

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

December 2012

**\$50 Gift Cards for
\$30. See Details
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**How To Videos
by John Martinis**

New Chinook Fishing Video
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w/Downriggers**
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**Rigging Flashers
for Chinook Fishing**
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Spreader Bar Rigging**
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Fishing Maps
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John's Videos
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Seminars 2013

by John Martinis
Chinook Seminar
March 13, 2013
At Bayside Marine
7PM

The Public is invited to all my seminars and the seminars are free.

**Everett
Blackmouth Derby
March 16, 2013**

Gift Ideas Salmon Fishing Essentials

Gibbs UV Red Racer Flasher
Gibbs Purple Haze Flasher
Sampo X3CB Ball Bearing Swivels
Pline Fluorocarbon Leader
3.5 Kingfisher Red Racer Spoons
3.5 Kingfisher Cookie-n-Cream
5" Tomic Plug #602 & 603
Goldstar 3.5 Purple Haze Squid
Gamakatsu 4/0 Black Hooks

Cool Salmon Fishing Reels
Shimano Tekota 500 or 500LC

Solid Puget Sound Salmon Rods
Lamiglas CG86MHC
St Croix TRC86HF2

Fillet Knife
Kershaw 1280X

Halibut Gear
Penn 113H Reel

Shimano Tekota 700 Reel
7" White Squid
65lb Braided Line
Pre-Tied 10/0 Halibut Hooks

Snapshot of December Salmon/Crab

Salmon Closing: Area 9
Salmon Opening: Area 7
Salmon Still Open: Areas 8-1, 8-2,
Area 10
Area 9 Chinook Re-Opens January 16
December Crab Open: Areas 7, 8-1,
8-2, 9

December Chinook Options

Wasn't Area 9 on Possession Bar just awesome Chinook fishing in November! I believe that many of those Chinook we were catching were three year old Chinook that will be mature Summer Chinook in July. Should be real good!

But now, we have to concentrate on what is available for the next thirty days. Areas 8-1 and Area 8-2 remain open and Area 7 opens on December 1.

In Area 8-1 I would concentrate on fishing Baby Island and Greenbank ([See Map Click Here](#)).

In Area 8-2 I believe the fishing opportunities for Chinook in the December time frame are better than fishing Area 8-1. Close to the Everett area, you have all the fishing areas around Hat Island (See map [Click Here](#))



New Puget Sound Salmon Seasons 2012

Area 5: Feb. 16-Apr. 10 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 1.

Area 6: Dec. 1-Apr. 10 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2. Release wild CHINOOK.

Area 7: Dec. 1-Apr. 30 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined). Release wild Chinook. See Bellingham Bay Closure and Fishery.

Area 8-1: Nov. 1-Apr. 30 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined). Release wild CHINOOK.

Area 8-2: Nov. 1-Apr. 30 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined). Release wild CHINOOK.

Area 9: Nov. 1-Nov. 30 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined). Release wild CHINOOK.

Jan. 16-Apr. 15 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily

and Columbia Beach. In Saratoga Passage, you have Elger Bay ([See Map Click Here](#)), Camano Head and Sandy Point to Langley.

All of the places that I have mentioned are weather dependent in December. The strategy for fishing these areas is to see what the wind forecast is for Puget Sound and then choose your fishing spot. The best way to decide on where to fish in the morning or any other time is to log on to Washington Ferry Weather ([Click Here for Ferry Weather](#)) and then choose where to go fishing. Dealing with the wind and weather is just reality for fishing Puget Sound in the winter months. If the wind is 12mph or more, it might be a good idea to look for alternative places to fish that would put you out of the wind. For example: The northeast side of Hat Island if the wind is blowing 12-15mph out of the south. Elger Bay would be a good choice if the wind was blowing 12-15mph out of the North.

Now would be a good time to change your fishing strategies. Areas 8-2 and Area 8-1 are not loaded with shakers compared to Possession Bar. I would highly recommend experimenting with flasher and 4"-5" Herring. Rig your flasher with a 60" 30lb fluorocarbon leader to a Rhys Davis Clear UV Anchovy Special ([Click Here for Diagram](#)). The Anchovy heads ([Click Here to see](#)) work much better than the herring heads do for 4" and 5" Herring. I used the Rhys Davis Anchovy heads with Herring the last time I fished Possession Bar. They worked quite well until the shaker (sub-legal Chinook) bite came on. Then I had to switch to 5" Tomic Plugs. The point is; Herring fished behind a flasher works quite well especially if there is not an aggressive Chinook bite going on. When fishing is good, you never have to fish with Herring. Herring is a good option that can produce some fish. The flashers that I would recommend when fishing Herring are

Gibbs UV Red Racer flasher or any of the Purple Haze Flashers ([Click Here to see flashers](#)).

If I had to make a forecast of the two best Area 8-2 places to fish in December, I would pick Elger Bay and the South side of Hat Island.

The bar that runs between Hat and Camano Islands is kind of hard to resist as a top pick, but the seals are so aggressive in that area that it makes it hard to get a fish to the boat.

Elger Bay is a good incoming tide spot and all the areas around Hat Island are good on any morning tide change.

Area 7 Chinook Opens December 1

With Possession Closing on the last day in November, many saltwater anglers are turning their attention to the San Juan Islands (Area 7). Area 7 opens Saturday December 1, so you can get right at it on opening day on your day off from work. The first set of tides for the weekend opener happens to be a set of outgoing tides both Saturday and Sunday. On those tides I would recommend fishing Lopez Flats ([Click Here for Map](#)) and Thatcher Pass ([Click Here for Map](#)). If the wind is reasonable, a trip to the north end of Middle bank can be extremely good salmon fishing in December.

I would also put Tide Point (Cypress Island) high on my list for any outgoing tide.

Opening weekend tides: Saturday 7:44AM High Tide, 12:50PM Low Tide. This is pretty straight forward choice of where to fish because you cannot fish that morning high tide as it occurs before daylight. Sunday 8:16AM High Tide, 1:47PM Low Tide. This is kind of



limit 2 (combined). Release wild CHINOOK.

Area 10: Oct. 1-Jan. 31 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined). Release wild CHINOOK. See Agate Pass Area on previous page. See Duwamish Waterways

Area 11: Nov. 1-Dec. 31 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined). Only 1 CHINOOK may be retained.

Feb. 1-Apr. 30 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2. Release wild CHINOOK.

Area 12: Oct. 16-Dec. 31 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 4 (combined). Only 2 CHINOOK may be retained. Release wild CHINOOK.

Feb. 1-Apr. 30 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2. Release wild CHINOOK.

Check the Reg's for more information, [Click Here](#) for a complete set of the saltwater rules

interesting because you can fish a sliver of that incoming tide in the morning if you get going early enough. I would be at Eagle Bluff on the north end of Cypress for that early morning high tide.

Most of the places that I fish in the San Juan's, I like to hug the bottom in 90 feet of water. At both Thatcher and Lopez Flats, if you get much deeper than 90 feet, the current gets too difficult to deal with.

Chinook rigs for winter fishing in the San Juan's look a little different compared to fishing Puget Sound. I like the flasher and small herring routine that I described earlier. If you do not want to deal with bait, I would recommend using UV Red Racer flashers with either the NG142R needlefish squid ([Click Here to see](#)) or Coho Killer spoons. Coho Killer spoons that I recommend are; White Lightening ([Click Here to see](#)) and Cookies and Cream ([Click Here to see](#)). Both these spoons have a UV coating on them. Rig both the squid and the spoons with a 42" 30lb fluorocarbon leader. And don't forget to put Herring scent on the flasher and the spoon or squid. If the spoon is UV, put the scent on the non-UV side of the spoon because the scent will block the UV.

2012 Resurrection Derby \$10,000 Top Prize December 7 and 8

The 2012 Resurrection Fishing Derby, organized by the Fidalgo-San Juan Islands Chapter of the Puget Sound Anglers, takes place December 7 and 8, at the Port of Friday Harbor. This is the third year of the event and coincides with the opening week of the winter fishing season in the San Juan Islands.

The entry fee is \$400. The 100 teams (with up to four anglers per team) will get a spot to vie for \$15,000 in guaranteed purse money. 1st place prize \$10,000; 2nd place \$2,500; 3rd place \$1,500; \$1,000 for total team weight, and a free 2013 entry for the winner of the Mystery Fish prize. ([Click Here for more derby info](#))

December Dungeness

I think everyone who has done any winter crabbing this year will admit that it did not get off to a very good start. That has changed! Crabbing has been getting progressively better. Most crabbers that I have spoken to lately who crabbed anywhere around Hat Island have done reasonably well. So, if you gave up on crabbing, it is time to give it another try. You might be pleasantly surprised.

With Area 9 closing down for Chinook, I like the Hat Island crabbing idea a lot because you can fish for Chinook and watch your crab pots at the same time.

You also might want to try crabbing around the Shipwreck, I have recently talked to crabbers who went to this area and have done reasonably well.

A word of advice: No matter where you go crabbing, keep a constant watch on your crab gear. There seems to be others around who cannot keep their hands off other peoples crab gear.

Saltwater Steelhead

If you are looking for something different to do, I would try Steelhead fishing off the beaches on Whidbey Island. There are two locations that have public access where you have a reasonable chance of catching a Steelhead. Those two beaches are: Bush Point and Fort Casey State

Just Fishing



Park. Make sure that you have a Discover Pass to park your vehicle at either of these two places. At Bush Point make sure that you do not go from the access area to private property.

The best fishing is when the tide is coming in and an hour before high tide.

The rigs for fishing steelhead on Whidbey are quite simple: #4 Spin-n-Glo, 3.5 orange hoochie or 3.5 orange squid, double hook rig with 4/0 hook and a 1oz mooching sinker.

Tie a 4' 15lb leader with the hooks tied close together. Slip two #6 red beads down the leader. Then slide your hoochie or squid down the leader. Slide a #4 Flame/Chartreuse Spin-n-Glo down the leader and then slide one more red bead down the leader. Tie the leader to a 1oz mooching sinker and you are ready to go.

Anyone can be effective at catching a steelhead off the beach without too much prior skill or knowledge. Here are some tips: Don't stand in the water! Stand at the waters edge and cast out as far as you can. Retrieve the rig so that it stays off of the bottom. Reel the rig all the way in, the fish often bite right near shore. Stay alert at all times because you will miss any fish that strike at your rig while it is in the surf near the shoreline. This can be a very exciting fishery, just imagine the water exploding at your feet when a 10lb Steelhead strikes your rig. These fish are the most beautiful prime, chrome bright fish you would ever see. They will take burn the line off your reel on their first run and give you the best fight any 10lb game fish will ever give you.

This is an all-weather fishery. In fact when the rivers are blown out and it is too rough to get a boat out onto the saltwater, drive to Whidbey and fish for Steelhead.

At John's Sporting Goods, we have a demo rig to show you how to rig for saltwater Steelhead.

Whidbey Island Map: [Click Here](#)
Mukilteo Ferry Schedule: [Click Here](#)

Great Halibut Story!

By Tom Bihler

Thought you might like to hear how the 2012 Port Angeles "2nd Place Derby Winner" came about,...for the guys who think "Hally fishing is no big deal".

1st day, Started fishing on Thurs., 2 days, before the derby with my fish'n buddy who now lives in Port Angeles...(no plans on fishing the derby). We started fishing area 5, thinking hot hot hot. -No bites, No Fish-, daylight to dark. (Twin rivers, Lyre ck, Whiskey ck, Freshwater etc.) Stopped by other boats in the area, small fish to 25lbs. Go Home, Refuel, Eat Pizza & Regroup...

2nd Day (where's the fish?) Head out in area 6 to old spots we've seen or caught fish ourselves...1979 Glassply & rebuilt engine breaks down, use electrical tape to patch heat exchange cover and coats the alternator with salt water ...now losing voltage to batteries.

No bites, No fish...daylight to dark. Get stopped by the U.S. Border Patrol on the way back, with four 300hp Merc's,...100+mph boat and five guys with guns on board. Look'n for fish today guy's not drugs....but I may start using them soon if we don't catch some fish. Go Home, Refuel, Eat Pizza, Regroup & buy 2012 Derby tickets at Swains. (for hell-of-butt)

3rd day, Not leaven P.A. without "kick'n some butt" get up at 3:30 am

Derby day... (3 days, no shower - same shirt, same pants, stay'n at my buddies house & don't want to use his shower (no offense) Thinking about going off shore, Coyote bank wherever, ever. No fish, No bites...Life sucks. Tried everything in the boat (must not have bought enough gear from John's Sporting Goods).

Head home, Get stopped and boarded by the U.S. Coastguard. Six guys with guns...we immediately start waving our white flag to both the U.S. Government and the Halibut's. Refuel, (now at \$600/4.40 gal) Regroup and Eat pulled pork sandwiches (with no buns, just ran out, k, no problem).

4th Day, get up at 3:30 am (no shower, same clothes, not giving up, but pretty beat up...) Leave P.A. harbor, going to try somewhere, something we hadn't tried before, whatever ever. Boat breaks down by the U.S. Coast Guard Station, water pump is done, were done, (considering air evacuation by the coast guard) return to marina by kicker as it looks like a "Bass Tournament" on Lake Mead" coming at us. Ok,...Coffee's cold, bait's get'n soft and guy's are shaking their heads as they blow by us, total despair.

Pulled motor apart at 4.45 am, think'n about putt'n a used coffee cup out at John's Sporting Goods for "spare change" Need gas money for "veteran fisherman". God Bless...

Go to town, Regroup, and get some hot coffee wait'n for part stores to open on Sunday for a pre-alpha 1979 engine. 9am, no luck, one last store,...Were in Luck they have one (\$43.) Begin putting the engine back together...

10:30 AM Head back out, change of tide coming up, engine running good. (keep the faith). Make to Halibut

Just Fishing



grounds,...make one drop, instant "Hook Up".

Battle Royal on...thumb's burn'n from line being ripped off reel, realize, 80lb leader up against 100lb halibut. (not good odds). All heck's break'n loose on the boat.

Finally, harpoon halibut and burn's Jeff's hands from harpoon rope as it dives for the bottom. Fish come's on board and smash's right foot with it's head, never felt so good, no problem...

Haul back for the weight in station...20 minutes to spare. Place 2nd in the 2012 P.A. Halibut derby for \$2,500. Can't wait till next year....Tom B.



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Tackle For The Serious Angler

December Specials



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Reg. Price \$165



Kershaw 1280X
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Prices Good Through December 30th, 2012



Crab Pot Set-Up
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