

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

April 2016

Fishing Dates These Seasons and Limits May Change

Halibut
Areas 6,7,8,9,10
May 7
May 12,13,14
May 26,27,29

Ling Cod
Areas 6,7,8,9,10
May 1-June 15

Area 6
Salmon: Closed

Area 7
Salmon: Closed

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
January 16-April 15
Chinook, daily limit
two, hatchery only

Area 10
Closed for Chinook
until further notice

STANWOOD EAGLES BLACKMOUTH DERBY

Saturday and Sunday - April 9th & 10th

The Stanwood Eagle Blackmouth Derby is open to the public in Areas 8-1 and 8-2 with an entry fee of \$50 per person. Everyone in the boat needs to be entered. First place prize is 45% of the total entry fees. Get your tickets at John's Sporting Goods. For more information, call Ed Keller 425-308-9437.

Halibut Clinic April 21

By John Martinis

You are invited to my Halibut Clinic. I will discuss all the methods new and old that I talk about in this Newsletter. Please join me at the Everett Salmon and Steelhead Club on April 21, @7PM. The Halibut clinic is free to the public. [Click Here for Directions](#)

HOOKED ON HALIBUT

I want to start the Halibut round-up early because I am completely addicted to Halibut fishing.

Here are the Halibut Seasons for Areas 5 through 10.

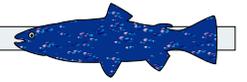
Western Region (Marine Area 5): Open Saturday, May 7; Thursday through Saturday, May 12 - 14; and Thursday through Sunday May 26 - 29.

Eastern Region (Marine Areas 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10) (Marine Areas 11 - 13 are closed): Open Saturday, May 7; Thursday through Saturday, May 12 - 14; and Thursday through Sunday May 26 - 29.

I caught my first 2016 Halibut on March 22 on the Canadian Side of Coyote Bank. This year I am planning a Halibut trip to Sitka, Queen Charlotte Islands and Washington State. I am addicted to these big flatfish! What drives my passion for a fish that has both eyes on the same side of the head? Halibut are an exciting fish to catch. A Halibut bite at the end of a fishing line could deliver a 12-pound fish or a chance for a possible 100-pound giant.

I caught three Halibut since January 1st. Two were caught while salmon fishing and released and a 45-pound Halibut was caught in Canada which I retained. The first Halibut was approximately 40 pounds and caught on a Coho Killer Spoon. I caught the next Halibut a week later on a 5-inch Herring. Both were caught on Partridge Bank while salmon fishing. The next Halibut was caught on March 22nd on a 9-inch white plastic squid with a salmon belly on the hook. Do you see a trend developing? Well, there is none. These three Halibut were caught on entirely different types and sizes baits. Two were caught trolling and one caught while anchored. They were

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all caught using a downrigger. That's right, downrigger fishing for Halibut.

During the 2015 Halibut season and the 2016 Halibut year, I caught more Halibut using a downrigger than using 1 to 2 pounds of lead on the end of a fishing line. There is still a requirement to fish both methods and I will explain that as we go.

Let's first address being anchored and Halibut fishing with a downrigger. For myself, I just got tired of using a 2-pound weight on the end of my line when the tide was running hard. My thought was: I already have a chum bag out and attached to my downrigger ball. Why not just attach a downrigger release one foot above the downrigger ball and fish for Halibut like I would for salmon? The only real difference is that I now am anchored rather than trolling. That makes a lot of sense to me. I tried this on Hein Bank last year and caught most my Halibut using the downrigger method.

Let me explain the Halibut downrigger fishing method: Assuming you are using 65 pound braided fishing line, tie a 100-pound test barrel swivel to the end of the 65 pound braided fishing line.

Tie a Halibut leader using 60 to 80-pound leader material and two 10/0 Gamakatsu Hooks. Tie the hooks to accommodate a 7 to 8-inch herring and make the leader 4 feet in length.

Leader tying tip; I have been installing a small chunk of glow rubber tubing between the two 10/0 Gamakatsu hooks so that my leaders have more

resistance to dog fish teeth. [See photo, Click Here](#)

Slide a corky or large bead down the leader as a squid insert. In place of the corky or large bead I often use fat yarn. The yarn is used to absorb the herring oil that I apply. Tie the fat yarn just above the eye of the upper hook.

Slide a 7 to 9-inch white squid down the leader. The squid can also be slid down the leader upside down. If you slide the squid down upside down, do not use a corky or bead. Just tie the fat yarn above the eye of the hook. Now tie the leader to the 100-pound test swivel. [See Photo, Click Here](#)

Anytime I am using a 7 to 9-inch plastic squid, I always use a 7 to 8-inch herring or a piece of salmon belly for bait. Either bait is tied to the leader with miracle thread. Don't skimp on the thread. Tie the bait on so it will not come off the leader under any circumstances.

Let the fishing line out 25 feet behind the downrigger. Attach the fishing line to a downrigger release. Let the downrigger ball down until it touches bottom and then crank the ball up 6 inches.

When you are fishing for Halibut with a downrigger, don't expect to see a strike that rips the fishing line out of the downrigger release. No, no, no. The bite/strike will feel look like this: a simple bobbing motion of the fish rod tip or maybe the line will come out of the release as if the line released on its own. Wise Advice: Let the line become tight then strike hard! Many times the bigger Halibut will inhale

the whole bait and just hang on the end of the line. Keep a sharp eye on the rod tip.

Fishing off a downrigger might seem to be the answer for Halibut fishing. Not so fast. This method works well so long as water current is moving quickly. Once the water slows down this method does not work at all. That's right. When the current slows down, fishing lines attached to the downriggers have a tendency to get tangled.

When the water slows down, I switch back to using 1 to 2 pound weights. I will go back to fishing off downriggers as soon as the water changes direction and velocity picks up.

Using weights and spreader bars

There are two excellent methods for Halibut rigging: spreader bars or Slydo.

Spreader Bar: Tie leaders using 60 to 80-pound leader material and two Gamakatsu 10/0 Hooks (same as above). Make the leaders 24 inches long and install squid as I previously stated. Tie the leader to the long arm of the spreader bar. Use salmon belly or herring for bait. Use rectangular 16 to 32 ounce weights. These rectangular weights do not roll around in the boat and are more convenient to use.

Slydo Method: A Slydo is nothing more than a plastic tube with a snap attached. The snap is for attaching the weight. Slide the Slydo on the main line. Tie a 100-pound test barrel

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swivel to the end of the line. Use the same plastic squid and leader I mentioned earlier but make the leader 24 to 30 inches long. Tie the leader to the 100-pound test barrel swivel. Put the bait on the hooks. This method is really simple!

If you are using a spreader bar or Slydo for Halibut, you might be anchored or you might be drifting. In either case, let the weight down to the bottom and gently swim the bait. If you get tired of holding the rod with 2 pounds of weight on the end of the line, put the rod in the rod holder for a while. If the rod has been in the rod holder for a 15 minutes, take the rod out and swim the bait. Often Halibut might come near the bait but will not bite if it looks dead. Once you jig the bait a nearby Halibut will jump at the chance at getting a live snack only to find out that he is now a tasty meal for you!

Capturing your catch

Be prepared to capture a large halibut if the opportunity comes your way. Most Halibut in the 12 to 30-pound range can be easily taken with a salmon net. Halibut in the 30 to 60-pound class can be gaffed. Halibut 60 pounds or larger need to be speared if you don't want to take a chance of losing a great catch. In a nutshell: Be prepared for everything.

Netting: Simply lead a Halibut to the net much the way you do for salmon

Gaffing: Gaffing a Halibut can be a little tricky. Sink the gaff into the head of the Halibut and bring the fish on board all in one motion. Do not gaff

the fish and hold it outside the boat to get a better look. If you do, kiss the fish goodbye. Once gaffed, Halibut twist and struggle with such strength that you can't hold onto the gaff or the fish will slip off of the gaff. These fish simply are too wild to handle.

Spearing: Spearing is the ultimate way to capture a Halibut. Once speared, it is highly unlikely that you will lose the fish. Rig the spear with 20 to 25 feet of 1/8-inch nylon cord and tie the cord to a cleat. Spear the Halibut mid-body. No Halibut meat will go wasted regardless of where you spear the fish. Don't try to spear the Halibut in the head which is like stone and the spear tip might not go all the way through the fish.

It is not necessary to tie the 1/8-inch nylon cord to a buoy. Spear the Halibut and get back to fishing as soon as possible because the bite is on if you just caught a halibut. Use your fishing time wisely, because the season is only eight days long. If you jack-ass around your next Halibut could be next year.

Halibut Gear Lists

100-pound Barrel Swivels
White Squid
White Squid all rigged
10/0 Gamakatsu Hooks
10/0 Hooks on 80-pound leader
Spreader bars
16-32 ounce Rectangular Weights
Slydos

Halibut Rods and Reels

Shakespeare Rod BWC A/O 2202
113H Penn Reel
Shimano Tekota Reel 700
Penn Squall 30LW Reel

Daiwa Rod Seagate SGT60XHR-RS
Shimano Trevala Rod TVC-60H
Penn Rod RamJG80130C58

Line

65lb Braided Line Power
Pro/Daiwa/Tuff Line

If you purchase reels from John's Sporting Goods or we are shipping reels to you, why not let us put backing and braided line on your reel. If you purchase the line from us, there is no charge to expertly put the line on your reel. If we install the line, it will never dig into itself and will not spin around the spool of the reel. We are one of a few fishing tackle shops that do this correctly. Do not risk letting that big fish get away!

Halibut Maps

Mutiny Bay
Admiralty Bay
Partridge Bank
Eastern Bank
Hein Bank

Kids Fishing Events

May 7, 2016
Kids Fishing Derby
8AM-11AM
Jennings Park, Marysville
Free to the Public

Silver Lake Kids Fish-In
7:30AM-3PM
Thornton A. Sullivan Park
at Silver Lake, Everett

Kids Fishing Event
8AM-2PM
Twin lakes County Park
North Gissberg Park
Smokey Point, Arlington



Technique That Matters

By Zack McGlothern

Zak is a very successful fishing guide that shops at John's Sporting Goods. Unlock the secrets of Kokanee Fishing and book a trip now with Zak.

[Click Here to go to Zak's website](#)

Every year I find the Kokanee season begins earlier for me. This last year we began chasing Kokanee in December with great success on several eastern Washington Lakes. But the arrival of April means one thing, Kokanee season is here in full swing. Lakes like Chelan and Roosevelt have been pumping out healthy Kokanee for months but soon my local Lakes such as Lake Stevens, Roesiger, Samish, Cavanaugh, and American will begin to warm into the Kokanee's preferred comfort range. Most Kokanee anglers spend the winter months preparing for this time, and the time is coming soon. But how do some anglers constantly produce limits of big Kokanee day after day? Or any fish for that matter. How are they so consistent when there is nothing consistent about Kokanee fishing? Today I am going to share with you 5 tips that have made me a better angler, for any species.

Organization and Cleanliness: I know I am like many anglers, way too much fishing gear and it's all crammed into one tackle bag/box. Keeping your gear clean and organized will help with clutter. But also will put more fish in

the boat. How many times have you found that lucky spinner in the bilge because it didn't get put away? Or your hoochies are stuck together and formed a UV infused glue in your tackle box? With a near constant influx of new gear into my collection, it has to find a spot. For my lures I use every day I install them on pool noodles. Most of these are 16" long and can hold enough gear to cover many of the Koke's moods. I have one for my Spinners, Squids, and Flies. It is easily accessible and when I remove my gear it doesn't get set on the table it gets put back on the roll, ready to fish again. This also allows my gear to dry and helps prevent rust. I also carry several tackle boxes for dodgers and gear that hasn't been tested or just simply doesn't have my confidence. All leaders are ready to go and wrapped with a twist tie just in case the need arises and back up soldiers need to hit the battle field. Everything in my boat also has a place. This keeps things off the floor and out of the way. At the end of the fishing day the gear, rods, and boat is washed and everything is put in its proper place for the next day. This allows me to not worry about fishing the next day, and not where I put my lucky set up or where my pliers went to. I also have my boat totally ready to go the night before I go fishing. That way I am not forgetting anything at home the next day, like the net.... An organized fisherman is a successful fisherman.

Pre-plan and acquire intel: Sometimes fishing can be intimidating. Especially when fishing new water or new locations. But lucky for many anglers we have the internet which allows us to connect with a

network of anglers and information. Before I fish a new spot or new body of water I will dig up any piece of information I can find. I will talk to my buddies and fellow guides who fish that water. Then I will establish a game plan. This will include where I am going to fish, depths, gear, scents, speed, and the times of day or tides that fishing can be productive. Having this already set in your mind will prepare you for a successful day on the water.

Find fish: All too often I hear of anglers have less than great days on the water, all because they fished one spot all day because it has produced fish before. I find myself guilty of this as well. Most successful fishermen are fishing with some kind of high end electronics with sonar. If you are not, get one. This not only allows you see water depths but you can also see your target in the water column. Now whether I am looking for bait to find Chinook, or looking for suspended Kokanee, my eyes are glued to my fish finder. If I fish a spot I know holds fish for 30 minutes and I don't find them. I move. There is no point in trying to catch fish that aren't there. Yes, you may hit a fish once in a while but you are fishing blind if you are not marking fish. A properly tuned sonar will always mark fish if they are there. Once I do find fish I will refer to my GPS and try to stay on them as long as possible. If you find a school of fish turn around and go back thru them. If they don't want to bite change gear and try again. Targeting the depth the fish are at is also of the utmost importance. I always try to run my downrigger 5 feet above the fish. Fish where the fish are, catch more fish. It's simple.

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Change Gear and Re-scent/Rebait:

Most fishermen have a pretty extensive collection of fishing tackle. I know I have more than I will ever use in my lifetime. But what good is all that tackle if you drag the same thing around all day with no success? You have that tackle for a reason so use it! Many times while fishing I have found fish and had to change gear multiple times in order to get them to bite. Changing colors, profiles or action. Sometimes even a subtle change can trigger a full on bite. Another error I have often seen (yes I am guilty too) is fishermen dragging around their gear for an hour or so without rebaiting or re-scenting. Yes, I know it can be a pain pulling your gear up and setting it back out. All too often it seems like the downrigger comes up and a school shows up on the sonar. But scent is a very important part of most fisheries. So having fresh scent is very important as well! Changing scents can also trigger non-willing fish to bite as well. Also, Kokanee are very fast. Most can have your bait stripped off your hook before you know they are there and gone. Trolling around without bait is going to make it hard to catch fish. Change gear and scent for non-willing fish, keep your bait and scent fresh. Got it? Good. Next!

Record Success: You just spent a week planning your fishing trip. You had to grind on the water to find fish and get them to react. In the end, fish were caught and a pattern was established. But what good is all that work if you don't remember what you did? Keeping record of what happened and really help with pre-planning trips and continuing success on the water. I keep a fishing journal of every day I

fish. I include things such as location, weather, depth, gear, scents, speed, and how productive I was. All of this information leads to more consistent fishing no matter where I am fishing. Over several years I have been able to establish patterns on several bodies of water that I fish and this allows me to be a high percentage fishermen (most of the time). Keep a record of what works, and what doesn't, and you will become a better angler.

In short, having a clean and organized boat will allow you to maximize your time on the water. Have a game plan before hitting the water and maybe even a backup plan. Use your sonar to find fish and if you aren't having success, then move! Keep your bait and scent fresh and change gear to trigger unwilling fish to bite. And lastly, keep a record of all of your fishing, good or bad. These fish tips have turned me into a great fishermen and have allowed me to turn my love for the outdoors into a professional career. Following these pointers will also help you put more fish in the box. Good luck out on the water everyone!

Call Zak

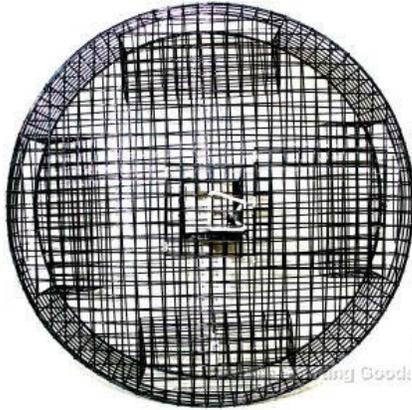
Northwest Sport Fishing
360-722-4843
to book a trip
Booking Kokanee Trips
Now for Lake Chelan and
Lake Stevens

Special Purchase



Tackle For The Serious Angler

Shrimp Pot Sale April 1-30



SMI 19001-600ft Leaded Rope-Buoy
Sale Price \$109
John's #1 Selling Shrimp Pot
Reg. Price \$127

Ladner Style Shrimp Pot
Medium Size \$79
Large Size \$88
Reg. Price \$89-\$119



SMI 19027 Sale Price \$89.50
Octagon Shrimp Pot
Reg. Price \$99.50



1/4" Leaded Rope Sale Price \$39.95
600ft Leaded Rope
Reg. Price \$48

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

John's Sporting Goods



Tackle For The Serious Angler

Very Limited Supply



Daiwa Tanacom 750
Sale Price \$549

Filled Free w/65lb-80lb Braided Line



Daiwa ACCUDEPTH 27LCB
Right Hand \$59
Reg. Price \$69.95



Daiwa M-One Mooching Reel
\$59.95
Reg. Price \$79.50



Daiwa Seagate SGT60XHR-RS
Halibut Rod \$59.95
Reg. Price \$79.50

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

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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

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Valid only with coupon at the time of sale

Expires April 30, 2016

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: 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

Store Hours: 9:00AM - 5:30PM Monday - Saturday
425-259-3056 - 1913 Broadway, Everett, WA 98201

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