

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

May 2016

Fishing Dates

Area 7

Ling Cod

May 1-June 15

Halibut

Open Saturday, May 7;
Thursday through Saturday,
May 12 - 14; and Thursday
through Sunday May 26 - 29.

Area 8-1

Ling Cod

May 1-June 15

Halibut

Open Saturday, May 7;
Thursday through Saturday,
May 12 - 14; and Thursday
through Sunday May 26 - 29.

Area 8-2

Ling Cod

May 1-June 15

Halibut

Open Saturday, May 7;
Thursday through Saturday,
May 12 - 14; and Thursday
through Sunday May 26 - 29.

Area 9

Ling Cod

May 1-June 15

Halibut

Open Saturday, May 7;
Thursday through Saturday,
May 12 - 14; and Thursday
through Sunday May 26 - 29.

Area 10

Ling Cod

May 1-June 15

Free Kids Fishing Derby Jennings Park Saturday, May 7

The Marysville Kiwanis Club, Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club, John's Sporting Goods and Marysville Parks, Culture and Recreation are sponsoring the 22nd Annual free Fishing Derby. Children may bring their own equipment or use the equipment provided. A limit of one fish per entrant is enforced. Door prizes and grand prizes are determined by a random drawing of all participants. Please bring a canned food item to be donated to the Marysville Community Food Bank, and leave pets at home. If you have any questions, call at 360-363-8403

[Click Here for More information and Jennings Park Address](#)

Mark Your Calendar

The three big fishing events for May are: the opening of Ling Cod season on May 1st; Halibut opening on May 7th and finally Spot Shrimp opening on May 14th for the Puget Sound/San Juan area. With all the negative news about the 2016 Puget Sound salmon fishing season, there is still plenty of fishing and catching to be done without much imagination in this region.

Consistently Catching Ling Cod

Ling Cod and Halibut are my favorite two fish to catch. I believe many of you agree that fresh Ling Cod is the best tasting fish to come from the sea.

The Ling Cod fishing season opening every year on May 1st in Puget Sound is what gets the ball rolling. This is the time when boats come out of storage and we start taking inventory of our fishing tackle (if we can find it) left over from last year.

You would think that a large body of water like Puget Sound would have rock piles overflowing with Ling Cod - not so. Most of Puget Sound is deep and full of glacial mud and sand deposited during the last Ice Age. There are a few natural rock or man-made piles in Puget Sound. They are scattered throughout the Sound and might not be convenient for you to get to unless you live near one of these areas.

A short list of places for Ling Cod fishing in Puget Sound:

Artificial reef at Hat Island (Gedney Island)
Possession Bar
Artificial reef at Possession Bar
Double Bluff
Breakwater around Edmonds Marina
Breakwater around Shilshole Marina
Foul Weather Bluff

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There are a number of other Ling Cod fishing areas throughout the Sound that might be a personal favorite.

These are two methods for catching Ling Cod:

live bait
plastic worms on lead head jigs.

The three primary live baits for catching Ling Cod are: Live Rock Sole (flounders), Sculpins and small Pile Perch (Poggies). Rock Sole can be caught just about anywhere in Puget Sound that has a sandy bottom. They can be found in 65 to 100 feet of water. These fish are fairly easy to catch. If you mess up catching Rock Sole, you need to find another hobby. Here is how you rig up for catching Sole: slide a Slydo onto the fishing line and then tie a #7-barrel swivel onto the end of the line. Tie a short leader with a #6 worm hook on 10-pound leader material. The best bait for catching Sole is small pieces of squid. Even though Sole will bite on anything that you send to the bottom, Squid will stay on the hook better than most other baits since it is so tough. Once you let the bait to the bottom, the trick to catching Sole is to hold the fishing rod as still as possible. Don't jerk the rod when you start getting a bite. Let the Sole hook himself. Don't be aggressive, these fish will hook themselves and the job will get done sooner if you can show some patience. For three anglers, you will need 12 to 15 flounder for a day of fishing. Keep the Sole alive by placing them in an ice chest and pouring five gallons of water in the ice chest every hour or use an aerator. Sculpins can be caught while fishing for Rock Sole and are the ultimate Ling Cod bait. It

would be nice if they could be caught in larger quantities during Ling Cod season.

Small Pile Perch can be caught in and around most pilings in Puget Sound. They are also found in many of the marinas here in the Sound. If available, you see them around pilings and under the docks. Pile Perch can be caught on herring/smelt jigs. The #4 Gamakatsu Herring jig with fish skin (without glow beads) is the best jig to use for catching Pile Perch.

The next question is, "how to hook-up live bait now that you caught them?" Here is one Ling Cod rig I like: tie a double hook rig with a 5/0 black Gamakatsu Circle hook and a 6/0 black Gamakatsu Octopus hook. The Circle hook should be the top hook. Tie the hooks three inches apart on 30-pound test leader material. The leader length should be no longer than 30 inches. If you make it longer, it will get tangled around the line when you are letting the rig to the bottom.

Here is the complete rig from the line to the leader: put a large Slydo on the fishing line. Next tie a #5 black barrel swivel on the end of the line. Tie the leader to the other end of the swivel. Now snap a 4 to 6-ounce cannon ball lead to the Slydo.

Gently grab a live bait and insert the circle hook through the inside of the mouth of the fish and out through the top of the head. Now I am going to give you the best tip ever on keeping the live fish on the hook. Once the live fish is on the hook, take a Buzz Bomb bumper and slide the bumper over

the tip of the hook until it rests against the live bait. This Buzz Bomb bumper will prevent live fish from wiggling off the hook and that saves on bait and keeps you fishing.

Live Bait Gear List

Slydo Sinker Slide
30 pound Braided Fishing Line
5/0 Gamakatsu Black Circle Hooks
5/0 Gamakatsu Black Octopus Hooks
30-pound Leader Material
4-ounce Cannon Ball Weight
6-ounce Cannon Ball Weights
#5 Black Barrel Swivels
Buzz Bomb Bumpers

Now let me give you a practical tip on rigging tackle for Ling Cod fishing. Ling Cod are called rock fish for one simple reason - they live in a very rocky environment. Because of this environment it lends itself to being a tackle grabber. If you are going fishing all day, bring at least three complete rigs per angler.

Fishing with live bait is not as easy as letting the bait to the bottom and waiting for a Ling Cod to jump on the hooks. This is a technique that will put a limit of Lings in the boat if you have patience. When Ling Cod go after a live bait they want to eat, they do so with some suspicion. Most often they will initially try to stun the bait. If you strike during this phase of the bite, you will most likely never hook-up a Ling and get him in. Let the Ling get comfortable with the fact that the bait is the real deal. Eventually the biting Ling will grab the bait and try to take it back to the bottom. Do not strike at this phase of the bite. Wait until the Ling is taking line off the

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reel. Now start slowly reeling and the Ling will get hooked-up.

Ling Fishing with Plastic Baits

Fishing with artificial baits for Ling Cod can never go out of style. They are easy to use and can be very productive. There are two types of plastic baits considered worth purchasing for Ling Cod fishing: 6-inch Twin Tail Scampi's and Hogy 5 inch Flounders. Twin Tail Scampi come in a variety of colors. If I were to pick out a couple Scampi Tails colors for Ling fishing I would choose motor oil with red flake or black with silver flake. The Scampi tails need to be paired up with 4 or 6-ounce lead head jigs. Hogy Flounder can be rigged exactly how I earlier described for using a real Rock Sole.

The technique for using Scampi Tails and Hogy Flounders is to make them look like live swimming fish. In other words, don't radically jig the baits which is not natural. There is nothing swimming near the bottom that is jumping around like a rabbit on steroids. Gently swim the baits so that they mimic a live swimming fish. The whole trick is to make the artificial bait look like a live natural swimming bait that could be a potential Ling Cod meal.

This is where things become tricky if you have not fished for Ling Cod. A Ling Cod will always grab the artificial bait on the down-stroke of the rod. If you are waiting for a massive strike, give me a call when you are tired of fishing. The trick while jigging is to watch the fishing line at all times. When a Ling picks up the artificial bait

the fishing line will go limp, then strike hard with your fishing rod and crank hard on the reel. Don't take any chances if you remotely think a Ling has picked up the bait.

Artificial Bait Gear List

- 6-inch Motor Oil Twin Tail Scampi
- 6-inch Black Silver Flake Twin Tail Scampi
- 4 and 6 Ounce Lead Head Jigs
- 5-inch Hogy Flounder Slydo Sinker Slide
- 30 pound Braided Fishing Line
- 5/0 Gamakatsu Black Circle Hooks
- 5/0 Gamakatsu Black Octopus Hooks
- 30-pound Leader Material

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

Spot Shrimp Gear

- SMI Shrimp pots round (19001) or octagon (19027)
- 400 feet of leaded rope either 1/4" or 5/16"
- Heavy duty pot harness
- Shrimp pot weights
- Molded buoy
- Inflatable buoy
- 9" Bait barrel

Spot Shrimp Bait

- Prawn/Shrimp Pellets
- Canned Mackerel
- Friskies Ocean Whitefish w/Tuna
- Ace of Baits Prawn Oil
- Pro Cure Prawn Oil

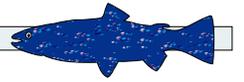
Shrimp Bait Formula

[Click Here](#)

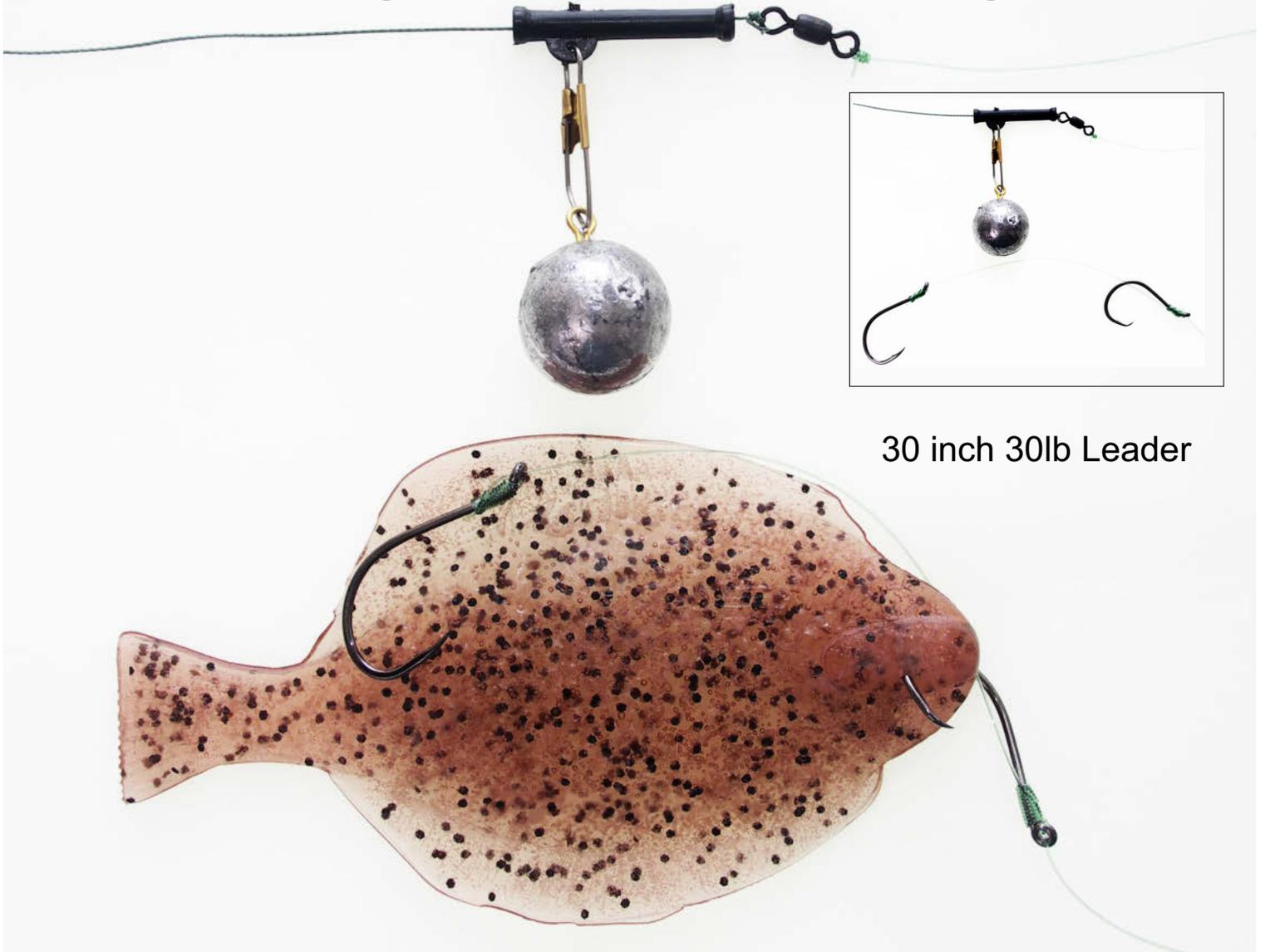
John's Sporting Goods Maps

Including Shrimp, Ling Cod, Salmon and Halibut Maps

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Ling Cod Live Bait Rig



30 inch 30lb Leader

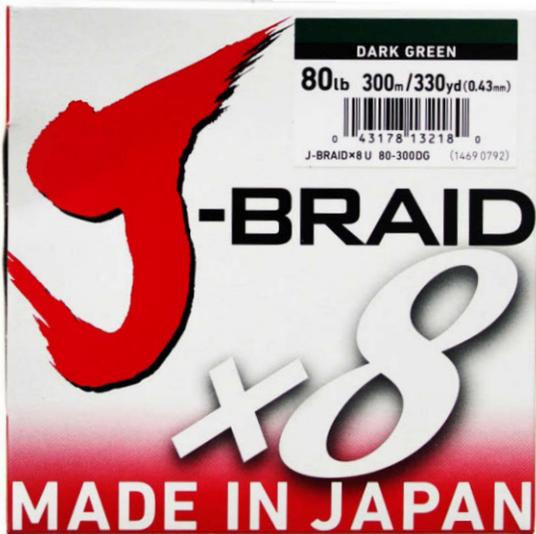
This diagram is depicted with a plastic rock sole is for illustration purposes only.

The Hogy 5" Plastic flounder in the diagram can be used as an artificial bait for Ling Cod





Tackle For The Serious Angler



Daiwa J Braid 65lb & 80lb
65lb-\$19.95 80lb \$23.50
330 yard spool



Daiwa ACCUDEPTH 27LCB
Right/Left Hand \$69 w/free line
Reg. Price w/line \$81



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



Daiwa Seagate SGT60XHR-RS
Halibut Rod \$69.95
Reg. Price \$79.50

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

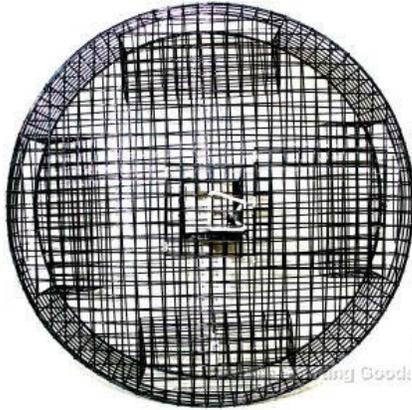
John's Sporting Goods

Special Purchase



Tackle For The Serious Angler

Shrimp Pot Sale May 1-30



SMI 19001-600ft Leaded Rope-Buoy
Sale Price \$119

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

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 May 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
\$59.95

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

John's Sporting Goods
Fishing Tackle
for
The Serious Angler