

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

October 2014

Fishing Dates

Area 8-1

August 1-October 31
Coho Daily Limit 2
release Chinook

Area 8-2

August 1-October 31
Coho Daily Limit 2
release Chinook

Area 9

October 1-31
Coho Daily Limit 2
release Chinook

Snohomish River Coho
Sept 1-Dec 1
Daily Limit 3 Coho

Skykomish R. Coho
Sept 1-Dec 1
Daily Limit 3 Coho

Stillaguamish R. Coho
Sept 1-Dec 1
Daily Limit 2 Coho

Skagit River Coho
See Rule Book Page 25

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John's Sporting Goods
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Presentation on Fishing Winter Blackmouth By John Martinis

Thursday, October 9th
@ 6:30PM

at the
EDMONDS SENIOR CENTER
on the Edmonds Waterfront
220 Railroad Ave
Edmonds, WA 98020
The public is invited

[Click Here for Details
and Directions](#)

Effective Freshwater Coho Strategies

When the month of October comes around, a whole new set of Coho fishing opportunities are available. While many saltwater anglers are finishing up their Coho fishing in Puget Sound, freshwater river anglers are just starting to gear up for the fall migration of Coho.

Coho that are staging up at the river the river's mouths in Puget Sound are waiting for cool, wet, rainy weather to swim to their final destination in their native stream. This migration pattern presents a great fishing opportunity for local salmon anglers.

In this Newsletter I want to address where to go fishing if you are fishing from a boat and also your best opportunity for catching Coho if you are fishing from the beach. After I point out where to fish, then I will pick out specific Coho rigs that I feel will present the best opportunity for hooking into a freshwater Coho.

In the first couple weeks of October the tidal areas of the Snohomish and Skagit rivers present some of the best opportunities for catching Coho.

The Snohomish River has three main boat launches that will give you easy access to the River. Let's start at the lower part of the river and work up: [Langus Park](#) on the lower Snohomish River is a great boat launch where you can launch a boat at almost any tide. Because this boat launch is on the lower part of the river, the time to get to the good fishing grounds will take a little bit longer than the other two boat launches I will mention.

[Rotary Park](#) in the Everett/Lowell area is a great boat launch, however it is difficult to launch your boat at low tide and even more difficult to take a boat out of the river at low tide. So plan accordingly. If you are trying to figure out the tides for the Snohomish River, just add one hour to the Seattle tides and that will get you in the ball game.

The [Cady Park boat launch](#) in the city of Snohomish is the upper-most public boat launch in the Snohomish River. This boat launch is very steep and best

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suited for smaller boats and trailers. This boat launch is also affected by the tides. At low tide, I would recommend using a four-wheel-drive vehicle to pull your boat and trailer up this steep boat ramp.

There are other private boat launches on the Snohomish River where the landowners charge a yearly fee for boat launching and fishing.

If you want to access the upper Snohomish River I would recommend using the [High Bridge boat launch](#) in the lower Snoqualmie River. The Snohomish River is a very short distance downstream from this boat launch. This launch also gives you access to one of the greatest Coho fishing areas near the Highway 522 Bridge in the Snohomish River.

The best time to fish the tidal areas Snohomish River is one hour before high tide and one hour before low tide. This is just a guide to go by and not necessarily what fishing looks like every day. There are days when the Coho fishing is only good in the morning and there are other days when the fishing is only good one hour before the tide change. So, don't limit yourself to fishing that one hour before the tide change. Use the tide change as a guide to when you expect the best fishing to be on the day that you go fishing.

There are so many public accesses on the Skagit River so I will only address a couple sites in the Mt. Vernon/Burlington Area. The most popular boat launch is at [Edgewater Park](#) in Mount Vernon. This is a great boat launch where you can launch

almost any size boat. This launch is affected by the tide, but the tide will not affect your ability to launch your boat at any time.

Another Skagit River boat launch is just above I-5 in Burlington. This launch is: [Roger "Gus" Tjeerdsma Boat Launch](#).

There are several good ways to catch Coho from a boat in freshwater and everybody has their favorite fishing method and tackle selection. For the sake of narrowing it down, let's explore using plugs, spoons and spinners.

Plugs are by far the easiest to rig and to fish. Tie a bead chain swivel on the end of the fishing line (10-12lb line). Then tie a 4 to 6 foot leader (10-12lb leader) to the bead chain swivel and tie a plug on the end of the leader. Let the plug out 30 to 40 feet behind the boat and troll at a brisk speed. If you are trolling too fast, the plug will spin and pop to the surface.

Plugs that I recommend are Brad's Wigglers and Storm Wiggle Warts. Colors: Firetiger, Red with Black Herring Bone and various colors of purple. Both plugs come in similar colors.

Trolling spoons can be as complicated or as easy as you want it to be. The simplest rig would be to tie a ½ ounce mooching sinker on the end of the fishing line (10-12lb line). Next, tie a 6 foot leader to the other swivel on the mooching sinker. Tie a spoon to the end of the leader. Let the spoon out 30 to 40 feet behind the boat and troll at a brisk speed.

An alternative method for rigging a spoon would be to tie a rolling drop swivel (3-way swivel) on the end of the fishing line. Tie a 6 foot leader to the opposite end of the swivel and tie your spoon to the end of that piece of leader. On the remaining eye of the swivel, tie a 10 inch leader. On the end of that leader, tie a ½ ounce cannonball sinker. This method allows the rig to bump along the bottom without snagging up the spoon.

Spoons that I would recommend for trolling are: #1 Dick Nite spoons. The best colors are: 50/50 (half gold/half nickel) and Frog.

Spinners are rigged exactly like I just described for rigging spoons. Spinners that I would recommend for trolling are: Super Vibrax spinners sizes #3 and #4. The best colors are: gold or nickel blade with a chartreuse body or gold or nickel blade with the fluorescent orange body.

Recommended Trolling Tackle

- Brads Wiggler Firetiger Bw74
- Brads Wiggler Red Body/Black Herring Bone BW17
- Storm Wiggle Wart Firetiger V74
- Storm Wiggle Wart Red body/Black Herring Bone V90
- Dick Nite Spoon #1 50/50
- Dick Nite Spoons #1 Frog
- Super Vibrax Spinner #3-#4 Gold or Silver Blade Chartreuse Body
- Super Vibrax Spinner #3-#4 Gold or Silver Blade Fluorescent Orange Body
- ½ ounce Mooching Sinker
- #7 or #10 Rolling Drop Swivel
- ½oz Cannon Ball Weight

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10-12lb Leader

[Link to Plug Colors](#)

[Link to Dick Nite Spoon Colors](#)

Beach Access on the Snohomish River is very limited. Most of the good Coho fishing areas are on private property. To gain access to these private properties you must contact the landowners and purchase a yearly permit. I am not certain how to contact these individuals or how much they charge.

There is some public access to the Snohomish River along the River Road that run between Everett and Snohomish. If you have fished Pink Salmon, you know that access can be steep. A good access point to fish from the shoreline is in the town of Snohomish. This access is steep and rocky.

If you intend to fish from the beach for Coho, I would recommend fishing the Skykomish River in the parks and public fishing areas in the town of Monroe. Most of these fishing areas in the parks have nice gravel beaches and good access to the River.

Skykomish River Public Access Near Monroe

[Al Borlin Park Monroe City Park](#)

[Lewis Street WDFW Public Fishing](#)

The Stillaguamish River has two major public access points that have good Coho fishing from the beach. There are other public fishing areas and access to the River west of I-5, but the

access is limited. The only downside to fishing the Stillaguamish River is that the water becomes quite muddy after every rainstorm. This makes the river un-fishable a good percentage of the time.

Special fishing rules for the Stillaguamish River: Single barbless hooks, no bait including any bait oils or scents.

Stillaguamish River Public Access

[Blue Stilly Park](#)

[Haller Park/Arlington](#)

Tactics for catching Coho from the beach in freshwater are different than fishing from a boat. There are three main tackle selections that you need: Dick Nite spoons, jigs and Super Vibrax Spinners.

Rigging Dick Nite spoons is as simple as tying a #10 black barrel swivel to the end of the fishing line and then tying 4 to 6 foot leader to the other end of the swivel. Now tie the Dick Nite spoon to the end of the leader. You need to attach the appropriate amount of weight above the swivel and onto the line. You will not know the correct amount of weight to attach to the line until you determine the depth and flow of the river. Experiment with different amounts of weight. The correct amount weight will bring the Dick Nite spoon close to the bottom but not on the bottom. Cast the Dick Nite spoon and let it flutter downstream.

Spoons that I would recommend for beach fishing are: #1 Dick Nite spoons.

The best colors are: 50/50 (half gold/half nickel) and Frog.

When Coho have serious lockjaw, there is nothing better to use than 1/8-1/4 ounce jigs. Fishing jigs is by far the simplest method for fishing Coho. Tie the jig on the end of the fishing line and cast. As the jig moves downstream, twitch the jig slightly, keeping it off the bottom and moving downstream with the current. Watch your fishing line ever so closely, because the fish will pick up the jig as it is falling. If you are waiting to feel a bite or a tug on the end of the line, you will be waiting forever. Watch the fishing line closely and any time you see line movement as the jig is falling strike immediately. Many times you will be surprised to see a bright Coho leaping out of the water on the other end of your fishing line.

Good colors of jigs are: Black or Chartreuse.

Super Vibrax spinners are very effective for catching Coho from the beach. Tie a #10 black snap swivel on the end of the fishing line and then snap a #3 or #4 Vibrax spinner to the swivel.

Cast the Vibrax in front of you, not upstream. Crank the handle on your fishing reel a couple of times to get the spinner blade rotating. Let the spinner sink and then you might need to slowly crank the spinner in as the spinner floats with the current downstream. Crank on the spinner very sparingly so the spinner remains in the hole where the Coho are hiding.

Super Vibrax spinners that I would

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recommend for fishing from the beach are: Super Vibrax spinner sizes #3 and #4. The best colors are: gold or nickel blade with a chartreuse body or gold or nickel blade with the fluorescent orange body.

Recommended Casting Tackle

Dick Nite Spoons #1 50/50

Dick Nite Spoons #1 Frog

1/8-1/4 ounce Jigs Black or Chartreuse

Super Vibrax Spinner #3-#4 Gold or Silver Blade Chartreuse Body

Super Vibrax Spinner #3-#4 Gold or Silver Blade Fluorescent Orange Body

Large Split Shot Weight

#10 Black Snap swivels

#10 Black Barrel Swivels

[Coho Rigs For Saltwater and Freshwater](#)

Basic fishing tackle rules for the Snohomish and Skagit Rivers.

Single hooks on any lure or bait that sinks. Treble hooks can be used on diving plugs that float such as the Brads Wigglers and Storm Wiggle Warts.

Any lure that is cast from the beach needs a single hook. This is a very hard part of the hook rule that can be interpreted many ways. Just be safe and put a single hook on everything that you cast from the beach. Better to be safe than sorry. Please don't email with your own interpretation of the hook regulations because there are as many interpretations as there are Coho anglers. I just want people to be comfortable with the fact that they are fishing legally.

Here is the rule cut and pasted out of page 10 of the rule book.

Anti-Snagging Rule Except when fishing with a buoyant lure (with no weights added to the line or lure), or trolling from a vessel or floating device, terminal fishing gear is restricted to a lure or bait with one single-point hook. Hooks must measure $\frac{3}{4}$ " or less from point to shank, and must be attached to or below the lure or bait. Weights may not be attached below or less than 12" above the lure or bait.

Very Complicated Indeed!

Everett Coho Derby Results

Adult entries 1940

Kids entries 253

Average fish weighed in 6.15 pounds

Adult Division

1st, Gary Hamlin 11.96 (\$10,000)

Sponsored by John's Sporting Goods, Harbor Marine, Bayside Marine, Silver Horde.

2nd, Matthew Thoura 11.82 (\$5,000) Sponsored By Bickfords, Dick Nite, Ted's

3rd, Lillie Ludwig 11.63 (\$2500) Sponsored by Roy Robinson

4th, Rusty Breedlove 11.10 (\$1000) Sponsored by RayMarine

5th, Nevin Booth 10.48 (\$500)

Sponsored by Greg's Custom Rods

Kids Division Sponsored by Accurate Automotive

1st, Samantha Bratton 8.97

2nd, Renna Skinner 8.81

3rd, Noah Bratton 8.34

[New 2014 Everett Coho Derby Video](#)
Produced by John Martinis

Steelhead & River Fishing Workshop Saturday November 9

Floral Hall at Forest Park
802 E. Mukilteo BLVD, Everett
Presented by
Everett Steelhead & Salmon Club
More info
425-257-8300 ext 2

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Friday: Deal of the Day

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