

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

January 2015

Salmon Derbies

**Everett Blackmouth
Derby
Saturday March 14**

**Anacortes Salmon
Derby
March 21-22**

Both Derbies: Tickets
Available at
John's Sporting Goods

**Area 7
Dec 1-April 30
Daily limit two
Chinook, hatchery only**

**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**

**Shop Online at
John's Sporting Goods
shop.johnsportinggoods.com**

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Seminars 2015

By John Martinis
Chinook Seminar
Wednesday March 11th
at Bayside Marine @7PM

**San Juan's Chinook Fishing
Seminar at Master Marine
Mt Vernon March 14th**

**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!

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

Increasing Your Odds for Chinook in Area 7

Area 7, San Juan's always brings out the best salmon angler in all of us. You have to be tactical and you have to make good decisions before you even leave the dock. You cannot leave anything up for chance or dumb luck. Every day when you leave the dock, you must have your best game plan in effect for that day.

One aspect of fishing the San Juan's that I really enjoy; every tide brings with it, its own set of circumstances. The tactical part of fishing the San Juan's is

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being in position on different stages of each tide. It is like a mystery unfolding every hour of every tide. So much different than fishing Puget Sound for Chinook. Every rock and every point in the San Juan's can hold bait. The questions are; where and what time, don't try to figure out the why because it will drive you crazy.

Here is the given: we know where to fish on different tides and we know how to fish these spots. I will pick a few Chinook hot-spots for January and try to unlock some of the secrets so that you can effectively fish in Area 7 and be in the ball game right from the beginning.

Let's get one thing out of the way before we begin this discussion; you can't just show up and fish the San Juan's and be effective. It just won't happen! Puget Sound, yes sometimes. San Juan's mostly never.

I never go to the San Juan's to fish before consulting my tide book. If the tides are not right, I just don't go. I like a minimum of six feet of tidal exchange before I consider a trip to the Islands. All the spots that I fish and recommend depend on a healthy flow of tidal exchange in order for those spots to hold bait. Good fishing depends on tidal flow so that the bait gets pushed up into the corners and into the back-eddys. Tidal flow makes good fishing, without it, the fishing will be sub-par or non-existent.

Early in the season, I would strongly consider fishing Parker Reef on the north end of Orcas Island. This area is best fished when the tide is coming in. Start by trolling on the east side of [Parker Reef](#) and near Orcas Island. Take a look at the map that is linked. You notice that the reef has a slightly south to north direction. Look at the pockets in the reef. These pockets

hold bait and Chinook. Watch how the bait moves up and down the east side of the reef with different intensities of the tide. When the water runs hard on a big tide the bait will move in closer to the Island. As the water slows down the bait will move out to the northern reaches of the reef. Once again, find the bait and don't move very far away from it.

If you are just getting acquainted with the San Juan Islands, I would recommend fishing [Lopez Flats](#). [Lopez Flats](#) can be described as the area between Bird Rocks and James Island. The bottom in this area has a nice even structure to it. In other words, you're not dodging rocks and other obstructions that can cause havoc with a downrigger ball. This is also one of the most consistently productive salmon fishing areas in the San Juan Islands. I would start trolling this area in 90-120 feet of water. Continue trolling in a northerly direction until you get close to James Island. At that time, turn back to the South and troll back to the area in which you started. If you are not catching salmon on your original trolling path, change up your depth as you change directions. A good suggestion would be; troll in one direction 90ft-120ft deep. In the opposite direction troll 120ft-150ft deep. The whole purpose of changing up the depths is to locate baitfish. Once you've located baitfish, fish in that general vicinity and set your downriggers to the same depth where you located the bait. This advice seems like a no-brainer, however many anglers get distracted and don't stay focused on the fundamentals of salmon fishing. If you do not stay focused on the fundamentals of fishing you greatly reduce your chances of boating salmon when the bite comes on.

If you're not finding Chinook at Lopez Flats, slip through the passage between James Island and Decatur Island. On the northern side of this passageway, is what locals call Decatur Bay. This is a good place to fish for Chinook on either the incoming tide or the outgoing tide. Troll this area from James Island to Fauntleroy Point. In this area you will be trolling a good solid 90 feet deep. Keep this area on your radar screen because you will want to fish this area in the upcoming [Anacortes Salmon Derby](#). It is not uncommon for Chinook in the high teens and low 20s to be caught here from January until the end of the winter Chinook season.

If you have been fishing in the San Juan Islands during the winter months and have caught some Chinook, you noticed when cleaning your fish, the baitfish can be anywhere from 3 to 5 inches. Most often the baitfish are 3 inches. When the baitfish are small reduce your gear size so that the spoons or squid that you are fishing with mimic the size of the baitfish. This will make an enormous difference in your success ratio.

Goldstar makes a whole range of spoon sizes that you need to have when fishing in the San Juan Islands. You would pick the same colors that we use in Puget Sound: [3.0 Kingfisher](#), [White Lightning](#), [Cookies and Cream](#) and [Red Racer](#). I would highly recommend replacing the hooks on these spoons. When you change out the hooks, I recommend that you increase the size of the hooks to one size larger than the hook that comes with the spoon. You can either use; Mustad stainless steel siwash hooks or you can use the new Gamakatsu Big River siwash hooks. The Gamakatsu Big River siwash hooks are now available in barbless. Fish these spoons 42-60 inches behind a Gibbs

Just Fishing



Red Racer Flasher or a Gibbs Purple Haze Flasher.

A good alternative to the Goldstar Kingfisher spoons are the Goldstar Coho Killer spoons. About half the time the Chinook in the San Juan Islands will be stuffed with 2 to 3 inch needlefish. There's a pretty good chance that you will notice when Chinook are gorged with needlefish because they will be coughing them up when you are putting your catch in the fish box. When I notice that Chinook are feeding on needlefish I go right to the White Lightning Coho Killer spoon. Fish these spoons 42-60 inches behind a Gibbs Red Racer Flasher or a Gibbs Purple Haze Flasher.

I have not tried the Goldstar [Ace Hi Fly Needlefish](#) for Chinook, but I know some very good salmon anglers who fish the San Juan Islands and they do quite well with this rig. The most popular color in the Ace Hi Fly Needlefish is [UV Purple Spatter](#). Fish these Needlefish 42 inches behind a Gibbs Red Racer Flasher or a Gibbs Purple Haze Flasher.

Leaded Rope for Shrimp Pot 1/4" Best Value

I used 1/4" leaded rope for the first time last spot shrimp season. 1/4" rope is so much nicer to handle than the usual 5/16" leaded rope.

Here is what I found: 1/4 inch leaded rope coils easier and stays in tighter loops than 5/16" and it is much easier to handle. 1/4 inch take up less space than 5/16. It would seem that 1/16 of an inch would not make that much difference, but it does. Your Ace Line Hauler and Scotty Pot Puller will

handle 1/4 inch rope with no problem at all.

Here is the best part: You can purchase 600 feet of leaded rope for less money than you can purchase a 400 foot spool of 5/16 leaded rope. Price comparison: 600ft 1/4 inch leaded rope \$45. A 400 foot spool of 5/16 leaded rope is \$55. A 600ft spool of 5/16 leaded rope is \$75.50. You can see what a significant savings 1/4 inch leaded rope is. In January, I will have the 1/4" leaded rope on sale for \$38.

Daiwa Electric Reels Tanacom Reels

John's Sporting Goods now stocks both the [Daiwa Tanacom 750](#) and the [Tanacom Bull 750](#). Both reels hold plenty of backing with lots of extra room for 65lb or 80lb braided line.

I used the Tanacom Bull 750 in Sitka last year for halibut while fishing in 450 feet of water. The reels did an outstanding job of retrieving the line at a reasonable rate and tackling halibut that were bumping up against 100 pounds. On full drag with a halibut on, the reel would pull the fishing rod right to the gunwale of the boat. In other words, the reel was much more powerful than the person holding the fishing rod. There was very little drag slippage when handling a big fish. You would expect the reel to slow down while cranking on a large halibut. Not so! The reel will continue to move forward even with a large fish on. The Tanacom Bull 750 is geared perfectly for reeling in large halibut and other large fish.

Delicious Fish Marinade By Anne Martinis

Use 2-3 lbs. of tuna, halibut or salmon. Other type of fish may be fine but we have only tried these three for this recipe.

Cut fish into 1" wide finger lengths

Marinate in Kona Coast Paradise Pineapple Teriyaki – 30 minutes

(You can find this at Safeway or Freddie's – it's like \$4.95 on sale per bottle. I use about half the 15oz bottle per dinner)

Fry fast on Medium high heat in 1 t. Oil – takes only about 2-3 minutes per side.

John and I love this as it gives us a Hawaiian flair to our usual fish dinner. Angler Ted Measer gave us this Marinade tip.
Enjoy





Rigging Scotty Downrigger Stops Are you tired of the stops sliding?

The Achilles heel of Scotty Downriggers is the not so elegant stopping system. There are a couple of ways that you can improve on the stopping system so that it works quite well.

Most people have lost a downrigger ball because the Scotty Stopper Beads slid down the downrigger braid/cable and the downrigger did not stop. Here is the solution.

Solution #1: This is the way that I rigged my own Scotty 2106 Downriggers. Let me preface this by saying this works only with braided line. I installed Cortland 200lb braided line on my 2106's.

Step #1: Slide three #8 glass beads onto the braided line.

Step #2: Tie a 15ft chunk of 250lb braid to the 200lb braid with a Uni to Uni Knot

Step #3: Glue the knot with Super Glue

Step #4: Tie a swivel to the end of the 250lb braid.

The three #8 beads will act as the stopper beads. They cannot slide down the line past the Uni Knot. Using this method for stopper beads will eliminate the possibility of the beads sliding down the line.

Solution #2: Use the [Scotty Sure Stop #374](#)

Step #1: Tie the Scotty Sure Stop to the end of the braided line if you have braid. If you don't have braid, using crimping sleeves to attach the Scotty Sure Stop to the end of the steel cable.

January 1 Time to Clean out the Tackle Box

Have you taken a close look at your tackle box lately? Rusty hooks, spoons with half the paint missing, squids that have turned brown and all those impulse purchases that never panned out? Well, it's time to clean out the box and make room for the things that actually catch salmon. Time to take inventory before all the big Salmon Derbies get here.

Here are the basics:

Most Important "New Hooks":

Mustad Siwash Stainless Hooks 3/0, 4/0, 5/0

Gamakatsu Big River Siwash Hooks 3/0, 40, 5/0

Pre-Tied Squid Leaders

Fresh 30lb Fluorocarbon Leader

Sampo X3CB Snap Swivels

Downrigger terminal end repair kit

Extra downrigger release

Gibbs UV Flashers

Kingfisher Spoons:

White Lightening

Cookies n Cream

Red Racer

Coho Killer Spoons:

Same colors as above

Goldstar Squid:

OG142R Green/Glow

OG12R Purple Haze

Ace High Fly Needlefish:

Purple Haze UV

Purple Spatter UV

Tomic Plugs 4"-5" 602, 603

Pink Salmon Tackle:

11" White Flasher

2.0 or 2.5 Pink Squid

Herring Oil

If you have the above items you will have most of the tackle that you need for a whole salmon season. These

items are the essentials. You might have some favorite colors that you are successful with. Freshen up that tackle box!

Area 9 Re-Opens For Chinook January 16

OK, it's time to get serious about Chinook fishing in Puget Sound

Yahoo Area 9 is opening on January 16. Now we can get serious about Chinook fishing again. Area 8-1 and Area 8-2 are nice to have open when Area 9 is closed, but it's not the same. Area 9 is so rich with good Chinook fishing Areas, it makes the hunt more exciting. The really big advantage of Area 9 being open: it is not affected so much by flooding rivers and muddy, brown colored water. Yuck!

Here is what I think; When Area 9 opens the good Chinook fishing is going to be in the western half of 9. The high river water moves the bait and salmon to the west.

The good Chinook fishing is going to be at Pilot Point, Point no Point, Useless Bay, Mutiny Bay and Mid Channel Bank.

Here is your planner:

Incoming tide: Pilot Point, Useless Bay, Mutiny Bay

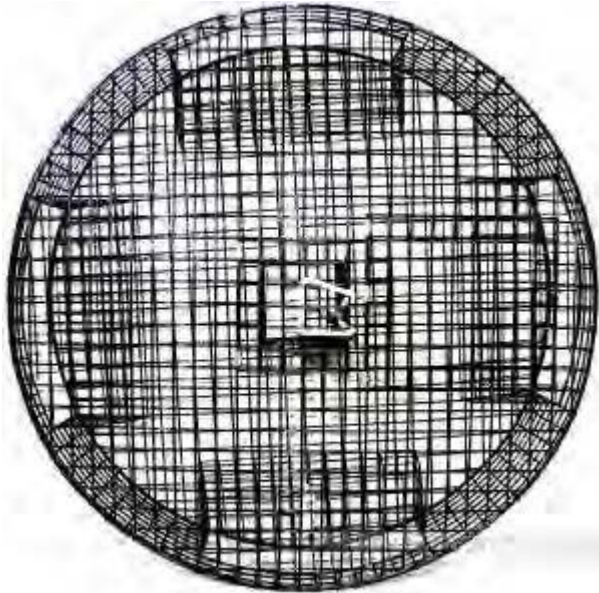
Outgoing Tide: Point no Point, Mid Channel Bank

Special Purchase

Tackle For The Serious Angler

Shrimp Pot Sale January 1-30

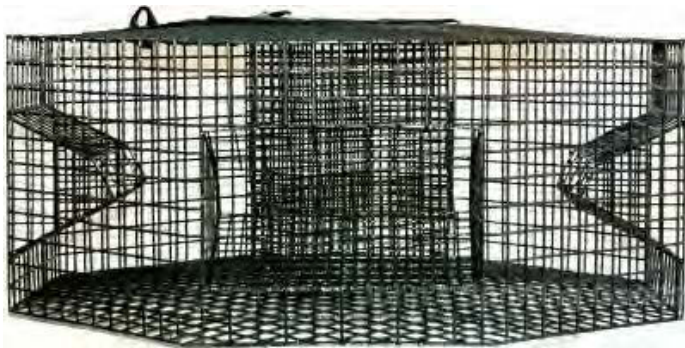
Shrimp Pot Rigging Video: [Click Here](#)



SMI 19001 Sale Price \$72.00
John's #1 Selling Shrimp Pot
Reg. Price \$89.50



1/4" Leaded Rope Sale Price \$38
600ft Leaded Rope
Reg. Price \$48



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



SMI 5lb Shrimp Pot Weight
Price \$11
Reg. price \$17.95

These prices Cannot be used in combination with Coupons

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

On Shrimp Pots, Rods and Reels

Excludes G-Loomis, St Croix, Daiwa Electric Reels

Not valid for online purchases or mail order

Valid only with coupon at the time of sale

Expires January 30, 2015

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

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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
Facebook

Thursday: Big Fish Day

Friday: Fishbuster Friday

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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