

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

March 2012

How To Videos

by John Martinis

Making Spot Shrimp Bait

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Fishing Reel Care

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Rigging Salmon Plugs

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Tying John's Spectra Knot

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on a Downrigger**

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Improving a

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How to use an

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How To Illustrations

by John Martinis

**How to Rig Herring
Head Holders**

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**How to Rig Anchovy
Head Holders**

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New Puget Sound Salmon Seasons

Area 5:

July 1-August 15: Daily

Seminars 2012

by John Martinis

Salmon Seminar

March 14 @ 7PM

Bayside Marine

[Click Here for Map](#)

1111 Craftsman Way, Everett WA
98201

Halibut Seminar

April 19 @ 7PM

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

Spot Shrimp Seminar

To be Announced

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.

The March Salmon Seminar will feature extensive new materials on fishing with bait

Everett Steelhead & Salmon Club Blackmouth Derby March 17

Only 100 tickets will be sold for this derby. Each ticket is good for up to four anglers to fish. The tickets are \$100. The tickets will be available by mid-

January. This derby has been a sell out the past two years. My Chinook seminar is the Wednesday (March 14th) before the derby. The tickets will be available at John's Sporting Goods.

Derby Month

A guide to Smart Fishing the
Everett and Anacortes Salmon
Derbies

The month of March is an exciting month for Chinook fishing. There are two major Chinook fishing derbies: The Everett Blackmouth Derby and the Anacortes Salmon Derby. The Everett Derby is March 17th and the Anacortes Derby is March 31-April 1.

When it is salmon derby season, I like to take a careful look at what rigging anglers are doing well on and I like to make an assessment on where the best chances are of catching the winning fish. On the latter, it is going to be a difficult choice because salmon fishing has been a little stinky in Puget Sound. In the San Juan Islands there will be quite a few choices of places to fish, but it will be harder to predict where that one big winning fish will be caught.

Let's start this conversation by addressing tackle and specific rigs for catching that winning fish. In either derby, I would recommend the same gear for Puget Sound as I would for the San Juan Islands. The recommendations that I make come from carefully listening to other anglers and then trying to determine if there is a trend going on. The trend that I have clearly seen in the 2011-2012 winter Chinook season is the use of Anchovies

Just Fishing



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 one salmon. See closures

Salmon Area 7:

July 1-July 31: Daily limit two salmon plus two additional Pinks, only one

while trolling for salmon. More anglers are adopting Vancouver Island fishing tactics and using those same tactics in Puget Sound and much more so in the San Juan's. The question we ask ourselves, "Why didn't I try that years ago?" As I have mentioned many times in the past, "we are creatures of comfort." Therefore we are resistant to change when we are fishing. Yes, that gets us out of our comfort zone of using the "High Percentage Items". But, Anchovies are working!

Let's don't go all whole hog on fishing Anchovies. Let's include Anchovies in our arsenal of baits. In the past two Newsletters I have written extensively on using Anchovies/Herring with flashers. Now that the derbies are here, it is time to put this into practice. [Click Here](#) for diagram for rigging herring for use with a flasher. [Click Here](#) for rigging Anchovies with a flasher.

The 5" Anchovies that we have at John's Sporting Goods are a great Candlefish imitation. They are slender and sleek, so they can pass as an Anchovy as well as Candlefish. This is important because in most situations Chinook are queuing in on the size of the bait. When the bait you are using closely resembles the size of bait that salmon are feeding on, you get that edge because the fish gets careless when approaching what you have to offer.

Here's the plan: Rig an 11" flasher (Green w/Red Stripe) with a Kingfisher 3.5" Red Racer spoon. Rig an 11" flasher (Purple Haze) with an Anchovy.

The flasher with the Kingfisher spoon should be rigged as follows: The spoon should be tied 42" from the flasher. I would recommend using 30lb Maxima Ultra Green leader material or Pline CFX 40lb Fluorocarbon leader material. [Click Here](#) to see CFX leader material. In a salmon fishing derby I would never, ever be fishing without a Red Racer spoon on

one rig. No exceptions! [Click Here](#) to see Red Racer Spoon.

The one other rig I would consider for the San Juan's is: Purple Haze 11" flasher followed by a Purple Haze Needlefish Goldstar Ace High Fly. [Click Here](#), to see Ace Hi Fly. Attach the Ace Hi Fly 42" from the flasher. Tie the Ace Hi Fly with two 3/0 stainless steel Mustad hooks (92553SS 3/0).

Recommending Fluorocarbon leader is a new recommendation from me. I have been using the Pline CFX leader material long enough now that I feel very comfortable recommending this brand. This is after using the other leading brand of fluorocarbon, only to have knot breaking problems.

The flasher with the Anchovy should be rigged as follows: Use a Rhys Davis Anchovy Holder (Clear UV) and tie the leader between the holder and the flasher 60". Use the same leader recommendation as for the flasher/spoon combo.

I would also highly recommend using the Anchovy in a holder by itself with no flasher. However if you do (this is important): Let the Anchovy out exactly the same distance and fish it at the same depth as the flasher/spoon rig. You want to rely on the flash and the thump coming from the flasher to draw Chinook into the kill zone. Let the fish make up his mind on which rig he wants to eat.

On March 17th, the day of the Everett Derby, the tide is low at 8:40AM. From there the tide will be high at 2:55PM. There is only about 4ft of water exchange between those two tides. The low tide is a 6.3ft low tide and then tide goes to a high of 10.7ft.

If I had to make choices on where to fish the Everett Derby; this would be it base on recent catches made by anglers who fish on a regular basis: Columbia Beach

Just Fishing



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 two additional Pinks.

June 20-September 5, two salmon limit, plus two additional Pinks. Open Friday through Monday Noon.

September 10-25, open

and the East side of Possession Bar. This is one of the very few times when I would base my choice more on catch data than on the tide for that day.

Several anglers this winter reacquainted themselves with Columbia Beach. Even though the salmon fishing was a little stinky this season, this area was one of the better producers. If someone were to ask me, "where do you think the most consistent Chinook fishing has been this winter?" I would have to answer, "Columbia Beach."

Anyone can fish Columbia Beach for the first time and be in the ball game without a whole lot of experience. Start fishing at the Clinton ferry terminal on Whidbey Island and troll south for a mile while staying in 120-150 feet of water. Turn around and troll back to the ferry terminal. There are no technical nuances to fishing this fishing spot. It is real straight forward, just fish parallel to the beach and maintain your depth. Fish here on any tide. See Map [Click Here](#)

The West side of Possession gets so much play that the East side gets little mention these days. This winter the East side of Possession has been a much better salmon producer than the West Side. That just goes to say that the regular, reliable spots have not been reliable this winter.

The tide should not be running very hard on the 17th, so the East side of the Bar should be easy to fish that day. Because the low tide is at 8:40AM, I would not get to the East side of the Bar very early. I would fish at Columbia Beach first thing in the morning and then move to Possession after the low tide.

Here are some do's and don'ts for fishing the East side of the Bar. Do not start fishing at the Possession Point Buoy. If you do, you have to troll through a stretch of deep water before getting to the part of

the Bar that produces fish. Do go past the Horse Shoe Hole and start fishing the Bar where the southern side of the Horse Shoe Hole ends. See Map [Click Here](#)

Troll to the very southern end of Possession Bar while maintaining a depth range of 90-120 feet. Fish very close to the bottom. Fish within five feet of the bottom. Troll back to where you started.

The tides for the Anacortes Salmon Derby are goofy tides. On Saturday March 31, the tide is low at 7:11AM. However the water will not be running very much because the low tide is 5.5ft. In other words the tide hardly goes out. The high tide in the morning is at 9:47AM. That's the goofy part. The water comes in for only two hours and the exchange is only 1/5 of a foot.

After that 9:47AM high tide, the water will start moving out at a good rate to a low tide that is at 6:15PM. Because of the derby time restrictions, you will only be able to take full advantage of part of this tide.

The tides, we have no control over, so here is how I would play my hand in the Anacortes Derby: I believe that most of the salmon are going to be caught after the tide starts to run later in the morning (after 9:47AM). Nothing unusual about this in the San Juan's. The time of day has nothing to do with when the "bite" will come on. It's all about the tides and water movement. I am not making a case for getting a late start on Saturday. What I am saying, "Don't get edgy if you don't catch anything right away." Keep with your game plan.

On Sunday, the plan is the same just an hour later. The low tide is at 8:06AM and the high tide is at 11:23AM. There is only 2/5ft rise in the tide. The water will hardly move until after 11:23AM.

On the slow moving tide in the morning



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. Daily limit two salmon, release Chinook and Chum, plus two additional Pinks. Fishing with bait prohibited. Other restrictions apply. See closures.

each day of the derby, you can fish anywhere. It really will not make much of a difference because there will not be any water moving to push the fish into the corners or up on the bars. Just roll the dice and pick a spot.

After the late morning high tide the complexion of things change drastically. From that point on you will have to play by the rules. You will have to fish the well established outgoing tide fishing holes. Some of those spots include: Thatcher Pass, Tide Point, Point Lawrence and Obstruction Pass. These four spot are all in the vicinity of Rosario Strait. I think the big fish spots will be Point Lawrence and Tide Point.

I would add Secret Harbor (Deep Water Bay) as an also ran to my list. These areas will produce Chinook for this derby. Count on it! Point Lawrence fishing map, [Click Here](#). Tide Point Fishing Map, [Click Here](#).

If you want more fishing maps of Puget Sound or the San Juan's there are two places where I have published a full set of Maps: My book, "Saltwater Fishing Journal" and on my web site. Go to www.johnssportinggoods.com and look at the upper right hand corner where you will see "Site Search". Type what you are looking for and you will get maps, illustrations and many of my columns on all kinds of fishing from Salmon to Sturgeon.

If you want to order the Saltwater Fishing Journal, [Click Here](#)

Time Management Salmon Fishing

Sometimes when we are fishing we can be our own worst enemy. When I do it, I call it fishing stupid. We all do it at times

because we are impatient or greedy.

When we are salmon fishing with more than two anglers in the boat, there is always the temptation to put more than two lines out. More lines produce more fish, right? I think more lines in the water produce less fish. There is always that innate ability to get the lines tangled at the most inopportune times. Time management is important when fishing for salmon. Is that a slogan or is it a fact? I believe it is a fact. Common sense tells all of us: "The greater amount of time that the salmon rigs are close to the bottom, the greater the chance there is for catching a salmon (Chinook)."

There are two things that routinely work against us when we are salmon fishing: 1) Running around looking for something better than where we were fishing. 2) Untangling a three way flasher mess.

I believe that you (I) should stay put when fishing for salmon. Finish out the tide where you started fishing. Only fish with two rods out. Fish smart! Do everything you can do to prevent the lines from getting tangled together. When I was fishing Lake Chelan a few days ago, we had three lines out. Guess what? Tangled once. Tangled twice. Tangled three times. I broke my own rules of fishing. I was getting greedy. I wanted to catch more fish and I wanted to catch them faster. I just wasted a whole bunch of time. In the end, we put just two rods out and resumed catching fish.

Time management is even more important for catching Chinook. You cannot waste any precious time. There is not as many salmon as there were 20 years ago. You have to release all the wild fish. Right here, eliminates half the fish at times that can be kept. That means that we have to hook and land more fish in order to keep one or maybe two if we



are lucky enough.

We have to efficiently manage our fishing time to get the most out our fishing time on the water if we expect to bring fish home.

Here is my advice: Keep the lines in the water and keep the gear working at all times. Minimize running around and minimize tangled gear. This seems like such simple advice. It is and it works. Good luck fishing!

Scotty 2106 Downrigger Advice

After being around the Scotty 2106 Downrigger for over a year now I have this advice. The downrigger clearly operates better with a 15lb ball. Because the motor is larger than the 1106 Downrigger, it creates more drag throughout the gear system. If your 2106 needs a little shove when letting out the line, switch to 15lb downrigger balls.

If you purchased your 2106 in January or February last year and the downrigger line is not going out without a lot of help from you; bring your downrigger into John's Sporting Goods so that we can replace the small gear that is on the end of the motor shaft. This fixes that problem in almost all cases.

I have heard some chatter that there are numerous problems with the 2106 Downrigger. I would emphatically say that in most cases that is not true. The warranty repair we do on 2106's is such a small amount. It is actually pretty remarkable how well the 2106 runs for being such a new product. This is a very solid product that I would highly recommend.

Puget Sound Sturgeon New Rules for 2012-2013 Season

2012-2013 proposed Sturgeon rules for Puget Sound: limit sturgeon retention in Puget Sound, as well as its tributaries, to June 1-June 30 and Sept. 1-Oct.15. The new rule is designed to minimize impacts to Columbia River sturgeon that venture into Puget Sound to feed. Under the proposal, catch-and-release fishing will still be allowed year-round.

Puget Sound San Juan Spot Shrimp

Area 8-1 and 8-2 and Area 9: The days that are slated to be open are May 5 and May 11 from 7AM to 3PM

Area 7 South: Opens May 5, 2012 at 7:00 a.m.; also open May 11, 12, 17, 18, and 19

[Click Here](#) for all
Shrimp Seasons

Shrimp Pot Sale

John's Sporting Goods is running a shrimp pot sale during the month of March. This is a good opportunity to pick up some of your gear early and to purchase it at a discount. We will have all of our SMI and Kufa shrimp pots on sale. These prices will be the lowest that we sell these pots this year. See sale flier on page 6.

One new item that we picked this year is an inexpensive yellow buoy that you can tie on as a float and a marker buoy for the end of a shrimp pot line. These buoys sell for \$17.95. [Click Here](#) to see buoy. This is much less expensive than the heavy duty Poly Form Buoys.

If you need advice on picking out a shrimp pot, I like the SMI 19001 Round Shrimp Pot. **True Story:** On Eastern Bank last year, I had over 400 shrimp in this pot in one pull. Since this was the first time that I used this pot, the rope was full of loops. I let the pot out straighten out the rope. The pot was only in the water for about 20 minutes. When I brought the pot back in there were 120 shrimp in the pot. I was impressed to say the least!

Jennings Park Kids Fishing Derby May 5, 2012

Last year, I asked for donations for the Jennings Park Kids Fishing Derby. You donated a little more than \$500. Thank you! Every dollar that you donate, I match your money dollar for dollar. Your \$500 turned into \$1,000 by the time I matched your donations. As you know, I do not ask for donations for very many things. Please give for this worthy cause again this year. 100% of the money is for purchasing trout. We purchase the trout from Trout Lodge.

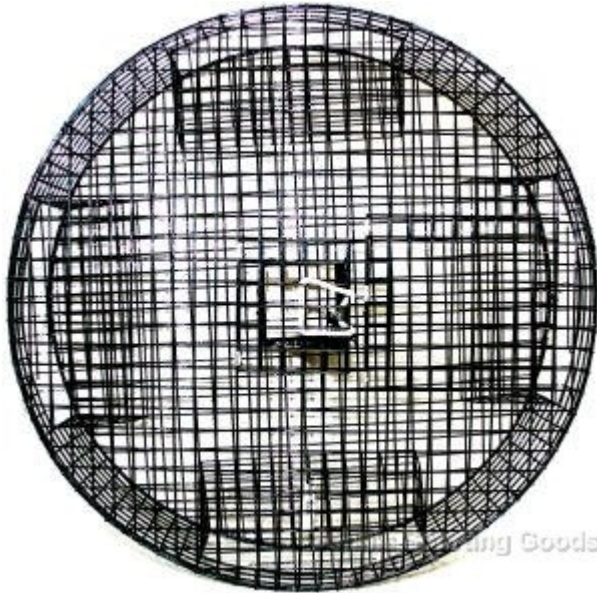
[Please donate to this event](#)

Special Purchase

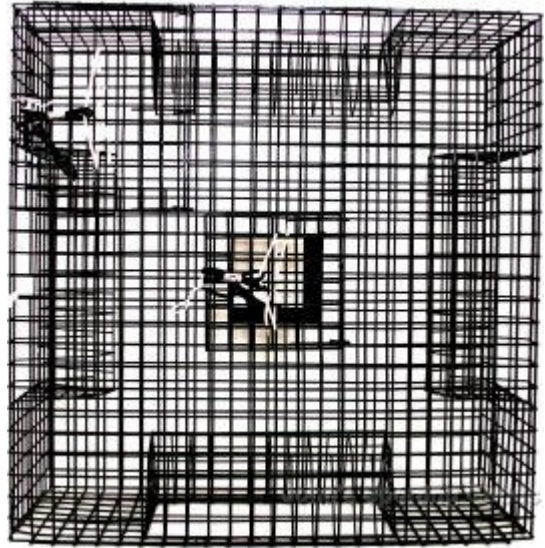
Tackle For The Serious Angler

Shrimp Pot Sale March 1-30

Must have this Sale Flyer with you to get these prices



SMI 19001 Sale Price \$66.50
John's #1 Selling Shrimp Pot
Reg. Price \$89.50



SMI 19022 Sale Price \$52.00
Reg. Price \$67.50



SMI 19027 Sale Price \$78.50
McKay Style Pot
Reg. Price \$99.50



KUFA CT-150 Sale Price \$89.00
Ladner Style Pot
Reg Price \$119.00

Check Out Dimensions and Weights of these Shrimp Pots: [Click Here](#)

John's Sporting Goods

**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.

**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 March 30, 2012

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