

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

January 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 at Bayside Marine: sponsored by Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club. The public is invited. [Map click here.](#)

Shrimping Seminar April 2nd at Bayside Marine: sponsored by CCA (Coastal Conservation Association). The public is invited.

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

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

Fishing the San Juan's

One of the most asked questions of the day lately is, "where are the salmon?" If you are in the tackle business, sometimes it is not too much fun to give customers the unpleasant news. It is much more fun and invigorating to me and the

customer to share some good fishing thoughts and stories. Puget Sound Chinook (Blackmouth) has been a story of woe these past two months. Some bright spots, yes. But, by and large, some pretty tough salmon fishing. My November column was a great story of one good day of salmon fishing at Useless Bay. However, that story has been hard to repeat.

Many years the salmon fishing can be good in Puget Sound and not so hot in the San Juan Islands. Four or five years ago the San Juan's had a two year rough stretch while we had good salmon fishing in Puget Sound. Anglers in Anacortes and Bellingham thought winter salmon fishing was at an end while the Anglers in the Everett/Edmonds area were enjoying some good times. This is how winter salmon fishing goes. These fish are very mobile and they do not live on a schedule that says that they have to be at a particular place at a predefined time. These fish are very nomadic and are seeking the greenest pastures so that they can survive.

This brings us to what the January "Fishing Journal" is all about. **The San Juan Islands is enjoying some great winter Chinook fishing.** Before I get into the heart of the salmon fishing, here is an email that I had written to "Joe" and his reply after he followed my advice. These two emails pretty much spells out where I am going with the January "Fishing Journal":

From: JamNW1@aol.com
[JamNW1@aol.com]

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

Sent: Thursday, December 16, 2010 9:18 P M
To: digits @ # # # #
Subject: Re: San Juans

Hi Joe,

I would fish Middle Bank on a small tide if the wind is calm. I would fish Lopez Flats on an outgoing tide and Eagle Bluff (Cypress Is.) on an incoming tide.

John

Subject: RE: San Juans

Date: 12/23/2010 9:31:35 A.M.

Pacific Standard Time

From: digits@#####

Reply To:

To: JamNW1@aol.com

Morning John,

FYI: Fished Eagle Bluff last Sunday on the incoming tide. My buddy, who just started fishing for salmon, hooked into a hawg, and snapped the line. I'll never leave suspect, old line on a real again. I should've known better. Dang it!

Fished Lopez Flats on the outgoing tide, first time I've fished there, and caught two: 1 about 10-12 lbs, 1 about 8-10 lbs, right on the bottom. What a blast, and such a beautiful day it was!

Thanks, as always, for the tip.

Happy Holidays to you and yours!

**Cheers,
Joe S.**

Salmon fishing is good in the San Juan Islands, Quite good!

Substantially good! It has not been this good in many years. My best advice is this: Please go and experience winter Chinook fishing at it's best. I will arm you with all the information you need to go fishing in the Islands and to be successful. "Joe", the man in the email had never fished for salmon in the Islands ever. That can easily be you in the next email. It is easy to fish for salmon in the San Juan's if you follow my advice.

Let's start out by talking about two of the three places that I recommended in my email to Joe, Lopez Flats and Eagle Bluff.

Eagle Bluff (Eagle Cliff) on the north end of Cypress Island is one of the most classic salmon fishing spots that I know of. You get it all at this spot. You can fish close to the rocks, you can follow a bar and it is all done on one tide. What more do you need from a salmon fishing spot? Predictability and high on the fun factor.

Before you get all excited about going to fish for salmon at Eagle Bluff, consult the tide book. This place only fishes well when the tide is coming in. Don't waste your time going here waiting for the tide to change because you will be wasting your time. Only fish here when the tide is rising. There are better places to fish when the tide is going out. We will get to those places later.

To properly fish Eagle Bluff we have to dissect the area between Tide Point and Eagle Bluff. Like all places to fish for salmon, you don't go here and just throw your line out and start hauling in the fish. You have to think things out a little. "Where do the fish want to

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

be on different stages of the tide?"

When the tide is all the way low and just starting to come in, the fish come around Tide Point and get in the back eddy that is formed on the north end of Cypress Island. At this stage of the tide, I like to stay on the western half of the fishing area (*see Map*). This area is a little rocky. So be careful not to hang up on the bottom. Not so careful that you are not fishing within 5-10 feet of the bottom. Just be cautious. The bottom on this end of run has some great contours that holds fish.

As the tide approaches the halfway point of coming in, stay close to Eagle Bluff. This area can be identified by a rock outcropping that comes right to the water (*see Map*). It is deep (90 feet) right next to the rocks. One of the greatest fishing spots that I know of is right here. This is where you really have to pay close attention to what I have to say if you want to be better than everyone else who fishes for salmon here. There is a bar starts at the rock. The bar takes a hard left to the north and goes for approximately 100 yards and then takes a hard right to the east. On this corner that I just described lays the high percentage fishing area. I have had many of my greatest salmon fishing days ever at this exact spot. My Dad and I have pulled into this spot many times and taken out four Chinook while the other boats tried to mimic what we were doing. We were not better anglers; we had a better understanding of the stages of the tide and the bottom contour. You can't just go to the spot I just described on any stage of the tide hook up on salmon. You have to be there on the last half of the tide. Specifically, the last hour of the tide. I don't leave this area the last

hour of the tide!

You can fish bait or gear at Eagle Bluff. I prefer flashers and squid or flashers and spoons. If you are going to use flashers and squid, I would recommend using needle fish squid such as the Goldstar NG142R (green/glow). If you are going to use spoons, I would recommend the 3.5 Goldstar Red Racer Kingfisher spoon or the Goldstar 3.5 Cookies and Cream Kingfisher spoon. The two flashers that I always recommend are the Hot Spot Red Racer flasher or the Hot Spot purple Haze flasher. Many times there are too many dog fish to fish with bait at Eagle Bluff. Lance Brown who won the Friday Harbor Resurrection Derby purchased 10 packages of herring from me the day before the derby and ended up winning the derby on a flasher and spoon. So, there is nothing magic about herring. It is just another thing to use.

Back to the email. "Joe" fished Eagle Bluff on the incoming tide as I recommended to him and then went to Lopez Flats on the outgoing tide as I recommend. He had a successful day of salmon fishing by following some simple directions.

Lopez Flats is not as technical as fishing at Eagle Bluff. It is more like fishing Possession Bar. You can troll up and down the flats in search of a salmon. Lopez Flats fishes the best on an outgoing tide. Start fishing just inside of Bird Rocks in 90-100 feet of water and troll to the North towards James Island. Like most other places, fish within 5-10 feet of the bottom. I wish I could offer some real magic for fishing this spot, but it is



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

Crab

Marine Areas 9 & 10

Open November
15, seven days a
week through
January 2, 2011

Marine Areas 5 & 6

Open seven days a
week through
January 2, 2011

Marine Areas 12 & 13

Open seven days a
week through
January 2, 2011

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

as easy as I have stated. There is plenty of room to move around at Lopez as opposed to Eagle. Stick with the same gear as I have stated earlier. (*see Map*)

Tackle Mechanic Scotty Downrigger Maintenance

Scotty Downriggers need a little preventative maintenance to keep them functioning properly. Keep your downrigger clean by lightly misting the downrigger off with water when you are done using it. Do not squirt the hose directly into the spool and brake mechanism. If you do this the brake pads will absorb water and not function properly. Use the hose in moderation. If the brake pads are too wet, the downrigger ball will come up, stop, and immediately go back out on its own. The brake pads need to be replaced when this problem occurs. *This will not be covered by the warranty.*

If the downrigger ball is going out slowly, try loosening the belt tensioner a very small amount. Only loosen the bolts on the belt tensioner a small amount. If you loosen the bolts too much the nuts will drop out of the case. Do not perform this on the water! If the problem persists, the spool needs to be removed and the spool shaft needs to be greased.

Thank You!

I want to personally thank all of you who shopped at John's Sporting Goods this past year. 2010 was my 37th year at the store and I am planning on doing this a few more years. This is still fun after all those years. Thank you.

John Martinis

Everett Blackmouth Derby

March 19th, 2011
Only 100 Tickets
\$100 per Boat

Tickets available at
John's Sporting Goods
Everett Steelhead and
Salmon Club

Derby Rules:

1. Sales will be limited to 100 Derby Tickets at a cost of \$100 each. One Derby Ticket per boat allows up to four pre-registered anglers. Ticket sales will close on Friday, March 18, 2010 at close of business at listed outlets.
2. Only one Blackmouth Salmon entry per registered angler. The angler who caught the fish must be present to enter the fish and be listed on the derby "Angler Registration Form".
3. All fish will be GUTTED and GILLED by the angler prior to being weighed. You are responsible to bring the "Angler Registration Form" attached to your packet to the weigh station. If lost, the "Angler Registration Form" will not be replaced.
4. Only one Derby prize per angler and that angler MUST be present with the "Angler Registration Form" at Awards Ceremony to claim the prize. Any unclaimed prizes will be donated to the Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club.
5. Weigh-in will be from 2pm until 4pm at the 10th Street Public Boat Launch off of Marine View Drive, Everett. All times will be according to Cell Phone time. Deadline for weigh-in shall be followed. Prizes

awarded following weigh-in, at Bayside Marine. Entrant's legal Catch Record Card must accompany the individual and fish to be weighed for evidence that a Blackmouth Salmon was caught within Derby and WDFW rules. This is an all weather Derby.

6. All Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife rules apply. Fishing will be allowed in open areas of Marine Areas 8-1, 8-2 & 9 Only. Only a legally hooked, Sport Caught, Blackmouth Salmon is eligible to win. If in the opinion of the Derby officials any attempt is made to artificially enhance, deceive or circumvent derby rules, including weight of fish, that person WILL be immediately disqualified from this and all future Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club Blackmouth Derbies and criminal charges WILL be pursued.

7. Ties will be broken by the earliest time of entry.

8. Cash Prizes: 1st \$3000, 2nd \$1500, 3rd \$500, 4th \$250.

9. In the event that a non-cash prize has more value than a cash prize, that prize may be substituted at the sole discretion of the Derby Officials.

10. The Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club, The Port of Everett, Volunteers and Sponsors accept no responsibilities for loss, injury or harm to any boat, vehicle, equipment, contestant, passenger or observer during this event. The Derby ticket purchaser agrees to hold harmless all Derby presenters, volunteers and sponsors (or their agents) from any and all liability in connection with this Derby.

11. The Ticket purchaser agrees that any appropriate prize tax shall be the sole responsibility of the prizewinner, and that the aforementioned derby organization shall have no liability for any such taxes or fees. The prizewinner shall also furnish their tax identification number if so requested, before the awarding of prizes.

12. For more information contact Woody Woods at 425-501-4024 or go the derby website.

Lance Husby takes \$10,000 top prize in the 1st edition of the Resurrection Derby at Friday Harbor

Friday Harbor, WA (December 4, 2010) 47 top-notch teams found exceptionally good fishing in the San Juan Islands this past weekend and hauled a total of 120 fin-clipped hatchery Chinook up the docks during this two day contest while fishing the newest event in the NMTA's Salmon Derby Series

Lance Husby (Marysville, WA) a onetime salmon charter operator in Sitka, Alaska, bested his nearest competitor by almost a pound and a half and saw his 19.29 pound winter blackmouth earn him and the crew of "Team Big Kahuna" a cool \$10,000, a 1st place trophy, and bragging rights for the next year. "The Friday morning cannon start was one of the best parts of the derby" Husby said. "On Saturday, Rosario Strait was pretty messed up with the north wind blowing 20-25 knots. In sloppy conditions, we caught 3 fish, and then ran in to weigh the big one." He went on to say "I want to thank the organizers for putting on a first class event ... What a great derby and we can't wait till next year."

Greg Baylis of Mt. Vernon WA, a member of "Team Makai" won \$2500 for his 2nd place finish with a 17.90 pounder. Dale Nelsen of Bellingham, WA, skipper of "Team Blue 52" took home \$1,500 for a 3rd place effort with a 17.34 pound fish.

Planners scheduled the event to coincide with the opening week of the winter fishing season in the San Juan Islands. "The winter season in the San Juans is a selective fishery. We wanted to raise the awareness of the benefits of fishing on hatchery stocks, while promoting good sportsmanship and resource stewardship" said one derby organizer, Andy Holman. "Everyone

who entered this derby is helping the fishery" said Bobby Wilson, derby organizer. Wilson went on to say, "All net proceeds from the derby will go directly towards salmon enhancement projects". Kevin Klein, Derby Chairman stated "I am very pleased of what we have accomplished here. Everyone I've talked to was very complimentary - and all indicated they had a great time. This event is the result of hundreds and hundreds of hours of planning and effort by members of the San Juan Islands Chapter of the Puget Sound Anglers." Klein also said, "The derby was conceived by club President Jimmy Lawson as a serious contest for serious anglers. I think our team has successfully developed Jim's vision, as we saw the best-of-the-best here in Friday Harbor this past weekend." He also said, "Not only did this provide an economic benefit for our local economy in a dark time of the year, but also gave us the opportunity to showcase Friday Harbor, and all it has to offer."

The Coast Guard Auxiliary, Edmonds, Wa.

Will be teaching Americas Boating Safety Course three times in 2011. Completion and passing the test will qualify the student to apply for the Washington State Boaters Card. This card is required if you are or will be age 35, or older than than age 12 in 2011 and operating a power boat of 15hp or more. This one day eight hour course will be taught at the Auxiliary classroom at Chuck Olson Chevrolet in Shoreline, Wa..The cost is \$25.00 plus \$10.00 for a second person studying from the same text. Classes will be taught on MARCH 19, APRIL 16 and MAY 14, 2011. For further information email boatclasses@hotmail.com or contact Jim Hewitson, tel. 425-774-4 0 3 3

**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.

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**20% Discount
on your next in
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Items that are excluded: Downriggers, Ace Line Hauler, Shimano Products, G Loomis, Electronics, items that are discounted, on sale, repairs, parts, and closeout items. Cannot be used with discounted gift cards that are issued by John's Sporting Goods.

One coupon per customer

Not valid for online purchases or mail order

Valid only with coupon at the time of sale