

# Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

June 2012

## How To Videos

by John Martinis

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for Chinook Fishing**

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**for Freshwater  
Halibut**

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**Improving a  
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**How to use an  
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## Dungeness Crab Seminar

June 21 @ 7PM

Everett Steelhead & Salmon Club  
2411 Hewitt Ave, Everett WA 98201

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

## Discount Gift Certificates for Fathers Day

See Page 6

## Puget Sound Crab Opens July 1

### John's Crab Pot Rigging Video, [Click Here](#)

I read a report in the "Everett Herald" (May 13, 2011) that stated that, An estimated 12,000 crab pots are lost each year in the Puget Sound and adjoining marine waters, according to a study by the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, the University of Washington and Seattle-based Natural Resources Consultants. Each derelict pot, in turn, is thought to kill at least 10 crabs per year. The study concluded that each year abandoned pots kill 129,000 legal, harvestable male crabs with a market value of around \$800,000.

Many of these lost crab pots are thought to be stolen but in fact they have drifted away into deeper water. This has made me re-think the way crab pots should be rigged.

Your average crab pot only weighs around 7-12lbs. A crab pot that size

should have at least 5lbs of weight attached to it. I would also double up on the buoys. In fact, I would use two of the larger size buoys. ([Click Here](#) for crab pot accessories). There are two things to play when you put a crab pot out: You need the pot to stay in one place and you need to find the pot if it drifts into deeper water. With one of the standard size floats, the pot, line and buoy will sink to the bottom if the depth of the bottom exceeds the length of the rope. If you think about it, it is much less expensive to purchase two large buoys than it is to lose a crab pot, line, buoy and bait box. Purchasing two large floats only increases the cost of the complete crab pot set-up by \$16.00. That is a good insurance policy against losing your crab pot. If you have a crab pot that exceeds 10lbs and you add 5lbs of weight, add additional floatation to the rope to ensure that your pot will float if it drifts away.

There is another aspect to adding weight to the crab pot. The steadier the pot is on the bottom, the more crab you will catch. The buoy and the rope are pulling on the pot from the wave and tide action. If the pot is not stable, crab will be reluctant to go in your crab pot. Have you noticed that one crab pot will always catch more crab? There is a good chance that pot had a more stable footing on the bottom. There other factors involved, but the stability of the pot is the #2 factor in rigging an effective crab pot.

The #1 factor for a crab pot to be effective is the size of the entrance gates. The entrance gates have to be 10"-11" wide. The entrance gates have to be that size for the crab pot to be effective. If you think about it, a legal crab is 6 1/4" in Puget Sound. A legal crab is



## 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

**Oct 1-Oct 31:** Daily limit two salmon, only one chinook.. See closures

**Feb. 16-April 30:** Daily limit

considerably large than 6 ¼” considering his legs and pinchers. Much larger! That crab wants to get in your crab pot and get a free meal. You have to make it easy for that crab to enter the pot. If the crab gets to the entrance and has to jockey around to get in, he will go elsewhere for a free meal. It only makes common sense that the easier for the crab to enter the pot, the more crab you will catch.

Nobody will ever convince me that the shape of the pot make a difference. I use the Danielson pot CTO3R which is an octagon pot. Before I used that pot, I was using the inexpensive FTC Danielson pot. The only thing that those two pots have in common is the width of the entrance doors. Both crab pots caught me limits of crab on a regular basis.

There are three crab pots that I recommend that meet the 10”-11” gate criteria: Danielson CTO3R ([Click Here to See](#)), Danielson FTC ([Click Here to See](#)), and the Kufa CT110 ([Click Here to See](#)),. The Kufa CT110 is a new pot for this year. I sell it fully assembled or you can purchase this pot unassembled. The unassembled CT100 is much less expensive to ship than some of the larger one piece pots.

If you are looking for an inexpensive way to get started crabbing: I sell the Danielson FTC Crab Pot with 100 feet of leaded rope, bait bag, harness, buoy and crab measure for \$39.95. Our competitors sell this same set-up for \$59.95.

To complete your crab pot set-up, you need a minimum of 100 feet of leaded rope, a trap harness, bait bag/bait box and floats. I have the most incredible deal on a heavy duty vinyl coated metal bait cage. These cages are 1.4lbs and I have them on my June special for \$1.99. **See my crab pot rigging video by [Clicking Here](#).** Crab set-up illustration [click here](#).

## Crab Bait

I have extensively used both chicken and salmon for bait. I can't really tell which one is the better bait. Both work quite well. I am not convinced that turkey legs are as good chicken or salmon. One word of caution when you use salmon: The heads and tails are not very good bait. Neither has enough flesh to make them superior bait. Will they work? Yes, but there are better choices that I have already mentioned. Using as much bait as possible makes a world of difference in attracting crab over to your pot. Stuff the bait box with as much bait as possible. I would also recommend soaking the bait overnight with crab attractant oil. Procure and Ace of Baits both make good crab attractants.

People are really getting creative at crabbing different depths. It is interesting hearing the stories about the different depths that people catch crab at. A customer recently told me this crabbing story, “I saw a buoy in the channel by Hat Island in 300 feet of water. I pulled the pot up because I thought it was a pot that drifted off of Mission Bar. I kept pulling and pulling on an endless length of rope. The pot did not drift off. Whoever put out the crab pot, intentionally set it in 300 feet of water. The pot was full of gigantic Dungeness Crab. The next time I went crabbing, I set my pots out in the same spot and had the same results.”

I am not making a case for setting your pots in 300 feet of water. The point I am making is that you can find Dungeness Crab in a wide range of depths. The best depths for crabbing that I would recommend are 35-50 feet deep.

I know this sounds silly to remind everyone about making sure that you have enough rope to make it to the bottom and still have some rope left over after the crab pot settles to the bottom. However, many crab pots are lost because people do

# Just Fishing



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:

**Tulalip Bubble: June 3-June 18,** Open Friday through Monday Noon. Closed on June 19. Two salmon limit, plus

not check the depth once or twice before they throw their pots into the water. A good rule of thumb is this for setting your crab pots: Make sure that you have at least 25 feet of more rope that it is deep. This is the 2nd biggest reason why crabbers lose their crab gear: They throw their pots into deeper water than they have rope attached to their crab pot. Have you done that? It is kind of humiliating watching your buoy sink out of sight 10 seconds after you have thrown the buoy overboard.

Make sure the rope is tied to the crab pot. I heard a story during shrimp season where a guy threw his buddies shrimp pot in the water before the rope was attached to the pot. That Hurts!

## Crabbing Areas

One aspect of crabbing that I really like, is that they are almost everywhere. Some spots being a little better than others. I will attempt to highlight some of the best areas that are centered around good public boat launches.

Puget Sound crabbing opens before the San Juan's, so that's a good starting point. The Everett area has to be one of the best crabbing areas because of all the public access and the quantity of crab.

Mission Bar in front of Jetty Island is huge area to crab and the crab are very plentiful. Most crabbers prefer crabbing near the navigation tower on the very western end of Mission Bar. In this particular area the crab are not very deep. Set your pots in 30-45 feet of water. There is a huge drop-off at the edge of Mission Bar that is at 60 feet. If you set your pots to close to that edge, you will lose your crab pot. [Click Here](#) for Map

Not too far away from Mission Bar is the bar that extends off the most eastern end of Hat Island (Gedney Island). This area was my "go to" to place to send crabbers last year. It put out a lot of crab and it was

never a disappointment. At this spot, put your pots in 60 feet of water. [Click Here](#) for Map

An area that does not get crabbed as hard as other areas; Camano Head/Port Susan. In this area you will not be crabbing very far from shore. I like crabbing in this area because Camano Island shields you from the westerly wind that blows in July and August. You might have to work a little harder here for your crab. But aesthetically, this is a very enjoyable place to crab. [Click Here](#) for Map

If you live north of Everett, Elger Bay near Camano Island state park is the place to go crabbing. In fact, the crabbing is very good from the park all the way to the northern end of Camano Island. There is a good boat launch at the park with a dock. [Click Here](#) for Map

## San Juan Island Crab (South Part) Opens July 15

The crab capitol of Washington State is in the San Juan Islands at Saddle Bag Island. This is a premier place to crab! [Click Here](#) for Map. You can crab here in 20-50 feet of water. To get access to this area: There is a good boat launch under the Swinomish Channel Bridge. This boat launch is good for boats that are 20 feet or less. You can sling launch at Cap Sante Marina. Cap Sante always has ample guest moorage throughout the summer. I like this Marina. It is centrally located for fishing and crabbing. [Click Here](#) for Cap Santé Marina info

Not too far away from Saddle Bags Island is Guemes Island. I have extensively crabbed at the northeastern side of Guemes Island. This is another great crabbing area. [Click Here](#) for Map



## Resources

WDFW Crabbing Seasons: [Click Here](#)

Crab Pot Rules: [Click Here](#)

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 chinook. See closures

### Elliot Bay Fishery:

**Aug. 19-Aug 28:** Open Friday through Sunday only.

## Skagit River Sockeye

**Skagit River from the Memorial Highway Bridge to Gilligan Creek**

**June 16 July 15th.**

**Three fish a day**

Last year there were 27,195 Sockeye Salmon trapped at the Baker River Sockeye Trap. This was the all time record dating back to 1970. The 2012 season is expected to be another strong return.

The Skagit River is going to be the first place that anglers will get a crack at catching these popular sport fish. This may prove challenging. However, I am sure that Skagit anglers will quickly catch on to river fishing for Sockeye.

There is a big debate on whether Sockeye actually bite/strike at a fishing lure in a river environment. I will let you decide that.

In Alaskan Rivers the preferred method for catching Sockeye is with a five foot leader, a red yarn ball and a red Gamakatsu hook.

Be careful, Washington State law states that the hook cannot be more than 3/4" from the tip of the hook to the shank of the hook (the gap). For weight, you can use 1/4" pencil lead or a slinky. Use the appropriate amount of weight to gently bump to bottom of the river. Some anglers prefer to put a small amount of sand shrimp on the hook.

**Skagit River access map:** [Click Here](#) for Map

## Baker Lake Sockeye

**Baker Lake Sockeye**

**July 1-Sept. 4.**

**Three fish a day.**

**John's Sockeye Rig Video**

[Click Here](#)

Fishing for Sockeye in a lake is much easier than fishing for them in a river. In a lake, Sockeye strike from aggression or from a latent feeding habit. There is one thing for certain if you want to get in on "the bite", you better plan on getting up early because Sockeye only bite the first hour of the day. That's real early in July!

I got my first experience fishing Sockeye in a lake on Lake Washington. I remember that it was quite a few years before anglers got real adept at catching these critters in the lake. when I first fished Lake Washington, I was using a size #0 Les Davis Dodger/Chrome Prism with a chrome U20 Flatfish that I painted with red spots. This rig was actually quite good. When the limit was 4 Sockeye one year, we had no trouble catching a limit of 12 Sockeye for three of us.

Not long after that, it was discovered that a plain red hook trolled behind a #0 Chrome prism dodger worked about as good as anything. Later, I discovered putting a red Power Bait Egg made that rig even more effective. I discovered that while fishing Sockeye in Lake Wenatchee. Through the years, I have had lots of experience catching these salmon in a lake.

Let's do the rundown and all the particulars of successful Sockeye Fishing freshwater.

There are only a couple variations of one

# Just Fishing



simple rig for freshwater Sockeye Salmon fishing. All the rigs use either size #00 or a size #0 Les Davis chrome dodger with silver scale prism ([Click Here](#) to see). The preferred size of dodger is size #0. Rig the dodger with one 2/0 Red Gamakatsu Hook ([Click Here](#) to see). I like to put a red Power Bait egg on the hook. Just thread the egg up to the eye of the hook. The leader should be 20lb and the length of the leader is 14"-16". I would use 20lb Pline fluorocarbon leader ([Click Here](#) to see).

One variation of that rig would be a pink or red micro squid on the hook. These micro squid will all work: NG193, NGH193, NGH212, O224. ([Click Here](#) to see).

If you are using a downrigger, you can snap this rig to the end of the line with a X3CB Sampo ball bearing swivel. If you do not have a downrigger, tie a 6-8 ounce mooching sinker 24" from the dodger.

One of the most critical aspects of trolling for Sockeye is speed. You have to have the ability to troll between .5 and 1.5 mph. It is impossible to troll that slowly without a 10 horse kicker motor or an electric trolling motor. I just can't emphasize enough how critical this is!

At daylight the fish will be at 30 feet deep. They will quickly go to 40-60 feet deep as the sun gets on the water.

## Resources

WDFW Baker Lake Sockeye [Click Here](#)  
Baker Lake Map, [Click Here](#)

## Directions to Baker lake and boat launches

### Baker Lake (Kulshan) Launch

The boat ramp has a moderate grade. Concrete blocks have been placed along the side of the ramp for protection from erosion. No designated disabled parking. The parking lot slopes slightly. Nearby, Kulshan Campground offers campsites, a R.V. dump station, and restrooms. No overnight parking or camping within the boat ramp parking area.

### Directions:

From Sedro-Woolley, E on SR 20 12.5 mi; L on Baker Lake Rd, go 14 mi; R on FR 1106; go 1.2 mi; L at Kulshan Campground, go .5 mi; ramp at S end of dam.

### Horseshoe Cove Campground

The boat ramp has a gentle grade. Launching and load occur on both sides of the gravel and sand bar. The surface is uneven from wave erosion and vehicle use. No designated disabled parking. Horseshoe Cove Campground also offers campsites, drinking water, picnic area, group camp area, and vault toilets. Overnight parking is available.

### Directions:

From Sedro-Woolley, E on SR 20 12.5 mi; L on Baker Lake Rd, go 15 mi; R on FR 1118, go 1.7 mi to campground.

### Panorama Point Campground

The boat ramp has a gentle to moderate grade. The asphalt ramp approach stops ten feet away from the shoreline. A drop off has been created from wave erosion. The gravel is becoming rutted from the run off of the parking lot.

### Directions:

From Sedro-Woolley, E on SR 20

12.5 mi; L on Baker Lake Rd, go 19 mi; R at Panorama Point Campground.

### Shannon Creek Campground

The boat ramp has a gentle to moderate grade. Ruts are developing around the ramp due to the run off from the parking lot drainage. Waves have been creating some erosion at the shoreline. No designated disabled parking. Shannon Creek Campground also offers campsites, drinking water, and picnic sites.

### Directions:

From Sedro-Woolley, E on SR 20 12.5 mi; L on Baker Lake Rd, go 24 mi; R at Shannon Creek Campground, go downhill to ramp.

## Puget Sound Sturgeon

Open June 1-June 30

**Minimum Size 38" fork length. Maximum Size 54" fork length. Daily Limit 1. Release Green Sturgeon**

**Sturgeon Rig**  
[Click Here](#)

**Priest Point  
Sturgeon Map**  
[Click Here](#)



## Father Day Special Offer Good until June 17, 2012

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

***\$50 Gift Certificate for \$40***

Gift Certificate

To: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

**Stop by the store and purchase this Gift Certificate  
or have us mail it to you  
Phone Toll Free 1-877-517-2566 or 425-259-3056**

Limit Two Discount Gift Cards Per Person  
Offer Good Until 06/17/2012  
Valid Only When this Coupon is Presented at the time of Purchase  
Certificates can be redeemed on merchandise purchases after 06/17/2012

If Ordering by Phone Mention Gift Card Offer  
All Gift Card are sent USPS Priority Mail add \$4.90

This Gift Card is not good for online purchases,  
repairs, service or WDFW Licenses.  
Cannot be used with any other discount coupons

# Special Purchase

Tackle For The Serious Angler

## Crab Gear Sale



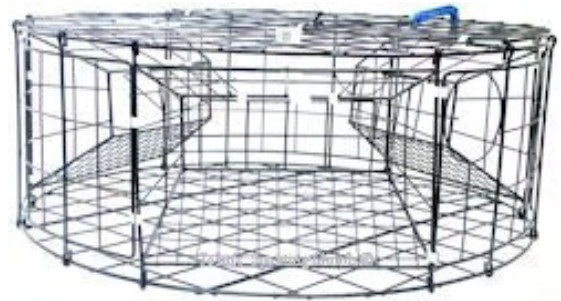
**FTCC Crab Pot Complete**  
Crab Pot, Bait Bag, Buoy,  
100ft Leaded Rope, Crab Measure  
Sale Price **\$39.95**



**Wire Bait Box**  
Sale Price **\$1.99**  
Reg. Price \$5.95



**100ft Leaded 5/16'' Rope**  
**\$9.95**  
Reg. Price \$11.95



**New Item**  
**Kufa Crab Pot # CT110**  
**\$59.95**

Prices Good Through June 30th

**John's Sporting Goods**

**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, Shimano Products, G Loomis, Electronics, items that are discounted, on sale, repairs, parts and closeout items. Cannot be used in combination with discounted gift certificates.

Not valid for online purchases or mail order

Valid only with coupon at the time of sale  
**Expires June 30, 2012**

**You Must have this coupon in your hand at the time of purchase. No exceptions made**

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**Scotty Downrigger  
Maintenance  
300ft Cable  
or  
300ft Spectra Braid  
\$49.95**

Included in the price is new brake pads, your choice of 300' of 150lb. Cable or 300' 200lb. of Cortland spectra downrigger line, cleaning and lubricating the downrigger.

Coupons and discounted gift certificates cannot be used for this service

**John's Sporting Goods  
Facebook**

**Thursday: Big Fish Day**

**Friday: Deal of the Week**

**Scotty Downrigger Deal  
Exclusive at  
John's Sporting Goods**

**Scotty 1106  
Guide Series**

**Installed with  
300ft 200lb Braided Spectra  
#1148 Ball hook  
#371 Scotty Snubber  
\$499**

**Standard Scotty 1106  
\$439**

**Fishing Tackle-Crabbing Supplies-Shrimping Supplies**

**Store Hours: 9:00AM - 5:30PM Monday - Saturday**  
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