

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

August 2017

Fishing Dates

These Seasons
and Limits
May Change

Area 6

July 1-August 15

Daily limit 2 Chinook release
wild Coho, wild Chum and
wild Chinook
see closure areas

Area 7

August 1-Sept 30

Only One Chinook wild or
hatchery
see closure areas

Area 8-1

Closed

Does not open for salmon
fishing this summer

Area 8-2

August 1-Sept 4

Limited shoreline fishing only,
Limit two
hatchery Coho
see rule book for details

Area 9

Salmon fishing closed

August 16-Sept 4

Shoreline fishing only for
hatchery Coho
see rule book for details

Area 10

July 16-August 15

Daily limit 2 salmon, two
Chinook, release wild Coho
and Chum. Release wild
Chinook

August 16-October 31

Daily limit 2 salmon, release
wild Coho, release Chinook
and Chum.

Transition Time

Now that Marine Area 9 is closed we now move on to "Part Two" of the Puget Sound Chinook salmon season.

Yes indeed, Area 9 was a barn burner especially at Mid Channel Bank at Port Townsend. I believe many of you will agree that fishing at Mid Channel was probably the best Chinook fishing in Puget Sound in the last 25 years or more. With Area 9 in the history books don't despair, there is still a lot of good Chinook fishing ahead.

So, this is how it works: When Area 9 closes the migrating masses of Chinook being caught by you, me and everyone else will now shoot through Area 9 with a large portion of the group heading to Area 10. In fact, for a couple of days, there should be an immediate uptick in Area 10 Chinook catches after Area 9 closes.

Marine Area 10 description: From Apple Cove Point-Edwards Point to a line projected true east-west through the north tip of Vashon Island.

Emergency Regulation: Increases the daily limit for hatchery Chinook to two fish in Marine Area 10, excluding Sinclair Inlet and fishing piers. Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, July 29th, through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, August 15th, 2017.

There are three key Chinook fishing areas in Area 10: Richmond Beach,

Presidents Head (Jeff Head) and Kingston. Last year I fished extensively at Kingston for Chinook and did quite well.

Kingston: I like to start fishing back inside the bay at Kingston just north of the ferry lanes. There is a well-defined bar I follow in 90 to 100 feet of water. Follow the bar to the east to a point where it turns north. When you get to that point, turn around and troll back into the bay. Some anglers like to troll deep inside the bay at Kingston back to the ferry lanes.

Tackle that I would recommend for Kingston Chinook

Gibbs Red Racer flasher

Coho Killer spoon #395 Herring Aide

Coho Killer spoon #675

Cookies n Cream

3.5 Kingfisher spoon #395 Herring Aide

There is a decent chance Sand Lance and Herring will be present at Kingston so prepare to use larger spoons than you were using at Mid Channel Bank or Possession Bar. I recommend fishing Kingston only on the flood tide. Note: grass and sea weed can be intolerable at times at Kingston.

Jeff Head (President Point): Jeff Head is the "go to" Chinook and Coho fishing Area in Central Puget Sound. This area is relatively easy to fish. Start trolling at Jeff Head (Jefferson head) and troll to the Southwest. Navigate your way into 90 to 120 feet of water. The bar will curve slightly to the West into Port

Just Fishing



Madison. As you round Jeff Head, it has some nice structure where the bait and salmon are sometimes hiding close to the bar. Troll into Port Madison for one-half mile and then turn and troll back to Jeff Head. I would recommend trolling out as far as the 150-foot line if the bait is not pushed up to the side of the bar in 90 to 120 feet of water.

Tackle that I would recommend for Jeff Head Chinook

Gibbs Red Racer flasher
Coho Killer spoon #395 Herring Aide
Coho Killer spoon #675
Cookies n Cream
3.5 Kingfisher spoon #395
Herring Aide

So again, there is a chance that Sand Lance and Herring will be present at Jeff Head so be prepared to use a larger spoon than used at Mid Channel Bank or Possession Bar.

I would recommend fishing Jeff Head on the ebb tide. However, at times this area can be productive on both the ebb and the flood tide. If the grass and sea weed is unmanageable at Kingston, go directly to Jeff Head.

Point Wells/Richmond Beach: This area can be fished on either tide. If the tide is ebbing (going out), start fishing one mile south of Edwards Point and troll back to Edwards Point. If the tide is flooding, I would start trolling at Edwards Point and troll one mile south. My recommendation would be to troll in one direction only depending on which way the water is moving. Fish in about 90 to 120 feet of water. The suggested tackle is the

same as mentioned for Jeff Head and Kingston.

Elliot Bay Special Chinook Fishery August 11th to 13th: Elliot Bay has not been opened for Chinook fishing for a long time. And when it does open, it will be open for three days only so you better "get on it" from day one. A word of advice for fishing Elliot Bay, "Early". You must be on the water before daylight to effectively participate in this downtown Seattle Chinook fishery. There is a light-switch Chinook bite at daylight and you better be there at the crack of dawn to get your fish!

Elliot Bay Special Regulations: Chinook - minimum size 22 inches. Other Salmon species - no minimum size. Daily limit 2 (combined). Release all Chum and wild Coho.

Puget Sound Chinook Fishing Maps

Kingston Chinook
Jeff Head Chinook
Elliot Bay Chinook
Richmond Beach Chinook

Recommended Area 10 Chinook Tackle

Goldstar Coho Killer #675
Cookies n Cream
Goldstar Coho Killer #395
Herring Aide
Goldstar Kingfisher spoon #675
Cookies n Cream 3.5
Goldstar Kingfisher spoon #395
Herring Aide 3.5
Gibbs Red Racer Flasher
Pline 30-pound Fluorocarbon
Leader Material

Before ordering any of these items from John's Sporting Goods call us (425-259-3056) and check for availability. The manufacturers are having a difficult time delivering the number of spoons and flashers that John's Sporting Goods is selling.

Marine Area 7 Chinook

August 1st, One Chinook Limit hatchery or wild. Marine area 7 has two distinct summer Chinook runs that travel through the Islands at different times and different places. The early run starts well before Area 7 opens on July 1st. These Chinook are mainly Fraser River Spring Chinook. Because of the strong run size this year, the Spring Chinook fishery in Area 7 lasted to the end of July. Most years the run fades out after July 15th.

The next run of Summer Chinook through the San Juan Islands begins around the first week of August and should last into September. These salmon are a mix of Fraser River and Samish River Chinook. We should see these salmon showing up on the west side of San Juan Island at Eagle Point near the end of the first week in August.

I prefer to fish Eagle Point on the last half of the ebb tide. This is a simple place to fish. The water is deep close to shore. Unlike Puget Sound, you don't have to fish close to the bottom for Chinook in this area. I prefer to fish in 60 to 120 feet of water and set my gear at 50 to 60 feet. Some years I catch my Chinook trolling an Anchovy



behind a flasher or by trolling a whole herring. Other years, I use Coho Killer or Kingfisher 3.5 spoons. The theory behind using this type of gear is the presence of Herring or Sand Lance. The only way to get a definitive answer regarding what bait the fish are feeding on is open one up to see what's inside the fish.

Area 7 Rules: Chinook – minimum size 22 inches. Other Salmon species - no minimum size. Daily limit 2 (combined) plus 2 additional Sockeye. Only 1 Chinook may be retained. Release all Coho and Chum.

Recommended Tackle for Area 7

Goldstar Kingfisher spoon #675

3.0 Cookies n Cream

Goldstar Kingfisher spoon #395

3.0 Herring Aide

Gibbs Red Racer Flasher

5-inch Herring

5 to 5 ½ inch Anchovies

Rhys Davis Chrome Anchovy

Head Holder

Rhys Davis Clear UV Anchovy

Head Holder

[Rigging Anchovies or 5-inch Herring Diagram](#)

Area 7 Chinook Map

[Eagle Point Chinook](#)

Closer to Home - One more note on Chinook fishing. Don't miss out on the Tulalip Bubble. Last year the Chinook fishing was quite good in August. The day before I started writing this Newsletter, the Everett Boat Launch fish checker said more Chinook were checked in from the Bubble than anywhere else that day. That was

either the last Friday or Saturday in July.

Coho Fishing Open from the Shore in Prescribe Areas of Marine Areas 8-2 and 9

Area 8-2: August 1st to September 4th: Possession Point Fishery: Waters from Possession Point to the northern border of Possession Beach Waterfront Park open for shoreline fishing only. Fishing from any floating device is prohibited.

Area 9: August 1st to September 4th: No minimum size. Daily limit 2 (combined). Release Chinook, Chum, and wild Coho. Shoreline fishing only. Fishing from any floating device is prohibited. See pages 114 and 115 in the Rule Book for specific rules regarding shoreline fishing for Coho during this time.

If you want to participate in the Coho Shoreline fishery, this is the proper gear:

8 ½ to 9-foot Lamiglas X11 Medium action graphite rod will work

2.5 Pink or Green Holographic Buzz Bombs or Green or Pink Rotators

#7 black barrel swivels

10 pound leader material

You could also fish with a float and 4 to 5-inch herring. If you plan to drive to Whidbey Island to fish from the beach for Hatchery Coho check out the

sailing schedule for the Mukilteo to Clinton Ferry, [Click Here](#).

From WDFW

Marine Area 9 salmon anglers limited to shoreline fishing July 31; Chinook retention closes

Action: Closes Marine Area 9 (Admiralty Inlet) to chinook retention, and restricts salmon anglers to shoreline fishing only.

Effective Date: Effective 12:01 a.m., Monday, July 31, 2017

Species affected: Chinook salmon.

Location: Puget Sound, Marine Area 9 (Admiralty Inlet Area).

Reason for action: Preliminary estimates through Thursday indicate that anglers had caught 4,642 fish (83 percent) of the chinook quota of 5,599 fish for Marine Area 9. WDFW anticipates reaching the quota for this fishery by the end of the day Sunday. The changes to the chinook fishery are in compliance with conservation objectives and agreed-to management plans.

In addition, Marine Area 9 will remain open to salmon fishing only from the shoreline. Anglers will not be permitted to fish for salmon from a boat or other floating device starting Monday (July 31). The reason for this action is to protect expected low runs of wild coho and pink salmon returning to the Skagit and Stillaguamish rivers.

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Tackle For The Serious Angler

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