

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

November/December 2017

Fishing Dates

These Seasons
and Limits
May Change

Area 6
December, January,
February: Closed

Area 7
November-December:
Closed

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.

Chinook Seminar Friday November 3rd

Tom Nelson will hold a Chinook Fishing Seminar Friday at 6:30 PM November 3rd at Bayside Marine, 1111 Craftsman Way, Everett, WA. Learn the techniques and best places to fish for winter Chinook. Tom is the Outdoor Line host each Saturday morning on 710 AM Radio from 6 to 9 AM. Tom and I have fished together for Chinook in Washington, Alaska and Haida Gwaii, British Columbia. He is one heck of a good Chinook angler and is willing to share his fishing knowledge with all salmon enthusiasts. This Chinook seminar is a must-see event which I strongly endorse. After the seminar, The Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club will have a raffle.

Recommended Winter Chinook Tackle

Gibbs Red Racer Flasher
Goldstar 3.0 Cookies n Cream
Kingfisher Spoon
Goldstar 3.0 Herring Aide
Kingfisher Spoon
Pline 30-pound Fluorocarbon
leader material
Sampo X3CB ball bearing swivel
Mikes Lunker Lotion Herring Scent

It is recommended all the hooks on 3.0

and 3.5 Kingfisher and Coho Killer spoons be switched to Owner Stinger Siwash 3/0 hooks. The Owner Siwash hooks are the same size as the Gamakatsu 5/0 Big River hooks. The Owner hooks are better because they have a wider gap, thinner wire and are much sharper than the Big River hooks. Yes, both brands of hooks are good quality but if it was a choice, Owner Hooks win the day. The Owner siwash hooks increased my success ratio on all my Chinook "hook-up to landings" this past summer. Really, it made quite a difference.

Englefield Bay West Coast Resorts Book your trip now

The November Newsletter has always been dedicated to destination salmon fishing somewhere on the West Coast. For the past three years, I have talked about our fishing experience at West Coast Resorts Englefield Bay where Tom and I go on Father's Day.

Next year the 2018 Father's Day Trip to Englefield Bay will be from June 17th to the 20th. If you want to join Tom and me on this trip, contact "West Coast Resort" and ask for the special "Father's Day" package. And let them know you heard about the trip from John's monthly Newsletter.

The day before the trip to Englefield Bay

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began when Bob Anderson and I drove to the River Rock Hotel near the Vancouver, BC airport. A prior night stay at the River Rock Hotel is necessary since West Coast Resorts charters a bus to take our group to the airport. Early next morning, the bus takes our group to a small terminal at the airport to check our bags and get a bite to eat. At the terminal there is no security screening, nobody going through your bags and you don't have to take off your shoes!! (WOW, WHAT A CONCEPT!!) It was the most pleasurable trip through any airport.

In a brief time, a charter plane picks up our group made up of forty salmon anglers and away we go to the Haia Gwaii airport at Sand Spit in the Queen Charlotte Islands. In less than an hour the plane touches down at Sand Spit. Now here is where the trip really begins.

Awaiting at the airport are Helijet Helicopters ready to take everyone to the fishing resort at Englefield Bay located on the other side of the Island. It is a floating resort with a helipad. (AGAIN, IS THIS NOT COOL?). All the gear and passengers are loaded 4 to 6 to a chopper. It is absolutely one of the most scenic and exciting helicopter rides you can imagine. The chopper ride takes us through deep mountain passes traversing the Island. If the weather is socked in, the ride might include flying at tree top level. When we got to the west side of the Island the chopper made a hard banking left hand turn and there it was, the Lodge at Englefield Bay. After landing on the helipad, staff were waiting to assist us to the resort.

The staff take each person's bags to a pre-assigned room and lunch is waiting. There is no time wasted getting everyone situated. One thing I can say about the Lodge at Englefield Bay is, "they are a well-oiled machine and they make everything happen on time and the way you expect things to happen." Their goal is to get you fed once you get to the resort and then get into a boat as quickly as possible. In the three years I have been to the resort, I have had Chinook in the boat by 1 PM on the first afternoon.

After lunch, there is a brief orientation on safety, tides, wind and weather. (You know the usual stuff). On the first afternoon of fishing Bob Anderson and I got into our assigned boat and found all the tackle and gear was setup for us. At the orientation, the staff told us the best fishing was at Denham Shoals which was not far off shore in the Pacific Ocean. I had fished there many times on other trips, so we didn't require a fishing guide from the resort.

The boat ride to the ocean was about 20 minutes. Half of the 20 minutes is through relatively calm channel waters. The first afternoon of fishing the ocean was sloppy, with a Southeast wind blowing a steady 15 miles per hour. The ocean conditions were little rough, but the resort boats handled it with no problem. Bob and I started off using one rod rigged with herring and another rod rigged with a Gibbs Red Racer flasher and Goldstar 3.0 Cookies and Cream spoon which I brought along. Our gear was in the water just moments before we were into our first Chinook. That was how the rest of the day went. We played

and released a number of fish until we eventually had four we wanted to keep. My rule of thumb is: I like to keep Chinook in the 15 to 25-pound range. It is not always possible since the sizes differ from year to year. Anyway, it was a good start for the first day of fishing. Bob was impressed with the fishing since he had never been to the Resort.

Once Bob and I returned to the Resort dock, the staff was there waiting for us. The staff board the boat and take our fish from the fish locker: It was one of the many amenities of the trip. Here, the fish are weighed and recorded. If you wish, there is an opportunity for a photo shoot with you and your fish on a scale or just let the staff take the fish to processing. That's right! The fish are processed, vacuum packed and frozen for you. Once you get off the boat you never have to touch the fish again until you get back home. Now that's just great service.

During the evening meal, instructors go over weather and fishing conditions for the next morning and afternoon. On the second day of our trip, the ocean began to calm down in the morning with winds picking up by Noon. Chad, our instructor, advised us to fish for Halibut and Ling Cod in the morning while there was a break in the weather.

By the time Bob and I got done with breakfast Chad had our boat outfitted with Halibut and Lingcod rods and all the tackle it would take to get the job done. For Lingcod and Halibut fishing at Englefield I always fish with an instructor. Without such guidance,

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it's too difficult to fish and stay on top of the Ling Cod and Halibut pinnacles.

On the second day I was all worked up for Lings and Halibut. Ling and Halibut fishing here was right out of a play book from 50 years ago. If I told you the fishing for Lings and Halibut was just great, I would be belittling the fishing experience by a great degree since I never expected to catch a Halibut, Yellow Eye Rockfish or Ling Cod on every drop to the bottom. Some of the Ling Cod just could not be pried from the bottom since they were so huge. By the way, the Lodge has a self-imposed upper size limit on the Ling Cod, so a gene pool can be preserved. The fishing for the Lings and Halibut are all done with 32-ounce Solvkroken jigs or bait in 250 to 300 feet of water.

Bob, Chad and I had a smooth ride out to the Halibut and Lingcod grounds which was just a short distance from where we fished for salmon. Chad took his time getting us lined up perfectly so we would get the correct drift up and down the other side of the same pinnacle. Chad instructed Bob and me to let our gear to the bottom. Bang, double header Lings on both rods. Before long, Bob and I have a limit of Lings which averaged 15 to 20 pounds. Now, it's off to Halibut fishing at another spot just minutes away from the Ling Cod pinnacle.

Chad rigged our rods with 16/0 circle hooks and put a hunk of salmon belly on the hooks. The Halibut spot was not much different than the Ling Cod spot. Every trip to the bottom with our gear produced a Yellow Eye

Rockfish or Halibut. Because of the size restrictions on Halibut, we had to catch several fish until we had Halibut which we wanted to keep. The action was intense. After an hour of Halibut fishing, we had our fish and were exhausted after catching so many Halibut and Yellow Eye. There are not many places I go fishing where I get tired from catching too many fish. Now we had a boat load of Halibut, Ling Cod and Yellow Eye. We were done early so we decided to wait for the lunch boat.

Every day the lunch boat comes out to a small bay at the edge of the ocean and brings lunch and hot coffee out to anyone who wants to take a fishing break. The lunch boat can take any fish you have on board back to the lodge for processing. I should mention you are issued tags with your personal number at the beginning of the trip, so your fish can be identified.

After lunch Chad jumped on another boat and Bob and I went salmon fishing close by at Denham Bay. It was about 1 PM and the winds really began to howl. Denham Bay always has salmon even when the winds are blowing 15 to 20 miles per hour. It might get rough, but it hardly gets "out of control" rough. Most other Resort anglers chose to fish a little further back in the inlet where there was calm water.

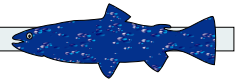
It appeared Denham Bay was a good choice since a big push of Chinook arrived there in the afternoon. There were three boats fishing in the Bay at the time. During this period, there were double headers on all three boats for the entire afternoon. Bob

and I caught and released Chinook non-stop until 5 PM. The fishery was incredible. How do you tell these stories and expect people to believe fishing could be so good? Well, I was there along with forty other salmon anglers at the Resort who could attest to the fishing success for the day. Bob and I didn't keep any Chinook during the afternoon because we had a whole day of salmon fishing the next day. Hard to believe but the best Chinook fishing was to come the next day. Bob and I couldn't wait to get out on the water the next morning.

In the morning, Chad asked if we needed any help and offered to fish with us until lunch time. The wind was really blowing most of the day. It was obvious we would not be going out on the ocean unless we wanted a good beating from the ocean swells. We went back to Denham Bay at the edge of the ocean. The ocean swells were barely tolerable and the rain was intense. Despite horrible weather conditions, the fishing was just like it was the day before. We used six-inch spoons, herring, flashers and spoons. The salmon were biting on anything we threw at them. In the morning Bob and I kept two fish close to the 20-pound mark. There was no need to complete our limits since there was more salmon fishing to be done after lunch.

Before we went to lunch I asked Chad if anyone fishes for salmon at some island about five miles away from where we were fishing. Chad said, "Yeah we go over there sometimes." Because the wind was blowing so hard we wanted to fish on the north side of those islands in order to fish in

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calmer waters. Well, it seemed like a good idea.

After lunch Bob and I headed over to the island. I am telling you, it was one rough ride over there. Before we left, Chad (who was in the lunch boat) told us about a few areas to fish once we got there. When we got to the right spot, Bob and I put our gear in the water and immediately got a double header on. And that's how Chinook fishing went for the next three hours. We had Chinook on non-stop for three continuous hours. We couldn't troll ten feet without having a fish on. Fishing during the afternoon became a dream come true. Half way through the afternoon Tom Nelson and his crew called us on the VHF radio. I told Tom to get over here quickly. I really didn't know where I was, so I could describe landmarks to him. We could see Tom and his son Matt in the distance and would eventually guide him to our fishing spot. Tom and Matt had their lines in the water for just a minute and they had their first double header on. Our two boats had fish on non-stop for the rest of the afternoon. I guess the bite never ended until dark. What a day, what a memory. It was the best fishing day I ever had in my lifetime.

When 2018 rolls around, I will be thinking about Denham Bay, Denham Shoals and the distant Island for which I don't know the name.

You are invited to go on a trip with Tom Nelson and me on Father's Day 2018. Click the link for more information regarding the trip. Also, you can call West Coast Resorts sales staff: 1-800-810-8933. It is a trip of a lifetime you

will never forget.

[Click on this link
for more information
Englefield Bay Trip](#)

Outdoor Line ESPN Radio 710 AM Listen to Tom & John

On Saturday November 4, listen to Tom Nelson and myself talk Puget Sound Winter Chinook fishing on "The Outdoor Line" on ESPN Radio 710 AM from 6 AM to 9 AM. If you are fishing the Bayside Chinook Derby, you might tune in and pick up some good tips on where to be and what to use to put a prize-winning fish in the boat.

Everett Blackmouth Derby November 4-5 Tickets \$30 Purchase your Derby Tickets at John's Sporting Goods

[More Information Click Here](#)

Special Purchase



Tackle For The Serious Angler

Fishbuster Specials



Scotty 2500 Pot Puller
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Reg. Price \$499



Katch Kooler II
Sale Price \$29.95
Reg. Price \$39.95



Daiwa Tanacom 750
Sale Price \$549
Filled Free w/65lb-80lb Braided Line



Daiwa ACCUDEPTH 27LCB
Left or Right Hand \$69
Reg. Price \$79.95

Prices Good Through December 24th-In Store Purchase Only
No Coupons-No Discount Gift Certificates-Or other Discounts Can be used on these Items

John's Sporting Goods

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20% Discount
on your next in store
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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.

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Valid only with coupon at the time of sale

Expires December 30, 2017

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

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

Holiday Gift Card Sale

\$50 Gift Card for \$40

November 1-December 24

Cannot Be Redeemed Until December 26



May Not be Used for the Purchase of Fishing or Hunting Licenses or Discover Passes, Cannot be Redeemed for Cash