

OFFC Alaska Fishing Trips – 2016

Hosted by Dick Lange and Joe Kristof

This year, Joe and I are planning on floating two rivers this year. We have captured a summary description of the rivers and their fishing opportunities by different books and articles that we have found that adequately describe the rivers. We are doing this so that you have the opportunity to learn more about the rivers, and determine if you want to fish that river. We have floated the Arolik river, and have read quite a lot about the Goodnews, and feel that it is a very easy river to float, and fish.... We have tried to set up trips that we feel will give you the best fishing opportunities. Last year, we floated the Arolik and the Kwethluk. The previous years we have floated the Alagnak and the Kaneektok. We feel all the rivers are some of the very best Alaska has to offer. We have tried to set them up for specific fishing:

Arolik – for their huge grayling abundant rainbows, and it's at the peak of the Kings run.

Goodnews – for its great rainbow and silver fishing.

After you read the articles on the rivers, think about the type of fishing that you would like to do in Alaska, and then pick a river and see if you can float those dates offered. As in the past, you have to be a member of the Overlake Fly Fishing Club, which is easy to join, and its membership fee is reasonable, and if you do not live in the area, you can become an associate member, at a much reduced price. My intent is for you to join one of the best, most active and friendliest clubs in Seattle.

Alaska Fishing by Limeres and Pederson - *The Arolik River*

The following paragraphs were taken from Rene Limeres and Gunnar Pederson's book, Alaska Fishing, and Karen Jettmar's book, The Alaska River Guide. These two books are a wealth of knowledge, since they both hold two to three page articles on many of Alaska's rivers. Another excellent book is Dan Heiner's Alaska's Wild Rivers. It really describes how to fly fish Alaska, and has a great section on recommended fly patterns, and how to fish them.

The Arolik receives just a fraction of the attention lavished on the more glamorous streams surrounding it, the Kaneektok and Goodnews. Shorter than its neighbors, the Arolik flows north and west for about 45 miles from headwaters above the Goodnews, with two main forks and numerous smaller tributaries. It braids heavily and splits into separate mounts before emptying into Kuskokwim Bay about five miles south of the village of Quinhagak.

With abundant rainbows, char, grayling and salmon, fishing on the Arolik is every bit as good as that on the Kaneektok and Goodnews; in fact, the trout fishing is even better because the river doesn't get hit as hard as the other two. Arolik Lake is noted for having some of the better lake trout fishing in the region. The catch is that the Arolik is not a cakewalk river float like the others. The upper river is rocky and shallow in spots, especially below the lake, and during low water times, floating may be difficult, if not impossible. You can float early in the season and take your chances, using a lightly equipped raft, inflatable, canoe or kayak. Or you can try to put in by wheel plane at an old mining strip on Snow Gulch, about ten miles below the junction of the east and south forks and skip those shallow stretches altogether.

Alaska West Guide Service- *The Arolik River*

At [Alaska West](#) we have the incredible opportunity to host a handful of guests each day on the [Arolik River](#) – a pristine, totally undeveloped river a few miles from our camp that was tailor made for [rainbow trout](#) fishing.

Arolik rainbows are like no others. Here's why we love 'em.

1. **Each one is different.** Rainbows in the Arolik get really old. We've been told by [ADF&G](#) that the average 27" rainbow in the Arolik – and there are quite a few – is between 10 and 12 years old. Just like your grandpa, they get some very distinct looks as they age. One's got a giant kype, one's peachy colored, one's got thick shoulders, one's got uncountable spots. Part of the thrill of hooking these fish is that you never know who you've hooked until they get up close.
2. **They love eating mice.** Fishing [mouse flies for rainbow trout](#) is just about as fun as it gets. The flies are huge, the takes are...let's just say 'noticeable'...and the fish come from a long ways away for those mega-doses of calories. Much of the Arolik is lined with grassy banks, and that makes for lots of opportunity for little furry mammals to fall into the river, and that means Arolik River rainbow trout love eating mouse flies.
3. **They're not that predictable.** As productive a fishery as the Arolik is, its rainbow trout take some figuring out. If you just strolled up to the Arolik knowing how awesome it is and expected to catch a bunch of fish...yeah, it might be a little tough. We've spent many years learning the ways of rainbow trout in the Arolik and we continue to be surprised about what they want to eat and when...and that's part of the joy in it.
4. **Two-handers are perfect.** We're not shy about the fact that we love [spey casting](#) and two-handed rods. We think the Arolik is just about the best place ever to fish flies for rainbows with a lightweight spey rod or a switch rod. Swinging sculpins, stripping smolts, bouncing mice off the far banks...it all works, and it works real good.
5. **You can see 'em!** For the majority of the season, the water in the Arolik is really, really clear. Spotting individual fish is not a problem. Recognizing which species you're looking at – pretty straightforward. Deciding whether to cast to the 21" fish with 7 spots on its left cheek or the 22" with with 6? Maybe a tiny bit of a stretch, but not by much. Regardless, fishing water as clear as what's in the Arolik is an amazing opportunity to watch a fish holding in the current, see your fly land, watch the fish move to your fly, watch your fly go into the fish's mouth...you get the picture.

Can you tell that we love Arolik River rainbows?



Papa Bear Adventures - *The Goodnews River*

The Goodnews River flows southwest from Goodnews Lake down the Goodnews Valley. The upper portion of the river has a slow current, increasing in the middle section with no real obstructions along the route. The scenery, fishing, hiking and camping opportunities throughout the float are fantastic. Most of the shoreline is open tundra with some stands of willows and cottonwoods along the route. The lower 5 to 10 miles has a strong tidal influence which is why a boat pickup is recommended to get through this section back to the Village of Goodnews.

The Goodnews River offers excellent seasonal opportunities for Salmon, Dolly Varden, Grayling and Rainbow fishing. The fishing begins each year in mid June with the King Salmon run and culminates each year in mid September with the Rainbow fishing reaching its peak and the end of the Silver Salmon run.

Drop Off: Float Plane from Bethel to Goodnews Lake.

Length: Approximately 60 river miles.

Float Duration: Minimum 6 days. Most go for 7-10 days.

Topo Maps: We do not provide maps. Maps can be purchased through the U.S. Geological Survey office nearest you or in Anchorage by calling, 1-888-275-8747 (in Alaska) or 1-907-786-7011 (outside of Alaska). The following are the map sheets required for the Goodnews River float: Goodnews Bay A-6, A-7, A-8, B-5, B-6, B-7 and C-5.

Pickup: Due to the strong tidal influence the last 5 miles of the river, floaters are picked up by boat and towed to the airstrip in the village of Goodnews. The floaters are then picked up by wheeled aircraft and flown back to Bethel.

Cost: Round trip Air charter \$1375 per person + \$71 fuel surcharge per flight
This price includes drop-off flight from Bethel to Goodnews Lake and pick-up flight from village of Goodnews back to Bethel
Boat Pickup from mouth of Goodnews River to Goodnews Bay Village - \$95 per person

Goodnews River Salmon Timing

Salmon Species	Lower River	Mid-Upper River	Comments
King (Chinook)	Mid June	July	
Dog (Chum)	July	Mid to Late July	
Red (Sockeye)	Late June	Mid to Late July	
Pink (Humpy)	Late July	August	Even Year Return

Brightwater Alaska Guide Service - *The Goodnews River*

The Goodnews flows clear and free for 55 miles out of the Ahklun Mountains and into the Bering Sea. The river is surrounded by rolling tundra with the mountains close at hand and lending a stunning backdrop to the beauty of the river itself. This is a world class fishery for salmon, rainbow trout, char and grayling.

You will get to experience the river from top to bottom. The upper river is entirely within the Wilderness portion of the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. We will start at the headwaters lake and float through the sinuous upriver section. On day three we descend through a scenic canyon to the middle and lower sections. Tributaries enter on a regular basis as we progress downriver, but it never gets or feels anything like big water, remaining wadable with excellent fishing from the skinny headwaters to the braided lower river.

The physical beauty of the Goodnews is more than matched by the quality of its fishery. Rainbow trout, dolly varden, lake trout, arctic grayling and all five species of Pacific salmon are found in impressive numbers in its waters. Simply put, I know of no river in Alaska that fishes better than the Goodnews. If you want the fishing trip of a lifetime, this should be your first choice. The fish numbers and the scenery are simply incredible.

I offer six different trips on the Goodnews that span the spectrum of Alaska's best summer fishing. It all starts with early rainbows and grayling, then adds the first of the seasonal salmon runs to the mix, shifts to the fantastic, frenetic fishing for resident fish once these salmon start to spawn and finishes with the silver salmon run and last of the season's resident species fishing. Six separate trips and six different experiences centered around large, wild fish and set in the vast wilderness and stunning scenery of back country Alaska.

Alaska Rainbow Adventures - *The Goodnews River*

The sound of the float plane fades in the distance and quiet surrounds you. Your senses take in the spectacular scenery, crystal clear waters and crisp clean air. Then it happens, you realize just how far from cities, roads, crowds and cell phones, you are. A smile appears on your face and you think to yourself .. "this is truly an incredible place" to be!



Taking a self-contained float trip down one of Alaska's wilderness rivers in itself is a remarkable experience, taking one down a river having the reputation for what may be one of the finest float fishing trips in the world is truly a trip of a lifetime, especially when traveling on an Goodnews river float trip. The Goodnews River is located in southwestern Alaska, and flows within the boundaries of the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and the upper portion is within the Togiak Refuge Wilderness area. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service regulates commercial float trips on the river and the special use permit awarded to Alaska Rainbow Adventures allow us to offer you float trips during the prime fishing dates for a Goodnews river float fishing trip. Be it to pursue the mighty Chinook or King Salmon in midsummer, Silver Salmon in the fall or the truly beautiful leopard rainbows found here in excellent numbers all season, an Goodnews River Float Trip with Alaska Rainbow Adventures delivers!

Flowing out of the Ahklun mountains some fifty five miles from where it empties into Kuskokwim Bay near the Alaska Native village of Goodnews Bay. The Goodnews River actually consists of several forks, the South, Middle and North forks, the latter two offering access for our float trips and can be considered as different waters as they join up within a just few miles of the ocean. Our permits allow us to operate trips on either the North or Middle forks both of which are intimate in size and It is here amongst moderately braided channels, deep holes and fast moving waters we will find some of the best fishing available in Alaska and where we will focus the majority of our angling efforts while floating, wading and fishing the Goodnews river.

Goodnews Salmon Run Timing		
Salmon Species	Lower River	Mid and Upper River
Chinook (King)	Late June	July
Chum (Dog)	July	Mid to late July
Sockeye (Red)	July	Mid to late July
Pink (Humpies)	Late July	August (even years)
Coho (Silvers)	August	Mid August -September

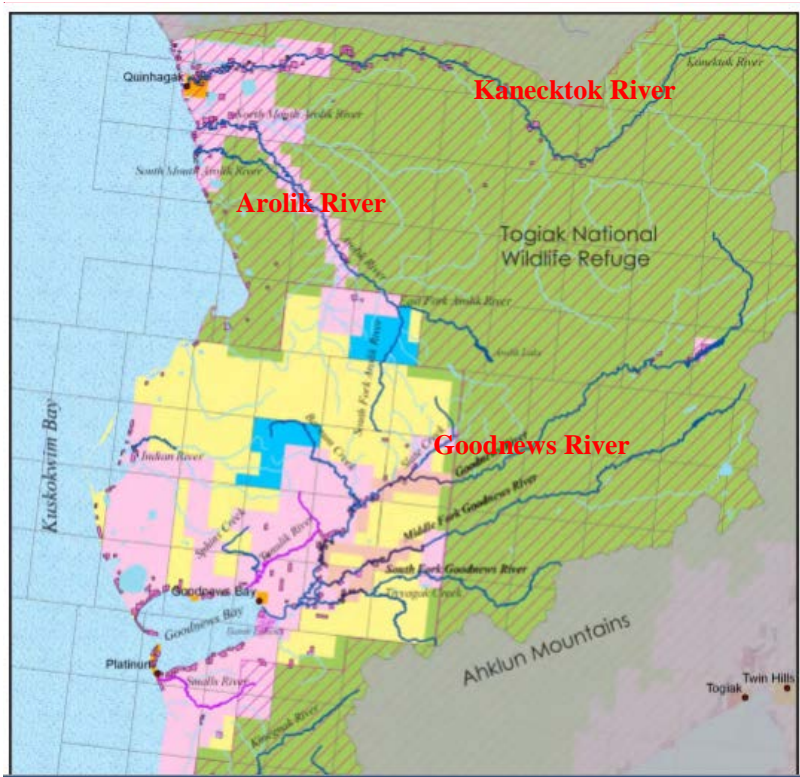
Beginning with our trips in late June into mid July you can expect to find rainbow trout, lake trout, arctic grayling, fresh king, chum and sockeye salmon. Towards the end of July and into early August there are rainbow trout, sea run dolly varden, lake trout, arctic grayling, spawning king, chum & sockeye salmon as well as an all time angler favorite, fresh silver salmon making this an excellent time to try for a 'salmon slam' of all five species of pacific salmon. The end of August you have exceptional dolly varden angling, lake trout, arctic grayling, along with those fresh silvers and bows then into September you get fall colors and the Rainbow fishing reaching its peak and the end of the Silver Salmon run.

So here is the deal...

Here are the dates that I have selected and offering to club members. If you are interested, please let me know ASAP. You are probably wondering how much a trip will cost. Before I estimate the cost, let me say that the biggest part of the cost is the transportation method I use to get us into and back from the river. In some cases, it's a float plane In and Out, others it's a float plan In and a 24 foot power boat ride

Out. Others it's a float plane In and a car/trailer shuttle back Out to the originating airport. I will make this promise to you – I will do my best to keep the cost down to what I expect the cost to come in as, and in all cases, it will not exceed the cost that I estimate. I will pay my own way, and I will pay for any cost that exceeds what I estimate. I have one condition for you to follow. Weight is how the float planes are billed, so I need to make sure I keep the weight costs down; that means I need everyone to bring the bare essentials in the way of clothes and equipment. I supply the tents, you need to supply your air mattress and sleeping bag. I ask everyone to bring 70 pounds of clothes, sleeping bag and equipment. Last year, we had too much weight for two float planes and had to add a third plane to get us into the lake. That added \$700 to the overall cost of the trip.

Arolik	June 14 - June 25	Filled	\$2400	Booked Full
Arolik	June 25 - July 5		\$2400	
Goodnews	Aug 24 – Sept 5		\$2400	Two So Far



Commented [RL1]:

Commented [RL2R1]:

If you would like to join us this year, or just want more information, please contact me at (425) 481-3063 or better yet, send me an email at Richard_Lange@outlook.com

Many Thanks.....

Dick Lange