

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

July 2016

Fishing Dates

Area 7
July 1-31
Chinook, hatchery only,
Limit 2
August 1-Sept. 30
Only 1 Chinook, wild or
hatchery

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
July 1, Catch & Release
July 16-Quota
Daily limit 1
Chinook, hatchery only

Area 10
July 1 Catch & Release
July 16-Quota
Daily limit 1
Chinook, hatchery only

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July 1 Here We Go! Fishing Opportunities Galore

As much as we all dislike the closures, there have been plenty of opportunities to harvest fish and shellfish since January 1st. This is what my year looked like so far: fished winter Blackmouth until it closed; went razor clam digging until it closed; caught Ling Cod at Possession Bar and in Area 7; harvested Spot Prawns in Area 8-2; caught Coon Stripe and Pink Shrimp in Area 8-1 and then trapped Spot Shrimp in Area 6 on Eastern Bank. Washington State offers an incredible amount of opportunities; you just have to explore new ideas when some of your favorite fishing areas are closed.

Starting July 1, again we can get back to the fishing areas we all enjoy. Let me do a quick limited run-down of the July seasons.

July 1: Area 6 should remain open for Spot Shrimp with the limit now set at 160

July 1: Area 7 opens Chinook fishing for hatchery only

July 1: Area 7 West should remain open for Spot Shrimp where the limit is now 160

July 1: Dungeness Crab opens in most areas of Puget Sound

July 1: Tulalip Bubble (opened

previously) is open Friday until Monday at noon for hatchery Chinook

July 1: Area 9 opens for catch and release salmon fishing

July 15: Area 7 South opens for Dungeness Crab

July 16: Area 9 opens for Hatchery Chinook

July 16: Area 10 opens for Hatchery Chinook

August 1: Area 7 opens for Hatchery or Wild Chinook

Marine Area 7 Chinook

If you are planning on fishing the San Juan Islands for Chinook, the vast majority of the Chinook around the perimeter of the Islands are headed to the Fraser River in Canada. Guess what? The Canadians don't mark their hatchery Chinook. That's OK because the Chinook fishing will still be decent throughout Rosario Strait. In fact, the first two weeks of the season almost always provides good Chinook fishing at Eagle Bluff, Thatcher Pass, Lopez Flats and Point Lawrence. On August 1, all Chinook may be retained, hatchery or wild. The popular Chinook fishery at Eagle Point on the west-side of San Juan Island should just be heating up on August 1. Last year when I was fishing at Eagle Point, I caught most of my Chinook using a flasher with an Anchovy.

Marine Area 6 Spot Shrimp

If you have not experienced shrimping on the SE corner of Eastern Bank, you



have been missing an incredible opportunity. Anne and I went shrimping on Eastern Bank toward the end of June and easily caught our limit of 320 Spot Shrimp. Not only were the shrimp easy to catch, the size of the shrimp were enormous! The map of the good shrimp area is in my book, "Saltwater Fishing Journal". If you are going, plan on shrimping one to two hours before high tide. If the tides are small, you can start shrimping two hours before high tide. If there is a lot of water movement don't put your pots in the water until an hour before high tide.

Marine Area 7 West Spot Shrimp

Area 7 West is also part of the expanded Spot Shrimp limit of 160 shrimp per person. Near Friday Harbor the shrimping is quite good at Park Bay and Point Caution. A bit further to the Northwest, good shrimping can be had on the west-side of Waldron Island. The tides will dictate when you can effectively shrimp in all of 7 West. Plan on putting your shrimp pots out one hour before high tide for the best shrimping.

Puget Sound Crab opens July 1

Everyone has their own favorite place to catch Dungeness Crab. Fortunately, these critters are broadly dispersed throughout Puget Sound. If you want easy crabbing: launch your boat at the Everett Boat launch, go down the river and put your crab pots out in front of the Everett Jetty. This is as good as it gets and you will probably only burn two gallons of fuel

by the time you get back to the dock with a limit of crab.

If you live on or near Camano Island, launch at the State Park on Camano and head over to Baby Island or Langley to get a limit of crab.

In the Edmonds/Shilshole area, the big bay near Richmond Beach is full of crab. A little further to the north of Edmonds I would recommend the very north end of Browns Bay for Dungeness and Red Rock Crab.

A good starting depth for crab would be 50 to 60 feet deep. If two of you are putting out four pots, I would start the first set like this: One pot at 50, the next at 60, the next at 80 and the last one at 125 feet deep. After pulling the first set of pots, reconfigure all of them to the depth you found to be the most productive.

Crab Bait: Chicken (fried or raw), turkey, salmon, canned mackerel and canned Pink salmon are all excellent baits for Dungeness Crab. This is how I prepare my bait: I use one SMI bait box for fish parts or chicken. I use one SMI 9" bait tube with bait that is frozen solid. My frozen bait consists of canned Mackerel, shrimp heads that I saved or canned Pink salmon. I take any one or all of these ingredients and blend them in a food processor. Once liquefied I pour in oatmeal to thicken the mixture up and to absorb the scent. I put the mixture in a SMI 9" bait barrel and freeze it for a couple of days to make it rock hard. I take the bait barrels out of the freezer the morning that I am going crabbing. Raw meat/fish and the frozen concoction is a deadly mixture for

catching Dungeness Crab.

Crab Pots: If you want inexpensive, the SMI Square folding pot #19019 is about as good as it gets in the folding pots. This particular crab pot has a top loading hatch that makes access to the crab much easier than similar brands. John's Sporting Goods has this pot on sale for \$14.95. John's sells complete crab pot kits for \$39.95 and includes the pot, crab measure, bait bag, harness and 100 feet of leaded rope.

If you want a deluxe setup, the SMI Octagon/Round #19037/19035 crab pot is the best crab pot money can buy. John's runs either of these pots on sale for \$79. Both have 10-inch-wide doors that make it easy for large crab to enter. Both pots also have a built in bait container that is much easier to use than a separate bait box.

Marine Area 10 Catch and Release Chinook Now Open

I will let you in on a little secret. Area 10 near Kingston/Apple Tree Point has been red hot for catch and release Chinook fishing. Get on over to the south side of Apple Tree Point and improve on your Chinook catching skills. Fish with the standard Gibbs Red Racer flasher followed by a Kingfisher #964 3.5 spoon. Rig the spoon 42 inches behind the flasher and tie it together with 30-pound leader material.

Area 8-2 Tulalip Bubble (only) Chinook Fishing is now Open

Until July 16, the Tulalip Bubble is the only place in the North end of Puget

Just Fishing



Sound that is open for keeping Chinook. The Bubble is open every week Friday, Saturday, Sunday and until noon on Monday. You can also fish with two rods if you have the two rod endorsement on your fishing license. The best fishing at the Bubble is the first hour of the day and the last hour of the evening. I would recommend a Gibbs Red Racer flasher followed by Goldstar OG142R Green/Glow squid 42 inches behind the flasher. You can keep two hatchery Chinook.

Marine Area 9 Opens July 16 for keeping hatchery Chinook

This is the granddaddy of Puget Sound recreational fishing. All of us wait all year for this much anticipated season. This Chinook season will last from 12 to 15 days depending on how good the fishing goes. Let's go fishing!

Last year on opening day, I fished at Mid Channel Bank with more than 100 other boats. Yes, it was very crowded but the fishing was still very good. If you don't like crowds, don't go near this place. Normally I would fish in 90 to 100 feet of water at Mid Channel, but on opening day last year I fished in 60 feet of water and I did quite well and it was a big stress reliever being away from the crowds out in the deeper water. I have two rigs I prefer for Mid Channel: Gibbs Red Racer flasher with a 3.5 #964 Kingfisher Spoon or a Gibbs Red Racer flasher with a Cookies N Cream Coho Killer spoon. Tie either rig together with 30-pound leader material and make the leader 42 inches in length. The best time to fish Mid Channel Bank is when the tide is going out.

Depending on tides, this is my strategy for fishing Puget Sound Chinook. I fish at Pilot Point when the tide is coming in. If I don't get fish at Pilot Point on the incoming tide, I will run to Mid Channel and fish the ebb tide. I will do the same thing in reverse if the first tide of the day is the ebb tide. In this case, I go to Mid Channel first and fish all the way to the end of the ebb tide and then head to Pilot Point to finish up the day.

Recommend Chinook Tackle

Gibbs Red Racer Flasher
Kingfisher Spoon 3.5 #964
Kingfisher 3.5 #395
Kingfisher 3.5 #675
Pline 30lb Fluorocarbon Leader
Sampo X3CB Snap Swivel

Recommended Crab Gear

SMI Bait Container
SMI Heavy Duty Harness
SMI 5lb Weight

Hanford Reach Open for Sockeye Fishing

Actions: Opens sockeye salmon to retention

Effective date: June 28 through Aug. 15, 2016

Species affected: Sockeye salmon

Area 1: Columbia River from Hwy. 395 Bridge at Pasco to the Interstate 182 Bridge at Richland near Columbia Point (CRC 534)

Daily Limit: Daily limit of three (3)

salmon, of which one (1) may be an adult hatchery chinook and two (2) may be sockeye. Release wild adult chinook.

Area 2: Columbia River from the Interstate 182 Bridge to Priest Rapids Dam (CRC 535, 536)

Daily Limit: Daily limit of six (6) salmon, of which two (2) may be adult hatchery chinook and three (3) may be sockeye. Release wild adult chinook.

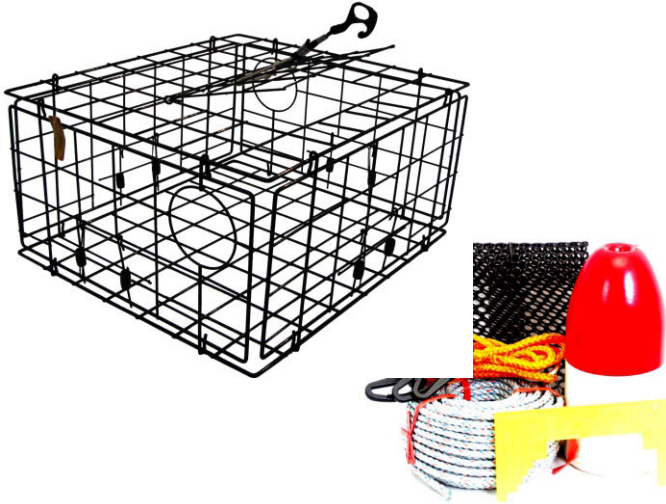
Other information: Anglers must use barbless hooks when fishing for salmon and must have a current Washington fishing license, as well as a Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement (CRSSE). Anglers may fish with two poles with the Two-Pole Endorsement, except for sturgeon.

Reason for action: The sockeye run has exceeded the pre-season forecast of 102,000 fish returning to the river mouth (currently ~240,000 at Bonneville thru 6/26 with the total return now projected to reach 400,000). Barring extreme high water temperatures like 2015 that caused unprecedented pre-spawning mortality, sufficient escapement of fish to meet spawning needs in the Wenatchee and Okanogan Rivers should be realized. Over 110,000 sockeye have crossed McNary Dam, and consequently, sockeye retention upstream of the Hwy. 395 Bridge at Pasco to Priest Rapids Dam can now be opened.

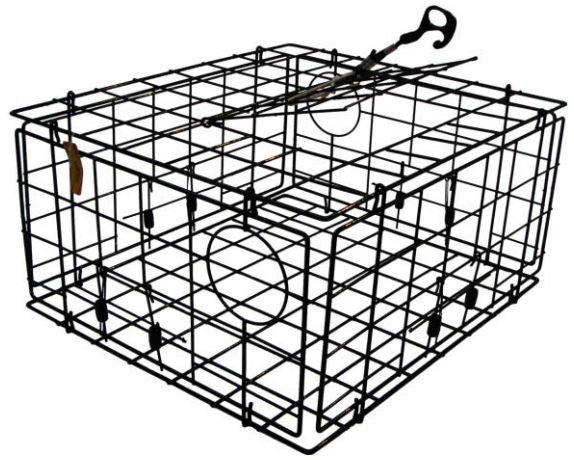
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