

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

July 2015

Fishing Dates

Area 7

July 1- July 31

Limit 2 Salmon

+2 Pinks

Only 1 Chinook

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

Limit 2 Salmon

Including Chinook

+2 Pinks

Area 9

July 1-15

Two Salmon Limit

Release Chinook

July 16-?

Limit 2 Salmon

Only 1 Hatchery Chinook

+ 2 Pinks

Area 10

July 1-August 31

Limit 2 Salmon

+2 Pinks

Release Chinook

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Red Hot Chinook Action at Neah Bay

Join Tom Nelson and John Martinis on a Chinook Fishing Trip aboard Jambo's Charter

Neah Bay Chinook fishing is hitting on all cylinders. I have been communicating [Mike Jamboretz of Jambo's Sport Fishing Charters](#) he filled me in on the red hot Chinook action at Neah Bay. Mike said that you can get a very quick limit of Chinook at Swiftsure Bank. The Chinook at Swiftsure are averaging 10 to 12lbs. If you want to head further out into the Ocean to Blue Dot or Shark Fin the average Chinook will be 12 to 18lbs. Mike is mainly using flashers and Kingfisher spoons to limit out his boat. He said many days he has been done by 9 or 10AM. If you want to fish with John Martinis and Tom Nelson aboard Jambo's Sport Fishing there are four spots left on July 8th. Call Mike Jamboretz to book this date at 206-595-9526.

July Spells Chinook

**July 1 Area 7 Opens For
Chinook Fishing**

**July 16 Opens For Puget Sound
Chinook Fishery**

This should be a great summer Chinook season starting on these two dates in July.

Area 7 opens July 1 for **either Wild or Hatchery** Chinook with a one fish limit.

Area 9 opens July 16 opens for hatchery Chinook only (those with a clipped adipose fin). The limit for Area 9 Chinook is two Chinook unless there is an in-season adjustment. There will be a bonus limit on Pink salmon and we will address that in the August Newsletter.

San Juan's Area 7

Many anglers are looking forward to the popular Area 7 (San Juan's) Chinook season that opens July 1. Area 7 is one of few places where wild Chinook can be retained. This certainly makes salmon fishing much easier. If you hook a Chinook that is over 22 inches, you can put that fish in the boat without a whole bunch of worries. Just make sure you use barbless hooks and immediately record your caught fish on your catch record card.

On July 1, there is a huge ebb tide at 10:58 AM. The low tide is -1.93. This is going to be a ripping tide but very workable. There are going to be places where the water will be moving too swiftly to successfully fish the bottom. I would completely rule out Reef Point on the South end of Cypress Island for the first couple days of the season. Places I strongly consider fishing during the first week of the season are: [Thatcher Pass](#) near Pointer Island, [Slime Rock](#) on the South End of Blakely Island, [Lopez Flats](#), [Secret Harbor](#) on the south end of Cypress Island and [Point Lawrence](#) on the eastern most edge of Orcas Island. These places I mentioned fish very well on the outgoing tide.

My strategy for fishing big tides in the San Juan Islands is to fish close to shore and limit the depth to 90 feet of water. This will not completely keep you out of

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the fast-moving water, but it will keep you on the edge of the seam between the unreasonably fast-moving water and slower water. When water moves so fast, like it will be on July 1, it causes Chinook to hug the bottom as closely as they can. Also, you must adjust fishing tactics to compensate for this rapid tidal flow. In this situation, continually let the downrigger ball out until you reach the correct amount cable to get to the bottom. Remember, these fish are extremely close to the bottom. This is a key point for effective Chinook fishing in Rosario Straits/San Juan Islands.

After this morning low tide, it will start to reverse itself and begin coming in. At this point you need to start looking for a new place to fish since most of the good fishing spots on the ebb tide are now no longer producing fish on the incoming tide. These are suggestions for fishing Area 7 Rosario Straits side when the tide is coming in: [Eagle Bluff](#) on the North end of Cypress Island, [Secret Harbor](#) and [Parker Reef](#).

You probably wonder why I left the West side of San Juan Island near Eagle Point off my list. For now, I would concentrate my Chinook fishing efforts in the Rosaria Straits area for most of July. Then, turn your attention to the West side of San Juan Island during the last week of July and the first week of August. Yes, there are Chinook on the West side of San Juan Island in July, but I believe fishing will be better in the Rosaria Straits area for most of July.

Puget Sound Area 9

On July 16, Area 9 opens for Chinook fishing with a two hatchery Chinook limit (unless the limit changes). Area 9 is a huge area and opens up a lot of opportunities for Chinook anglers.

The boundaries of Area 9 are from Point Wilson (near Port Townsend) to Possession Point to the Ship Wreck and South to a line from Point Wells (Edmonds) to Apple Tree Point (near Kingston).

The opening day Area 9 high tide is at 4:55 AM with an extreme low mid-morning tide of -1.61 at 11:42 AM.

At first glance, you see this minus tide and you think “oh my goodness”, this is going to be a rip-roaring tide. I look at it from this standpoint; when the tide runs hard, it corrals the bait into a perfect fishing zone between 90 to 120 feet of water. In order to exploit this opportunity we must hone our boating skills so when trolling for Chinook, we do not wander around into depths over 120 feet deep. Easier said than done! It is easy to get pushed out into deeper water when you stop paying attention and are not concentrating on that 90 to 120 feet deep narrow band of water.

If I had to pick a hot Chinook fishing spot for July 16, at best I would have only a 50-50 chance of being correct. Last year in the 2014 season Mid Channel Bank at Port Townsend was a bust. Most years, on opening day, Mid Channel Bank should be the best game in town. So, with that big morning ebb tide this year, I predict that [Mid Channel Bank](#) might produce some big Chinook numbers on the morning tide.

If you want to get a late start, I bet that [Pilot Point](#) will produce big numbers of Chinook like it did last year. There is a great mid-day incoming tide that reaches a high at 7:12 PM.

Looking at the tides for opening day and the way they are set up, you get the best of both worlds. There is a great morning ebb tide for Mid Channel

Bank and there is a great incoming tide to fish Pilot Point in the afternoon.

Considering that the [Tulalip Bubble](#) is hitting on all cylinders this year, I expect the Area 9 Chinook fishing to be somewhere between very good and extraordinary. I think it is fair to draw a comparison between the Bubble fishery and other Chinook stocks that are headed elsewhere in Puget Sound. Let's hope for the best.

The Area 9 Chinook fishing strategy is going to change daily during the first week of the season. On July 16, opening day there is a high tide right at daylight. That tide only has a few minutes of daylight in it on Thursday the 16th. By Saturday, there is going to be a big chunk of that early morning high tide left during daylight hours.

Here is my Area 9 Chinook fishing strategy: on July 16 and 17th I would run right to Mid Channel Bank at Port Townsend and fish the ebb tide. This should be the right call because there is a great incoming tide in the afternoon. If you do not run your boat to Port Townsend then the morning ebb tide on the 16th or 17th is right for fishing from Skunk Bay to Point No Point.

On July 18 and 19th, the Area 9 Chinook fishing strategy needs to be tweaked to accommodate the tidal changes. On the 18th and 19th, I would fish what is left of the incoming tide at daylight at Pilot Point. By Saturday and Sunday we should know how the fishing has been at Mid Channel Bank on Thursday and Friday. This will help make the decision on whether to run to Mid Channel Bank and fish the ebb tide.

By Monday the 20th, start considering fishing the incoming tide at Craven Rock. [Craven Rock](#) is just around the corner from Mid Channel Bank. Once

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again, we should know by then whether Chinook fishing is go or no go at Mid Channel Bank.

You can see there are two scenarios playing out: #1 tides and #2 location of the fish. #1 is a given and number #2 is wait and see.

Now, let's talk about something that is closer to home if you launch from Everett, Edmonds or Shilshole. For many Chinook seasons Possession Bar has been the "high energy drink" of salmon fishing. [Possession Bar](#) consistently produces as many Chinook as all the other areas combined. But remember, not so much in the 2014 season. On July 16 that mid-morning ebb tide is an ideal tide for Chinook fishing on the West side of Possession Bar. The West side will produce fish on opening day, we just don't know how it will stack up until the season gets going.

As the season does get going from July 16, send your Chinook photos to customerservice@johnssportinggoods.com or to the John's Sporting Goods Facebook. I give away hats and T-shirts for most good, clear photos if you include your name, catch location and where your fish was caught.

Let's Talk Chinook Gear/Rigs

I know the Chinook gear I recommend sounds a bit repetitious. However, I believe tackle I recommend represents simply the best Chinook gear money can buy. Before I get into individual items, let me tell you about some recent experiences: when I was fishing in Sitka, AK this year I caught every Chinook on one piece of tackle. When I was at Englefield Bay/Queen Charlotte Island in June I caught more than half my Chinook on the same piece of tackle. The only difference

between Sitka and Englefield Bay was that I was allowed to use two rods in Canada. Therefore I fished with herring on one rod and flashers and spoons on another rod just to keep it simple and to reduce tangles.

The flasher that I used was the Gibbs Red Racer Flasher (Moon Jelly) and the 3.5 Kingfisher #964. I don't just use this rig because the Gibbs Tackle Company or the Silver Horde Company give me products for promoting their companies. As a matter of fact, neither company does. I purchase my own personal fishing tackle just like you do. If anyone can prove that something works better, then I would try something different and I have done so over the years. Yes, on any given day there is a good likelihood that something will work better than items I recommend. However, over a long period of time the items I mention will consistently put fish in your boat and they will continue to put fish in my boat.

With that said I would recommend the following rigs for Chinook fishing in Puget Sound or the San Juan Islands:

[Gibbs Red Racer Flasher \(Moon Jelly\) and the 3.5 Kingfisher #964](#)

[Gibbs Red Racer Flasher \(Moon Jelly\) and the 3.5 Kingfisher "Cookies n Cream"](#)

[Gibbs Purple Haze Flasher \(Moon Jelly\) and the 3.5 OAL12R Purple Haze Squid](#)

[Gibbs Purple Haze Flasher \(Moon Jelly\) and the 3.5 OG142R Green Glow Squid](#)

You can mix the combinations of flashers and spoons or flashers and squid's I mentioned above.

The leader between the flashers and spoons and flashers and squid should be tied with 30 or 40 pound Pline fluorocarbon leader material. The leader should be about 42 inches in length. To make your leaders come out to the correct length try this: tie the leader to the spoon or rig the squid and cut the leader off at 46 inches from the top of the squid or spoon. When you tie the leader to the flasher (remember the wide end), the leader should be approximately the right length. Don't worry if the leader is a little too short or a little too long.

If you're not comfortable tying a double hook rig for squid, we have [rigs custom tied with Gamakatsu hooks](#). They are tied with black 5/0 hooks with two glow beads. We also have rigs tied with nickel 5/0 barbless hooks. Both these leaders are tied with green 30 pound Berkley Big Game line. These highest quality leaders are tied by Colman Busby.

If you choose to fish for Chinook with either of the two squid recommendations I suggested, I recommend the following: Insert a [Goldstar Ace Hi Fly UV Needlefish Purple Haze #312, inside of the squid](#). [This gives either squid some additional UV flash](#).

On the Kingfisher spoons coat the back side of the spoon with herring oil. I prefer using Mike's Lunker Lotion. There is only one reason why I use Mike's Lunker Lotion; it is thicker than most other brands. You can use other brands with the same effectiveness, but you just need to apply those oils more frequently. I do not recommend putting a slice of herring on the spoon since it might ruin the action.

If you are going to fish with flashers and squid's then I recommend putting

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a small sliver of herring on the front hook of the squid.

Let's start at the fishing reel and work our way down to the end of the line: the fishing reel should have either 20 or 25 pound fishing line (Izor Line or Berkley Big Game). At the end of the line tie on an American-made Sampo ball bearing swivel with snap (X3CB). Snap the swivel to the narrow end of the flasher. In most cases the end of the flasher where the spoon or squid is attached has a snap swivel (on the wide end of the flasher).

My recommended correct trolling speed during extremely low tides can be very illusive because you cannot get that perfect 2.5 mph. At Mid Channel Bank or in the San Juan Islands, it is impossible to get that perfect 2.5 mph when the tide is running hard. There are two scenarios that play out: your speed through the water will more likely be greater than 2.5 miles an hour but your speed over ground may be minimal. In the San Juan Islands you have to troll against the current because the areas you fish are so small. At Mid Channel Bank there is enough area to troll with the current if you go from Marrowstone Point to Point Wilson.

The Tulalip Bubble Continues to Be Sporty

Chinook fishing at the Bubble continues to percolate along at fairly consistent rate. I would expect to hook about two Chinook a day at the Bubble with a modest amount of effort. This is an early morning and late evening bite. You should find fish suspended between 65 and 80 feet, even if you are actually fishing in 90 to 120 feet deep water. I recommend starting at the

marker at the entrance of Tulalip Bay and troll east parallel to Mission Beach. I would have these two rigs with me if heading to the Bubble in the morning. A first choice would be a Gibbs Red Racer flasher with a #964 Kingfisher spoon tied up with a 30 pound leader 42 inches behind the flasher. A second choice is a Gibbs Red Racer flasher with a Green Glow Goldstar squid tied with a 30 pound leader 42 inches behind the flasher. Remember to keep your trolling speed about 2.5 MPH.

Keep Your Eye on the Spot Shrimp Seasons

Areas 6 and 7 West are still open every day of the week for Spot Shrimp. Area 6 is just South of Deception Pass and on the West Side of Whidbey Island. Two Areas that I recommend in Area 6 are The Southern end of Partridge Bank and the Southeast corner of Eastern Bank. Put your shrimp pots in 300 feet of water in either area. In Area 7 West, I recommend shrimping in Park Bay near the San Juan Channel. A good tip for all these areas is to set your pots one hour before high tide and pull your pots every hour until one hour after high tide. Do not attempt to set your shrimp pots if there is any extremely low tides. Shrimping will not be very good and you could lose your shrimp pots.

Baker Lake

**July 10-Sept. 7 Min. size 18".
Daily limit 4 Sockeye**

As of June 27, 2061 Sockeye have entered the trap on the Baker River. Let's hope that this trend continues so that we have a successful Sockeye Season on Baker Lake.

For Sockeye on Baker lake I recommend

using: A #0 or #1 Nickel Dodger with the red hook 12 to 14 inches behind the dodger. Tie the 2/0 red hook with 20-25lb monofilament leader material. Some anglers are successful with adding a Macks Red or Pink Smiley Blade on top of the red hook with the red #6 bead separating the blade from the hook. Another variation would be adding a pink squid over the hook and then adding a red bead and then the Smiley Blade above the red hook. [Click here to see a selection of Sockeye Tackle.](#)

The trolling speed for Sockeye is real slow: 1.5-1.7 mph.

You'll find sockeye near the surface at daylight and most often this is when the best bite will occur. As the sunlight gets on the water, the fish will drop down 10 ft./hour. At 8 AM will find Sockeye from 30 to 60 feet.

[WDFW Bake Lake Sockeye
Information Click Here](#)

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**Highly Recommended by
John Martinis**

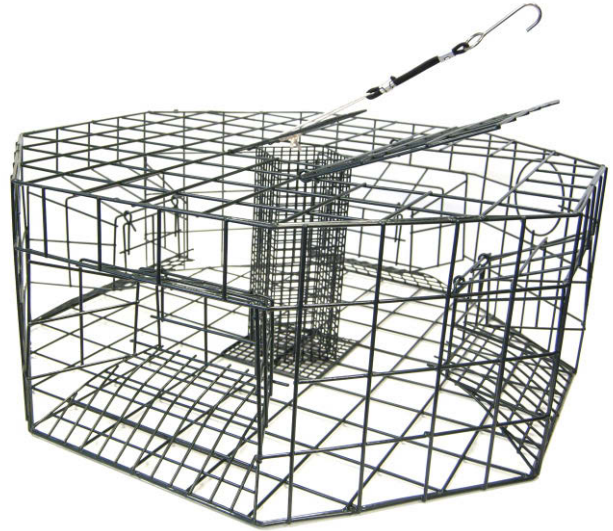
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