

# Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

April 2015

## Fishing Dates

### Halibut Fishing Dates

Areas 6,7,9,10

May 8,9,15,16,

21,22,23,24,28,29,30

Area 6

Dec. 1-April 10

Daily limit two

Chinook, hatchery only

Area 7

Closed for Salmon

Area 8-1

Nov 1-April 30

Daily limit two

Chinook, hatchery only

Area 8-2

Nov 1-April 30

Daily limit two

Chinook, hatchery only

Area 9

Jan. 16-April 15

Daily limit two

Chinook, hatchery only

Area 10

Closed for Salmon

Shop Online at

John's Sporting Goods

[shop.johnsportinggoods.com](http://shop.johnsportinggoods.com)

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## Halibut Seminar

By John Martinis

7:00pm

At the Everett Salmon

& Steelhead Club

General Meeting

Thursday, April 16, 7pm – 9pm

2411 Hewitt Ave,

Everett WA 98201

Open to all members and non-members. You are Invited

## 2015 Ways to Make a Difference

Jennings Park  
Kids Fishing Derby  
May 2015

Everett Lions Club  
Derby for the Blind  
September 2015

This is the time of year to contribute to two great events: The Jennings Park Kids Fishing Derby and the Everett

Lions Club Derby for the Blind.

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

I have been involved in the Blind Derby for many years. 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.

Including my matching money (2014), we raised \$3000 for the Blind Derby and \$1,500 for the Jennings Park Kids Fishing Derby. Thank you for your donations!

## Eleven Days of Halibut Fishing 2015 Puget Sound Halibut Seasons

**Marine Area 5:** The season opens May 15 to the 16th; Thursday through Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, May 21 to the 24th and May 29 to the 30th.

**Marine Areas 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10:** The season opens May 8 to the 9th; May 15 and 16; Thursday through Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, May 21 through May 24; and May 28 through May 30.

**Marine Areas 11, 12, 13:** These areas will remain closed to halibut fishing to protect threatened and endangered rockfish species.

# Just Fishing



Many of us plan work schedules around our fishing calendar. That's called having priorities appropriately arranged. I personally like the way the halibut season is organized over a longer period of time. That offers us a better chance to arrange time off from work and plan around seasonal weather changes. As you know, just because there are 11 days of halibut fishing, there can always be the chance that Mother Nature might close some of those fishing days with a good dose of gusty winds.

If you want to get involved in halibut fishing but don't have a large enough boat for the Straits of Juan de Fuca or the Pacific Ocean, Puget Sound still has a lot to offer. If you plan to launch anywhere from the Everett to Shilshole Marina in Seattle, your boat can easily make it to Mutiny Bay or Admiralty Bay. The distance to Mutiny Bay from the Everett Marina is about 15 miles. If you plan to launch from the Edmonds Marina it is probably 10 miles. Anyway, you can be on a good halibut spot in about 30 minutes from the dock. If you're trying to figure a closer, faster way to Mutiny Bay, there truly isn't a good alternative. However, there is a boat launch on Whidbey Island at Possession Point. This will save you a little time but then there's the expense of taking the Mukilteo ferry to Whidbey Island.

If you want to be closer to the halibut action, I would drive to Fort Casey on Whidbey Island. There is a decent boat launch next to the Keystone ferry terminal. Launching your boat from this site, you can be "hally" fishing in 5 or 10 minutes at Admiralty Bay. Also, you can launch a boat from this site and cruise out into the Straits of Juan de Fuca.

A good thing about halibut fishing in

Puget Sound, there isn't a particularly good time to fish. The amount halibut you catch in Puget Sound is directly related to the amount of time you spend on the water fishing. There's just no better substitute for catching halibut other than grinding out the hours on the water. I have caught just as many halibut when the tide is running hard as opposed to high or low water slack. If I had a perfect time to catch halibut in Puget Sound I would certainly share it with you. There's only one magic number that I know of that works; 8 hours of fishing. If you think that 8 hours of fishing is like watching the grass grow, keep in mind that you might catch a halibut only once in three fishing trips. That might sound like pretty slow fishing, however when you do hook-up, you are going to have one that might go 20 to 50 pounds maybe even larger. Now that's worth waiting for!

## **Rigging for halibut fishing is fairly straightforward.**

The basics you will need are:

Spreader Bar

50 - 80 pound Leader

10/0 Gamakatsu Hooks

50 pound Swivels or larger

Miracle Thread

Chum Bag

PLine 7" White UV Squid

7" or 9" Herring or Sardines

1 pound or 2 pound rectangular Rock Cod weights

A Penn 113H or Shimano Tekota 700 Reel filled with 65 pound

Braided Line

A Fishing rod capable of handling at least a pound of weight

Gaff Hook

Halibut Spear

Here is how my halibut tackle is rigged: on the end of the main braided line I tie a barrel swivel. To the other end of the barrel swivel, I have a 24" piece of 50 pound monofilament line.

At the end of this monofilament line I have a snap swivel to which I can attach to the spreader bar. The monofilament line attached to the main line is for abrasion resistance when the spreader bar is bumping along the bottom. If you don't include the monofilament, sometime during the day, the spreader bar will drop off the end of the braided main line.

I like to tie my halibut leaders with 10/0 Gamakatsu hooks on 50 or 60 pound monofilament leader material. Space the hooks far enough apart so that when you put the front hook through the head of the herring or sardine the trailing hook will be near the tail of the bait. Once you have the hooks tied on the leader, cut the leader to 24 inches. You don't want the leader too long since it will get tangled with the fishing the line when dropping the rig to the bottom.

Once the leader is tied, slip a #8 Corky or something similar down the leader to act as a stopper bead. The #8 Corky will keep the squid from slipping over the hooks. Once the Corky is slid down the leader, slip the 7" PLine squid down the leader. Substitute colors of squid are: Glow, Green/Glow or White. Next, tie the leader to the long arm of the spreader bar.

To conserve bait, the herring or sardines should be tied to the hooks. To do this, wrap "Miracle Thread" from the tail of the bait to the head. Don't worry about the appearance of the bait once you have it tied to the leader hooks. Having the bait tied to the leader hooks will prevent losing the bait when a halibut decides to grab your herring or squid. The "Miracle Thread" trick will not prevent other creatures such as Rock Sole or dogfish from nibbling the bait. You might think that dogfish would be the worst culprit as a bait stealer. However, the Rock Sole can occasionally drive you

# Just Fishing



crazy when fishing Mutiny Bay.

Once you have the rig ready to go, let it go to the bottom and crank back so that the weight is about six inches from the bottom. If there is a little wave action while fishing, it helps to have the weight bump the bottom every so often. This bumping sends vibrations into the water column and gives out signals to hungry halibut to come over to your bait. That's how the theory goes. It works well, so give it a try.

If you are planning on anchoring your boat, safety is the first rule. The recommended length of rope for anchoring is three times the depth. For effective boat anchoring you should have a length of chain on the end of your anchor that is equal or greater than the length of the boat. The chain is an integral part of staying anchored.

If you choose the anchoring method you have the opportunity to put out a chum bag to attract halibut to your bait. The chum bag can include: Salmon parts, shrimp bait, octopus, squid, bait oil, mackerel, sardines and the list goes on. You don't need all the chum items listed, but you get the idea. The ideal chum bag is a small laundry bag with a zipper top. Once the chum bag is loaded with bait, zip the top shut and attach it to a downrigger ball with a tie strap. It is best to use two tie straps when attaching a chum bag to downrigger ball. Now put the chum bag on the bottom using your downrigger and bring it up so that it is about a foot from the bottom. This allows the scent from the chum bag to be broadcast more efficiently in the current.

When I am anchoring for halibut, I like to use a 2 pound weight on my spreader bar so that the rig goes right to the bottom.

If you choose to drift for halibut, no need for a chum bag. This method gives you a chance to cover a larger stretch of territory. When anchoring for halibut you wait for the fish to swim to your boat to discover your rig. Drifting for halibut is quite the opposite. The idea of drifting for halibut is to cover a large area of bottom so you bring your bait to the fish.

When a halibut takes your rig while anchoring or drifting don't go too crazy! Be patient. Let the fish devour the bait. Dip your rod so that the bait slides right down its throat. A halibut taking your bait is not going anywhere until it is finished. Be patient. When the rod starts taking some deep bends, it is time set the hook. Raise the rod rapidly one time, reel fast and reel hard until you get a deep bend in the fishing rod. Fish-on! This is a different experience from reeling in a salmon. If it is a good sized fish the rod will be thumping around at about the same as your heart rate. This is what makes fishing for halibut fun and exciting.

It is not over yet. The fun is only half over when you get it to the surface. If the fish is less than 50 pounds, you can net or gaff the fish. Over 50 pounds, you better have a spear so you don't risk losing the fish. I have had first-hand experience trying to net a large halibut only to have it swim straight through the net. With only 11 days of fishing available you hate to lose a fish you waited all year to catch. I've been there. Not a fun experience! Be prepared with all the tools necessary to land any size halibut. I have good quality halibut spears in the store that only cost \$30-\$40. I have fished with some very experienced halibut anglers that gaff all their halibut. They do this with precision and make it look easy. The difference is they do it all the time. For me, I have the spear handy for all

my halibut fishing trips.

## Halibut Fishing Videos by John Martinis

[Fishing for Halibut](#)

[Rigging for Halibut](#)

## Ling Cod Fishing Check List

### Jigging

[2 - 4 ounce jig heads](#)  
[4"- 6" Twin Tail Scampi Herring Strips](#)

### Live Bait

[Crappie Rig Hooks for catching Rock Sole bait](#)  
[30 pound leader material](#)  
[6/0 Gamakatsu Circle Hook](#)  
[6/0 Gamakatsu Octopus Hook](#)  
[3 to 6 ounce weights](#)

John's Sporting Goods stocks custom tied Ling Cod Live Bait Rigs. They are tied with one Gamakatsu 6/0 Black Circle Hook and one 6/0 Black Gamakatsu Octopus hook on 30 pound leader material.

The ideal fishing rod for Ling Cod fishing with jigs or live bait is a 7 foot medium heavy one piece rod. I recommend the Shimano Triton 100 or the Shimano Tekota 300 Fishing reels. Each reel holds 300 yards of 30 pound braided line.



## Spot Shrimp Check List

SMI 19001 Round Shrimp Pot  
SMI 19027 Octagon Shrimp Pot  
Kufa CT-150 Shrimp Pot  
Shrimp Pot Harness  
400 - 450 feet/Leaded/Line/Pot  
Shrimp pots should weigh 30 pounds  
Shrimp Bait Pellets  
Ace of Baits shrimp oil  
Canned Mackerel  
Friskies Ocean Whitefish and Tuna  
cat food  
Multiple Yellow Buoys  
Stainless Ovals

John Sporting Goods has custom-made shrimp pot weights that fit in the bait container of most SMI shrimp pots. This is a great way to attach weight to the shrimp pot without going through a lot of rigging.

New to the SMI product line is a heavy duty stainless steel shrimp pot harness. These new shrimp pot harnesses run about \$20. If you're tired of gear rusting from being exposed to saltwater, buy one of these new harnesses.

## Painting Spoons to Perfection

Do you ever wonder what fishing tackle store owners do when there are no customers in the store? Most of the time I have plenty of maintenance and bookkeeping to do. However, on one Saturday afternoon I needed a Kingfisher 2.0 spoon in a color pattern that Goldstar doesn't make. I wanted the color pattern Green/Spatter/UV with a red stripe. I had been having quite a bit of success with the same color in the 3.5 Kingfisher spoon.

Anne took a 3.5 spoon to Bartell's and found a flame colored finger nail polish to match the stripe/color on the 3.5 spoon. Well that didn't quite work so well. Back to Bartell's to get some white undercoat so that the red stripe would stand out once painted onto the spoon surface.

I masked the spoon off so that I could paint a thin narrow red stripe onto the spoon. First I applied the white undercoat. After the white undercoat dried, I painted over the white undercoat with the flame red. This worked great. After the fingernail polish dried, I sprayed the surface of the spoon with a UV paint spray. The UV spray is called UV Blast.

This is a much safer thing to do than walking down a dock on a dark morning! The worst thing that can happen is that you might get some nail polish on you. Explain that to your wife?

## Jennings Park Kids Fishing Derby

Saturday, May 2, 8-11AM  
Jennings Park 6915 Armar Rd,  
Marysville, WA 98270

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. The Kiwanis Club will sponsor a Pancake Breakfast from 8-11 a.m. in the pavilion. Breakfast is \$3 a plate for kids and \$5 for adults. Participants are asked to bring a canned food item to be donated to the Marysville Community

Food Bank. Please leave pets at home. This event is free to the public.

**Directions to Jennings Park**  
[Click Here](#)

**Call Marysville Parks for more information: 360-363-8400**

## Helpful Videos

[Filleting Halibut Video](#)

[Filleting Lingcod Video](#)

[Cleaning and Cooking Spot Shrimp Video](#)

## WDFW Halibut Link

**Complete Halibut fishing dates for the entire state**  
[Click Here](#)

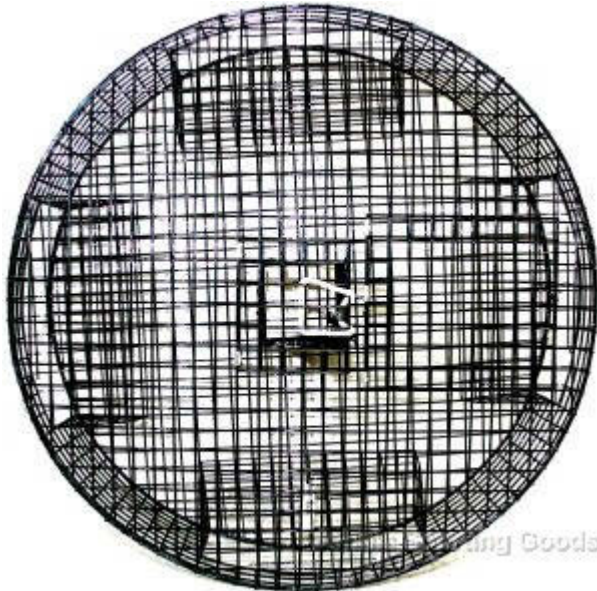
**April Razor  
Clam Digs**  
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# Special Purchase

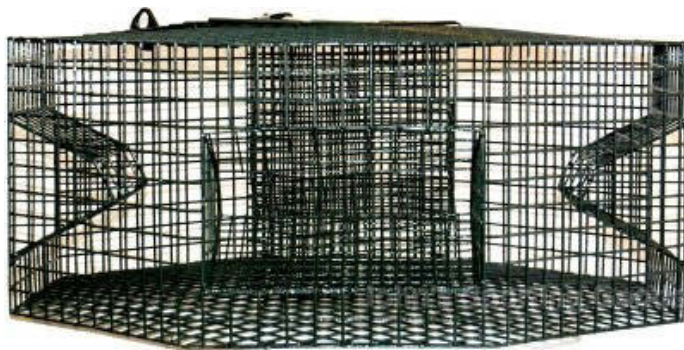
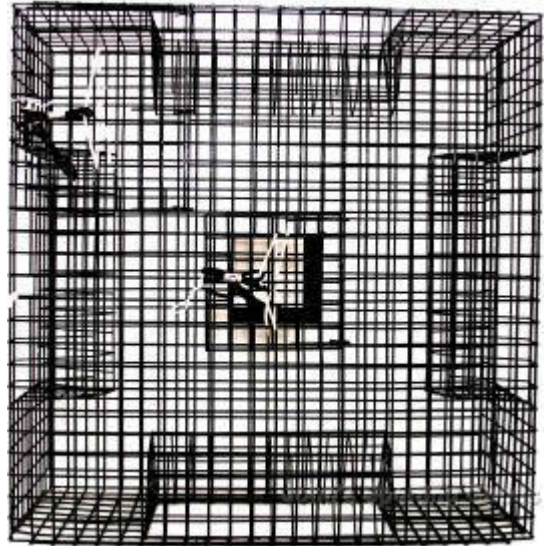
Tackle For The Serious Angler

## Shrimp Pot Sale April 1-30

Shrimp Pot Rigging Video: [Click Here](#)



**SMI 19001 Sale Price \$69.50**  
**John's #1 Selling Shrimp Pot**  
Reg. Price \$89.50



**SMI 19027 Sale Price \$79.50**  
**McKay Style Pot**  
Reg. Price \$99.50



**SMI 19022 Sale Price \$99.00**  
**Shrimp Pot, 400ft Leaded Rope,**  
**Yellow Buoy**  
Reg. Price \$125.40

No Coupons or Discount Gift Certificates can be Used on these On-Sale Items

## 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 Products, Traxtech Products, Rods and Reels, Electronics, CTO3R Crab Pot, SMI Crab Pots & Shrimp Pots, Braided Line, items that are discounted, on sale, repairs, parts and closeout items. Cannot be used in combination with discounted gift certificates.

**10% Discount**

**Rods and Reels**

Excludes G-Loomis, St Croix, Daiwa Electric Reels

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**Scotty Downrigger**  
**Maintenance**  
**300ft Cable**  
**or**  
**300ft Spectra Braid**  
**\$55**

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**  
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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**

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Store Hours: 9:00AM - 5:30PM Monday - Saturday  
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**John's Sporting Goods**  
**Fishing Tackle**  
**for**  
**The Serious Angler**