

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

March 2014

Send Your Fish Pictures to:

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Fishing Derby's

**Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club
Blackmouth Derby
March 22nd**

**Anacortes
Salmon Derby
March 29-30
Details**

**Salmon for Soldiers
September 13, 2014
Help Needed
Contact
Dave Davenport
425-870-8478**

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Seminars 2014

**Chinook Seminar
by John Martinis
March 19th
at [Bayside Marine](#) @7PM
Free to the Public**

2014 Ways to Make a Difference

**Jennings Park
Kids Fishing Derby
May 2014**

**Everett Lions Club
Derby for the Blind
September 2014**

This is the time of year to contribute to two great events: 1)The Jennings Park Kids Fishing Derby and 2)The Everett Lions Club Derby for the Blind.

I will match any donation dollar for dollar that you contribute to either event.

The Blind people who are involved in this derby will pull at your heart strings. They are so full of enthusiasm and excitement. Can you only imagine what it is like to be on the water salmon fishing and being blind? Please help. 100% of this money will be given out as cash prizes in either event

Contact John Martinis (425-259-3056) to contribute to either event. Thank you for your help!

Salmon Derby's Puget Sound

It can be debated whether winning a salmon derby is a stroke of luck or a refined skill. Anyone can get lucky and land a huge fish on derby day. However, landing large Chinook on a consistent basis takes a great deal of skill and concentration.

Before you even start thinking about Chinook tackle for a fishing derby, you must study the tides and put a game plan together. If you want to be assured of coming in empty handed on derby day, just go to the same place that you always fish and grind it out. That's not a game plan. That's a recipe for disaster.

I am looking at the tide book for March 22, the day of the Everett Blackmouth Derby. At 8:56AM there is a 10.6 High Tide. Now, that's a beautiful tide for salmon fishing on March 22nd. There are some great possibilities for some good salmon fishing on that day.

The two best choices for that 8:56AM High Tide are: Pilot Point and Useless Bay. Either place can produce the winning fish for the Everett Blackmouth Derby. Of course, there are no guarantees.

First: let's take a look at [Useless Bay](#). For the March 22nd tide, I want to be there early. This is not a second choice. Start fishing in the northwest corner of the Bay. Troll in a southerly direction and follow the 90-120 foot depth line. As you get even with the most eastern corner of Double Bluff, you will notice that the bar takes a turn to the left; this



New Puget Sound Salmon Seasons 2014

Area 5: Feb. 16-Apr. 10
CHINOOK - min. size 22".
Other SALMON species - no
min. size. Daily limit 1.

Area 6: Dec. 1-Apr. 10
CHINOOK - min. size 22".
Other SALMON species - no
min. size. Daily limit 2.
Release wild CHINOOK.

Area 7: Dec. 1-Apr. 30
CHINOOK - min. size 22".
Other SALMON species - no
min. size. Daily limit 2
(combined). Release wild
Chinook. See Bellingham Bay
Closure and Fishery.

Area 8-1: Nov. 1-Apr. 30
CHINOOK - min. size 22".
Other SALMON species - no
min. size. Daily limit 2
(combined). Release wild
CHINOOK.

Area 8-2: Nov. 1-Apr. 30
CHINOOK - min. size 22".
Other SALMON species - no
min. size. Daily limit 2
(combined). Release wild
CHINOOK.

Area 9: 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

spot is the strike zone. Work your way around this curvature in the bar and keep in mind that you have to hit the same spot on the return. That piece of advice is something never to forget!

Each area that I talk about has a spot that holds Chinook/bait on a very consistent basis. Once you identify these spots, you are on the path for consistently good fishing. Once again, there are no guarantees, but you can greatly improve your success by fishing smart.

Pilot Point, which has been red hot for most of the winter Chinook season, can reliably put derby winning Chinook in your boat. In fact, I could safely say that Pilot Point is the most consistent Chinook producer in March in all of Puget Sound. Once more, you cannot just show up at Pilot Point and watch the fish jump in the boat.

Start your trolling path near the houses on the beach at Pilot Point and troll towards Point no Point. Remember, you are only fishing here when the tide is coming in. You will be trolling into the tide. Only troll $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way to Point no Point, then turn around and return to the spot where you started.

There is a spot in the bar at Pilot Point that is very similar to the bar at Useless Bay. When you start trolling at the houses, you will only be able to troll in a straight line for a very short period of time until you must turn hard to the right (east) because the bottom starts coming up. Record this spot in your mind. As you get to the most easterly end of this curvature in the bar and the bottom 90-120 foot line turns towards Point no Point, you will consistently find bait and fish on this corner. If you see clouds of baitfish on this corner of the bar, don't get too far away from this spot because there should be salmon nearby. If you don't locate bait on this corner, keep trolling towards Point no Point.

Tackle for successful derby fishing: these are must have items: Gibbs Red Racer Flasher, Gibbs Purple Haze Flasher, 3.0-3.5 Kingfisher Red Racer Spoon, 3.0-3.5 Kingfisher White Lightning Spoon, and Coho Killer White Lightning Spoon. The 3.0 Kingfisher spoons need to be rigged with 2/0 Mustad 9510XXXS siwash hooks, the 3.5 Kingfisher spoons need to be rigged with 3/0 Mustad 9510XXXS siwash hooks and the Coho Killers need to be rigged with 2/0 Mustad 9510XXXS siwash hooks. Don't take a chance on the hooks breaking, change your hooks!!! Thousands of dollars are at stake for the First Prize in a salmon derby and only eighty-cents for a good hook.

There are two leader materials that I recommend to be used with flashers: PLine 30-40lb Fluorocarbon leader and Maxima 30lb Ultra Green leader.

When a customer comes to speak to me about his/hers lack of Chinook fishing success, I automatically go to this question, "What speed are you trolling at?" Almost always, the answer is, "1.5 to 2.5MPH."

The correct trolling speed for Chinook should be 2.5 to 3.5 MPH. Keep your speed in the correct range. Once you get below 2.5MPH, you are just straining water. Can you catch Chinook trolling below 2.5MPH? Sure. However, many days you will go without a strike if you do not keep your speed in the proper range. You can catch salmon fishing a variety of ways, but the idea is: to up the rate of strikes per day! Keep your speed up!

It is easy to struggle with yourself when you are trying to determine the correct trolling speed. One frame of mind says to go 2.5mpg and the other says to keep a 45 degree angle on the downrigger cable. The best way to address the competing speed problem is: Never let the downrigger cable get less than a 45



wild CHINOOK.

Area 10: Oct. 1-Jan. 31 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined). Release wild CHINOOK. See Agate Pass Area on previous page. See Duwamish Waterways

Area 11: Nov. 1-Dec. 31 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2 (combined). Only 1 CHINOOK may be retained.

Feb. 1-Apr. 30 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2. Release wild CHINOOK.

Area 12: Oct. 16-Dec. 31 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 4 (combined). Only 2 CHINOOK may be retained. Release wild CHINOOK.

Feb. 1-Apr. 30 CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other SALMON species - no min. size. Daily limit 2. Release wild CHINOOK.

degree angle. If you do, you will always be going to slow for the flashers and spoons to be working properly. **Cable angle always has precedence over speed.** Adjust your speed to the proper angle of the cable.

Anacortes Salmon Derby March 29th-30th

Fishing Chinook in the San Juan Islands is all about the tides and understanding where to be on different types of tides. For simplicity sake, there are two different types of tides: Soaker Tides and Tides with plenty of flow. Soaker Tides are when the water does not move very much. Tides with plenty of flow are tides with greater than eight feet of tidal exchange between the two tides.

On March 29, the first day of the Anacortes Salmon Derby, the tidal flow going out to the 10:37AM low tide is about seven feet. Perfect Tide for fishing! So, we have an outgoing tide in the morning until 10:37AM. I would be at one of these three places in Rosario Strait: [Thatcher Pass](#), [Slime Rock](#) or [Tide Point](#). If the winds are light and variable, I would look for that Derby winning Chinook at Eastern Bank or MacArthur Bank.

Once the 10:37 AM low tide is clocked out, it will be time to make a decision: now I would recommend looking for Chinook at [Parker Reef](#), [Eagle Bluff](#) and [Rocky Bay](#). You can spend the remainder of your Derby fishing time at either one of these places. The same goes for the second day of the Derby, except the tides will be one hour later.

Let us take a look at a couple of the places that I recommended: when you are

fishing Thatcher Pass, you are really not in the Pass. I have had my best success near Pointer Island and South of Pointer Island for about one quarter of a mile. You will know when you're getting too far South of Pointer because the depth will increase to hundred 120 feet deep. Don't fish farther south when the depth gets greater than 120 feet. If you do, the current will increase so much that it will be almost impossible to troll back to Pointer Island. You want to be efficient at controlling your depth, if you don't, you'll have to pick up your gear and run back to Pointer Island. When you have to pick up your gear, you waste too much time that could be better spent with your gear in the water.

Parker Reef is an excellent choice when the tide starts coming in. This is where a great deal of the top 10 fish are caught in most salmon derbies in the San Juan Islands. At first glance, Parker Reef looks like it is a long ways away from the boat launch. It is no farther than running from Everett to Point No Point. The point I'm trying to make: invest some time in running to the places that consistently produce the largest Chinook.

Anacortes Salmon Derby Tackle could be a slightly different than the tackle that I recommended for the Everett Blackmouth Derby. [Goldstar Kingfisher spoons that I would recommend are all going to be in the 3.0 size.](#) Colors that I recommend: White Lightning, Red Racer, and Cookies'n Cream. On the 3.0 size spoons I would highly recommend installing and UV 1.5 or 2.0 size Goldstar squid. See this video that covers installing these squid on Kingfisher Spoons that Rob Endsley and I made: [Click Here for the Video.](#)

Never go to the San Juan Islands without having Goldstar Coho Killer spoons in your tackle box. Coho killer spoons can never be discounted as one of the top producing spoons for the San Juan



Fishing Charter Service San Juan's

Angler Choice/Derek Floyd

Captain Derek Floyd welcomes you to enjoy your next saltwater fishing trip. From the most seasoned saltwater angler to the first time fisherman Anglers Choice Charters has the skill and pride to make your San Juan Island fishing trip one to remember! 360-637-4354

Fishing Charter Service Puget Sound

AllStar Charter/ Gary Krein

While fishing Seattle area you'll enjoy calm water fishing on Puget Sound with spectacular views of Mount Rainer, Mount Baker, The Cascade Range and the Olympic Mountains. 1-800-214-1595- (425) 252-4188

Fishing Charter Service Neah Bay

Excel Charter/Tom Burlingame

Come up to Neah Bay and take an offseason Bottom fishing trip on the "Cabazon". Catching has been great! Last Sunday we caught 6 limits of Black Rockfish, 10 Greenling, and 2 Cabezon and were back and cleaned up in time to see the second half of the Seahawk game. We also enjoyed seeing several Grey Whales and Bald Eagles.. 360-805-1729 or 360-374-2225

Islands

Goldstar squids that I recommend for fishing the San Juan Islands: [Goldstar 3.5 NG 142R](#), Green Glow.

Whenever I am talking fishing derbies in the San Juan Islands, it is hard not to recommend fishing with herring for Chinook. I would bet that if you looked at the top 10 fish caught in all the derbies in the San Juan Islands, half of the fish were most likely caught on spoons or squid and the other half were most likely caught on 5" herring. Take a look at this video that Tom Nelson and I made last summer about fishing with herring: [Click Here for the Video](#).

If you don't feel comfortable with rigging herring properly, I would highly recommend using the [Rhys Davis UV Anchovy Head](#) holders. That's right, use the anchovy head holders for herring that is 5 inches in length or less. Here is a diagram on how to hook up the herring, [Click Here](#).

Now that I have recommended two different spoons in three different colors and herring, you must be asking yourself, "where do I start." This is what I would do: I would rig a Gibbs Red Racer Flasher with the Goldstar 3.0 white lightening spoon with a Goldstar Purple Haze 2.0 squid glued to the hook. Smear some [Mikes Lunker Lotion Herring oil](#) on the back of the spoon.

Leader lengths for spoons or squid behind a flasher should be 42-60 inches. Most of the time I am using a 42 inch leader. Here is a good way to tie the correct leader length on the end of a flasher: Tie the leader to the back swivel or snap on the flasher. Now, measure the leader ten inches longer than the length that you want the finished length to be. Cut the leader and tie on a spoon. The leader length will be very close to the

length that you wanted it to be. If you are using squid with a double hook tie, cut the leader ten inches longer than you want it to be and tie it to the end of the flasher.

Assuming that two or more of you are fishing: I would rig a Gibbs Red Racer flasher with a herring in a Rhys Davis Anchovy Head holder with a 5 to 6 foot leader. Or, I would rig a herring without a flasher. This time of year, dog fish are normally not a factor making fishing with herring a more pleasant experience than it is during the summer months.

Chinook trolling speeds for the San Juan Islands are always harder to explain because of the intense tidal flow. The 2.5 mph that I normally recommend will hardly ever be the minimum. In the middle part of most tides in the San Juan Islands, you have to increase your speed so that your boat is moving faster than the tide is flowing. In other words, don't be trolling backwards! Keep your forward momentum slightly faster than the tide is moving. Many times that means trolling speeds that are far in excess of 3.0 miles an hour. That's just the way it is. The number one mistake while fishing for Chinook during a hard running tide is by failing to compensate by letting out the proper amount of downrigger cable. You must let out additional cable as your trolling speed increases. Don't make the classic mistake of getting lazy when you are cold, wet and tired. Your here to win a Derby: keep your speed up let more downrigger cable out. You must be fishing within five feet of the bottom to be effectively fishing for Chinook in the San Juan Islands.

Many days when you are fishing the San Juan Islands, you must throw out all the conventional wisdom there is for downrigger trolling for Chinook. At peak tide, the downrigger cable will be at a severe angle and you will be trolling



Anglers limited to 1 salmon per day in Admiralty Inlet Area 9

OLYMPIA - Starting Monday (Feb. 10), anglers will be limited to one salmon per day in Marine Area 9, the portion of Puget Sound stretching from Edmonds to Port Townsend.

State fishery managers approved the new limit - down from two salmon per day - to try to stay within the chinook guideline for the area.

"We've counted more fish so far this season than were counted at the same point in previous years," said Ryan Lothrop, a fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). "After reviewing the catch estimates, it was clear we needed to take action to control the fishery's impacts on stocks of concern."

faster than you are comfortable with.

I want to wrap up some of the points that I made: being at the right spot during the right tide has everything to do with everything when you are fishing in the San Juan Islands. Smaller spoons and smaller bait is the key to successful Chinook fishing in the Islands. Trolling speeds are key, so that you stay in position while trolling for Chinook. These three points are integral to successful Chinook fishing in the San Juan Islands. Leave one of these key points out, plan on a long day of fishing.

Hopefully, I have given you some good advice for fishing the March Salmon Derbies. I plan on seeing you in the winner circle. Good luck fishing!

New Video by John Martinis and Rob Endsley

Rob Endsley and I made this video on rigging spoons by installing squid on the hooks. Take a look at this video, this is a cool rigging trick that is highly effective. [Click Here for Video](#)

Big Fish Thursday

Every Thursday John's Sporting Goods has a picture contest where you can get: Flashers, Hats and T-Shirts for submitting for your current fish picture. We give out five prizes every week for the first five fish pictures that are sent to: customerservice@johnssportinggoods.com

Of course there are always some rules: Rules: You must be in the picture! Only good quality pictures. Make sure the

person in the photo includes their first and last name and the location of their catch! The pictures will be posted on John's Sporting Goods Facebook.

Friday Deal of the Day

John's Sporting Goods has "Deal of the Day" every Friday. The deals that we offer are pertinent for the season and the deals are rock-bottom offers. This is your chance to purchase the Deal of the Day cheaper than you find the products anywhere. That's a promise! The Deal of the Day can be found on the [John's Sporting Goods](#) web site and on the [John's Sporting Goods Facebook](#).

Outdoor Line 710AM ESPN Radio

The Outdoor Line is the original Seattle outdoor radio show and can be heard every Saturday from 6:00 to 8:00 a.m. on 710 ESPN Seattle. Hosts Tom Nelson and Rob Endsley combine listener calls with a variety of fishing and hunting experts and political activists to keep Pacific Northwest anglers, hunters, and outdoorsman abreast of new techniques, upcoming seasons, and conservation news.

John Martinis is on the Outdoor Line with Tom and Rob the first Saturday of every month.



Chinook Seminar March 19th, 2014 By John Martinis

“High Percentage Chinook Fishing”

John Martinis will be presenting his very popular Chinook 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 Chinook Angler.

The Everett Stealhead and Salmon Club will have a raffle for a Scotty Downrigger, at the conclusion of this seminar.

**March 19th @ 7:00 PM
Chinook Seminar at
Bayside Marine
1111 Craftsman Way
Everett, WA 98201**

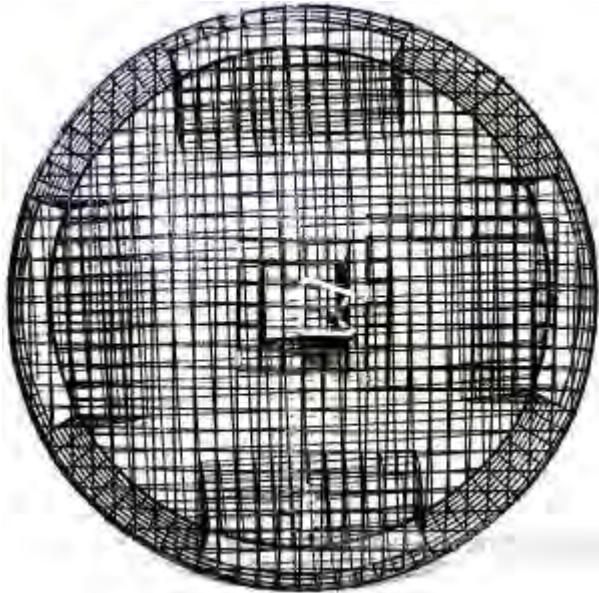


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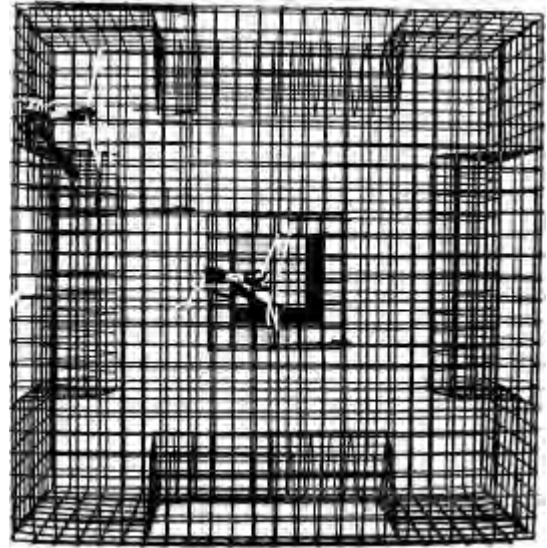
Tackle For The Serious Angler

Shrimp Pot Sale March 1-30

Must have this Sale Flyer with you to get these prices



SMI 19001 Sale Price \$66.50
John's #1 Selling Shrimp Pot
Reg. Price \$89.50



Ladner Style Shrimp Pot
Medium Size \$79
Large Size \$89
Reg. Price \$89-\$119



SMI 19022 Sale Price \$99.00
Shrimp Pot, 400ft Leaded Rope,
Yellow Buoy
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In Store Pick Up Only on These Sale Prices

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Not valid for online purchases or mail order

Valid only with coupon at the time of sale
Expires March 30, 2014

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

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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.

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**John's Sporting Goods
Facebook**

Thursday: Big Fish Day

Friday: Deal of the Day

**Scotty Downrigger Deal
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**Installed with
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#1148 Ball hook
#371 Scotty Snubber
\$525**

**Standard Scotty 1106
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