

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

September 2013

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Seminars 2013

Coho Fishing Seminar by John Martinis

Friday September 20th @ 7PM

At Bayside Marine

Free to the Public

You are Invited

The Coho seminar is my largest seminar of the year. Last year, close to 400 Coho anglers attended this seminar. Every year, I try to present some new material. This year we will discuss deep water Coho fishing techniques at length. Other topics will include: rigging flashers, leader lengths and in particular areas to fish for Coho.

Mike Greenleaf will accompany me and present his excellent presentation on rigging cut plug herring. At the conclusion of the seminar we will be having a raffle to give away a Scotty downrigger and other pieces of fishing equipment. I hope you will join us, so that you can be ready to win the Everett Coho Salmon Derby that starts the next day.

All the proceeds from the raffle will go to the Everett Salmon and Steelhead Club. The club uses the money for their Coho hatchery near Monroe and their Coho rearing pen in the Everett Marina and for their youth fishing events.

**Outdoor Line
Radio ESPN 710AM
Every Saturday 6am-8am**

Fishing Derbies

Edmonds Coho Derby

September 7th

Tickets at John's Sporting Goods

[More Information](#)

Everett Eagles Coho Derby

September 14, 2013

Tickets at John's Sporting Goods

[More Information](#)

Everett Coho Derby

September 21-22

Tickets at John's Sporting Goods

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New Videos

By John Martinis

[Salmon Fishing with Herring](#)
[Fishing for Pink Salmon](#)

I hope you find these new videos to be helpful.

The Salmon Fishing with Herring video was shot off Pile Point on the West Side of San Juan Island. Tom Nelson from the Outdoor Line ESPN Radio 710AM, narrates and rigs hole herring and cut plug herring while showing the correct spin the herring should have for effective salmon fishing. This video is a must for experienced salmon anglers and for the novice angler who wish to explore the correct way to rig a herring.

The Fishing for Pink Salmon video was shot near Shilshole Marina in Puget Sound. This video was made with the help of Gary Krein on AllStar Charter.



New Puget Sound Salmon Seasons 2013

Area 6: July 1-Aug. 15

CHINOOK - min. size 22".

Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined) plus 2 additional PINK. Release wild CHINOOK, wild COHO, and CHUM.

July 1-Aug. 15 No min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined) plus 2 additional PINK. Release CHINOOK, wild COHO, and CHUM.

Aug. 16-Sept. 30 No min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined) plus 2 additional PINK. Release CHINOOK, wild COHO, and CHUM.

Oct. 1-Oct. 31 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined). Only 1 CHINOOK may be retained.

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: July 1-July 31 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined) plus 2 additional PINK. Only 1 CHINOOK may be retained. See Southern Rosario Strait/Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Closure below. See Bellingham Bay

Aug. 1-Sept. 30 CHINOOK -

Gary Krein and John Martinis explain helpful techniques for catching Pink salmon.

The Secrets of Puget Sound Coho

Coho Limit: Two Coho
Keep Hatchery Coho: Yes
Keep Wild Coho: Yes
Fish with Treble Hooks: No
Fish with Barbed Hooks: No
Fish w/two Single Barbless Hooks: Yes

September is the month of the two largest Coho Derby's: the [Edmonds Coho Derby](#) (Sept. 7th) and the [Everett Coho Derby](#) (Sept. 21-22). There is \$15,000 up for grabs for first place between the two derbies. The Everett Coho Derby is sponsored by Johns Sporting Goods, Bayside Marine, Harbor Marine and Performance Marine. All four businesses contributed a total of \$10,000 for the first place prize. These four local businesses make it possible for the Everett Coho Derby to offer a large first place prize for the 2013 Coho Derby. Bayside Marine offers their business property as a staging area for the Derby as well as their building for the Coho Derby seminar on September 20th, at 7 PM.

As you know the 2012 Coho season was one to remember. Coho were very plentiful and the 2012 season offered over 30 days of superb salmon fishing. The good news is that 100,000 more Coho are expected to enter Puget Sound for the 2013 Coho season compared to the 2012 season. This should provide salmon anglers with the same or better fishing experience as last year.

Salmon fishing is in a constant state of evolution. We find better colors, better lures and better techniques that improve our fishing. Some parts of this evolution

are faddish and only last a season or two and other parts of this constant evolution take hold and immensely improve our salmon catching experience. These past two years two very exciting changes have taken hold that are now a permanent part of Coho fishing: The acceptance of UV (Ultra Violet) flashers, spoons and squid. The acceptance of fishing beyond 120 feet to regularly catch Coho. In fact, we have discovered that fishing between 150 and 180 feet deep for Coho has become the norm for catching Coho in Puget Sound. There is a very good chance that fishing at 180 feet deep for Coho was never possible until the discovery that UV flashers and squid were the tackle of choice when fishing deep for Coho in Puget Sound. This has revolutionized the way we fish for Coho. If any of us had told our fathers or grandfathers that we would be fishing 180 feet deep for Coho, most likely they would have looked at us with a blank stare. To me, finding these new ways to fish for Coho in Puget Sound is exciting because fishing with the same old green flasher and green and glow squid was getting a bit stale.

I want to explore the migration path of Coho as they enter Puget Sound. Most of the Coho travel down the Southern end of Whidbey Island. One of the first places that Coho encounter a point of land in their travel path is Lagoon Point. The next point of land that guides Coho to their destination is Bush Point. From Bush Point, Coho veer off to the middle of the channel and swim towards Possession Bar and some Coho break off to head towards South Puget Sound. Three of the very large mixing areas for Coho are Possession Bar, the Shipwreck and offshore in front of Edmonds. These mixing areas are places that Coho gather while they figure out which river system they are headed for. These mixing areas offer us the best opportunities to intercept Coho as they enter Puget Sound. These fish will gather in these areas for several weeks while they bulk up and get ready

Just Fishing



min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined) plus 2 additional PINK. Only 1 CHINOOK may be retained. Release wild COHO, and CHUM. See Southern Rosario Strait/ Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca. See Bellingham Bay Closure and Fishery, Samish Bay Closure, Lummi Reservation and Bay Closure, and Yellow and Low Islands Preserve

Oct. 1-Oct. 31 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined). Only 1 CHINOOK may be retained. Release wild COHO. See Bellingham Bay Closure and Fishery, Samish Bay Closure, Lummi Reservation and Bay Closure, and Yellow and Low Islands Preserve.

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.

Oct. 1-Oct. 31 No min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined). Release CHINOOK.

Oct. 1-Oct. 31 No min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined). Release CHINOOK.

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

for their journey to spawn in one of the many rivers that flow into Puget Sound.

I want to go into great detail on tackle that I feel is essential for catching Puget Sound Coho. There are many manufacturers of flashers to choose from. I prefer to use the Gibbs Delta 11" flashers. I feel that the Gibbs Delta brand flashers represent good value and the best color combinations. My favorite Gibbs flasher for Coho are the [UV Green Red Racer flasher](#). I also like the [Gibbs Delta 11" Purple Haze flasher](#). Most often if two of us are fishing we will use one of each color until we have a good feel for which one is producing the best results. The Gibbs UV Red Racer flasher has a flat UV surface that reflects an enormous amount of UV sunlight. I believe that this UV surface provides the optimal amount of attraction to hungry Coho.

The two best colors of 3.5 squid are: Goldstar [OAL12R UV Purple Haze Squid](#) and the Goldstar [OG142R Green/Glow squid](#). Gibbs Delta also makes 3.5 squid in the same colors. I prefer to rig these squid with a Goldstar Ace Hi Fly Needlefish. Make sure when purchasing the Ace Hi Fly that the package has a UV sticker. I prefer to use either the [Purple Haze Ace Hi Fly](#) or the [Purple Spatter Ace Hi Fly](#).

Tie your squid leaders with [30lb Fluorocarbon PLine leader](#) material and 4/0 single hooks. Space the hooks approximately 1/2 inch apart. I prefer to use the [Mustad 92553SS 4/0 hooks](#). Tie the leader at least 60" long so that it can be trimmed back to a finished length of 36". Gamakatsu hooks are a good alternative. If you are using Gamakatsu hooks, use 3/0 hooks because Gamakatsu hooks are slightly larger than Mustad hooks. If you do not feel comfortable with tying your own hooks we have our own [custom tide squid leaders](#) at John's Sporting Goods.

Now, we are ready to assemble the squid and the Ace Hi Fly onto the leader. With this combination, there is no need to use a bead or a plastic squid insert. Slide the Ace Hi Fly down the leader until it stops at the hook. Now slide the squid down the leader until the Ace Hi Fly inserts itself inside the squid. Tie the leader to the flasher so that the leader is 36" from the wide end of the flasher. If you cut your leader 10" more than the desired final length it will be close to the length that you desire when tied to the flasher. That is a good rule of thumb that I use all the time. This works pretty well, give it a try!

Coho fishing with scent such as herring oil is completely different than fishing for Chinook. For scent, I prefer using the real thing. In this case the real thing is herring strips. Herring strips are an essential part of rigging for Coho fishing.

Herring strips can be made from 6 or 7 inch herring. Fillet the sides off of the herring and then cut the fillets in half the long way. In a small plastic container place the strips flesh side up. Coat each layer of herring strips with rock salt. In a pinch use table salt. These fillets must be prepared the day before you go fishing. By the next morning these fillets will be very firm. The container of strips can be refrigerated or frozen to fish with more than one time.

When you are preparing the flasher and squid rig to be placed in the water, put a fillet of herring on the front hook. This will add another layer of enticement for hungry Coho.

Coho Trolling Speed: The only way that I can describe Coho trolling speed is fast. Coho trolling speed is never less than 3.0 mph. Once your trolling speed gets below that level your hookups will decrease dramatically. The trolling speed range should be 3.0-3.5 mph. If



Fishery.

Oct. 1-Oct. 31 No min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined). Release CHINOOK. See Tulalip Bay Closure.

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.

May 31-Sept. 2 Open Fridays through Noon Mondays ONLY. CLOSED JUNE 15. CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined) plus 2 additional PINK.

Sept. 7-Sept. 22 Open Saturdays and Sundays only. CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined) plus 2 additional PINK.

Area 9: July 1-July 15 No min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined) plus 2 additional PINK. Release CHINOOK and CHUM.

July 16-Aug. 31 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined) plus 2 additional PINK. Release wild CHINOOK and CHUM. Season may close earlier if CHINOOK guideline is attained. CLOSED south of a line from Foulweather Bluff to Olele Point, except lawful to fish from shore contained within the boundary of Salsbury Point Park; daily limit 2 (combined) plus 2 additional PINK. Release

you do not have a way to measure your speed a good rule of thumb is to have a severe angle on your downrigger cable. You cannot troll too fast for Coho. The only limiting factor is your ability to achieve the depth that you desire.

Now let's break down the Coho season into two segments: 1) Early September 2) Mid and late September. Early September most Coho will arrive at Possession Bar and hang out in the large rip tides that run off of the bar and into deeper water. There are two distinct ways to intercept these Coho. Coho that are heading to the Snohomish and Stillaguamish River will be in the rips off the Scatchet Head side of the Bar. These fish will school in the area around the Scatchet Head buoy and South for about ½ mile. Coho heading to South Puget Sound will be in the rips off the southern end of Possession Bar. I now have painted a picture of two distinct paths that Coho follow to their final destination. The fish that are in the Scatchet Head Buoy area are headed to the Shipwreck area and ultimately to the Snohomish and Stillaguamish rivers. The fish that are schooling off the southern end of Possession Bar are headed towards Edmonds and ultimately to the southern rivers in Puget Sound. These fish will mass off the Edmonds area until they get the queue to get moving south.

All these Coho will have stopping points along their journey and anglers will have an opportunity to catch these fish as they stop for one tide to get a bite to eat. However, the major staging areas for Puget Sound Coho are: Possession Bar, Shipwreck and the Edmonds area.

Coho Depths: As we discussed earlier, Puget Sound Coho can be caught as deep as 180 feet deep. There are different depth ranges that Coho are at depending on the amount of light that is on the water. Most mornings at daylight, Coho can be caught between 30 and 60 feet. On a

bright sunny morning, Coho will rapidly drop down below 100 feet deep. Last year taught us that depth ranges between 150 and 180 feet deep can be very lucrative for locating Coho that are on the bite. When you run out of Coho to catch after the first hour of daylight, start experimenting by dropping your gear to depths in excess of 100 feet. I would suggest putting out at least one piece of gear between 150 and 180 feet deep. If that proves to be excessive, start bringing the gear up in intervals of 25 feet. If you have read any of my literature that I have published in the past, the text would read, "drop your gear down 10 feet per hour. That is very old-school. That rule of thumb worked very well for a long time. I now believe the new standard is, "go deep and bring the gear up until you find fish".

[Possession Bar Coho Map](#)
[Shipwreck Coho Map](#)
[Edmonds Coho Map](#)

Snohomish River Coho

Snohomish River Coho are one of the most perplexing fish to catch. I certainly would not have to rely on catching Snohomish River Coho to stay alive. There is a good chance that a person would be on a diet that the hucksters on TV would be envious of. At other times the same fish go on a tear and they are easily caught. Unlocking the secrets of these two different situations remains a mystery. Needless to say, the Snohomish River has one of the healthiest Coho runs of any river that flows into Puget Sound.

One half of the Snohomish River is influenced by tidal movement. That area starts approximately 1 mile above the town of Snohomish. If you want to predict the tides for the Snohomish River use the Seattle tides and add one hour. This will give you a rough idea of when

Just Fishing



CHINOOK and CHUM.

Sept. 1-Sept. 30 No min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined) plus 2 additional PINK. Release CHINOOK and CHUM.

Oct. 1-Oct. 31 No min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined). Release CHINOOK.

Nov. 1-Nov. 30 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined). Release wild CHINOOK.

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.

Area 10: June 1-June 30 Catch-and-release. Open only north of a line from Point Monroe to Meadow Point.

July 1-July 15 No min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined) plus 2 additional PINK. Release CHINOOK. See Shilshole Bay Closure and Elliott Bay Closure.

July 16-Aug. 31 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON - no min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined) plus 2 additional PINK. Release wild CHINOOK. Beginning Aug. 1 release CHUM. See Shilshole Bay and Elliott Bay Fishery and Closures. See Sinclair Inlet Fishery. Season may close earlier if CHINOOK guideline is attained.

high tide or low tide will occur. This is important knowledge to know because most often these fish will start biting one hour before any tide change. Normally, the bite will last up to the end of the tide. This is very similar to Coho feeding habits in Puget Sound.

It is interesting to talk to avid Coho river anglers. Most of them believe in using one of two techniques: 1) Trolling Plugs 2) Trolling Spoons. Besides the two prevalent techniques, it seems that everyone has a favorite color. Coho River angling is much different than saltwater Coho angling. Most of us who fish the salt can easily agree that certain methods are better than others. In the freshwater there is a wide disparity or a common thought on which method is the best. This tells me that there are several ways that work quite well for Snohomish River Coho. One thing that most everyone agrees on is that trolling works the best in the tidal area of the Snohomish River. I believe that the debate that surrounds the correct Coho fishing tackle only makes us better freshwater anglers. I am certain that it makes the tackle manufactures smile.

First I want to explore how to rig and how to fish diving plugs when fishing the Snohomish River. Most of these plugs come rigged with a treble hook. The treble hook is legal if you are fishing from a boat and trolling a floating/diving plug in the Snohomish River. There is plenty of controversy over what is legal and what is illegal when rigging plugs. Please don't send me hate mail about the hook regulation. Instead, contact WDFW and have them explain the rule. I must admit, the hook regulation is quite complicated and is open to interpretation.

There are two ways to rig a plug for trolling. You can tie a number 10 black barrel swivel on the end of the fishing line and then tie up a three foot section of leader material and fasten the plug to the end of the leader. For some of the deeper holes in the Snohomish River, I like to tie a half ounce mooching sinker to the end of

the fishing line and then tie a 6 foot section of leader material and tie the plug to the end of the leader material. Ten pound leader material is sufficient for rigging plugs for Coho.

Trolling with plugs and spoons is quite simple: let out 30 to 50 feet of line behind the boat and troll rather fast. Trolling for Coho in the Snohomish River can be effective trolling either upstream or downstream.

Rigging spoons for trolling in the Snohomish River is very similar to rigging plugs. The only difference will be: it will be recommended that all spoons be rigged with a ½ ounce mooching sinker. Tie a ½ ounce mooching to the end of the fishing line. Now tie a 6 foot piece of leader material to the mooching sinker. Tie a spoon to the end of the leader material. This leader material can also be 10 pound test. Only single hooks are allowed on spoon or spinners.

Plugs that are effective for Snohomish River trolling are: Storm Wiggle Warts, [V74 Fire Tiger](#) and [V90 Red Herring Bone](#).

Spoons that are effective for Snohomish River trolling are: [Dick Nite #1 Nickel Brass](#) and [Dick Nite #1 Nickel](#).

Snohomish River Boat Launches: Lower River, [Langus Park](#) (400 Smith Island Rd). Middle River, [Lowell Rotary Park](#) (3505 Lowell Snohomish River Rd, Everett, WA) and the [Cady Park](#) Boat Launch in Snohomish (40 Maple Ave).

Everett Coho Derby Volunteers Needed

The Everett Coho Derby Staff is in need of volunteers with boats. First Responders are needed to be on the water to respond to any emergency that might happen on either one of the derby days September 21-22. If you have a boat and want to volunteer your time please call Dave Miller 425-530-0017. Dave will fill you in on the details.



Coho Seminar
September 20, 2013
By John Martinis

“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 other fishing tackle at the conclusion of this seminar.

September 20 @ 7:00 PM
Coho Seminar at Bayside Marine
111 Craftsman Way
Everett, WA 98201

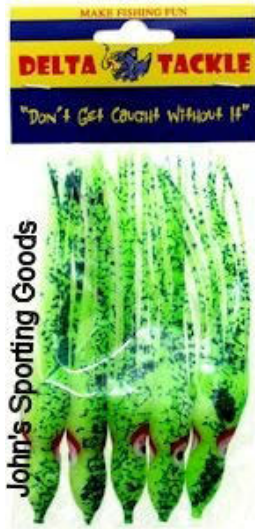


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