

# Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

June 2018

Fishing Dates  
These Seasons  
and Limits  
May Change

## Area 7

July 1-30 hatchery Chinook  
August 1-September 3 wild or  
hatchery Chinook

July 1-September 30 wild or  
hatchery Coho

## Area 8-1

August 1-September 30 wild  
or hatchery Coho

## Area 8-2

August 1-September 30 wild  
or hatchery Coho

Tulalip Bubble opens May 25-  
September 4. Opens every  
week Friday, Saturday,  
Sunday and until noon on  
Monday

## Area 9

July 16-August 15 hatchery  
Chinook or until quota is  
attained

July 16-September 30  
hatchery coho only

## Area 10

July 16-August 30 hatchery  
Chinook or until quota is  
attained.

June 1-November 15 wild or  
hatchery Coho.

## New Videos by John Martinis

Many of you who have recently looked at "John's Sporting Goods Facebook" have now seen my newly created videos. Two were produced by myself and two were produced in association with Sean from Buck King Outdoors. The new videos are: Catching Spot Shrimp, Spot Shrimp Bait, Spot Shrimp Gearing Up and Razor Clam digging. These videos, I hope, should help you overcome any apprehension about trying something completely new. In addition, many of you who are well versed in this activity might gain a nugget or two of information to improve your outdoor endeavors. I hope you enjoy the videos and I hope you pick up some good information from these presentations.

Video #1: **Catching Spot Shrimp** - This video is an A to Z tutorial for rigging and baiting a shrimp setup on the water which was made in the Straits of Juan de Fuca. Produced by John Martinis. [Click here for video link.](#)

Video #2: **Spot Shrimp Bait** - This video is a presentation of the creation of the Spot Shrimp bait which has been used by myself and others to get successful limits of shrimp. In addition, is my innovative idea for using one tube of thin bait and one tube of chunky bait. Produced by John Martinis. [Click here for link to video.](#)

Video #3: **Shrimping Gearing Up** - This video was produced by Sean at Buck King Outdoors and was shot by Sean and myself at the John Martinis Store. In this video we show the separate items required to catch Spot Shrimp. I call this video, "The Anatomy of a Shrimp Pot". [Click here for link to video.](#)

Video #4: **Razor Clamming on the Washington Coast** - Want to go Razor Clam digging but don't have the slightest idea about what is involved? This video is for you. It is a good tutorial on digging, cleaning and cooking Razor Clam. The location for this presentation was at Mocrocks/Roosevelt Beach on the Washington State coast. Produced by Sean at Buck King Outdoors. [Click here for video link.](#)

## Quiz: Where does Chinook Fishing open in Puget Sound on May 25th?

Answer: Tulalip Terminal Area Fishery (Tulalip Bubble). The Tulalip Bubble opens on May 25th for Chinook fishing and you can keep two Chinook with or without an adipose fin clipped (hatchery or wild). To make it even better, the Bubble is one of the few areas in Puget Sound where you can have the use of two rods if you have the two-rod endorsement on your fishing license. However, there are some additional Bubble rules: The Bubble is open every week Friday, Saturday,

# Just Fishing



Sunday and until Noon on Monday from May 25th to June 30th, 2018. When the new rule book comes out on July 1st, additional fishing dates beyond June 30th will be noted.

Let's take a peek at what makes the Bubble fishery tick. All rules governing Chinook fishing get thrown out the window at the Tulalip Bubble. The first rule that gets tossed is the need to fish close to the bottom. Fishing can be good in 60 feet of water and just as good out in 200 feet of water. Say what? Talk about making fishing easy. Really? You're saying Chinook fishing does not have to be technical and difficult?

Many Chinook anglers including myself have discovered that fishing 30 to 60 feet deep at the Bubble works quite well. And it does not matter whether the depth is 60 feet or 200 feet deep. I would suggest keeping a line at 30 and one at 60 feet. These Chinook are headed to the hatchery in Tulalip Bay so they are queuing in on that top layer of water that is coming out of Tulalip Bay.

I also discovered over many years of fishing the Tulalip Bubble: The late day/evening fishing after 6 PM is really the best time to go after these Chinook. This makes it a great after work fishery. The last few times I fished the Bubble in the evening, I set my lines at only 30 feet and was fishing in 60 to 100 feet of water. These fish seem to come right to the surface at the end of the day.

## Gear for Fishing the Bubble

Gibbs Red Racer Flasher  
3.0 Kingfisher  
Cookies n Cream Spoon  
3.0 Gibbs G Force  
Paddy Wagon Spoon  
30-pound Pline Fluorocarbon leader  
Sampo X3CB Ball Bearing Swivel

I would also try the New Pro Troll Flasher with the LED blinking light for this late day/near night time Chinook fishing.

**Note:** The first two weeks of the Tulalip Bubble Chinook fishery were good last year. The overall Bubble Chinook fishing has greatly improved in the past two years. So, don't look at this fishery as a side note that you just ignore.

## Puget Sound Lingcod Update

The Puget Sound Lingcod season started out with little fanfare. As the fishing pressure dropped off, the Lingcod fishing has started to improve. I am not saying that the Lingcod fishing got very good. What I am saying is the fishing has improved. The Lingcod anglers that have stuck to fishing Possession Bar have been finding the fishing to be better than average. If you gave Lingcod fishing a try and didn't have any success it might be time to give it a second look. I have found that in most fisheries, "when the pressure slacks off, fishing frequently improves."

If you are heading out for some Lingcod fishing in Puget Sound, take time to catch some Sand Sole for bait. Keep the Sole in an ice chest or bucket and circulate the

water to keep them alive. If you don't want to mess around with catching Sole, try using cut plug herring.

A good technique when fishing Possession Bar is to take slices of the Bar on each drift you make across the face of the Bar. Try to keep your fishing depth between 45 and 65 feet of water.

## North Puget Sound Coon Stripe Shrimp

Coon Stripe Shrimp and Pink Shrimp open in most areas of Puget Sound on June 1st. The limit is 10 pounds of whole shrimp with the heads on if the area is only open for Coon Stripe and Pink Shrimp. The heads of the shrimp can be removed while in the field but must be retained while on the water.

If you are thinking about using your Spot Shrimp Pots think again. Spot Shrimp Pots will not work for Coon Stripe and Pink Shrimp because the mesh size is simply too large. SMI makes a square wire shrimp pot that has a mesh size of ½ inch (#19023). I have frequently used this equipment and they are very good shrimp pots. These pots need additional weight, so they weigh 20 pounds.

### Rigging a Coon Stripe/Pink Shrimp Pot

Rig a SMI ½ inch mesh pot (#19037) with enough weight to make them a total of 20 pounds. Rig these pots with at least 175 feet of leaded 5/16 or ¼ inch line. Use two medium size yellow floats.

The bait will be the same bait mixture that is in the video at the beginning of this Fishing Journal.

I simply ran out of places to research for

# Just Fishing



the maximum depth allowed for Coon Stripe and Pink Shrimp. I could not find it either in the rule book or on the WDFW web site. I am sure it is there but it is certainly not easy to obtain this information. Note to WDFW: Include the maximum Coon Stripe/Pink Shrimp fishing depth with each Area prior to the opening date. This is easy to do and it makes the information much easier to obtain. Please? This would be good information prior to June 1st because shrimp anglers are assembling their gear in advance and it would be much easier to rig the gear correctly the first time.

I believe the maximum shrimp fishing depth after June 1st, in Area 8-1 is 150 feet. Don't take my word for this, I am only doing this from memory. However, the maximum fishing depth will not matter because I have found that the best depth for Coon Stripe/Pink Shrimp in Area 8-1 is right at 100 feet.

If you are looking for good areas for Coon Stripe Shrimp and Pink Shrimp: Start in Area 8-1, Saratoga Passage, Whidbey Island side, Greenbank to Penn Cove.

Do not plan on leaving your shrimp pots out for more than one hour. I have discovered that after a one hour soak the shrimp start leaving. Do not plan on putting a shrimp pot out and coming back much later only to find a handful of shrimp in the pot. This is also the case for Spot Shrimp. After one hour the oil/scent has leached out of the bait and will not attract any more to the shrimp pot.

## Puget Sound Dungeness Crab

The Puget Sound crab season should open July 1st, for areas that will be open to recreational crabbing. As of today May 20th, 2018, these crab seasons have not

been announced. Nevertheless, we need to look at crabbing since most crabbing areas in the Sound will probably open on or about July 1st.

Do you have a shellfish license and a Puget Sound Crab endorsement? Everyone needs a catch record card for Dungeness crab no matter what age a person might be. If you wait to the last day or two to get a crab license, you will not like the lines nor the time it takes to get a license.

### Rigging Crab Pots

The majority of people crabbing in Puget Sound use the standard fold up crab pots which weigh nine pounds. A crab pot that weighs nine pounds does not have enough weight to go to the bottom and stay in one place. The Puget Sound crab season coincides with the greatest tides of the year, so you must prepare your crab pots to withstand the currents that are produced by the water dropping or gaining 10 feet in a six-hour period. That's a lot of water moving around. Dropping a nine pound crab pot to the bottom is like dropping a feather in a 10 knot wind. Neither the feather nor the crab pot will remain in one place for any period of time. My point is, "put at least ten pounds of weight in your crab pot." Putting weight in the crab pot will accomplish two objectives: 1) the pot will still be in the same place when you go to retrieve it. 2) Crab will be more likely to enter and stay in the pot if the pot is perfectly still.

The pots should be rigged with a crab pot harness and with at least 100 to 125 feet of leaded rope. At the end of the rope there should be at least two standard sized red/white buoys. SMI has come out with a round red/white inflatable buoy. I really like this inflatable buoy and it does not look like the thousands of other standard molded red/white buoys.

If you rig your crab pot with just one of the standard red/white molded buoys there is a good chance the buoy will be under water for hours when the tides are at the strongest level. Your first thought is that someone has stolen your pot when in reality the buoy is hiding from you fifty feet below the surface of the water.

Rig your crab pots correctly the first time: It will save you a good deal of money and will make crabbing a lot more enjoyable.

### Baiting a Crab Pot

Good baits to use for Dungeness Crab include: any kind of fish or fish parts, clams, chicken, turkey, squid, canned mackerel and canned salmon. The real secret to successfully baiting a crab pot is to use as much bait as you can afford to put in the pot. Simple math, "more bait equals more scent". Just like shrimping, the more scent put into the water column, the more crab will be attracted to your crab pot. There are so many people crabbing you want your crab pot to have the most and the best scent.

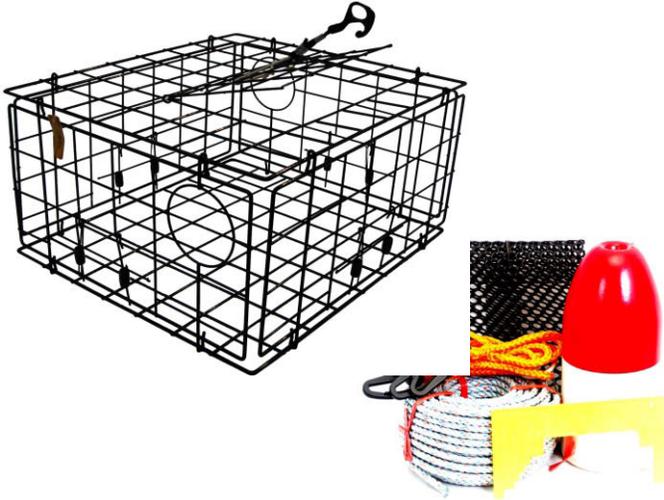
Last year I purchased a 25-pound box of frozen sardines for crab bait. You might have seen some of the crab photos Anne and I posted on the John's Sporting Goods Facebook. The photos, I thought, were impressive. I must admit I was amazed that a specific bait such as sardines could be so good. I will try to get some 25-pound boxes of frozen sardines to sell as we get closer to crab season.

# Special Purchase

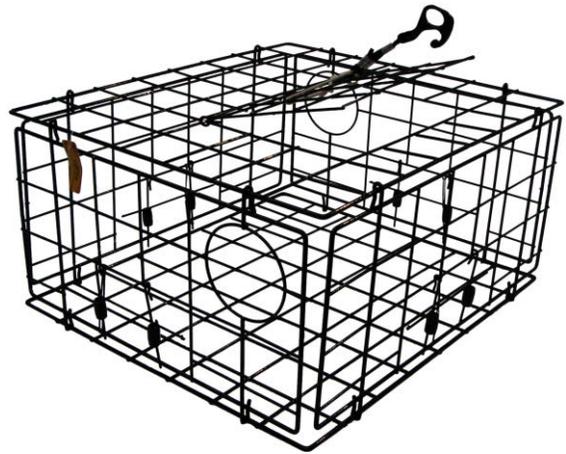


Tackle For The Serious Angler

## Crab Pot Sale June 1-30



**Crab Pot Complete**  
Crab Pot, Trap Harness,  
Bait Bag, Buoy,  
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Sale Price \$39.95



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