

# Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

November 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

**May Not Open**

**Nov 1-Nov 30**

**Daily limit two**

**Chinook, hatchery only**

### Derbies

**Bayside Salmon Derby**

**November 7 & 8**

**Resurrection Derby**

**December 4 & 5**

**Friday Harbor**

**Salmon Classic**

**December 4 & 5**

**Shop Online at**

**John's Sporting Goods**

**[shop.johnssportinggoods.com](http://shop.johnssportinggoods.com)**

## John's Sporting Goods Web Site

I hope you had a chance to look at the "New" John's Sporting Goods web site and the John's Sporting Goods online fishing tackle store. We still offer free shipping on most items on our web site.

Here are some useful links that you might want to bookmark which go to our web site:

[John's Sporting Goods](#)

[Our Newsletters Archive](#)

[John's Sporting Goods Maps](#)

[John's Sporting Goods Videos](#)

[John's Sporting Goods Online Store](#)

## \$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.



Scotty 1106 \$473

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## Winter Chinook Fishing

The winter solstice is approaching (December 22) and the salmon seasons are changing along with the weather change. Right now, the Coho season is wrapping up and we are preparing for winter Chinook fishing in Puget Sound and San Juan Islands.

One thing that is also going to change is the Chinook regulations/seasons. Because of the Chinook mortality rate from the Chinook encounters in September and October, I believe the WDFW will impose some regulations using season length/dates or tackle restriction so that we can keep fishing but having fewer impacts on juvenile Chinook (sub legal Chinook/shakers). I don't have that information yet, so I would consider all possibilities so that you can adjust to any new rules which could be made near the November 1, Puget Sound Chinook season opening.

Go to this link on the WDFW web site to get all the saltwater emergency regulation updates, [Click Here](#).

I would be prepared for a regulation that imposes gear restrictions such as using salmon plugs. We can all live with this: A five inch plug with a 5/0 siwash hook is lethal for winter Chinook. Plugs that are very effective for Chinook are



John's Sporting Goods Web Page [www.johnssportinggoods.com](http://www.johnssportinggoods.com)



Tomic 602 and 603 five inch plugs. I also like the five inch Silver Horde plugs in white or purple haze. When I first began my career in the fishing business, all I used were five inch white Silver Horde Plugs for salmon fishing. That's what everyone used to catch Chinook at one time. Needless to say, times have changed and so has salmon tackle. One aspect of fishing with plugs I really enjoy, is a lack of sub-legal Chinook that are caught. This maximizes my fishing time and allows me to catch larger Chinook. Think about that for a moment. Every minute your gear is out of the water releasing sub-legal Chinook, is a minute wasted. During the Coho season my gear was out of the water probably 30% of the time because of the intense shaker bite just about everywhere I fished in Puget Sound.

## Rigging Plugs

There are two methods for rigging plugs. With Tomic or Silver Horde Plugs, tie the plug right to the end of the fishing line. Some anglers prefer using 3 to 4 feet of 30 pound leader tied to a ball bearing swivel when using plugs. Both methods are good. Never attach a snap swivel to the plug since that will ruin the plug action.

If and when the gear regulations are lifted, we can then go back to a variety of gear which we accustomed to using. Or, just stick with the plugs with hopes of catching larger Chinook.

At my Coho seminar, I introduced the Gibbs Farr Better flasher to many of you for the first time. The Gibbs Farr Better flasher is a release type flasher similar to the Qcove flasher. I use this

flasher almost exclusively with herring and I use it with what I call "unplugged". I don't plug the red pin into the flasher. I simply let the flasher rotate around the flasher harness. Unplugged the flasher will rotate around the supplied flasher harness just like a spinner blade. You ask yourself, "What's the advantage of this?" This is one of the most potent ways to use a flasher and herring that personally I have ever seen. A side benefit is that I don't get any leader malfunctions when I hook-up a nice Chinook. I experience no leader breaks while using the Gibbs Farr Better Flasher unplugged. Earlier in the year when fishing Partridge Bank and Eastern Bank, I lost three nice Chinook from leader breaks using a standard flasher and spoon. I am eager to use the Farr Better Flasher unplugged with spoons this winter when fishing for Chinook. Give it a try, I believe that you will like it. Watch this video I made on how to rig the Gibbs Farr Better Flasher: [Click Here](#)

When I am using spoons for Chinook, I like using the Goldstar 3.5 Kingfisher spoons #964 and 975. I like this spoon not only for the color, but for the way it is rigged. This spoon has a good quality stainless Mustad siwash hook on a swivel. This hook will never break and the hook point will remain sharp for many fishing trips. I recommend a 42 inch leader from the flasher to the spoon. Use 30 pound Pline fluorocarbon leader material to tie the spoon to the flasher.

Two flashers that I exclusively use and strongly recommend are the Gibbs 11" UVGRMJRS flasher (Red Racer) and the Gibbs 11" PUSUV Flasher

(Purple Haze). Hot Spot flashers are also effective, they simply are more expensive.

Quite a few Coho anglers have come in the store with twisted line problems. One thing they all had in common was the fact that they were not using American Made Sampo Ball Bearing swivels. I know these swivels are expensive, I hear that. These swivels end the frustration of line twist when using flashers. I recommend the Sampo X3CB snap swivel tied to the end of the fishing line. Snap the flasher onto the line with the X3CB snap swivel.

## Tackle List for Winter Chinook Fishing

Gibbs Farr Better Flasher  
Gibbs Red Racer Flasher UVGRMJRS  
Gibbs Purple Haze Flasher PUSUV  
Goldstar Kingfisher 964 3.5 Spoon  
Goldstar Kingfisher 975 3.5 Spoon  
Sampo X3CB Snap Swivel  
Pline Fluorocarbon 30 pound Leader  
Tomic Plug 5" 602 with  
5/0 Siwash Hook  
Tomic Plug 5" 603 with  
5/0 Siwash Hook

During the Coho season there were always little clues on where to fish for winter Chinook. For example; I recently caught and released a 12 pound Chinook on the most southern end of Possession Bar while I was fishing Coho. I talked to Coho anglers who regularly caught legal size Chinook from Indian Point to the Scatchet Head Buoy. I feel that there is a good number of larger than just barely legal size Chinook roaming around Possession Bar.



Now, you have to change your fishing habits from roaming around looking for Coho to a somewhat technical method for Chinook fishing. Let me unlock some of these secrets to a successful Chinook trip.

Chinook anglers who are skilled at depth control are those who regularly catch fish. You probably have friends or co-workers that go out and catch Chinook with a high degree of regularity. Many anglers quit fishing after the Coho season runs its course because the Chinook seems to be too elusive target for them. Face it, going out and coming back to the dock with no fish just does not produce the same thrill as a 10 to 12 pound Chinook peeling line off the reel. After catching 3 and 4 pound Coho, I was thrilled to catch and release a 12 pound Chinook. For a moment I thought I was in Sitka again. Reality check?

You can control the depth at which you are fishing using two different methods or a combination of the two: Control the boat so that you stay in the desired depth range. Move the downrigger up and down like yo-yo. I like the more modest approach by keeping the boat at the depth I wish to be in and then making subtle adjustments to the downrigger depth. Sounds like work? It is!

Learn to fish contours for Chinook. Chinook feed on the breaking edges of contour lines. Let's use Possession Bar for an example. You will find the best but not all the most productive Chinook fishing in 90 to 120 feet of water. Why? That is where the edges of the Bar break quickly before the Bar

descends rapidly to 500 to 700 feet of water. Where's the bait? Most frequently along those edges and breaks in the Bar. Sure, you can catch a Chinook wandering around in no man's land. Attempts to repeat that drill time after time and you will wear out rather quickly. Learn to fish the edges and the angles of any place that you fish. By angles I mean where there is a sharp turn in the Bar or some subtle protruding tip in the Bar. Look for this stuff while you are fishing. Try to make sense of why and where the bait/Chinook are hanging out. What you will find is, time after time you can rely on these areas to produce Chinook. When I fish for Chinook, I fish actual spots. I try to get my boat in position ahead of time so that I know that I am going to troll by the bottom structure that I know holds bait and Chinook. If you are just starting out, this is going to be little more difficult until you put in your time and log some results.

## Chinook Speed

Time to slow down. The best Chinook speeds are between 2.5 and 3.0 mph. Nearer that 2.5 mph range works better for me. Remember while you are adjusting the speed, you also need to adjust the downrigger depth. Don't get complacent and not let more downrigger cable out if you increase your speed. Fishing close to the bottom always produces more Chinook over a long period of time.

So far, I think I have given you some good advice which you can use just about anywhere.

## November Chinook Maps

**Hat Island**  
**Elger Bay/Green Bank**  
**North Bluff**  
**Columbia Beach**  
**Langley Chinook**

## Squid Fishing

If you have not heard, the squid population has exploded lately in Puget Sound. Squid fishing at the Seattle Elliott Bay Fishing Pier at Terminal 86 has been outstanding with any Squid anglers getting limits. The Edmonds fishing has also been good but not with the same consistency as Pier 86. Regulations: No size limit, Daily limit 5 quarts or 10 pounds, maximum four squid lures.

Here is a useful on how to fish for squid, [Click Here](#).

## Puget Sound Dungeness Crab

Most Areas in Puget Sound are open for Dungeness crab until the end of December. From the information that I am getting, the crabbing has been quite good. Most of the Crabbers are finding the best depths are between 75 and 125 feet deep. Use some of those Coho carcasses for bait and turn them into a crab dinner. I would recommend crabbing in these areas: Shipwreck to Picnic Point and the north side of Hat Island (Gedney Island).

[Click Here](#), to see if your Area is open for Crabbing.

# Just Fishing



Recently, I spoke with a customer who got a limit of squid and a limit of crab off the Edmonds fishing Pier. If you don't have a boat, you have no excuse not to go crabbing

## Recent John's Sporting Goods Videos

**Underwater Coho Fishing with Sliding Flasher**

## Bayside Salmon Derby November 7-8

Tickets \$30

1st Place \$2,000

Available at

John's Sporting Goods

The Derby is for Blackmouth and Coho Salmon. One entry fish per ticket. Your biggest fish, you may "bump" your Saturday fish out if you catch a bigger fish on Sunday. [More Information](#)

## The Seasons, Maybe?

Area 6 slated to open December 1 for Chinook. The season may run until April 10

Area 7 slated to open December 1 for Chinook. The season may run until April 30 but unlikely

Area 8-1 slated to open November 1 for Chinook. The season may run until April 30

Area 8-2 slated to open November 1 for Chinook. The season may run until April 30

Area 9 slated to open November 1 for Chinook. The season may run until November 30. **May Not Open**

Area 10 Who Knows???

## Chinook Derbies

Resurrection Derby December 4 and 5. First Prize \$10,000, [Click Here](#), for details.

Friday Harbor Salmon Classic December 4 and 5, First Prize \$10,000 [Click Here](#) for details

## 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

These Gift Certificates Cannot be Combined with Coupons or used on Sale Items

**Shellfish Hotline 1-866-880-5421**



# Special Purchase

Tackle For The Serious Angler

## November Special Purchase



**FTCC Crab Pot Complete**  
**Crab Pot, Bait Bag, Buoy,**  
**100ft Leaded Rope, Crab Measure**  
**Sale Price \$39.95**



**600ft 1/4" Leaded Rope**  
**Special Price \$39.95**  
Reg. Price \$59.95



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



**Shimano Tekota 700 & 800**  
**Sale Price \$169**  
Reg. Price \$179-\$189

These prices are for in store purchases only-No Coupons or Gift Cards on these Items

**John's Sporting Goods**

**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.

**10% Discount**

**On Shrimp Pots, 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 November 30, 2015**

**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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**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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**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**  
**\$473**

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**Store Hours: 9:00AM - 5:30PM Monday - Saturday**  
**425-259-3056 - 1913 Broadway, Everett, WA 98201**

**John's Sporting Goods**  
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**for**  
**The Serious Angler**