-out pull anybody's! Plus, sockeyes will be everywhere, of course. Their now huge spawning runs are why our rainbow trout are getting bigger every year!

Dollies, dollies everywhere! Mile long flats full of them! Dessert, my Dad calls 'em. More than eager to chase a dry fly on top! And, isn't it time you get your picture smiling behind a real Arctic Grayling



that's big enough to amaze your lower '48 friends? Better yet, how about a picture of your son and your grandson smiling behind that beautiful, blue top fin!

Don't forget, even number years are the perfect time to pursue the "Goodnews Grand Slam", (all five salmon in one day! (It has been done many, many times...)). So, now that ESPN TV ranks us as the Number One fishing spot in the world, I expect to see you out with me on the river building more than just a few memories! Leave your wristwatch at home.

Mike Gorton (aka Keeper Of The River)

The **king** run was about average, with the first fish coming on the 18th of June and the peak around 7 July. The average size was 20-25 lbs, with numerous fish taken over 40 lbs.

This included Fritz Kirner's 46, Rose King's 44, and Gary Vasquez's 44 pounder, all on fly! There were also a lot of Jacks, which historically has been a reliable indicator that we can look forward to a run of really big fish the following year. The last week of June and the first week of July should be the peak weeks, with good numbers available an additional week on either side.

Once again we had an outstanding run of chrome bright, **chums** that invaded the river in outstanding numbers. The run started during the first week of July and lasted through the end of the month, with the peak around the third week. One afternoon, while taking a break from the king action, Andy and Lili Neale of Miami, FL hooked and landed big bright chums on fly with almost every cast. These fish



ranged from 10 to 15 pounds; many even still had sea-lice. Considering that our chum runs have been consistently excellent for a number of years now, we see no reason not to expect the same in 2008.

The **sockeye** run is a relatively new and rapidly developing fishery for our river. A decade ago there were only a few sockeyes entering the Goodnews, but their numbers have increased immensely over the past few years and this strong growth trend is expected to continue in the years to come. So now we have a truly unique fishing situation for an abundance of super-strong, very aerial chrome-bright fish that average 5 to 8 lbs and fight every bit as well as any steelhead, and can be taken on 4- to 6-weight rods by sight fishing in knee-deep water. This past season we even weighed one that topped 10 pounds, caught by Nick Coliantino of Tampa, FL. The prime season is the month of July. Look for 2008 to be a dynamite year for these wonderful chromers that are also super on the table, too!

Because 2007 was an odd-numbered year, we encountered only a few **pink salmon** in the river. But since 2008 is an even year, they will definitely be here with bells on. We expect them to show about the 15th of July and run strongly thru the middle of August. As has been the trend over the past few years, we also expect them to be bigger than average, typically weighing 5 - 8 lbs.

The **silver** run started on the 17th of July and they just kept coming. Our best single day was August 5th, with John Dowd and Jesse Ehrlich of Naples, FL taking over 100 on fly before 4pm. The numbers of silvers stayed high right through



the end of the season, and the surface popper action was the stuff of legends. Because of the anticipated large pink run in 2008, the main run on silvers will likely start around August 1st.

The **Dolly Varden** run keeps getting better & better with each passing year. You could catch as many as you want on most days from mid-July through the end of the season, with the peak time for the brightest fish from the last week of July through the middle of August. This year we had many dollies in the 26 to 30 inch range.



There was even one 26.5" dolly in Barnum Creek that must have eaten every single fly pitched its way for at least six days in a row (we love to see fish like that go in the gene pool!). There's no reason not to expect 2008 to continue this trend.

Non-Fishing Activities

If you want to take time off from angling, there are plenty of other things to do. Such as 1-day hikes to pick berries, visit a 4,000 year-old village site, or stalk wildlife with a camera. Then there's beachcombing along the coast, and panning for gold while visiting a 100 year-old bucket dredge. All of this at your own pace.



Needless to say, the traditional Goodnews River Lodge end-of-the-week Follies Night continues to be alive & well. Amidst the hilarity were some very unique awards garnered through various antics and outstanding angling accomplishments. Here are a few of those lighter moments.

Tom Rinehardt joined the **Jimmy Nix Swim Club** via his half gainer while sockeye fishing, a difficult feat from a standing position while knee-deep in the water. Con Cleary joined the JNSC for his back half gainer into 8" water, while Keal Buwalda got his by simply stepping into deep water while trying to net a sockeye!

A number of anglers also qualified for the Indian Love Stone Award, including Nick Colantino for the smallest ever on fly, and Denny Buce Sr. for a camp record boulder, on spin no less!

No season would ever be complete without new inductees into the **Dead Chum Society**. This year Liam Young hooked his right on the surface - he said it was tailing like a bonefish at the time. Don Boardman dredged his off the bottom, claiming he was trying for a new starry flounder record on fly. No one can explain how Jeremiah Masters managed to land 1.5 of these on spin. Steve Hurster got 3 on fly, possibly a new camp record. Doug and Harry Nickelson were the dynamic brotherly duo that took them two at a time.

The **Most Improved Award** went to Sierra Bononi for going from spin to fly, landing 6 species (if you include 2 small fry).

One of the most coveted is the **Grand Slam Award** (all 5 species of salmon within one 24-hour period. Doing this once in a given week is an outstanding accomplishment, but Tyler Nonn managed it twice, and both times on fly,! Two others also pulled off a Grand Slam apiece in spite of the fact that it was the first time ever fly-fishing for both!

Highly coveted is the rare **Starry Flounder Award**, which Jonathan Nott received for his 6 inch right-eye member of that fishy family. He took it on a spey rod; his guide said afterward the battle raged up and down the river for quite a while before the beast was finally subdued!

GOODNEWS RIVER LODGE

4066 Wolf Lake Drive

Lewiston, MI 49756

Ph: 800-274-8371

Fax: 989-786-9946



www.epicfishing.com

e-mail: GRLCamp@bellsouth.net

2007 - 2008 NEWSLETTER

2008 Rates & Fishing Information (All Dates are Wednesday-to-Wednesday)

Note: the rates below are the same as 2007, 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 18 - June 25	\$5,450/person	Kings, grayling , rainbows
June 25 - July 02	\$6,250/person	Kings, grayling , rainbows
July 02 - July 09	\$6,250/person	Kings , rainbows, chums, sockeyes
July 09 - July 16	\$4,850/person	Kings, rainbows, chums, sockeyes , dollies, pinks
July 16 - July 23	\$4,850/person	Kings, rainbows, chums, sockeyes, dollies , pinks
July 23 - July 30	\$4,850/person	Chums , rainbows, sockeyes, dollies , pinks
July 30 - Aug 06	\$5,950/person	Silvers, rainbows, chums, dollies, sockeyes, pinks
Aug 06 - Aug 13	\$6,560/person	Silvers , rainbows, chums, dollies
Aug 13 - Aug 20	\$6,560/person	Silvers , rainbows, dollies
Aug 20 - Aug 27	\$6,560/person	Silvers , rainbows, dollies
Aug 27 - Sept 3	\$6,560/person	Silvers , rainbows, dollies
Sept 3 - Sept 10	\$5,950/person	Silvers , rainbows, dollies (Also Cast & Blast Week)

*Senior Discount Week Sept 3 - 10, age 65 & over, \$4,850/person Children under Age 16: \$2,150/person

(1) Cast & Blast Week: \$5,950/Person, Available Sept 03-10, 2008 only; morning & evening duck hunts with fishing during the day. Overnight camping trips upon request.

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 license, King Salmon tag (if applicable), or staff tips.