

# Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

April 2010

## New Puget Sound Salmon Seasons

### Area 7:

**December 1-April 30**, Daily limit 2 salmon, Release wild chinook. See closures page 106.

**Area 8-1: November 1-April 30**, Daily limit two salmon, Release wild chinook. See Oak Harbor fishery page 109.

### Area 8-2:

**November 1-April 30**, Daily limit two salmon. Release wild chinook

### Area 9:

**January 16-April 15**, Daily limit two salmon, release wild chinook.

**Area 10: October 1 January 31**, Daily limit two salmon, release wild chinook. See closure page 114.

**February:** Closed

**Puget Sound Halibut  
Opens  
May 1**

**Puget Sound Spot Shrimp  
Opens May 1**

**Puget Sound Ling Cod  
Opens May 1**

**Lakes Open  
April 24**

## Puget Sound San Juan Islands Area 6 Spot Shrimp

We all get a chuckle when we try to assess cost to fishing, shrimping and crabbing. Fish are considered inexpensive when they are \$500/pound. Crab are considered inexpensive when they are \$50 each. Shrimp are considered a bargain when they approach \$25/shrimp. There are ways to keep the cost of shrimping from escalating. One of the costliest aspects of shrimping is losing a shrimp pot. Not quite the same as losing a flasher and squid while salmon fishing. The cost of losing a shrimp pot is in the neighborhood of \$150. Losing a flasher and squid is less than \$20.

Before I get into the nuts and bolts of shrimping, I want to explore the proper way to rig a shrimp pot. There are two things to keep in mind when rigging a pot: 1) Rigging for maximum catch. 2) Rigging to prevent losing the pot(s).

Keep in mind before you start rigging your shrimp pot, 400 feet of rope attached to a shrimp pot has a considerable amount drag. Drag is created by the water current, the wind and by the waves made by other boats. These three factors are all pulling on the buoys or the rope and ultimately the shrimp pot.

Lets' start this conversation by just focusing on the rope and buoy set-up. The placement of the buoys on the rope is critical for two reasons: 1) The buoys should not pull excessively hard on the rope and pot. 2) The buoys need to provide the proper buoyancy so that the rope does not drag the buoys under water when the tide is running.

The buoys should be rigged with one single buoy at the end of the rope. This buoy will just barely float the rope. The rope at this point needs to have a loop in it so that a connector can be attached to end the rope. Two large buoys should be attached to a 10' foot length of rope with a connector at the opposite end of the rope. The connector attaches to loop at end of the rope where the single buoy is attached (*See diagram [click here](#)*). The reasoning behind this set-up: The single buoy will not pull very hard on the rope and the trap. If there is too much buoyancy at the end of the rope, the shrimp pot will jump around from the wave action and possibly walk off into deeper water (goodbye shrimp pot and \$150). If the shrimp pot is being tugged and disturbed, this will cause the shrimp to jump ship and leave the pot (cost per shrimp goes to \$50+ each).

Now that we discussed what happens at the surface level with buoys and rope, let's talk about setting up the pot. First of all, the pot has to weigh 25-30lbs. Most wire pots weigh between 7 and 11 pounds. That's a problem. The pot has to weigh at least 25lbs and ideally 30lbs. If you have a shrimp



pot puller don't even think of using a pot that is less than 30lbs. If you do not follow my advice, you will most likely lose your shrimp pot.

There a variety of ways to add weight to the pot. Barbell weights can be zip tied to the inside of the pot or on the exterior. Barbells are very inexpensive compared to lead weights and they come in a variety of sizes (most likely you have barbells in your closet collecting dust). Another inexpensive way to add weight is to fill plastic water pipe with cement and zip tie the pipe to the outside of the pot. Rebar is another popular way to add weight to a shrimp pot.

Last year a customer shared with me a great idea for stabilizing a shrimp pot to the bottom. He adds a 1.5lb folding anchor to his shrimp pots. Here is how to do this: Attach and 1.5lb pound anchor to 6-10 feet of rope. Attach the other end of the rope to the corner of the pot. The corner is the most rigid part of the pot. This should allow you to pull the anchor loose from the bottom without bending the pot. The anchor keeps the pot from drifting away when the current is running. Give this a try, this is a great idea. I have the anchors available at John's Sporting Goods. They are rather inexpensive (\$8.95). Take a look at the shrimp pot diagram that I provided to see the placement of the anchor.

The rope that you attached to the shrimp pot should be 400 feet long. This might sound kind of excessive but listen to the explanation for this: Most of the shrimping is done in 250 feet of water. It is not uncommon to set a shrimp pot in 300 feet of water. Where the shrimp reside, the bottom is very

steep. When you let out a shrimp pot in 250 feet of water, there is no guarantee that the pot is going to end up in 250 feet of water. Depending on the direction and speed of the current, the shrimp pot can end up in a much different place than where it was intended to go. 400 feet of rope gives you that extra assurance that the pot will hit bottom before you run out of rope. A good rule of thumb states that the rope should be at least 50 feet longer than the depth of the water.

I would highly recommend using 5/16" leaded rope. Leaded rope is much easier to manage than cheap 1/4" poly pro rope. A 400 foot spool of 5/16" leaded rope is \$49.50. When you are letting the rope out, do not throw all the rope over board at one time. I know it sounds silly giving you this advice, but, I hear the results of people doing this all the time. All you need is one rope tangle and the pot, rope and buoys all go to the bottom at one time. Just say goodbye to \$150 worth of shrimp gear. A good way to coil the rope when you are pulling in the shrimp pot is to coil the rope into a round clothes basket.

Pulling in a shrimp pot by hand is hard work. Not only is it hard work, you lose from 1/2 to 3/4 of the shrimp out of the pot if you pull it in by hand. The advantage to pulling in a shrimp pot with an electric pot puller is that it keeps the shrimp pinned to the bottom of the trap while it is effortlessly pulling in the pot. At John's Sporting Goods I sell the Brutus Ace Line Hauler. This pot puller has been such an extremely reliable pot puller over the past five years. It is very seldom to have a complaint about one of these pullers. I don't want to name the

two other brands of electric pot pullers, but take my advice: stay away from them. They are plagued with problems!

## Here a few things that you need to know

Spot shrimp identification [click here](#)

Area 7 shrimp season [click here](#)

Area 8-1 shrimp season [click here](#)

Area 8-2 shrimp season [click here](#)

Area 9 shrimp season [click here](#)

Area 10 shrimp season [click here](#)

The license that is needed to harvest shrimp is a shellfish license.

## Statewide legal shrimp pot requirements

[click here](#)

If you need to know up to the minute emergency shrimp regulations, Call the emergency regulation number: 1-866-880-5431.

**If you want to check the emergency regulations on your computer, [click here](#).**

## Shrimp Bait

One of the best pieces of advice that I can give on shrimp bait is: Use lots of bait.

# Just Fishing



A great bait recipe is: Two cans of Friskies Ocean White and Tuna Dinner (Poke holes in the cans). One can of Bumble Bee canned Mackerel (Poke holes in the can). Two cups of shrimp/fish pellets (Super Bait Prawn Bait). Put the fish pellets in a zip lock bag and pour Pro Cure shrimp bait oil on the pellets. Also, pour the liquid out of the canned Mackerel onto the pellets. Let the pellets soak for 45 minutes to one hour in the liquid. After the soak, put the pellets in a bait jar that is very porous. A 6" wire bait jar is the best container for the pellets.

## Shrimp Pots

If you have talked to me about shrimp pots in the past, you know my favorite response, "*keep in perspective that the limit is only 80 spot shrimp.*" "How good of shrimp pot do you need to catch 80 shrimp?" The only style pot that I **would not** recommend is the wire pots with the round plastic tunnels for spot shrimp.

**John's Sporting Goods Shrimp and Crab Pot Gear** web page, [click here](#).

## Click on John's Shrimping Maps:

Puget Sound  
Camano Island  
Camano Head  
Edmonds  
Seattle  
Port Gardner  
San Juan Islands  
Lopez Island  
Area 6  
Dallas Bank  
Partridge Bank  
Eastern Bank  
Area 7  
South Lopez Island

## Keep Shrimping for Spot Shrimp all Summer

Do not get bogged down by thinking that the end of shrimping is when the short season in Central Puget Sound ends. Look at shrimp harvest just as you do salmon fishing. You have to move around to take full advantage of the Washington shrimp seasons. Start off by harvesting shrimp in Puget Sound in Areas 8-1, 8-2, 9 and Area 10. After the Puget Sounds shrimp season ends, go to Area 7 (San Juan's). The Area 7 shrimp season can last through the month of May but usually only one day a week. The **best kept secret in shrimping** is Area 6. Area 6 is open seven days a week and it is not slated to close until September 15!! The good shrimp areas in Area 6 are as close as the close shrimping areas in Area 7. See Eastern Bank and Partridge Bank maps (links above). If you launch at Cornet Bay (Deception Pass): Area 6 and 7 split the Pass right down the middle. It is approximately 7 miles to Iceberg Point (South end of Lopez Island). It is also approximately 7 miles to Partridge Bank and only a couple miles farther to Eastern Bank.

## Soaking the Shrimp Pot

The proper term for letting the shrimp pot out and letting it site is, "Soaking the Pot". The proper time to soak the pot is 45 minutes to one hour. By the way if you want to be totally proper, don't ever call the shrimp, "shrimp", the proper term is "Prawns".

## Cooking Shrimp

Here is a great link that has shrimp recipes: [Click here](#)

## April Fishing Derbies

There are a couple of Salmon Derbies in April that you might want to take part in. John's Sporting Goods has tickets to both derbies.

**Stanwood Hotel Derby**, April 10 & 11. First prize is 45% of the ticket sales. For more information call the Stanwood Hotel, 360-629-2888.

**Stanwood Eagles** is having their salmon derby April 17 & 18. First prize is 45% of the ticket sales. For more information call Ed Keller, 425-308-9437.

## Anacortes Derby Winner

The winner of the Anacortes Salmon Derby was Ralph Thomas from Tacoma. The winning salmon weighed in at 27.48 pounds. Ralph received \$15,000 for his efforts. For complete salmon derby results, [click here](#).

## Fishing License Time

New fishing licenses are due on April 1. You can get your license at a local dealer or you can purchase your license online. The link to the WDFW licensing sales is: [click here](#)

## Salmon Rule Changes for April

Area 7 closes on April 30  
Area 8-2 and Area 8-1 close on April 30  
Area 9 closes on April 15



## Halibut Opens May 1

If did not read my March Newsletter on Halibut fishing, now is the time. March Newsletter on Halibut, [click here](#).

## Parking at John's Sporting Goods

The Everett Street Dept. is still working on the sidewalks in front of John's Sporting Goods. They are doing a great job, but the weather is slowing the progress down. You can park at the Thai restaurant that is next to my store and enter my store from the front door or the back door. Thank you for your patience!

## Halibut Seasons

The 2010 recreational halibut seasons approved for Washington's marine areas are:  
Columbia River (Ilwaco): Marine Area 1 will open May 1, three days a week, Thursday through Saturday until 70 percent of the quota is reached, or until July 18. The fishery will then reopen on Aug. 6 and continue three days a week (Friday through Sunday) until the remaining quota is reached, or Sept. 27, whichever occurs first. The 2010 catch quota is 13,436 pounds.

**South Coast (Westport/Ocean Shores): Marine Area 2** will open on May 2, two days a week, Sundays and Tuesdays. During the fourth week in May the fishery will be open Sunday only (May 23). Beginning the following week the

fishery will resume the Sunday, Tuesday structure until the quota is reached. The northern nearshore area will be open seven days per week, until the quota is reached. The 2010 catch quota is 35,887 pounds.

**North Coast (La Push/Neah Bay): Marine areas 3 and 4** will open on May 13, two days per week, Thursdays and Saturdays, through May 22. If sufficient quota remains, the fishery will reopen June 3 and 5. If sufficient quota remains after that opener, the fishery will reopen starting June 17. The 2010 catch quota is 101,179 pounds.

**Strait of Juan de Fuca/Puget Sound: Marine Area 5 (Sekiu)** will be open May 28 through June 19.

**Marine areas 6 through 10** (Strait, Port Angeles Admiralty Inlet and Everett) will be open May 1 through May 30. These fisheries will be open three days a week, Thursday, Friday and Saturday closed Sunday through Wednesday except for Memorial Day weekend when they will be open Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The 2010 combined catch quota for these areas is 50,542 pounds.

This year's quota for Washington, Oregon and California is 810,000 pounds, down from 950,000 pounds in 2009. In Washington, sport anglers will be allowed to catch 192,699 pounds of halibut compared to 214,110 pounds last year.

Constraints on fishing opportunities will be most apparent in Puget Sound, due to the combination of this year's reduced quota and an

excessive catch last year, Culver said. WDFW estimates that Puget Sound anglers caught more than 114,000 pounds of halibut in 2009 – well over the 57,393-pound quota.

To ensure that the halibut fishery in Puget Sound stays within the quota, the fishing season in most marine areas (6-10) will be delayed until May 1. Marine Area 5 (Sekiu) will retain its traditional opening date just before the Memorial Day weekend but will close earlier than it has in the past.

To offer as many fishing days as possible the number of days open per week has been reduced from five to three in all of Puget Sound.

In addition, marine areas 11 and 13 will be closed to protect rockfish, which may be caught incidentally by anglers fishing for halibut. Three rockfish species in Puget Sound are currently under consideration for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act.

As in previous years, Marine Area 12 (Hood Canal) will remain closed due to low dissolved-oxygen conditions. Portions of marine areas 2, 3 and 4 also will be closed to fishing for halibut and bottomfish to reduce the chance that anglers will unintentionally catch yelloweye rockfish. Retention of canary and yelloweye rockfish is prohibited in all coastal marine areas.

On the Pacific coast, the overall structure of fishing seasons in marine areas 1-4 will remain essentially the same as last year, although the smaller quotas will likely be met earlier in the year.

All Washington waters open to halibut fishing have a one-fish daily catch limit, with no minimum size, and a possession limit of two fish in any form.



# Tight Lines



A Publication of Everett Steelhead & Salmon Club

April 2010

## Club News

Our club meetings are fun and informative. Meetings generally consist of a guest speaker sharing their knowledge of fishing, boating or fishing resources. A raffle for great prizes and our doors are always open! **General meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7pm** at the Everett Fireman's Hall 2411 Hewitt Ave. Everett. Web Site - [www.esscwa.com](http://www.esscwa.com)

## Blackmouth Derby

Our 4th annual Blackmouth Derby was a huge success. Starting off with the seminar held on March 12th hosted by John Martinis. . John, along with Mike Greenleaf, Mike Jamboretz and Ryan Bennet gave us their own perspectives and strategies for catching Blackmouth Salmon. With well over 100 anglers in attendance it was well received. The weather held out and the fishing proved pretty successful. **Top prize of \$3,000 went to John Bullinger with a 18.5lb beauty.** 2nd place of \$1,500 went to Norm Chiang and his 14.29lb fish. 3rd place and \$500 went to Debbie Buse with a 13.55lb fish and rounding off the top place finishers was Steve Stout with his 13.14lb trophy. Steve won \$250 and immediately turned around and donated it back to the Everett

Steelhead & Salmon Clubs Youth Organization! The mystery weight fish prize of \$300 went to Craig Nicholson whose fish was 8.86. In all 30 fish were weighed in. This event was a huge success due to the efforts of our Derby Chairman Woody Woods and his Team of Volunteers, John Martnis and all of our sponsors. We all can look forward to next years outing. [www.everettblackmouthderby.com](http://www.everettblackmouthderby.com)

## 2010 Membership Drive

Winners from our Membership drive were announced and congratulations to Jerry Olson for taking first prize. Jerry brought into our club 3 new members for the 2010 drive. For his efforts, Jerry was awarded a Everett Steelhead & Salmon Club T-Shirt, His 2010 Membership dues paid for and a Float trip for two with J & J Guides Services! Great Job Jerry!

## Fish for the Kids

The Club is eagerly anticipating the Kids fishing derbies that are fast approaching. ESSC teams up with other clubs, organizations and Parks departments to bring these derbies to the kids. This years schedule starts off with the **Jennings Park derby on May 1st.** Silver Lake event on May 8th and then the **Gissberg Twin lake events on the 22nd and 23rd.** The event on the **23rd is for "Special Angles" kids.** In

addition, ESSC and the Everett Parks and Recreation will be holding a **"Kids Trout Clinic" on April 14 from 6-8pm at the Silver Hall,** located at Thornton A Sullivan Park on Silver Lake Road. Please check out our web site for more information.

## April 15th Meeting

Our April meeting will include the Coast Guard Auxiliary there to share boating safety in preparation for the up coming season. The door is always open and we hope to see you there!

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

**Scotty Downrigger  
Cleaning with 250' Cable  
or 300' Spectra  
Downrigger Line  
\$39.95**

Included in the price is new brake pads, your choice of 250' of 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 products, 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