

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

January 2017

Fishing Dates

These Seasons
and Limits
May Change

Area 6

Dec 1-April 15

Daily limit two 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

January 15-April 15

Daily limit one
Chinook, hatchery only

Area 10

Daily limit one

Chinook, hatchery only
November 1-Feb 28

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2017 Ways to Make a Difference

**Jennings Park
Kids Fishing Derby
May 2017**

**Everett Lions Club
Derby for the Blind
September 2017**

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 (2016), 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!

Two New Maps

The January 2017 Newsletter has two new maps attached that will be an aid to increased salmon fishing success in the New Year. The maps featured are: Tin Shed Drift on Possession Bar new edition and a new Useless Bay Map. I have made similar maps in the past but these maps offer more detail. I hope you enjoy these two new additions which hopefully will result in more Chinook landed in 2017.

Sampo X4KB Swivels

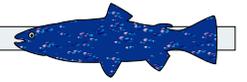
You may have seen on the John's Sporting Goods Facebook that I now have the Sampo X4KB Cork Screw Swivels back in inventory. The last two batches I received were too hard to get onto a flasher so I sent them back. This latest batch of swivels fits on a flasher with no problems. Here is a link in case you want to order these specific swivels: Sampo X4KB. [Click here for link](#)

January 16th Area 9 Re-Opens for Chinook

On January 1, 2017, most Puget Sound/San Juan Marine Areas are open for salmon except Area 9 and 11. Area 9, however, will open on January 16.

I always look forward to salmon fishing

Just Fishing



in January but the question is, “will Area 9 provide the hot Chinook fishing action which we had in November?” Let's hope those salmon which were in Possession Bar and Useless Bay will still be in the area and did not migrate out into the Straits of Juan de Fuca.

Let's have a look at the January 16th tides for Area 9. At 8:04 AM, will be high tide and at 2:14 PM the tide will be low. I would like to be in Useless Bay as early as possible in the morning on January 16th. I would prefer a high tide to be later in the morning for better Chinook fishing but will have to wait for better/later tides Thursday and Friday in the week.

If leaving the dock at daylight is not your thing on January 16th there is still a good tide at 2:04 PM for fishing the Tin Shed Drift on Possession Bar. There is about a six-foot tide exchange from the high to the low tide on that day. This should make the Tin Shed Drift very productive for Chinook.

Now, look at the new Tin Shed Drift Map ([New Tin Shed Drift Map](#)) which I created. If you have fished along Possession Bar in this area maybe you noticed the sheer edge and steepness of the Bar. This makes tracking the bottom with a downrigger difficult. So, don't even try. I have had better Chinook fishing here by fishing above the bait and fishing for suspended fish. When you approach the southern end of the area that I have outlined in blue, the area will be 150 to 225 feet deep. It will get deeper if you keep fishing south of the blue outlined area on the map.

There are two methods for fishing the

Tin Shed Drift: A summer strategy and a winter approach. In the winter, try trolling against the edge of the bar in 90 to 150 feet of water. If you stay closer to the 90 to 100 feet on the edge, it is easier to troll close to the bottom and maintain a constant depth. If you troll in more than 120 feet depth, it is very difficult to maintain a constant depth. There are times, fishing close to the 90 to 100-foot edge is futile, therefore you should fish in a slightly deeper water. You will figure out what correct depth to maintain after you make a complete pass along the bar. In the summer, the bait will be in slightly deeper water. In July and August, the bait is often in 150 to 250 feet of water. When I find bait in deeper water I will generally set my gear at the very top layer of the bait no matter how deep the bait. Example: If the bait is in 150 feet of water and the bait 25 feet thick and sitting on the bottom, I will set my gear so that the gear is fishing at 125 feet. That's not just 125 feet of cable off the downrigger. In this case, let the downrigger ball out until it is 25 feet from the bottom.

Now, look at the Tin Shed Map and note the areas I have labeled, “I like fishing this corner on the incoming tide”. The next time you are out there fishing, put a GPS marker on the corner. Chinook fishing on this corner is excellent when the tide is coming in. This spot is a little more difficult to fish because you must navigate around the corner to maximize your success. This corner of the bar always holds bait. Sometimes the bait will be on the east side of the corner and sometimes on the west side. When

you locate bait in this area mark it and do not drift too far away from that mark. Most of the time when I am fishing this corner of the bar, I fish in 90 to 120 feet of water and fish within five feet of the bottom.

Now let's look at the fishing review for Useless Bay. Look at the maps I made and it is easy to draw some conclusions on where to fish. Now, I want to look at the details of fishing the west side of Useless Bay.

I like to divide the west side of Useless Bay into three parts: The starting point which is in front of the southernmost cabin/house on the beach; The bump that sticks out of the bar approximately half mile south of the southernmost house on the beach and the most southern end of the bar which is in 120 to 130 feet of water. [New Useless Bay Map](#)

At the beginning and through the middle of the flood tide, Chinook can be picked up closer to the starting point on the map. In this area fish in 90 feet of water and fish within five feet of the bottom.

Midway through the flood tide I like to fish from the bump in the Bar and all the way out to the southern end of the Bar. At this stage of the tide, I will not return to the starting point. As the tide develops and the water slows down, the fish will keep moving to the southern end of the Bar.

Some things to note when fishing Useless Bay: Always turn to the east when you are switching directions. If you don't heed this advice, you will wind up in 65 feet of water rather

Just Fishing



quickly. Watch for crab pots inside Useless Bay, sometimes commercial crabbers have a string of pots out and you can snag your downrigger cable.

Rigging Tackle

When fishing the Tin Shed Drift at Possession Bar and Useless Bay in November I had my best success on a Goldstar 3.0 Herring Aide Kingfisher spoon. Before using these spoons, I switched out the hooks. The hooks that I used were one size larger than the hooks that are on the spoon out of the package. I switched the hooks to a Gamakatsu Big River 4/0 open eye Siwash hook. The 4/0 Big River hook has a wider gap than the factory hook that comes with the spoons. This gives the hook more hooking power. The wider gap on the hook allows the hook to reach around the gum line on a larger salmon and pierce some of the softer tissue which allows the hook to penetrate the fish's mouth. When using barbless hooks this is an important aspect when rigging Chinook tackle.

Rig the Kingfisher spoon 42 inches from the end of a Gibbs Red Racer flasher with 30 pound Pline Fluorocarbon leader material. Here is an easy way to gauge a leader length for 42 inches: Tie the 30-pound leader to the spoon. Cut the leader off at exactly 46 inches from the spoon to the end of the leader material. Now tie the leader to the flasher. The leader will be very close to 42 inches after it is tied to the end of the flasher. Remember, the fat end of the flasher is the end that you tie the leader and spoon.

I talked to some salmon anglers who

were using five inch Tomic Plugs (numbers 602 and 603) during the November Marine Area 9 Chinook season and they did quite well. They were consistently hooking up with larger Chinook and having less hookups with sub-legal Chinook.

I would also consider using five-inch whole herring when Marine Area 9 re-opens. Some of the larger Chinook that I kept in November were caught on five-inch herring. I caught considerably more fish on spoons but it appeared that the larger Chinook were attracted to herring. I would start with one flasher spoon rig in the morning and one rod rigged with whole herring (two anglers fishing). I would stick with the herring if the sub-legal Chinook were not too great of a problem. Some days there were so many just less than legal size Chinook that fishing with herring became more of a headache than something more practical such as a spoon. Look at this [video on Rigging Herring](#).

New Maps

[Tin Shed Drift Possession Bar Useless Bay](#)

Recommended Tackle

[Gibbs Red Racer Flasher](#)
[Goldstar 3.0 Kingfisher Spoon Herring Aide #395](#)
[Goldstar 3.5 Kingfisher Spoon Herring Aide #395](#)
[Goldstar 3.5 Kingfisher Spoon #964 Tomic 5" Plugs 602 & 603](#)
[Sampo X4KB Cork Screw Swivel](#)
[30 pound Pline Fluorocarbon Leader Material](#)

Proposed License Fees by WDFW

The WDFW is preparing to ask the State Legislature to raise our fishing and hunting license fees.

Anytime any government agency asks us to tax ourselves more we always seem to dig our heels in until a reasonable explanation can be made.

I am including a link to the WDFW license fee proposal. Take a look at their proposal. There is a link at the bottom of the proposal so that you can respond directly to the WDFW. [Link to License Proposal](#)

Here is my stance on the proposal. Catch record cards for \$10 is probably too much to ask for at this time. A general license fee increase is necessary to keep our hatcheries operating at their current level.

It is easy to be against license increases especially in light of the salmon fishing opportunities these past 12 months. But....be careful what you ask for. Cut-backs in hatchery production will more sooner than later come back to haunt us.

Salmon populations will return to normal in a couple years and our salmon seasons will also return to normal. I don't think it is time to cut off the funding for the sport that we enjoy the most.

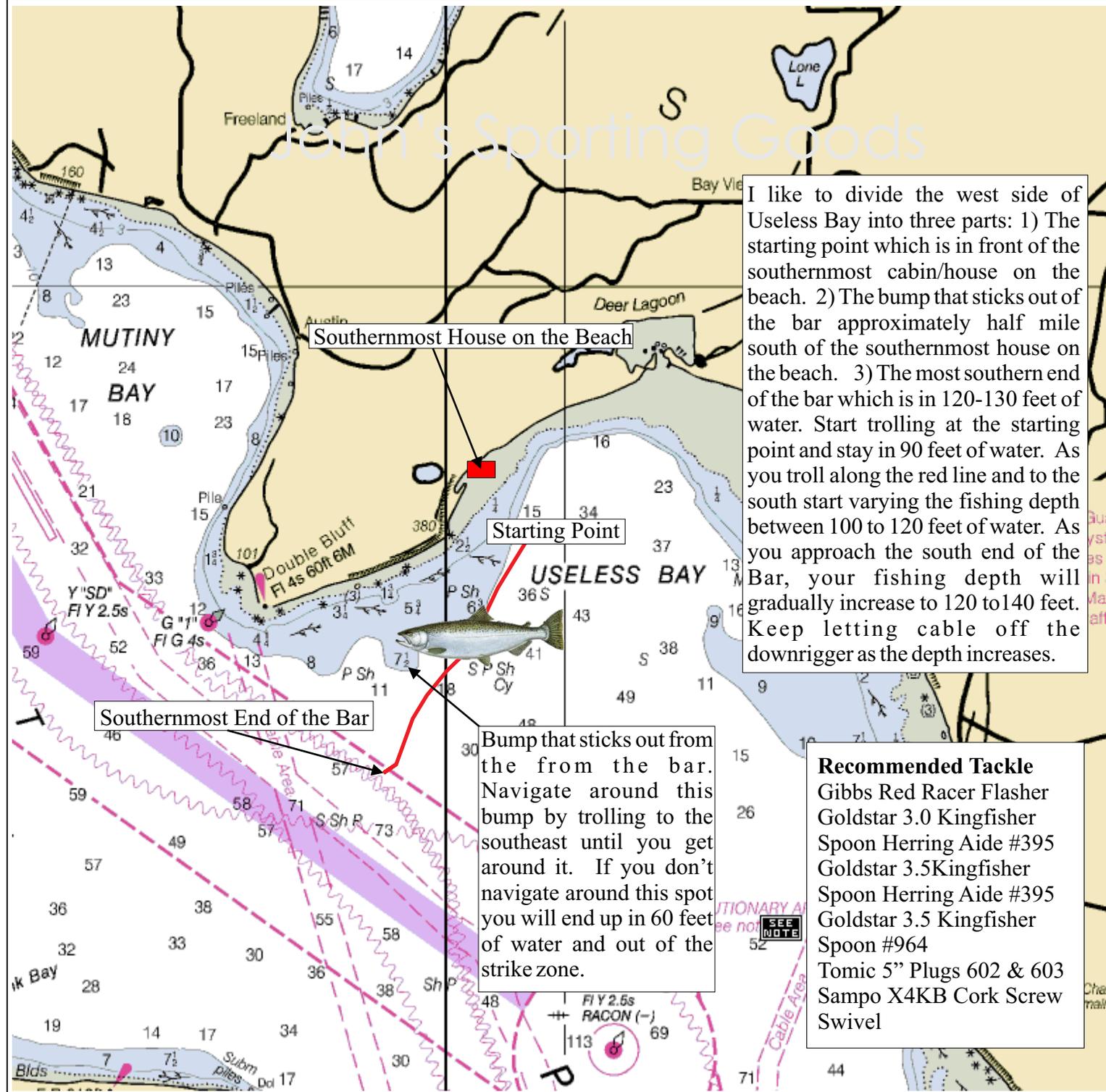
Yes, there are some things that need to change at the WDFW. On December 20th I was in a meeting with the WDFW officials expressing your concerns and my concerns about the salmon setting process. The WDFW people were not there to make excuses. They were there to listen. I honestly feel that they are looking for constructive ideas. They have a tough job making everyone happy

Fishing Maps



Maps For The Serious Angler

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I like to divide the west side of Useless Bay into three parts: 1) The starting point which is in front of the southernmost cabin/house on the beach. 2) The bump that sticks out of the bar approximately half mile south of the southernmost house on the beach. 3) The most southern end of the bar which is in 120-130 feet of water. Start trolling at the starting point and stay in 90 feet of water. As you troll along the red line and to the south start varying the fishing depth between 100 to 120 feet of water. As you approach the south end of the Bar, your fishing depth will gradually increase to 120 to 140 feet. Keep letting cable off the downrigger as the depth increases.

Useless Bay Chinook-2017

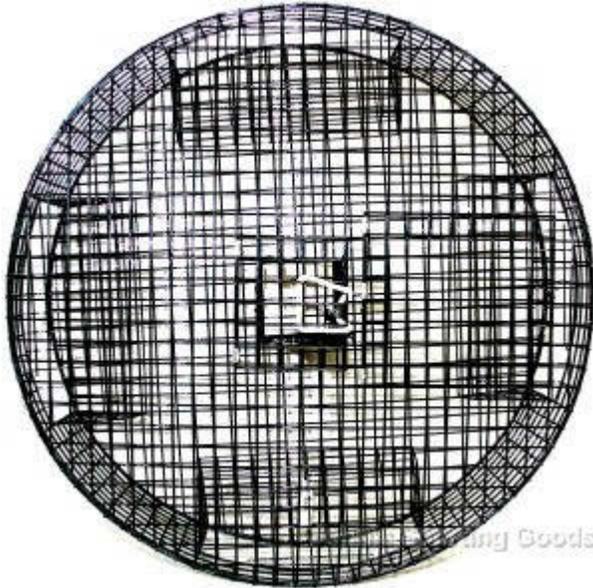
January	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chinook	Chinook	Chinook	Chinook							Chinook	

Special Purchase

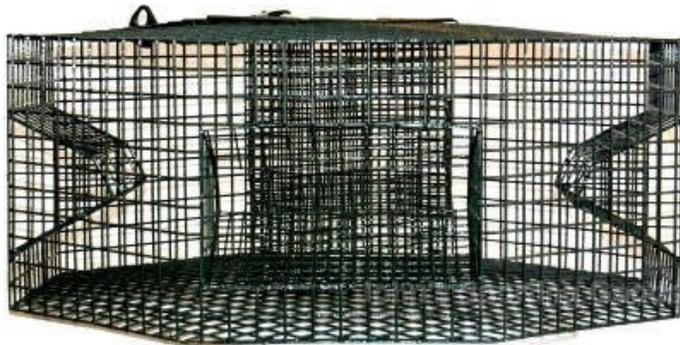
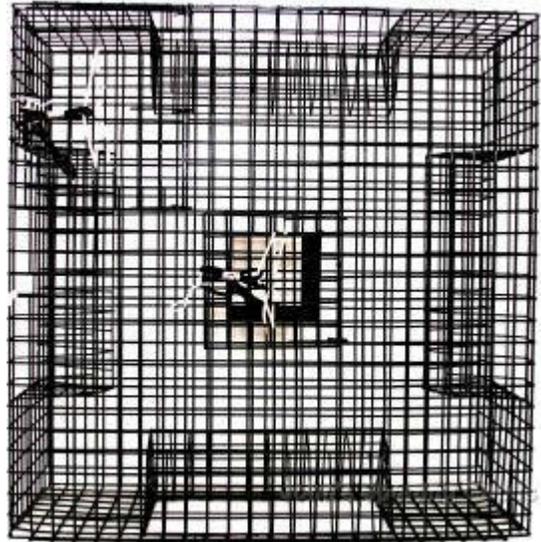
Tackle For The Serious Angler

Shrimp Pot Sale January 1-30

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



SMI 19001 Sale Price \$79.50
7/8" Mesh Spot Shrimp Pot
Reg. Price \$89.50



SMI 19027 Sale Price \$89.50
7/8" Mesh Spot Shrimp Pot
Reg. Price \$109.50



SMI 19022 Sale Price \$99.00
7/8" Mesh Spot Shrimp Pot
Shrimp Pot, 600ft 1/4" Leaded Rope,
Yellow Buoy
Reg. Price \$125.40

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Friday: Deal of the Day

Scotty Downrigger Deal
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#371 Scotty Snubber
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Standard Scotty 1106
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