

# Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

February 2012

## How To Videos

by John Martinis

**Tying a Double Hook Rig**

[Click Here](#)

**Installing Braided Line  
on a Downrigger**

[Click Here](#)

**Make a Downrigger Release**

[Click Here](#)

**Improving a  
Downrigger Release**

[Click Here](#)

**How to use an  
Ace Line Hauler**

[Click Here](#)

## How To Illustrations

by John Martinis

**How to Rig Herring  
Head Holders**

[Click Here](#)

**How to Rig Anchovy  
Head Holders**

[Click Here](#)

## 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.

## 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.

## February Chinook Transition Month

February is a transition month for salmon fishing in Puget Sound and the San Juan Islands. Most of the Chinook are still barely legal. There are still a boat load of shakers (sub-legal salmon) around and there are a few larger Chinook starting to be in the picture.

You have to fish farther from the boat launch in February if you want to catch larger fish. Sometimes you have to fish farther from the boat launch if you want to catch any fish at all.

Let's start with Puget Sound: To me there are three choices to fish. West Side of Possession Bar. 2) Useless Bay 3) Pilot Point.

If the tides do not line up correctly, you can fish the West side of Possession Bar on any tide. Stay in 90-120 feet of water and follow the bar south to the southern tip of the bar. See map, [Click Here](#).

Pilot Point and Useless Bay are dependent on the tide coming in with one exception; I have done well at Useless Bay right after the tide gets high and starts to go out. Don't depend on that happening, but keep it as an option. Pilot Point only fishes well on a tide that is coming in and absolutely no other time.



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 chinook. See boundaries and closures.

**Aug. 1-Sept 30:** Daily limit two salmon plus two

See map of Useless Bay, [Click Here](#). See map of Pilot Point, [Click Here](#).

The San Juan's get a little more exciting in February. There are lots of good options. Some for big fish and some for lots of fish.

The big fish spots are: Thatcher Pass, especially in late February when Fraser River Spring Chinook start showing up. This fish's well only when the tide is going out. [Click Here](#) for map. Eagle Bluff on the North end of Cypress Island is the counterpart to Thatcher Pass. The same fish that are at Thatcher, are at Eagle Bluff when the tide is coming in. [Click Here](#) for map. There are sub-areas to fish Thatcher besides what is on my maps, so explore other areas to fish in the Pass.

If you want more production and don't care what size the fish are: Go to Middle Bank or Hein Bank. Both of these places fish well when the tide is going out. I prefer the smaller tides in either of these two places (4'-6' of water exchange). If the tide is running very hard, it is too difficult to stay in position. [Click Here](#) for Middle Bank map. [Click Here](#) for Hein Bank Map.

## Fishing Behind the Scenes

Sometimes things just do not always go as planned

Owning a fishing tackle store and going fishing is a pretty good gig. Most of the time when I am fishing, I am always thinking of the best way to present the information about my fishing exploits to my readers. Most of the time you get to read about the fish my friends and I catch, exotic places to go fishing and all the fun it is to have a fun job that takes me to all the great fishing places that I write about.

Sometimes things do not always go as planned. That's the stuff you never read about. I have to admit that some embarrassing things happen. That brings us to the second week in January on a planned fishing trip to the Olympic Peninsula with my good friend Les Jacober.

First of all, the most of the rivers were near flooded out mid-January. That meant that Les and I had a change of plans. Our only choice of Steelhead fishing was to go to the Cowlitz River. Not a bad choice. It just wasn't the first choice.

I arrived at Les's house at 5am Thursday morning. The house was completely dark. This was very unusual that Les was not in his truck with the boat hooked up ready to go. I waited around for a while and decided to knock on the door. No answer. Very unusual. So, I called Les and told him to get himself out of bed so that we could get heading down I-5 to beat the early morning rush hour traffic.

A few minutes later, Les is ready to go. I was certain that he was going to have nine excuses why he slept in. The first thing he asks me, "What are you doing here today." I replied, "What are you talking about". Les said I was a day early. Yep, I was supposed to be at his house on Friday not Thursday. Great!

There is never a time when Les is not eager to go catch a steelhead. So, we loaded up our gear and headed down I-5 to the Cowlitz River.

I am sure that you can relate to the little snafu's that sometimes put a wrinkle in a fishing trip. But, being a day early to go fishing is just where the story begins.

It's a half hour later now and we are driving down I-5 in a driving rain storm. About where the old Rainier Brewery was in Seattle, the windshield wipers quit



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 Saturday and Sunday, limit two salmon, plus two additional Pinks.

**Closed June 19**

working on Les's truck. A minor inconvenience in a driving rain storm to say the least. I asked Les, "What's wrong with your windshield wipers?" Les said it was not a big deal, it happened yesterday too. "Come on Les pull over, I can't see the road," I asked. By now I cannot see out of the front windshield at all. Les pulls over to check-out what the problem might be with the wipers.

Les gets out of the truck. The strangest thing happened at this point. I looked out the side rear window and I saw Les running to the rear of the truck. Very strange, when I thought he going to check the wipers in the front of the truck. A few moments later, I see Les running toward the cab of the truck with his shoe in one hand. This is getting too strange for me. Little did I notice, the truck was in gear and it was going down the median of the freeway. It was so dark and so rainy that I did not notice the truck moving.

Les grabbed the steering wheel of the truck and pulled himself in with his shoe in one hand. I asked him, "What are you doing." He said, "I forgot to put the truck in park."

Les put the truck in park and put on his shoe. We got the wipers working and we were on our way again.

One mile later the wipers quit working again in the same driving rain storm. We pulled over. Got the wipers working and they worked all the way to the river.

It wasn't funny at the time, because something awful could have happened to either one of us. I did wait until we arrived at the river to ask Les, "Was their much traffic when you were running down I-5 with one shoe on?"

By the way, we did catch three Steelhead that day and got home safely.

## Fishing with Bait Part II

I hoped you noticed by now the illustrations that I put together on using bait for salmon. One illustration depicted using Anchovies and the other depicted using Herring. I made up both illustrations because; put quite simply; many anglers do not understand the proper way to rig bait. There is probably nothing worse to use for fishing than natural bait rigged improperly. I seriously mean that! If you are going to use bait, do it correctly.

The reason I want to bring up using bait with or without flashers is this: Many anglers have been asking me how to rig bait. They want to use bait. They have tried using bait. But, they lack the confidence that their rigs are effective. One of the toughest choices anglers make (myself included); is to change rigs when you have confidence in your favorite rig. Example: I use a Green Hot Spot flasher with a Red Stripe, accompanied with a 3.5 Kingfisher Red Racer spoon. It is hard to change! We are creatures of comfort.

**Back to Bait Basics:** No matter what kind of bait you use the leader size and length will always remain the same. The leader will always be 30lb monofilament or 40lb fluorocarbon. The length of the leader for using bait will be 60".

So, what is the difference between using bait and using artificial lures? The difference is this: 1) The rotating action of the flasher will whip the bait off the hooks. 2) The bait holder head if used properly will provide action to the bait.

There are two natural baits to consider using for salmon: Herring or Anchovies. The rigs for these two baits are slightly different. So, let's take an in depth view

# Just Fishing



## 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.

for using either one.

**Herring:** All of us have used Herring at one time for salmon. Most anglers who have tried herring have migrated back to spoons or plastic squid. Everyone can be an expert herring fisherman if you follow my tips and advice.

Herring right out of the freezer is hard to deal with effectively if you think you are going to stick it on a hook and then fish it on a downrigger. Almost every time you check your bait, you will be checking two hooks with no bait. Very frustrating?

I very highly recommend using Rhys Davis Super Herring Heads. These are easy to rig and the herring rarely comes out of the holder or off the hooks. Like everything else in this world, there are a couple of tricks that will make this rig effective. The hook tie is the most important step in rigging a Rhys Davis Herring holder. You must scale the hooks to fit the herring. There is not a one step formula for all sizes of herring. [Click Here](#) to see Rhys Davis Herring Holders.

**Hook Tie:** Hooks for a five inch Herring should be two 3/0 hooks. Hooks for 6" Herring should be two 4/0 hooks. Hooks for 7" Herring should be two 5/0 hooks. I recommend using 5" herring for winter Chinook fishing and 6" Herring for summer Chinook. The only issue here is that Herring has been getting tougher to get, especially in different sizes. When you tie your hooks, make sure that the rear hook is never longer than the tail of the Herring. I tie my hooks so that the rear hook only goes as far as where the tail of the Herring begins from the body of the herring.

**The Holder:** Put the head of the Herring in the bait holder head. Put a round toothpick through the hole in the bait holder head, through the head of the

herring and through the hole on the opposite side of the bait holder head. Clip the tooth pick off with a scissor. [Click Here](#) for illustration

**The Hooks:** Rig the leader through the back hole in the holder, in through the hole on the side and then through the hole at the front of the bait holder. This is easier done on land than on a boat. Have our rigs tied up in advance. Put a toothpick in the hole where you first inserted the leader and break it off. This keeps the lead and hooks from pulling forward when you are fishing.

**Inserting the Hook:** This tip makes or breaks the effectiveness of this rig. Insert the front hook in the lateral line of the herring. When the hook is completely inserted, there should be a very small gap between the eye of the hook and the bait holder. Let the back hook dangle. The reason that you leave this small gap: this gap will allow you to pull on the leader to put the slightest bend in the Herring. This will allow you to adjust the spin of the Herring. If you put the Herring in the water to test the spin and it just wanders around, pull on the leader to put a bit more bend in the Herring. This bend I am talking about is barely noticeable.

**Anchovies:** Preparing Anchovies involves one more step than rigging Herring with a bait holder. This one step is salting the Anchovies while they are thawing. Anchovies are noticeably softer than Herring because they are rich in oil content. I always like to compare Anchovies to putting bread in water. That's just a joke. But, they are softer and you have toughen them up. I usually pour a small amount of salt directly on the Anchovies. After a while, the Anchovies will begin to wrinkle. At that time, put them in a pail with just enough water to cover them up.

# Just Fishing



One thing I like about using 5" Anchovies, they obviously look like the real thing. They are also a good candlefish imitation. Candlefish are abundant in Puget Sound.

**Hook tie:** With Anchovies the hook tie is similar to herring, only using smaller hooks tied closer together. Use two 2/0 hooks for 5" and 5 1/2" Anchovies. Use two 3/0 hooks for 6" Anchovies.

**Hooks:** Rig the holder exactly like I described for rigging Herring.

**The Holder:** Put the Anchovy head in the holder. Use the red pins that come with the holders to pin the anchovy to the Holder. Follow the same steps that I described with herring. [Click Here](#) to see Rhys Davis Anchovy head holders.

**Inserting the Hook:** Use the same method that I described with Herring including letting the back hook dangle. Do use caution when inserting the front hook into the Anchovy. The Anchovy is soft even after you salt them; therefore they are easy to tear. If you tear the Anchovy, get a new fish out and start over. If you don't, the fish will tear apart and be a mess. No self-respecting salmon will want your Anchovy if it looks ripped up. How would you like going to restaurant only to find that your steak was shredded before it was served? The point is: Make the bait look presentable and real.

I believe that if you use the tips that I just presented, you will find bait fishing for salmon to be enjoyable and not just a skill reserved for the most experienced angler. Use your new skills to broaden and deepen your knowledge of effective ways to catch salmon. If you catch a salmon using

bait with a bait holder head, please email me the picture: customerservice@johnssportinggoods.com

## 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

Bring your children 12 years and younger to the 21st Jennings' Park Children's Trout Derby. If you have attended this event in the past, you will agree that this is one of the best fishing events for children. This event is totally free to the public. If you don't have any fishing gear, no problem. The rod, reels, hooks and bait is all supplied at absolutely no charge. If you need someone to take the fish off the hook for you, we will even do that for you and put the fish in a bag. Almost everyone catches a fish at this event.

Thanks to our donors and the WDFW, all the fish are either donated or purchased with donations. We stock trout in Jennings Pond up to 5lbs.

Mom's and Dad's, please bring your children to this event.

## Salmon Cakes Recipe

Get your Pink Salmon out of the freezer and prepare a great winter salmon dinner. I will dare you to tell me that you are eating Pink Salmon!

Did I say Pink Salmon in the month of February? My Wife and I recently prepared some Pink's this way and thought they were very delicious.

If you vacuumed packed your Pink Salmon from last summer, it is time to get them out of the freezer and use them before you start catching some fresh salmon. I think you will be quite surprised to find out how tasty they are prepared the way I am about to tell you.

Take a fillet of Pink Salmon and bake it in the oven at 400 degrees for 15-20 minutes. No spices or salt need to be added. Take it out of the oven and let it cool. Remove the bones.

Mix the salmon thoroughly with Zartarain's Salmon Cake mix. Mix with 12-16 ounces of salmon. Mix with 1/4 cup mayonnaise, 1 egg, 1/2 cup of cold water.

Allow to stand in refrigerator for 30 minutes

Mold salmon cake mixture. Make the salmon cake whatever size you wish.

Fry in 1/8 inch pre-heated oil (340degrees F) until golden brown. About two minutes on each side.

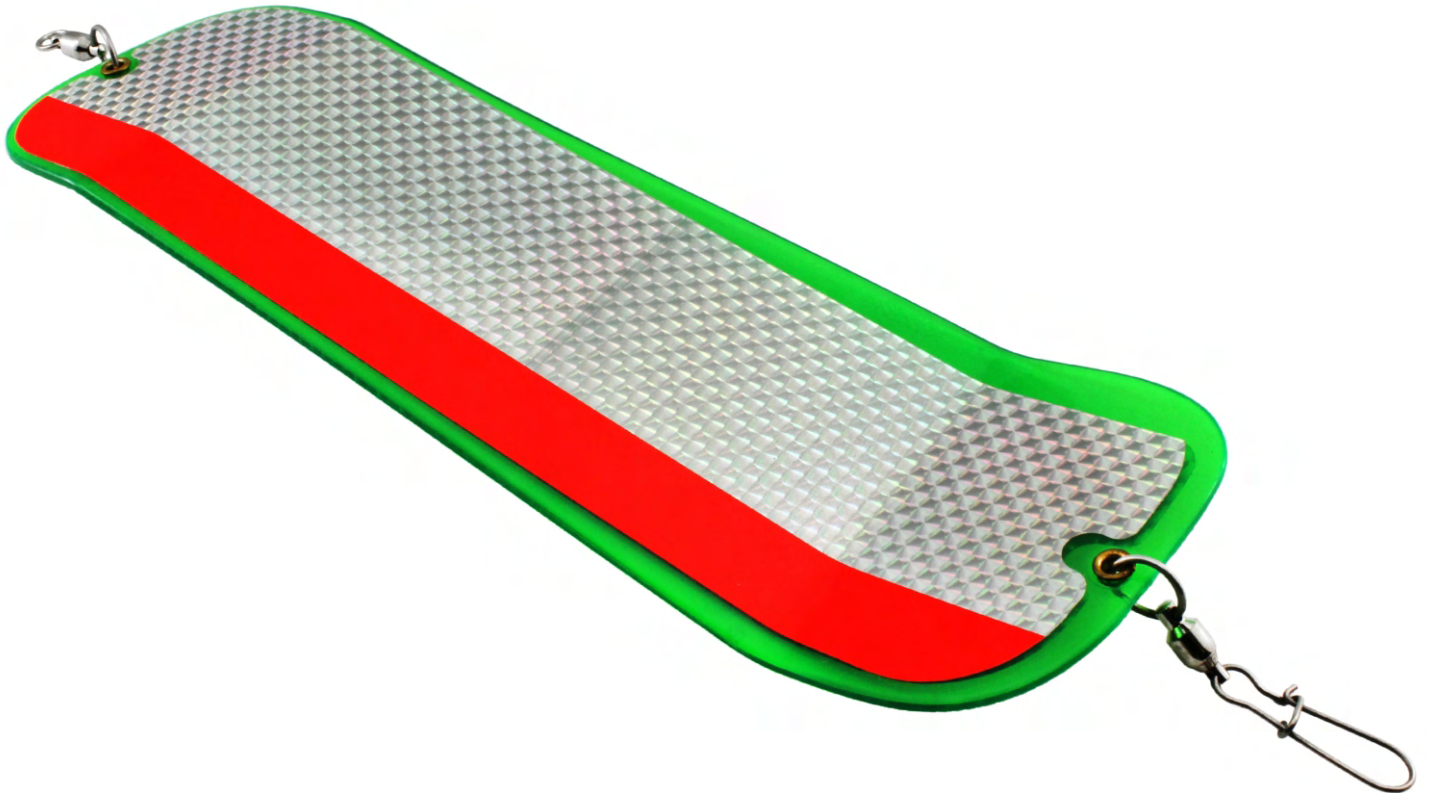
Serve the salmon cakes with tartar sauce or lemon wedges.

I believe that you will have a new respect for Pink Salmon out of the freezer when you prepare them like I just described.

# Special Purchase

Tackle For The Serious Angler

## Gibbs 11" Flasher 2BB

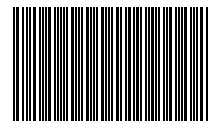


I had these flashers made for John's Sporting Goods to take advantage of a very special price on a good quality flasher. Gibbs flashers are Canadian Made and they are the #1 choice of Canadian salmon fishermen. These flashers have two ball bearing swivels.

I have these flashers in six colors including the Red Racer (shown above) and Purple Haze.

I am offering these flashers to my customers at a very low special price for the month of February.

\$7.95



Must have this coupon in hand at the time of sale to receive the special price.  
Add \$7.95 shipping if we ship this item to you

**John's Sporting Goods**

# Save the Date!



**19th Annual**

**September**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**2012**

Entry \$25  
Kids 12 & Under Free

## Ticket Locations

Cabelas - Ed's Surplus - Everett Bayside Marine - Greg's Custom Rods - Harbor Marine

Holiday Market - Hook Line & Sinker - John's Sporting Goods

McDaniels Do It Center - Outdoor Emporium - Performance Marine - Possession Bait - Sportco

Ted's Sport Center - Three Rivers Marine - Triangle Beverage & Bait - Wholesale Sports

Proceeds from the Everett Coho Derby benefit the Snohomish Sportsmen's Club and the Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club programs. Both clubs strive to preserve and improve fish and wildlife habitat, educate/involve the community, provide opportunities for all to participate in the outdoors, encourage youth fishing and to promote the recreation aspect of fishing. The Clubs support programs such as Go Play Outside for Kids, Eagle Creek hatchery, Youth Conservation Camps, Everett Marina Coho Net Pen, college scholarships, triploid trout plants in local lakes, salmon fry plants in streams and trout fry plants in beaver ponds and high lakes.

[www.everettcohoderby.com](http://www.everettcohoderby.com)

**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.