Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

**July 2013** 

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San Juan Island
Chinook
Puget Sound Chinook
Puget Sound Crab
Top Shot Leader

## Outdoor Line Radio 710AM

Every Saturday Morning 6am-8am

Listen to Tom Nelson and John Martinis talk fishing for two hours every Saturday morning from 6am to 8am. Tom and John will discuss some of the best fishing opportunities and the best rigs for fishing. John will be on the show for the summer

#### Seminars 2013

by John Martinis

Chinook Seminar July 26, 2013 At Harbor Marine 5PM

**Directions** 

Salmon Seminar August 14th, 2013 6:30PM

Renton PSA Meeting
Kennydale Memorial Hall
Directions

Coho Seminar

**September 20, 2013** 

At Bayside Marine 6:30PM

**Directions** 

The Public is invited to all my seminars and the seminars are free.

### Fishing Derbies

**Harbor Marine Salmon Tournament** 

July 27-28

More Information

**Humpy Showdown** 

August 24
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**Edmonds Coho Derby** 

September 7
More Information

**Everett Coho Derby** 

September 21-22
More Information

# First Ever "Digital Chinook Derby"

The Digital Salmon Derby is Free. Just send me your Area 9 Chinook Picture

John's Sporting Goods will be having the first ever "Digital Chinook Fishing Derby". The derby will be based entirely on Chinook that are caught in Marine Area 9 starting July 16, 2013unitl the closing date of Area 9 in



#### **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 limit2 (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 -

s e n d a n d

the quality of the picture not the size of the fish. I will post all the pictures on John's Sporting Goods Facebook.

a boat. The picture must be submitted the North end of Cypress Island fishes day it was caught. Your first and last best when the tide is coming in. name, time, date and the exact spot the fish was caught must be included with the After July 14th, I would recommend photo. You must also include a brief fishing Hein Bank or on the West side of description of the fishing tackle you were San Juan Island at Eagle Point and Pile using.

The employees' of John's Sporting Goods will judge the Digital Photos. Prizes will include a \$500 shopping spree at John's Sporting Goods, St. Croix Rods and Gibbs Delta Tackle.

## San Juan Island Chinook Opens July 1

Not too many years ago when Area 7 was open in May and June, I would exclusively fish in the San Juan Islands until the 4th of July. July 4 would always signify the end of the spring Chinook run in Area 7. That has changed significantly in the past five years because the closures have had a net positive effect in the rebuilding of the Chinook run that enter the San Juan Islands. Now you can expect the spring Chinook runs to last anywhere from the 10th to the 14th of July. Because the fishing starts on July 1, you cannot wait for the fishing reports to roll in. I would suggest planning your fishing dates now for the San Juan Islands and then return to Puget Sound fishing on July 16.

August. Take a photo of your Chinook When Area 7 opens on July 1, the Rosario t o : Strait's area will be the top producer for customerservice@johnssportinggoods.c Chinook. The four most popular areas to fish are: Thatcher Pass, Eagle Bluff, Point Lawrence and Lopez Flats. These four The winning fish will be determined by areas are all tide dependent, which means that if you fish these areas on the wrong tide you will most likely not have any hook-ups. Thatcher Pass, Lopez Flats and Point Lawrence are strictly fished The picture must be taken on the water in when the tide is going out. Eagle Bluff on

> These areas are also tide Point. dependent. I would only fish for Chinook at Hein bank when the tide is going out. Hein Bank is one of my all-time favorite places to fish for Chinook the last two weeks of July and the first week of August. There is so much decent Chinook fishing going on elsewhere that there never is more than a handful of boats at Hein Bank this time year. Hein Bank is a great Chinook destination, plan on experiencing it this summer.

> At Pile Point, you can only fish this area when the tide is going out. When the tide is coming in, the tidal flow is so strong that it is almost impossible to fish at Pile Point. At Eagle Point, you can fish on either the incoming tide or the outgoing tide. A great side benefit of fishing Eagle Point; Oreas almost always show their presence when the tide is coming in. This is a great show to watch while fishing for salmon.

> I want to address the tides when fishing the San Juan's, because the tidal flow will have a huge impact on how good the fishing is. Normally, I would be reluctant to fish for Chinook in the San Juan's when there is less than 6 feet of exchange between the low and the high tide or the high and the low tide. Personal experience tells me, when there is little



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.

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

Daily limit 2 (combined).

tidal movement, the fishing is not very good. I would also note: do not let the larger minus tides dissuade you from fishing the Islands. I have found that fishing the large minus tides makes fishing more difficult but often produces the best fishing. When you are fishing the larger tides, patience is a rule of thumb. You can consistently count on a good Chinook bite approximately one hour after the peak of the tide.

Chinook tackle that I would recommend for the San Juan Islands: Gibbs 11 inch UV green Red Racer flasher. If you wish to use another brand a flasher make sure that the flasher has a UV face to it. Spoons that I would recommend: Goldstar 3.5 Kingfisher Red Racer, Goldstar 3.5 Kingfisher White lightening spoon and Goldstar 3.5 Kingfisher Cookies'n Cream spoon. The Red Racer spoon does not have any UV on it, so I would add a strip of UV tape to the backside of the spoon. Adding a 1.5 or 2.0 Goldstar mini UV squid to the hook of either spoon would be a good idea. Simply apply a small amount of gel superglue to the hook to told squid in place.

I would also have some 3.0 Kingfisher spoons on hand in the same colors. They are a great small bait imitation.

Often in July you will find that the Chinook are stuffed full of Candle Fish. If this is the case, I would recommend using a Goldstar 3.5 needlefish squid. The squid that I would recommend to imitate a Candle Fish: Goldstar Green Spatter-back NG142R.

The spoons or the needlefish squids can be tied with 30lb PLine fluorocarbon leader material. Many anglers prefer to use 40lb fluorocarbon leader material with their spoons and squids. That would be OK when using fluorocarbon leader. Tie leaders for the needlefish squid 42". Tie the leader for the spoons 42"-60".

## Puget Sound Chinook Opens July 16th

After you warm-up your fishing rod on San Juan Island Chinook, it's time to head to Puget Sound on opening day of Chinook fishing, July 16. There are three main areas to fish for Chinook in Puget Sound: Mid Channel Bank at Port Townsend, Point No Point/Pilot Point and Possession Bar. Chinook fishing in the Sound is not limited to these areas, but that is where you will find the largest concentrations of Chinook. I can only hope that Mid Channel Bank and Possession Bar will produce the same amount of Chinook that they did last year. I think most of you will agree that the 2012 Area 9 Chinook season was extremely good. My goodness, the season closed early because we caught so many Chinook in a short period of time. Go figure, the season shuts down when there are too few Chinook and it closes early when there are too many. Geeez, don't you wish you were in the fishing tackle business?

Puget Sound Chinook fishing is not quite as tide dependent as fishing in the San Juan Islands. However, if you play your cards right you can have the best of both worlds all on the same day. When the season opens you can count on Possession Bar to produce Chinook on either tide. Mid Channel Bank at Port Townsend only produces good Chinook fishing when the tide is going out. Many times I have fished Possession Bar on an early morning incoming tide, fished through the tide and then went to Mid Channel Bank to finish out our limit of Chinook. This is a good tactic because Mid Channel Bank will produce good Chinook fishing at any hour of the day as long as the tide is going out. The inverse is also true, you can go to Mid Channel Bank to fish the morning tide and then fish the incoming tide at Possession Bar.



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 My point is; look at the tides and plan your day. I think that you will find that you will consistently put more Chinook in the box if you plan your fishing strategies around the tides.

I want to mention two alternative places to fish for Chinook that deserves a closer look. The first place is Craven Rock and the second is Skunk Bay. Craven Rock is just around the corner from Mid Channel Bank. The reason you want to consider fishing at Craven Rock; because it fishes the best when the tide is coming in. Craven Rock and Mid Channel Bank are only minutes apart. If you want to plan a trip to Mid Channel Bank and would rather stay in the Mid Channel Bank area for the day, plan on fishing Mid Channel Bank on the outgoing tide and then switching to Craven Rock when the tide starts coming

If you like to troll with downrigger's and don't want to mix it up with the drift moochers at Point No Point, head to the west about 1/2 mile to Skunk Bay. Skunk Bay is a great place to get away from the crowds at Possession Bar. You can fish Skunk Bay when the tide is going out and then switch to Pilot Point when the tide is coming in. I would highly recommend both these areas the last week in July and the first week in August. Not only are these areas a great place to fish for Chinook on alternating tides, they are also the very best fishing areas to intercept Chinook heading to South Sound.

I hope you are seeing some good strategies for fishing Puget Sound when Chinook opens on the 16th. Regardless of where you choose to fish, I would always have a good plan "B" to go to when the tide changes direction. Try not to get married to a particular fishing spot just because you like fishing there. That's not a strategy.

The picture that I'm trying to paint is one of fish traveling to different destinations in Puget Sound and the places that they can be intercepted on different tides.

Chinook tackle for Puget Sound is not too much different than it is for fishing the San Juan Islands. My number one choice is always: the Gibbs UV green Red Racer flasher accompanied with a Goldstar 3.5 Red Racer spoon. I fish with this rig 99% of the time when fishing Puget Sound Chinook. Last year I found that the Tomic 603/602 5 inch plug was very effective because the fish were feeding on 6" herring.

A great strategy for fishing three rods out of a boat with downrigger's: fish two rods with flashers spoons out each side of the boat and fish a plug down the center. Only let the plug out <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>'s of the depth that the flashers are at. On a tight turn, I would advise pulling the plug rod in until the turn is completed. When you are fishing Possession Bar, tangle ups are inevitable because most of the time you will be fishing with the tide hitting perpendicular to the boat. When the tide is running hard, plugs are sometimes easier to fish because they do not get tangled so easily.

Trolling depths for Puget Sound Chinook fishing is fairly straightforward: maintain a depth of 90-120 feet and sometimes as deep as 150 feet. In almost all situations, fish within five feet of the bottom. Because of the wild fluctuations in bottom contour it is almost impossible to maintain your tackle within five feet of the bottom. This is just a good rule of thumb.

Do your best to fish as close possible to the bottom at all times. I would highly recommend that one person only steer the boat and have one person running the downrigger's and maintaining the tackle. When I fish with my friends I find this



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.

strategy to work quite well. It is so much easier to stay in the strike zone when the person steering the boat only has to concentrate on maintaining the correct depth.

If you do not have downrigger's and maybe want to take a more casual approach to Chinook fishing, I would recommend fishing with 2 1/4 ounce Point Wilson Darts. Point Wilson Darts are a very effective way to fish for Chinook. You can simply tie the Point Wilson Jig to the end of the fishing line and install a size #7 swivel a foot above the jig. When jigging for Chinook; let the jig to the bottom and raised the tip of the rod in a jigging motion about 6 inches, then let the rod tip drop so that the jig free-falls. Constantly fish close to the bottom while you try to maintain a depth of 60 to 90 feet. Good colors of Point Wilson Darts are: White or Green/Nickel. Remember to rig the Darts with single hooks. They come rigged with a treble hook that needs to be removed. Only single barbless hooks can be used for fishing in Puget Sound. You can use tw barbless single hooks but treble hooks are not allowed

Two single barbless hooks are allowed on a line while fishing for salmon in Puget Sound. I thought I would clear that up because I know there would be a question raised concerning the number of legal hooks.

#### Salmon Rig Diagram

## Dungeness Crab Opens July 1

The July 1 Dungeness crab opener signifies the start of everything in Puget Sound. I want to start with all the things that you need to be successful and to be

legal when you are harvesting Dungeness crab.

Here is a list of some of the basic legal crab pot rules:

All crab, shrimp, and crawfish pots must be equipped with a biodegradable device (rot/escape cord) and shall include one or more of the following:

- (1) securing the pot lid hook or tie down strap with a single loop of cord; or
- (2) sewing a 3" by 5" escape panel in the upper half of pot closed with cord; or
- (3) attaching the pot lid or one pot side (serving as a pot lid) with no more than three single loops of cord.

#### **CRAB GEAR**

The minimum mesh size for crab pots is  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ", and all pots must have two  $4\frac{1}{4}$ " minimum inside diameter escape rings in the upper half of the pot, except in the Columbia River where the minimum ring size is 4" inside diameter.

Crab pots must not exceed 13 cubic feet.

All crab gear buoys must be half red and half white in color, and both colors need to be visible when fishing.

Crab pot construction is very important to successfully harvest Dungeness crab. The entrance or door of the crab pot must be at least 10 inches wide. This will allow the crab too easily enter your crab pot. If it is difficult for the crab to get in your crab pot, the crab will go elsewhere for an easier meal. There are three crab pots that we sell at John's Sporting Goods that meet the 10" door recommendation: the Danielson CTO3R, SMI folding crab pot and the Danielson folding FTC crab pot.

In any crab pot, I suggest using at least 5 pounds of weight for every 50 feet of rope that you let out. This is very important for two reasons: crab will be reluctant to enter your crab pot if the

rope and buoy are pulling on the crab pot. Plenty of weight will also secure the crab pot to the bottom. Crab are very reluctant to stay/enter in a crab pot that is moving or rattling around because the rope and buoy are pulling on the crab pot. Crab are not the most sophisticated creatures but they are smart enough to figure out when a crab pot is shifting around, this spells danger.

The majority of crab pots that are thought to be stolen have simply drifted out to deeper water. Crab pots drift quite easily in the current because they only weigh an average of 9 pounds. 100 feet of rope attached to a crab pot creates a significant amount of drag when the tide is moving swiftly.

I would also suggest using more than one red and white buoy. Many times crabbers go back to the location of where they drop their crab pot only to find that it is missing. In many cases the buoy is under water for several hours only to return to the surface at slack tide. If you install multiple buoys to the end of your crab pot line this will eliminate the possibility of the buoys being submerged.

With a little bit of thoughtful planning you will not lose your crab pots and you will be more successful at harvesting Dungeness crab.

I will have my custom made crab pots somewhere between July 3-10. They will be a round, solid frame ramp style pot with 10' entrance doors.

The folding crab pots are easier to store and they work quite well, but the crab can come and go as they please. In other words, they can steal a free meal and be on their way at your expense. If you want to keep crab in your pot, the ramp style pots are the

best. The Danielson CTO3R and my custom made crab pots are both ramp style pots that keep the crab in the pot. It is not impossible for the crab to escape, however it is very difficult for the crab to get out once they have entered a ramp style pot. If you are going to leave your crab pot out for an extended period of time, I would only use the ramp style pot.

There are many different crab bait formulas that were quite well:

- 1) Fish carcasses (not heads and tails)
- 2) Chicken marinated in Pro Cure Crab and Shrimp oil
- 3) Turkey legs

Ace of Baits has come up with packaged crab bait pucks that do not need refrigeration. These are very handy to use in addition to your other bait. They gave me some samples last year that I added to the bait and I felt that they made a difference in my crab catch. You can put these pucks in one of the orange ventilated bait jars so that the crab cannot easily eat the bait. These crab bait pucks are also handy to have on hand in when there is not any nearby source of crab bait.

Crabbing Maps:
Port Gardner Bay (Everett
Area)
Elger Bay Camano Island
Saddle Bag Island
(Anacortes)

Crab Pot set-up Diagram Crabbing Gear

## Top Shot Fishing Leader

"Top Shot" is a new term that is used to describe a piece of monofilament leader material or monofilament fishing line that is tied to the end of braided line. I tried this last year and I now I tie a top shot to the end of all my braided fishing lines that I use for salmon and steelhead fishing.

For salmon fishing; I have my Shimano Tekota 500 fishing reel filled with 30lb braided line. At the end of the 30lb braided line I tied on a 25ft piece of 25lb fluorocarbon fishing line. I tie the two lines together with a Uni to Uni Knot. I applied superglue to the knot and let it dry for one hour. In most cases after applying the superglue the knot will be stronger than the fishing line.

This seems like a lot of work to go through when you can just fill a fishing reel with 20lb monofilament fishing line and then go fishing. This is worth This achieves two the effort. objectives: to get the strength of 30 pound braided line, plus you can install almost twice as much line on the reel using braided line. The 25ft of fluorocarbon fishing line gives you a better material to snap on a downrigger release. If you have experienced the frustration of snapping a downrigger release to braided line, only to have the braided line release out of the downrigger release prematurely, this method cures that frustration. Now, snap the downrigger release to the fluorocarbon line and it will hold while you are letting your downrigger to the desired depth. Many saltwater anglers who desire using braided line find that the method that I described ("Top Shot") makes using braided line a more manageable experience.

# Special Purchase

Tackle For The Serious Angler

## July Salmon/Crab Sale



FTCC Crab Pot Complete Crab Pot, Bait Bag, Buoy, 100ft Leaded Rope, Crab Measure Sale Price \$39.95



Shimano TDR Salmon Rod \$23.50 Reg. Price \$29.95



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



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Prices Good Through July 30th

John's Sporting Goods

## John's Sporting Goods 1913 Broadway Everett, WA 98201

# 20% Discount on your next in store purchase

Items that are excluded: Downriggers, Ace Line Hauler, Shimano Products, G Loomis, St. Croix, Electronics, CTO3R Crab Pot, Braided Line, items that are discounted, on sale, repairs, parts and closeout items. Cannot be used in combination with discounted gift certificates.

Not valid for online purchases or mail order

Valid only with coupon at the time of sale

Expires July 30, 2013

You Must have this coupon in your hand at the time of purchase. No exceptions made.

## Send your fish pictures to:

customerservice@johnssportinggoods.com

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Fishing Tackle-Crabbing Supplies-Shrimping Supplies

Store Hours: 9:00AM - 5:30PM Monday - Saturday 425-259-3056 - 1913 Broadway, Everett, WA 98201

Scotty Downrigger
Maintenance
300ft Cable
or
300ft Spectra Braid
\$49.95

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

John's Sporting Goods Facebook

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 \$585

> Standard Scotty 1106 \$473

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for
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