

# Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

November 2010

## New Puget Sound Salmon Seasons

**Area 5: July 1-August 15**, two salmon limit, release wild chinook, wild coho and chum (see closures pages 109-110).

**August 16-September 15**, Daily limit two salmon, release chinook, wild coho and chum (see closures pages 109-110).

**September 16-30**, two salmon limit, release chinook and chum (see closures pages 109-110).

**November 1-30**, two salmon limit, only one chinook.

**Area 6: July 1-August 15**, two salmon limit, release wild chinook, wild coho and chum (see closures and special rules pages 110-111).

**July 1-August 15**, two salmon limit release chinook, wild coho and chum (see closures and special rules pages 110-111).

**August 16-September 30**, two salmon limit, release chinook, wild coho and chum (see closures and special rules pages 110-111).

**October 1-31**, Two salmon limit, only one chinook (see closures and special rules pages 110-111).

**February 16-April 10**, one salmon limit (see closures and special rules pages 110-111).

**Salmon Area 7: July 1-July 13**, two salmon limit, only one may be a Chinook (see

## Next Salmon Seminar March 2011 Blackmouth Derby March 19, 2011

The next salmon seminar that I will do will be in March 2011 at Bayside Marine. The exact date will be announced in the December Newsletter.

This Seminar will cover Chinook Fishing in Puget Sound. The seminar will be in conjunction with the Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club Blackmouth Derby. Like the September salmon seminar, I will cover tackle and the latest techniques for catching Chinook. I will also have a set of fishing maps that I will display of the best areas to bag a Chinook. The derby tickets will be limited to 100 tickets just like they were at the last blackmouth derby. The tickets for the derby will be available in January. **The seminar will be open to the public.**

## Winter Chinook/Blackmouth Fishing Area 8-1, 8-2 and 9 Open November 1

Not too many years ago when October came around, the salmon season was commonly called "Winter Blackmouth". The term "Blackmouth" referred to the mouth of an immature Chinook. Obviously, their mouth is black. In the last decade terms have changed like everything else in this

world. To make things less complicated, Chinook fishing any time of year is simply, "Chinook Fishing". However, the winter season is for immature Chinook. These Chinook can be as young two year olds and as old as three years old. Two year old fish can range from just barely legal (22 where applicable) to a fish that maybe five or six pounds. A three year old Chinook can be seven to fifteen pounds. Quite often someone in the dead of winter will catch a Chinook that will weigh in excess of twenty pounds

Most likely very few of the Chinook you catch this winter are going to swim up a river and spawn by next summer. A good percentage of the legal size Chinook could likely spawn in the summer/fall of 2012 and some will spawn in the summer/fall of 2013. The bigger fish that referenced in the last paragraph could spawn as early as next summer of fall. I am sure that my percentages do not fit neatly with the like cycle of all Chinook, but it is a good snapshot of Chinook in Puget Sound during the winter months. What you get in the winter is a potpourri of different brood years of salmon.

Just because you are catching your salmon locally, this does not necessarily mean that these fish are from the Puget Sound river basins. These salmon are from many rivers systems from up and down the coast. This creates one of the many dilemmas in managing our salmon. So much said about about the lifecycle of salmon, now let's get down to fishing for Chinook in Puget Sound.

# Just Fishing



closures page 112).

**August 1-Sept 30**, two salmon limit, only one may be a Chinook, release wild Coho and chum (see closures page 112).

**October 1-31**, two salmon limit, only one may be a Chinook (see closures page 112).

**December 1-April 30**, two salmon limit, release wild Chinook (see closures page 112)

**Area 8-1: August 1-September 30**, two salmon limit, release Chinook.

**November 1-April 30**, two salmon limit, release wild Chinook.

**October 1-October 31**, daily limit two Coho in Oak Harbor Fishery (see page 115).

**Area 8-2: August 1-September 30**, two salmon limit, release Chinook.

**October 1-October 31**, special closure area in the south part of 8-2, (see page 117). Two salmon limit, release Chinook.

**November 1-April 30**, two salmon limit, release wild Chinook.

**Tulalip Bubble: June 4-June 18**, Open Friday through Monday Noon. Closed on June 19. Two salmon limit.

**June 20-September 6**, two salmon limit. Open Friday through Monday Noon.

**September 11-26**, open Saturday and Sunday, limit two salmon.

**Area 9: July 16-August 31**, two salmon limit, release wild

Area 10 opened October 1. Some of the other popular areas open November 1, for Chinook. Including Areas 8-1, 8-2 and 9.

Some of the smaller salmon we will be catching will be feeding on small herring, small squid and other types of bait that they are big enough to catch and eat. The bigger salmon can hunt down most sizes of baitfish including up to 7 inch herring. The reason we want to understand what different sizes of salmon eat is for this reason: this will help us determine what size of spoon, squid or plug to use. If you want to target larger winter Chinook, just use 6 inch plugs. Plugs will normally deter smaller salmon from chasing down a bait that is too large to deal with. This is a good tactic when sub 22 inch salmon are plentiful. If you want to catch most any salmon that swims, use artificial squid or 3.5 inch spoons. Large spoons and plugs are very beneficial to use when an intense shaker (sub 22" Chinook) bite is on. It can be very frustrating when you cannot get any quality fishing time in because the shakers are occupying the majority of your time on the water. Besides, the likelihood of killing these small salmon increases with every one that you catch. On the other hand, if there are very few 6-10 pound Chinook around plugs will not be very effective for targeting the salmon that are available. You can see the balancing act that you have to play with selecting lures that match the size of fish that are available.

Plugs were very popular this summer for mature Chinook on Possession Bar and elsewhere. They were so popular that I had trouble stocking the shelves with

an adequate supply of plugs, Imagine that in this economy? Plugs went from my Dad and Grandpa used them years ago, to, "Can I reserve one in your next order"?

The hot plugs this summer were 5 inch Tomic Plugs #602 and #603. Before you pop the champagne cork thinking you found the ultimate lure, think again. You can use plugs in October and November but you have to scale down to 4 inch plugs in the same color patterns. This is because the fish are smaller thus feeding on smaller bait.

Spoons have been very popular past few years. Spoons are not a recent phenomena. We used spoons extensively was a teenager (many years ago). Martin tackle made both plastic spoons and metal spoons. The plastic spoons were Martin White Magic Spoons and Martin Red Magic Spoons. The metal spoons were called Martin Candlefish Spoons. Most of the Candlefish spoons had a white Polar Bear fly tied to the hook. These spoons looked almost identical to the Goldstar Coho Killer spoons that we use today. There were many more spoons made by different manufactures. Spoon went away for a while as a popular lure to use for salmon fishing. Today, they are back with a vengeance. The most popular spoons are made by Silver Horde/Goldstar in Lynwood, WA. That's right, something that is still made in America! The explosion of spoon fishing for salmon has manifested itself by the really cool colors that are available. Basically, the same thing that happened when glow in the dark plastic squid hit the market. That

# Just Fishing



Chinook (see closure area page 111).

**September 1-30**, two salmon limit, release Chinook and chum.

**October 1-31**, two salmon limit, release Chinook (see closure area).

**November 1-30**, two salmon limit, release wild Chinook (see closure area)

**January 16-April 15**, two salmon limit, release wild Chinook (see closure area)

**Area 10: June 1-30**, Catch and release, (see open area on page 121).

**July 1-15**, two salmon limit, release Chinook (see closure area).

**July 2-August 8**, Elliot Bay special fishery. Open Friday through Sunday. Two salmon limit. (See special rules on page 120).

**July 16-August 31**, two salmon limit, release wild Chinook (see closure area and additional rules page 121). August 1, release Chum.

**September 1-30**, two salmon limit, release wild Chinook (see closure area). Release Chum through September 15.

**October 1-January 31**, two salmon limit, release wild Chinook (see closure area page 120).

**Area 11: June 1-September 30**, two salmon limit, release wild Chinook (see closures page 122).

**October 1-31**, two salmon limit.

**November 1-December 31**, two salmon limit, only one Chinook.

**February 1-April 30**, two

was the demise of spoon fishing years back. Now we enjoy spoons that glow, spoons that are painted with UV (ultra violet) paint and spoons that flat out put fish in the boat.

The Goldstar Kingfisher spoon 3.5 has taken over as the #1 salmon lure. One of my favorite sayings about salmon tackle, “anglers vote with their pocketbook” when it comes to the popularity of a particular thing to use while salmon fishing. The best selling spoon this summer was the Kingfisher 3.5, color “Cookies and Cream”. Number two was Coho Killer, color “White Lightning”. Both these spoons are top picks for winter Chinook fishing. I would also include Kingfisher 3.5, color “white Lightning” and “Red Racer”. The Red Racer color of all spoons is the all time best seller over a long period of time. I still do most of my Chinook fishing with the Red Racer color of spoon.

I want to address UV (ultra violet), whether it be salmon lures or flashers. UV is here to stay. I honestly believe that UV is truly a new addition to salmon tackle that actually makes the lures, flashers, plugs and everything else more effective. Trust me, it takes a lot of convincing for me to say that something new is a game changer. I have seen all the gimmicks. I have spent untold dollars on the next best thing to catch salmon. Today, I don't bite until the results are in. I tell my sales people, “Don't try and sell me something new unless you have the data to back it up.” UV flashers and UV spoons are a must in the tackle box. If you don't want to purchase new flashers and spoons, you can purchase bait oils with UV added.

There are also clear gels and oils to add to your fishing tackle that effectively makes everything you fish with UV. The downside to the liquids and gels is they wear off rather quickly and you have to apply them often. There are two ways that manufacture add UV to their spoons: Clear coat UV paint or by adding a plastic UV tape to the spoon. Look for the UV sticker on the package.

The #1 selling UV flasher is the 11” Hot Spot, color Purple Haze. QCove Tackle also makes a complete line of UV flashers are gaining quickly in popularity. Still the #1 one overall selling flasher is the 11” Hot Spot, color Red Racer. Spoons that are UV that salmon anglers like are: Goldstar Kingfisher spoons, white lightning, Cookies and Cream and Irish Cream. These same UV colors are available in Goldstar Coho Killers.

Another great UV salmon lure is the Goldstar Ace Hi Fly. Some anglers use the Ace Hi Fly behind a flasher by itself. However, the most effective idea is to use the Ace Hi Fly as an insert inside a plastic squid. Make sure the Ace Hi Fly has the UV sticker on the package before purchasing it.

Now that Coho season is wrapping up, it is time to re-tie your salmon tackle. If you are using spoons or squid, lengthen leader out to 42”. In either case use 30lb test leader material. If you are using plugs, you do not need a leader. Just tie the plug onto the end of your fishing line.

Is also time to slow your trolling speed down just notch. Decrease your speed down to 2.5mph for



salmon limit, release wild Chinook (See Closure page 122).

## Crab

**In Marine Areas: Part of Area 4, Areas 5 and 13:** crabbing opens June 18. Crabbing is open seven days a week. These Areas stay open through January 2, 2011.

**In Marine Areas 6, 8-1, 8-2, 9, 10, 11 and 12:** crabbing opens on July 1 at 7AM. Crabbing is open Wednesday through Saturday. These Areas stay open through September 6. Open Wednesday through Saturday.

**Marine Area 7:** is divided up into three Areas. **Marine Area 7 South and East,** opens for crab on July 14, at 7AM. This Area stays open through September 30. Open Wednesday through Saturday.

**Marine Area 7 North:** opens for crab August 14, at 7AM. This Area stays opens through September 30. Open Wednesday through Saturday.

If you find any mistakes in the seasons that I have stated please call John Martinis immediately: 425-259-3056

said in the past when I am helping salmon anglers improve their catch, "The main reason Chinook anglers are not catching fish: it is because they are trolling to slow." Keep your speed between 2.5 and 3.0mph. Downrigger cable angle has precedence over speed. Keep the angle at a 45 degree angle. If you are losing ground (trolling backwards), speed up. Sometimes you have to break all the rules and troll faster when the water current is flowing faster than usual. This is very common in the winter when the local rivers are dumping an enormous amount of water into Puget Sound. Puget Sound is like filling up a bath tub with water. When you want to let the water out, it has to go somewhere. Have you noticed in the winter that the direction of the current in Puget Sound never changes direction throughout the day when the rivers are high from rain and snow melt?

*[Pilot Point Map Click Here](#)*

## Fishing South Padre Island

I went on a fishing trip to South Padre island, Texas in the last week of September with my friend Larry McGruder. Like many fisheries that I have not had any experience with, I literally did not know what to expect. I have seen pictures of Red Fish, Snook and Sea trout in fishing magazines, but it was always something that they did somewhere else.

After lots of coaxing from Larry, I put Red Fish at the top of my list of things to do. Besides the weather is 85 degrees at South Padre Island in September. After experiencing the wet summer and fall that we all

have in Washington, I was ready to pack my bags and head to a warmer, drier climate. A \$238 round trip ticket to Houston, Texas made the trip even more palatable. We hooked up with a guide by the name of Skipper Ray. Skipper (his first name) has a small bait and tackle shop right on bay at South Padre Island. It is truly a very folksy shop with tables for anglers to sit around and swap fish tales and the catch of the day.

This is not fishing like we know it. Completely different! Most of the fishing is done in a 2-5 feet of water. Most of the time we fished in water that would not make it to the fifth guide from the tip on most fishing rods.

The fishing is done primarily with 1/8oz jigs and 6 foot light action fishing rods. The method of fishing resembles hunting. We were on the move quite often looking for bait that would be holding Red Fish (Red's) and Sea Trout. Most often the fishing is done by what is called site fishing, whereby you cast to a fish that you see. When I was there the water had some turbidity to it reducing the visibility. Most of the time we were casting blind. This actually worked rather well. We would cast as far as we could then retrieve the jig back toward the boat. Red's pick up the jig by inhaling the jig.

Fishing for Sea Trout was extra exciting. This is done in the early morning with top water plugs. We chucked the plugs as far as we could and did what is called "walk the dog" with four inch plugs. The trout would come up and suck these four inch plugs right off the surface of the water. Every strike would make my heart skip a beat.

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