

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

August 2015

Fishing Dates

Area 7
August 1-Sept 30
Limit 2 Salmon
+2 Pinks
Only 1 Chinook
Release wild Coho & Chum

Area 8-1
August 1-Sept 30
Release Chinook
Limit 2 Salmon
+ 2 Pinks

Area 8-2
August 1-Sept 30
Release Chinook
Limit 2 Salmon
+ 2 Pinks

Tulalip
Terminal Fishery
Closed

Area 9
Until Sept 30
Two Salmon Limit
Release Chinook & Chum
+ 2 Pinks

Area 10
July 1-August 31
Limit 2 Salmon
+2 Pinks
Release Chinook

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PINKS, PINKS AND MORE PINKS!

A few days ago a customer brought in a fillet of smoked Pink salmon. It was, without a doubt, some of the best smoked salmon I have ever eaten. I know, you might think I have a weird sense of taste. Properly cared for Pink salmon can be the tastiest salmon you catch this summer. Many anglers consider Pink salmon to be inferior table fare. I think Pink salmon get a bad rap and it is because they are an oily salmon and are not properly cared for when they are caught.

Later in the Newsletter I will comment on how to properly care for Pink salmon while on the water. First, let's address how to catch a Pink salmon.

When rigging up for Pink salmon there is no need for a large variety of tackle like you might require for Chinook and Coho.

Here's a list of items that you need:

- 11" White Flashers
- 2.0 or 2.5 Pink Squid
- 2/0 Red Gamakatsu Hooks
- 25lb Leader Material
- Small beads for spacers

In the past size #0 White Dodgers were the tackle of choice. The size #0 White Dodger is now replaced with a simple, bare bones white flasher and no tape.

Follow these steps for assembling the pink squid:

Tie a 2/0 red Gamakatsu hook on a 25 pound piece of leader material. Slide two #4 red beads down the leader until they rest on the eye of the hook. Silver Horde Tackle makes a good alternative to using red beads. They have a bead called a roller bead. Basically, a roller bead is nothing more than a long spacer bead and is the length of two or three #4 red beads. Beads are nothing more than spacers, so it really doesn't matter what you use. Now, slide a pink squid down the leader until the beads are inside the squid. Cut the leader at 16 or 17 inches and tie the leader to the flasher. Now you are ready to go.

If you are new to salmon fishing, trolling for Pink salmon is considerably different from trolling for other salmon species. Proper trolling speed for Pink salmon is 1.5 mph. If you don't have a way to measure your speed, look at your downrigger cable. Your downrigger cable must be straight up and down if you are fishing at 65 feet. If you're unable to slow your boat down to that speed your success for Pinks will be limited.

While trolling for Pink salmon you might note that trolling in one direction will be significantly more productive than the opposite direction. I have found trolling in the same direction as the current is going will always be the most productive. When trolling in the same direction as the current, it is easier to achieve a perfect 1.5 mph trolling speed

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necessary for catching Pink salmon. When you encounter some Pinks and put some fish in the boat and then suddenly hit a dead spell, pick up your gear and motor back to the spot where you were getting hookups. If you try to troll back to the area where you encountered large schools of Pinks that will be too much productive fishing time wasted. It is much easier and faster to pick up gear and run back to the area where you were catching fish.

DEPTHS FOR PINK SALMON

At first light, Pink salmon can be caught with downriggers set between 25 and 35 feet deep. As the light comes up keep increasing fishing depth at a rate of 10 feet per hour. It is not uncommon to catch Pink salmon between 75 and 100 feet deep late in the morning. The depth you are fishing has no relation to the actual depth of the water. Most importantly, you can find large schools of Pink salmon suspended in 250 to 500 feet of water. As always, there are exceptions to the rule. On Sunday, July 26, I found Pink salmon suspended in 100 and 125 feet of water. I thought that was unusual, but that's where they were.

Thirty years ago Pink salmon were not widely distributed throughout Puget Sound. The majority of fish were in the Skagit River, Stillaguamish River and Snohomish River systems. Now, the southern rivers in Puget Sound are populated with huge runs of Pink salmon. These salmon are rapidly expanding their range to the advantage of recreational salmon anglers. No longer do you have to fish

in the northern section of Puget Sound to find outstanding Pink salmon fishing.

SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR AREAS TO FISH FOR PINK SALMON ARE

- [Humpy Hollow near Mukilteo](#)
- Skunk Bay
- Jeff Head near Kingston
- Shilshole Marina

Here is how I would plan for upcoming Pink salmon fishing season

August 1 to August 10, I would fish at the Scatchet Head Buoy (West Side Buoy on Possession Bar) to Indian Point. I would choose also to fish at Skunk Bay (Near Point no Point). Take a look at my two recommendations and let me know the results. The Scatchet Head recommendation puts you into fish that are headed to the Snohomish and Stillaguamish Rivers. The Skunk Bay recommendation puts you into fish that are headed to the Green and Puyallup Rivers. At the time of this Newsletter both recommendations should be quite good Pink salmon fishing.

By August 10 Puget Sound will be well populated with about 1 million pink salmon. Needless to say, at this time, Pink salmon should be quite easy to catch. After August 10, I would turn my fishing attention to [Humpy Hollow](#) near Mukilteo, Shilshole Marina area (West Point to Meadow Point) and Jeff Head (Point Jefferson near Kingston).

WRAP UP ON RECOMMENDATIONS

- August 1-10 Scatchet Head Buoy is the Western Buoy on Possession Bar; Indian Point on Whidbey Island is northwest of the Scatchet Head Buoy
- After August 10 Wells Point to Meadow Point near Shilshole Marina; Jefferson Head near Kingston and Humpy Hollow near Mukilteo

PINK SALMON LIFE AT THE BEACH

If you do not have a boat you are still in luck because Pink salmon can be easily caught at many beaches throughout Puget Sound. Let's start at the northern most part of the sound: at Deception Pass State Park there is beach access in the park on the West side of the Deception Pass Bridge. This is a good spot to catch Pink salmon that are headed for the Skagit River. As you head South down Whidbey Island the next place that you will find good beach access for catching Pink salmon is at Fort Casey State Park. Further south on Whidbey Island there is a small public access area at Bush Point.

At Point No Point near Hansville there is a large public access area that is popular with salmon anglers who want to fish from the beach.

In the northern part of Puget Sound there are two good beach accesses for Pink Salmon fishing. There is decent beach access for fishing at Mukilteo Lighthouse Park. A \$2 per hour fee to park at lighthouse Park is required.

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However, it's well worth the price since it's a beautiful Park with great beach access for fishing.

Kayak County Park in Port Susan has great beach access for Pink salmon fishing. Parking is \$7 per day at Kayak County Park. If you're planning on fishing the beaches wait until mid-August for the best time.

LINKS TO BEACH FISHING ACCESS AREAS

Kayak City Park Area 8-2

<http://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9831>

Point no Point public access Area 9

http://www.kitsapgov.com/parks/Parks/Pages/regionalparks/point_no_point.htm

Deception Pass State Park Area 6

<http://www.parks.wa.gov/411/Deception-Pass-State-Park>

Fort Casey State Park Area 9

<http://www.parks.wa.gov/505/Fort-Casey>

If you are going to be casting off the beach for Pink salmon you need these items

- 2.5 Pink Buzz Bomb
- 2.5 Pink Rotator
- 2.0 Or 2.5 Pink Squid
- 1/0 Single Gamakatsu Siwash Hooks
- #4 Red Bead
- #10 Black Barrel Swivel
- 12 pound leader material

The Buzz Bomb and Rotator rigs closely

resemble each other. Long time beach fishing experts favor the 2.5 Rotator. They are rigged exactly the same way. Here's how: close the eye of the Gamakatsu 1/0 single siwash hooks with a set of pliers. Tie a 15 inch 12lb leader to the single siwash hook. Slip a #4 red bead down the leader until it rests against the eye of the hook. Slip a 2.0 or 2.5 pink squid down the leader until the red bead and the hook are inside of the head of the squid. Now slip another #4 red bead down the leader until it rests against the top of the squid. Slip the Rotator or Buzz Bomb down the leader until it rests against the red bead. Tie a #10 black barrel swivel to the other end of the leader. The leader with the Buzz bomb and hook and swivel should be approximately 12 inches long. Tie your fishing line to the other end of the black barrel swivel.

Buzz Bombs and Rotators are meant to be fished with a slight jiggling motion. Don't go too wild jiggling either one of these lures. Just a slight twitch to the Buzz Bomb or Rotator will be enough to attract a Pink Salmon. While jiggling, you need to pause the jiggling motion and reel in some line so that the jig does not hit the bottom.

IMPORTANT FISHING INFORMATION

A saltwater fishing license and a salmon catch record card is required for fishing off the beach anywhere in the saltwater.

REMEMBER

Barbless hooks are required while fishing for salmon in saltwater. You are required to record your catch before you continue fishing. The limit on pink salmon is four fish if you are only retaining pink salmon

Areas 8-1 and 8-2 are open for Coho and

Pinks August 1.

Bring a cooler and ice to store your fish. Do not put your Pinks on a stringer and keep them in the water. They will be ruined in less than 30 minutes. The water in Puget Sound is 60 degrees at this time and warmer closer to shore.

Snohomish River Pink Salmon Info

Opens August 1 below Highway #9 (City of Snohomish) for Pink Salmon.

The entire Snohomish River above and below Highway # 9 will be open August 16.

Gear that is needed

- 1/4 ounce pink squid jigs
- 3/8 ounce pink squid jigs
- 2.5 Pink Buzz Bomb
- 2.5 Pink Rotator

The September Newsletter will address at length Pink salmon fishing in the rivers.

SALTWATER COHO FISHING

Coho salmon will start mixing in with the Pink salmon around the third week in August. I will cover in detail Coho fishing in the September Newsletter.

Gear that is needed for Saltwater Coho

- Gibbs Red Racer 11" Flasher
- Gibbs Purple Haze 11" Flasher
- Goldstar Purple Haze Squid OAL12R
- Goldstar Purple Haze Needlefish Ace Hi Fly #312
- 30lb Leader Material
- Herring for Strips

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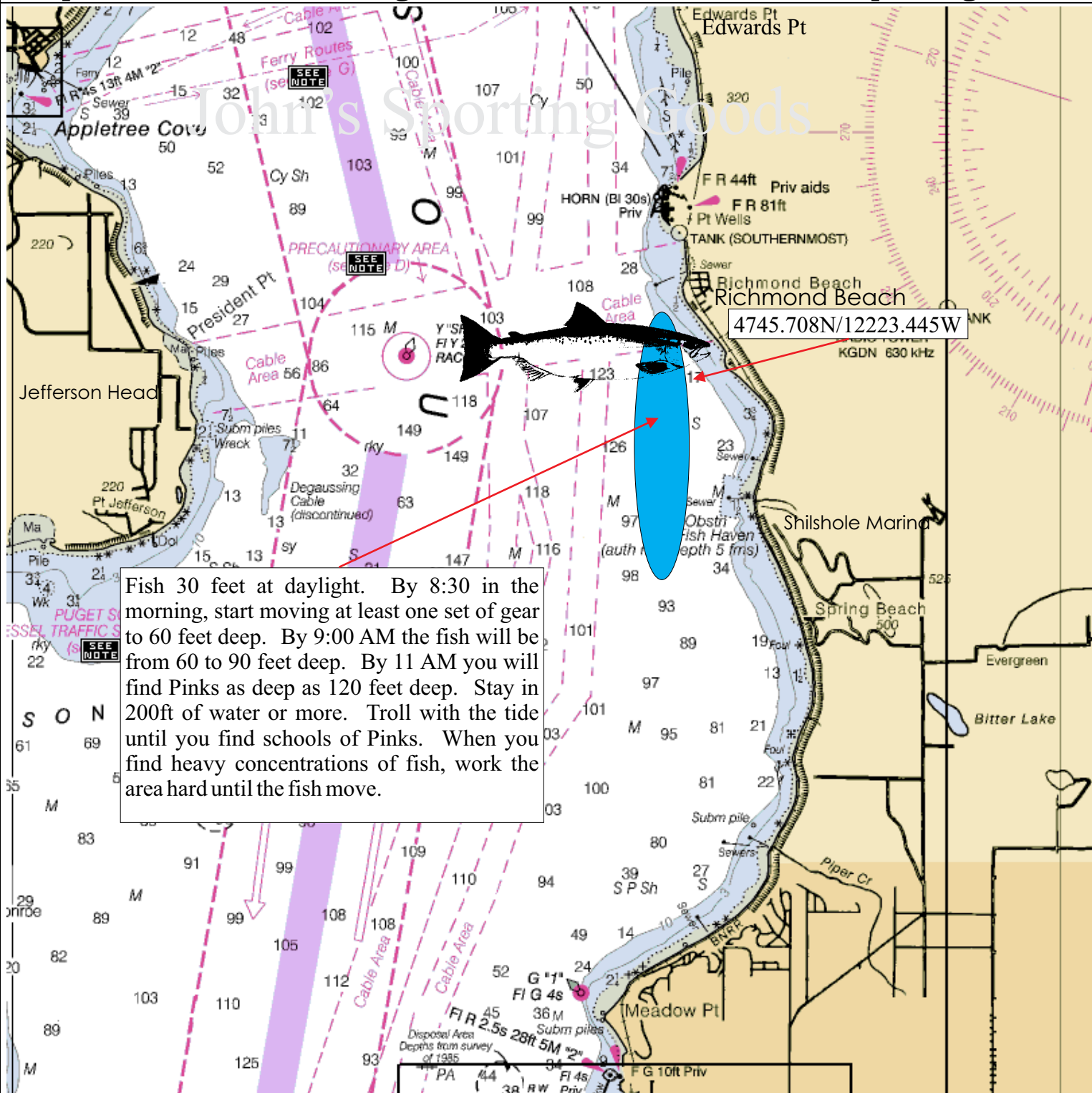
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Richmond Beach Pinks

January	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
						Pinks	Pinks				