



Austin Fly Fishers

A member club of the
International Federation of Fly Fishers
October 2015
Volume 17, Issue 10



Club Meeting
Thursday, October 15
Northwest Recreation Center
6:00 Fly Tying Demos
6:00 Casting Clinic
7:00 Pat Vanek will be making a presentation on fish-
ing the Lower Brazos River

Jim Robinson with silver salmon caught
during his trip to Alaska

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President's Message by Jim Gray

This has been a very strange fishing year for me. I've fished much less than I normally do, and what fishing I have done has been outside of Texas. I've only fished local water a hand full of times, compared to 4 Florida trips, a week of trout in North Carolina and a few days in Oregon. It's not that I don't love to fish here, it's just been a perfect storm of spring floods, summer drought, red tide, algae blooms, work travel and family obligations. I'm hoping to reverse this trend over the next few months, starting this weekend. I'll be going to Junction for Oktoberfest on Friday. I'll be helping with some of the conservation programs, and hope to spend at least a few hours on the water. Our friends with the Fredericksburg Fly Fishers put on this event, with the help of other clubs and TPWD. I've never fished this stretch of the Llano, and I'm really looking forward to it. At the same time, our club is hosting a trip to South Padre. You can find information on both outings on our website.

The poor conditions that kept me from fishing also caused the cancellation of two popular club outings. Flooding and algae blooms made a float down the Colorado River impossible, and high summer temperatures kept us off the Llano. I think it's time to reschedule those events. I'll work with our Outings Officer to get them back on the calendar. We also have the Broken Bow trip scheduled for Nov 13 - 15. Matt Bennett will be leading us, and it should be very productive at this time of year.

It's time to start thinking about AFF elections. My 2 year term as president expires at the end of the year, and we have a few other openings that need to be filled. After many years of service, Carroll Hall will be stepping down as the Education Officer. Carroll has done a great job helping establish a strong foundation of casting education, and we owe him a huge debt of thanks. If you are interested in a more active role with the club, come talk to me before the meeting,

or send me a note. We will hold elections at the beginning of our November meeting.



Fish Kill from Red Tide South of Packery Channel

Financial Report

by Shawn Riggs

9/1/2015 - 9/30/2015

Beginning Bal. Checking \$10,192.59

Income:

Dues (AFF&FFF)	\$336.27
Auction	<u>\$210.00</u>
Total Income	\$546.27

Disbursements:

Speaker Expense	\$175.00
Mtg Refreshments	<u>\$169.67</u>
Total Disbursements	\$344.67

Net \$201.60

Ending Balance-Checking \$10,394.19

*Casting for Recovery on Hand	\$1,085.38
SKIFF Total Donations	\$22,592.94
SKIFF Total Disbursements	\$18,667.57
SKIFF Balance on Hand	\$3,925.37

Club Announcements by Matt Bennett

October Meeting

In Our monthly speaker this month will be Pat Vanek. Pat will be presenting on fly fishing opportunities on the Lower Brazos River below Lake Whitney. It is a great fishery with multiple access options -- short and long floats, as well as wade fishing opportunities. Pat will cover the area full spectrum, giving us ample advice about target species, proper tackle and flies, and where to find fish. I'm really looking forward to this presentation as I've heard how good of a fishery this is, and perhaps we'll have enough interest to take an outing up there next year.

Pat Vanek

On I started fly fishing at around age 10 or 11 with a Martin glass rod and model 62 reel from an S&H Green Stamps store. I caught my first fish on the fly, a big red breast sunfish, on Turtle Creek in Kerrville, on that rig. I still have it today.

I have been fly fishing the Brazos tail-water below Lake Whitney for over 20 years. Over those years, I've learned, mostly the hard way by spending countless hours on the water, how to successfully find and catch the bass, sunfish, and others on this river. In addition to largemouth, spotted, and smallmouth bass, there are carp, channel cats, drum, and some really big redbreast sunfish in the Brazos. I will throw a fly at all of them.

Currently when not fishing, hunting, or tying flies, (or unfortunately at work) I am at home near Crawford with my wife and 9 year old triplets (going to have to get a couple more kayaks!) I am also very active in our local fly club, The Waco Fly Fishing Club, having served as the club's past treasurer and president for 3 years.

I really enjoy sharing my knowledge of fly fishing and tying with others both on the water and off, and hope to start guiding fly fishing trips on the local rivers in Central Texas in the near future.



Tikchik Narrows Lodge

by Jim Robinson

My trip was for the first full week of September to Tikchik Narrows Lodge (www.tikchiklodge.com/). I traveled to Anchorage, AK on Sept 4 on Delta Airlines. I arrived early enough to make a quick trip to Palmer to take in the Alaska State Fair where they were judging the cabbages. This year the winner weighed 92 lbs. The biggest pumpkin came in at 975 lbs.

On Saturday Sept 5 I flew to Dillingham, AK (population about 2,500) in the Bristol Bay area of Alaska. Tikchik staff picked up the twelve clients for the week for our flight on three De Havelon Beaver float planes to the camp. This was about a 45 minute flight. We arrived around 3 pm to light snacks and refreshments. We got our fishing licenses and lodge assignments. That night we met the staff at dinner of fresh salmon.

The acting head guide made fishing and guide assignments for the following day. We then met with our assigned guide for more details about the plane and time we would be flying out in the morning. Typical plans were to depart at 9 am, returning at 5 pm. They also checked to see the type of fishing tackle we planned to use. The lodge offered all fishing tackle which I took advantage of rather than bringing my own rods.

The accommodations, meals and overall service were outstanding. Cabins had propane heaters, showers and hot water with daily maid service. Breakfast was made to order, lunch was packed to your wishes with drinks and dinners were served with wine and freshly pressed white table cloths. The camp owner dined with us every evening and encouraged everyone to share their experiences of the day.



First Silver Salmon caught on a fly



Arctic Graying caught in front of lodge.

Tikchik Lodge contined

The only draw back was the reduced fishing time due to having to fly out every day, then transferring gear to boats for limited trips to the days fishing location. That coupled with marginal weather forced us on three days to leave between 10 and 11 rather than the planned departure of 9 am. It was reported on the previous week one or two days they were never able to depart the lodge because of weather.

I fished 5 different locations, two for salmon, one for northern pike (they are native there) two days for rainbows, dolly varden, arctic grayling and one day for larger rainbows. Fish were plentiful on all days.

The trip home is long for one day which is what I did arriving Austin about 12 noon the following day. I would recommend spending an extra night in Anchorage. When we arrived Anchorage on our way home it was overcast and rainy. Before we left 6 hours later, it had cleared and we could see Denali which is 80+ miles away. Beautiful ending to a wonderful week in Alaska.

If you ever get a chance to fish Alaska, GO! I look forward to my next trip there.



22 inch rainbow –best fish of the day.



Young grizzly, we estimated one year old



Spawning sockeye

Fishing Los Cabos

by Dave Bush

Late last month, I had the opportunity to vacation in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, thanks to my travel agent daughter-in-law who shared some of her extra hotel points allowing my wife and me to spend ten days at one of Cabo's all-inclusive resorts.

Before scheduling the trip, I knew Los Cabos (Los Cabos refers to the sister cities of Cabo San Lucas and the more quaint San José del Cabo at the southern tip of the Baja peninsula) had a reputation as a top fishing destination, but didn't know much more than that. After some research, I decided to schedule two fishing trips on a 25-foot super panga out of Puerto San José near San José del Cabo, about a 40-minute drive northeast of our resort near Cabo San Lucas. I chose this launch point because it's closer to some of the more popular fishing grounds, saving time on the water.

My first trip started with highly recommended pangalero Chamie at daybreak. He spoke very little English, but with my very limited Spanish he understood that my priority was to fly fish. One look into my fly box, and he recommended a relatively small olive and white Clouser that matched the abundant sardinia baitfish that are common to the area.

The first order of business was to get some bait. Yes, even if you're flyfishing. This is one of the craziest things I've ever seen on the water. We left the marina and waited approximately a hundred yards offshore while about a half dozen smaller tiller-steer pangas with two man crews searched for bait. This is where it gets crazy. The pangaleros run up and down the shoreline, through the big breakers, zig-zagging around each other, looking for bait in the surf. When bait is spotted, the man on the bow wastes no time throwing a huge cast-net into the surf and works fast to retrieve the net so they don't get washed up on the beach. Once they have enough bait, they quickly motor out to the fishing boats and sell it by the dip-net full to the waiting fishermen. Twenty bucks and several hundred sardinias later, and we're off to the fishing grounds.



Fishing Los Cabos contined

Sea conditions were calm, so we were able to run fast to our first stop, the Inner Gordo Banks, a hump that comes up to 150 feet from canyons as deep as 4000 feet. Chamie started chumming the water with a few of the sardinias while I probed the area with a 600 grain sinking line and the sardinia-looking Clouser. Chamie wanted some bigger bait and chum, so he was soaking some sardinias with a conventional rod and reel. It was quiet while we drifted over the Gordo Banks, then the green jacks showed up. I hooked up with and landed a bunch of the several-pound aggressive jacks that Chamie eagerly kept for later use. I don't know what it was about the Clouser that they liked, but Chamie got skunked on the live sardinias.

The sun was getting higher in the sky and the bite slowed down, so it was time to head to deeper water at the Outer Gordo Banks that are 200 feet deep and known as tuna territory. We were joined by perhaps a dozen other boats in the general area, and the fishing was slow for everybody. I repeatedly sunk the Clouser with a 40# leader down to my backing and stripped it back. Nothing. Chamie wanted some action, so he was chumming with chunks of the jacks, and we also baited up a couple of conventional rigs with circle hooks and bite-size morsels of the jack meat to soak. Then zinggg.....Chamie's big 100# gear started singing. I quickly finished stripping, grabbed it and added some drag. It didn't matter, it kept singing until the line was past the 100# mono he had spooled and deep into the 100# braid backing. Then, the second conventional rod and reel spooled with 60# mono and 65# braid that I had brought also got a bite. Chamie grabbed it and held on until the mono snapped deep into the initial run.

For the next 90 minutes I battled the tuna in the stifling heat, looking for any opportunity to spend a few minutes in the shade of the panga's T-top. I was seriously beginning to think the relentless brute would outlast me when finally we got a glimpse of color. That got enough adrenaline pumping for me to finish the job, and before long Chamie was able to gaff and haul the 117-pound Yellowfin Tuna aboard the panga. Fortunately, it was time to head back to port, because I was done for the day regardless of the time.



Fishing Los Cabos contined

When we got back to port, Eric Bricton, the expat owner of Gordo Banks Pangas that scheduled my trips, wanted a picture for his website since that was the biggest tuna for the past week. Chamie apparently explained to Eric that we'd have never gotten the tuna without all the green jacks I'd caught on my flyrod, so Eric handed me my flyrod for the photo since the catch was flyrod assisted. Ha! Whatever! Then, before I knew it, they hauled the tuna away to the cleaning station, and I never got another picture without the flyrod.

Truth be told, I'm not quite sure how anyone could land a fish like that on a typical offshore flyrod. It took every bit of strength and leverage I had using a fighting belt and harness and 100# line to land that fish. I've been fortunate enough to land some decent fish in my lifetime, but nothing comes close to the strength and endurance of that tuna. There's no way my 14 weight with 40# leader would have been up to the task, but it was fun trying.

My second trip two days later turned out to be a lot of fun, too, when I landed four dorado (mahi-mahi) and four smaller "football" tuna with the flyrod. I lost the biggest dorado that Chamie estimated at 30-35 pounds when the fish went airborne for the third time and straightened the hook when I got a little too aggressive palming the reel. Not realizing why I'd lost the fish, I immediately cast to another dorado near the boat and lost it on the first jump. Figuring something was wrong, I checked my fly only to discover the problem. Of course, that's when Chamie started repeatedly yelling "Wahoo, wahoo!" while pointing off the stern as I frantically tried to tie on a new fly. I'm sure I set a personal best time tying on that new Clouser, but apparently wahoo aren't very patient because they were gone by the time I was finished. All the more reason to schedule another trip to Los Cabos some day.

So why is Los Cabos arguably the best fishing spot in the world according to some experts? Well, the warm water from the Sea of Cortez located between the Baja Peninsula and the Mexican mainland meets the Pacific at the tip of the peninsula where Los Cabos is located. Apparently Jacques Cousteau called the Sea of Cortez "the world's aquarium", so you get the picture. As do the pelagic species that migrate along the Pacific Coast.



SKIFF Program

by Bob Maindelle

Dear AFF and Friends of SKIFF,

This morning I conducted the ninth SKIFF (Soldiers' Kids Involved in Fishing Fun) trip of the 2015 season, taking Ryan Bolin and Lukus Vieira out for a multi-species fishing trip on Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir.

Ryan is the son of Sergeant First Class Timothy Flynn and Mrs. Jennifer Flynn. SFC Flynn is currently deployed to Kuwait with the 154th Transportation unit; he has served in the U.S. Army for 17 years.

Lukus is the son of Staff Sergeant Noel Vieira and Michelle Billings. SSG Vieira is currently assigned to Ft. Drum, New York; he has served in the U.S. Army for 20 years.

Both both boys showed up quite excited to go fishing this morning. After asking their moms about any allergies or medical concerns, we then got to "talk fishing". I learned that Ryan was my more experienced angler, and that Lukus had never caught a fish before in his life. So, right then and there, as a confidence booster to Lukus, we whipped out a "bream pole", baited it up, placed the float and baited hook near some aquatic vegetation and rocks growing near the shore, and came up with the first fish of his lifetime — a bluegill sunfish. The moms and Ryan cheered for Lukus — and that let me know Ryan was a team player. Lukus had earned his Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. "First Fish Award" and we hadn't even left the dock yet!!

After waving goodbye to moms, we motored out of the No Wake zone and got down to business. Over the next four hours we downrigged for white bass and we fished shallow, flooded shoreline cover for a mixed bag of species including all manner of sunfish, small largemouth bass, and blacktail shiners.

Perhaps as an indicator that both boys had watched a little too much of "Shark Week", they preferred to refer to the white bass we caught as "Great White



Bass". And, the largest of our white bass, a nice 14" specimen boated by Ryan was dubbed "The Gi-Normous Great White Bass" — a term which I understood was a cross between gigantic and enormous.

Suffice it to say that all 3 of us had fun on this trip, during which the boys managed to land a total of 38 fish. As I followed up with Lukus' mom after the trip to get his mailing address for the First Fish Award application, she informed me that, "He wants his own boat now. Lol".



I would like to support the program by sponsoring SKIFF kids. It costs \$65 to sponsor one child for a fishing trip.

To make a donation using the internet, go to <http://austinflyfishers.com/skiff.html>

or send a check payable to Austin Fly Fishers. Mail your check to Austin Fly Fishers, SKIFF Program, P.O. Box 10504, Austin, TX 78766

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The Fly Tyer's Corner

Photos and Recipe by Nils Pearson

Baha Wasabi

I came across this fly while surfing the internet looking for an offshore fly. I have had terrific luck with this fly when fishing for tuna, dorado, and bonito. It is a very easy fly to tie even for an unskilled tyer like myself.

The Baha Wasabi can be tied on hooks from 2/0 through 6/0 depending on your target. I generally use 4/0 and 5/0 hooks. This fly calls for lots of different colored buck tail. I do not use a hair stacker. I simply cut off a chunk of bucktail, pull out the shorter strands, and secure it to the hook.

As I said, I use this fly offshore and cast it toward production platforms or into bait-balls. When fishing for tuna, I

use a rapid two-handed retrieve. Just be careful to keep your flyline away from your feet because when a large predator picks it up and runs, you don't to get any of yourself caught in the line and pulled overboard.

Materials

Hook: Gamakatsu SL11-3H 2/0 to 6/0

Thread: White

Bucktail: White, chartreuse, turquoise, and gray.

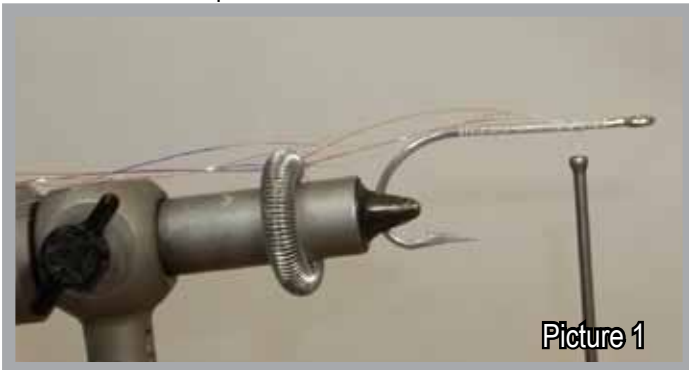
Flash: Pearl flashabou

Dorsal fin: Peacock herl

Eyes: 1/4 inch molded eyes

Clear cure or some other material to form the head

Step 1: Place your hook in your vise and tie in flashabou to the shank. Let it extend past the bend.



Step 2: Tie chartreuse bucktail over flashabou.



Step 3: Turn the hook over and tie in white bucktail.



Step 4: Flip the hook and tie in flash.



Step 5: Tie in turquoise bucktail



Step 6: Tie in more flash



Fly Tyer's Corner Continued

Step 7: Tie in gray bucktail



Step 9: Tie in flash to form lateral stripes



Step 8: Tie in white bucktail



Step 10: Tie in peacock herl



Step 11: Use some form of epoxy or clear cure to form head and attach eyes



AFF Outings Update and Calendar 2015 by Dave Bush

October 16-18, Oktoberfisch, Junction

The annual Oktoberfisch gathering sponsored by the Fredericksburg Fly Fishers is once again being held on the South Llano River near Junction. This popular event draws fly fishers from across the state. Details are available at www.fredericksburgflyfishers.com/oktoberfisch/. If you're interested in participating, please try to attend this week's club meeting so we can get you in touch with other members planning to be there.

October 17-25, South Padre Island

Our annual trek to South Texas is this next week. It's not too late to plan to attend since there are always rentals available this time of year. If you're interested, be sure to contact our host, Nils Pearson, at npearson@austin.rr.com.

As you may be aware, some parts of the Texas coast are experiencing a red tide bloom. Fortunately, many areas seem to be improving, and South Padre Island appears to be among them. While there is still some red tide in the area, there remain plenty of good areas to fish. If you do go, it's probably best to avoid Gulf beachfront lodging which is more prone to aerosols that can lead to respiratory irritation for some people. Texas Parks and Wildlife maintains a red tide status report at tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/water/environconcerns/hab/redtide/status.phtml (or google tpwd red tide status) which is worth monitoring for the latest reports.

October 30-November 1, Lower Mountain Fork River, Broken Bow, OK

Our yearly scheduled outing to Broken Bow, OK has been rescheduled to November 13 -15 due to more than a few conflicts with the original scheduled date of Halloween weekend and will be hosted by Matt Bennett. Anyone who already made plans for the original weekend will have company from Central Texas since the San Gabriel and Fredericksburg clubs will be there that weekend as far as I know.

If you've never made the trip to Broken Bow before, it's a nice trout fishery in southeastern Oklahoma, approximately 6 hours from Austin. The fall season is a great time to fish it, with the brown trout colored up and cooler daytime temperatures. Normal trout fishing gear is fine and can be done with anywhere from a 3 to a 6 weight for the vast majority of fish. We should have a nice variety of activity including some late season hoppers, BWOs, midges, and of course streamers.

If you're interested in joining this outing please contact Matt at m.bennett151@gmail.com so he can maintain a list of tentative attendees and stay in contact with you about the trip.

If you're definitely planning to attend it's a good idea to book lodging as soon as possible. Campsites are available, but unfortunately are not able to be reserved ahead of time—you just have to hope one is available when you show up (and they likely will be as it's off-season.) There are several cabin rentals in the immediate area for those of you looking for somewhere a bit nicer to stay—Hidden Hills Cabins (www.hiddenhillscabinsok.com) is a good choice, but the majority of those may be already booked. There are several hotels and motels in the area around Idabel, Beaver's Bend, and Hochatown that should have plenty of lodging still available. Matt will likely stay at the Comfort Suites in Idabel which is about a 20 minute drive from the park.

Hope you'll make plans to join us in Broken Bow—we should have a great time. Feel free to contact Matt with any questions.

Date	AFF Event	Subject/Destination	Speaker/Event Host	Status
10/15	Meeting	Lower Brazos River	Pat Vanek	Confirmed
10/16-10/18	Special	Oktoberfisch		Confirmed
10/17-10/25	Outing	South Padre Island	Nils Pearson	Confirmed
11/13-11/15	Outing	Broken Bow	Matt Bennett	Confirmed
11/19	Meeting			Confirmed
12/?	Meeting	Holiday Party		

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www.LagunaMadreOutfitters.Com

A photograph of a person in a white shirt and blue pants fishing in a shallow, grassy area. The background shows a clear blue sky and distant land.

Living Waters Fly Fishing

309 West Main Street, Suite 110
Round Rock, Texas 78664

(512) 828-FISH — Fly Shop
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Livingwatersflyfishing.com

Fly Shop

A photograph of the interior of a fly shop, showing shelves stocked with various fly fishing equipment and a person in the background.

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A photograph of a man with dark hair, wearing a white shirt, a white visor, and sunglasses, holding a large, greenish-brown fish. The background shows a body of water and trees.

Kevin Stubbs
Expedition-Outfitters.net

Phone: 210-602-9284
email: kevinstu@msn.com

A photograph of a person in a green kayak on a river, with a person standing on the bank in the background. The river is surrounded by trees and hills.

Laguna Larga lodge is located in the province of Chubut, Argentina in the middle of Los Alerces National Park.

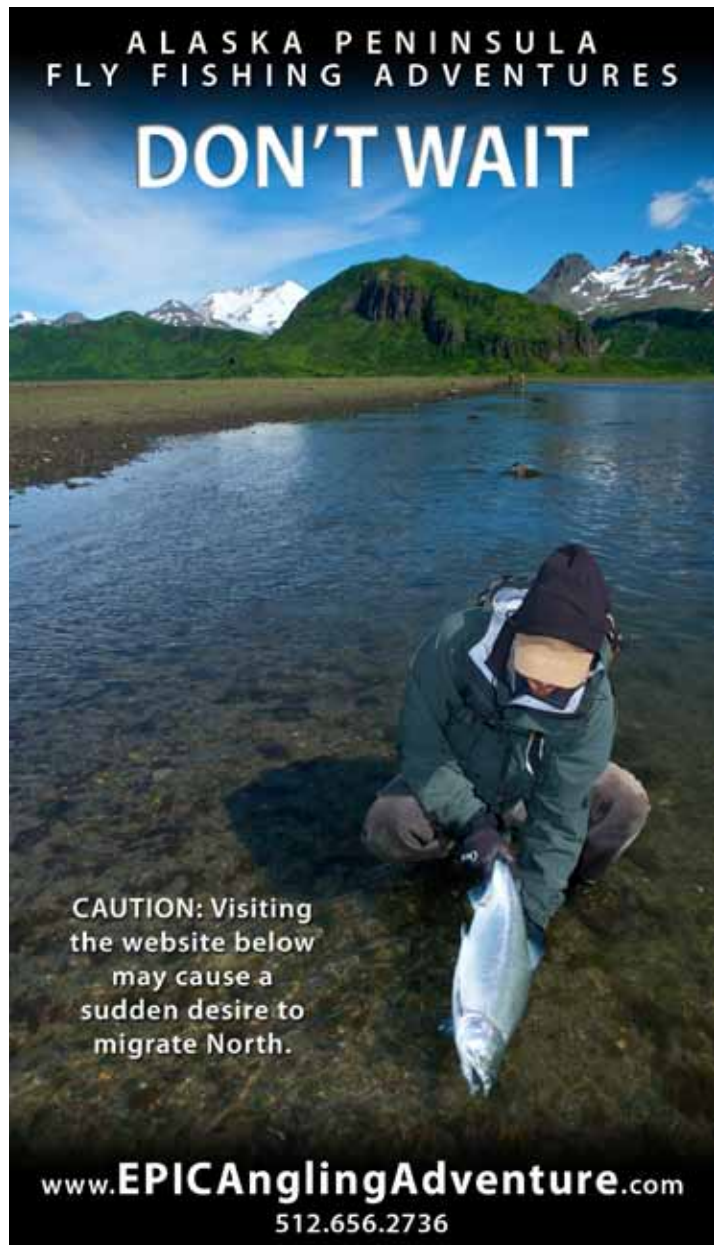
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