

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

June 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

Puget Sound-San Juan's Crab

By John Martinis

Puget Sound/San Juan Crab is one of the most anticipated recreational seasons. I believe people like this activity is for this reason: because it does not take a great deal of expensive gear to get reasonably outfitted. Take a look at shrimping for example: It takes \$600-\$1000 worth of gear for two people just to get started. You can get started crabbing for \$160 for two people. At John's Sporting Goods, I have complete crab pot set-ups for \$39.95. This includes the pot, 100 feet of leaded rope, buoy, harness and a bait container. That's a good deal! My real point after my sales pitch is this: You can get started crabbing and not break the bank.

You can also get started crabbing without a great deal of expertise. Most of the widely popular crabbing areas are mapped in my book, "Saltwater Fishing Journal" and additional maps are included in my monthly Newsletter. In this Newsletter, I will include several crabbing areas in the Central Puget Sound region and the San Juan Islands. I will also have available at my store a great color guide for setting up your crab gear. This will be available for free at John's Sporting Goods. I believe that with the resources that I have made available to you, you will be successful at your crabbing endeavors.

Let's get started with the crab pot

set-up. Crab pots come in different sizes and shapes: Round, six-sided, square. Take your pick. There is someone out there that professes one of these shapes is better than the other. I want to take an analytical approach to a hungry six legged creature that spends its life foraging for food. The crab pot is no better than the bait that is put into the pot. I will address bait a little later on. I think the best crab pots are ones that are designed with an entrance that is on the ground level. This makes it easy for the crab to figure out how to get to the bait. Remember: Crab are driven by hunger, not the shape of the pot. If there is a sufficient amount of bait they will stick around and probe until they figure out how to gain entrance. There is an old theory about the shape of a crab pot that I believe is nonsense. The theory goes like this: "Crab will walk around a square pot and keep walking in a straight line and away from the pot. Versus, a round pot, where they will walk around the pot in a circular pattern until they figure out how to gain entrance." I have used the cheap square crab pot for too many years to disprove this old theory many times over and over. I will concede that two like pots will not work equally as well as each other. I also believe that metal pots that are not plastic coated, need a zinc installed to neutralize the electricity that they generate.

There is a good case to be made for the crab pots that have a ramp style entrance. These pots are ideally suited for leaving in the water for an extended period of time. The

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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

ramps discourage and make it difficult for the crab to escape. So you can see the advantage of different entrance designs. Ramp style entrance are for leaving the pot in the water for several hours. Ground floor entrance are for easy entry and for checking the pot every hour or less. Pots with a ground floor entry can be purchased for as little as \$22. This style pot weighs less than 10 pounds. Ramp style pots are usually of more rugged construction, they can be purchased starting at \$59. A popular ramp style that I sell is the commercial style crab pot. They sell for \$75 and they weigh 16 pounds. [Click here](#) to see a selection of crab gear.

Now that I have explained the different style of crab pots, now let's deal with tying it all together. I believe that all crab pots should be rigged with a minimum of 100 feet of leaded rope. Many crabbers are now rigging their pots with 200 feet of rope. With 100 feet of rope you can comfortably crab as deep as 75 feet. You always need 25 feet of extra rope to compensate for the water current and for accidentally letting the pot out in deeper water than what was expected. *Have you ever done this?* With 100 feet of rope, you can get by with one buoy. Any more rope than 100, you need to attach one more buoy. You can tie the rope directly to the pot or use a harness. Either way is good.

If you are crabbing in more than 100 feet of water, the dynamics of crabbing changes. I mentioned that you need one more buoy. You also need to make your pot weigh 15lbs or more if you are crabbing in excess of 100 feet. *If you don't weight your pot, you will lose it.*

Many crabbers have thought that someone has stolen their crab gear, when in fact the water current has swept the pot out into deep water that is deeper than the crab pot line. Another reason for weighting the pot: crab do not like the pot jumping around from the crab line pulling on the pot. If the pot is being rattled by the crab pot line, the crab will leave the pot or they will get scared away before they enter the pot. If you think that crab cannot get out of your crab pot, try this experiment: Bring your crab pot to the surface. Throw out all the crab except the legal male crab. Lower the pot back to the bottom and retrieve it in 10 minutes. The result: most of the crab have escaped. Don't believe me? Try it? You will be surprised.

The correct bait container is really important for successful crabbing. Do not use the fine mesh containers that you used for shrimp! The bait container/cage needs to be made of a course enough mesh so that the crab can pick at the bait and set up a scent trail. This attracts other crab to your trap and it keeps the captured crab busy until you check the pot. Fasten the bait container in the center-bottom of the pot with a stainless bait pin.

Having the correct amount of bait in a crab pot is so important. The bait performs two functions: It sets up a scent trail and it feeds the captured crab. The scent trail is one of the most important aspects of crabbing. The correct amount of bait is a standard size bait cage crammed with as much bait as possible. The more bait that you put in the pot, the better and more lasting the scent trail will be. I would also add some enhancers for scent. I would recommend Pro

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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

Cure Crab and Shrimp attractant oil for scent. This can be applied to the bait or on a sponge that can be hung from the inside of the pot. The attractant oil sets up an immediate scent trail as soon as the pot hits the bottom. This will draw crab in from long distances and over to your pot. This will also give you an advantage if there are other crab pots near your crab pot.

Bait that crab seem to like to feed on are; the same things that you and I like: Chicken and salmon. Salmon heads and tail do not work especially well. Once again, crab like to eat what we like. They want the flesh of the salmon. If you do not have any salmon in your freezer go to the super market and ask the butcher to save you the scraps from the filleted salmon. If that option is not available, go to Bartell drug store and purchase canned salmon when it is on sale. Another bait that crab really like is clams. Clams can be dug at many beaches in the Puget Sound Area. Use the horse clams or cockles, only because they are bigger than butter clams. I would also use canned Mackerel. Mackerel is very oily and it sets up an instant scent trail once in the water. The pellets that you used for shrimping do not work very well for crab. Fresh chicken is also at the top of the list for good crab bait. Purchase whatever chicken is on sale. Crab could care less if it is white or dark meat or wings or legs. The bait must be fresh. Another old theory that must be dispelled: "Crab like rotting nasty bait". One more time, "crab like to eat what we like to eat".

There are a few ideas floating around about when crabbing is at it's best. Low tide or high tide, I am

not sure that it really makes a difference. Crab are very mobile creatures. I believe that they move out to deeper water when the tide is going out. When the tide is coming in, I believe that they move back on top of the tide flats to feed. I think they can be thought as a very mobile army that moves around looking for food. It is oblivious that they cannot stay in one spot all the time or else they would exhaust their food supply. Researchers that have tagged crab in Puget Sound have found crab miles from where they were originally tagged. The point here is: move your crab gear in and out with the tide. Don't keep setting your gear in the same spot. Set your pots out in deep water (100-150 feet deep) when the tides are at extreme minus tides.

Most of the good crabbing Areas in Puget Sound are accessed by boat. Many of these places do not require a large boat. Places that you can crab near shore with a boat are: Just north of Mukilteo City Park, [click here to see map](#). In front of and near Camano Island State Park, [click here to see map](#). At and around Kayak County Park [click here to see map](#). This is probably the best area for the small boater. At and near Possession Point Park.

Areas that are accessible for crabbing by larger sea worthy boats are: Mission Bar in front Jetty Island in Everett, [click here to see map](#). Elger Bay near Camano Island state park. Utsalady at the north end of Camano Island. All the immediate Areas to the East of Port Townsend. This area is one of the better crabbing spots in Area 9. Apple Tree Point to Point no Point is a good crabbing area. The Ship Wreck, just south of Mukilteo can



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

be good crabbing. All the beaches from Tulalip Bay to Kayak County Park are excellent crabbing. Deep inside Port Susan is good crabbing and along the Eastern shore of Camano Island.

If you are boatless, you are not out of luck when it comes to crabbing. The fishing pier at Kayak County Park is a good crabbing pier, [see map to park](#). The fishing pier at the 10th Street Boat in Everett is OK crabbing. The tide runs real hard at this fishing pier making it hard to crab or fish from the pier. The fishing pier at Mukilteo is a good crabbing pier. The fishing pier in Edmonds is only good for rock crab; there are very few Dungeness crab at this fishing pier.

In the San Juan's you need a boat to crab. Most of the good crabbing areas are a good distance from the boat launches. The popular crabbing spot near Anacortes is the Saddle Bags Island area. I have pulled in crab pots in this area that are so full of crab that it took two people to lift the crab pot into the boat. This area is a crab factory, [click here to see map](#). Another spot that I have spent a great deal of time crabbing is the east side of Guemes Island [click here to see map](#). This area is more fun to crab than Saddle Bags because there is less people crabbing, see map. There are many good areas to crab in the interior of the San Juan Islands. There is a small bay on the west side of Blakley that is good crabbing, [click here to see map](#). All the area on the west side of Center Island and Lopez Island are good crabbing. These areas get crabbed real hard by the locals.

A good crabbing dock near the San Juan's is at Cornet Bay (Deception

Pass State Park).

At first glance, the crabbing rules have not changed much from last year. The limit is still five crab in the Puget Sound/San Juan's. The size limit is 6 1/4" and you can keep only male crab. See page 136 of the WDFW for a complete set of crabbing rules.

Crab Pot Set- Up Diagram

[click here to download PDF](#)

Cleaning Crab

- 1.To remove the back, hold the base of the crab with one hand and pull the shell away from the body with the other hand.
- 2.Turn the crab over and pull on the triangular-shaped section and lift it away. Turn the crab again and gently scrape away the gills on either side with your thumb or a spoon. Also, throw away the intestine, which runs down the center of the back.
- 3.Most people wash away the "crab butter" (the yellow, mushy stuff in the cavity). But, some consider these organs a delicacy and there are recipes that call for them. So, set them aside if you like.
- 4.Twist off the legs.
- 5.Rinse the rest of the body under cold water and break it in half.
- 6.Crack the legs with a mallet.
- 7.Dig out the meat with forks or picks or however you can get to it. Eating crab is a messy affair, so just dig in and enjoy.
- 8.Crab meat is typically served with lemon wedges and melted butter. But, of course, there are many sauces and recipes you can experiment with.



Tight Lines



A Publication of Everett Steelhead & Salmon Club

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Club News

By Ben Bear

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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

May KIDS Events

May for the ESSC is really about the Kids. Once again we teamed up with other clubs, business, along with State and Local organizations to offer some outstanding fishing opportunities for Kids. We had our Trout Fishing Clinic headed up by Jim Brauch in early May. We held a rod assembly day where 700+ fishing rods were unpackaged, assembled, strung with line and gear to be ready for the Kids. The

Jennings Pond Event was the first weekend in May. This was a wild one. This small pond was filled with some nice 3+ pounders courtesy of the Club and John Martinis of Johns Sporting Goods. The Kids shook of the rain and cold and had a real good time. Silver Lake was next on the list. Jim Brauch says this was by far the best this event has ever been. Every Child who showed up received a new rod & reel and the best part was that they all caught fish! To end the month we held our Twin Lakes / Gissberg pond Event. The lake was full of fish and surrounded by Kids! All I need to say that one lucky child pulled in a 8lb 12oz trout! A true fish story that will last a lifetime! The month went by fast and it was good to see many smiles on a lot of Kids who took part in these events. Thanks go to all the Moms, Dads, Grandparents, neighbors, and friends who took the time to take these Kids fishing!

Check this link out. It's from KOMO News Eric's Little Hero's and the Silver Lake Kids Fishing Event

<http://www.komonews.com/home/video/94881824.html>

May Halibut / July Salmon

Several Members headed North to the Straits this past month to try their hand at Halibut. From several reports from Woody Woods and Ted Measor they met with some good success! The stories I'm hearing are that they took fish from 20 to 75 pounds. Overall a good season! Now we are focusing in on the Salmon opportunities that open up July 16th in area 9. We hope to recapture the good time and full coolers of Salmon we had last year with a week end stay at Port Hudson up in Port Townsend.

June 17th Meeting

We are excited to have Ron Garner, President of PSA (Puget Sound Anglers) as our Junes featured speaker. Ron will talk about the current status of Sport Fishing and Issues that effect us all. Please join us for some first hand insight of what's happening to and for our fisheries. As always, our door is open. Hope to see you there!

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