

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

March 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!

March Fishing Tournaments

Can you believe it? We are already closing in on March and there are two great Chinook Tournaments coming up. Make that "to-do" list of things you need to do to your boat and get primed. March is going to be one heck of a time for big tournaments and big fish.

All you Chinook anglers, I know, are "chomping at the bits" to try out new salmon fishing skills in hopes of top prize money for the biggest fish in the first Olympic Peninsula Salmon Derby on March 10th and 11th. Derby boundaries for the Olympic Peninsula Salmon are sub-sections of Marine Areas 6, 7 and 9, [click here](#) for derby map. The top cash prizes will include a \$10,000 first place prize for the largest Chinook at the weigh in. Second prize is \$2,000 and third prize is \$1,000. Now that's not chicken feed. The next four cash prizes are for what they call "Mystery Fish" with \$500 each. You should carefully read the rules to determine what constitutes "Mystery Fish" criteria. As of this Newsletter publishing date, derby sponsors are claiming to have in excess of \$18,000 in prizes and cash to be awarded for Chinook entered in this contest. Tickets are \$40 each and are available at John's Sporting Goods. Rules for the derby, [click here](#).

After you get those fishing rods limbered up in the Olympic Salmon

Just Fishing



Derby, get ready for the Everett Blackmouth Derby March 17th and 18th. Tickets for the Everett Derby are \$100 per boat and are available at John's Sporting Goods. Each ticket is valid for up to four anglers. There are only 125 tickets available for the Everett Derby so get those tickets ASAP before they run out. Last year all tickets were sold a couple days prior to the derby.

The Everett Derby fishing area includes Marine Areas 8-1, 8-2 and 9. In the past, the Everett Derby was only a one-day deal. This year the tournament is extended to two days of fishing. First Prize is \$3,000 for the largest Chinook weighed in. Second prize is \$1500. Third prize is \$500 and Fourth Prize being \$250. Also, the Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club will be hosting a Blackmouth Fishing Seminar at 7 PM, March 14th at Bayside Marine.

Winning Strategies

Do you think winning one of these two Chinook fishing tournaments is a roll of the dice or is there a bit of skill involved? Last year the winner in the Olympic Salmon Derby was an angler trolling out of his sail boat at Craven Rock. Not a bad pay day for a laid-back day of salmon fishing. However, most of the time these derbies are won by hard core salmon anglers who are consistently hooking up big Chinook salmon on a regular basis. Remember, you can do that! Even if you have just one year of Chinook angling experience under the belt, I can make sure you are in the ballgame by just following a few simple rules.

Tides Do Matter

Pick out a couple of good fishing areas in advance known for having productive fishing during a particular tide. Don't pick an area just because you are comfortable fishing there. Honestly, you are really reducing your chances for success. Hopefully you don't think that Chinook posted on my Facebook are caught because I'm a better salmon angler than others. These fish come my way because I have a historical sense of tide movement. This takes many years of experience and I am more than willing to share these thoughts with you.

First, let's get a look at Olympic Fishing Derby tides. On Saturday March 10th, water in Marine Areas 6 and 7 will be flooding by daylight and tides will be high at 9:17 AM. At Mid Channel Bank the tide will be high around 9:45 AM. These are easy choices for the first day of the derby. I would fish either Craven Rock near Port Townsend or I would fish the east-side of Eastern Bank. A good strategy might be to fish Craven Rock while the tide is flooding and switch to fishing Mid Channel Bank when the tide starts to ebb. This year in late February, I caught some decent Chinook at Mid Channel Bank and would have placed well up the ladder in any of our local Derby's. By the time these salmon tournaments begin, there is going to be some early spring Chinook showing up at Eastern Bank and at Mid Channel Bank. These salmon should weight in the low and middle teens.

The tides for the Everett Blackmouth Derby are certainly ideal at Mid

Channel Bank with a 11:55 AM low at Port Townsend. If you have the boat and desire to head to Mid Channel Bank on derby day, you bet it will be worth both time and effort. Many anglers are not into traveling to Mid Channel and that is perfectly acceptable since the Everett Derby has been won as close as Hat Island. Some alternatives for the Everett Derby are Onamac Point on Camano Island and Rock Point also on Camano Island. Either of these Camano Island points are up to producing derby winning Chinook in March.

Gearing Up

We can talk about spoons all day long but if you fish with factory hooks that come in the package, your chances are only 50/50 of landing any decent Chinook. Just think losing a Chinook worth between \$3,000 and \$10,000??? The best hooks and most expensive hooks cost just \$1 each. Now think about this: \$40 to \$100 for a derby ticket; \$50 to \$100 for gas; \$10 to \$25 to launch a boat; lunch; gear and (yes) those side bets. You bet, you can afford the best hooks money can buy. Believe me, the number one item which could put you in the prize money is that \$1 hook.

Prior to August of last year, I was using Gamakatsu Big River Siwash as replacement hooks on my spoons. After a little thought, I noticed my hook-up to landing ratio on Chinook was not good. For every two fish hooked-up only one fish got into the net. That's not good! Things need to change! I began looking for a hook made of thinner wire and a hook with a wider throat. A little research led

Just Fishing



me to the Owner Stinger Siwash Hook 3/0. The 3/0 Owner Siwash is similar in size to the Gamakatsu 4/0 Big River Siwash hook but is significantly sharper than the Gamakatsu Big River hook with a wider throat for deeper hook-sets. My hook-up ratio to landing ratio on Chinook is now closer to 90%. Now that stat did not change by chance!

Spoons

Recently I noticed Chinook I have been catching at Mid Channel Bank have five-inch candlefish in their bellies. This makes a sound case for using Goldstar Coho Killer spoons with the [Owner 3/0 Stinger Siwash Hook](#). The top choice on Spoon colors should include Herring Aide and Cookies n Cream.

Closer to home around Possession Bar and Pilot Point the Chinook have a mix of candlefish and small herring in their stomachs. In these areas I recommend Goldstar 3.0 Kingfisher spoons and Coho Killer spoons each rigged with 3/0 Owner Stinger Siwash Hooks. Leader length on spoons should be 42 inches and tied with Pline 30 pound fluorocarbon leader material.

Fishing Depths

When I was fishing Mid Channel Bank in February my best fishing action came at 140 to 155 feet of water. I don't know how reliable that piece of fishing information might be by mid-March, but I would keep it in mind as a backup plan.

Local anglers who have been fishing

Possession Bar, Pilot Point and Point no Point have been catching their Chinook in 90 to 100 feet of water. Those Chinook fishing depths are typical for this time of year.

No matter what depth you choose to fish for Chinook, just keep in mind you must fish close to the bottom. If you don't because you are too tired or too cold your chances of catching a derby winning Chinook has now dropped significantly. Fishing for Chinook this time of year is a contact sport in every sense of the word. Every few minutes with any change of water depth you should let the downrigger ball to the bottom and bring it back about five feet. This means a great deal of work over a 6 to 8-hour period. Believe me when I tell you this, "Chinook anglers that are constantly winning and placing in the Chinook tournaments are checking for bottom every few minutes." You can take that to the bank!

I know I have told you this in the past. When you are out fishing, look at the number of anglers sitting down and just staring at their fishing rods. This simply doesn't work. The only time this works is Perch fishing in Lake Washington. I want you to win or place in one of these two Chinook tournaments and you will do it by aggressively fishing. Now with all this talk about fishing, let's get out there and have some fun this year. Really, who knows what the future will hold. Gotta keep those hopes (and rod tips) high!

Chinook Maps

[Mid Channel Bank](#)

[Pilot Point](#)
[Point no Point](#)
[Craven Rock](#)

Gear

[Goldstar 3.0 Kingfisher spoon](#)
[Herring Aide](#)
[Goldstar 3.0 Kingfisher](#)
[Cookies n Cream](#)
[Goldstar Coho Killer](#)
[Herring Aide](#)
[Goldstar Coho Killer](#)
[Cookies n Cream](#)
[Gibbs Red Racer Flasher](#)
[Sampo X3CB Swivel](#)
[Pline Fluorocarbon](#)
[30-pound Leader](#)

New Items at John's

This is a new item to compliment your flasher bag for tackle storage. The product by Fisheng (correct spelling) comes in two sizes that are appropriate for salmon tackle storage. The product is a foam board with slots for storing spoons or tied squid leaders. The JLB-04 fits in a Plano storage box (2-3715) while the JLB-06 fits in the Plano storage box (2-3721). The larger JLB-06 can be double stacked in the Plano 2-3721. With either size foam board you can store tied rigs or just use the board for spoon storage. This item is by Fisheng is quite simple and quite handy to have. I have been surprised at how fast these items sell. John's Sporting Goods has these items in stock.

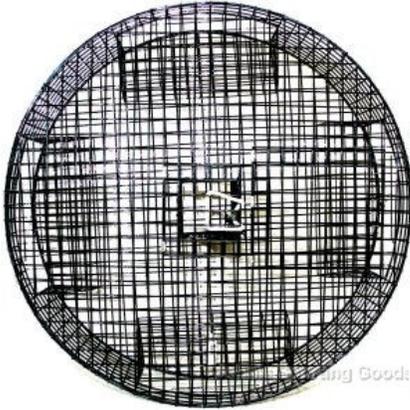
[JLB-04](#)

[JLB-06](#)

Special Purchase

Tackle For The Serious Angler

Shrimp Pot Sale March 2018



1/4" Rope

SMI 19001-600ft Leded Rope-Buoy
Sale Price \$109
John's #1 Selling Shrimp Pot
Reg. Price \$127



SMI & Kufa Pots
Ladner Style Shrimp Pot
Large Size \$89



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



1/4" Leded Rope Sale Price \$39.95
600ft Leded 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, Lamiglas Rods, 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 Lamiglas Rods, 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 Last Day of February 2018

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

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customerservice@johnssportinggoods.com

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http://www.facebook.com/?ref=tn_tnmn#!/pages/Johns-Sporting-Goods/166123680152608



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