

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

September 2014

Fishing Dates

**Snohomish River
Opens for Coho
September 1**

**Coho Kayak Classic
September 6**

More information [Click Here](#)

**Edmonds Coho Derby
September 6**

**More information [Click Here](#)
Tickets at [John's Sporting Goods](#)**

**Salmon for Soldiers
September 13**

More information [Click Here](#)

**Everett Lions
Blind Derby
September 14**

**John's Coho Seminar
September 19**

**Everett Coho Derby
September 20-21**

Tickets at [John's Sporting Goods](#)

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**Coho Seminar
September 19, 2014**

**By John Martinis
at [Bayside Marine](#)**

7PM

“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, and some other great fishing tackle at the conclusion of this seminar.

Everett Coho Derby September 20-21 1st Prize \$10, 000

This year you will see a noticeable increase in the number of prizes and the quality of the prizes. Just one example: We just purchased 40 rod and reel salmon combos. We also purchased 20 complete crab pot set-ups. The list goes on and we are adding to it daily. We will have electronics, downriggers and an impressive amount of tackle.

The \$10,000 first prize was donated by John's Sporting Goods, Bayside Marine, Silver Horde and Harbor Marine.

Strategies for Effective Coho Fishing

**Assemble your Derby team and
then properly assemble your
Coho tackle**

Most salmon fisherman who spend any time on the water always look forward to the two big salmon derbies in September; The Edmonds Coho Derby on September 8 and the Everett Coho Derby on September 20-21. In this Newsletter, I want to explore all the preparation, the necessary gear and the proper strategies that will put marks on your catch record card. Hopefully, you will use some of my advice and you'll take a prize home from one of these two derbies.

Just Fishing



Preparation

Here is a list of must-have tackle and bait that you will need to be in the ballgame. If you cut any corners, your results at the end of the day will most likely show a lack of preparation. Yes, anyone can get lucky one time and come up with a top ten fish. But don't count on it as a winning strategy.

Gear

Gibbs Red Racer flasher
Gibbs Purple Haze flasher
Goldstar OAL12R 3.5 Purple Haze squid
Goldstar OG142R 3.5 Green Glow squid
Silver Horde Purple Haze UV Ace Hi Fly (Insert)
X3CB Sampo Ball Bearing Snap Swivels
4/0-4/0 30lb Squid Leaders
Strips of Salted Herring

Notice that I left Coho Killer spoons off of my list. There has been so many very small sub-legal salmon in Puget Sound at this time, making it hard to fish with small spoons because you will be dragging these fish around non-stop. You can't get any quality fishing time in if you are dragging sub legal salmon around on the end of your line.

Now that we have our gear list completed, let's have a conversation on how to properly assemble this gear. At the end of your fishing line; tie with an Improved Clinch Knot an X3CB Sampo Snap swivel. These are good American-made swivels that are guaranteed to keep the line twist out. Now, snap the flasher on to the line with the ball bearing snap swivel.

Assembling the squid leaders: first, slide the Silver Horde Purple Haze UV

Ace Hi Fly down the leader until it rests against the top hook. Now slide one of the two squids that I mentioned down the leader until the Ace Hi Fly ends up inside the squid. The Ace Hi Fly offers lots of UV flash and attraction that will catch the eye of a hungry Coho.

By the time the leader is attached to the flasher, the overall length from the swivel at the end of the flasher to the end of the squid should be approximately 30-36 inches. I usually cut my leaders down to 42 inches before I tie the leader to the flasher. By the time I tie the leader to the flasher with an Improved Clinch Knot, the leader ends up being in the neighborhood of 36 inches. One more time: the length of the leader is from the swivel at the end of a flasher to the end of the squid.

If you are tying your own leaders, use PLine Fluorocarbon 30lb leader material. Tie your hooks so that they are one quarter of an inch apart. That quarter of an inch is from the bend of the front hook to the eye of the back hook. At John Sporting Goods we have squid hooks that are tied with 30lb leader material with two 4/0 stainless steel hooks.

Let's recap what the rig looks like:

Ball bearing snap swivel on the end of the line. The flasher is rigged with a squid and the leader length is 30-36 inches. The flasher is snapped to the end of the fishing line with the Sampo ball bearing snap swivel.

Here is the crucial part: Salted Herring

Coho are driven insane by the smell of herring. The smell of herring to a Coho

means one last tasty meal before heading up a Puget Sound River. Give them (Coho) what they want! Remember this; there are 300 other rigs just like yours in the water around you at all times on a Derby Day. Your rig has to look better, smell better and swim better than the guy fishing next to you. Ever been on the water when there is one boat catching fish after fish after fish? We have all been there and it's not fun unless you are in that boat catching all the fish.

The night before you go fishing unthaw a package of green label herring. Filet the sides off the herring. Now cut the fillets in half the long ways. In a plastic tub place the herring strips that you just made flesh side up and coat them with rock salt. Do not add any water or any other liquid solution. You want these fillets to be really tough by the next morning.

Just before you put your rig in the water attach a filet of herring to the front squid hook. Each time you bring your line in put a fresh filet of herring on the hook.

Coho Trolling Speed

This is where the "rubber meets the road". You can assemble all your rigs as I described and if you don't troll at the correct speed you are going to really struggle at Coho fishing. The most minimum trolling speed is 3.0MPH and faster. It's almost impossible to go too fast! If you have to establish a trolling speed range: let's call it 3.0 to 3.5MPH. That nice comfortable 45 degree angle of the downrigger cable is much too slow. Get that cable hanging out there. Now, you are going the correct speed. Speed over ground or speed through the water? The best and only easy answer, "Watch the angler of your downrigger Cable". The angle of the

Just Fishing



cable will tell you if your are going to slow or too fast.

Re-Cap of Important Tips

30-36 inch squid fluorocarbon leader 30lb

Trolling Speed 3.0-3.5MPH

Use Salted Herring Strips

Let's address the issue of having no downriggers or wanting to hang an extra line straight out of the back of the boat. Here's the solution: use a heavy salmon rod. At the end of the fishing line attach a slider that you can attach a heavy cannonball weight to. Attach a snap swivel at the end of the fishing line. The slider will be above the swivel. Attach a Hot Spot Agitator rotating flasher to the snap swivel at the end of the fishing line. At the end of the flasher, attach a six foot herring leader and put a cut plug or whole herring on the leader. Take a look at my newest Buoy 10 video and tie your rig exactly like shown in the video.

Understanding the Tides

Understanding the tides plays a critical role for effective Coho fishing. It would be nice and simple to just launch your boat at Mukilteo and to start fishing. As the season progresses, you can do that. But, early in the Coho season you have to place yourself strategically to intercept these salmon. Imagine these fish swimming down Admiralty Inlet and into Puget Sound. Some of these Coho split off and head to the Snohomish River and Stillaguamish River. Other Coho split off and head to the rivers in the southern part of Puget Sound. These fish slosh around on Possession Bar, Shipwreck and Brown's Bay while they figure out where they are heading.

When the Tide is Going Out

Fish for Coho on the West side of Possession Bar

Fish for Coho in the rips that run west of the Scatchet Head Buoy

Fish in Front of the Edmonds Marina to the Edmonds oil tanks

Fish at the Shipwreck and into Browns Bay

When the Tide is Coming In

Fish on the East side of Possession Bar

Fish half-way between the east side of Possession Bar and the Shipwreck

Fish in Front of the Edmonds Marina to the Edmonds oil tanks

Fish at Mukilteo (after September 7)

There are many other good places to fish for Coho than what I described. Use my guide as a starting point.

Edmonds Coho Derby Tides

September 6, Edmonds Coho Derby: Low Tide at 9:00 and the High Tide is at 4:07PM. On that morning low tide I would either fish in in front of the Edmonds Marina or I would fish the rips that run west of the Scatchet Head Buoy. My top choice would be the rips that run west of the Scatchet Head Buoy. In the early days of September, Coho stage in Useless Bay and between the Skagit Head Buoy and Indian Point.

When the tide turns to come in, I would switch to either the Eastside of Possession Bar near the most southern edge of the Horseshoe Hole or in the front of the Edmonds Marina to the Oil Tanks.

Everett Coho Derby Tides

September 20-21, Everett Coho Derby: now you're going to see how my pics change when the Derby dates are later in September. The tides are nearly identical to the tides on

September 6, but the fishing places will change.

September 20: Low Tide at 9:07AM. On this morning low tide, I would fish these three places: Shipwreck, Browns Bay and in front of the Edmonds Marina.

When the tide starts to come in, I would fish from Shipwreck to Mukilteo, Eastside of Possession Bar near the most southern edge of the Horseshoe Hole and in front of the Edmonds Marina.

The tides are an hour later on Sunday September 21. Use the same game plan.

Coho Maps

[Edmonds Coho](#)

[Shipwreck Coho](#)

[Browns Bay Coho](#)

[Scatchet Head Coho](#)

[Horseshoe Hole](#)

Marine Resources

[Ferry Weather \(Wind Speed\)](#)

[Marine Weather](#)

[Tides](#)

Snohomish River Opens September 1 For Coho

I think anyone who fished for Coho during the 2013 Snohomish River Coho season, will agree that the fishing was outstanding. These Coho are funny creatures in freshwater. Some years they thrash plugs and spinners. And other years, not so good? A lot of this has to do with how



early the Coho enter the river. If they start entering the river in the early part of September the fishing is fairly good. If they enter the river the very last part of September and early October, well then it's can be a tough season. Snohomish River Coho are the Seattle Mariners of the salmon species. That says it all, you think?

Now, let's get serious about Snohomish River Coho. Typically, these fish can provide some pretty good action around the third week in September. Suffice to say, the Everett Coho Derby has been won at least one time and maybe more from Coho that were caught in the Snohomish River. Now think about it, this is a great, "Ace in the Hole", if the weather is really nasty.

Last year, the best Coho action in the Snohomish River was just above the bridge (upstream from the boat launch in the town of Snohomish) that crosses the Snohomish River in the town Snohomish. Although the same area would be a good starting point this year, there is a great likelihood that the best fishing will be at a different location in the river this year. One of the great mysteries of freshwater Coho fishing is predicting where the best action will be.

Early in September I would expect the best Coho action in the Snohomish River to be where the power lines cross the river below the town of Snohomish. By late September, I would expect the fish to be above the Pilchuck River in that long straight stretch of the Snohomish River. Coho plugs that would recommend are: [Brads Wigglers V74 and V90](#). Dick Nite spoon are also very effective for Coho in the River. The most popular [Dick Nite spoon is the #1 50/50](#). Spinner that I recommend are

#3 and #4 Chartreuse Vibrax spinners.

In the October Newsletter, I will do an in depth look at river fishing for Coho.

Shellfish Update and Crabbing Tip

Marine Areas 6 and Area 7 West continues to be open for Spot Shrimp 7 days a week until September 15 or until the quota is taken. Area 7 South is remains open for crab until September 29, closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. This is a great crabbing tip that Daryl Moss gave me: He puts locks on all the parts of his crab pots that can be opened by hand. This deters crab thieves from pulling his crab pots and easily removing crab and bait from his crab pots. Great Idea!

Couples Salmon Derby September 7, 2014

The Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club is having a "Couples Salmon Derby" on September 7. The derby is open to club members. If you would like to join the Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club, stop by John's Sporting Goods and pick up a membership application. The membership dues are \$30/year. First prize is a Shimano Tekota 500 reel.

Your membership dues will go to good work because the Club raises close to 100,000 Coho a year. They also put on most of the youth fishing derbies around Snohomish County.

Samish River Chinook

The Samish River near Bellingham is red hot for Chinook to 30lbs. I was told that there is so many Chinook in the river that at times you can see huge schools of Chinook in the river. Be prepared for paid parking before you head to the Samish. Floats and Jigs and salmon roe are the gear of choice. This is a very crowded venue, so plan on meeting some folks that you didn't know where your best friends.

The fishing in the Samish is very tide dependent. Plan on fishing the river during the last two hours of the incoming tide. Check the Bellingham Bay tides when making your plans.

New Video Colubia River Buoy 10

By John Martinis and Tom Nelson

Learn how to rig gear for the very popular Columbia River Buoy 10 fishery. [Click Here for Video](#)

Smoked Salmon Dip

This recipe is very easy to put together and it is very delicious. We made it a week ago with Smoke Kokanee. Yumm!

8 oz smoked Salmon or Kokanee
8 oz cream cheese or Neufchatel cheese

Flake the salmon then mix together with the cream cheese and enjoy with crackers.

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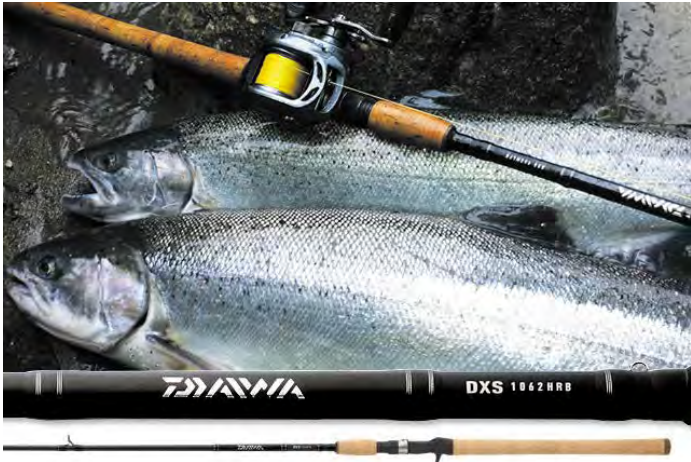
September 19 @ 7:00 PM
Coho Seminar at Bayside Marine
1111 Craftsman Way
Everett, WA 98201



Special Purchase

Tackle For The Serious Angler

Coho Derby Special



Daiwa DXS 9' Salmon Rods
Sale Price \$99
Reg. Price \$79



Scotty 2101 High Performance
Sale Price \$499.00
Lowest Price Anywhere!



Shimano TDR Salmon Rod
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Sale Price \$29.50
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Prices Good Through September 30th-In Store Purchase Only

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Items that are excluded: Downriggers, Ace Line Hauler Products, Traxtech Products, Rods and Reels, Electronics, CTO3R Crab Pot, SMI Crab Pots, Braided Line, items that are discounted, on sale, repairs, parts and closeout items. Cannot be used in combination with discounted gift certificates.

10% Discount

On Rods and Reels including Shimano
Excludes G-Loomis and St Croix

Not valid for online purchases or mail order
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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

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Thursday: Big Fish Day

Friday: Deal of the Day

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
\$525

Standard Scotty 1106
\$473

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