

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

April 2014

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The 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 710AM 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.

Halibut Seminar

By John Martinis
April 17, 2014 @6:30PM
At the Everett Steelhead & Salmon Club Meeting
2411 Hewitt Ave, Everett WA 98201

New Video

by John Martinis
"How To Catch Halibut"

Donations

Donations Made to the Everett Lion Club Blind Derby and to the Jennings Park Kids Fishing Derby.

Thanks to all of you for your generous donations. Your donations make it possible to give out cash prizes to the Blind people who will participate in the Everett Lions Club Blind Derby in September. 100% of the money that you donated is given out as cash prizes. On March 26th I presented the Everett Lions Club with \$3090.00 for their annual and Blind Fishing Derby.

As of today I have a little over \$1000.00 raised for the Jennings Park Kids Fishing Derby. 100% of this money will be used to purchase Rainbow Trout for this derby.

Jennings Park Kids

Fishing Derby
Saturday May 3rd - 8-11AM
Free-Ages 2-12
Tackle and Bait Provided

The Marysville Kiwanis Club, Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club, John's Sporting Goods and Marysville Parks and Recreation is sponsoring our 20th Annual free Fishing Derby. Children may bring their own equipment or use the equipment that is provided. A limit of one fish per entrant will be enforced. Door prizes and grand prizes are determined by a random drawing of all participants. The Kiwanis Club will also be sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast from 8:00 am to 11:00 am in the pavilion. The cost for the breakfast is \$3 a plate for kids and \$5 for adults. All participants are asked to bring a canned food item to be donated to the Marysville Community Food Bank. Please leave pets at home.

Spot Shrimp Time

Three new Spot Shrimp Maps
2014 Spot Shrimp Seasons

Quiz: What shrimping area in Puget Sound puts out the most shrimp per angler? Answer: Elliot Bay.

What shrimping area stayed open 7 days a week most of the summer last year? Answer: Area 7 West.

What shrimping area will be given 6,000 additional pounds of Spot Shrimp to the recreational anglers for the 2014 Spot Shrimp Season? Answer: Area 6.



New Puget Sound Salmon Seasons 2013-2014

Area 6:

July 1-Aug. 15

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: Check the WDFW website for changes

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:

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.

Area 8-2:

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.

Catching Spot Shrimp

I feel that every year that I participate in gathering Spot Shrimp, I get better and more productive at catching these delicious little creatures. Last year, I discovered that there was a better way to deal with the cat food and Mackerel when I was baiting my shrimp pots. In the past, I would poke holes in the cans and rely on the seawater to flow through the cans to release the scent from the Mackerel and cat food. During the 2013 Spot Shrimp season I completely removed the lids from the canned cat food and the canned Mackerel. I believe this method was better because it was releasing more scent immediately into the water. I tried this on several shrimping trips and it seemed to make a noticeable difference. This is just a slight tweak in the [shrimp bait formula](#) that I usually recommend. Give it a try and see if it makes a difference when you go out on May 3 to gather Spot Shrimp.

Don't Lose Your Shrimp Pots

During the Spot Shrimp season, I get many reports of shrimp pots that go missing. Most often the culprit is blamed on someone else who has stolen the victims shrimp pot. I would suspect that often this is true, but equally as often the shrimp pot has simply drifted off to deeper water and the shrimp pot buoys have submerged. This should be and can be prevented easily.

Take a look at what Spot Shrimp habitat looks like: Spot Shrimp habitat is in 250 to 350 feet of water and the terrain is very steep. In this type of habitat only a well weighted Spot Shrimp trap will remain seated on that steep slope.

There are three ways to rig your Spot Shrimp trap so that they do not drift off and consequently you lose \$250 worth of shrimping gear.

1) You must add enough weight to your shrimp pot so that the total weight of the pot is at least 30 pounds. At John's Sporting Goods we had lead weights made so that the weights fit in the bait container of some of the SMI shrimp pots. We also have steel bars the can be attached to the pots.

2) The same as #1, except that you attach a 1.5 pound anchor tethered to a 10 foot line attached to the bottom of the shrimp pot. This application is only applicable to shrimping in Areas 6 & 7. Whenever I go shrimping in Areas 6 and 7, I always use an anchor.

3) If you are using a mesh covered pot, I would recommend attaching the additional weight to the shrimp pot line, approximately 10 feet up from the shrimp pot. You can attach the lead weight to a halibut snap and attach the halibut snap to the shrimp pot line.

There is another side benefit to attaching additional weight to your shrimp pots: The steadier the shrimp pot remains, the more productive it will be. If the shrimp pot is moving around because the rope is pulling on the shrimp pot, shrimp will either not enter your shrimp pot or the shrimp that are in the pot will leave.

Now that we have discussed keeping the shrimp pot secured to the bottom, we have to take a closer look at the other end of the rope. If all things were equal and the water current never changed, one could easily predict exactly how much flotation would be needed to float 400 feet of leaded rope with water current creating drag on the shrimp pot line. Some of the more extreme tides of the year start occurring around the time that the Spot Shrimp season starts. There is more tidal flow in Central Puget Sound than there is in Hood Canal. There is extremely more tidal flow in the Straits of Juan de Fuca and in the San Juan Islands than there is in Central Puget Sound. My point is this: rig your Spot Shrimp pots so



Area 9:

Check the WDFW website for changes

Jan. 16-Apr. Release wild CHINOOK. Season may close earlier if CHINOOK guideline is attained. **Only one chinook. Limit is different than in reg book.**

Area 10:

Closed

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that they can endure the most extreme conditions. If you do, you will not lose your gear.

There is only one way that I can recommend rigging the buoys that float the shrimp pot line. You need at least one inflatable buoy and two 6"X14" buoys. In most cases this buoy set-up will float your shrimp pot. I would highly recommend that you test the buoys to make sure that they float your shrimp pot. Take a look at this [diagram for rigging a Spot Shrimp Trap](#). Take a look at this [video for rigging a Spot Shrimp Pot](#).

Shrimp Pots

What is the ideal Spot Shrimp pot? I always try to keep in mind that the limit on Spot Shrimp is only 80 shrimp per person per day. With that in mind, I feel that it is a tug-of-war between durability and ability. I use the [SMI 19001 Round shrimp pot](#). I can easily catch a limit shrimp with this pot. The SMI round shrimp pot is made of wire mesh and it is quite durable. This is a shrimp pot that will probably last forever. If you want a shrimp pot that is made for sheer production, I would recommend the [Kufa 150 Ladner style shrimp pot](#). The Kufa 150 Ladner Style Pot is a mesh covered pot. They are also bulkier and a little tougher to maneuver over the gunwale of the boat. As you can see, there are trade-offs between the two different styles of shrimp pots. Once again, the limit is only 80 Spot Shrimp.

Drop Your Shrimp Pot

What are you looking for when you are ready to drop your shrimp pots? If you have a high-powered fish finder, Spot Shrimp will appear as clouds hovered over the bottom. Drop your shrimp pots into these clouds of Spot Shrimp. If you have an average fish finder, then you have to rely on your hunting and gathering

skills. If you have four shrimp pots aboard, I would recommend setting one pot in 225 feet of water, one pot in 250 feet of water, one pot in 300 feet of water and one pot in 350 feet of water. After the first pull of all four pots, you can determine which depth is the best depth to set the shrimp pots on your second round of setting the pots. I would normally only let the pots soak for approximately one hour before retrieving them.

I wish that dropping a shrimp pot would be as easy as setting it in a pre-described depth from year-to-year. Not that easy. The ideal depth for catching Spot Shrimp can vary as much as 50 feet from season to season.

Where to Go

In the Central part of Puget Sound there are many good places to catch Spot Shrimp. Then there are some areas that are much more productive than others. I would rate these areas as the top Spot Shrimp areas in central Puget Sound: [Hat Island](#) near Everett, in front of the [Boeing Pier in Mukilteo \(New Map\)](#), [Browns Bay](#) near Edmonds and [Elliot Bay](#) near Seattle. [New Map Edmonds Point Wells](#).

Fishing and Shrimping Map Library:
[Shrimping Maps](#).

Harvesting Spot Shrimp is very similar to salmon fishing. You have to get out of your comfort zone and discover new territory for shrimping. If you choose not to do so, you are going to be very limited to a short Puget Sound Spot Shrimp season. There are plenty of opportunities to go shrimping every day of the week. Say what? Yes, every day of the week.

Areas 6, which is open every day of the week, can be easily reached by launching a boat at either Deception Pass (Cornet Bay) or at Fort Casey on



Whidbey Island. Both [Partridge Bank](#) and [Eastern Bank](#) are incredible places together Spot Shrimp. The only limiting factor is the tides. At either place, I recommend a tide that has less than 6 feet of tidal flow. I also recommend setting your shrimp pots at either location when the tide is coming in. If you want to be more precise, you can do all your shrimping during the last two hours of the incoming tide.

After the Puget Sound Spot Shrimp season is over, I would recommend mixing up your shrimping days between Area 6 and Area 7. I think most people will agree with me that the area off of Iceberg Point on the southern end of Lopez Island, is the most productive Spot Shrimp area in Washington State. The plan looks like this: harvest Spot Shrimp off of Iceberg Point on the days that it is open and then go to Area 6 on the other days.

Area 7 West, is another Spot Shrimp area that has a very generous season. After the initial published days that Area 7 West is open, it will most likely be open 5-7 days a week for harvesting Spot Shrimp. [Area 7 West Spot Shrimp Map/ Waldron Island Shrimp Map \(New Map\)](#). During the 2013 spot shrimp season, Area 7 West was open seven days a week for the entire summer.

As you can see, there is an enormous amount of opportunity for harvesting Spot Shrimp if you're willing to take advantage of all the places that are open. Get out of your comfort zone and harvest Spot Shrimp all Spring and Summer.

[How to Rig a Shrimp Pot Video](#)
by John Martinis

Shrimp Bait Supplies

Items needed

Friskies Ocean White Fish w/ Tuna
canned cat food
Bumble Bee canned Mackerel
Super Bait Prawn Bait pellets or
Copper River Prawn Pellets
Pro Cure Shrimp Attractant Oil or
Copper River Prawn Oil
6" bait barrel
[Shrimp Bait Formula](#)

Spot Shrimp Seasons

These Dates and Times Can Change

[Marine Area 6](#)

Port Angeles Harbor, Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca
Scheduled to open May 3, 2014.

[Marine Area 7](#)

South - Iceberg Point, Point Colville, Biz Point, Salmon Bank
Scheduled to open on May 3, May 7-10, May 21-24 and May 28-31, 2014.

[Marine Area 7](#)

East - northern Rosario Strait, Bellingham Bay, Sucia and Matia Islands, Strait of Georgia
Scheduled to open on May 3, May 7-10, May 21-24 and May 28-31, 2014.

[Marine Area 7](#)

West - San Juan Channel, Spieden Channel, Stuart and Waldron Islands
Scheduled to open on May 3, May 7-10, May 21-24 and May 28-31, 2014.
On June 1 scheduled to be open either five or seven days per week until spot shrimp quota is taken or September 15, whichever comes first.

[Marine Area 8-1](#)

8-1 Deception Pass
Scheduled to open May 3 and 7, 2014, with 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. fishing hours.

[Marine Area 8-2](#)

8-2 Port Susan, Port Gardner, Everett
Scheduled to open May 3 and 7, 2014, with 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. fishing hours

[Marine Area 9](#)

Port Townsend Bay, Admiralty Inlet
Scheduled to open May 3, and possibly May 7, 2014, with 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. fishing hours.

[Marine Area 10](#)

Elliott Bay, Seattle/Bremerton
Scheduled to open May 3 and 7, 2014, with 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. fishing hours.

[Marine Area 12](#)

Hood Canal
Scheduled to open May 3, 7, 10 and 21, 2014, with 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. fishing hours.

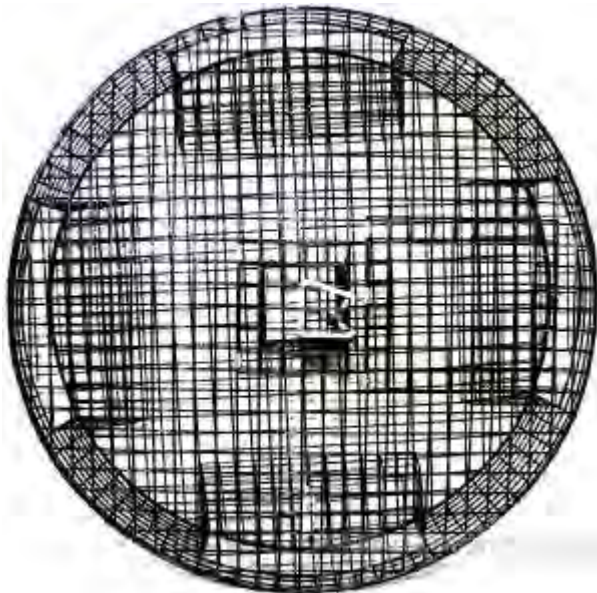
[WDFW Shrimp Seasons and Area Maps](#)

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Halibut Fishing

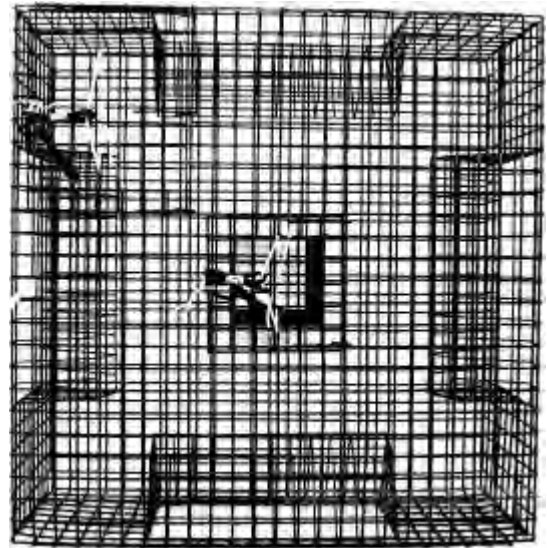
Special Purchase

Shrimp Pots For The Serious Angler

Shrimp Pot Sale April 1-30



SMI 19001 Sale Price \$69.50
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
Reg. Price \$125.40

In Store Pick Up Only These Sale Prices

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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 April 30, 2014

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

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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

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