

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

September 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

September Fishing Journal News

Coho Derbies: Edmonds and Everett
Coho at Possession Bar
and Ship Wreck
September 1, Stillaguamish River
opens for Salmon
Snohomish River Pink Fishing
Accelerates
Jigging for Pinks

Coho Spectacular

Get ready for round two of spectacular salmon fishing on Puget Sound. Coho are readily being caught on Possession Bar as I write this column. This is truly the best salmon fishing we have seen locally in many years. Yahoo!

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:

The Edmonds and Everett Coho derbies are in September, so we need to address Coho fishing techniques and look at some maps of good places to fish.

I don't think there is a particular method of fishing that will produce large Coho. If want to catch a large Coho, it is just a numbers game or blind luck. I can't sell you luck but I can make sure that you have "High Percentage" gear that has the best chances of catching the most Coho. The more Coho that you come in contact with, the better your chances of placing in one of the two derbies. It is not too much different than purchasing lottery tickets, the more you purchase the better the chances of winning. I am not making a case for purchasing more than one derby ticket. What I am saying, "the more Coho you catch in one day, the better your chances are of placing or possibly winning."

I believe that these two rigs will catch more Coho than anything else: Green Hot Spot flasher with a red stripe followed by a Green/Glow OG144R Goldstar squid or a Purple Haze Hot Spot flasher followed by White lightening Coho Killer spoon.

A great variation on rigging squid is to put a UV Ace Hi Fly inside of the squid. This rig will give you the glow of the squid body and also the UV reflection.

The White Lightening Coho Killer has UV paint on it.

The squid need to be tied with 30lb leader material and they need to be 30"-36" behind the flasher. There are two different squid ties that I like equally. 1) A double hook tie with two Mustad 92553SS 4/0 hooks. I have these rigs custom tied in my store 2) A single 3/0 9510XXSS Mustad siwash hook fastened to a #1 black barrel swivel and tied to 30lb leader material.

As you know, I usually do not

recommend herring very often. For Coho, herring is important for adding a little taste of the real thing. I like adding a strip of salted herring to the hook.

The night before you go fishing prepare salted strips of herring: Fillet the herring and cut the fillets into strips the long way. The strips should be 1/2" wide and 2"-3" long. Place the strips into a plastic container and pour rock salt of the fillets. By morning the herring will be as tough as shoe leather. These strips can be frozen for future use after you use them the first time.

Fishing depths for Coho is not too much different than fishing for Pink Salmon. They are an early morning feeder. They are caught 30-60 feet deep at daylight and as far down as 120 feet by 11 AM.

Where Coho fishing is radically different than fishing for Pinks: Trolling speed for Coho is 3.0-3.5 MPH and possibly faster.

I would fish the Edmonds Coho Derby and the Everett Coho Derby completely different. In the Edmonds Derby I would fish these two places: 1) The large rip that runs off the Scatchet Head Buoy and to the West while the tide is going out. The tides on Saturday September 10 is perfect for this spot ([Click here to see Map](#)). 2) The rips that runs across Possession Bar and out into deep water ([Click here to see Map](#)).

In either spot, I would fish as shallow as 30 feet at daylight and keep going deeper as the sun comes up. The prime depths by 8:00 AM would be 40-65 feet. By 10:00 AM the prime depths would be 65-90 feet. By 11:00 AM the prime depths would be 65-120 feet.

In the Everett Coho Derby which is much later in September, I would fish these two Spots: 1) Ship Wreck ([Click here to see Map](#)). 2) Horse Shoe Hole at Possession



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

Bar ([Click here to see Map](#)). The tides are very similar to the tides for the Edmonds Derby, the only difference is the how late in the Month the Everett Derby is taking place. By September 24, Coho are finished feeding and they are heading home to their river of origin.

Coho are schooling fish. If you catch a Coho, there is most likely more fish in that exact spot. Do not make one of the most common salmon angler errors: "Catching a salmon and then trolling in the same direction for the next hour". If you catch a Coho, immediately go back to that exact spot. Not just once, go back repeatedly!

Regulation Reminder: You can keep (any) wild or hatchery Coho in Areas 9 and 8-2. I already know of several wild Coho that have been released inadvertently. Hmmm? Please do not release the winning fish.

Singles barbless hooks required in Puget Sound for Salmon fishing. More than one single barbless hook can be used. No treble hooks!

Mentioned Gear:

Green Hot Spot w/Red Stripe [Click Here](#)
Purple Haze Hot Spot Flasher [Click Here](#)

Goldstar OG142R Squid [Click Here](#)
Goldstar White Lightening Coho Killer [Click Here](#)

Ace Hi Fly UV [Click Here](#)
Mustad 92553SS 4/0 Stainless Hooks [Click Here](#)

Mustad 9510XXSS 3/0 Stainless Siwash Hooks [Click Here](#)

Maxima 30lb Leader Material [Click Here](#)

Stillaguamish River opens September 1, for Pink Salmon

September is the month that Pink salmon get in the Stillaguamish River with gusto. This a great opportunity for anglers to fish from the river bank. The Stilly is much different from the Snohomish River. It has nice sloping gravel bars that are much more appealing than the banks of the Snohomish. This makes access to the river much easier for those of you who want to bring younger family members with you. The river can be divided up in two ways: 1) Below Silvana the river is influenced by the tide. 2) Above I-5 there is no tidal influence. Above I-5 is where the nice gravel bars are located.

One of the most popular Pink Salmon fishing areas is Blue Stilly Park. Blue Still is only a few block off I-5. Take the Arlington exit and drive toward Arlington for approximately ½ mile. You will see a fire station on the left, take a left at the fire station and drive to the river. ([Click here to see Map](#)).

In the town of Arlington there is a city park on the river that has a large gravel bar. This park has plenty of room for everyone. ([Click here to see Map](#)).

Regulation Reminder: The Stilly hook regulation is one single barbless hook and no bait.

Because the Stilly is a smaller, clearer water and shallower than the Snohomish River, the gear that you will be using will be slightly different. I believe that #1 Dick Nite spoons are the best lure to use. There are a couple ways to rig the Dick Nites: 1) Use a 4-5 foot leader and a #10 Black barrel swivel and a cannon ball split shot for weight. This is simple and it will get the job done. 2) Using a dropper



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

leader to a cannon ball weight and a 3-way swivel is also a popular way to rig the weight. With this rig use 4-5 foot leader. The dropper to the weight should be 10-11 inches long. This rig is much harder to cast but it makes up for it in effectiveness.

If you are using jigs in the Stilly, use 1/8 and 1/4 ounce pink jigs under a float. (*See float setup*).

Mentioned Gear:

Dick Nite Spoons [Click Here](#)

Snohomish River Pinks

The Pink salmon are a solid 10 days late this year. Very unusual! In my August Newsletter, I pointed out how you can set your watch on August 10 for the Pink salmon arrival at Humpy Hollow. **This is a great statistic:** By August 21, 2011, over 1,000 salmon a day were being recorded daily on Saturdays and Sundays. The count would go down to 450 on a weekday when there was far less anglers on the water. Not bad!

As of August 27, 2011, the Snohomish River is getting large batches of Pinks daily. I expect the fishing to last through the end of September. By mid September there should be a mix of Coho and Pinks in the river. There is a pretty good chance that the peak of the Pink run will not be until mid September in the river. The weather will have a big influence on the Snohomish. If the weather continues to be dry, expect the fish to remain in the Snohomish.

Jigging is by far the best way to catch Pinks in the Snohomish. These are the three jigs that I like to use:

1) 3/8 John's marabou jig with a pink worm tail

- 2) 1/4 ounce pink squid tail jig
- 3) #2 or 2 1/2 Buzz Bomb with a Pink Squid

(*See diagram click here*)

Regulation Reminder: Snohomish River hook rule is: Single hooks only on sinking lures. Bait is allowed. The barbs on the hooks **do not** have to crimped.

Steamboat Slough Pinks

**“The day when
everything goes right”**

We have all had the day fishing when everything goes wrong. The boat motor will not start; the fishing rod breaks and the fish don't bite. Then there are those days when the sun shines all day, it's 80 degrees out and the fishing is blistering hot!

I had that everything goes right day on the Snohomish River and Steamboat Slough, Sunday September 28.

I was fishing with my best fishing partner Les Jacober, Anne (my wife), Julie (daughter) and her boy friend Blake. The day started off with hooking a considerable amount of Pink salmon. The women were hooking fish at a good clip and losing them right at the boat. Right when everyone was getting a little perturbed at the salmon, “The Big One hit”. All I heard was a gigantic splash and everyone in the boat let out this yell, “Oh MY Goodness, it's a Sturgeon”. Anne hooked this fish on a pink humpy jig. She fought the Sturgeon on 8lb test line for 1/2 hour. Julie took over and fought the Sturgeon for another 1/2 hour. Julie gave up and handed the rod off to me. I was determined to land this fish so that we could take picture and verify that this was BIG Fish Story. Using 8lb line, the odds were stacked against me. I

Just Fishing



fought the fish for 20 minutes and brought it to the surface and along side of the boat. Les grabbed the fish by the jaw and held it long enough to get some pictures. ([Click here for the pictures](#))

Just when you thought that this was a Sturgeon story, there is more to the story.

We went up to Highway 9 and hooked some more Pinks. Notice, I said hooked not caught. The women finally got board when the fishing slowed down and wanted to call it a day at 1pm. I told them that when the tide will turn to come in that there will be another bite. They were not buying that fish story. So we took them to Rotary Park where their car was and waived goodbye.

I told Les, "lets go fish in front of the red house above Rotary Park and hang out there until the water starts to come in." We fished for a ½ hour. Nothing. We moved to the other side of the river. Nothing. A couple Pinks swirled on the other side of the river where we just came from. I asked Les, "let's move back to the other side of the river." We were being the ultimate impatient anglers.

No sooner had we moved and a gigantic school of Pinks started working the surface. I hooked a fish. Now we had a double on. We lost fish and immediately hooked up again. We hooked up literally every cast for a twenty-five minute period. I couldn't tell you how many fish we hooked, but it was a bite that will never be forgotten, ever.

The Pinks finally went away and we were tired. It was time to head back to Steamboat Slough where Les keeps his boat. We got back to the Slough. There was a young child in a boat

fishing with a Zebco Spiderman outfit. You will love this. The child says to us, "we had three fish on and they all broke off."

We went a half mile into Steamboat and started making a few casts. We hooked and released eight Pinks in a matter of minutes. What a fitting way to end the day. But it was not over with yet.

We moored the boat and prepared to clean the Pinks at the cleaning station at the dock. The great fishing buddy that I am, I asked Les if he minded that I fished while he cleaned the fish. No problem.

I caught and released six more Pinks while Les cleaned the fish. ([See Pictures](#))

That was a great day of fishing: Good friends, family and lots of willing fish. As I type this, I can play each fish that day so vividly over and over and over. After 38 years in the sports fishing business, this is what recharges my batteries. Now I am ready to open my store and greet all of you Monday morning!

[Click Here for Steamboat Slough Map](#)

Jigging for Pinks

When you are fishing on the local rivers for Pink Salmon, have you noticed that there are always a couple of anglers that are catching fish non-stop? Very frustrating at the least! Many times these anglers are using the same gear that you are. Their technique and style are uniquely different enough to make them have the "hot fishing rod".

Let's take a look at jigging for Pinks.

There are two important moves that can make the difference between hot fishing and no banana. 1) Depth is so important. Most of the time Pink Salmon are laying a foot from the bottom. Depending on the tide or river current you must make a jig selection that is heavy enough to get to the bottom. ¼ ounce jigs for rather still water. 3/8 ounce jigs for moderately fast moving water. 2"-2 ½" Buzz Bombs for fast moving water. Take a close look at the water and make the correct selection of jig. 2) Do not jig aggressively! Move the jig upward and then let it fall until it completely settles out. Let the jig rest for a few seconds. This will allow the fish to pick the jig up.

If you are fishing from a boat, casting is not always the best option. Often you can find Pink Salmon right under the boat. Many times you can find success by vertical jigging. Other times you might need to cast to fish that are showing on the surface. If there are a few fish on the surface, there is usually a 100 more one foot from the bottom.

Pictures

Please send me your fish pictures and I will put them on my web site for other anglers to view your catch of the day. Send them to: jamnw1@aol.com

I usually post the pictures within a couple days of receiving them. You can find the picture on my Home Page under the title "Fresh Fish", then click on "Fish Pics Updated"

[Click here to take you to the picture page:](#)



Web Page Update

I know I have been promising that my web site will have an all new look. It is almost finished and it is spectacular! It will only take a minute for you to learn the new spots where all the information is. Once you do, I think that you will find that it is much better organized. I will have a place where you can post your fishing reports. I will also be posting fishing reports from information that I receive at my store. This will be an all new feature that will be very fun and helpful.

The one thing that will remain the same: The Fishing Journal Newsletter will still be posted down the left hand side of my web site. This is the most used part of my site (gets 8,000+ views on many days).

I think you will appreciate that I will have no advertising on my site except for John's Sporting Goods.

Parking at John's Sporting Goods

For those of you who are new to John's Sporting Goods. You can park in the Thai Restaurant Parking lot next to my store. Please park on the north side of the lot. If you have a boat and trailer, yes you can park there too. Do not leave your boat with all the gear unattended.

Fishing License Fees Increase September 1, 2011

This is the first general recreational license fee increase in more than a decade.

The 2011 Legislature approved the new fees to help meet rising costs and a shortfall in revenue for managing hunting, fishing and the fish and wildlife populations that are the focus of those activities.

Not all license fees will increase, and some will decline, including those for youth, seniors and persons with disabilities. New license fee prices are available on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) website.

“The new fees are critically important in maintaining fishing and hunting opportunity and make it possible for the department to fulfill its dual mission of conserving species while providing sustainable fishing, hunting and outdoor recreation across the state,” said WDFW Director Phil Anderson. “The fees reflect the cost of managing specific fisheries and hunts, and are competitive with fees charged in neighboring states. At the same time, we made an effort to encourage broad participation through youth and senior discounts.”

The new fees are expected to generate about \$8 million annually for activities that support hunting and recreational fishing. Recreational license and permit revenue is used to manage fisheries and hunting seasons, produce trout and steelhead for recreational fisheries, enforce regulations, monitor fish and game populations and help maintain wildlife lands.

Revenues from the license fee

increase will replace a temporary 10 percent license sale surcharge that expired in June, and will fill a projected deficit in the account that funds fishing and hunting activities. Without the license fee increase, WDFW would have been forced to make major cuts in hunting and fishing seasons and opportunities.

“Fishing and hunting contribute more than \$1.4 billion a year to the state's economy, benefitting local communities, small business owners and the people they employ,” Anderson said. “Maintaining fishing and hunting opportunity is vital to Washington's economy and quality of life.”

New Item Scotty Downrigger Repair Kit

John's Sporting Goods has a new item that you be interested in.

We are putting together two different **Scotty Downrigger Repair Kits**. One kit is for the 1106 series of downriggers and the other is for the new 2106 series of downriggers.

Kit Cost \$29.95

Pieces purchased separately would cost \$43.00.

Included in each kit:

- Spare Drive Belt
- Package of Crimping Sleeves
- Two Thimbles
- Bumpers
- Stopper Beads for Cable
- Stopper Beads for Braided Line
- Two Heavy Duty Snap Swivels
- Lead Ball Snubber
- Plano Storage Box

[Click Here to See](#)

**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

Expires September 30, 2011

You Must have this coupon in your hand at the time of purchase.

No exceptions made