

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

September 2017

Fishing Dates

These Seasons
and Limits
May Change

Area 6

CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other
SALMON species - no min. size.
Daily limit 2
(combined). Release COHO and
wild CHINOOK.

Area 7

CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other
SALMON species - no min. size.
Daily limit 2 (combined) plus 2
additional SOCKEYE. Only 1
CHINOOK may be retained.
Release COHO and CHUM.

Area 8-1

November 1-April 30
CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other
SALMON species - no min. size.
Daily limit 1.
Release COHO and wild
CHINOOK.

Area 8-2

November 1-April 30
CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other
SALMON species - no min. size.
Daily limit 1.
Release COHO and wild
CHINOOK.

Area 9

November 1-April 30
CHINOOK - min. size 22". Other
SALMON species - no min. size.
Daily limit 1.
Release COHO and wild
CHINOOK.

Area 10

August 16-October 31
No min. size. Daily limit 2
(combined). Release CHINOOK
and wild COHO. Aug. 16-
Sept. 15: release CHUM.

Your Donations Hard at Work

Once again I want to thank all of you who donated money to The Jennings Park Kids Fishing Derby and to the Everett Lions Club Blind Derby. I match all your donations dollar for dollar and a little bit more to make these two events a great success. One lady at the Blind Derby said, "Thank you so much for making our lives a little bit Better." When I see her blind son it makes me choke-up knowing that I can climb in my boat at any time and go fishing. Others have a tougher life to live but our donations are making a positive impact one fish at a time!

All of us donated \$1500 to the Jennings Park Kids Fishing Derby and \$3000 to the Everett Lions Club Blind Derby.

The Kids at Jennings Park went home with Rainbow Trout the Blind Derby participants went home with cash. Everyone thank you so much!!!

John's Sporting Goods also donated \$1,000 to Salmon for Soldiers. Every dollar that is taken in at John's Sporting Goods from the sale of Fishing License holders is donated to Salmon for Soldiers. Another success story thanks to Randy Shelton and to all of you.

Coho Fishing New Season New Places

One thing you can count on when fishing Puget Sound is; every year there are new places you can salmon fish and those old favorite spots will be off limits. However, when one door closes another door opens. This year Marine Area 9 is closed for Coho which now opens a unique fishing opportunity in Marine Area 10. How so? When Coho fishing closed in Area 9, this allowed a healthy portion of Coho set to be caught in Area 9 ending up in Area 10. When Area 9 opens for any species of salmon, the fishing pressure is so great that it curtails the fish catching capability for anglers in Area 10. To make my point: Look how good the Area 10 Chinook fishing was after Area 9 eventually shut down after the Chinook quota was achieved.

Now let's talk about Coho fishing in Marine Area 10. I fished Area 10 on August 20th and 22nd and the Coho fishing was already outstanding. If Area 9 was open the results would have been much different. I caught quick limits of hatchery Coho both days as well as releasing Chinook, Pinks and Wild Coho. The Coho action was steady with the best fishing during the first hour of daylight.

So, what is the possibility for catching Coho limits near the end of August? The end of August is just the beginning of good Coho fishing in Puget Sound.

Just Fishing



The peak Coho fishing in this area is around September 20th. That means we will have great Coho fishing for the next five weeks.

Most of us fished the outer part of Possession Bar sometime in our fishing experience. The outer part of Possession Bar is just ten minutes from Area 10. Ten minutes!!!! Yet for some reason, I still hear anglers moaning because they believe it is too far to travel for a day of salmon fishing. Come on people, if you have a small boat I can understand. From the Green Buoy at the mouth of the Snohomish River to Edwards Point (Area 10) the distance is about 15.6 miles. To the outer Possession Bar, the same distance from the Green Buoy is 13.8 miles. That is less than 10% more distance from the outer Bar of Possession to Marine Area 10. This should not make too much difference. If you keep your boat at the Edmonds Marina or launch your boat at Edmonds you are only minutes from good Coho fishing.

On Wednesday August 22nd, I fished Area 10 and there were only 18 boats in the immediate area where I was fishing. The amount of fishing room was refreshing after fishing the Edmonds Oil Docks for Chinook when the season was open.

Fishing for Coho in Marine Area 10

I like to start fishing in 120 feet of water right off Edwards Point and half way to the oil docks. For the first hour of fishing I concentrate on fishing in 120 to 220 feet of water. Some mornings this area is just about

impossible to fish because the sea weed and eel grass get too thick in these areas and I must move out to deeper cleaner water.

At first light, the best fishing depth appears to be at 35 feet. I set both rods (assuming two anglers are fishing) at 35 feet and do not experiment with any other depths for the first hour. Depending on what happens during the first hour, I then start fishing one rod at 35 feet and the other at 60 feet. I always have one rod at 35 feet unless there is a compelling reason to move that one rod to a different depth.

By 7 AM I begin fishing depths ranging from 160 to 300 feet and will regularly go back to check what is going on at 160 or even 120 feet. By 8 AM I will fish depths that will range from 300 to 700 feet.

On August 20th, I caught most of my Coho in the 600 to 700 feet depth. Two days later on August 22nd, I caught most of my Coho in 120 to 160 feet depth. You can see the Coho move around quite a bit and you should not have a closed mind just because the best Coho action was at a particular depth a few days earlier.

Another good place to fish for Coho is in 200 feet of water off shore from the Edmonds oil dock and south to the weather buoy. This area can be easily accessed from the Port of Everett, Port of Edmonds or from the Shilshole Marina. When fishing for Chinook this year, there appeared to be more bait in this area as opposed to Edwards Point when I was Coho fishing. Just to give you a historical viewpoint of this area off the oil docks, the best day of Coho fishing I

ever had in Puget Sound was fishing the rips just south of the oil docks. My next Coho fishing trip will be in this area.

Here is How I Would Fish the Oil Docks at Edmonds

Start fishing at the south end of the oil docks in 200 feet of water. I would move around to locate any large bait schools. Once I locate the bait, I try to stay on top of the bait or stay in a depth range where the bait is located. I would troll south to the weather buoy near Richmond Beach. If there are rip lines on the water, try trolling parallel to the rip lines unless the bait schools made a convincing case to troll somewhere else. If there is not too much tidal movement, I would troll back to the oil docks once I got to the weather buoy. If there are a series of larger tides sometimes it makes sense to pull the gear and run in a direction so that you can troll a long distance in the same direction that the tide is moving. The tidal movement in the Richmond Beach area is somewhat subdued making it easy to troll in either direction.

Coho Rigs

Here are two rigs I would tie: A Gibbs Purple Haze flasher with a Goldstar OAL12R 3.5 (Purple Haze) squid with a Purple Haze Needlefish Ace Hi fly insert. The other rig would be a Gibbs Purple Haze flasher with Green/White Ace Hi Fly. Let's take a close-up view on how each rig is assembled.

OAL12R 3.5 Squid: Tie a black Gamakatsu 5/0 octopus hook on a piece of 30-pound Pline Fluorocarbon

Just Fishing



leader material. Now slip three #6 glow beads down the leader. Tie the second 5/0 Gamakatsu Black Octopus hook close to the first hook. If you cannot tie these hooks I have them available at John's Sporting Goods. Slip a Purple Haze Ace Hi Fly Needlefish down the leader until it rests against the hook. Now slip an OAL12R 3.5 (Purple Haze) squid down the leader and over the top of the Ace Hi Fly. Cut the leader off at 40 inches. Once the leader is tied to the Purple Haze flasher the leader length should be about 36 inches measured from the last hook to the swivel at the end of the flasher.

Green/White Ace Hi Fly Needlefish: Tie a black Gamakatsu 4/0 octopus hook on a piece of 30-pound Pline Fluorocarbon leader material. Now slip three #6 glow beads down the leader. Tie the second 5/0 Gamakatsu Black Octopus hook close to the first hook. Slip a Green/White Ace Hi Fly Needlefish down the leader until it rests against the hook.

Making Herring Strips: Effective Coho fishing always includes herring strips. Herring strips should be prepared the day before you go fishing. If the strips are not prepared a day in advance of fishing, the strips will not stay on the hook. Use a pack of green label herring. Fillet the sides off the herring and cut the fillets in two the long way. One pack of 10 herring makes 40 strips. Pack the herring strips in a generous amount of Ice Cream Rock Salt. If it is not too warm leave the herring strips out to cure overnight. If it is hot out put the strips in the refrigerator overnight.

When you are Coho fishing put a herring strip on the front hook. The strips will stay on the hook for 15 to 20 minutes. I check my rig regularly to make certain that the herring strip has not been robbed by a shaker or has not fallen off the hook. If you are not getting any bites, check the bait! You can tell when the herring strip is missing because the Coho action comes to a complete slowdown when the herring strip comes off the hook.

Trolling speed is critical for Coho: The general rule is to troll 3.0++ MPH for Coho. This is just a general rule because when the tide is running you must troll as high as 4.0 MPH when trolling in the same direction as the tide in order to get a correct downrigger line angle. When you are trolling against the tide the trolling speed might be as little as 2.5 MPH. Watch the downrigger line angle to make sure that you are trolling the correct speed. Never have the downrigger line angle straight up and down. When trolling with downriggers at 35 feet it is sometimes difficult to determine the correct speed. If the cable has a 45 degree angle you are going the correct speed. Don't be alarmed to find out that you are traveling at 4.0 MPH. It is better to be too fast than too slow for Coho.

Salmon Limit for Marine Area 10: No minimum size. Daily limit 2 (combined). Release CHINOOK and wild COHO. August 16th to September 15th: release CHUM. [Link to Sport Fishing Regulations](#)

[Link to Sport Fishing Regulations](#)

Gear List

4/0 & 5/0 Gamakatsu
Black Octopus Hooks
Gibbs Purple Haze 11-inch Flasher
30-pound Pline
Fluorocarbon Leader Material
Green/White Ace Hi Fly Needlefish
Purple Haze #312 Ace Hi Fly
Needlefish
Goldstar OAL12R 3.5 Octopus Squid

Maps

[Edmonds Marine Area 10
Coho \(New Map\)](#)

Thoughts From John: Wow!!! What a season so far. I hope all you readers get a chance to try some of my hints and get some salmon in the net.

Short Story and Tip

Eagle Point on the West-Side of San Juan Island has been extraordinary good fishing for Chinook. I have fished there several times since the last Newsletter and have caught a limit of Chinook each time I have fished there.. I have found the best fishing depths to be 65 feet on the downrigger in 100 to 200 feet of water. The fishing is only good on the Ebb tide. Some days I have caught my fish as deep as 125 feet deep but the 65 foot range has been consistently good.

Just Fishing



Herring Strips Properly Prepared w/Ice Cream Rock Salt



Double Hook for Ace Hi Fly w/three #6 Glow Beads



Ace Hi Fly Properly Tied w/two 4/0 Black Gamakatsu Hooks

[Shellfish Hotline 1-866-880-5421](#)

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Thursday: Big Fish Day

Friday: Deal of the Day

**Scotty Downrigger Deal
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Fishing Tackle
for
The Serious Angler**