

# Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

June 2009

## New Puget Sound Salmon Seasons

**Click on any Area for Complete Rule Summary**

**Area 7: July 1-July 31**, Two Salmon Limit, plus two additional pinks. Only one chinook may be retained.

**August 1 September 30**, Two salmon limit, plus two additional pinks, only one chinook may be retained. Release wild chinook.

**Area 8-1: August 1-Sept. 30**, Two salmon limit, release chinook. Plus two additional pinks.

**Nov. 1-April 30**, Two salmon limit, release wild chinook.

### Area 8-2:

**Tulip Bubble: June 5-June 19 and June 21-Sept 7**, Open Friday thru Monday Noon. Two salmon limit, release wild chinook. Plus two additional pinks

**August 1-Sept. 30**, Two salmon limit, release chinook. Plus two additional pinks.

**Nov. 1-April 30**, Two salmon limit, release wild chinook.

**Area 9:** July 16-August 31, Two salmon limit. Release wild chinook. Plus two additional pinks.

Sept. 1-Sept 30, Two salmon limit. Plus two additional pinks. Release all chinook.

**Area 10: June 1-June 30**, Salmon catch and release.

**Area 11: June 1-June 30**, Two salmon limit. Release wild chinook.

## Puget Sound Chinook/San Juan Chinook

By John Martinis

**The 2009 Salmon Season are infinitely more liberal. Now let's hope the current chinook forecast are accurate?**

Puget Sound Chinook seasons remind me of the stock market. One year things are looking good and the next year, things are not looking so rosy. The good news is that: this year salmon fishing looks better than your 401K. Chinook fishing is predicted to be much better than 2008. That explains the more liberal Puget Sound and San Juan Islands Chinook seasons.

The Tulip Area Terminal Chinook Fishery (Tulip Bubble) will open **June 5** this year ([Click her for WDFW Map](#)). This fishery has not been all that robust these past three years. So, let's hope that things will change for the better this year. Many anglers like to get the cob webs out of their salmon fishing tackle and this fishery allows them to get out on the water and warm up for Area 9. ([Click here for complete Tulip Fishery Rules](#))

Finally, Area 9 will have a wide open Chinook fishery from **July 16 to August 30<sup>th</sup>** for clipped adipose fin Chinook (hatchery Chinook) ([Click here for WDFW Map](#)). Yahoo, no Chinook quota this year! This is the fishery we have all been

paying for all these years, but never got. If the fish show up, this should be a spectacular fishery. Last year, Chinook hung out at Mid Channel Bank until they were ready to run to the rivers. Hence, the fishing at Possession Bar and Pilot Point never heated up like it did during the 2007 season. I fished Mid Channel Bank last summer and it was incredible for Chinook! We will address this later in the Newsletter. ([Click here for complete Area 9 rules](#))

Parts of Area 7 opens **July 1**, for Chinook ([Click here for WDFW Map](#)). Interestingly, there is no clipped fin requirement from July 1 to July 31. This Chinook season should provide an excellent opportunity to catch the tail end of the Fraser River Spring Chinook run.

The very popular Elliot Bay Chinook fishery (Part of Area 10, [WDFW Map Click here](#)) will also be open from **July 16 to August 31**. No quota, release wild Chinook.

Let me preface some of my advice by saying this, *"Please don't believe everything you read on the internet about Chinook fishing!"* I read the some of the advice that is put out there and I just shake my head. I get endless phone calls from anglers asking my advice on tips that they read concerning salmon fishing. I just throw my hands up a say, *"Please"*? I hear about the goofiest ways to fish and to rig gear. My best advice to you over the years has been this: *"Keep it simple"*. The advice and tips that

I pass on to you are time tested by myself and many other well seasoned salmon anglers. I have one motivation; and that is that you catch more salmon. Because, when you catch more salmon, you have an incentive to shop at my store. Now, let's get on with important business. Chinook fishing in Puget Sound!

Now that we have outlined some of the more popular Chinook fisheries, let's take a look at some of the more popular fishing areas and explore some techniques.

Because we started this discussion with the Tulalip Bubble, let's take a look on how to be a successful angler in this small corner of Port Gardner Bay. The Tulalip Tribes have experimented with Spring Chinook and Summer Chinook over the years. I understand that they are planting more spring Chinook than they have in past years. This is one of the key reasons that the Bubble is opening earlier this year. Spring Chinook are a great fish. They come into the Sound early, they are bright and they are eager biters. The drawback is that they head to the hatcheries/rivers shortly after they enter the Sound. So, you have to be on top of them from the moment they arrive. If you wait for a fishing report to tell you that it is good fishing, you are a day late.

Over the years, I think the traditional Green Hot Spot Flasher with a red stripe followed by an OG 142R Green/Glow 3.5 Octopus Gold Star squid ([Click here for rigging picture](#)) is hard to beat at the Bubble. You might want to put a teaser/salted herring on the hook for a little smell. If you do not want to deal with salting herring,

apply herring or anchovy oil to the flasher and to the squid. ([Click here for Tulalip Bubble Chinook Fishing map](#))

I thought for some time that the tides do not matter where you fish at the Bubble, but I am convinced that the tide will determine where you fish. When the tide is coming in (flood tide), the Chinook will move into 60-90 feet of water. You will find the fish near the red can buoy at the entrance to Tulalip Bay. Watch your fish finder to determine whether the salmon are suspended or near the bottom. I have caught as many fish suspended as I have bouncing the bottom. When the tide is going out (ebb tide), the fish will back away from that 60-120 foot zone and move out to deeper water. In this scenario you will always find the fish suspended between 60-120 feet deep. The actual depth may be as deep as 250 feet deep.

The very best Chinook fishing in Puget Sound is the Area 9 season that opens on July 16. I will break this Chinook fishery down to three main salmon fishing Areas: Mid Channel Bank, Possession Bar and Pilot Point. There are plenty of other good areas to fish for Chinook: such as Point no Point, Jeff Head and Apple Tree Point just to name a few.

**Mid Channel Bank at Port Townsend:** I get fishing fever just thinking about it. This is my most favorite place to fish in Puget Sound. There is not a place in Puget Sound where the Chinook are more aggressive than at Mid Channel. The fish are aggressively feeding on candle fish and they have no reluctance to bite anything that resembles what they are

feeding on. Last year when everyone was bemoaning the Chinook fishing at Possession Bar and elsewhere inside the Sound, the Chinook bite was on *hot and heavy* at Mid Channel. I was there and it was spectacular Chinook fishing!

One of the greatest things that I like about Mid Channel is that the Chinook will bite anytime of day as long as the tide is going out. Many times I will fish Pilot Point on an incoming tide and race out to Mid Channel for the last half of the outgoing tide.

OK, I made it sound as if the fish will jump in the boat if you just show up at Mid Channel. Like anywhere else, there is great deal of technique that is involved in fishing this Port Townsend Chinook hot spot. Be prepared for the tide to be running very hard. A 12 pound downrigger ball is absolutely essential to fish here. Fishing here redefines fishing close to the bottom. You must fish within 2-5 feet from the bottom. There is only one way to gauge the depth when the tide is running as hard as it does. You must let the downrigger ball out until it hits the bottom, then crank it back a couple of feet to set your fishing depth. The preferred fishing depth will be 90-100 feet. I don't like to get out into any deeper water because it gets too hard to fish close to the bottom.

The salmon fish area is from the buoy at Marrowstone Head and half way back to Point Wilson. When the tide is running hard, don't fish too close to the Marrowstone Point buoy because the water is going in circles and it is just a mess with kelp and sea weed.

# Just Fishing



([Click here for Mid Channel Chinook fishing map](#)) As the tide draws closer to low tide, keep fishing a little further to the west. This is one of the best tips that I can give you. So, watch what is going on and you will be successful. **Tip:** I never fish for salmon at Mid Channel when there is less than six feet of water exchanged between the high and the low tide.

I like two different rigs for Chinook fishing at Mid Channel. I use two different flashers: Green Hot Spot with a red stripe and the Purple Haze Hot Spot flasher. I also use two different spoons: Green/Glow with a red stripe (Red Racer) 3.5 Coyote spoon. These are no longer made, but I have a few left at my store. I also like the Gold Star White lightening Coho Killer spoon. Either of these spoons can interchange with either flasher. The leader length should be the standard 42" and tied with 30lb Maxima Ultra Green leader material. ([Click here for rigging picture](#)). Do not put herring strips on spoons. Use herring oil or anchovy oil on the spoon and flasher.

If you are launching at Everett or Edmonds the trip out to Mid Channel is 20-26 miles.

**Gold Star just came out with a new Kingfisher Spoon in a 4.0 size made out of light weight material. This is sure to be an excellent replacement for many of the discontinued Coyote spoon colors.**

Possession Bar didn't happen in the summer of 2008. Don't put too much stock in what happened last year. One thing that is certain about Puget Sound Chinook

fishing, don't place your bets on what happened one year earlier. One interesting statistic: prior to the Puget Sound Chinook closures 19 years ago: Possession Bar put out more salmon per angler trip than anywhere in the Sound. It's still the place to be for Chinook. In 2007, Possession Bar was red smoking hot for Chinook. ([Click here for Possession Bar Chinook fishing map](#))

A good deal has been written about fishing the tides at Possession Bar. The old rule of thumb that I adhered to for years was: fish the west side of the bar when the tide is going out and fish the east side of the bar when the tide is coming in. I am not so sure anymore that the old rule of thumb is correct. If I were to fish Possession Bar today, I would fish on the west side of the bar regardless of what direction the water is moving. I have a good reason to believe that more Chinook are caught on the west side of the bar at all times.

The tackle that I recommended for Possession Bar would be the Green Hot Spot flasher with a red stripe followed by the 3.5 Red Racer Coyote spoon. Fish this rig 5-10 feet from the bottom in 90-120 feet of water. Try not to fish in more than 120 feet of water because the edge of the bar drops rapidly into very deep water after 120 feet.

When you are fishing the west side of Possession Bar in July and August, don't even consider using herring (the real stuff). This is world record dog fish haven. If you want to show the relatives from Nebraska some great shark fishing, just put on a herring!

If you want to fish for Chinook in

some relative solitude, head for Pilot Point. I exclusively fish Pilot Point when the tide is coming in. This can be a great ambush spot for Chinook that are heading to Elliot Bay or to South Puget Sound.

Take a look at the map that I have provided ([Click here for Pilot Point Chinook fishing map](#)). I like to start fishing where the four houses are on the beach at Pilot Point. From there troll toward Point no Point. I usually only troll about half way to Point no Point.

Pay close attention to the bottom contour. You will find bait and salmon on the underwater points. This is just a tad more difficult to fish than Possession Bar because the bottom weaves in and out. Once you make a mental note of these turns of the bottom, you can strategically fish these underwater points. Once you find these spots, you will notice baitfish grouping around these points. Many times the bait and Chinook will be suspended from the bottom, so pay close attention to what is going on beneath you. Most often I fish one rig close to the bottom (90'-120') and the other at 65-75 feet deep.

Fish the same rig that I mentioned for Possession Bar. I would not use the Coho Killer spoon at Pilot Point because there just too many sub-legal salmon hanging out here.

Portions of the San Juan's (Area 7) open on July 1. As I mentioned earlier, this is the tail end of the Fraser River Spring Chinook run. So, you have to get on the water right from the start. The two best areas for Chinook fishing will be open. The two areas that I recommend are Thatcher Pass and Eagle Bluff (Eagle Cliff, Cypress



Island). There are four other good areas to fish that we will not discuss. They are Secret Harbor (South end of Cypress) Obstruction Pass (Between Orcas and Blakely), Point Lawrence (East end of Orcas) and Strawberry Island to Tide Point (West Side of Cypress). You can read about these four areas in my book, "Saltwater Fishing Journal". ([Click here for book](#))

Thatcher Pass is the fishing spot ([Click here for Thatcher Pass fishing map](#)) that I always rely on when the tide is going out. Look at the map that I have provided. The main salmon fishing area is not in Thatcher Pass at all. The main fishing area is on the east side of Pointer Island. This is strictly an ambush spot. Chinook will stop and shortly feed on candlefish on the sandy bar that straddles Pointer Island and Black Rock. I must emphasize to you the importance of fishing close to the bottom at this spot. Salmon come here to feed on candlefish. The candlefish are hovering close to the bottom because of the extreme tidal flow through this area. Bounce your downrigger cannon ball (12lbs) on the bottom and bring it back two feet to place your gear in the correct zone. Keep your speed up. If you don't the tide will be taking you backwards. Sometimes during the peak, you will not be able to make any forward motion. When I fish Thatcher, there are many times when I might go an hour or two without drawing a strike. Don't pick-up and go somewhere else!! That is the number one mistake new San Juan anglers make. Stay

put until the tide completely goes out and the water quits moving.

There are two basic rigs that I use when fishing Chinook in the San Juan's: Green Hot Spot flasher with a red stripe followed by 3.5 Green/Glow/Red stripe (Red Racer). The other rig is with the same flasher and Gold Star needlefish squid NG142R. I used this rig for years before the Coyote spoons came into existence. I caught hundreds and hundreds of Chinook in the San Juan's and at Mid Channel Bank on that squid. Either rig should be tied 42" behind the flasher.

My favorite area to fish on the incoming tide is Eagle Bluff on the North end of Cypress Island. I love salmon fishing here because the fishing is very strategic in nature. Fishing here is like putting the pieces of a puzzle together. It is so much different than Thatcher Pass. You can't just show up to fish. The bottom has contours and ledges. The tide moves the salmon around. Many times the water changes direction during the middle of the tide and then changes back to its original direction.

I have caught Chinook all the way from Tide Point to Eagle Cliff and every point in-between. However, the high percentage area is around where the rock ledge sticks out at the foot of Eagle Cliff. ([Click here for Eagle Bluff fishing map](#))

### Salmon Identification

**Click this link**

[http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/identification/pac\\_salmon.htm](http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/identification/pac_salmon.htm)

### Tackle/Click on these links

Gold Star Spoons  
Coyote Spoons  
Gold Star squid  
Flashers  
Bait Oils

### Did you know?

1 Nautical mile = 1.1507  
Statute mile

The life span of a Copper  
Rock Fish is 55 years

Puget Sound holds about  
168.6 billion cubic feet of  
water, or about 45 trillion  
gallons.

The deepest spot in Puget  
Sound is 930 feet north of  
Seattle near Edmonds

A Geoduck has a life  
expectancy of about 146  
years

### Puget Sound Tides

[Click Here](#)

<http://eldoradocountyweather.com/weather/hw3.php?config=&forecast=tides&place=everett&state=wa&zipcode=98201&country=us&county=53061&zone=WAZ507&icao=KPAE>

**July Newsletter:**  
2009 Crab

**August Newsletter:**  
2009 Pink Salmon



# Tight Lines



A Publication of Everett Steelhead & Salmon Club

June 2009

## Club News

By Ben Bear

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## General Meeting

**Our next general meeting will be June 18th, 6:30 pm at the Firemen's Hall in Everett**

Clay Johnston of the Oak Bay Marine Group was our May speaker but ran into problems while on his way to our general meeting. While at the Vancouver Canada airport, Clay had his computer laptop and passport stolen. Without his passport he was not able to cross the border and attend our meeting. We look forward to rescheduling Clay in the future.

June 6<sup>th</sup>, there will be the third and last trout fish-in for members and invited guest at North & South Gissberg Ponds in Smokey Point Arlington. At about noon, we will gather together for prizes and food. We had a great turn out for the Flowing Lake And Silver Lake events. Get some kids and friends and join other club members for some more fun!

June 5-8 will be a club outing to Mardon Resort on Potholes Reservoir. Contact Carl Rienstra for more information, 425-923-8405.

Our Treasurer, Cory Myron, had a great day fishing for Halibut out of Port Townsend. On May 16<sup>th</sup>,

with three other friends on board, they boated a 100, 60, 40 and a 20 pounder by 3 pm, including a double header. What a great day to be on the water! Sounds as if Cory is the person to talk to for halibut fishing tips.

Grab a friend and come visit us at a general meeting. Check our website [www.esscwa.com](http://www.esscwa.com) for our calendar of events and driving directions to the general meeting.

**6/18/09 General Meeting, 6:30**  
9 pm, Everett Firemen's Hall,  
2411 Hewitt Ave., Everett.

General Public Welcome  
**7/2/09 Board of Directors**  
Meeting, 7 pm Langus Park  
Everett

**7/11/09 Annual Club Picnic at**  
**Camp Patterson, Silver Lake,**  
Everett

**8/6/09 Board of Directors**  
Meeting, 7 pm Langus Park  
Everett

**8/20/09 General Meeting, 6:30**  
9 pm, Everett Firemen's Hall,  
2411 Hewitt Ave., Everett.

General Public Welcome  
**9/3/09 Board of Directors**  
Meeting, 7 pm Langus Park  
Everett

**9/17/09 General Meeting, 6:30**  
9 pm, Everett Firemen's Hall,  
2411 Hewitt Ave., Everett.

General Public Welcome  
**9/19/09 9/20/09 Everett Coho**  
**Derby, Everett WA. For more**  
**information**

[www.everettcoholderby.com](http://www.everettcoholderby.com)  
**10/1/09 Board of Directors**  
Meeting, 7 pm Langus Park  
Everett

**10/15/09 General Meeting, 6:30**

9 pm, Everett Firemen's Hall,  
2411 Hewitt Ave., Everett.

General Public Welcome  
**11/5/09 Board of Directors**  
Meeting, 7 pm Langus Park  
Everett

**11/19/09 General Meeting, 6:30**  
9 pm, Everett Firemen's Hall,  
2411 Hewitt Ave., Everett.

General Public Welcome  
**12/3/09 Board of Directors**  
Meeting, 7 pm Langus Park  
Everett

## Summer crabbing season includes late start for Hood Canal, San Juan Islands

OLYMPIA – The Puget Sound recreational crab season gets under way June 18, although anglers will see later start dates for Hood Canal and the San Juan Islands this year.

The Dungeness crab season in the San Juan Islands (Marine Area 7 South) will start July 15 — two weeks later than the traditional opening. The later date will allow more time for the crabs in that area to complete their molt cycle and grow harder shells, said Rich Childers, shellfish policy lead for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

In Hood Canal, the fishery will open in late July to help prevent the harvesting of mating female crabs.

“Crab abundance in Hood Canal has dropped considerably since 2001 and we need as many crabs as possible for reproduction,”

Childers said. "Although it is already unlawful to harvest female crabs, WDFW and tribal co-managers are taking extra precautions to help stabilize and protect the crab population."

Puget Sound recreational crabbing areas will open at 7 a.m. on the following dates:

June 18: Marine areas 4 (Neah Bay east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line), 5 (Sekiu) and 13 (south Puget Sound) will be open seven days a week through Jan. 2, 2010.

July 1: Marine areas 6 (eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca), 8-1 (Deception Pass to East Point), 8-2 (East Point to Possession Point), 9 (Admiralty Inlet), 10 (Seattle/Bremerton) and 11 (Tacoma/Vashon) will be open Wednesdays through Saturdays only, plus the entire Labor Day weekend, closing the evening of Sept. 7 for a catch assessment. These areas will reopen in the fall if recreational harvest quotas have not been met.

July 15: Marine Area 7 East (Bellingham and Samish bays) and 7 South (San Juan Islands) will be open Wednesdays through Saturdays only, plus the entire Labor Day weekend, closing the evening of Sept. 30.

July 29: Marine Area 12 (Hood Canal) will be open Wednesdays through Saturdays only, plus the entire Labor Day weekend. The fishery will remain open through Jan. 2, 2010.

Aug. 12: Marine Area 7 North (Lummi Island/Blaine) will be open Wednesdays through Saturdays only, plus the entire Labor Day weekend, closing the evening of Sept. 30.

Childers reminded crabbers that those who fail to file catch reports for 2009 will face a \$10 fine, which will

be imposed when they apply for their 2010 fishing license. The fine was approved by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission to increase catch card return rates and gain more accuracy on recreational catch estimates, Childers said.

"Last year, less than a third of 218,000 licensed crabbers reported their catch as required, so hopefully avoiding a fine will act as an incentive," he said. As in previous years, crabbers have the option of reporting their catch on the Internet or by mailing in their catch cards to WDFW. The mailing address and the Internet reporting site are printed on each catch card.

Sport crabbers in Puget Sound are required to record their Dungeness crab catch on two separate catch record cards – one for the summer season and one for the fall/winter season. Catch record cards are not required to fish for Dungeness crab in the Columbia River and on the

Washington coast (marine areas 1-4).

Childers also reminded anglers that anyone fishing for crab in Puget Sound must purchase a \$3 crab endorsement, which is free to fishers under age 15. All fishers age 15 or older also must carry an applicable Washington fishing license to fish for crab anywhere in Washington.

The daily catch limit in Puget Sound is five Dungeness crab, males only, in hard-shell condition with a minimum carapace width of 6¼ inches. Fishers may catch six red rock crab of either sex per day, provided those crab measure at least 5 inches across. Additional information is available in WDFW's Fishing in Washington pamphlet on the website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>.

## Want to Join Everett Steelhead & Salmon Club?

The Everett Steelhead & Salmon Club Is a nonprofit, nonpolitical, nonsectarian organization dedicated to the conserving and preserving Salmon, Steelhead and Trout as Game Fish. We work to promote sport fishing in a sportsman like manner and to work with and encourage constituted authorities and other conservation organizations to that end.

Yearly dues are **\$30**. Each member receives a club patch (new members only), a subscription to Tight Lines & The Northwest Fishing Journal.

Please make checks payable to: **Everett Salmon & Steelhead Club**  
PO Box 1646 • Everett, WA 98206

New Member       Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**John's Sporting Goods  
1913 Broadway  
Everett, WA 98201**

**Scotty Downrigger  
Cleaning with 300' Cable  
or 300' Spectra  
Downrigger Line  
\$39.95**

Included in the price is new brake pads, your choice of 300' of Mason 150lb. Cable or 300' 200lb. of Cortland spectra downrigger line, cleaning and lubricating the downrigger and any other Scotty factory authorized upgrades.

**John's Sporting Goods  
1913 Broadway  
Everett, WA 98201**

**20% Discount  
on your next in  
store purchase**

Items that are excluded: Downriggers, Ace Line Hauler, Endurance Pot Puller, Shimano Reels, G Loomis, Electronics, items that are discounted, on sale, repairs, parts and closeout items

One coupon per customer

Not valid for online purchases or mail order

Valid only with coupon at the time of sale