

# Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

May 2017

## Fishing Dates

These Seasons  
and Limits  
May Change

### Area 6

Closed for salmon

### Area 7

Closed for salmon

### 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 for salmon

### Area 10

Closed for salmon

## Shop Online at

John's Sporting Goods

[shop.johnssportinggoods.com](http://shop.johnssportinggoods.com)

## Marysville Jennings Pond

### Kids Fishing Derby

May 6, 8AM-11AM

23rd Annual Fishing Derby

May 6, 2017, 8:00 AM - 11:00

AM @ Jennings Memorial Park

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. The Kiwanis Club is sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast from 8-11am in the barn. The cost for breakfast is \$3 a plate for kids and \$5 for adults. Please bring a canned food item to be donated to the Marysville Community Food Bank. Please leave pets at home. Sponsored by: The Marysville Kiwanis Club, Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club, John's Sporting Goods and Marysville Parks, Culture and Recreation.

Address of Jennings Park: Jennings Memorial Park, 6915 Armar Rd, Marysville, WA 98270

## Lake Stevens Kokanee Derby

Saturday, May 20th 2017 ~ 8th Annual

Lake Stevens Kokanee Derby.

Tickets at John's Sporting Goods

[More info Click Here](#)

## Leveraging Lingcod

Puget Sound Open for Lings'

May 1

After salmon fishing, the last bastion of the Puget Sound fishing season is Lingcod fishing. For many years, the Lingcod season usually averages 45 days. The fishery appears to be well managed with a size slot limit between 26 and 36 inches. You can expect a typical legal Lingcod to weigh from 6 to 13 pounds. There are larger Lingcod here in Puget Sound and can weigh up to 25 to 30 pounds but must be released.

There are three types of habitat Lingcod prefer: rocky structures; holes and indentations and man-made structure. Man-made structures include rip rap rock walls around marinas, sunken ferries or concrete deliberately dumped into the Sound to provide habitat for fish. One thing for certain, once you locate a Lingcod area, that spot will provide good Lingcod fishing year after year.

### Some of the Better-known Lingcod Fishing Areas

Possession Bar

Artificial reef at Hat Island

Double Bluff

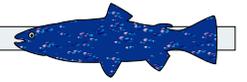
Foul Weather Bluff

Rock walls around Edmonds and

Shilshole Marinas

To be sure, there are other lesser known Lingcod spots throughout Puget Sound

# Just Fishing



but you will need more local information to locate.

The most popular methods for catching Lingcod are live bait and jigs. Now before we get into using the gear which I recommend, heed this warning. If you have problems losing gear when snagging the bottom, Lingcod fishing is not for you! Bring "a lot" of fishing gear if you expect to catch Lingcod. These fish live in rocky nasty habitats. You just need to invade their space if you have any chance of bringing these fish to the boat.

Live bait fishing for Lingcod is fun but it is a bit of a process. To begin, you must catch the live bait. These live baits are small rock sole more commonly known as sand dabs or just "dabs". The best size dabs are about 5 or 6 inches. Sculpins (bullheads) are also a good bait - just not as plentiful as sand dabs.

So, before we go Lingcod fishing, we must locate some sand dabs and collect at least a dozen for two anglers. The gear needed to catch these critters include a Gamakatsu top and bottom rig or a crappie rig. Either of these rigs is setup with two hooks. Slydo's are needed and some 4-ounce cannon ball weights. The best bait for catching sand dabs is squid. The reason I recommend squid, it is a very durable bait. If we don't have squid at John's Sporting Goods, it can easily be found at any of the local Asian market stores.

Here is the rig for catching sand dabs: Tie a #7 or #5-barrel swivel on to the end of the fishing line. Tie the "top

and bottom" rig on to the other end of the swivel. Attach a 4-ounce cannon ball weight to the end of the top and bottom rig. Live bait rigs have a snap on the end of the rig for attaching the weight. Bait each hook with a small piece of squid. The sand dabs can be found on a sandy bottom in 60 to 100 feet of water.

### **There are Three Places Close by Where Sand Dabs are Plentiful**

The bar off the east end of  
Hat Island  
Near the Langley Marina  
Along the shoreline one half mile  
north of Possession Bar

There are many other places in Puget Sound, but these are the most productive. Fish for sand dabs in about 60 to 100 feet of water. When you catch one, handle the fish with care and gently remove the hook. Put the fish in a medium size ice chest full of saltwater. To keep sand dabs alive, pour a five-gallon bucket of water into the ice chest every hour or run an aerator in the ice chest.

Now that the ice chest has a dozen sand dabs and perhaps 2 or 3 sculpins, you are ready to go Lingcod fishing.

The setup for using live bait for Lingcod is the same as the one described for catching sand dabs. The only difference is the hook size. A Lingcod live bait rig is tied on a 30-pound leader with one 5/0 or 6/0 Gamakatsu Circle hook and one Gamakatsu 5/0 or 6/0 Octopus hook. Tie the hooks about four inches apart. The trailing hook should be near the tail of the sand dab when hooked up. The only hook that will be in the sand

dab is the Circle Hook. Hook the circle hook through the inside mouth of the sand dab and out the top of its head. Try not to put the hook through its brain or its eyes. You want the fish to stay alive while on the hook. An old trick for keeping the sand dab on the hook is to put a Buzz Bomb bumper on the circle hook after you run the hook through the head of the sand dab. This keeps the sand dab from wiggling off the hook.

[Lingcod Live Bait Illustration](#)  
[Click Here](#)

### **Now Let's Go Fishing**

Lower the sand dab setup to the bottom in 40 to 65 feet of water. Reel in the weight about one foot off the bottom. You can hold on to the fishing rod or you can put it in a rod holder. You will catch a lot more Lingcod if you put the rod in a rod holder and leave the rod alone. The only time you need to touch the rod is to let line out or to reel line in. Don't let the rig drag on the bottom because you will go through gear rather quickly that way. Expect to lose several rigs so just be cautious. Again, Lingcod fishing is in rocky terrain and is very unfriendly to fishing gear.

The take down: Envision this. The rod is in the holder and the rod starts bouncing or there is a steady pull downward. The absolute worst thing you can do now is touch the rod. Don't even breathe on the rod. If you do touch the rod, kiss that Lingcod goodbye. A Lingcod can feel even the slightest quiver going down the line. Wait until the fishing line is flowing off the fishing reel with the rod completely doubled over before

# Just Fishing



grabbing the fishing rod. Gently pull the rod out of the rod holder and start reeling in at a steady pace. Let the fish hook itself while you are reeling the fish toward the boat. If you prefer using bait but don't want to catch live Rock Sole, you can use 6-inch plug cut herring.

## Tackle for Live Bait Fishing

30-pound Braided Line

30-pound Monofilament Leader

4 to 6-ounce cannon ball weights

#5 or #7 barrel swivels

Buzz Bomb Bumpers

5/0 or 6/0 Gamakatsu Black Octopus Hooks

6/0 Gamakatsu Black Circle Hooks  
Slydo

## Jigging for Lingcod

If you don't want to mess around gathering live bait you can always fish with jigs. The best Lingcod jig setups are twin tail scampi plastic tails attached to 3 or 4-ounce lead head jigs. Also, I like to put a salted herring fillet on the jig hook.

There is an art to jigging for Lingcod. The word "jigging" might suggest a rapid movement with the fishing rod. That doesn't work at all. Lingcod eat live fish. Just think about it, live fish don't jump up and down while swimming. You swim the jig by gently by moving the rod up and down. Make the jig swim like a fish and not jump around like a rabbit!

The best Twin Tail Scampi colors are motor oil and smoke silver flake. There are two scampi tails sizes. Use 4-inch twin tail scampi's on a 3-ounce jig head and a 6-inch scampi tail on a 4 to 6-ounce jig head.

Rigging the fishing line will be slightly different when using jigs. On the end of the 30-pound braided fishing line tie a #5 or #7 swivel. On the other end of the swivel tie an 18-inch piece of 20-pound monofilament. It is necessary to use this piece of monofilament since braided line cannot sustain the pounding on the bottom.

## Tackle Needed for Jigging

4-inch Motor Oil Red Flake Scampi

4-inch Smoke Silver Flake Scampi

6-inch Motor Oil Red Flake Scampi

6-inch Smoke Silver Flake Scampi

3 Ounce Jig Head

4 Ounce Jig Head

6 Ounce Jig Head

#5 or #7 Black Barrel Swivels

20-pound Monofilament Leader  
Material

30-pound Braided Line

Herring Fillets

[Lingcod Video By John Martinis](#)

**JOHN'S THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:** Now just remember after reading all this advice, you are out there to have fun and relax. As one of our famous presidents (Herbert Hoover) once said, "All men (women and children) are equal before fish". So, let's go out there and get them. Happy fishing.

## Puget Sound Halibut Fishing Dates and Times

Puget Sound Region (Marine Areas 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10): Open Thursday May 4, Saturday May 6 and Thursday May 11 depending on available quota. If

there is sufficient quota remaining, the following dates will be considered for re-opening; Sunday, May 21 and/or Thursday, May 25 and Thursday June 1 and/or Sunday June 4.

In all marine areas open to halibut fishing, there is a one-fish daily catch limit and no minimum size restriction. Anglers must record their catch on a WDFW catch record card.

Marine Areas 5 and 6: It is permissible for halibut anglers to retain lingcod and Pacific cod caught while fishing for halibut in waters deeper than 120 feet on days that halibut fishing is open.

## Spot Shrimp Dates and Times

Go to this link at WDFW and click on the area that your interested in.

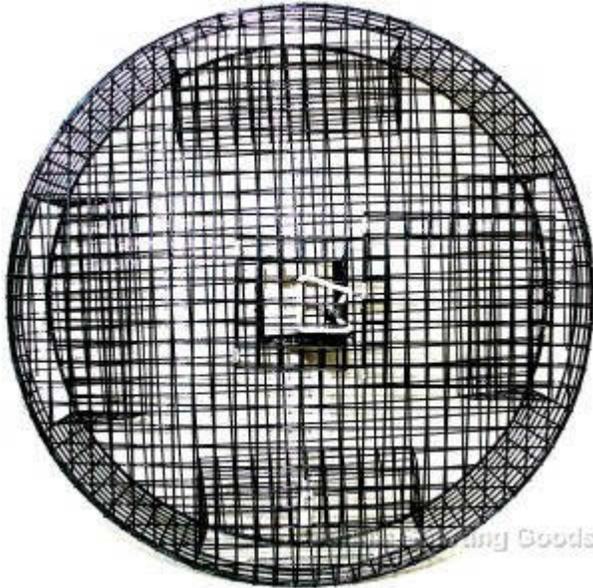
[Click Here](#)

# Special Purchase

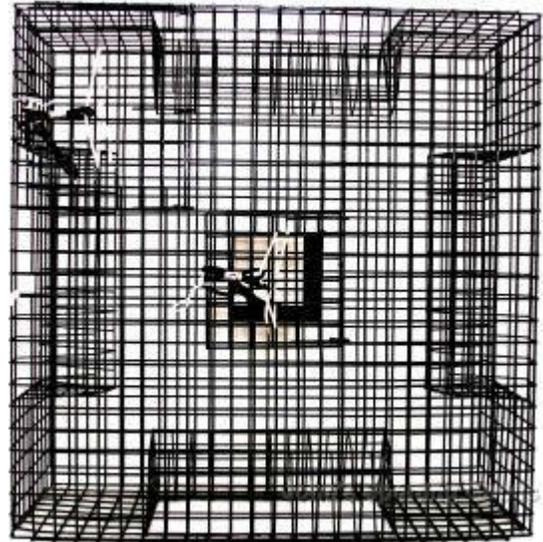
Tackle For The Serious Angler

## Shrimp Pot Sale

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



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**Thursday: Big Fish Day**

**Friday: Deal of the Day**

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**Exclusive at**  
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**Guide Series**

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**#1148 Ball hook**  
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**Standard Scotty 1106**  
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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**