

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

October 2012

How To Videos

by John Martinis

Coho Fishing Video

[Click Here](#)

Chinook Fishing w/Downriggers

[Click Here](#)

Rigging Flashers for Chinook Fishing

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Sockeye Rigs for Freshwater

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Halibut Spreader Bar Rigging

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Puget Sound Salmon Seasons 2012

Salmon Area 5: October 1-31
CHINOOK - min. size 22".
Other SALMON species - no
min. size. Daily limit
2(combined). Only 1
CHINOOK may be retained.

Salmon Area 6: October 1-31
CHINOOK - min. size 22".
Other SALMON species - no
min. size. Daily limit
(combined). Only 1
CHINOOK may be retained.

Everett Coho Derby Results

- 1) 17.08 lbs Coho Salmon Sept 23
Harvey Aney
- 2) 16.09 lbs Coho Salmon Sept 23
Anthony A Harrington
- 3) 15.83 lbs Coho Salmon Sept 22 Sean
Moskowitz

To see complete leader board and other
derby results, [Click Here](#)

John Martinis Everett Coho Derby
Video, [Click Here](#)

The Coho Season that Never Ends

**The question everyone has been
asking, "How much longer can this
saltwater Coho fishing last?"**

I was already surprised once the week of
the 20th of September when the Coho
fishing slacked off for a few days. Then,
the fishing went crazy, with the Sunday
of the Coho derby possibly being the
very best Coho day in modern history.
Just crazy good! The answer to how
long this great Coho fishing can last,
"through the middle of October for sure."
The river Coho component could last all
the way to December depending on what
kind of weather we have.

Here is what is happening in the
saltwater and I am expecting more of the
same: The really hot Coho fishing spot is
hop scotching around. Granted the
fishing is good everywhere in the

Mukilteo area. However, the really hot
fishing is getting more localized. One
day the fishing is killer-diller at
Possession Bar, the next day the fish are
up at Mukilteo. You can see what is
happening: With each day passing, the
Coho are moving faster and faster to the
rivers. The best way to keep on top of all
of this, is by going to my John's Sporting
Goods Facebook ([Click Here](#)) where I
am posting daily reports. This is the
easiest and fastest way for me to get the
message out.

This is what I see happening in the next
two weeks: The best fishing will be
closer to Mukilteo. By October 15, the
Coho fishing will dry up at Possession
Bar and Browns Bay. You will still find
Coho at those two places; however the
better fishing will be closer to Mukilteo.
From here on out, be very flexible on
where you want to fish because these
Coho will become a moving target.

Port Susan Coho

If you are looking for a place to fish from
the beach for Coho, Kayak County Park
in Port Susan is a good place to fish.
Like many of the beach fishing areas in
Puget Sound, this places fishes well for
Coho an hour before high tide. There
are two good methods for catching Coho
from the beach at Kayak: 1) Use a 2.5
Pink or Green Mylar Buzz Bomb and put
a color matched 1.5 squid tail on the
hook. No treble hooks allowed. Single
barbless hooks only. 2) Use a Pink or
Chartreuse 3/8 ounce jig. You can easily
make Coho jigs with a lead head and a
green/glow 1.5 squid. Kayak County
Park map, [Click Here](#)



Tackle Tips

Salmon Area 7: October 1-31
CHINOOK - min. size 22".
Other SALMON species - no
min. size. Daily limit
2(combined). Only 1
CHINOOK may be retained.

**Area 8-1: August 1-October
31** Daily limit two salmon,
release Chinook.

**Area 8-2: August 1-October
31** Daily limit two salmon,
release Chinook.

Area 9: October 1-31
No min. size. Daily limit 2
(combined). Release
CHINOOK.

**Area 10: October 1-January
31** CHINOOK - min. size 22".
Other SALMON species - no
min. size. Daily limit
2(combined). Release wild
CHINOOK.

As you know, I have started stocking the Gibbs flashers that are made in Canada. The Gibbs line of flashers is equal to the quality of any other flasher. They are 20% less expensive than the other brands of flashers and they come with ball bearing swivels on both ends of the flasher. I would seriously consider purchasing Gibbs flashers the next time you go to John's Sporting Goods.

I have been talking to quite a few Coho anglers that are using the Grand Slam Bucktails quite successfully behind a flasher. The best color and pattern is the Herring Green/White. They are fishing the Grand Slam behind a flasher the same as using a squid.

Reminder: Use 30lb leaders for Coho fishing when using a flasher. After 8:30AM, fish with a 150 feet of downrigger cable out. Troll 3.0 mph. Only use flashers and squid that are UV.

Coho River Fishing.

Those of you who have been fishing the Snohomish and Stillaguamish Rivers have found out how frustrating river Coho fishing can be. These will jump, tease and intimidate you until you get totally exasperated. Then one day you will go down to the river and fishing will be good even though nothing has changed. Exasperating! You have to ask yourself, "how can the saltwater fishing be so blasted good and the river component be so intimidating?" That's just the way it is. I will admit, the Coho fishing in the river is substantially better when there is a good rain storm that moves a fresh batch of fish into the river. Don't ask for too much rain around here, you might be sorry for what you ask for.

Lets' take a look at different aspects of river Coho fishing. First, we will explore trolling in the Snohomish. There are four different lures that work successfully in the river: Wiggle Wart plugs and Brads Wiggler plugs, Dick Nite spoons and Super Vibrax spinners. You can troll all three of these lures. The plugs can be trolled by themselves or you can add a ½ ounce of lead six feet above the plug. If you talk to two different people one person will swear one way works better than the other. I use the plugs successfully with a ½ ounce sinker. Plug colors that I prefer are: Fire Tiger or Red Herring Bone ([Click Here](#)). On the Skagit River, Coho anglers prefer the purple Brads Wigglers. My point is, these plug colors are faddish in different river systems. However, "don't argue with results."

Super Vibrax spinners and Dick Nite Spoons both need to be rigged with a ½ ounce of lead six feet from the spoon or spinner. Vibrax colors that are good: #3 Chartreuse. Dick Nite spoons that are good: #1 50/50 or #1 chartreuse. ([See Diagram](#))

The hook rule goes like this: You can have a treble hook on a lure if the lure floats and you are trolling with that lure. Yes, Wiggle Warts and Brads Wigglers both float. No, Dick Nite spoons and Super Vibrax spinners do not float. I know it sounds kind of silly stating which is a floating lure and which is a sinking lure, but the phone calls start every time I talk about a floating lure. You cannot use a treble hook if you are casting from the beach with any type of lure.

Trolling speed in the river is fast. In the Snohomish River where the tide affects the direction of the water flow, you can troll effectively both upstream and downstream.

Where to troll in the Snohomish River: The river is not much different than the



saltwater; Coho are constantly on the move as they move upstream. There are three main trolling areas: 1) Between the Highway #2 bridge and the Lowell boat launch 2) The Airplane Hole, in the area where there is a float plane docked on the river 3) Above the mouth of the Pilchuck River. All three of these areas can be good. This Coho season, the Float Plane Hole has been the top producer. That will change in time. After the first real rainstorm, the area above the Pilchuck River will get quite good. I like this area because the Snohomish River starts getting smaller and begins looking like a real river in this area. The lower Snohomish has a different look and feel to it, especially in the industrial area around Highway #2.

If you want to fish the Snohomish River from the beach, the choices are: Bob Heirman Park ([See Map](#)). The choices to fish from the beach in the Snohomish for Coho are much narrower than fishing for Pink salmon. The better beach fishing is where there is a defined hole where the Coho get schooled up.

There are three good choices for beach fishing rigs: 1) Dick Nite spoons 50/50 or chartreuse tied with a six foot leader. Use enough weight to cast it out. 2) #3 Chartreuse Super Vibrax Spinner. No weight added 3) Green or chartreuse yarn balls tied on a #4 hook with the appropriate amount of weight to cast it out. Tie this up with a six foot leader.

If you want to fish the Stillaguamish River for Coho, there is a different set of rules than the other rivers. The Stilly is single barbless hook and no bait (includes bait oil/scent) or lures that are scented.

There are two very popular places to fish on the Stilly for Coho: 1) Blue Stilly Park, just east of I-5 ([Directions Click Here](#)) 2) Haller Park in Arlington. ([Directions Click Here](#))

Gear: Appropriate line and leader for fishing Coho in the rivers is: I use straight 10lb for line and leader for trolling plugs. For casting from the beach, I would recommend 10lb line and 8lb fluorocarbon leader.

Skykomish River

Fishing Map
[Click Here](#) for
River Map

If you have been fishing the Snohomish River from the beach, fishing the Skykomish River is a welcome change. Coho are much easier to catch in the Skykomish because they are in more defined holes where you can fish for them more effectively. I highly recommend taking a pocket full of Dick Nite #1 spoon to the Skykomish and drifting them through the deeper holes. This should get really good as soon as we get some serious rain that brings the water level up.

BBQ Coho Recipe

See Picture of Fish, [Click Here](#)

Ingredients:

Coho Salmon
Salt
Pepper
Brown Sugar
Rosemary
Cherry Tomato
Cucumber

Make a boat out of tin foil and pour a small amount of cooking oil on the foil so that the salmon does not burn. Sprinkle some salt and pepper on the fish to suite your taste. Now liberally coat the fish with brown sugar. Put a small amount of rosemary on the fish. Slice in half cherry tomatoes and place them on the fish. Thinly slice cucumber and place the



slices on the fish. An 8lb Coho will take approximately 20 minutes to cook on the BBQ.

BBQ Salmon Back Bone

After you filet your salmon do not throw the back bone away or make crab bait out of it. Get it ready for the BBQ by sprinkling brown sugar on the back bone. This cooks very quickly because it is very thin compared to a filet of salmon. You have to do this; the back bone is just like candy to eat. If you haven't done this, you are really missing something. Plus you are utilizing more of your catch.

First Razor-Clam Dig Tentatively scheduled for October

OLYMPIA - The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has tentatively scheduled a razor-clam dig in mid-October - the first of the fall season - while continuing to accept public comments on future digs.

The first dig of the season will get under way Oct. 13 at four ocean beaches, provided upcoming marine toxin tests show the clams are safe to eat.

WDFW will announce final approval of that plan about a week before the dig is set to start, said Dan Ayres, WDFW's coastal shellfish manager.

"We're still in the process of determining additional fall and winter digging opportunities, but we wanted to give people a chance to start making plans for October," said Ayres, noting that WDFW will announce additional razor-clam digs later that month.

Proposed digging days and evening low tides for beaches tentatively scheduled to open in October are:

Oct. 13 (Saturday), 5:41 pm, (+0.3 ft.); Long Beach, Twin Harbors, Copalis, Mocrocks

Oct. 14 (Sunday), 6:26 pm, (-0.5 ft.); Long Beach, Twin Harbors, Copalis, Mocrocks

Oct. 15 (Monday), 7:11 pm, (-1.1 ft.); Long Beach, Twin Harbors

Oct. 16 (Tuesday), 7:57 pm, (-1.5 ft.); Twin Harbors

Oct. 17 (Wednesday), 8:44 pm, (-1.6 ft.); Twin Harbors

Oct. 18 (Thursday), 9:34 pm, (-1.4 ft.); Twin Harbors

"Low tides will occur relatively late in the day, so diggers need be prepared for darkness during evening digs in the fall," Ayres said.

All diggers age 15 or older must have an applicable 2012-13 fishing license to harvest razor clams on any beach. Licenses, ranging from a three-day razor clam license to an annual combination fishing license, are available on W D F W ' s w e b s i t e a t <https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov> and from license vendors around the state.

Under state law, each digger can take 15 razor clams per day, and must keep the first 15 clams they dig to prevent wastage. Each digger's clams must be kept in a separate container.

Meanwhile, WDFW will continue to accept public comments through Oct. 9 on digging days and other management options for the upcoming razor clam season. For more information, check the department's website at

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Friday: Deal of the Day

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