

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

February 2018

Fishing Dates

These Seasons
and Limits
May Change

Area 5

March 16-April 30
Limit 2 Salmon
Release COHO and wild
CHINOOK.

Area 6

March 1-April 15
Limit 2 Salmon
Release COHO and wild
CHINOOK.

Area 7

January 1- April 30
Chinook Daily limit 1fish
Release COHO and wild
CHINOOK.

Area 8-1

Scheduled to open
February 16
One Chinook Daily Limit

Area 8-2

Scheduled to open
February 16
One Chinook Daily Limit

Area 9

Scheduled to open
February 16
One Chinook Daily Limit

Area 10

November 1-February 28
Chinook Daily limit 2 fish
Release wild COHO and wild
CHINOOK.

Area 11

November 1-April 30
Limit 2 Salmon
Release wild COHO and wild
CHINOOK

2018 Ways to Make a Difference

Jennings Park
Kids Fishing Derby
May 2017

Everett Lions Club
Derby for the Blind
September 2018

This is the time of year to contribute to two great events: The Jennings Park Kids Fishing Derby and the Everett Lions Club Derby for the Blind.

I will match any donation dollar for dollar that you contribute to either event.

I have been involved in the Blind Derby for many years. The Blind people who are involved in this derby will pull at your heart strings. They are so full of enthusiasm and excitement. Can you only imagine what it is like to be on the water salmon fishing and being blind? Please help. 100% of this money will be given out as cash prizes.

Including my matching money (2017), we raised \$2500 for the Blind Derby and \$1,500 for the Jennings Park Kids Fishing Derby. Thank you for your donations!

Contact John Martinis (425-259-3056) to contribute to either event. Thank you for your help!

Marine Areas 8-1, 8-2 and 9 Open February 16

Many of us, really do not like salmon closures here in Puget Sound or, for that matter, anywhere. The question I pose to everyone reading this newsletter is, "do you want Marine Areas 8-1, 8-2 and 9 to open January 16th and then close early or do you want the same areas to open in February and conceivably stay open into April?" An alternative way to pose the same question is, "do you want these areas to open early and then fill up the quota with barely legal Chinook or do you want those areas to open February 16th and catch larger Chinook in late March and April?" Remember, we get assessed for one Chinook whether it is 22.5 or 30 inches. I don't like closures any more than you do, but if I have a choice of 60 days of Chinook fishing I would simply choose the 60 days with the greatest chance of boating a quality Chinook that may be as large as 8 to 15 pounds. Well, so much for that. I have said my piece.

On February 16th, I have my sights set on Mid Channel Bank at Port Townsend. There is a 10:43AM low tide that day which I would consider an ideal tide for Mid Channel Bank. From February 16th, the tides will get better for the next five days.

Just Fishing



Mid Channel Bank

On opening day, the water will be flowing from [Marrowstone Point](#) to Point Wilson. This is an important piece of information since this will set up our fishing plans for the day. During the early stages of the ebb tide, I have a preference for fishing close to Marrowstone Point. When the tide picks up speed, water close to Marrowstone Point gets too mixed up. As the water picks up speed, I like to fish halfway back to Point Wilson. At some point the tide will crest and water will start to slow down. As the water slows down I like to fish 3/4 of the way to Point Wilson from Marrowstone Point. At most stages of the tide I only troll from east to west. However, when the water slows down near low tide I will troll in either direction.

I have success fishing for Chinook at Mid Channel Bank in 90 feet of water. I know some anglers do quite well fishing in 125 to 150 feet of water. The only problem when fishing these depths is tangled gear taking place when fishing deep. I will sneak out to 125 feet to look for bait but if I don't see any bait I come back to 90 to 100 feet. Fishing that deep just is not my style. It is important to note that whatever depth you plan on fishing you must fish within five feet of the bottom. I see Chinook on my fish finder all the time in the middle water columns between 60 and 75 feet. Don't waste your energy trying to target those fish. They are less likely to bite than Chinook close to the bottom. At least once a day I get suckered into attempts to target those suspended Chinook and the

result is almost always the same, "waste of time".

The gear selection for fishing Mid Channel Bank is limited. Most days one needs just a selection of Coho Killers and a [Red Racer flasher](#). I certainly would not dismiss the [Cookies N Cream Coho Killer](#) and the [Herring Aide Coho Killer](#). Some days I have caught more Chinook on [3.0 Kingfisher spoons](#) in the same color patterns as the Coho Killers. So, always have some 3.0 Kingfisher spoons along for the ride.

Tie the spoons to the flasher with a good quality fluorocarbon leader material. What I prefer is the [Pline CFX in the 30-pound](#) weight. Tie the leader to the spoon and cut the leader to a 46-inch length. When you tie the leader to the flasher, the leader length will be around 42 inches.

Possession Bar

On February 16th, the [Possession Bar](#) low tide will be at 11:37AM. At daylight, the water will be going out. This is an excellent tide for fishing the [west side of the Bar or fishing the Tin Shed Drift](#). We just don't know which place will be best for Chinook fishing until it opens. My guess would be to start at the Tin Shed Drift. Start fishing at the northern most part of the Tin Shed Drift and fish in a southerly direction in 90 to 125 feet of water. If you locate a good concentration of bait, stick to that area until you feel there is little chance of catching a fish.

A place on Possession Bar that gets neglected and is a good producer of

Chinook is the very southwest corner of the Bar. If you are not picking up some legal Chinook in the Tin Shed drift I would strongly recommend fishing the very southwest corner of the Bar during the last hour of the ebb tide. Quite often as the water slows down huge concentrations of bait will be found on this corner of the Bar.

Early in the ebb tide, try fishing on the west side of the Bar but closer to the [Scatchet Head Buoy](#). Start trolling approximately 1/4 mile south of the buoy and keep working the west side of the Bar in 90 to 100 feet of water.

When Area 9 was open in November it was shaker city. Hopefully those sub-legal Chinook will have moved on to their journey north. Here is the game plan from the start: if there are two anglers in the boat, rig a [5 inch 602 or 603 Tomic plug](#) on one rod. On the other rod rig a [Gibbs Red Racer flasher](#) with either a [3.5 Kingfisher Herring Aide spoon](#) or a flasher with a [3.5 Kingfisher Cookies N Cream spoon](#). There should still be plenty of sub-legal Chinook hanging around to make fishing with a Coho Killer spoon difficult. Number one you don't want to be wasting time with sub-legal Chinook and number two you don't want to be unnecessarily killing sub-legal Chinook. A concerted effort by everyone to use larger fishing rigs should extend the season. We certainly don't want a repeat of November when the Chinook season was suddenly closed because of the large number of sub-legal Chinook being caught.

Just Fishing



Point no Point

This is another decent place for Chinook fishing when the tide is going out. And yes, the tide is ideal for Point no Point that first week of the Chinook fishing season.

Start trolling at Point no Point and troll in a westerly direction all the way into Skunk Bay. Once you get there, pick up your gear and run back to Point no Point and repeat the process. I recommend fishing in 60 to 150 feet of water. The bait is going to dictate where you fish. Fishing here is the same method as fishing Possession Bar. Find the bait and then concentrate your efforts in those areas.

Also, I would recommend the same gear I suggested for fishing Possession Bar.

Useless Bay

During the November Chinook season [Useless Bay](#) was, literally, useless. Now that doesn't mean it will be a repeat of the February 16th Chinook action. Once the morning high tides begin developing during the daylight hours, I would certainly take time to fish Useless Bay for a couple of hours and see if some larger Chinook are being caught in this area. If you fish this area during the last hour of the flood tide, you might discover if it deserves a future trip to this area.

Start fishing deep inside on the west side of Useless Bay and troll as far south as possible while staying in 90 to 125 feet of water. Once again, bait concentrations will be the key to

success in this area. Some years Chinook will be inside the Bay in front of the cabins and other years the fish will be out on the southeast corner of the bar.

One of the nice features of fishing Useless Bay is the small number of sub-legal Chinook compared to the surrounding angling areas. You can fish smaller spoons without hooking into a group of sub-legal Chinook. There is a good mixture of small herring and sand lance in this spot, so I recommend using the [Cookies N Cream 3.0 Kingfisher](#) and [Herring Aide spoons](#) rigged behind a [Gibbs Red Racer flasher](#).

Downrigger Rigging

A frustrating feature about the Scotty downrigger stopping system is the stopper beads. It doesn't matter whether the stopper beads are on cable or braid. The stopper beads will wear with use and eventually the beads slide down the cable or braid. Here is where problems start. If the stopper beads slide too far down the downrigger line, the downrigger will not stop, and the downrigger ball will hit the pulley at the end of the downrigger boom. This is not much of an issue if you have the Scotty 1106, but it is a huge issue if you have the Scotty 2106 high speed downrigger. The motor in the Scotty 2106 is powerful enough to blow the downrigger ball right off the end of the cable. Goodbye downrigger ball, swivel, release line and goodbye \$65 (or more).

There are two ways to prevent losing a downrigger ball by hitting the ball

against the pulley.

#1 Use the Scotty Sure stop #374. The advantages to using this system are:

- A) Attach your downrigger line directly to the heavy-duty crane swivel and the swivel itself becomes the stopper bead for the auto stop on the downrigger
- B) This works very well when using braided downrigger line
- C) Ensures your downrigger ball will stop short of the pulley

#2 If you are using braided line, tie a 12-foot piece of 300-pound braid on the end of the braided downrigger line. Do this:

- A) Slide two #6 or #8 beads on to the braided downrigger line. These two beads will act as the stopper beads for the Scotty Downrigger.
- B) Tie (with a Uni to Uni knot) the 12-foot piece of 300-pound braid to the 200-pound braid that is on the downrigger
- C) Super Glue the knot
- D) Slide a 6-inch piece of tubing on to the 300-pound braid. Tie a large snap swivel to the end of the 300-pound braid. Do not use a rubber bumper with braided line because it wears the braid.
- E) Center the clear tubing to where you want it by placing a Scotty red stopper bead on each end of the tubing.

See illustration on next page

I have the Scotty 2106 Downrigger and I use method #2 on my downriggers. Method #1 is easier to rig, and it achieves the same result. Once you rig your downrigger with either one of these methods, you will not return to the conventional method of rigging cable on a downrigger.

Downrigger Terminal Rigging

Items Needed

- 300lb Braided Line
- #6 Beads
- 4/0 Snap Swivel
- Scotty Stopper Beads
- Tubing
- Super Glue

Step #1
Slide 2/#6 Beads
up the Downrigger Line

Step #2
Tie 12ft of 300lb
Braided Line to the
Downrigger Line
with a
Uni to Uni Knot

Step #3
Super Glue
the Knot

[Link to Tying
Uni to Uni Knot](#)

Step #6
Install Scotty
Red Stopper
Beads
on Each end of
the Tubing

Step #4
Slide the Tubing
on to the 300lb
Braided Line

The Tubing is Protection
for the Braided Line when
Snapping a Downrigger
Release to the Downrigger Line

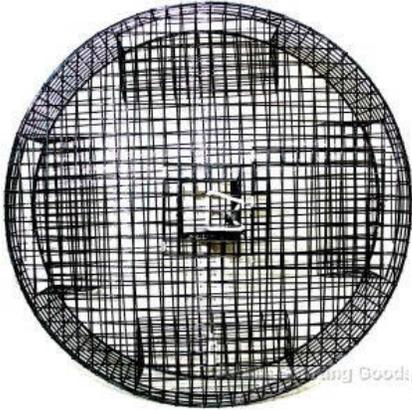
Step #5
Tie the 300lb
Braid to Swivel
and Super Glue
the Knot



Special Purchase

Tackle For The Serious Angler

Shrimp Pot Sale February 2018



1/4" Rope

SMI 19001 Shrimp Pot
600ft 1/4" Leaded Rope-Buoy
Sale Price \$109



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" Leaded Rope Sale Price \$39.95
600ft Leaded 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 28, 2018

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

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**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
\$499

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**