

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

December 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

2012 Seminars

By John Martinis

March

**Salmon Seminar
Bayside Marine
Date & Time TBD**

April

**Halibut Seminar
April 19th @ 7pm
Everett Salmon & Steelhead Club
2411 Hewitt Ave
Everett, WA 98201**

April

**Shrimping Seminar
Details to be announced**

June

**Crab Seminar
June 21 @ 7pm
Everett Salmon & Steelhead Club
2411 Hewitt Ave
Everett, WA 98201**

Blackmouth Friday

November 26 & 27

**\$25 worth of merchandise for only
\$15.**

See Page 7 for details

Discount Gift Certificates

\$50 Gift Certificates for \$30

I had such a great response to the gift certificate deal last year, I decided to offer it again this year. The Gift Certificates can be used for any merchandise purchase at John's Sporting

Goods. They are not good for repairs, service or fishing licenses. They cannot be used with any discount coupons that I offer. If you want a gift certificate mailed to you, I send them out Priority Mail. The cost is \$4.90. See page 8

You can purchase these Gift Certificates until December 24, 2011.

I hope that you enjoy all the months of hard work that went into this project. Thank you for your support!

December Salmon Area 7 Opens December 1, 2011

December brings about some changes in the saltwater salmon seasons. Starting December 1, Area 9 closes until January 16. Area 7 (San Juan's) opens on December 1 and stays open until April 30. I know many anglers look forward the Area 7 opening. The opening gives anglers a chance at catching some larger Chinook. Chinook in the 20lb+ plus range are not uncommon in this portion of the winter salmon season.

Like many areas this time of year, the fishing is dependent on the weather. One of the attractions of the San Juan Islands is the fact that there are many places to fish even when the weather is northwest nasty. The weather formula is quite simple: If the wind is blowing from the Southeast fish on the north side of any Island. For example: Fish at Eagle Bluff on the north side of Cypress Island if the wind is blowing from the southeast. If the wind is blowing from the north switch sides of Cypress Island

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:

and fish Secret Harbor (Deepwater Bay). Remember that you cannot ignore the tides just because the wind is forcing you to fish in a particular location. One of the best Chinook fishing trips I ever had was fishing at Eagle Bluff in a howling 15-20mph wind. My point is this: do not let the weather spoil your long planned fishing trip. If you use your head and plan accordingly, you can fish in bad weather.

Close to the public launch at Washington Park in Anacortes, there is at a minimum of six great areas to fish for Chinook: Eagle Bluff (Cypress Island), Secret Harbor (Cypress Island), Thatcher Pass (Blakely Island), Lopez Flats (Lopez Island), Strawberry Island to tide point (Cypress Island) and Fidalgo Head (Near Washington Park). Within the areas I just mentioned, there are many sub areas that are niche places to fish for salmon. To sum it up, there are many great areas to fish and one area not being any better than the other.

It is always interesting where winning salmon are caught in any of the Anacortes salmon Derbies. The places that I mentioned are always where many of the top ten fish are caught.

So, where do you start? This is an immense area where you can spin your wheels for many fishing trips if you are not in the right fishing spot at the right time. Let me pose this question, "what makes these particular fishing spots any better at any one particular time?" The answer, "most of these areas are back eddy's that are created by the tidal flow."

Bait, salmon and everything else in the food chain needs to get out of the hard current when the water is moving fast. The secret is choosing those areas when that magic 20-30 minute bite time comes on. That is a very short period of time to make everything go right!

The first weekend of December last year the fish were at Strawberry Island to Tide Point. The tides were much different that first weekend of 2010, the tide was low at 9:17AM. This year the tide is high at 11:25AM Saturday, December 3. Knowing that, paints a completely different picture of where to fish for salmon.

Here is my recipe for success the first weekend in December: I would fish at Eagle Bluff (Cypress Island: [See Map Click Here](#)) from daylight to 11:25AM. At daylight fish from Tide Point half way to Eagle Cliff. As the tide gets higher, keep trolling closer to Eagle Cliff. When the tide gets within one hour of high tide, stick really close to Eagle Cliff. This is what I meant when I stated that there are sub areas of the main areas to fish. This is the strategy for success when fishing the San Juan's.

San Juan Islands tides for December 2011 ([Click Here](#))

After 11:25 the tide will start going out. Head for Lopez Flats ([See Map Click Here](#)) and grind out the hours from Bird Rocks to James Island. There is not a sub area of the main fishing area here. Stay in 90-120 feet of water.

After 11:25 you could go to Strawberry Island to Tide Point to fish. I am not real comfortable fishing here on the first half of an outgoing tide. I would rather be here on the last half of the tide. However, the low tide is well after dark at 7:05PM. ([See Map Click Here](#))

I know that I am picking just one day out many that the San Juan's will be open. But I think this gives you a feel on how to work the tides on any day that you fish in the Islands. The tides just flip around at different times, so fish accordingly.

A place that fishes really well for big fish is Slime Rock at the north end of Blakely

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

Island. No, this is not on a chart. Slime Rock is literally a rock that has green Slime all over it. You will see it when you get there ([See Map Click Here](#)). This is a good place to be when the tide is going out. I like this on the first half of the outgoing tide when the water is flowing at its fastest rate. There is not a lot of room here, so it can get real crowded with more than a handful of boats in here. The best fishing lane would be for the boat that is fishing closest to the rocks in 60-90 feet of water. You have to stay in the zone in here. Close to the rocks, is where the Island fends off the current. This is a good hang out place for salmon and baitfish to feed until the water slows down. When the water slows down, the fish can feed without too much effort on the bar that is below Black Rock and Pointer Island ([See Map Click Here](#)). Over the years this is the area that I have always called Thatcher Pass even though it is just small portion of the Pass.

This time of year, do you fish bait (the real thing) or do you fish with artificials? The winning fish last year in the Resurrection Derby was caught on an artificial lure. I would highly recommend one of these three rigs: **Green Flasher/Red Stripe** paired with **3.5 Kingfisher Red Racer spoon** (my all time favorite rig). **Green Flasher/Red Stripe** with either **3.5 Kingfisher Cookies n Cream Hoochie spoon** or **3.5 Kingfisher Irish Cream Hoochie spoon**. Last pick, use a **Purple Haze flasher** with any of the spoons that I picked. The flashers in either color should be 11" flashers. Don't be afraid to veer away from the Hot Spot brand of flashers. There are other flashers that cost less and fish just as well. Those flashers are: **Jim's Break a Way flasher** or the **Gibbs Highliner flasher**. Rig the flashers and spoon combinations with 30lb leader (40lb Fluorocarbon leader) and tie the spoon 42" from the flasher.

The speed for trolling in the San Juan's is

not an absolute. I wish I could recommend trolling the standard 2.5mph for Chinook. But it just doesn't work when the tide is moving faster than the recommended trolling speed. Some of the places that I recommended are small areas to fish. Therefore, it is necessary to keep the trolling speed up to meet two criteria: 1) Downrigger cable at a 45+ degree angle. 2) To be moving forward at all times. To meet those criteria, the trolling speed has to exceed 2.5mph in the middle of the tide when the water is moving at its fastest.

Remember this: When the water is moving at its fastest rate, the fish are closest to the bottom. Fish close to the bottom! Real close. Fish within five feet of the bottom. That is a real five feet, not a guess. The fish are driven closer to the bottom as the water speed increases. Most anglers do not compensate for this. This can be a very big fishing mistake. Just because you are letting out 110 feet of cable to fish in 100 feet of water at the beginning of the tide when the water is not moving very quickly does mean that you continue to fish at those depths when the water speed increases. Continually check where the bottom is by letting the downrigger ball out until it hits the bottom and then bring it back five feet.

I know that I have mentioned this piece of advice many times before for fishing the San Juan's: Pick your game plan and stick with it. But most of all, once you start fishing a particular spot, stay there through the end of the tide. Do not chase radio/cell phone fish. Remember what I said earlier; the bite will last only 20-30 minutes. Don't waste your time chasing around. You will be wasting valuable fishing time.



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.

Anacortes Boat Launches

Washington Park

Public Boat Launch. Watch the tides because you cannot get your boat out on some low tides. [Information Click Here](#)

Cap Santé Marina

Sling launch. Great facility. Reasonable prices for sling launching boats of any size. Plenty of guest moorage. [Information Click Here](#)

Skyline Marina

More expensive than Cap Santé to launch. Guest moorage available. [Information Click Here](#)

Areas 8-1 and 8-2 Remain open for Chinook

The hot area to fish in November was the west side of Possession Bar. It was a little slow to get going but it turned out looking pretty good during the days anglers were able to get out on the water.

Now we have to find some pockets of fish in Areas 8-1 and 8-2. This can be a moving target in December. In November, anglers found great success in the Bayside Blackmouth Derby at Elger Bay (near Camano Island State Park). I would continue to recommend Elger Bay for Chinook. ([See map click here](#))

If you do not want to take the 35 minute boat ride to Elger Bay out of the Everett Boat Launch, I would recommend these two places to fish for Chinook: 1) South side of Hat Island ([See map click here](#)).

2) Columbia Beach ([See Map Click Here](#)).

Tackle Tip Fix your Scotty Downrigger Brakes.

Scotty downrigger bakes need a yearly adjustment. There are two symptoms that tell you that it is time to adjust the brakes: 1) On the retrieve the downrigger ball comes up and momentarily stops and then goes back down. 2) The brake handle chatters back and forth on the retrieve.

In either case you need three new brake blocks that cost \$2.00 each. Watch this video on how to perform this task. ([Click here for video](#))

Here is a great tip for those of you who like to fix your own equipment. On the Scotty downrigger brake handle where the three brake blocks are seated. Before you replace the brake blocks drill a small hole in the bottom of the square that holds each individual brake block. This allows for a water drain hole. If the brake blocks sit in water for too long of a time, they will absorb the water and cause the brakes to malfunction. This tip allows for the water to drain out of the brake block holding area.

If you want us to do a Scotty downrigger brake upgrade for you. Call us and we can do it while you wait most days, call us before bringing your downrigger in for this service (425-259-3056). The cost is \$16. This service includes three brake blocks and labor.

Crabbing is Open Area 8-2 and 8-2

I would highly recommend crabbing in

Just Fishing



Area 8-2. I have been hearing reports that it is pretty darn good. Mission Bar (in front of Everett Jetty Island) has been one of the best crabbing spots. You can make an easy trip out it by crabbing near the barge tie-up buoy or you can go out on the end of Mission Bar and crab near the navigation marker. In either place, crab in 40-50 feet of water. Most crabbers that I have spoken to are having no problem getting their limit of five Dungeness crab.

Jigging Bait or Smelt

Head to Cornet Bay at Deception Pass State Park. There is a public dock that you can jig herring and smelt off of. Use #4 or #5 Gamakatsu herring jigs with the fish skin on the hook. You can also crab off of the dock. This is Area 8-1. December and January are the best months for Jigging herring and smelt. That would be a great deal, bait to use, smelt to eat and maybe a crab or two?

Free Shipping Until December 30

If you live in Washington and want of order anything from shop.johnssportinggoods.com in December, I am offering free shipping. This includes all downriggers, Fishing Tackle, Ace Line Haulers, Rod, Reels and just about everything else. Of course there is always an exception and it will not surprise you that downrigger balls are not included.

Ace Line Hauler New Aluminum Bases

I have new bases for the Ace Line Hauler. These bases are made out of machined aluminum. The bases are deigned to be hard mounted to the boat. One of the features that I like: The bases can be double pinned so that the Ace Line Hauler cannot flip backwards. This is also an extra security measure so that the Ace Hauler will not accidently come loose from the mount and go overboard. This base will not mount to a Scotty swivel base.

There is a quick mount accessory that I also have that this new base can fit into.

Here is a video that I made on operating the Ace Line Hauler ([Click Here](#)).

John's Sporting Goods New Web Site

I hope you are enjoying the new John's Sporting Goods Web Site. This site was designed by Travis Monroe at Mediacore 425-283-9040.

If you want o submit your own fish reports. Click on Fresh Fish and then on Fresh Reports, sign in and submit your fishing report. If you want to submit photos, click on Fresh Fish and then on Gallery, sign in and submit your photos.

One of the very best features of my new web site is under Fresh Bait.

Click on Fresh Bait and notice the new feature called "Map Downloads". All my published maps are in this folder. This is a great resource. I will be steadily adding to the map folder as time goes on.

Our new email is: customerservice@johnssportinggoods.com

**John's Sporting Goods
1913 Broadway
Everett, WA 98201**

**Scotty Downrigger
Cleaning with 250' Cable
or 300' Spectra
Downrigger Line
\$39.95**

Included in the price is new brake pads, your choice of 250' of 150lb. Cable or 300' 200lb. of Cortland spectra downrigger line, cleaning and lubricating the downrigger and any other Scotty factory authorized upgrades.

Blackmouth Friday

John's Sporting Goods

On all in-stock Merchandise*
November 25th & 26th

\$10 off

any merchandise purchase totaling

\$25 or more

in store @ John's Sporting Goods

\$10 savings valid for one-time use on a single purchase of \$25 or more, excluding taxes.
Not valid for online purchases. One coupon per customer, must be surrendered at the time
of purchase.

Cannot be used in combination with gift certificates or in combination with other coupons
or prior orders.

Not good for service, repairs, gift certificates, licenses or parts.

Must have coupon in-hand at the time of purchase
No Exceptions

Discount Gift Card Offer

Must have this Coupon in your hand at the time of Purchase

John's Sporting Goods
1913 Broadway
Everett, WA 98201

\$50 Gift Certificate for \$30

Gift Certificate

To: _____

From: _____

**Stop by the store and purchase this Gift Certificate
or have us mail it to you
Phone Toll Free 1-877-517-2566 or 425-259-3056**

Limit Two Discount Gift Cards Per Person
Offer Good Until 12/24/2011
Valid Only When this Coupon is Presented at the time of Purchase
Certificates can be redeemed on merchandise purchases after 12/26/2011

If Ordering by Phone Mention Gift Card Offer
All Gift Card are sent USPS Priority Mail add \$4.90

This Gift Card is not good for online purchases,
repairs, service or WDFW Licenses.
Cannot be used with any other discount coupons