

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

December 2016

Fishing Dates

These Seasons
and Limits
May Change

Area 6

Dec 1-April 15

Daily limit one

Chinook, hatchery only

Area 7

Dec 1-April 30

Daily limit one

Chinook, hatchery only

Area 8-1

Nov 1-April 30

Daily limit one

Chinook, hatchery only

Area 8-2

Nov 1-April 30

Daily limit one

Chinook, hatchery only

Area 9

Closed

December 1-January 15

Area 10

Daily limit one

Chinook, hatchery only

November 1-Feb 28

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Area 9 Closes

Area 7 Opens

Areas 8-1, 8-2, 10 remain open

When Marine Area 9 closes for salmon fishing we must look for other windows of opportunity. Yes, there are plenty of other salmon fishing areas to explore. In this Newsletter, I will point out a variety of salmon areas which I believe are worth taking some time to fish.

Before I get into the heart of the matter, I should define what will open starting December 1st. Marine Area 8-1 and 8-2 will remain open. Also, on December 1st, Marine Areas 6, 7 and 10 will open.

The Sport Fishing Rule Book shows a Chinook limit of two fish in Marine Areas 6 and 7. The Chinook limit has been reduced to one Chinook in Marine Areas 6 and 7, much like it was in Areas 8-1, 8-2, 9 and 10. To be sure of the current salmon fishing regulations for the Area that you plan on fishing, go to this link and click on the Area you are interested in fishing: [Click Here](#)

In Marine Areas 8-1 and 8-2 (Saratoga Passage Area) there are several good salmon spots worth fishing during a morning tide. The beauty of fishing Marine Area 8-1 is that most waters in the Saratoga Passage are protected from harsh southerly winds which plague salmon anglers this time of year.

There is a good boat launch at Camano Island State Park which is in the middle

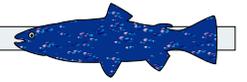
of some prime salmon fishing areas. If you wish, you can launch at the Park and fish for salmon in Elger Bay or right in front of the State Park. This is a perfect situation for anglers with smaller boats who do not want to venture too far. This is also a great salmon fishing area if you only have an hour or two to fish because you will be five minutes from the boat launch at all times. Because this is close to the launch site, you are not making compromises for chances to catch salmon in a more distant area.

If you want to launch at Camano Island State Park and feel you want to go on more of an adventure, head to the northern end of Camano Island near Rocky Point. Salmon fishing at Rocky Point has been quite good this winter and it is easy to fish. You can start fishing around Rocky Point and follow the bar in 90 feet of water which turns into Skagit Bay.

Marine Area 8-2 (Everett Area) can be accessed from the 10th Street Boat Launch in Everett. Many good salmon fishing areas in Marine Area 8-2 can be accessed within fifteen to twenty minutes from the boat launch in Everett.

The number one salmon fishing area in Area 8-2 which consistently puts out decent size Chinook is an area local salmon anglers call the "Race Track". The Race Track is simply the bar that runs from Hat Island (Gedney Island) to Camano Island. This is a rather narrow strip of real estate that runs from one island to the other. The average depth

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of this bar is 90 to 120 feet deep. This narrow strip holds large quantities of bait in the wintertime which attracts and holds Chinook to this area. The Race Track has been a "go to" plan in every salmon anglers play book for decades.

Marine Area 10 which is open November 1st to February 28th, is adjacent to Marine Area 9 which closes the day before. So, what's the significance of that? The southern border of Area 9 is the northern border of Area 10. All of us who have fished in Area 9 in November can attest to how good the fishing was.

Here is the plan for Area 10: When the tide is going out I recommend fishing from Presidents Point to Jeff Head. I would also work the south side of Jeff Head and slightly into Port Madison. When the tide is coming in, I would work the south side of the bar at Apple Tree Point and into Apple Tree Cove. Most anglers regard this the Kingston Area. Remember this is only ten minutes from the outer bar of Possession. This is also a short run from the Edmonds Marina and a little more travel time from the Shilshole Marina or the Everett Marina. These areas are the best spots in Marine Area 10.

The areas that I mentioned in Area 10 should be fished for Chinook in 90 to 125 feet of water. These areas have a defined edge that you should follow with a degree of accuracy.

As a side note: Chinook fishing was quite good at Kingston in November.

Chinook Maps for Puget Sound Elger Bay Hat Island Kingston

Many salmon anglers have been anxiously waiting for Marine Area 7 to open for Chinook on December 1st. When Area 7 does open it is anyone's guess to where the Chinook will be hanging out in good numbers. Rosario Straits is the first place that I would start exploring for Chinook.

To be effective at Chinook fishing in Rosario Strait you must work tides which are best for each particular location. If you don't have that specific information this is what my Newsletter is all about - helping you become better salmon anglers by sorting out all these details.

Here is a list of Chinook fishing places in Rosario and the appropriate tides to fish those areas: Lopez Flats on the East side of Lopez Island (Ebb Tide); Reef Point on the south end of Cypress Island (Ebb Tide); Eagle Bluff on the North End of Cypress Island (Flood Tide) and Thatcher Pass on the south end of Blakely Island (Ebb Tide). As you can see most of the Chinook fishing spots in Rosario are best fished when the tide is going out.

You will find the best depths to fish for wintertime Chinook in the in the San Juan's to be an average of about 90 to 100 feet deep. In most of these areas, if you fish out beyond the 100 feet depth line there will be too much current. Because of all the rocky contours which make up the San Juan Islands, fish tend to hang close to the

bottom and at the edges of these rocky structures. In most good salmon fishing areas, the rocky structure ends and the bottom becomes sandy. These sandy areas are a perfect habitat for Sand Lance and Candlefish which is the main food source for salmon in the San Juan's.

Another San Juan area I would put at the top of my list is Parker Reef on the north end of Orcas Island. I like fishing Parker Reef on the incoming tide. Keep this spot in mind because many top Chinook Derby salmon are caught from this location.

Chinook Maps for the San Juan Islands Lopez Flats Thatcher Pass Eagle Bluff Parker Reef

Trolling Speeds for Winter Chinook Fishing

When I recommend trolling at 2.0 to 2.5 mph for Chinook, I am oversimplifying effective trolling speeds. Downrigger cable angle always has precedence over trolling speed. I like that classic 45-degree cable angle when trolling for Chinook. To keep that 45-degree angle, you must constantly control boat speed as the tide increases or decreases in velocity.

Recently I was fishing at Mid Channel Bank at Port Townsend. I only fish Mid Channel during the Ebb tide which means I am trolling from East to West.

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The day I was fishing, the tide was moving fast enough to make me troll 3.5 to 4.0 mph. If I didn't troll that speed my downrigger cable would have been hanging straight up and down. The point is there are special situations when you must troll faster than the typical 2.0 to 2.5 mph. Watch that cable angle!

How Close to the Bottom

Fishing for winter Chinook requires you to fish within five feet of the bottom. So how do you know how close you are to the bottom with your fishing gear? There is only one measurement that works with any kind of accuracy. While at the correct trolling speed drop the downrigger ball to the bottom and bring the ball back about two feet. A minute later let the ball to the bottom again and bring it back five feet. The reason that the ball is let out twice in such a short time period is so that the ball and cable can adjust to the trolling speed. Don't worry about getting hung up on the bottom with the downrigger ball because chances of that happening are remote.

Englefield Bay Trip

If you were considering going on the Englefield Bay Trip with Tom Nelson and I, you better make your reservation now because the trip is 83% sold at this time. Call 800-810-933, and make reservations for the 2017 Father Day trip with Tom Nelson and John Martinis. [Click Here for Details](#)

Essential Gear for Winter Chinook

Gibbs Red Racer Flasher
Goldstar Kingfisher Spoon #964
3.5
Goldstar Kingfisher Spoon #395
Herring Aide 3.0
Goldstar Kingfisher Spoon #395
Herring Aide 3.5
Tomic 602 & 603 5" Plug
30 pound Pline Fluorocarbon
Leader Material
Sampo X3CB Snap Swivels
Gamakatsu 4/0 Big River siwash
hooks
Gamakatsu 5/0 Big River siwash
hooks

Change the hooks out on the 3.0 Kingfisher spoons to Gamakatsu 4/0 Big River siwash Hooks. Also, change the 3.5 Kingfisher spoon to 5/0 Gamakatsu Big River Hooks.

Reel Class Salmon Charter

If you are looking for a guided salmon charter to fish in the San Juan's, I recommend Derek Floyd owner of Reel Class Charter. Derek and I fish Puget Sound and the San Juan's together and I believe that Derek is one of the top salmon anglers I know and truly respect. Contact Derek at: 425-239-5740 or email: derek@reelclasscharters.com

The Resurrection Salmon Derby - December 2nd and 3rd

First Place - \$10,000
Second Place - \$2,500
Third Place - \$1,500
Secret Weight - \$500

Tickets are available at Holiday Sports in Burlington. They are \$400 per boat and includes up to four fishermen. Online sales are available by clicking here. They are \$415 to cover the electronic fees. The last day to buy tickets on line or at Holiday Sports is Wednesday, November 30th.

The format will be similar to last year. This year there will be more raffle and door prizes. The Captains Meeting will be on December 1st with fishing December 2nd and 3rd. We have been working with Cap Santé Marina since they have a dredging project which began in October. They have guaranteed us 40 slips which is what we had last year. They are the big slips and we can fit everyone in. If you launch from their sling, there will be a 25% discount and trailer parking will be free. No daily check in at the derby headquarters! Participants can start their day from any location. The fishing area includes Area 6 along with Area 7. [Click Here for Derby Rules.](#)

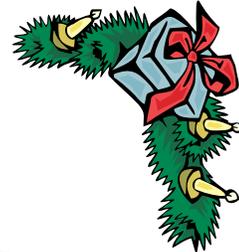
Special Purchase



Tackle For The Serious Angler



Fishbuster Specials



Scotty 2500 Pot Puller
Price \$399.00
Reg. Price \$499



Katch Kooler II
Sale Price \$29.95
Reg. Price \$39.95



Daiwa Tanacom 750
Sale Price \$549
Filled Free w/65lb-80lb Braided Line



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



Prices Good Through December 24th-In Store Purchase Only
No Coupons-No Discount Gift Certificates-Or other Discounts Can be used on these Items

John's Sporting Goods

John's Sporting Goods
1913 Broadway
Everett, WA 98201
20% Discount
on your next in store
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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

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 December 30, 2016

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

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

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

Holiday Gift Card Sale

\$50 Gift Card for \$40

November 1-December 24

Cannot Be Redeemed Until December 26



May Not be Used for the Purchase of Fishing or Hunting Licenses or Discover Passes, Cannot be Redeemed for Cash