

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

Decemebr 2015

Fishing Dates

**These Seasons
and Limits
May Change**

Area 7

Dec 1-April 30

Daily limit two

Chinook, hatchery only

Area 8-1

Nov 1-April 30

Daily limit two

Chinook, hatchery only

Area 8-2

Nov 1-April 30

Daily limit two

Chinook, hatchery only

Area 9

**January 16, expected to
open for Chinook**

Area 10

**Closed for Chinook
until further notice**

Derbies

**Resurrection Derby
December 4 & 5
Friday Harbor
Salmon Classic
December 4 & 5**

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\$50 Gift Certificate for \$40

John's Sporting Goods Holiday Gift Cards go on sale November 1. This year you may purchase any number of Gift Cards and there are fewer Gift Card restrictions on what can be purchased. However, discount Holiday Gift Cards cannot be used on Sale Merchandise; cannot be combined with coupons and cannot be used for Fishing/Hunting Licenses and Discover Passes.

San Juan's Area 7

Show me the Money

Marine Area 7 opens December 1 and it cannot come fast enough for Puget Sound saltwater salmon anglers. If everyone feels like I do, I can't wait to get a crack at some decent size Chinook. I don't expect fishing to be like it was this summer. With a little luck, there should be good fishing in the usual places like Rosario Straits, the Banks and the North end of Orcas Island. This is what I anticipate from past experiences: If you want larger Chinook,

then you have to fish Tide Point, Eagle Bluff, Reef Point, Parker Reef or McArthur Bank. Hein Bank, Eastern Bank and Partridge will have lots of salmon but not many over 10 pounds. You notice I did not mention Eagle Point on the west side of San Juan Islands where there was decent fishing this summer. I just don't think there will be big fish coming out of this area in December.

Now, we have to talk about the upcoming salmon Derbies: Resurrection Derby December 4th and 5th with a \$10,000 first Prize. The Friday Harbor Salmon Classic, also on December 4th and 5th, likewise has a \$10,000 Prize. That's \$20,000 up for grabs for a two day period. Now, here is the problem; where to go, what to use and will bait or hardware get the winning fish?

Links to Derbies

[Resurrection Derby](#)
[Friday Harbor Classic](#)

Before you start thinking about fishing the Derbies, consider the tides. Tides are a constant influence in the San Juan Islands and one must use this as a dependable indicator for successful salmon fishing.

On both days, December 4th and 5th, the tides are almost the same. December 4th, the first daylight tide will be a High tide at 11:44 AM. Then the tide goes out for the rest of the day until Low tide at 7:17 PM. December 5th,

Just Fishing



High tide is 12:15 PM and Low at 7:48 PM. Both days the tide comes in at daylight and High tide will linger to about Noon. From Noon, (both days) the tide will ebb. With this information, one has to decide where to go for that \$10,000 salmon.

When you are fishing a particular area in the San Juan's, take a look at what is going on around you. Look for current seams on the surface of the water. A current seam will be a break between the fast water and the slower water. This will be an area where bait and Chinook will be found. Most fish like to travel in those current seams because that is where they find their source of food. Don't find yourself fishing in the faster water. Fish have to conserve energy, so they like to take the easier route at the edge of the current. This is one of the most useful tips that I can give to someone fishing in Rosario Straits. This summer when I was fishing at Eagle Point on the west side of San Juan Island, most days I found my best fishing for Chinook in sixty feet of water. This was well inside the current seam that ran off of Eagle Point. I used the same strategy at Mid Channel Bank at Port Townsend in July. I fished in sixty feet of water when the tide was running hard. Once again these techniques paid off big time. Two very different places, same results. Chinook in the boat each time.

I am not making a case for fishing in sixty feet of water, I am making a case for fishing inside the current seam. The water runs slower in the daylight hour during the winter months, so the current seam could be inside of 90-120 feet deep at most places.

Here are a few fishing suggestions concerning the December 4th and 5th tides. Keep in mind this advice applies to any day in the San Juan Islands when tides are identical to the 4th and 5th. Before Noon each day I would fish Eagle Bluff on the North end of Cypress Island, Parker Reef on the North end of Orcas Island or Rocky Bay on the East side of San Juan Island.

When the Noon tide starts ebbing, the entire game plan changes. In the afternoon, on both days, I would probably fish Tide Point on the West side of Cypress Island, Reef Point (on the South end of Cypress Island), Lopez Flats and Mc Arthur Bank. There are other more productive areas for Chinook fishing, but this gives you a starting point.

Click on any one of these Areas to download the map:

Incoming Tides Areas (partial list)

[Eagle Bluff](#)
[Parker Reef](#)
[Rocky Bay](#)

Ebb Tide Areas (partial List)

[Tide Point](#)
[Reef Point](#)
[Lopez Flats](#)
[Mc Arthur Bank/No Map](#)

Effective San Juan Bait and Tackle Rigs

This summer when fishing the San Juan's, I frequently changed rigs so that I could offer fish some variety. On one rod I had a fish flasher and bait and on another rod I had flashers and spoons. The latter accomplished two things: The flasher and spoon combo was unlikely to hook up shaker "bait

robbers" and the "spoon combo" spent more time in the water fishing. The flasher and bait rig still offered fish something like the bait they were chasing. However, sometimes, we didn't fish bait since it was just too much trouble. If you get into a really good shaker bite, it is a better not to fish bait since you tend to lose quality fishing time. So, this is the choice that has to be made every day. However, always bring Herring or Anchovies and start the day with at least one rig hooked up with bait.

During the winter months in the San Juan's, I found smaller spoons work the best. The Goldstar 3.0 Kingfisher and the Goldstar Coho Killer Spoons are good choices. Rig either spoon 42 inches behind a flasher. Leaders can be as long as 60 inches. Use these colors of spoons: Cookies n Cream #975, Red Racer #964 and the New Herring Aide color #395.

Using Herring or Anchovies

When rigging a flasher with either Herring or Anchovies, I recommend the Gibbs Farr Better Flasher (Sliding Flasher). Use a Rhys Davis Anchovy Special Head (Clear UV or Chrome) with a 60 inch leader tied to a flasher. This is an effective rig when used with 5 inch herring or anchovy in the Head holder.

Click on any one of these tackle items to see what they look like.

Tackle List Spoons

[Kingfisher Spoon 3.0 Cookies n Cream #975](#)
[Kingfisher Spoon 3.0 Herring Aide #395](#)
[Kingfisher Pro Spoon 3.0 #964](#)



Coho Killer Spoon
Cookies n Cream #975
Coho Killer Spoon #964
Coho Killer Spoon Herring Aide #395

Tackle List Flashers

Gibbs Farr Better Flasher
Purple Haze
Gibbs Farr Better Flasher GRRS
Gibbs Flasher Red Racer

Tackle List Anchovy Heads

Anchovy Special Chrome
Anchovy Special Clear UV

Helpful Videos and Diagrams

Rigging Anchovies
Rigging Farr Better Flasher Video

December Dungeness Crab

If you have not been out crabbing, you are missing out on one of the better winter crab seasons in some time. Not only are the crab larger than normal, they are in good supply. If you are heading out, I recommend someplace around the Hat Island (Gedney Island) area. The Northwest corner of Hat Island has been good crabbing as well as the eastern side of the Island. On the east side of Hat Island there is a bar that extends towards Everett. Set your pots in 50 to 75 feet of water. On the Northwest corner of Hat Island, do the same thing.

Crabbing Map

[Hat Island Crab Map](#)

Areas 8-1 and 8-2 Chinook

High winds and muddy water have put a temporary hold on Areas 8-1 and 8-2 Chinook fishing. When water clarity returns to normal (it might happen by the time you read this), typical fishing should return for this time of year.

Winter Chinook fishing has not been robust but anglers putting in an extra effort are getting decent Chinook to the boat. This isn't rock'm-sock'm fishing. This is grinding it out for a decent Chinook each day.

I have three recommendations for December Areas 8-1 and 8-2 Chinook fishing: The bar running between Hat Island and Camano Island, Elger Bay and Onamac Point. Both Elger Bay and Onamac Point are off Camano Island.

Tackle references for these areas include recommendations I made for Area 7 fishing except using 3.5 Kingfisher spoons. My thoughts for using larger spoons are larger bait fish found in Puget Sound this time of year compared to the San Juan's.

Area 9 Opening?

According to the Sport Fishing Rule Book (page 119), the next Area 9 Chinook opening will be January 16. I don't have any insider information about possible date changes, but I believe fishing will start on that date. Where it goes from there nobody truly knows. There is a chance that the November flood waters entering Puget Sound have pushed the sub-

legal Chinook further to the west and into the Straits of Juan de Fuca. Hopefully these "sub-legal" fish are gone from Area 9 and there can be normal winter Chinook fishing starting January 16.

Holiday Gift List for the Serious Angler

John's Sporting Goods Gift Card

Saltwater Fishing Journal

Tekota 500 or 600 Reel

Daiwa DXS 9ft Salmon Rod

Gibbs Farr Better Flasher

Daiwa Sealine left hand

Line Counter salmon

fishing Reel

Scotty 2500

Shrimp/Crab Pot Puller

Ace Line Hauler

Shrimp/Crab Puller

Kingfisher Pro Spoons

Silver Horde Flasher Bag

Silver Horde Katch Cooler

Kershaw 1242GEX Fillet Knife

Special Purchase

Tackle For The Serious Angler



Fishbuster Specials



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Price \$399.00
Reg. Price \$499



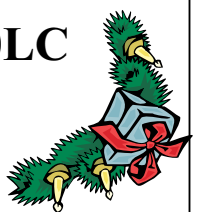
Katch Kooler II
Sale Price \$29.95
Reg. Price \$39.95



Lamiglas Classic Glass Series
Sale Price \$79.50
Reg. Price \$99.50



Shimano Tekota
500/600 & 500LC/600LC
Price \$149
Reg. Price \$165-\$175



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

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purchase

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Excludes G-Loomis, St Croix, Daiwa Electric Reels

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Expires December 30, 2015

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Scotty Downrigger
Maintenance
300ft Cable
or
300ft Spectra Braid
\$55

Included in the price is new brake pads, your choice of 300' of 150lb. Cable or 300' 200lb. of Cortland spectra downrigger line, cleaning and lubricating the downrigger.

Coupons and discounted gift certificates cannot be used for this service

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Exclusive at
John's Sporting Goods

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Guide Series

Installed with
300ft 200lb Braided Spectra
#1148 Ball hook
#371 Scotty Snubber
\$525

Standard Scotty 1106
\$473

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