

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

July 2010

New Puget Sound Salmon Seasons

Area 5: July 1-August 15, two salmon limit, release wild chinook, wild coho and chum (see closures pages 109-110).

August 16-September 15, Daily limit two salmon, release chinook, wild coho and chum (see closures pages 109-110).

September 16-30, two salmon limit, release chinook and chum (see closures pages 109-110).

November 1-30, two salmon limit, only one chinook.

Area 6: July 1-August 15, two salmon limit, release wild chinook, wild coho and chum (see closures and special rules pages 110-111).

July 1-August 15, two salmon limit release chinook, wild coho and chum (see closures and special rules pages 110-111).

August 16-September 30, two salmon limit, release chinook, wild coho and chum (see closures and special rules pages 110-111).

October 1-31, Two salmon limit, only one chinook (see closures and special rules pages 110-111).

February 16-April 10, one salmon limit (see closures and special rules pages 110-111).

Salmon Area 7: July 1-July 13, two salmon limit, only one may be a Chinook (see

Coho Seminar September 17th

By John Martinis

Everyone is invited to the Coho Seminar that will be put on by

John Martinis

and the Everett Salmon & Steelhead Club at Bayside Marine

We are inviting the public to our Coho Fishing Seminar on September 17th at Bayside Marine. The seminar is free!! Just show up and bring a friend. The seminar will start at 7PM.

I will be discussing the latest techniques for catching coho in Puget Sound. If you missed my last seminar, this is a great chance to spend an evening discussing salmon fishing. At this seminar I will present my salmon fishing maps at the beginning of the program, followed by gear and how to advice.

New Maps

By John Martinis

I am going to offer some new maps in this Newsletter using a new technique. These maps will be in color. I need your feedback on how easy these maps are to open. The maps will be in color, which could be a problem on an older computer. I will still be using my black/white maps. If this works out, this could be a pretty cool new addition to the "Fishing Journal". I am very pleased that so many of you are enjoying the "Fishing Journal", it is fun to produce and it is very fulfilling hearing the fish stories that result from the advice given in the Journal.

Puget Sound Area 9 Chinook opens July 16th

By John Martinis

"Chinook", the largest of all Pacific Salmon. The quest to catch Chinook has traditions long before modern recreational angling ever got a toe hold in Puget Sound.

This tradition has deep roots in the recreational fishing community. It is truly a rite of summer. This summer the main part of the Chinook season starts July 15 in central Puget Sound. Nearly every salmon angler is anticipating the Marine Area 9 salmon (Chinook) opener in Central Puget Sound.

Area 9 has so many traditional salmon fishing holes that date back several decades. Some salmon fishing spots have faded over the years and surprisingly some new spots have come to life. One area that I grew up fishing for salmon is Mutiny Bay (Wind Mill Hole). This place was such a salmon fishing hot spot that a resort with a trolley to launch boats into the bay was a bustling business. The only thing left is memories of riding down the trolley with my Dad. My Dad would purchase a glass quart jar filled with candlefish for bait from the resort and we would go fishing for the day. No GPS or Radar. We had an old Ray Jefferson depth sounder that had a needle that pointed to the depth.

Just Fishing



closures page 112).

August 1-Sept 30, two salmon limit, only one may be a Chinook, release wild Coho and chum (see closures page 112).

October 1-31, two salmon limit, only one may be a Chinook (see closures page 112).

December 1-April 30, two salmon limit, release wild Chinook (see closures page 112)

Area 8-1: August 1-September 30, two salmon limit, release Chinook.

November 1-April 30, two salmon limit, release wild Chinook.

October 1-October 31, daily limit two Coho in Oak Harbor Fishery (see page 115).

Area 8-2: August 1-September 30, two salmon limit, release Chinook.

October 1-October 31, special closure area in the south part of 8-2, (see page 117). Two salmon limit, release Chinook.

November 1-April 30, two salmon limit, release wild Chinook.

Tulalip Bubble: June 4-June 18, Open Friday through Monday Noon. Closed on June 19. Two salmon limit.

June 20-September 6, two salmon limit. Open Friday through Monday Noon.

September 11-26, open Saturday and Sunday, limit two salmon.

Area 9: July 16-August 31, two salmon limit, release wild

Yep, our old wooden boat. Just me and my Dad. "Chinook fishing". Those were the days! My Dad is in a wheelchair right now and he still loves to talk fishing. He inspires me to write this column for all of you.

Area 9 is such a great place to fish for salmon. Within ninety minutes of most Puget Sound boat launches you can be fishing the heart of some of the best salmon Puget Sound salmon fishing. If you are lucky enough to live nearby some of these salmon fishing spots, fishing can be minutes away from fishing.

When salmon fishing opens on July 15, there is no better place to fish than Mid Channel Bank at Port Townsend. This is a 20-26 mile boat ride from Edmonds or Everett. The run to Mid Channel was unthinkable 40 years ago. The average recreational boat and motor was not equipped to travel those kinds of distances. Gas was always an issue because outboards burned so much gas in those days. Today, the ride to Mid Channel is all in a day's fishing.

I really enjoy Salmon Fishing at Mid Channel. It is very tactical fishing. One must have a clear understanding of the tides, depth and the structure of the bottom. You cannot just show up to fish for salmon and expect to be successful. You could get lucky one time, however my job is to help you to be a better angler. So, let's dissect this place and make some sense out of it.

The tide is at the top of the list for importance. The good Chinook bite at Mid Channel is mostly during the outgoing tide (the ebb

tide). You can fish here during the outgoing tide and be partially successful, however you can be immensely more successful if you follow my suggestions on being in position during different stages of the tide. I will make pointers on a map to help you. When the tide is high and just starts to run out, position yourself close to the buoy at Marrowstone Head. The tide will not be running very hard yet. This will allow you to fish at the extreme eastern end of Mid Channel. As the current picks up, I like to stay away from the eastern end of the Bank. As the current gets stronger the water at Marrowstone Head gets boiling upward and it also gets full of seaweed. These conditions make fishing unbearable. Solution: Drop back enough to the area directly out from the middle of Marrowstone Head. In this area the water will have a very defined tide rip and the water will only be going one direction.

In the middle of the outgoing tide, you need to drop back to the West even farther. On the most Western end of Marrowstone Head there is a sand spit. This is your landmark for your fishing position halfway through the tide.

"Prime Time", is ninety minutes before low tide. At this stage of the tide, the current will be slow enough to troll up and down the bar. At this stage of the tide, I like to drop back farther to the West and troll back to the sand spit landmark. [See Map Click Here](#)

Depth: I like the standard trolling depths of 90-120 feet. However, I really like 90 feet and I strive to maintain that depth. One more time, this is where you have to

Just Fishing



Chinook (see closure area page 111).

September 1-30, two salmon limit, release Chinook and chum.

October 1-31, two salmon limit, release Chinook (see closure area).

November 1-30, two salmon limit, release wild Chinook (see closure area)

January 16-April 15, two salmon limit, release wild Chinook (see closure area)

Area 10: June 1-30, Catch and release, (see open area on page 121).

July 1-15, two salmon limit, release Chinook (see closure area).

July 2-August 8, Elliot Bay special fishery. Open Friday through Sunday. Two salmon limit. (See special rules on page 120).

July 16-August 31, two salmon limit, release wild Chinook (see closure area and additional rules page 121). August 1, release Chum.

September 1-30, two salmon limit, release wild Chinook (see closure area). Release Chum through September 15.

October 1-January 31, two salmon limit, release wild Chinook (see closure area page 120).

Area 11: June 1-September 30, two salmon limit, release wild Chinook (see closures page 122).

October 1-31, two salmon limit.

November 1-December 31, two salmon limit, only one Chinook.

February 1-April 30, two

think this one out. The hard running tide is forcing the bait (candlefish and herring) to the bottom. You have to fish close to bottom. Closer than any other place that you fish for salmon. Close, means within five feet of the bottom. Close, does not mean within ten feet of the bottom. Fishing close to the bottom is directly related to the speed of the current. If you are fishing in 90 feet of water, you might have to let out anywhere from 100 to 130 feet of cable off of your downrigger to reach the desired fishing depth. How can you tell how much cable to let out? The best way is to let the downrigger ball out until it hits the bottom. The bottom is fairly forgiving at Mid Channel, so don't worry about getting hung up and losing a lead ball. My best advice here: is to constantly check the depth with the downrigger ball by letting it to the bottom. Don't drag the bottom with your downrigger ball because the bottom is full of small stones and clam shells. These items will be on your fish hook non-stop if you fish right on the bottom. When I am fishing Mid Channel, I put my downrigger line release three feet up from the ball. This will allow me to fish a flasher and prevent the bottom rotation of the flasher from hitting the bottom. This helps me to keep the rig clear of bottom debris.

Mid Channel Salmon Gear: The flashers for Mid Channel are the two that I tout all the time; a green Hot Spot Flasher with a red stripe (my all time favorite) or the purple haze Hot Spot. Other brands of flashers will work as long as they are the same colors. I would be a little more particular about lure selection. [I would recommend these three items: 3.5 Goldstar](#)

[Kingfisher spoon green/glow with a red stripe, Goldstar NG142R needlefish squid \(green/glow\) and Goldstar Coho Killer spoon White Lightening.](#) Fish anyone of these lures 42" behind a flasher with a 30lb leader. [Click here](#) for Salmon Rigs. If you cannot download this PDF, I have copies at my store that you can have.

I would like to take credit for pioneering downrigger trolling with flashers at Mid Channel. The first time I arrived at Mid Channel, there was an armada of anglers drift mooching for salmon. I definitely looked out of place. I am quite sure the locals thought I was invading their space. I was invading their space, except I was trying to inject a little logic to fishing a place with such a fast moving current. It was not long before the locals were trying to mimic what I was doing. "I was catching Chinook during the middle of tide when the current was at it's strongest." I just like to make sense out of Chinook Fishing. If it breaks with tradition, then so be it!

Don't fall in love with Mid Channel Bank. As we get closer to August 1, the Chinook migration makes it way deeper into Puget Sound. Make way for Possession Bar and Pilot Point. During the last week in July we have a couple of different things going on in Puget Sound. We have the Chinook migration that is going to the Snohomish and Stillaguamish Rivers and we have a Chinook migration that is headed for lake Washington and to deep South Sound. Both these Migrations can headed off at Pilot Point and Possession Bar.

Just Fishing



salmon limit, release wild Chinook (See Closure page 122).

Area 12: [Click here](#)

Area 13: [Click here](#)

Shrimp Seasons:
[Click Here](#)

Crab

In Marine Areas: Part of Area 4, Areas 5 and 13: crabbing opens June 18. Crabbing is open seven days a week. These Areas stay open through January 2, 2011.

In Marine Areas 6, 8-1, 8-2, 9, 10, 11 and 12: crabbing opens on July 1 at 7AM. Crabbing is open Wednesday through Saturday. These Areas stay open through September 6. Open Wednesday through Saturday.

Marine Area 7: is divided up into three Areas. **Marine Area 7 South and East,** opens for crab on July 14, at 7AM. This Area stays open through September 30. Open Wednesday through Saturday.

Marine Area 7 North: opens for crab August 14, at 7AM. This Area stays opens through September 30. Open Wednesday through Saturday.

If you find any mistakes in the seasons that I have stated please call John Martinis immediately: 425-259-3056

I want to talk about Pilot Point first because the time frame to fish for salmon is shorter than Possession Bar. I like fishing at Pilot the last week of July. The closer we get to August the chance for missing the hot Chinook bite might be over. A great Chinook fishing tactic that I like when there is a high tide in morning: Fish Pilot Point when the tide is coming in (the flood tide) and then run to Mid Channel to fish the outgoing tide. This is a great tip!

Back to Pilot Point: You can assume correctly that Pilot is only fished when the tide is coming in. Any other time there is too much current and too much seaweed in the water.

If you are looking for a point of land sticking out as a landmark, quit looking. There a handful of house on the beach about one mile south of Point No Point. That's Pilot Point. That is also the start of the salmon fishing spot. I like to start fishing at the house and troll towards Point No Point. Most of the time, I only troll halfway to Point No Point and then return to the houses. Although, I have caught quite a few Chinook closer to Point No Point. Don't fish too close to Point No Point because the water gets going in about nine different directions and makes it very difficult to fish.

I like to break the Puget Sound Chinook rules a bit at Pilot Point. When I am fishing with another angler here, I always fish one rig on the bottom and one rig at 65-75 feet deep. The bait will often suspend here. When this happens, you can find Chinook anywhere from 60 feet to the bottom. However, just because you catch a Chinook at a

particular depth don't place all your bets on that depth because it will change.

Chinook Gear for Pilot Point: The same as for Mid Channel.

Possession Bar is where the majority of us fish for Chinook. Possession is close to home for a good many of us and you can fish the tide before or after work and get back in a reasonable amount of time. The best reason why we fish Possession bar: It is a great place to fish for Chinook. For many Chinook, Possession Bar is the last feeding area before their return to the river. This makes this area a great place to intercept Chinook the last week of July and the first ten days of August. I mentioned earlier that most of these fish are going to the Snohomish and Stillaguamish Rivers. Some years, there will be a mixture of Puget Sound Chinook on the bar from all of the Puget Sound rivers. When this happens, fishing is extraordinary on the bar.

In past years I have always professed fishing the east side of the bar when the tide is coming in and fishing the west side of the bar when the tide is going out. While this is a time tested successful way to fish Possession Bar, I am not so sure this rule always applies. I now believe that the west side of the bar is good on any tide. I still believe that Chinook can be caught using the old rules, but anglers have proven over time that the west side can be good at any tide. Remember, I was the only person fishing downriggers at Mid Channel at one time. Things change as anglers experiment. An attribute of a good angler; is one that changes and evolves his/hers

Just Fishing



fishing techniques over time. Anglers sometimes make the mistake of viewing different fishing methods as, “the right way or the wrong way to fish”. We would all still be using a dodger and herring if someone didn’t experiment with: flashers, Point Wilson Darts, Buzz Bombs, Brads Cut Plug Herring, Coyote Spoons, ...etc..... Nobody even new what a Coho Killer spoon was until I used them for Coho fishing at Hein Bank. These spoons had an inch of dust on them at Silver Horde, when I asked Kelly Morrison if I could have a couple of them to fish with. Now, the Coho Killer spoon is one of the most popular spoons to fish with in Puget Sound. The Point is this: **“Try new things and new methods.”** All the new ideas that I talk about are because someone was bold enough to try it once!

Possession Bar is a spot where Chinook hug the bottom in search for food. The tide forces the water up from 500-700 feet deep and up and over Possession Bar. This is a great deal of water that has to make it over a bar that averages 60-90 feet deep. This water movement forces the bait fish to hug the outer edges of the bar. At the edge of the bar in 90-100 feet of water the bar drops off very rapidly. This provides cover from the current for small bait fish. This also sets up the perfect ambush for a hungry Chinook. You can see where I am going with this: Fish the edge of the bar in 90-120 feet of water. This is very difficult. The bar drops off so fast that it is hard to maintain that perfect 90-120 foot fishing depth. This is a two man show, with one person steering all the time and one person working the gear. This is a challenging place to fish!

Start working the west side of Possession Bar about a ¼ mile south of the Scatchet Head buoy. Work your way out along the bar until you reach the end of the bar. You will know when you get to end because it will get real deep real fast. At this point turn around and work your way back in. If you find bait along the way, concentrate on that area. Don't make the common mistake that so many anglers make: troll in one direction without paying any attention to what is happening on the bottom. Look for bait, look for any concentrations of salmon and maintain the correct depth.

Gear for Possession Bar: You can fish a little larger lures than I previously recommended because there are all sizes of herring on the bar. I would recommend the same flashers with these lures: 3.5-4.0 Goldstar Kingfisher spoons green/glow with a red stripe or White Lightening color. Squids that I would recommend: Goldstar Octopus squid OG142R green/glow. If you bring herring to fish with at the bar, bring plenty of herring leader and hooks. The west side of the bar is loaded with record size dogfish (sharks) this time of year.

Possession Bar Chinook Map
[Click Here](#)

[Click here](#) for my June column on Puget Sound Crab. Most Puget Sound Dungeness Crab (opens) opened July 1.

There is a great set of maps in my book, “Saltwater Fishing Journal”
To order a copy: Call John's Sporting Goods 1-877-517-2566, shipping is free.

Everett Coho
Derby
September 18-19
Stay tuned for
more details.
Tickets will be
available at
John's Sporting
Goods

Crab Pot Deal at
Johns Sporting
Goods
Kufa Crab Pot
Trap Harness
Bait Bag
Buoy
100' Leaded Rope
\$39.95



Tight Lines



A Publication of Everett Steelhead & Salmon Club

July 2010

Club News

Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club

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

Area 9 Opening

Summer Salmon fishing on the sound is coming soon! Boats are being cleaned up, engines tuned, gear is checked over and dates with family and friends have been set! We are looking forward to recapture the successful trip to Port Townsend we had last year to fish the ever popular Mid-Channel Bank. The dates are July 16th 18th. Many club members will be staying either at Port Hudson Marina or the Port Townsend Boat Haven. Others may

drive or cruise up for a day. Let's pray for sun, calm seas, fish (or at least some fish stories) and a safe weekend for all.

Crab

July 1st is the opener for local crab! You can't beat this tasty delight. It's another great excuse to spend some quality time on the water with family and friends. Don't forget to check the regulations for details.

July Picnic

Mark the date! **July 24th** will be this year Everett Steelhead & Salmon Clubs family picnic. This is a great chance for the club and families to join together for food, games, prizes and just some good old family orientated good times! The event will be held at Camp Paterson on Silver Lake, from 10 4pm. We all can look forward to a great time together.

July Meeting

Due to the picnic, **we will not be having a July General Meeting.** The next meeting will be on August 19th.

**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