

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

June 2014

Fishing Dates

**Puget Sound Halibut
Last Days
May 29-31, June 7**

**Tulalip Bubble
Opens May 30**

**Skykomish River
Hatchery Steelhead
Hatchery Chinook
Opens June 1**

**Skagit River
Sockeye
Opens June 14**

**Lake Washington Trout
Derby June 14**

**Puget Sound Crab
Opens July 3**

**Puget Sound Ling Cod
Last Day June 15**

**Area 10 Salmon
Catch and release
Opens June 1**

**Baker Lake Sockeye
Opens July 10
3 Sockeye Limit**

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shop.johnssportinggoods.com**

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Crab Seminar By John Martinis Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club June 19th , 7PM

I will be having a Crab Seminar on June 19, at the Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club. I will cover rigging crab pots, the most effective bait and good places to crab in Puget Sound and in the San Juan Islands. I will also address cooking crab. **Directions:** Everett Firemen's Hall, 2411 Hewitt Ave., Everett, WA 98201. You are invited to the seminar and it is free to the public.

We will have a drawing at the end of the Seminar for 12 complete crab pot set-ups

Dungeness Crab Opens in Puget Sound July 3

Crabbing unlike shrimping, a person can get into this sport for a relatively modest

investment. A complete Crab trap with a hundred feet of rope, a buoy, a crab trap harness and a crab measure is only \$39.95. Considering that you can have two crab pots per person, a complete set-up for two people is only \$160. Now all you need is some bait and you're ready to go.

Crab Pot Criteria

If you have never gone crabbing before for Dungeness crab, shopping for a crab trap will make you dizzy. They come in all sizes, shapes and a wide price range. Let me simplify things. We can easily eliminate a good deal of the crab pots that are available for sale. A Crab pot that is designed so that crab can easily enter the pot needs an entrance door 9-10 inches wide. If the pot you're looking at does not fit that criteria, scratch it off the list. Any crab pot with less than a 9-10 inch entrance door will be too difficult for large male Dungeness crab to figure out how to get in the pot. If you think about it, the crab that you are trying to catch are the larger male crab. The larger crab need a larger/wider entrance door so they can easily maneuver themselves into the crab pot. You don't want to make it difficult for the crab to get into your crab pot and get his free meal.

There are basically two types of entrances that are built in to most crab pots. Crab pots with entrances at the ground level and crab pots that have a ramp leading to the door. Most of the crab pots in the \$20 range are the pots with entrances at the ground level. The better quality crab traps are built with ramps that the crab climb up on their way to the entrance door. Ramp style crab pots cost: \$79-\$89 and more.

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Let's explore the pros and cons of the two different types of crab pots. The crab pots with entrance doors at the ground level are the easiest for the crab to figure out how to get into the trap. There is a downside to ease of entrance. The doors on these pots are lightweight and they open up with a small amount of current. In other words, the crab can come and go as they wish. The only thing that really keeps the crab in the crab pot, is good bait.

The ramp style pots are designed so that once a crab enters the pot it is very difficult for the crab to figure out how to exit the pot. The only downside to this type of pot is that you need to soak your crab pot for a longer period of time before you check the pot for legal size male Dungeness crab. Even though this style of pot is more expensive, they are built to last a considerable amount of time.

Ramp Style Crab Pots:

[SMI 19035](#)

[Danielson CTO3R](#)

Ground Entrance Crab Pots:

[SMI 19019](#)

[Danielson FTC](#)

John's Sporting Goods Crab Pot Kit

Complete \$39.95

[FTCC](#)

Dungeness Crab Bait

Unfortunately, there are no canned goods at the grocery store that you can take the top off and use it for crab bait. That would be way too easy. However, there's plenty of bait at the grocery store that will work. The two top choices are chicken and turkey legs. I prefer the chicken, many other people prefer turkey legs because they are tougher and they last longer. If you

have a friendly butcher at the grocery store that you frequent, ask him or her to save you fish parts. Many stores no longer file fish at the store level. I do know that some QFC stores still process salmon in the meat department. I usually like to use fish parts combined with chicken for Dungeness crab bait. The chicken is tougher than the fish so your bait will last longer than if you were exclusively using fish parts. If you want to supercharge the bait, I recommend soaking the bait overnight in [Procure Crab and Shrimp Bait Oil](#).

This will add additional scent to more effectively draw Dungeness crab into your crab pot. Remember, your crab pot is competing with all the other crab pots in the area. So, your crab pot bait needs to have an edge to draw large male crab into your crab pot.

At John Sporting Goods we have [Ace of Baits Crab Cakes](#) for bait. These crab cakes are a deadly combination to mix with your other crab pot bait. The handy thing about these crab cakes is that they are vacuum packed and ready to use at a moment's notice.

There are many types of crab bait boxes to put into your Dungeness crab pot. Let's get one thing out of the way right away: do not use the round wire mesh bait boxes for crab bait. The round wire mesh containers do not allow the crab to feast on the bait. It is very important that the crab are allowed to access the bait because that sends food particles out into the water column and then attracting other crab over to your crab pot. A common type of crab trap bait box, is a rectangular wire mesh container. These work quite well.

Placing the bait container into the crab pot in a strategic position is very important. I like to hang the bait box from the inside top of the pot. A bait

pin works quite well for securing the bait box. The bait box will hang down at a sufficient level so that the crab cannot feed on the bait from the outside of the pot. You can also attach the bait box to the inside bottom center of the crab pot.

Try not to be cheap when baiting your crab trap. The more bait that you have in your crab pot, the more scent will be going out to attract large male Dungeness crab. Stuff your crab trap bait box to the top with good bait.

Crabbing Depths

Not too long ago, it was believed that the best depth to catch Dungeness crab was between 30 and 50 feet of water. That belief is long gone! Common crabbing depths can be between 30 and 50 feet of water, but in recent years it has become common to set crab pots in 50 to 150 feet of water. Many people who crab believe that the larger Dungeness crab are in deeper water. One of the advantages to setting crab pots in depths that are greater than 100 feet of water are; there is less competition between crab pots because fewer people set crab pots at those depths. I would highly recommend adding an extra 100 feet of rope to your existing crab pot rope. This will give you more flexibility and greater ranges to crab in. I think once you try this, you will wonder why you had not done this a long time ago.

[Crabbing Supplies](#)

[Crabbing Maps](#)

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More Shrimping for Spot Shrimp Extended Seasons in Area 6 and 7

Don't put those Spot Prawn traps away quite yet, there is plenty more shrimping days ahead. Area 6 is open for Spot Shrimp until further notice. That's right, not only is Area 6 open, it is open every day of the week. That's almost too good to be true.

When I mention shrimping in Area 6, most people think that it is out of range for their equipment. You can easily launch your boat at Fort Casey State Park or Deception Pass State Park and be at the shrimping grounds in approximately 30 minutes. The area that I usually send people to shrimp in Area 6, is to [Eastern Bank](#).

Area 6: Open Daily, (Excluding the Discovery Bay Shrimp District)

Area 7 West Extended Shrimping Dates: On June 1, 2014, scheduled to be open seven days per week until spot shrimp quota is taken or September 15, whichever comes first.

[Area 7 West Spot Shrimp Map](#)

Before you start gassing up your boat to head out to Area 6 and 7, let me lay down some criteria that will make your shrimping more successful in these areas. First of all, I only shrimp in these two areas when there is less than 6 feet of tidal movement. Any more than 6 feet of tidal movement causes the shrimp hunker down, making the shrimping a real challenge. Take a look at your tide book before heading out, because it will be the difference between an OK

day of shrimping and a very successful shrimping trip.

I also like to attach a 1.5 pound anchor for shrimping anywhere in Area 6 and Area 7. Attach a 10 foot length of rope with the anchor on one end and a carabiner on the other end. Attach the carabiner to the bottom of your shrimp pot. In almost all circumstances this will keep your shrimp pot in one place.

American Lake Kokanee

American Lake has been on my bucket list for places to fish for Kokanee. A couple of weeks ago I finally made it on a hot sunny day. Pretty rare for Western Washington this time year. My expectations for a bright sunny day, was to find a good Kokanee bite at daylight and the fishing to be over with by 7 AM just like it is in Lake Stevens. Much to my surprise, there was a somewhat early morning bite. I thought at first, that this is not going to be very exciting Kokanee fishing. Then, the bite just continued to dribble on until we quit at noon. We continued to pick off a Kokanee or a Rainbow Trout about every 20 minutes. The Kokanee averaged 15 to 16 inches and the Rainbows were your garden-variety planted Rainbow Trout.

Even though there were huge schools of Kokanee between 30 to 45 feet, we got most of our fish at 20 feet deep. Every time we tried chasing the large schools of Kokanee that we saw on the fishfinder, no banana. We had to go back to 20 feet to draw strikes from Kokanee.

We tried a couple of different combinations of Dick Nite Dodgers and/or squid or spinners. The best rig

seemed to be the [Wonder Bread Dick Nite Dodger](#) with a small [Pink Goldstar Squid](#) 10 inches behind the dodger. A close second, was the Wonder Bread Dick Nite dodger with a small glow spinner with glow beads that we built. Both rigs were tied with a double #6 Gamakatsu red hooks. It is very important to tie the hooks at least 1 inch apart. If you don't, the fish will come unhooked as they approach the boat. Any of you who regularly fish Kokanee, know how hard it is to keep these fish hooked up. A long trailing hook seems to be the secret.

Put a Pautzke Red Fire Corn on each hook. Soak the corn overnight in Garlic oil. Believe me, this works. You have to see it to believe it!

We launched our boat at the public WDFW boat launch on the south side of the lake. From the boat launch it is a very short distance to the best fishing spot. It was recommended to me by a customer, to fish on the north side of the island that is in the middle of the lake. We found that this spot was the best place to catch Kokanee in American Lake. The best fishing depths were between 64-80 feet.

Last time I fished Lake Chelan I only put my Kokanee rig 10 feet behind the downrigger in that ultra-clear water. That worked quite well. In American Lake I found the best distance behind the downrigger to be 75-100 feet. We really didn't draw many strikes until we started lengthening our line out behind the downrigger.

Add American Lake to your bucket list, you will be happy that you did when you come home with a five fish limit of 2 pound Kokanee. I'll be returning soon.

[Directions and other American Lake Information.](#)

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Tulalip Bubble Chinook Opens May 30

The only place in Northern Puget Sound that you can fish with two rods and keep wild or hatchery chinook, Opens May 30

I'm not sure if the two rod regulation for the Tulalip Terminal Area Fishery is a cruel hoax or a regulation that has some practical application. In either case, I'll take it. My goodness, you need every rod possible to catch a fish in the Bubble. However, it's the only place we have the option to retain either hatchery or wild Chinook in the north part of Puget Sound. So that's what we have and that's what we get until the rest of Puget Sound opens on July 16 for retaining hatchery Chinook.

Area 10 is open June 1-30 for catch and release in a selected area. Area 11 is open for hatchery Chinook retention June 1-December 31, in selected areas.

I actually should treat the Tulalip Terminal Area fishery with a little more respect. There are some nice Chinook that are taken out of the Bubble every season. You have to fish long hard hours to catch a Chinook in the Bubble, that's okay because it's the only game in town out of the Everett boat launch.

Tulalip Bubble update: I spoke to a customer named Bill today who caught over 20 Chinook out of the Bubble last year. Bill said the best fishing was an incoming tide in the evening. There you go.

The Bubble is a good warm-up for the main event that starts in Area 9 on July 16.

Friday Deal of the Day

Every Friday we have Friday Deal of the Day at John's Sporting Goods, where I pick a product out that is very appropriate for the season and discount that product to a level where I'm fairly confident that you will not find a better deal anywhere. Those of you who shop Deal of the Day, will agree that the deals are a great bargain. The Deal of the Day is announced Thursday evening on the John Sporting Goods website and on the John Sporting Goods Facebook. This is a good way to save some money on your favorite past time and passion.....Fishing!

Big Fish Thursday

I have given away hundreds of hats, T-shirts, decals and flashers to those of you who send your pictures in to Big Fish Thursday. Every Thursday I announce Big Fish Thursday on the John Sporting Goods website and the John Sporting Goods Facebook. Send your pictures to: customerservice@johnssportinggoods.com

Lake Washington Trout Derby June 14, 2014

[More Information](#)

Skagit River Sockeye Opens June 14

The immensely popular Skagit River Sockeye salmon fishery opens on June 14. Take a look on page 25 of the Sports Fishing Rules Pamphlet for all the details on where you can fish legally. The fishing should be good right from opening day.

This is got to be one of the simplest and easiest fish catch in a river. Most salmon in the rivers are difficult to catch but not Sockeye!

The rig you need is fairly inexpensive: you need some 2/0 hooks, 4oz pyramid sinkers, #4 Pink Spin n Glows and a spreader. With a handful those items you can go to the Skagit River and fish for Sockeye for less than \$25. Take a look at this diagram to see the rig: [Plunking Rig](#).

Attach a sand shrimp or some cured shrimp on to the hook. You can do this by pulling the bait loop out of the eye of the hook and wrapping the leader around the shrimp or by securing the shrimp on the hook with miracle thread. In either case is very important to have bait on the hook at all times.

You can lob this plunking rig out into the river so that it lands in 2 to 3 feet of water. These fish travel fairly close to shore so you don't have to fish very far out into the river. So make sure that you are not casting past the fish.

The last time the river was open two years ago the best fishing was near the soccer fields in Burlington. There will be plenty of people there to learn from if you have not done this before. Good luck and good fishing!!!!!!

Special Purchase

Tackle For The Serious Angler

Crab Gear Sale



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



Kershaw 7" Fillet Knife 1257X
Sale Price \$12.95
Reg. Price \$19.95



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



SMI 19019 Folding Crab Pot
Sale Price \$14.95
Reg. Price \$22.00

Prices Good Through June 30th - in Store Purchases Only

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20% Discount on your next in store purchase

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Not valid for online purchases or mail order

Valid only with coupon at the time of sale

Expires June 30, 2014

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

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Coupons and discounted gift certificates cannot be used for this service

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Thursday: Big Fish Day

Friday: Deal of the Day

**Scotty Downrigger Deal
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John's Sporting Goods**

**Scotty 1106
Guide Series**

**Installed with
300ft 200lb Braided Spectra
#1148 Ball hook
#371 Scotty Snubber
\$525**

**Standard Scotty 1106
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