

# Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

October 2013

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Techniques

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## Fishing Derbies

**Annual Sekiu King-Coho Derby,** October 12-13. Entry fee is \$30. Progressive pot, cash prizes will be determined by ticket sales for the largest King salmon the largest Coho, and the largest Chum salmon. For tickets and information call Olson's Resort 360-963-2311.

**Bayside Marine Fishing Derby,** November 2-3. Entry fee is \$30. First place \$2000. Call Bayside Marine for ticket information 425-252-3088. After Derby Bar-B-Q on Sunday free salmon, hot dogs and beverages. A portion of the ticket sales support local food drive.

## Coho in the Snoho

### And other Streams

October is the month when the weather gets a little gnarly and we consider calmer water in the local rivers. Fishing in the rivers for Coho can greatly extend your salmon season by a month or more. This newsletter will give you all the tips and tricks so that you can successfully fish from shore or from a boat in the local rivers and catch Coho. Coho fishing in the rivers is much simpler than fishing in Puget Sound. Although much simpler, fishing in the rivers can be a frustrating experience with fish flopping and jumping all around you. You can cast, you can troll and jig for Coho for hours without a bite. However, there is good news. Coho fishing this season in the Snohomish River has been nothing short of incredible. By the time you read this, the fishing of this magnitude will also be available in the Skykomish

River.

I like to temper my statements whenever I say the fishing is incredible, because there are always days when the fish decide to take a siesta. As you know, Fall weather can be wet, wild and windy. In order to have good Coho fishing the river levels have to be stable and clear. Before I get into the hard-core River Coho fishing, I need to give you a link so that you can check out the river levels. [River Levels](#). Take a look at the river that you are interested in and make sure the water level is stable or the river level is dropping. This will provide you with the optimal fishing conditions.

### Snohomish River

First I want to explore trolling for Coho in the Snohomish River. This will work in all rivers where it is deep enough to use a boat. There are four basic lures that you need when trolling for Coho: Storm Wiggle Warts/Brads Wiggler, #3 and #4 Vibrax spinners and #1 or #2 Dick Nite Spoons. You can also use 1/4oz, 3/8oz and 1/2oz jigs that are chartreuse.

There are two colors of [Storm Wiggle Warts/Brads Wiggler plugs](#) that are needed: Red Herring Bone (V90 and BW17) and Fire Tiger (V74 and BW74). Besides the standard size plugs Brad's makes a Wee Wiggler. There is also a magnum size plug in both brands, but it is not used as much for Coho.

**Snohomish River Hook Rule:** Single hooks on all sinking fishing lures. Treble hooks are allowed on lures that float such as the plugs I mentioned only if you are fishing from a boat. Please don't call me to debate this rule with me. Please call WDFW360-902-2936.



## 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 -

If you are fishing the Skagit River for Coho, the popular colors of plugs are different shades of Purple both in Wiggle warts and Brads Wigglers. This could be because of the difference in water color. The Skagit River mostly has a greenish tint to it and the Snohomish River has a more brownish/tannic color to the water. Who really knows what fish see, all I can report to you is the popular colors of plugs that river anglers come to the store and purchase. It is kind of interesting! Popular plug colors for the Skagit are Brads Wiggler BW-92 and BW-94. Both plugs are purple variations.

There are two colors of Vibrax spinners that you need: Chartreuse and Florescent Orange. Vibrax spinners chartreuse (#3 BFF3 SFY) and (#4 BFF3 SFY). Vibrax spinners orange (#3 BFF3 GFR) and (#4 BFF4 GFR).

There are several [Dick Nite Spoons](#) that are needed: however I will only mention the two most popular spoons: Brass/Silver #114 and #214 (50/50) and Chartreuse Green Spatter #113 and #213. Dick Nite spoons numbers that begin with a numeral 1 are size 1 and Dick Nite spoons that begin with a numeral 2 are size 2. #1's are smaller than #2's.

When fishing either the Storm Wiggle Warts or the Brads Wiggler: you can tie the plug directly on the end of the fishing line and then tie in a #10 black barrel swivel 4-6ft above the plug. There is no need for leader material, just cut your line and tie it back together with the #10 swivel. If you are trolling in the lower Snohomish you may want to use a ½ ounce mooching sinker six feet above the plug. This is not necessary for the upper Snohomish River.

Trolling with Vibrax spinners and Dick Nite spoons is quite different than trolling with plugs. Six feet above the spoon or spinner tie in a 3-way swivel. Tie the fishing line to one end of the swivel and

tie a 6 foot leader to the other end of the swivel. Then tie the leader to the spinner or spoon. On the remaining loop of the 3-way swivel, tie in an 18 inch length of leader material. On the end of the leader material tie a small snap swivel. The small snap swivel can be used to snap on various sizes of weights. The most common size of weight is a 1 ounce cannon ball sinker. This rig will allow you to gently hit the bottom without getting snagged and losing your gear.

Coho trolling speed in the rivers is fast, just as it is in the saltwater. If you are trolling plugs, you want to be trolling fast enough so that the plug will dive 5 to 7 feet. If you are trolling spoons or spinners, keep your speed up but not too fast so that you cannot maintain your depth. The depth you need to be at is within 2 feet of the bottom.

Fishing in the Snohomish River is very much a trolling show for Coho. You can catch Coho from the same beaches and banks that you fished for Pink salmon; however Coho are elusive characters to catch from the beach in the Snohomish River. Don't despair; all you have to do is move up to the Skykomish River to fish from the beach. Watch [John's Sporting Goods Facebook](#) to keep track of the daily trends to where the Coho are being caught.

If you are fishing from the beach for Coho, the fishing methods that you are going to use are similar but different. You will still use: Vibrax spinners, Dick Nite Spoons and jigs, but no plugs. However, the rigging will be much different than trolling from a boat.

The Vibrax spinners can be attached to the end of the line with a #10 snap swivel. You will not need any weight when you are casting from shore with a Vibrax spinner.

When using a Vibrax spinner: angle the

# 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

cast slightly downstream so that the spinner blade will start rotating. You can also take a couple cranks on the reel handle to engage the spinner blade. If the current is right, you will not need to retrieve the spinner while it is working its way downstream. If there is not enough current, retrieve the spinner by slowly cranking the reel handle.

Because Dick Nite spoons are so light, you will need to attach some weight 5-6ft up the line from the spoon. You can attach the lead by using a three way swivel with snap attached to one end of the swivel. These are made by Vision the swivel number is RDSS7-25 (#7 black 3-way swivel, 25 pack). Cut off a 1" piece of 3/16" rubber tubing. Run the snap through one end of the tubing. In the other end of the tubing insert a small piece of 3/16" pencil lead. If you wanted to make this simpler: snap the snap to a small cannon ball lead (less than an ounce).

Casting from the beach with Dick Nite spoons is quite simple: Cast out and let the lead weight gently tap the bottom. Keep casting at different lengths to properly work the water.

If you are going to use jigs, there are special jigs for Coho called a "Twitching Jigs". If you were using the very popular "John's Jigs" with the pink worm tail for Pink salmon, you were using a twitching jig. If you looked at my YouTube video on "[Pink Salmon Jigging Techniques](#)", that was twitching. The best colors of twitching jigs for Coho are chartreuse and green or any combination of the two colors. You can use 1/4oz, 3/8oz and 1/2oz jigs depending on the water depth. Twitching works well in the slower, deeper holes. Aerojig makes a very good color of chartreuse twitching jig #ATJ2005.

If you want to make your own Coho jigs: Attach a [FG14R GoldStar Squid](#) to a

1/4oz, 3/8oz or 1/2oz jig head. You can purchase the jig heads in chartreuse or green to make these jigs. Some of the jig heads have a barb to hold onto the squid. If the jig head does not have a barb for holding onto the squid, you can experiment with gluing the squid to the jig with Super Glue. Some anglers prefer to attach the squid to the jig with fly tying thread that matches the color of the squid.

## Stillaguamish River

If you are going to fish the Stillaguamish River for Coho, remember the fishing rule is: Single Barbless hooks no bait. That includes bait oils or any other scents. Dick Nite spoons work excellent in the Stilly.

## Skagit River

The Skagit is another story. Plunking is very popular amongst the bank anglers. Plunking is where you throw your rig out with a pyramid sinker and let it set until a fish grabs the rig.

This is how to assemble a [plunking rig](#). The best way to rig a plunking rig is with a spreader bar. One end of the spreader bar, attach an 18 inch leader. Attach the appropriate amount of weight to the end of the 18 inch leader. To the other end of the spreader bar, attach an 18 inch leader with a #4 pink Spin-n-Glow and a 3/0 hook. Then add a small amount of sand shrimp to the hook.

[River Fishing Maps](#) at John's Web Site Including three Snohomish River Maps WDFW [Skykomish River](#) Fishing Access Areas

## Mo' Coho

Coho fishing in Puget Sound is not over with because of a few large storms or because it is now October. The fishing might not be at its feverish pitch, it will be more like normal fishing in Puget Sound



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

where you have to spend a few hours to get your fish. The last week of September, anglers including myself were spoiled by getting our limits of Coho in a matter of a few minutes. If you did not get your limit Coho quickly, you most likely had a boat load of salmon by 10 or 11 AM.

The best Coho fishing is now going to be located in the Mukilteo area. There will be no need to run to Possession Bar or to the Shipwreck. Most of the fish will now be staged in the area between Mukilteo and halfway to the Shipwreck.

For this late-season Coho fishing, I still recommend using 11 inch Gibbs UV red racer flasher with a Goldstar 3.5 OAL12R Purple Haze squid, 36 inches behind the flasher.

## Crabbing Opens October 1, 2013

Seven days a week in select areas

OLYMPIA - Most marine areas of Puget Sound will reopen for recreational crab fishing Oct. 1, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) announced today. The openings were approved by fishery managers after summer catch assessments by WDFW indicated more crab are available for harvest, said Rich Childers, shellfish manager for the department.

**Waters reopening to sport crabbing Oct. 1 at 8 a.m. include marine areas 4 (Neah Bay), 5 (Sekiu), 6 (eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca), 7 (San Juan Islands), 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island, and Skagit Bay), 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner), 9 (Admiralty Inlet), 12 (Hood Canal), and 13 (South Puget Sound).**

In each area, crabbing will be allowed seven days a week through Dec. 31. Sport crabbing will not reopen this year in marine areas 10 (Seattle/Bremerton Area) and 11 (Tacoma-Vashon Island). The annual quotas in those areas were reached during the summer fishery, said Childers.

All Dungeness crab caught in the late-season fishery must be recorded on winter catch cards, which are valid until Dec. 31. Winter cards - free to those with crab endorsements - are available at license vendors across the state.

## Congratulations Fishing Derby Winners

**Essix Kelly** won the Edmonds Coho Derby \$5000, 11.816lbs

**Don Pittwood** won the Everett Coho Derby \$10,000, 15.50lbs

The fishing tackle of both these winning fish was purchased at John's Sporting Goods. Both fish were caught on a Goldstar OAL12R Purple Haze Squid trolled behind a flasher.

Second place in the Everett Coho Derby was caught on a Dick Nite Spoon by **Hut Phanhthavilay**. This fish was 14.2lbs

**Everett Derby Stats:** [Everett Coho Derby](#)

**Edmonds Derby Stats:** [Edmonds Coho Derby](#)



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.

## John's Sporting Goods Fish Watch

### Three Great Resources

Saltwater Fishing Journal

The Fishing Journal

John's Sporting Goods Facebook

If you're looking for daily fishing reports, there is no better place than [John's Sporting Goods Facebook](#). Most every day I post pictures that local anglers are sending in. Included with these pictures is valuable fishing information that includes time, date, place and all the details relating to their catch. If you do not have a Facebook account, I would highly recommend getting one so that I can share this fishing information with you. There is no other website in the Puget Sound area that is dedicated to daily fishing reports. When I receive a very hot fishing tip, I try to post it immediately, to keep you on top of the fish and informed.. Good luck fishing everyone!

## October Weather Watch

I get asked all the time what I know about the daily wind conditions for Puget Sound. There is no better resource than [Washington Ferry Weather](#). You can get real time on the water wind speed reports from this site. There are many other links on this site, but the most useful is the Marine Weather forecast.

## Fishing Reel Repair

If you are looking to get your fishing reel fixed or cleaned, my good friend Les Jacober is now in the business of fixing reels. Les has 20 years of experience fixing fishing reels and downriggers. You can drop your reel off at John's Sporting Goods and Les will pick it up or call Les: 425-280-4864. You will be called at the completion of the repair by Les and pick your reel up at John's Sporting Goods. E-mail Les [nwreelrepair@gmail.com](mailto:nwreelrepair@gmail.com)

A good rule of thumb on whether or not a fishing reel is worth fixing: The repair cannot exceed half the cost of a reel. The average cost of a reel repair will be \$42-\$46 and much more if the reel has saltwater damage.

# Special Purchase



Tackle For The Serious Angler

## October Gear 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



**Okuma CLX 300 Salmon Reel**  
Sale Price \$29.50  
Reg. Price \$39.50



**100ft Leaded 5/16" Rope**  
\$9.95  
Reg. Price \$11.95



**SMI 19019 Folding Crab Pot**  
Sale Price \$17.95  
Reg. Price \$22.00

Prices Good Through October 30th, In Store Purchases Only

**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 October 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**

**Like us on Facebook:**

[http://www.facebook.com/?ref=tn\\_tnmn#!/pages/Johns-Sporting-Goods/166123680152608](http://www.facebook.com/?ref=tn_tnmn#!/pages/Johns-Sporting-Goods/166123680152608)



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

Included in the price is new brake 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  
\$525**

**Standard Scotty 1106  
\$473**

**Fishing Tackle-Crabbing Supplies-Shrimping Supplies**

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

**John's Sporting Goods  
Fishing Tackle  
for  
The Serious Angler**