

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

February 2011

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

Seminars

by John Martinis

Put these Seminars on your calendar. You are invited to all three seminars that will be presented by John Martinis

Salmon Seminar March 11, 7:00PM at Bayside Marine: sponsored by Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club. The public is invited. [Map click here.](#)

Halibut Seminar, March 17, **7:00PM** at Everett Fireman's Hall, 2411 Hewitt, Everett. Sponsored by Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club. The public is invited. [Map click here.](#)

Shrimping Seminar April 12th, 7:00PM at Bayside Marine: sponsored by CCA (Coastal Conservation Association). The public is invited.

All my seminars are open to the public and there is no charge for the seminars.

Everett Blackmouth Derby Tickets

Get your tickets now, they were sold out by February 21 last year. The tickets are \$100 per boat. That allows up to four anglers to fish on the boat. All four anglers can weigh in their own fish. Tickets can be purchased at John's Sporting Goods. Top prize; \$3,000. [Click Here for details](#)

Derby Time Everett

Blackmouth Derby March 19 Anacortes Derby March 26-27

I am doing a two part column on fishing the Everett Blackmouth Derby and the Anacortes Salmon Derby. This month I will do the Everett Derby complete with maps and the March issue of the Fishing Journal will be dedicated to the Anacortes Derby.

I am no different than you. You are always looking for a more effective lure to catch salmon with. You want that extra edge when you go fishing. I am always looking for that lure that not only catches more salmon but it also catches everyone's imagination. New spoons, new plugs, new flies, new squid, UV lotions, UV flashers, UV spoons and the list goes on and on. There are plenty of options to pick from before you set your gear in the water on Derby Day. The last derby in the San Juan's was won with a spoon. The Edmonds PSA derby in November was won with a plug. Where is the consistency? There isn't any! Is it just luck?

I believe that the number one factor that puts salmon in the boat is, "presentation". You can fish with anything that you want but if the presentation is not just right you

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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

dramatically decrease your chances of catching a salmon. The anglers that are winning derbies are not just lucking-out and catching one big fish. These anglers are catching multiple fish. This is not different than buying a lottery ticket. The more tickets you purchase the better odds of winning. Fishing is no different, the more fish you catch the better odds are of winning. I talk to the winning anglers all the time. In a two day derby they will catch several salmon before they catch the winning salmon.

Let's have a discussion about "presentation". The anglers that are very well schooled in presentation are those that have taken the time to get good at: fishing with herring, fishing with plugs, fishing with flashers or fishing with jigs. To be a well rounded salmon angler you have to have intimate knowledge of all aspects of the sport. Could you imagine a baseball player only knowing how to play first base and knowing nothing else about the game? Lance Husby purchased ten packages of herring from me the day before the Derby and won the 1st edition of the Resurrection Derby at Friday Harbor using a spoon.

Flashers: Flashers are intended to mimic a large fish chasing a smaller fish. In real life when this is happening the smaller fish is swimming as fast as it can to escape being eaten by the larger fish. Keep your speed up when trolling with flashers! The number one mistake anglers make when trolling with a flasher is trolling too slow. When you troll too slow the flasher is just wallowing and not rotating like it was intended.

Minimum speed when trolling for Chinook is 2.5 mph. Sometimes you might have to troll much faster depending on the speed of the current. Keep your downrigger cable angle at a 45 degree angle.

There are many things that are effective to use behind a flasher: Spoons, flies, plastic squid and bait. Plugs are not used behind a flasher. When using artificial lures behind a flasher use 30lb leader. You can go to 40lb only if you intend to use fluorocarbon leader.

I mentioned consistency earlier. Have you noticed what is consistent about the colors of spoons that anglers are catching salmon with? UV (Ultra Violet) or glow are on all the spoons that are the top catching salmon spoons. The best producing spoon colors are: Red Racer (Green/Glow), Cookies and Cream (Black/Glow/UV), Irish Cream (Green/Glow/UV). Silver Horde/Goldstar makes these Kingfisher spoons in 3.5" and 4.0" sizes. Fish these spoons 42" behind a flasher.

Flashers that are consistently effective are these variations: Green with a Red stripe (Red Racer) or UV (Purple Haze).

Plastic Squid: Although spoons are the lure of choice lately, more salmon have been caught on one lure than every other artificial lure combined: Goldstar OG142R (Green/Glow) 3.5 Octopus Squid. Once again "Glow" seems to be the number one ingredient that sets one lure apart from the other non-glow colors.

Herring: Herring will never go out of style. It is very effective. It

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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

doesn't glow. It does not have UV. Sometimes there is no substitute for the real thing. However, anglers have proven over a long period of time that herring is not always better. It's just darn good. Herring fishing for salmon is an art. If you are not good at fishing with herring, don't practice on Derby Day. Herring has to be presented in such a way that it does not look "fishy". It cannot be flopping around or being going straight through the water. It has to have a good presentation all the time. Herring has to have a nice roll to it. The roll can be fast or slow. But it has to look right. You can fish herring by itself or you can use it behind a flasher. If you use herring behind a flasher I recommend using a Rys Davis Super Herring Head. These heads are intended to be used with a whole herring. This is a very effective way to use herring behind a flasher. If you use herring behind a flasher the leader should be 30lb and the length should be 60". John Bullinger won the Everett Blackmouth Derby last year using herring, his salmon weighed in at 18lbs 5oz. John used the herring trolling techniques that were presented by Mike Greenleaf at my Salmon seminar a week before the derby!

Plugs: Plugs are a great lure to fish with. No flashers to deal with. They really cut down on the number of shakers (sub-legal salmon) that you catch which increases your fishing time. Plugs have won many salmon derbies in Puget Sound. I won the Boeing Salmon Derby many years ago using a white Silver Horde Plug. Walt Wojcik won the SnoKing PSA Salmon Derby in November using a 4" Tomic #603 plug. Plugs

are easy to use; tie the plug on the end of the fishing line and let it out 25-50 feet behind the downrigger. Don't use any swivels or snaps when rigging a plug. The beauty of plugs is that they maximize your fishing time. They are fishing all the time. They fish well at almost any speed. A popular way that I like to fish a plug is this: Let a plug out 25 feet on one downrigger and on another downrigger, let a flasher set-up out exactly the same length. The flasher is a great attraction device to fish right along side the plug. When a salmon comes over to the gear, it can decide between the plug or the spoon or squid that is being fished behind the flasher. This is a really good technique to use for salmon.

Lengths Behind the downrigger:
Herring-25-50 feet
Flashers-25 feet
Plugs-25-50 feet

Chinook Speed:
Herring-2.0-2.5 mph
Flashers-2.5-3.0 mph
Plugs-2.5-3.5 mph

You can have all the gear rigged correctly; the Knots beautifully tied and going the correct speed. But, if you are not fishing the gear correctly you are not in the ball game. Chinook are caught at every depth that you can imagine. We don't really care that uncle Bob caught a huge Chinook while letting his bait out. What we really care about is where the majority of the Chinook are caught. It makes sense to me that the longer that you present a bait or lure in the zone that produces the most strikes, the better the chances are of catching a derby winning salmon. Remember what I stated earlier,

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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

“the anglers that are winning salmon derbies are catching multiple fish during the derby.” The majority of Chinook are caught within 5-10 feet of the bottom. It's a lot of work to stay in that zone. It takes one person steering the boat and another person running the gear. Both jobs are critical. The person steering the boat has to keep the boat positioned. Don't be wandering around! Good Chinook depths are: 90-120 feet and sometimes as deep as 150 feet. Don't be texting and talking on your cell phone, keep the boat in position.

It is hard to pick a spot where a derby will be won at. However, over the years I have a pretty good track record of narrowing the field down. For a March salmon derby I would pick these three spots to fish for a derby winning Chinook: Useless Bay, The Race Track at Hat Island and North Bluff in Saratoga Passage.

Here are three fishing Maps to help you out:

Useless Bay, [Click Here](#)
The Race Track, [Click Here](#)
North Bluff, [Click Here](#)

Tackle Tip

**Decision time for replacement line on your downrigger?
Braided Line vs Cable**

Both Cable and Braided Spectra line have their qualities that the other does not have. Cable is very resistant to fraying. Cable in most cases is 150lb test. Cable will last about one year. Crimping tool and sleeves required to install. Cable rots/rusts down inside the spool where you cannot see it most of the time. When you trim the cable you

are actually exposing the part of the cable that has been rusting. Cost for 300 feet of cable \$23.50.

Braid will last 3-5 years. There are no crimping tools required to put it on a downrigger. In most cases it is 200lb test. A sharp knife or scissors required to install. Spectra wears on the end where it is being used. When you trim back the Braid you are getting into fresh line that is full strength. No cable hum. Cost for 300 feet of Braid \$22.50.

Do not purchase 150lb braid, it is too light duty for downrigger fishing. There is too much potential for losing a lead ball!

Club News

SnoKing PSA

Meeting Dates:

The second Thursday of each month at 6:30PM

South County Senior Center
220 Railroad Avenue
Edmonds, WA 98020

Events:

February 12th:

**MEMBERS-ONLY
BLACKMOUTH DERBY**

March 10th:

**RON GARNER
Halibut Presentation
The Public is
Invited to Attend**

Everett Steelhead & Salmon Club

Meeting Dates:

3rd Thursday of Each Month
2411 Hewitt Ave
Everett, WA 98201

Events:

Feb 17th: Annual Club Pizza

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Feed and membership drive.

Free Pizza!

[Click Here for Details](#)

March 17th: Halibut fishing Presentation

by John Martinis

Everett Blackmouth Derby

March 19, 2011

February Tackle Deals John's Sporting Goods

Eagle Depth Sounder \$79.95
Food Saver Vacuum Packer \$99
Halibut Combo's \$89-\$149

New Color: Qcove
Break Away Flasher
Now available in "Red Racer"
pattern \$14.95

Hot Plug Derby

25th Annual

Blackmouth Derby

February 19-20

1st Place 45% of total entry fee
2nd Place 20% of total entry fee
3rd Place 15% of total entry fee
4th Place 10% of total entry fee
5% of total entry fee for largest
Blackmouth weighed in on
Saturday
Two \$100 prizes will be drawn at
5:00 for fish weighed in on
Saturday. Must be present to win.

Tickets available at John's Sporting Goods and other participating stores.

[Click Here for more details](#)

Everett Steelhead & Salmon Club Membership Drive

Third Thursday of February

7pm at Alf's Pizza

2317 Broadway, Everett

This is your chance to join the Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club. Even if you cannot attend the meetings, please contribute to this club. Enjoy some free pizza at this meeting and fill out a member application. I will see you there! The public is invited to attend.

Fish the Everett Blackmouth Derby March 19 with John Martinis and Mike Jamboretz

If you would like to fish aboard Jambo's Charter on March 17 and participate in the Everett Blackmouth Derby, this is your chance. Not only will you be entered in the derby, this will be a great chance to fish with a couple of local experts. This will be equivalent to having your own private salmon fishing seminar on the water. There is never a guarantee that you will catch fish, but there is a guarantee that you will end the day with a wealth of salmon fishing knowledge. Call Mike to make the reservations and discuss the cost: 425-788-5955 or email Mike: info@jambosportfishing.com

Jennings Pond Kids

Fishing Derby May 7, 2011

Sponsors and Financial Donations Needed

This is the 20th year of the Marysville, Jennings Pond Kids fishing derby. John Martinis and the Everett Salmon Steelhead Club have purchased trout for this Derby for several years. The WDFW in years past has also given us trout for this derby. Because of the State budget shortfall, there will be no free trout from the WDFW. John Martinis and the Steelhead Club will both be donating several hundred dollars to this derby. John Martinis and the Marysville Kiwanis Club contribute all the prizes for this event.

From 300-500 children fish this derby every year. This is a great opportunity for children to be introduced to fishing. This event is free to all children 12 years old and younger.

We urgently need cash donations to purchase more trout for this derby. Please contact John Martinis at John's Sporting Goods if you wish to make a contribution: 425-259-3056. 100% of your money will be used to purchase rainbow trout.

**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.

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

**20% Discount
on your next in
store purchase**

Items that are excluded: Downriggers, Ace Line Hauler, Endurance Pot Puller, Shimano Products, G Loomis, Electronics, items that are discounted, on sale, repairs, parts and closeout items

One coupon per customer

Not valid for online purchases or mail order

Valid only with coupon at the time of sale