

# Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

February 2017

## Fishing Dates

**These Seasons  
and Limits  
May Change**

### Area 6

**Dec 1-April 15**

Based on Quota

**Daily limit two Chinook,  
hatchery only**

### Area 7

**Dec 1-April 30**

Based on Quota

**Daily limit one Chinook,  
hatchery only**

### Area 8-1

**Nov 1-April 30**

Based on Quota

**Daily limit one  
Chinook, hatchery only**

### Area 8-2

**Nov 1-April 30**

Based on Quota

**Daily limit one  
Chinook, hatchery only**

### Area 9

**Should Open**

**for Chinook**

**Mid-Febrary**

### Area 10

**Closed**

## Shop Online at

**John's Sporting Goods**  
[shop.johnsportinggoods.com](http://shop.johnsportinggoods.com)

## Seminar 2017

By John Martinis

### Chinook Seminar

Wednesday March 15th

at Bayside Marine @7PM

1111 Craftsman Way, Everett

You are invited, free to the public

My popular Chinook seminar will be held on March 15. I will be presenting winning strategies guaranteed to put more Chinook in your boat. I will talk about correct methods to rig flashers and spoons as well as fishing with herring. In addition, we will go over some fishing charts that should help getting to the correct fishing spot on the right tide. Take the guesswork out Chinook fishing and be at the seminar at Bayside Marine on March 15 at 7 PM.

The Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club will have a raffle at the end of the seminar. There will be some great prizes including rods, reels, and salmon tackle.

## Everett

## Blackmouth Derby

## March 18

Tickets Available at

John's Sporting Goods

Ticket Price: \$100/Includes 4

Anglers

1st Prize \$3,000

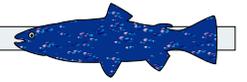
## Planning and Executing a Chinook Fishing Trip to Marine Area 6

When January rolled around everyone, including myself, was eagerly waiting for Area 9 to open on January 16<sup>th</sup> the published opening date. No such luck. Well, January 16<sup>th</sup> has come and gone and Area 9 is still closed for Chinook because of emergency regulations. We will save that debate for another date. It's time to move on.

When special salmon closures occur, I don't just sit at the dock and lament the closings. Salmon closures are just a fact of life in Puget Sound these days and we need to work around these issues. Now, I am looking at the fishing possibilities for Marine Areas 6 and 7. Is it too far to go? Closures now force me to look elsewhere for any salmon fishing prospects. We have entered a new age for scheduling fishing trips. Now the planning includes hitting the road or going by boat to those Areas which are still open for Salmon. These places are not too far away and no your boat is not too small. Proper planning and observing weather conditions are key when traveling to either Area 6 or 7.

I usually do not use the Newsletter to talk about my recent fishing trips around Puget Sound. Normally, I use my [Facebook](#) for dispensing current

# Just Fishing



information. However, I thought I would use this Newsletter to share a snap shot on how a day in the life of my salmon fishing goes. Maybe your experiences are similar?

Mid-January, I was eager to fish Marine Areas 6 or 7 because of the Area 9 Chinook closure. I watch the [Ferry Weather APP](#) and the [Wind Alerts App](#) when planning my salmon fishing trips anywhere local or out into the Straits of Juan De Fuca.

Finally, there was a break in the weather on the Eastern Part of the Strait of Juan de Fuca (Area 6). The wind report was for winds from 5 to 15 miles per hour. 5 mph is good but 15 mph, while not fun, is still tolerable. On the morning, I left the Everett Port in my boat I planned to fish Partridge Bank which is a one hour and forty-five-minute trip. The ride was relatively smooth to Port Townsend. However, from Port Townsend to the south end of Partridge Bank it was bumpy, like it usually is, but nothing too concerning. The wind was probably about 10 mph. I made one pass down the south end of Partridge and by then the wind was blowing in the mid-teens. It is hard to fish Partridge Bank with that much wind blowing since it is a pain to stay in 90 to 110 feet of water without getting blown off the Bank.

The first pass produced one legal Chinook which I let go. I ran back to the East end of the Bank and got one more pass in. Now the wind was a solid 25 mph. I trolled to the West for a few minutes and then decided it was time to call it a day. I only clocked one hour of fishing time in and now I was

already calling it quits. By that time swells and the wind chop were higher than my boat. I didn't like this situation at all! The conditions were not yet unsafe but the circumstances were way beyond my comfort level. I got back to Port Townsend and then safely made it to Everett. This well-planned fishing adventure turned into a major disenchantment.

Not to be discouraged by this last bout of bad weather there was a break in the marine weather on January 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. This time Les Jacober and I were planning on fishing Area 6 for two days. Believe me, I get a little gun-shy after being blown off the water the week before.

On the morning of January 17, Puget Sound and the Straits of Juan de Fuca were remarkably calm for the month of January. The tide was coming in until Noon on the morning of January 17. This is the perfect tide for fishing the east side of Eastern Bank. In fact, last year on this tide we got easy Chinook limits each time we ventured out to Eastern Bank. In my mind, this had to be guaranteed Chinook limits by early afternoon if not earlier.

We arrived at Eastern Bank around 9 AM and had the whole place to ourselves. Starting at the north end of the east side of Eastern we started fishing and continued to troll to the southeast corner of the Bank. Two sub-legal Chinook were all we had to show for our efforts. On the trip before we got blown off the water and now we were in a situation where the fishing really went downhill. Are we going home again with nothing to show for our efforts? It was looking

like two days of Chinook fishing was down the tubes and we were going home empty handed. How depressing. Geez....

We decided to leave Eastern Bank and head to the south end of Partridge Bank. I usually don't fish this area when the tide is coming in but, guess what, we couldn't do any worse than the two hours we just wasted at Eastern Bank. It is only four miles to the southwest corner of Partridge Bank. My plan was to troll from the Southwest to the Southeast corner of the Bank. The tide was still coming in so we would be trolling in the same direction of the current. Well, it seemed like a good plan to me.

We trolled half-way from the Southwest corner of Partridge towards the Southeast corner. The first hour of fishing we pretty much took it in the shorts. The fishing was just as bad as it was on Eastern. The essence of most fishing tales is that it was just fun to be on the water. That sounds just great but that wasn't why we were here. By now it was high noon and high tide and there wasn't one .... fish in the boat. We didn't lose that big one, we didn't release a nice wild Chinook and we did not catch a sub-legal Chinook. Nothing! This is painful.

We approached the spot-on Partridge Bank which I call the "Fish Mark". It is a waypoint I entered on my GPS a couple of years ago, since it was a spot which constantly produced Chinook. We approached the Fish Mark and one of the lines exploded out of the release clip. This hatchery Chinook was a welcome 10 pounder and "what

# Just Fishing



a relief it was" *finally* to boat a salmon. We caught this one on a White Glow flasher and a Herring Aide Coho Killer with a 42-inch leader. It was in about 110 feet of water. Things were looking up with at least one fish in the boat. My original thought was to go home with a single 10-pound Chinook between the two of us. Well, what was about to happen was completely unexpected considering the absence of any action for the first part of the day.

Shortly after boating the 10 pounder we put another hatchery fish in the boat. Not quite as large but still respectable. From Noon to 2 PM the Chinook action went from lackluster to the best Chinook action that could be found anywhere on this planet. We went from blank stares at our fishing rods to tending the rods with a steady Chinook bite that only increased in frequency as time went on.

It was now 2 PM and Les and I were into some of the best Chinook bites that either of us had experienced in a lifetime. We had one more hour to fish because we had to be back to the Port Townsend gas dock because it closed at 4 PM. It was a thirty-minute run to the gas dock but we still had an hour of fishing to go.

The Chinook fishing went from having "singles" on to having "doubles" on. Then the fishing went from doubles to only getting one rod in the water because as soon as one piece of tackle got near the bottom it was "fish on". As I stated earlier we were using one white glow flasher with a Herring Aide Coho Killer. The other rod was rigged

with a Gibbs Red Racer flasher with a Herring Aide Coho Killer. This incredible Chinook bite lasted until we had to leave at 3 PM. Who knows how long this bite would have lasted but I am sure it would have lasted until dark.

By the time Les and I were done fishing for the day we had kept some nice Chinook and we had the opportunity to reel in Chinook non-stop for three consecutive hours. The ride back to the gas dock at Port Townsend was a time for reflection on the day and a time for planning for our fishing strategy for the following day. We arrived at the Port Townsend Gas dock at 3:30 PM and we were met by Eric, the gas dock attendant. Eric is a great guy and he loves to talk fishing. The small-town atmosphere of Port Townsend is nothing short of amazing!

At the gas dock, we spoke with a Jefferson County Aid Crew who just got back from rescuing a small plane that crashed into the water. Luckily the person in the plane was not hurt. Just another adventure around every corner. After fueling the boat, we went to the Moorage office (closes at 4:30 PM) for a night boat slip which was \$30 for a 35-foot boat slip.

The day before Les and I made reservations at the Harbor Inn in Port Townsend. The Harborside Inn is literally right at the end of the gas dock. This is handy if you are planning to fish for more than two days in the Port Townsend area. The Harbor Inn was a steal at \$89 a night and we had a \$10 off discount coupon. For \$79 you get a room, breakfast and all the ice you

need. Such a deal! The rooms appeared to be recently refurbished with new beds, new paint and new TV's. The rooms were very clean and they did not have any unusual aroma. Once again, the help at the front desk was what you would expect in a small town. The people at the Inn were pleasant and very helpful.

Having never stayed at Port Townsend before, we could only hope on getting a good meal within walking distance. A block from the Harbor Inn was a family Mexican restaurant named "Guadalajara". It was clean; the help was courteous and we were the only patrons in the place. I ordered a Steak Fajita, one of my favorite dishes. The dinner was served with a heaping plate of steak Fajitas with a special house sauce that was outstanding. In addition, the plate was heaped with all the fixings to make great Fajita's. I would recommend the Guadalajara Restaurant on your next visit to Port Townsend.

If you are trailering your boat to Port Townsend, there is a Safeway gas station across the street from the gas dock and Harbor Inn. There is also a boat launch at the end of the gas dock. Everything you need is within one block of the Port Townsend Port. How convenient! But now let's get back to some serious fishing.

Les and I got back to the boat at 7 AM the next morning, Wednesday January 18, which was way too early. But we were excited to get back out to Partridge Bank and slay a few more Chinook. I think we traveled to Point Wilson at about 6 MPH before it was light enough to "put the peddle to the

# Just Fishing



metal". Traveling at 6 MPH is like watching paint dry especially with the expectations we had.

We arrived at the southeast corner of Partridge Bank shortly after daybreak. We just knew we were going to rip up the Chinook for hours on end in the morning. We hooked a nice hatchery Chinook before we barely got organized. Fishing was looking good and we felt confident knowing what the previous day was like. Then the rods stayed silent for the next hour. Where did the fish go? Was this the end? I hope not! We made two passes on the Southeast end of the Bank. Still just one fish in the boat. There was not even a good shaker bite on. The rods were dead silent. It was very reminiscent of Eastern Bank from the day before.

I told Les that I was going to troll all the way to the Southwest corner of Partridge Bank. Something I really didn't want to do because of the distance and the Southwest corner was a "no go" the day before. If we left the Southeast corner, we could miss the bite which perhaps might come later in the morning. We rolled the dice and took our chances. The "Fish Mark" was just ahead of us. The rods were silent. Then, right when we got on top of the Fish Mark, we boated our second Chinook of the day. We passed the Fish Mark and we started marking quite a few Chinook on the bottom in 110 feet of water. Approximately two city blocks past the Fish Mark our rods started bouncing and the lines started releasing. The fish had moved all the way to the west end of the bar overnight. It was 10 AM and the

Chinook fishing was now as good as it was when we left at 3 PM the day before. From 10 AM until Noon we played Chinook almost non-stop for two solid hours. Now, remember this is Washington State, not Sitka Alaska! The fishing on Wednesday was so incredible that I am pinching myself as I share my fishing story with you.

Fishing days like January 17th and 18<sup>th</sup> only come along once in a great while. When these special fishing days happen, I feel lucky to live here in the Pacific Northwest.

Forty-four years in the recreational fishing tackle business and I am still excited every time Bayside Marine puts my boat in the water. There is a new adventure awaiting every time that boat goes into the water.

Here are some of the places that I mentioned and the tackle we were using.

## **Port Townsend Gas Dock (Talk to Eric)**

Hours: 9 AM to 4 PM Monday-Sunday  
Phone: 360-385-703 (some fishing tackle available)

## **Port Townsend Port Moorage Office**

Hours 8 AM to 4:30 PM Monday to Friday  
Sat 9AM to Noon  
Phone: 800-228-2803

## **Harborside Inn**

Phone: 800-942-5960 (\$10 off coupon on their website)

## **Guadalajara Restaurant**

2330 Washington St, Port Townsend  
Phone: 360-385-1636

## **Fishing Rigs that we were using**

White Glow flasher  
Gibbs Red Racer Flasher  
Herring Aide Coho Killer spoon  
3.5 #964 Kingfisher Spoon  
3.0 Cookies n Cream  
Kingfisher spoon  
Sampo X4KB Sampo  
corkscrew swivel  
30 pound Pline Fluorocarbon leader  
Mikes Lunker Lotion Herring Scent

## **USCG Aux Vessel Safety Inspection Event**

By Sean Kiar

**Location: 10th St Boat Ramp, Port of Everett Marina**

**DATE: Sat 11 February 2017**

**Time: 0900 – Noon Later if needed**

Must have current Registration in order to have vessel inspected.

Benefits: Vessels passing safety checks are awarded a U.S. Coast Guard / Auxiliary Decal that informs: Coast Guard / Auxiliary, Harbor Patrol Sheriff's & Police and other boating law-enforcement & safety agency's that your boat was in full compliance with all Federal and State boating laws during a safety check for that year. Best of all every Vessel Safety Check is **100% Free of charge!** A boat owner may be able to get a reduction on insurance cost.

**This event is hosted by the WA State Fishing**

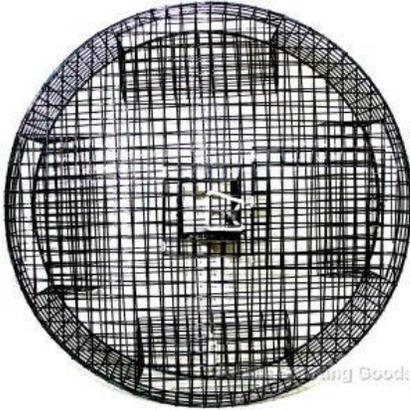
**Partner Registry FB Group.**

WA State Fishing Partner Registry  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WSFPR/> is a group of boat owners and non boat owners with a focus on Active, Reserve and Retired Military and open to everyone that has an interest in fishing in this great State of Washington that we call home. [More Info Click Here](#)

# Special Purchase

Tackle For The Serious Angler

Sale February 1-28



1/4" Rope

**SMI 19001-600ft Ledged Rope-Buoy**

**Sale Price \$109**

**John's #1 Selling Shrimp Pot**

Reg. Price \$127



CT-150 Available Mid-February

**Ladner Style Shrimp Pot**

**Large Size \$89**

Reg. Price \$89-\$119



**Daiwa Tanacom 750**

**Sale Price \$549**

Filled Free w/65lb-80lb Braided Line



**1/4" Ledged Rope Sale Price \$39.95**

**600ft Ledged 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**

**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 February 30, 2017**

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

Send your fish pictures to:  
customerservice@johnssportinggoods.com

Like us on Facebook:

[http://www.facebook.com/?ref=tn\\_tnmn#!/pages/Johns-Sporting-Goods/166123680152608](http://www.facebook.com/?ref=tn_tnmn#!/pages/Johns-Sporting-Goods/166123680152608)



**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 braided 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**