

# Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

May 2012

## How To Videos

by John Martinis

**Halibut  
Spreader Bar Rigging**

[Click Here](#)

**Using Scotty Downrigger  
Emergency Crank Handle**

[Click Here](#)

**Shrimp/Prawn  
Trap Rigging**

[Click Here](#)

**Crab Trap Rigging**

[Click Here](#)

**Purchasing Fishing Licenses**

[Click Here](#)

**Making Spot Shrimp Bait**

[Click Here](#)

**Fishing Reel Care**

[Click Here](#)

**Rigging Salmon Plugs**

[Click Here](#)

**Tying John's Spectra Knot**

[Click Here](#)

**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](#)

## Seminars 2012

by John Martinis

### 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.

## Fishing Calendar

May 1, Puget Sound Ling Cod

May 3, Puget Sound Halibut

May 18, Tulalip Bubble

May 5, Puget Sound Shrimp

May 5, Jennings Park Kids fishing derby

May 19, Lake Stevens Kokanee derby

## Puget Sound

### Ling Cod

Open May 1-June 15

**Legal Puget Sound Ling Cod:  
26"-36", Limit 1**

When I a child, my Dad kept our boat at Mutiny Bay Resort. This is where we fished salmon in the Windmill Hole. I remember very distinctly while we were fishing one day, that my Dad traded a nice Chinook for this very large cod. In those days, Ling Cod were a fish that really nobody cared much about. There wasn't any bottom fishing charters then. The only bottom fish tackle back then were copper pipe jigs. Now, Ling Cod are a prized fish and something that many anglers look forward to each year. Including myself.

There are two ways to effectively catch Ling Cod in Puget Sound: Plastic worms on lead head jigs and live bait.

Plastic worms come in a couple of popular configurations: Twin tail scampi tails and curly tail worms. The best sizes of scampi tails are 4" and 6". The best sizes of curly tail worms are 8". Everyone seems to have there own favorite color, I happen to like the motor oil red flake color. I have these plastic scampi and worms custom made for John's Sporting Goods. [Click here to see](#)

Live bait is also an extremely popular way to catch Ling Cod. The best live baits are: Sole and Sculpins. Sole are by far the easiest to catch this time of year. You can catch Sole in 60-100 feet of water anywhere the bottom is sandy. The best way to catch Sole is with a Herring jig with the hooks baited with a very small amount of shrimp or worm. Let the jig to the bottom and don't move it. The Sole will just climb on the hooks. To save the Sole, you need a live well with an aerator. If you don't have an aerator, you have to change the water frequently or the Sole will die.

I want to first address fishing with plastics. There is an art to fishing with a Scampi tail attached to a lead head jig. It is not as simple as letting the jig to the bottom and jigging. Everything starts the night before you go fishing for Ling Cod. Stop at John's Sporting Goods and purchase a package of 7" Herring. On the way out the door I will say, "Good Luck Fishing". That's not enough! Fillet the herring out and cut the fillets into long strips. Put the fillets into a plastic container and salt them heavily



## How To Illustrations

by John Martinis

**Halibut Rig**

[Click Here](#)

**Shrimp Pot Set Up**

[Click Here](#)

**Rigging Live Bait for**

**Ling Cod**

[Click Here](#)

## 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

with rock salt. Put the container in the frig, by morning the bait will be cured. These strips of Herring will be used in conjunction with the Scampi tail. This is to give the Scampi tail some good smell. The Herring can be put on the hook by simply putting the hook through on end of the fillet.

I guess I should back up a bit and talk about matching Scampi tails to lead head jigs. I prefer to use the 4" tails whenever possible. However, the tide is going to dictate the size of jig and the size of Scampi tail. When the tide is not moving too fast, I like to use 2-3oz jig heads with a 4" Scampi. If I am having trouble keeping the jig vertical with the bottom, I use a 4-6oz jig head with a 6" Scampi. Remember, were are talking about Puget Sound. I like using even bigger tackle in the ocean.

Jigging the Scampi is where most anglers fail to fish correctly for Ling Cod. When you fish with Scampi tails or curly tail worms, you really aren't jigging the baits. You want to "swim" the baits. Swimming the baits is quite simple. Let the bait to the bottom and lift the bait gently. Only lift the bait 12" at the most. Gently swim the bait by moving the rod tip slowly. Do not make the bait jump up and down or make it make wild moves. There is nothing on the bottom that a Ling Cod wants to eat that is jumping wildly up and down. You want to make the bait look like a fish, Squid or Octopus that is swimming along the bottom. That is what looks natural to a Ling Cod.

Live bait fishing for Ling Cod adds another dimension to your fishing day. You have to catch bait before you go fishing for Lings. Once you have your bait, you have to keep it alive. Plan on an extra hour to fish for bait before you head to your destination.

Live bait fishing is quite simple ([Click Here for Diagram](#)). For terminal tackle

you only need a 4oz weight (cannon ball), three way swivel and a couple of 5/0 Gamakatsu Hooks. Tie the rig like this: Tie the 4oz cannon ball to the end of the fishing line. Come up 18" cut the line and tie it back together with a three way swivel. Tie a leader that is only 24" with a couple of 5/0 Gamakatsu hooks. The leader material should be 20lb test. If you don't want to tie your own leaders, you can purchase a leader that has a 4/0-5/0 hooks tied to it. [Click here to see](#).

Because Puget Sound is mostly sand and mud there are just a few spots that support good populations of Ling Cod. Ling Cod habitat is either rocky or areas that have humps or indents in the bottom. By far the most popular area to fish Lings in Puget Sound is Possession Bar. Possession has some very diverse habitat. You can catch Lings here in 30 feet of water where it is very rocky or you can Lings in 60-90 feet of water where the Bar has small holes. [Click Here for Map](#)

Another very rocky area that is good Ling Cod fishing is at Double Bluff. You can fish here straight out from the "V" in the bank. You can see this "V" in the bank up on the Bluff. If you are going to fish here, bring some gear. This is classic Ling Cod habitat! [Click Here for Map](#)

There are other smaller areas to fish Ling Cod in Puget Sound: The artificial bottom fish reef off the south side of Hat Island, around the breakwater off the Edmonds Marina and off the breakwater of the Shilshoe Marina.

## Tulalip Bubble Chinook Opens May 18

**Opening has been delayed**

Now this is a little complicated. You can



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 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..

start fishing in this area starting May 4. Salmon fishing is open weekly from Friday until noon on Monday. Starting on June 10th you can use two rods if you have the two rod endorsement. Salmon fishing is still only open Friday until noon Monday. Chinook over 22" can be kept with or without an adipose fin. In other words, you can keep hatchery or wild Chinook. [See Tulalip Bubble Map Click Here.](#)

Don't go the Tulalip Bubble and expect to really rip'em up. This is a place where it takes a little patience to catch a Chinook. If you want instant gratification, this is not for you. But, it's the only game in town until Chinook opens in Area 9 on July 16.

There are two schools of thought when fishing the Bubble: Some anglers (myself included) like fishing near the Red Can Buoy in 90 feet of water and near the bottom. There is another group of anglers who like fishing for suspended fish in deep water. It would be safe to say that each method is equally as effective.

In this area I like fishing Green/Glow OG142R Goldstar Squid ([Click Here to see](#)). I like to rig the squid 42" behind either a Red Racer 11" flasher ([Click Here to see](#)) or a Purple Haze Flasher ([Click Here to see](#)). Tie the squid to the flasher with 30lb mono leader or 40lb fluorocarbon leader.

The trolling speed for fishing the Bubble should be just a tad slower than the normal Chinook speed. Keep your speed at 2.5 mph and not any faster. These fish are not feeding; they are strictly striking out of anger or striking as a feeding reaction. In any case, they like the bait to be easy to catch. This is a little different than fishing for feeding Chinook where you can troll 2.5-3.0mph.

There are a couple ways to approach fishing at the Bubble: When the tide is

coming in, fish tight to the bar that is marked by the Red Can Buoy. Fish near the bottom in 90-100 feet of water. When the tide is going out, the tide pulls the fish off the bar and out into deeper water. By deeper water, I mean 200-250 feet of water. This is where you fish for Chinook that are suspended. Fish only 90-120 feet deep when you are trolling for suspended salmon in this area.

[See Tulalip Bubble Rules Click Here](#)

[Click here for WDFW Tulalip Bubble News Release](#)

## Puget Sound/ San Juan Shrimp Opens May 5 Last word on Rigging Your Pots Three New Maps

I know that I have covered some of this in my April Newsletter, but I feel that it is worthy to go over one more time. The tide on May 5 is a -2.0 tide. That is a big tide for shrimping. Not impossible but a big tide. Some common sense needs to be heeded or else you will lose your shrimp pot!

In Puget Sound, the tide is low at 11:00am. I would recommend putting a shrimp pot out a 10:00am and retrieving it at 11:00am.

For this tide, please put extra weight in your shrimp pots. Make sure the pot with weights weighs at least 30lbs. Equally important; make sure that you have enough floatation to float your pots in the event that it drifts off. I had one pot drift off last year. I simply picked up the pot and put the pot back where I wanted it.



Enough buoys to float a pot consists of two of the magnum molded buoys and one of the large inflatable buoys. Don't take my word that this will float your pot; test your floatation to make sure that it will float your pot.

If you plan on Shrimping in the San Juan Islands opening day May 5, I would strongly recommend putting a small 1.5lb anchor on a 10ft line and snap it to the pot. I always use an anchor on my shrimp pot when I am shrimping in the San Juan Islands. The anchor is good insurance against losing a pot. An anchor does not allow you to put a shrimp pot out anywhere or anytime. You still have to look at the tides and only put the pots out when there is not too much water moving.

The morning tide (-1.7) at 9:35AM opening day is a huge tide for shrimping at Iceberg Point at the tip of Lopez. If you are going to set pots on that morning tide, you have a one hour window or less to do your shrimping.

I would recommend shrimping later in the day on the afternoon high tide that is at 5:08pm. You could put your pots out at 4:00pm without too much risk of the pots drifting off. The tide only goes out three feet after that 5:08pm high tide.

[Click Here for Area 7 Shrimp Rules](#)

**New Shrimp Maps**  
**Park Bay [Click Here](#)**  
**Spiden Stuart [Click Here](#)**  
**Eagle Point [Click Here](#)**

**Jennings Park**  
**Kids Fishing Derby**  
**Saturday May 5**

First of all, I want to thank all of you that donated money to this event. Your donations were very close to \$500 and I donated \$500 plus 20 Shimano rods and reels. The CXX Motorcycle Club also donated \$500.

We are going to have some monster triploid rainbow trout put in Jennings Pond. I will guarantee that you will be impressed with the trout your child will catch on May 5.

This derby is open to the public and you do not need any fishing gear or bait. Just show up. We will supply everything. If you do not know how to fish, this is for you! The derby is open to all children 12 years of age and younger. The derby starts at 8am and will last until 11am. We will draw tickets to award the prizes. The tickets are totally free.

If you wish, please bring a food donation that will be donated to the Marysville Food Bank.

## Lake Stevens Kokanee Derby Saturday May 19

Tickets for the Lake Stevens Kokanee Derby are on sale now at John's Sporting Goods. The tickets are \$20 for adults. Children 14 and under are free. John's Sporting Goods also has Kokanee Derby T-Shirts for \$10.

Have you ever fished for Kokanee before? A Kokanee is a landlocked Sockeye Salmon. Not a trout. They do not taste like a trout. They are very well known for their rich deep flavor.

They start biting on fishing gear toward the end of April and the fishing gets quite good towards mid-May.

# Just Fishing



The most common way to fish for Kokanee is by trolling. The rig that seems to work quite well is a 4/0 Dick Nite Brass/Chrome dodger (#4001). [Click Here to see](#)

Behind the dodger rig a pink shrimp squid made by Goldstar. On the back hook of the squid rig put on a red Pautzke Fire Corn.

The depths that you will find Kokanee near mid-May will be between 10-30 feet deep. It really helps if you have a downrigger so that you can control the depth. Kokanee will hang out in very exact thermoclines that are 48-56 degrees.

## John's Sporting Goods

59 Years and Going Strong!  
Thank You, to our  
Valued Customers

I would like to thank all my customers who have loyally shopped at my store over the years. I would also like to thank all of my new customers.

With the new Cabela's opening in Marysville I expected my sales to drop 20%. Just the opposite happened. I had my biggest sales week ever in the history of John's Sporting Goods the week that they opened. I would like to take credit for the sales increase, but it is really all of you who support my store.

Today I am reviewing a flier Cabela's had in the morning newspaper. They had Scotty 2106 downriggers for \$649 if you have their coupon. You can purchase the same downrigger at John's Sporting Goods for \$595 and you don't need a coupon.

I will continue to give you a great "Newsletter" for free every month that is packed with the latest fishing maps and fishing information. Thanks to all of you!

## Friday "Deal of the Day" "Big Fish" Thursday

Starting last week; Fridays is "Deal of the Day" on John's Sporting Goods Facebook page. Every Friday I will announce a tackle deal that is available on Saturday. I will make the tackle deal an exceptional low cost to you.

"Big Fish Thursday" will start May 10th. Every Thursday I will announce the size/limit and specie of Fish, Crab or Shrimp that you can bring by John's Sporting Goods on the following Saturday and win some fishing equipment. This will be fun for all of us. I will be posting the results on John's Sporting Goods Facebook.

## Tackle Tip Spooling Spectra Line

Putting Braided Spectra line on a fishing reel is an art of sort. I start by putting a wrap of masking tape on the bottom of the reel spool. Because Spectra line is so small, I start by putting 80lb Dacron line for filler. You can fill the reel from the bottom up with Spectra line, but that adds a considerable expense to filling the fishing reel. 80lb Dacron is cheap and it fills the reel quickly.

On a Penn 113H, I fill the reel  $\frac{3}{4}$  full of

Dacron before spooling the reel with 65lb Spectra.

I tie the Dacron and the Spectra together using a Uni to Uni Knot. This is where spooling the reel takes some extra care. You must wind the Spectra on the reel tight enough so that it does not bury itself within itself when you get a Halibut on the end of the line. If you do not spool the line on correctly the line will get buried and you will lose your Halibut.

Let me give you my thoughts on different line weights for Halibut Reels. 65lb Spectra seems to be a good happy medium. 80lb is really tuff. If you get snagged up with 80lb, you have to hang onto your rod and reel for your life. 80lb is a bit of overkill. But that is just my opinion. 100lb Spectra, you cannot hang on to the rod to break it. It must be tied to a cleat to get it loose or break the line

I fished with 130lb line for Grouper. I had a fighting belt on and a harness. I literally felt like the fish was going to pull me overboard using a 30lb drag setting.

## Marine Rules

I just updated the 2012 Marine rules for Salmon and Bottomfish. I think you will find this very helpful versus thumbing through the 100+ page WDFW rule book. You can find this menu at the Top of the John's Sporting Goods web page titled "WDFW Links", then click on "Salmon Bottomfish Regulations".

[Or, Just Click Here](#)

email your fish  
pictures

customerservice@  
johnssportinggoods.com

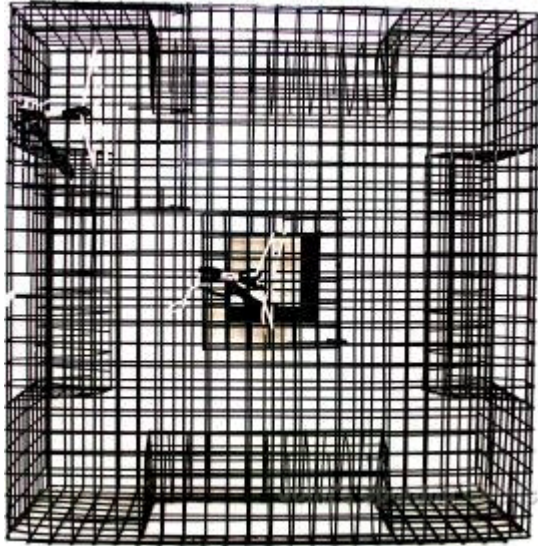
# Special Purchase



Tackle For The Serious Angler

John's Sporting Goods

## Shrimp Gear Sale/Delta Tackle Sale



**SMI 19022 Sale Price \$49.95**  
Reg. Price \$67.50



**"New Item" Delta Tackle Squid  
w/Leader & Hooks**  
**\$2.95**



**"New Item" Delta Tackle  
5/PK Squid**  
**\$4.95**

Three Colors to Choose From



**Kufa/Ladner Style  
Shrimp Pot \$99.50**  
Reg. Price \$119.00

Prices Good Trough May 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 May 30, 2012**

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

**Send your fish pictures to:**  
**customerservice@johnssportinggoods.com**

**Like us on Facebook:**

[http://www.facebook.com/?ref=tn\\_tnmn#!/pages/Johns-Sporting-Goods/166123680152608](http://www.facebook.com/?ref=tn_tnmn#!/pages/Johns-Sporting-Goods/166123680152608)

**Scotty Downrigger**  
**Maintenance**  
**300ft Cable**  
**or**  
**300ft Spectra Braid**  
**\$39.95**

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**  
**425-259-3056 - 1913 Broadway, Everett, WA 98201**

**John's Sporting Goods**  
**Fishing Tackle**  
**for**  
**The Serious Angler**