

# Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

May 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

## Shrimp Pot Alert Extreme Minus Tide Opening Day Don't lose your Shrimp Pot

If you are going shrimping on opening day May 7, please take my advice so that you do not lose your shrimp pot.

Your shrimp trap must weigh a minimum of 30lbs. If not it will drift away from the current pulling on your 400 feet of rope.

Extra Buoys, Extra Buoys and Extra Buoys. You must put additional buoys on your shrimp pot line for this tide. I recommend the large yellow Polyform buoy. You will need the extra buoyancy to keep your rope and buoys on the surface. If you do not follow my advice, your buoys will go under water for hours. You will think that someone has stolen your shrimp pot set-up, when in fact your buoy(s) are 100 feet underwater.

To get ready fore this tide: I would attach a 10lb weight to a line snap and snap the weight to the shrimp pot line 25 feet up the line from the pot. When you let the shrimp pot to the bottom, the pot will hit the bottom and the 10lb weight will be sitting on the bottom next to the pot. This will accomplish two things: This will add extra weight to the outfit and it will steady the pot. The buoys and rope will then be pulling on the 10lb weight instead of pulling on the trap. The more steady the shrimp pot, the

more likely shrimp will enter the pot.

## Book Update

Sorry for the delay of the updated version Saltwater Fishing Journal. The Publisher is now saying that it will be another eight weeks before we see the new book. Stay tuned, it will be here this summer. I will keep you informed on the delivery date. I know many of you have been contacting me about the book, please be patient.

## Regulation Homepage Links

The regulation links on the John's Sporting Goods Homepage have now been updated to the 2011/2012 seasons. I hope you enjoy the ease of use of the links, I think most of you will agree the regulation links are much easier to use than using the WDFW web site. If you see any changes that I need to make please email me: jamnw1@aol.com

## Puget Sound Ling Cod

Ling Cod is one of the few species of fish left in Puget Sound that we can fish for on consecutive days.

**Season:** May 1-June 15

**Limit:** 1 Ling Cod

**Size Limit:** 26"-36"

**Gear Restrictions:** No treble hooks. Single barbless hooks only.

# 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:**

These fish are great fun on light tackle. Because they are a bottom dweller, this does not mean that they are easy to catch or that they are gullible for anything that plops in front of them. They like a bait that looks and swims like a natural bait.. You can achieve this look using live bait, frozen herring or a variety of swim baits on lead heads.

Let's explore using the baits that I just mentioned.

**Live Bait:** Live bait is the mostly deadly form of fishing for Ling Cod. Ling Cod cannot resist a live Bull Head, Poggie or a small Sole. To use any of these baits, you catch them yourself. Bull Heads (Prong Horn Sculpin) and Sole can be caught on worms in 60 feet of water on a sandy bottom. Poggies can be caught on a herring jig around pilings.

The proper way to rig any of the live baits is to use a double hook set-up. Use a small 1/0 octopus or circle style hook to thread through the lip of the live fish. The second hook can be as large as a 5/0 octopus style hook. The second hook is left to dangle. You can rig the live bait using a 3 way swivel with a dropper to a lead weight (3-6 ounces) or you can rig the bait to a salmon mooching sinker with a short 24"-36" leader. Fishing these baits is a no brainer; let the live bait to bottom and gently move the rig up and down to keep it out of the rocks. Do not strike when you feel a hard steady pull. Just start reeling slowly until you get the cod to the surface. Net the Ling immediately before he lets go of the bait. This takes some patience and practice. Don't be quick on the draw or you will take the bait away from the Ling.

**Frozen Herring** is always a good bait for Ling Cod. Use 7" herring. This rig is simple; use a double hook rig tied with two 5/0 hooks on 20lb leader. Cut Plug the herring just as you would as if you were fishing for salmon. Make the presentation somewhat live-like. The bait should have some spin to it to make it look natural. Let this rig to the bottom and reel it in 10 feet at let it back to the bottom and repeat this step. When a ling picks up this rig, wait until you feel a steady pull and then set the hooks.

**Artificials** are fun to use. I like using 4" and 6" motor oil/red flake twin tail scampi plastic baits. Put the 4" scampi's on 2-3 ounce lead heads and put the 6" scampi tail on 4-6 ounce jig head.

Whenever I use artificial baits, I always use a small strip of salted herring fillets on the hook.

Preparing the bait: Herring fillets can be prepared by filleting the herring the night before you are going fishing and salting them down with rock salt. If you do not do this the herring will not stay on the hook.

Fillet the herring as if you filleting a salmon. Slice the fillets in half the long way. Put the fillets in a plastic container the meet side up. Coat the herring with rock salt. Each time you put a layer of strips in the container, coat the strips with salt. Refrigerate the strips. By the next morning when you are ready to go fishing the herring strips will be as tough as shoe leather.

When you are ready to fish, put one of the fillets on the hook. This can be simply done by poking the hook through one end of the fillet

# 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

Ling Cod will swallow a jig. There is no biting involved. They will always take the jig on the decent. So, if you are waiting to feel a bite, the cod will be spitting your jig out before you ever get a chance to put a hook into him. Watch you line to detect the pick-up. Whenever you see the line slack-up, strike fast and hard and reel very fast. If you are going to get good at this, it takes practice and a keen eye to detect when a fish pick the jig up.

Do not wildly jig any of the baits or jigs that I have mentioned. Think about this: there is no bait fish that jumps off the bottom 3-5 feet and then plummets itself back to the bottom. That's not natural. Swim the bait slowly. Lift the bait up about a foot and then let it back to the bottom. The bait or jig will now look like natural swimming live bait.

Here is a partial list of places where Ling Cod can be caught in Puget Sound:

Hat Island (Gedney) Artificial Reef  
Possession Bar  
Edmonds Marina Breakwater  
Double Bluff  
Foul Weather Bluff  
Deception Pass

## **Area 6 Shrimp Open Every Day Fish for Halibut and Shrimp Thursday through Saturday**

You just spent \$1000 on shrimp gear and the local season has gone by with a blink of the eye. You still have plenty of time to get in on some of the best shrimp areas.

Area 6 stays open every day of the week. You heard me right, Every Day! The only thing that gets in the way in Area 6 is the tides. You have to pick the right day to go shrimping. No big deal, there are plenty of good days to choose from when the tide is not running hard.

A hard and fast rule for shrimping in Area 6: There must be less than six feet of water exchange between the tides. In other words: The tide cannot go out more than six feet or the tide cannot come in more that 6 feet. If you do not follow my advice, you will lose your shrimp pots. That simple. Pick the right days and you will have ample fun shrimping in Area 6.

I mentioned of Eastern Bank in my April Newsletter. This is by far one of the very best places to shrimp in Area 6. Eastern Bank is approximately 13.5 miles form Deception Pass. Set your pots in 300-325 feet of water.

If you do not want to venture very far, Lawson reel right outside of Deception Pass can be a very good shrimp spot. I have talked to several customers who did very well shrimping at Lawson Reef last year. Stay on the south end of Lawson Reef to make sure that you are in Area 6. This Area is divided in half by Area 6 and Area 7. Area 7 is only open Saturdays and Wednesdays through May. Lawson Reef is only 2.5 miles from Deception Pass. Set your pots in 250-325 feet of water.

You really want to make fun day of shrimping and fishing, fish for Halibut while you soak shrimp pots Thursday, Friday and Saturday. This makes a great combo trip. You can find Halibut





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

in 90-180 feet of water in any of the areas that you are shrimping in.

Lawson Reef Shrimp Map [Click Here](#)  
Eastern Bank Shrimp Map [Click Here](#)

## Lake Chelan Mackinaw

I recently made a trip to Lake Chelan to fish Mackinaw with Guide Joe Heinlen. This is a trip that I had wanted to make for years but never got around to it until recently.

Lake Chelan is a special place in Washington State. The beauty of the area will take your breath away. The water is crystal clear and the lake is teeming with fish. This is one of the few lakes in Washington where there is no limit on Mackinaw. That's right No Limit!

Our day started off with Joe explaining what these fish were doing. He explained their feeding habits (they eat everything) and the territory that they stake out. Mackinaw like deep water. Real Deep. 250-325 feet are typical fishing depths. That's deep!

We started off the day fishing with Goldstar Ace Hi Flies (Needlefish Purple Haze). This will sound like the Ling Cod advice that I gave you earlier. We put strips of Pike Minnow on the hooks as an enticer. The Ace Hi Fly was rigged with a small device called an "Action Disk". This is nothing more than a concave disk that is placed in front of the fly. This provides a shimmering action. These things are really pretty cool. The flies are let out behind a downrigger at least 80 feet. Then down to the bottom they go in 250-325 feet of water. Joe puts one line out the back with

16oz of lead on the line. Believe me, nobody rushes to reel in a Mackinaw in on that line. The rule of thumb is that you flip a coin to who has to reel it in. To reach the bottom with the rod that has the weight on it, you have to let out almost 500 feet of line.

Joe reassured us that you have to have Pike Minnow to catch these Mackinaws. Ok, he's the expert on Chelan. About 9 am the bite came on and we landed eight or nine nice Mackinaw in the 4 to 7 pound range. Very acceptable fishing by my standards. I was having a great time. Joe wanted larger fish. Like I said, he's the expert, so we went up the lake near Manson in a place they call the "Trench". This is the narrowest part of the lake. In this area we fished 325-340 feet deep. I kept telling myself, "I hope we don't catch too many." Well, the bite was on and the fish were nearly double the size that we were catching earlier in the day. Uff-Da! Reeling Mack's up from 325 feet is a chore. We caught nine more including our largest fish weighing in at close to ten pounds. [See picture click here.](#)

Remember the Pike Minnow teaser bait that we were putting on out flies earlier? Well, that theory went out the window. We caught all our fish on Purple/Glow T5 Flatfish at the Manson Spot.

Fishing Mackinaw at Lake Chelan is trip that I would highly recommend to anyone. The scenery is great, the fishing is great and you can fish with one of the best guides that I have ever fished with. Contact Joe Heinlen 509-393-9665. Take a look at Joe's web page, [Click here for Lake Chelan Fishing Adventures.](#)

**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.

# Shrimp Bait Formula

by John Martinis

## Items needed:

Friskies Ocean White Fish w/ Tuna canned cat food  
Bumble Bee canned Mackerel  
Ace of Baits Prawn Pellets or Super Bait Prawn Bait pellets  
Copper River Prawn Oil or Pro Cure Shrimp Attractant Oil  
6" bait barrel

The idea of mixing all these ingredients together is to set up a scent trail to attract shrimp to your shrimp pot. Once the shrimp are near your pot, there is a good chance that they will want to enter the pot and feed on the Mackerel and pellets. The cat food and the Pro Cure shrimp oil will quickly leach out of the pot and attract shrimp. The pellets and the Mackerel will keep the shrimp in the pot once they get inside. You can see the purpose of the different ingredients.

Some people like to mix all the ingredients together and freeze the mixture in a large bait barrel. They put the frozen mixture in the pot and let it un-thaw while the pot is working. Some people will add ground up fish to the mixture and others will add dry cat food (Friskies Seafood Sensation).

## My recommendation per pot:

- 1) Put 3 cups of Super Bait shrimp bait pellets in a zip lock bag and add 1 cup of Pro Cure shrimp Attractant Oil in the zip lock bag. Soak the pellets for one hour before shrimping.
- 2) After the pellets soak for one hour, put the pellets in the 6" bait barrel. Hang the bait barrel from the inside of the shrimp pot.
- 3) Poke holes in one can of Mackerel and insert the can in the center bait compartment in the shrimp pot.
- 4) Poke holes in 2 cans of Friskies Ocean White Fish w/ Tuna and insert the cans in the center bait compartment in the shrimp pot.
- 5) Let the shrimp pot over board and soak the pot for 45-60 minutes.

Each time you let the shrimp pot out and retrieve it, you need to replace the canned cat food. It pretty much washes out of the cans fairly fast. The pellets will last all day and the canned Mackerel will last most of day. The cat food is the only item that needs frequent replacing.

I have recommended this concoction to many shrimp anglers and they find that it works quite well. Some anglers will just use the pellets; other anglers will use only the canned Mackerel. Use it all to set up that good scent trail.