

# Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

August 2011

## New Puget Sound Salmon Seasons

### Area 5:

**July 1-August 15:** Daily Limit, two salmon, plus two additional Pinks. Release wild chinook, wild Coho and Chum.

See closure Area

**August 16-Sept 18:** Daily Limit, two salmon, plus two additional Pinks. Release Chinook, wild Coho and Chum

See closure Area

**Sept 19-Sept 30:** Daily limit two salmon, release chinook and chum

**Nov. 1-Nov. 30:** Daily limit two salmon, only one may be a chinook.

**Feb. 16-April 10:** Daily limit one salmon.

### Area 6:

#### Selective Fishery Area

**July 1-August 15:** Daily Limit, two salmon, plus two additional Pinks. Release wild chinook, wild coho and chum.

See closures

#### Chinook Release Area

**July 1-Aug 15:** Daily limit two salmon plus two additional Pinks. Release Chinook, wild Coho and Chum

#### Entire Area

**August 16-Sept 18:** Daily Limit, two salmon, plus two additional Pinks. Release Chinook, wild Coho and Chum. See Closures

## John's Sporting Goods Online Store

[Click Here](#)

If you are a Saltwater Angler looking for some specialty tackle, John's Sporting Goods Online Store is the perfect place to shop. Over 2,000 items to choose from. We specialize in Salmon, Halibut, Rockfish, Crab and Shrimp gear. Most of the fishing tackle ships for free no matter if it is one item or several items. All orders ship out in less than 24 hours.

## Salmon Seminars September 2011 By John Martinis

### "High Percentage Coho Fishing"

I will be giving my Coho Seminar at two locations this year. Once at the Sno-King Chapter of Puget Sound Anglers and at Bayside Marine in conjunction with the Everett Steelhead and Salmon Clubs Everett Coho Derby. The public is invited to both seminars. There is no charge for either seminar. Spend an hour with John Martinis discussing the how to be a successful Coho Angler.

The Coho Seminar at Bayside Marine is a repeat of the big seminar that I put on last year. We will have a raffle for a Scotty Downrigger, Shrimp Pot Puller and some other fishing tackle at the conclusion of this seminar.

**September 8 @ 6:30 PM  
Coho Seminar  
Puget Sound Anglers  
Sno-King Chapter**

**SOUTH COUNTY SENIOR CENTER**  
on the Edmonds Waterfront  
220 Railroad Ave  
Edmonds, WA 98020  
[Click here for Map](#)

**September 23 @ 7:00 PM  
This is the Big One  
Coho Seminar at Bayside Marine**  
1111 Craftsman Way  
Everett, WA 98201  
[Click Here for Map](#)

**Fishing Derby's**  
September 10, 2011 Edmonds PSA  
Coho Derby  
September 17 Lions Club Derby for  
the Blind  
September 24 Everett Coho Derby

John's Sporting Goods gives back to the community by contributing to many fishing derbies. Most notably I purchase the fishing licenses for the Everett Blind Derby participants and contribute a cash prize for first prize. I also contribute the bait, tackle and some of the prizes for Jennings Park Kids fishing derby. The rest of the derby's that I contribute to is a long list. Thank you for supporting me at my store, I am glad to help most fishing derby's that are open to the public.

## Think Pink August Humpy Fishing Promises to be Spectacular

In July I was fishing the Northwest end of Vancouver Island for Chinook, Halibut and Ling Cod. As you know

# Just Fishing



**Oct 1-Oct 31:** Daily limit two salmon, only one chinook.. See closures

**Feb. 16-April 30:** Daily limit one salmon. See closures

## Salmon Area 7:

**July 1-July 31:** Daily limit two salmon plus two additional Pinks, only one chinook. See boundaries and closures.

**Aug. 1-Sept 30:** Daily limit two salmon plus two additional Pinks, only one chinook. Release wild Coho. See boundaries and closures.

**Oct. 1-Oct 31:** Daily limit two salmon, only one chinook, release wild coho. See boundaries and closures.

**Dec. 1-April 30:** Daily limit two salmon, release wild chinook. See boundaries and closures.

## Area 8-1:

**Aug 1-Sept. 30:** Daily limit two salmon plus two additional Pinks, release all chinook.

**Oct. 1-Oct 31:** Daily limit two salmon, release chinook.

**Nov. 1-April 30:** Daily limit two salmon, release wild chinook.

## Area 8-2:

**Aug 1-Sept. 30:** Daily limit two salmon plus two additional Pinks, release all chinook. See closures

**Oct. 1-Oct. 31:** Daily limit two salmon, release all chinook. See closures

**Nov. 1-April 30:** Daily limit two salmon, release wild chinook.

## Tulalip Terminal Fishery:

when you are fishing salmon, many times you do not have a choice on what specie of salmon gets on your line. When too many salmon get on the line: This is not a situation we are accustomed to here in Puget Sound. Yes, it still happens and they are swimming in this direction. While I was fishing Chinook, the Pink Salmon were terrorizing my tackle. Not only were they numerous, they were also much larger than usual. The Pinks (Humpy's) were already 5lbs. They should put on a couple more pounds by the time they arrive in Puget Sound. Yes, I like catching Pink Salmon but not 40 a day while I am fishing for Chinook.

If all the barometers of Pink Fishing hold true, Puget Sound will have a banner year of fishing. Even though the run size is not quite as large as 2009, there will be so many fish that you will not be able to tell the difference. Get ready!

Pink Salmon fishing has evolved slightly over the years. Let's start out by looking at how Pink Salmon tackle has evolved over the past 50 years. 50 years ago you would never see a downrigger on a recreational fishing boat. Fishing for Pinks was exclusively done with red 6-8oz lead sinkers. In those days the gear of choice was a #0 white Les Davis Herring Dodger. The dodger was rigged with a steel leader that a herring was threaded onto. It was necessary to have a herring threader in every tackle box. Les Davis recently quit manufacturing white herring dodgers.

About 25 years ago, the herring was replaced with a small pink plastic squid. The dodger was still very popular to use.

A few years later John Martinis Sr discovered that a white Hot Spot Flasher worked much better than a Herring Dodger. Today, we still use the Hot Spot flasher with a small Pink Squid.

Now that we are talking about tackle, let's

get into the fine points of rigging for Pink Salmon. You need to have a white 11" Hot Spot flasher or any imitation of the Hot Spot. I sell an 11" flasher made by Gibbs tackle that is \$5 cheaper than a Hot Spot and it is exactly the same thing ([click here to see flasher](#)). You also need Pink Squid: 2.0 F15 Hot Pink Mini Sardine ([click here to see](#)).

The rigging for Pink Salmon does not follow my general rule for rigging flashers with a heavy leader. You can get buy with tying a single red 2/0 hook with 20lb test leader. The leader needs to be 16" long when it is tied on to the flasher.

This is how the leader is rigged before you tie it to the flasher: Thread a small red bead or a roller bead ([click here to see](#)) on to the leader until it rests against the eye of the hook. Next, thread the squid down the leader. The bead will end up inside the squid. To see an illustrated diagram ([click here to see](#)). As you can see the rig is quite simple.

If you do not have a downrigger or you want to put an extra line out the back of the boat, do this: Rig the flasher with a 6-8oz mooching sinker. Tie a piece of 20lb line 30" long between the sinker and the flasher. This method actually works quite well because of the slow trolling speed required to catch Pink Salmon.

If you are downrigger fishing, simply tie the flasher on the end of the fishing line. Don't use any lead weight when using a flasher with a downrigger.

Trolling for Pink Salmon is much different than trolling for either Coho or Chinook. In fact it is just the opposite. To catch Pink salmon, you must troll slowly. 1.5 mph is the ideal trolling speed. You will also find that Pinks will only bite when you are trolling in one direction. Once you find what direction you need to be trolling, it is more effective to pull all your gear up and run back to the spot you

# Just Fishing



**Tulalip Bubble: June 3-June 18,** Open Friday through Monday Noon. Closed on June 19. Two salmon limit, plus two additional Pinks.

**June 20-September 5,** two salmon limit, plus two additional Pinks. Open Friday through Monday Noon.

**September 10-25,** open Saturday and Sunday, limit two salmon, plus two additional Pinks.

**Closed June 19**

## Area 9:

**July 16-Aug. 31:** Daily limit two salmon, plus two additional Pinks. Release wild Chinook and Chum. See closures

**Sept. 1-Sept 30:** Daily limit two salmon, plus two additional Pinks.. Release Chinook and Chum.

**Oct. 1-Oct 31:** Daily limit two salmon, release chinook

**Nov. 1-Nov 30:** Daily limit two salmon, release wild chinook.

**Jan. 16-April 15:** Daily limit two salmon, release wild chinook.

## Area 10:

**June 1-June 30:** Catch and release only. See closures

**July 1-July 15:** Daily limit two salmon, plus two additional Pinks. Release Chinook. See closures

**July 16-Aug. 31:** Daily limit two salmon, plus two additional Pinks. Release wild chinook. See closures

**Sept. 1-Sept. 30:** Daily limit two salmon, plus two additional Pinks. Release Chinook. See closures

**Oct. 1-Jan. 31:** Daily limit two salmon, release wild

started catching fish at and troll in that same direction again.

Pinks can be found at a variety of depths. This is a lot less complicated than fishing for Chinook. You do not have to fish near the bottom or near any structure. Pinks are a mid-water fish. You will usually find them suspended in water that is over 250 feet deep or more. At first light in the morning, you can find Pinks roaming the surface or at 20-30 feet deep. Once you find the larger schools of fish, try to stay with them by repeatedly going back to the area that you saw them at on your fish finder. By 8 am or 9am the fish will be at 60 feet and by 10 or 11am you can find them as deep as 90 feet.

Most of the Pink salmon come down the northern shorelines of Admiralty Inlet Picture this: The first place they show up in great numbers is Bush Point and then they enter Mutiny Bay. They leave Mutiny Bay and start staging at Indian Point. Indian point is on the East side of Useless Bay. This is where anglers from boats get their first good shot at catching Pinks ([See Map](#)). From Indian Point the fish round the corner of Possession Point and start schooling up in an area we call Humpy Hollow ([See Map](#)). Humpy Hollow can be described as the area from Mukilteo to the Shipwreck. One of the best tips that I have given anglers over the years, is to fish right down the center of the channel between the mainland and Whidbey Island. This is by far the best place to fish for Pinks. Don't worry about the other boats that are closer to shore. Don't get sucked into thinking that those anglers closer to shore know what they are doing. The best fishing is always out in the middle.

When the Pinks first enter Humpy Hollow they will be closer to the Shipwreck end of Humpy Hollow. Many times I have done very well fishing between the Shipwreck and Possession Point. Once again, out in the middle.

Each day, the fish will keep inching their way north towards Mukilteo and eventually off to the Snohomish and Stillaguamish Rivers. Keep in mind what these fish are doing and where they are heading. Don't repeatedly keep going to the same spot. These fish are moving in only one direction.

The tides play an important role for good Pink salmon fishing in Humpy Hollow. The fish are heavily influenced by the tide. If there is a strong outgoing tide, the fish will be closer to the shipwreck end of Humpy Hollow. If the tide is a strong incoming tide, the fish will be closer to the Mukilteo end of Humpy Hollow. Don't make this classic mistake: Don't stay in the same place when the tide changes direction. Pull your gear up and swap ends of Humpy Hollow. Most anglers are reluctant to change places when they caught fish earlier in the day in a specific spot. Understanding the tides and the role they play in moving Pinks around is an important aspect of good Pink salmon fishing.

Some years, in the first ten days of August, the Pinks will school in Browns Bay. Don't count on this; just keep it as an option.

## Here is your time line for catching Pinks:

The week of August 1, fish at Indian Point.

The week of August 10, fish Humpy Hollow closer to Shipwreck.

The week of August 15, fish Mukilteo and half way to the Ship Wreck.

**Pink Salmon identification:** If you are new to salmon fishing, be careful not to confuse a small Chinook (Blackmouth) with a Pink. Chinook fishing is closed in Area 8-2 during the Pink Salmon migration. Pinks have a white gum line. Chinook have a black gum line. Pinks have black oval spots on





chinook. See closures  
**Elliot Bay Fishery:**  
**Aug. 19-Aug 28:** Open Friday through Sunday only. Daily limit two salmon, release Chinook and Chum, plus two additional Pinks. Fishing with bait prohibited. Other restrictions apply. See closures.

## Puget Sound Crab Areas 8-13

**Will Open at 7:00 a.m.  
July 1, 2011.**

Will be open Thursday through Monday only through September 5, 2011. Any additional opening dates will be announced in October. Refer to Shellfish Rule Change toll free Hotline, (866) 880-5431

their tail. Chinook have round black spots on their tail. [Click here](#) for picture of a mature Pink Salmon and identification guide.

Note: You cannot legally catch a Chinook in Area 9 or 10 and then fish in Area 8-2 for Pinks. If you got checked, you would have a tough time explaining why you have a Chinook on board in an area that is closed for Chinook.

If you fish for Chinook in Area 9 and catch a Chinook, go to Browns Bay and fish for Pinks. Browns Bay is in Area 9. Pink Salmon Limit:

**Area 9: July 16-August 31**, the limit is two salmon plus two additional Pinks, release wild Chinook.

**Area 8-2: August 1-September 30**, the limit is two salmon plus two additional Pinks, release all Chinook.

Pink Salmon take special care when you are out on the water. If you follow my advice, I think you will find that they are a fine eating fish on the BBQ. Immediately upon caching a Pink, bleed the fish by cutting the gills. You can do this with a knife or by using a pair of game shears. Once the fish is bled, it must go on ice. I prefer to gut and clean the fish while I am fishing. This process will assure you that your fish will be in prime condition when you are preparing them for the smoker or the BBQ.

Pink salmon do not make very good oven baked fish or pan fried fish. However, they are very good when prepared and cooked on the BBQ. Fillet your fish prior to preparing them for the BBQ. Rub brown sugar into the flesh. Add garlic salt or powder to your liking. Add a small amount of pepper and salt. Let the salmon sit for about 20 minutes to give time for the ingredients to work their way into the flesh. Make a boat out of some foil and put enough cooking oil on the foil so that the fish do not burn. Put

the fillets on the foil skin side to the foil.

Assuming that you have a charcoal grill, get the coals hot and add some alder smoking chips to the coals. Put the salmon on the grill. These fish will cook quite fast, be careful not to over cook your fish.

## Abundance of Coho Predicted

The best of all worlds is when there is an abundance of two species of salmon at the same time. I believe that we will experience this by the end of August. Big Pink salmon years also translate into big Coho years. This looks like one of the better Coho seasons.

By the last week in August, both the Pinks and Coho will be in Humpy Hollow. The dilemma will be to choose between trolling at 1.5 mph for Pinks or trolling 3.0+ for Coho. Do you put on a Flasher and Pink squid or a Flasher and green/glow squid? Do both and vary your speed. I think that you will find that both species of salmon will bite either gear. What a great problem to have!

If you want to target only Coho, we have to go with Coho gear and Coho tactics. Put on an 11" Green Flasher with a red stripe ([click here to see](#)). Behind the flasher, tie an OG142R Green/Glow squid ([click here to see](#)) 30"-36" behind the flasher. Tie this rig together with 30lb leader.

All your Pink fishing and Coho fishing can be done in the area of Humpy Hollow. Here is what will be different: The Coho will be at 30-60 feet at daylight. Trolling speed for effective Coho fishing will be at least 3.0 mph. You cannot troll too fast for Coho!

# Just Fishing



Humpy Hollow/Mukilteo Coho Map, [\(click here\)](#).

I will write more about Coho fishing in the September Newsletter

## Tackle Tip

I am seeing quite few reels (all brands), where the pinion gear is frozen to the spool. The pinion gear is the small gear that slides up and down the spool axle to engage or to disengage the spool. This happens to expensive reels as well as inexpensive reels.

No matter how much you spray your reel from the outside with oil or water; there is no substitute for taking the reel apart and lubricating the gears and the spool axle.

On the more expensive reels (over \$100 cost), we are experiencing many reels where the spool axle is frozen to the bearing on the handle side of the reel. This happens from lack of grease and oil. Almost all reels direct from the factory have very little grease or oil in them. I would strongly advise taking the reel apart at the end of the first season you own the reel and properly lubricating the reel.

There are more bearings in the more expensive fishing reels, therefore they require more care. Most of the damage done to fishing reels is done while the reel is not being used. That is when the salt from the water does its damage.

## John's Book Saltwater Fishing Journal

The continuing saga of getting my book published is inching along slowly. The publisher brought the book to me to be proofed. I have to say, it is an impressive new addition. While I cannot say with confidence when the due date is for the book to arrive, I can say it is getting closer. The publisher said 60 days, but they also said that it would be done in January. Thank you for your continuing patience.

## Great Fishing Trip Vancouver Island

On a warm Sunny Sunday morning three of us boated three Halibut to 75lbs, twelve Ling Cod between 25-35lbs, Six Chinook and three Coho. This was all done by 11 AM. True story! I will give you the details in the November Newsletter.

## The top areas for fishing Pinks from shore:

**Bush Point, WDFW public access**  
**Fort Casey State Park**  
**Deception Pass State Park**  
**Picnic Point County Park**  
**Kayak County Park**  
**Mukilteo Waterfront Park: at the Light House**

Fishing from shore is as simple as trolling from a boat. You only need one rig. The rig you need is a Buzz Bomb and a pink plastic squid.

Tie a 12lb leader with red Gamakatsu

2/0 hook. Slide a 2.0 F15 Hot Pink squid [\(click here to see\)](#) down the leader until it rests against the eye of the hook and covers the hook (click her to see illustration). Now slide a 2.5 hot pink Buzz Bomb [\(click here to see\)](#) down the leader. Tie a #10 barrel swivel to the end of the leader. Tie the line to the other end of the swivel.

Buzz Bombing (or jigging) for Pinks is simple: Cast the Buzz Bomb out as far as you can and jig the Buzz Bomb gently. Reel a small amount of line in after the jigging motion. You will have to experiment on how much you want the Buzz Bomb to sink after each jigging motion. Try to find a happy medium between not letting the Buzz Bomb sink to the bottom and jigging too fast.

## Hot Deals Imitation Buzz Bombs for Half the Price Available at John's Sporting Goods

Buzz Bombs are now \$4.95 each. However, if you want to purchase an imitation that resembles the real thing. John's Sporting Goods has a **four pack of either 2.0 or 2.5 Gibbs Buzz Bombs for \$9.95** [\(click here to see\)](#). They are half the price of regular Buzz Bombs. These are in limited supply. If you fish the rivers or fish the saltwater for Pinks, this is one of the best rigs for casting for Pink Salmon.

## 11" White Flashers at John's Sporting Goods \$9.95

[Click here for flashers](#)