

# Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

September 2012

## How To Videos

by John Martinis

Chinook Fishing  
w/Downriggers

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for Chinook Fishing

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Improving a  
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How to use an  
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## Coho Seminar

By John Martinis & Mike Greenleaf  
& the Everett Steelhead &  
Salmon Club

**Place: Bayside Marine**

**Date: September 21**

**Time: 7PM**

**Free to the Public**

## Fishing Derbies

**Edmonds Coho Derby**

**September 8**

**Tickets at John's  
Sporting Goods**

**Everett Central Lions Club**

**Derby for the Blind  
September**

**Everett Coho Derby**

**September 22-23**

**Tickets at John's  
Sporting Goods**

Please purchase your derby tickets at the locally owned Fishing Tackle Stores and Marine Businesses. These businesses contribute their hard earned dollars to fishing derbies every time they are asked. If it wasn't for these local businesses contributing to the Fishing Derbies, these derbies probably would not exist. The first six cash prizes in the Everett Coho Derby total \$8750.00 and all the prize money was donated by local businesses. Shop local, keep your money in the local community!

John's Sporting Goods purchases all the fishing licensees and donates a cash

prize for the Everett Lions Club "Blind Derby". John's Sporting Goods also sponsors the Jennings Park Kids Fishing Derby. These are just two examples of your money staying in the local community.

## Puget Sound is Back!

Hot Coho Fishing Right  
out of the Gates

I want to start The September Newsletter with two emails that were sent to me on August 26th:

Coho fishing was excellent Saturday. We had one fish on before I could even get a second line in the water. I netted two fish at the same time and had our limit of eight in no time at all. Unbelievable! Submitted by John Brager

Well John, We left the docks at 6:30 this morning and put 4 rods in the water. Would you believe that Pink hoochies are killing them?? Back at 8:20 AM with four limits!! Submitted by Andy Praskey.

Need I say more? My goodness fishing is good! Those two emails reference 16 Coho between two boats in one morning. Folks, "that is the picture I will be painting in this Newsletter." Let's go fishing now!

If August were a primer for Puget Sound Coho Fishing, then September is going to be off the charts. Coho fishing has started with gusto and I think anyone will agree with me that is has been as good as it gets this early in the season. What a great tribute to Puget Sound



## New Puget Sound Salmon Seasons 2012

**Area 5: July 1-August 15**  
Daily limit two salmon,  
release wild Chinook wild  
Coho and Chum

**Area 6: July 1-August 15**  
Daily limit two salmon,  
release wild Chinook wild  
Coho and Chum

**Salmon Area 7: July 1-July 31**  
Daily limit two salmon,  
only one Chinook. See  
additional rules on page 109 in  
the WDFW fishing pamphlet

**August 1-Sept 30** Two  
salmon limit, only one  
Chinook. Release Chum and  
wild Coho.

**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.

**Tulalip Terminal Fishery:  
May 4-June 8** Open Friday  
until noon Monday. Closed  
June 9. Daily limit two  
salmon.

**June 10-Sept 3** Open Friday  
until noon Monday. Limit two  
salmon. Closed June 9.  
Anglers may fish with two  
poles with the two pole  
endorsement.

**Sept 8-23** Open Saturday and  
Sunday only. Two salmon

salmon fishing when both Coho and Chinook (Chinook is only open in Area 11) are hitting on all cylinders.

Now we move on to the September salmon fishing and the Coho derbies. The question is, "what lies ahead?" Judging by what is going out in the Straits and as far away as Sekiu, the great fall Coho fishing has only just begun!

Interestingly, will be how the hot salmon fishing areas will change as the month progresses. That is what I will address in this Newsletter. Remember, these fish are all going to different corners of Puget Sound. To be a long term effective Coho angler, you have to get a feel for the migration paths of these fish. There are Coho going to South Sound, Lake Washington, Snohomish, Stillaguamish and Skagit systems. All in different corners of Puget Sound.

There are two types of places to fish for Coho: **1) Ambush spots** **2) Feeding areas.** Ambush spots are Lagoon Point, Bush Point and the area in front of Edmonds. Feeding areas are: Possession Bar, Jeff Head, Point no Point and Pilot Point. You ask yourself, "Why would I care about ambush spots and feeding areas." The answer is this: The ambush spots will be very good fishing early on, but they will get more sporadic as we get later into to September. The feeding areas will attract Coho heading to different destinations. If there is an abundance of bait fish, Coho will be holding in these areas until it is time to move on. The point is; you can and should adjust your fishing habits. If you think about it even more, there comes a time when you move out of Puget Sound and into the rivers to catch these Coho.

There is actually one more type of area that I refer to as a staging area. This type of area is a place where Coho stage-up while they wait to take their final run to the river. The most prominent Coho

staging area in Puget Sound is the Shipwreck area. For those of you who are not familiar with Puget Sound, the Shipwreck is approximately 3 miles south of Mukilteo.

I want to take a look at where the hot spots for Coho have been up until the day this Newsletter was published. Lagoon Point on Whidbey Island has been nothing short of incredible for Coho. The area in front of Edmonds has been putting out limits of Coho since August 23. This doesn't happen in August, ever! But it did and it will continue to be off the charts through the 25th of September.

Lagoon Point, Bush Point and Edmonds will continue to be good for Coho through the middle of September. These three areas can be fished on either tide. Lagoon Point and Bush point are at their best an hour before the tide change.

Now remember, things are going to change slightly in the next few weeks. As the Snohomish River Coho start showing up, Possession Bar and the Shipwreck are going to steal the show.

This is the Coho fishing plan for September: Continue to fish Lagoon Point and Edmonds through the 10th of September. They will continue to be good but you will not have to travel as far after the 10th. At the end of the first week of September I would concentrate on fishing the rips off the very southern end of Possession Bar ([click here for map](#)) and fishing at the Shipwreck ([click here for map](#)).

There are a couple ways to play the Possession Bar fishing. During the first part of September, you can fish the rips that go across the Bar. On the out going tide, I like to fish the rip that runs off of the Scatchet Head Buoy. This rip runs to the west and across Useless Bay. As we get later in the month, Coho will gather in



limit. Anglers may fish with two poles with the two pole endorsement.

**Area 9: July 1-15** Two salmon limit release Chinook and Chum.

**July 16-August 31** Two salmon limit. Release wild Chinook. Release Chum. See additional rules on page 115 in the WDFW fish pamphlet.

**Area 10: June 1-June 30** Catch and Release. See boundaries in the WDFW fish pamphlet

**July 16-August 31** Limit two salmon, release wild Chinook. See closure areas on page 117 in the WDFW fish pamphlet..

the Horseshoe Hole for their last meal before heading east to the area we call the Shipwreck.

The Shipwreck has become such a classic Coho fishing area. If you had to pick one area of Puget Sound that is easy to fish, the Shipwreck easily gets the award. There are no contour lines to follow, no structure to pay attention to and it really doesn't matter what depth you are in as long as it is over 200 feet deep. How can it get easier than that? However, the tide will have a big influence on where you fish at the Shipwreck.

When the tide is going out, it pulls the Coho down toward the Shipwreck area. Don't fish close to shore where you will see everyone else fishing. Fish closer to the middle of the channel. Most of the time I prefer to fish in a North/South or a South/North trolling path. If you are not drawing strikes doing this try an East/West troll from the Shipwreck to Possession Point.

When the tide is coming in, start just South of the ferry lanes at Mukilteo. Start fishing dead center in the middle of the channel. You heard me state this for Pink salmon fishing last year. The same goes for Coho. This keeps you out of the pack of boats and into better fishing. I get more compliments for this tidbit of fishing advice because it works!

## Let's talk Coho Gear

Most of you who know me, know that I like to keep salmon fishing fairly simple. The gear I recommend for Coho is relegated to a handful of items. Nowhere do I recommend the latest and greatest, the newest color or the flavor of the week. I am always recommending good common sense tackle that works all the time. I personally have all my Coho tackle in one six-pack flasher bag.

This is what is in my flasher bag:  
Red Racer flasher ([Click here to see](#)) rigged with a green/glow squid OG142R ([Click here to see](#))  
Red Racer Flasher rigged with a glow squid OG55R ([Click here to see](#))  
Purple Haze flasher ([Click here to see](#)) rigged with a green/glow squid  
Purple Haze flasher rigged with a glow squid  
X3CB Sampo snap swivels ([Click here to see](#))  
30lb Maxima Ultra Green leader material ([Click here to see](#))  
Herring oil, any brand. Extra thick oil preferably ([Click here to see](#))

You can do all your fishing with those few items.

## Rigging

If you talk to different Coho anglers, you will get a wide range of leader lengths for squids rigged with a flasher. The other day when I had a store full of people, I polled customers that I believed were very good Coho Anglers. The question was, "what leader length do you tie your squid behind a flasher?" The wide range of answers were 18" to 36". My answer was the 36". This leads me to believe that a whole range of lengths will work. I happen to recommend tying a squid 36" behind a flasher. Ryan Bennet, a fishing guide that I very much respect his opinion on fishing said, that he likes a 30" leader.

Stick to 30lb leader material just like you do for Chinook fishing. I like 30lb Maxima Ultra Green Leader and 40lb Pline Fluorocarbon leader ([Click here to see](#)).

If you are tying your own hooks, tie your leaders with two 4/0 hooks. Use either Gamakatsu or even better yet, use 4/0 92553SS Mustad stainless steel hooks. I have the Mustad hooks tied on 30lb leader if you do not want to tie your own. ([Click here to see](#))



# Just Fishing



OG142R Green/Glow squid and the OG55R Glow squid do not have UV (ultra violet) in them, so I have an answer to that. Use a UV Ace Hi Fly as an insert to insert into the squid body. Now you have the glow from the squid and the glow from the UV. This is important because the glow material that is built into the squid only glows for about five minutes. The UV is glowing all the time from the natural light. You can also purchase herring oil that has UV in it.

## Herring Strips

I know many of you do not like using herring at all. When Coho fishing it's mandatory! Prepare the herring strips the night before by filleting the herring and then cutting the fillets again the long way. Put the strips into a plastic container and coat each layer of herring with rock salt. The herring strips will be ready to fish by the next morning.

Les Jacober told me that he soaked his herring strips in Mikes Clear Bright and Tight Herring Formula and the strips came out really nice. Just to be clear, this is the Mikes Herring Cure liquid that is in a 32oz bottle.

This is the directions on the package of Mikes Herring Cure: Bait Preparation and handling is very important to improving your odds of consistently catching fish. For best results, use top quality fresh or fresh frozen baits. Keep fresh baits refrigerated or on ice prior to treating. Frozen baits should be treated after slightly thawed so formula can penetrate entire bait. Just add 1/3 bottle per dozen baits and allow to soak 24 hours. That's it! Your bait will be cured.

## Trolling Speed

Trolling speed is the number one mistake of most Coho anglers. General rule of thumb: "You can't troll too fast." If you are not catching Coho pick the speed up. Make sure that the downrigger cable has a fairly steep angle to it. The correct speed is a minimum of 3.0 mph. However, downrigger cable angle has precedence over speed. Keep the angle steep.

## Depth

This is what can make the difference between an OK day of fishing and a great day of fishing. The correct trolling depth at daylight is 30-60 feet deep. The actual depth of the water will most likely be greater than 200 feet deep. Watch for schools of Coho and bait and then set your downrigger accordingly. Here is a good rule of thumb for trolling depths: 30-60 feet from daylight to 8:30AM, 45-60 feet from 8:30AM to 9:30AM, after 9AM 60-120 feet deep.

## No Downrigger for Coho No Big Deal

If you do not have a downrigger, don't fret about it. We fished Coho for years before downriggers ever became popular and we caught boat loads of salmon. However, follow this one simple rule: Keep it simple! You only need these three items: 4-6oz mooching leads, 20lb-3/0-4/0 Gamakatsu mooching hooks/solid tie and herring. Do not try to mimic the downrigger anglers by putting a flasher behind a Deep Six. That is a waste of time and money. Your odds are much greater at catching Coho with 4-6oz of

lead and a herring. If you don't like using herring, use a #0 Dodger with a green/glow squid 16" behind the dodger.

## Coho Fishing from the Beach

This is way a customer described the Coho fishing on August 25:

Bush Point: "The fishing was so good I don't even know how to describe it. There are people catching salmon on almost any Buzz Bomb they are putting in the water."

There are three places to catch Coho from the beach in Puget Sound: Bush Point, Point no Point and Kayak County Park. Bush and No Point both have a public access. Bush Point also has a boat launch and twelve spaces to park. If you go to Bush Point be careful not to trespass on private property. Kayak County Park is a Snohomish County Park and it has an entrance fee. Bush Point has loads of Coho right now and it will stay good through most of September. Point no Point should start heating up after the 10th of September. Kayak County Park will not be good Coho fishing until the last week of September.

Beach fishing gear is simple: All you need is 2.5 Buzz bombs. I would recommend Hot Pink, Pearl Pink and Perch colors. ([Click here to see](#))

Rig the Buzz Bomb with a 1/0 siwash hook. Put a #4 or #5 red bead between the hook and the buzz Bomb. Tie a #10 black barrel swivel 10"-12" up from the Buzz Bomb. I would use 12-15lb line for line and leader.

# Just Fishing



## Snohomish River Coho Fishing

By the time the Everett Coho Derby gets here, Coho will be in the Snohomish River in very good numbers. By the way, the derby has been won in the past with a river caught Coho.

For this column, I am going to assume that you are fishing from a boat. Snohomish River Coho are probably the most finicky salmon on this planet. The years that they enter the river early on, they are somewhat easy to catch. If they are as much as 7-10 days late entering the Snohomish, they can be the most frustrating fish to catch.

I believe the very best way to catch Coho in the river while trolling is with just two pieces of gear: Fire Tiger Wiggle Wart ([Click here to see](#)) and a #1 50/50 Dick Nite Spoon ([Click here to see](#)).

Rig either the Wiggle Wart or the Dick Nite Spoon with 6ft of 10lb leader and attach a ½ ounce mooching sinker to the other end of the leader. Don't use a salmon rod and reel for fishing the river. You only need an 8 ½ ft medium action rod and a bait casting reel. You can also use a Shimano 2500 or 3000 size spinning reel. Either reel should have 10lb line. Do not use heavy tackle for the river because if you do, it will greatly reduce your chances of catching a Coho.

Trolling speed for the river is much like fishing the Sound. Let out 30-50ft of line and troll at a very brisk pace. Troll both upstream and downstream.

Fishing the tides in the Snohomish will also mimic fishing in Puget Sound. The best fishing will be the first tide of

the day. Tidal influence in the Snohomish River goes a couple miles above the town of Snohomish.

The tough part about writing a column on September 1, is that it is nearly impossible to predict where the good Coho fishing will be in the Snohomish River. In the past two years, the Coho fishing just above the Highway 2 Bridge in the Snohomish River has been non-existent. The fishing has been much better from the power lines just below the town of Snohomish, to the area that is upstream from the mouth of the Pilchuck River. I caught all my Coho last year in the Snohomish River in the long straight stretch above the mouth the Pilchuck.

## Save your Gear Scotty 2106 Tackle Tip

The Scotty 2106 High Speed downriggers are turning out to be a very good product. However, because of their speed some anglers are inadvertently grinding the teeth off of the small 14 tooth gear. This is easy to prevent by following these steps: When the downrigger line is retrieved and then stops, do not turn the downrigger on again by using the auto-up knob. Only depress the green button for a split second and take your finger off the green button before the downrigger ball gets to the pulley. If the downrigger ball gets to the pulley and the motor is still running, say goodbye to the 14 tooth gear.

An ounce of prevention: Put two stacks of stopper beads on the cable. Install the first set of stopper beads where you want the ball to stop on the retrieve. Put one more stopper bead 30" closer to the downrigger ball. The second

stopper bead will stop the downrigger if you turn the downrigger on again with the auto-up switch after it stops the first time. I am assuming that you are using your downrigger with the boom fully extended. If not adjust the stopper beads accordingly. This is also a good way to rig a Scotty 1106 Downrigger.

I would advise purchasing a 14 tooth gear for a spare, they are only \$4.95 and they are easy to change while fishing. We are now including this gear in our 2106 and 1106 repair kits.

Coho Seminar  
September 21, 2012  
By John Martinis

# “High Percentage Coho Fishing”

John Martinis will be presenting his very popular Coho Seminar at Bayside Marine. The public is invited to the seminar. There is no charge for the Seminar. Spend an hour with John Martinis and Mike Greenleaf discussing how to be a successful Coho Angler.

The Everett Stealhead and Salmon Club will have a raffle for a Scotty Downrigger, Shrimp Pot Puller and some other fishing tackle at the conclusion of this seminar.

**September 21 @ 7:00 PM**  
**Coho Seminar at Bayside Marine**  
1111 Craftsman Way  
Everett, WA 98201



# Special Purchase

Tackle For The Serious Angler

## September Hot Tackle Deals



**Scotty 2101 High Speed Downrigger**  
**30" Boom w/Swivel Base**  
**Sale Price \$499**



**New Item/Gibbs Jelly UV**  
**11" Flasher w/Red Stripe**  
**Sale Price \$9.95**  
Reg. Price \$11.95



**Herring Oil Sticky Liquid**  
**by Smelly Jelly**  
**Sale Price \$3.95**  
Reg. Price \$5.95



**Shimano Tekota 500LC**  
**Line Counter Reel**  
**Price \$149**  
Reg. Price \$165

Prices Good Through September 30th- Offer Good for In Store Purchases Only

**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, CTO3R Crab Pot, Braided Line, items that are discounted, on sale, repairs, parts and closeout items. Cannot be used in combination with discounted gift certificates.

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**Expires September 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  
\$585**

**Standard Scotty 1106  
\$473**

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

Store Hours: 9:00AM - 5:30PM Monday - Saturday  
425-259-3056 - 1913 Broadway, Everett, WA 98201

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