

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

January 2014

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Fishing Derby's

Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club
Blackmouth Derby
March 22nd

Anacortes
Salmon Derby
March 29-30
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Seminars 2014

Chinook Seminar
by John Martinis
March 19th
at Bayside Marine @7PM
Free to the Public

2014 Ways to Make a Difference

Jennings Park
Kids Fishing Derby
May 2014

Everett Lions Club
Derby for the Blind
September 2014

This is the time of year to contribute to two great events: The Jennings Park Kids Fishing Derby and the Everett Lions Club Derby for the Blind.

I will match any donation dollar for dollar that you contribute to either event.

Let's see if we can do the same for the Blind Derby. I have been involved in this derby for many years. The Blind people who are involved in this derby will pull at your heart strings. They are so full of enthusiasm and excitement. Can you only imagine what it is like to be on the water salmon fishing and being blind? Please help. 100% of this money will be given out as cash prizes.

Including my matching money, we raised \$1800 for the Blind Derby and \$1,000 for the Jennings Park Kids

Fishing Derby. Thank you for your donations!

Contact John Martinis (425-259-3056) to contribute to either event. Thank you for your help!

Winter Chinook 2014

Area 9 Opens
January 16

Dirty Water Fishing Tactics
Point No Point/Skunk Bay
Apple Tree Point
Jeff Head

Many times when we are fishing for salmon, it is difficult for us to get out of our comfort zone. Most of us like to go to one or two fishing locations that we are familiar with, even if the fishing may be better somewhere else. That is just human nature. Because those habits are hard to break, it often interferes with being a successful salmon angler. This is especially true for Winter Chinook. No matter how much you want these fish swim and feed in the place that you're familiar with, most often that is a failed strategy for putting fish in the box.

I will state the most recent perfect example: towards the end of November just before Area 9 closed, the best Chinook fishing was at Point No Point and Pilot Point/Skunk Bay. Both of these areas are only a few minutes away from the Outer Bar of Possession. Possession Bar is such a popular place to fish for Winter Chinook; it is sometimes

Just Fishing



New Puget Sound Salmon Seasons 2013-2014

Area 6:

Dec. 1-Apr. 10 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2. Release wild CHINOOK. See Dungeness Bay Fishery and Closure below. Season may close earlier if CHINOOK guideline is attained.

Area 7:

Dec. 1-Apr. 30 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined). Release wild Chinok. See Bellingham Bay Closure and Fishery, and Yellow and Low Islands Preserve on

Area 8-1: Aug. 1-Sept. 30 No min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined) plus 2 additional PINK. Release CHINOOK..

Area 8-2:

Nov. 1-Apr. 30 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2(combined). Release wild CHINOOK. See Tulalip Bay Closure. Season may close earlier if CHINOOK guideline is attained.

Area 9:

Jan. 16-Apr. 15 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined). Release wild CHINOOK. Season may close earlier if CHINOOK guideline is attained.

hard to look elsewhere for Chinook even though we may be struggling to catch salmon on a particular day at Possession Bar.

A better strategy for being a successful Chinook angler would be to examine the tides and plot a course of action just in case the place we are fishing has failed to produce salmon. Another factor that is often overlooked when fishing for Winter Chinook; is the amount of fresh brown water that is flowing out of the local rivers after an extended warm rainy period. Almost always, when the rivers are high and flowing brown dirty water into Puget Sound; this situation makes Winter Chinook head to the West in search of clear clean saltwater.

Now, we can develop a strategy for fishing winter conditions for salmon in Puget Sound. 1) Under normal conditions when the water is clear in Puget Sound, we can fish the most popular salmon fishing areas if the fishing reports indicate that fishing is good in those areas. 2) Under brown water conditions, we have to look for salmon further to the west.

There are four areas that can be free of brown water when the rivers high and muddy: those areas are Jeff Head, Pilot Point, Point No Point/Skunk Bay and Apple Tree Point.

Jeff Head and Apple Tree Point are both in Area 10. Area 10 closes for Chinook fishing January 31. Point No Point/Skunk Bay and Pilot Point are in Area 9. Area 9 opens for Chinook on January 16, and the season continues until April 15. The unspoken strategy is to stay legal by hopscotching around and fishing the areas that are open for Chinook. Not a big deal, but be mindful of the closure dates.

Let's develop a strategy for Winter Chinook fishing when the rivers have

been high and flowing dirty water. My first inclination would be to scratch Area 8-1 and 8-2 completely off the list because those areas are the most affected by dirty water. Possession Bar is affected by the dirty water especially when the tide is going out. Depending on the severity of the dirty water, Possession Bar would only get a second look when the weather conditions permitted us to go no farther. I really like the idea of fishing Pilot Point when the tide is coming in. Pilot Point will have nice clear saltwater under most conditions. Under adverse muddy water conditions in Puget Sound, the bait and salmon will move off of Possession Bar and over to Pilot Point and Point No Point.

[Jeff Head](#) and [Apple Tree Point](#) are little more removed from the Possession Bar area. These two areas will provide you another option for salmon fishing especially if you are launching out of Edmonds or Shilshole Marina.

Let's take a look at a mid-morning high tide. A high tide in the morning puts Pilot Point right on the radar screen. I would highly recommend fishing Pilot Point any time in the winter and under all water conditions. This is just an excellent choice to fish for Winter Chinook.

I like to start fishing at Pilot Point in front of the houses on the beach ([see map](#)). From there, troll towards Point No Point. Try to follow the 90-120 contour line of the bottom. You will notice that the bottom is very irregular at the starting point. Make a mental note of the hard turns in the bottom as you troll towards Point No Point. These corners in the bottom are going to be areas to find baitfish and salmon. In other words, don't just head to Point No Point if you are locating baitfish on these corners. Once you find bait, try to concentrate your fishing on these areas. I would say the most productive area to fish is from the houses and halfway to Point No Point.



Area 10:

Oct. 1-Jan. 31-CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined). Release wild Chinook.

If the morning tide is going out, we have to change our plans to include [Point No Point](#) and [Skunk Bay](#). Point No Point is a traditional drift mooching area. The area to the west of Point No Point is called Skunk Bay. Skunk Bay has become a very popular downrigger trolling area for salmon. There are two options for these two areas: 1) drift mooching at Point No Point 2) trolling at Skunk Bay.

If you wish to free yourself of your downrigger's, drift mooching with herring at Point No Point can be a fun way to engage yourself in a more traditional style of salmon fishing that pre-dates downrigger fishing. This is quite simple. All you need is a selection of mooching sinker's that weigh 2-4 ounces and the handful of salmon mooching leaders. The leaders should be tied with 6ft of 15lb leader material and 3/0-4/0 hooks. 5 inch red label herring would be the best bait size for Winter Chinook fishing.

Start fishing at Point No Point in front of the lighthouse in 60 feet of water. The tide will take you in an East to West drift. Drift with the tide until you get in 150-180 feet of water. Then return to the place where you began fishing in front of the lighthouse.

The 101 on drift mooching with herring is this: cut the herring at an angle so that when you hook the herring up it will spin ([see diagram](#)). Let the herring out to the bottom and then slowly retrieve the herring to the surface. Repeat this several times during the drift. If you feel that you are getting a bite from a salmon, continue to reel slowly until the fish has taken the slack out of the line. At this time you're ready to set the hook and reel quickly until your rod has a deep bend. Now, it is you and the salmon with no flasher. You need to give this a try so that you can feel the full force of a 10 pound salmon on the end of the line. I think you'll agree that this is a completely

different fight compared to when a flasher is involved.

Sometimes in the winter months, drift mooching with herring does not have the same appeal that sitting in a heated cabin has. Creature comforts are nice when the gray and rain rule the day. Now we head ½ mile to the West of Point No Point to Skunk Bay.

Trolling in Skunk Bay is simple; start trolling in 90-120 feet of water and head east towards Point No Point. Continue to troll towards Point No Point but don't interfere with the drift moochers because it causes a conflict.

When Area 9 closed at the end of November, it was interesting to see how bad the salmon fishing could be at Useless Bay and just on the other side of the channel there was a completely different picture being painted. At Pilot Point and Point No Point/Skunk Bay the salmon fishing was pretty darn good. We won't really know if this trend will continue until Area 9 reopens. Stay tuned?

Winter Chinook Fishing Tips

Kingfisher Spoons: 2.0-3.0
Glue UV Squid to Hooks
Speed: 2.5-3.0

In the past decade, we also got complacent with the size of spoons that we chose to fish with for Chinook. If you think about it, a good fly fisherman would never use the same couple of fly patterns while fishing. For most of the last 10 years, we fished with 3.5 and 4.0 sizes of spoons. Only recently has Silver Horde/GoldStar introduced [2.0 and 3.0 sizes of Kingfisher spoons](#). How many times have you fished the San Juan Islands and found 2" needlefish in the



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Fishing Charter Service Neah Bay

Excel Charter/Tom Burlingame

Come up to Neah Bay and take an offseason Bottom fishing trip on the "Cabazon". Catching has been great! Last Sunday we caught 6 limits of Black Rockfish, 10 Greenling, and 2 Cabezon and were back and cleaned up in time to see the second half of the Seahawk game. We also enjoyed seeing several Grey Whales and Bald Eagles. 360-805-1729 or 360-374-2225

stomachs of the salmon that you caught and cleaned? This time of year, more often than not Chinook will be feeding on small needlefish. When that is the case, it makes sense to use smaller spoons. Once again, do not fall into the trap of using the same size spoons and colors all the time. I believe that you will be a much better Chinook angler if you mix up your spoon sizes at different times of the year. Use smaller spoons in the winter months and the more traditional spoon sizes during the summer seasons.

Many anglers this winter have given me positive comments on the suggestion of super gluing a 2.0 UV squid on the hook of a size 3.0 spoon. This is a great way to dress-up a spoon to make it more effective for Chinook fishing.

When I use the smaller Kingfisher spoons, I like to lengthen my leaders out to 60 inches behind a flasher.

Flasher Fishing with Herring

Rhys Davis Anchovy Heads 30lb Fluorocarbon Leader Five Inch Herring 3/0 Hooks

Are you or do you want to be good at using herring for salmon fishing? Many salmon anglers avoid using herring because there is more finesse to using bait when using the spoon is much simpler. I don't use herring very often except in the winter months when dog fish are not an issue. Herring can be very satisfying to fish with. It is fun to hook the herring up so that you get the correct spin and presentation. Don't be hesitant to use bait just because you might be fearful of not getting the correct spin on the herring. This is where the Rhys Davis anchovy heads come to the rescue. That's correct, "anchovy heads". I prefer

using the anchovy head holder's for use with 5 inch herring (see diagram). The diagram is pictured with an anchovy. A 5" herring is rigged identical as the diagram is pictured with the anchovy.

I like to tie my leaders with 3/0 hooks, tied close together so that when I hook up my herring the hooks are placed in the mid-part of the fish. Notice how close the eye of the upper hook is placed near the anchovy head holder.

Tie the leader with 30lb PLine fluorocarbon leader material. When using a flasher, the leader should be 60 inches long after it is tied to the flasher. Notice in the diagram, that the herring is perfectly straight with no bend in the herring. The Rhys Davis anchovy head holder will give the herring the perfect spin that is needed. This takes all the guesswork out of using herring and it is very effective. Your trolling speed will not change if you are using another flasher/spoon rig. The herring head holders make the herring very durable. Your trolling speed will be the typical 2.5-3.0 mph.

Tom Burlingame

Excel Charter

Neah Bay Seminar

Ling Cod-Halibut-Salmon

January 16

Everett Stealhead & Salmon Club

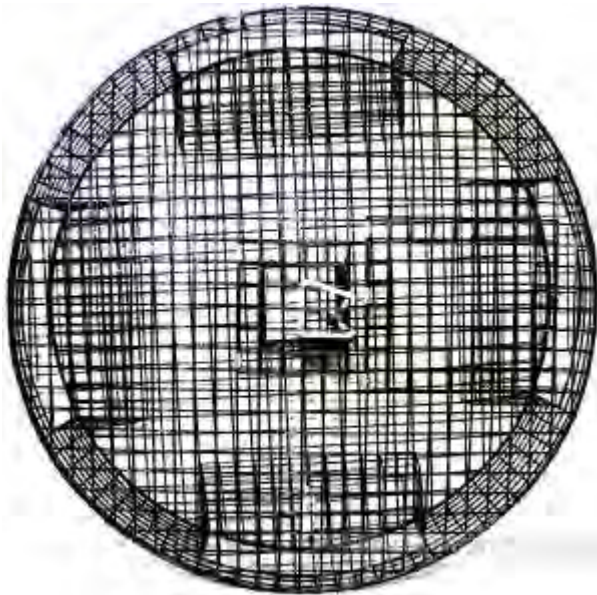
You are invited to listen to Tom Burlingame talk about fishing at Neah Bay. The topics will include: Bottom Fish, Halibut and Lingcod. This will be a good opportunity to book a trip with Tom or to learn how to fish Neah Bay from your own boat. Please join me and listen to Tom on January 16th.

Special Purchase

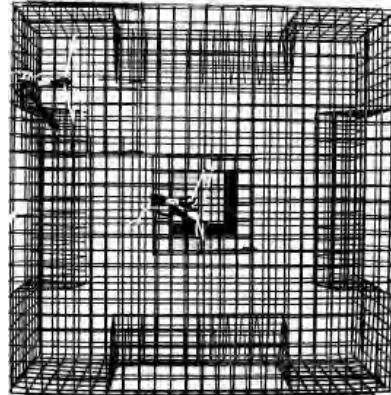
Tackle For The Serious Angler

Shrimp Pot Sale January 1-30

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