

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

March 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

[Marine Areas, click here](#)

**Listen to Outdoor Line
Fish Talk with
Tom Nelson
ESPN Radio 710AM
Saturdays
6AM-9AM**

Newsletter Dates

Halibut fishing, Ling Cod, opening day of trout and the Puget Sound shrimp season all start within a week of each other this year (last week of April to first week of May). Because the different seasons are packed so close together, I am going to dedicate the March Newsletter to Halibut and the April Newsletter to Shrimp and the May Newsletter to Ling Cod.

Halibut 2010

Here is snapshot of the 2010 Halibut season. As you can see, the days have been reduced in Areas 6-7-9 to three days a week:

Marine Area 1: Open May 1, 3 days per week until 70% of the quota is achieved or July 18, whichever is first. Re-open on Aug 6 and continue 3 days per week (Fri.-sun) until remaining quota is taken.

Marine Area 2: Open Sun May 2, 2-days per week, Sun and Tue. During the fourth week in May the fishery will be open on Sunday only (may 23). Beginning the following week the fishery will resume the Sun, Tue structure until the quota is achieved. The northern near shore area will be open on May 2, 7-days per week until the near shore quota is achieved.

Marine Area 3 and 4: Open May 13, 2 days per week, Thu and Sat.

through May 22. If there is available quota the fishery will be open June 3 and 5 and continue again starting June 17 until the quota is reached.

Marine Area 5: May 28-June 19, three days per week. The fishery will be open Memorial Day weekend Friday, Saturday and Sunday then starting May 31 the fishery will be open Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Marine Area 6, 7, 9: May 1- May 30, three days per week. The fishery will be open Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday on Memorial Day weekend.

Halibut Fishing

By John Martinis

Puget Sound Halibut and Area 7 Halibut fishing has grown in popularity in the past five years. Anglers are discovering that with a whole lot of patience and a dash of luck, local fishing for halibut can be very rewarding. If you are an Elk hunter, you will appreciate the number of hours/days it takes to bag an animal. Halibut fishing is no different. You have to be prepared to put three eight hour days to bag one halibut. By anyone's standards, that is a lot of time on the water without having something to show for it. It is worth it! I have spent so much time fishing for halibut; I don't even want to tell you how many times I have come empty handed. When I have bagged a halibut, most of the time it was between 50

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and 100 pounds. I bet if a poll were taken, more than half the Halibut caught in Areas 6-7 and 9 are 50 pounds or more. Every year, several fish are caught that exceed 100 pounds. Is that worth waiting for? Sure it is. It's the hunt!

There is nothing more exciting than cranking a 50-100 pound halibut to the surface. It comes along side of the boat and your fishing partner harpoons the fish. The fish pulls so hard on the ¼ nylon line that is attached to the spearhead that you cannot hang on to the rope. That's adrenalin baby!

Halibut are the most exciting fish to catch in the Northwest by my standards. There is no other Northwest fish that needs to be speared in order to bag it. Think about it? Even a 100lb++ sturgeon can be brought along side of the boat by grabbing it by the mouth. I am not diminishing the sport of catching other large fish. The fact is; Halibut are tough characters both in the water and once in the boat.

Let's talk Halibut gear: First of all, like I always profess, "Keep it Simple". You can find a whole slew of reasons to fish for halibut differently than how I prescribe. Just keep in mind; these are time tested ideas that have been proven to be very effective. [Click here for Halibut gear](#)

I still like fishing with the large spreader bar for Halibut. It keeps the gear separated and relatively tangle free. One of the more redeeming qualities of the spreader bar; it minimizes the hooks from picking up clam shells, sea weed and coral from the bottom. My biggest complaint about using the

tuna cord and sliding sinker method is: the hooks are always loaded up with bottom debris. Remember: it already takes three outings to catch a halibut, "***don't increase your odds of coming home empty handed***". If there were chances for multiple hook-ups per day, then fine use any fishing method. You can prove that anything works well under that scenario. Those of you that know me, know my favorite fishing slogan, "Stick with the high percentage items".

The long end of the spreader bar is the end that you attach the leader and bait to. The leader should be 50-80lb test and approximately 18" long after you tie two 10/0 Gamakatsu Octopus hooks to the leader. Circle hooks are Ok, they are not my bag and a little over rated.

The short end of the spreader bar attaches directly to the weight. The weight should be 12-24 ounces. A 16oz weight is usually a good starting point. You might want to try different weights as the tidal movement increases or decreases.

After you tie your leader, slip a #8 corkie (large bead) down the leader. The corkie acts as a stop for the squid that goes on next. Slip a 7" Pline white squid down the leader. The corkie ends up inside the squid. This prevents the hooks from pulling through the top of the squid. [See illustration click here](#)

With the spreader bar and squid set-up, you don't have to use large herring for bait. I prefer using 7" herring inside the white squid. Here is how to tie the herring to the leader: Run the top hook through

the bottom of the jaw of the herring and out through the top of the head. Lay the trailing hook along side the body of the herring. Tie the herring to the leader using clear miracle thread. Start by wrapping the thread around the tail of the herring and continue wrapping towards the head and around the leader and hooks. Once you reach the head of the herring, wrap back to the tail. Put a couple of half hitches in the thread to secure it. Now, you have a herring that will stay on all day.

The beauty of tying the herring to the leader is twofold: it conserves herring and it keeps the herring on even if you strike hard at a halibut. Halibut are one of the few fish that you can strike hard at and they will come back to the bait with a vengeance. Halibut are mean eating machines. They cannot resist a herring dinner once they get a taste of it. Through the years, this is one of the best methods that I have developed for catching halibut. Many anglers have thanked me for this simple tip.

Equally important as the bait and spreader bar set-up, is the line. The right line is so important so that you can keep in close contact with the bottom. I highly recommend 65lb test spectra line. Brands that I prefer are: Cortland, Spider Wire and Power Pro. All three lines are made out of spectra fibers. Anyone of them will do the job. I have tried 80lb and it is just too strong. I feel that it is unnecessary to use line that strong. If you get hung up on the bottom with 80lb, you almost cannot hang on to your rod and reel.

If you are just going to be fishing in Puget Sound and only going Halibut fishing a couple times a

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year, you do not need to invest a whole lot of money into a rod and reel set up. At John's Sporting Goods, we have Halibut rod and reel outfits for as little as \$89. The fishing line would be an additional cost.

If you are going to be fishing Puget Sound, the Ocean and the West Side of Vancouver Island, then you need to invest in some more rugged gear. That would include a Penn 113H reel (\$99) and a Shimano Big Game rod (\$89). 300 yards of 65lb spectra and backing runs \$37. I fill the Penn 113H $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way with 80lb Dacron backing, then I put 300 yards of 65lb spectra on top of the backing. I tie the two lines together with a Uni to Uni knot.

See knot illustration [click here](#)

Even though Halibut are eating machines, it takes some technique to catch one of these critters. The good news is that it is real simple. Let the line to the bottom. Try to keep in contact with the bottom. If you are not feeling the bottom with some kind of regularity, let some line out until you regain contact. You do not need constant contact with the bottom. You just need to know where the bottom is at.

Do not jig the bait. "Swim the bait." Swimming the bait is quite simple; move the rod tip slowly so that the bait has a swimming motion. If you feel a strike, do not strike back. If you do, you will miss the fish every time. If you feel a fish biting, lower your tip to the water. This will give the fish the opportunity to swallow the bait. Now, you will feel the fish yarding on the bait. The rod tip will be bouncing with some vigor. Pull pack with three hard striking motions and reel up the slack line.

Fish on! If you exercise some patience and not get too excited when you first feel the fish, you will get him every time.

When you get the Halibut to the boat, the real fun begins. Have your fishing buddy net the fish if it looks that it is less than 50 pounds. If it is over 50lbs, you have to spear the fish. If you do not, the fish will go right through the net with ease. The proper way to spear a halibut is as follows: Spear the fish right in the middle of the fish. This will not destroy any of the meat. The person holding the fishing rod should immediately loosen the drag on the reel. This is necessary in case something goes wrong. This will keep you from breaking the line if the fish gets off the spear. This scenario is a rarity, but it does happen. As soon as the fish gets speared, he will go right to the end of the rope that is attached to the spear head. Pull the fish back slowly. When you get the fish back to the boat, put a gaff through the lower jaw. At this time you can take a fillet knife and insert it into the gills of the fish and rake it around. The fish will die instantly. Never attempt to put a 50lb++ halibut into the boat alive. Besides the fish going berserk for 15 minutes, your boat will look like a pig got slaughtered inside the boat.

Here is a list of gear that one person needs to go out for a day of halibut fishing:

- 2/Spreader Bars
- 4/White Pline Squid
- 4/Corkies or Large Beads
- 4/Leaders tied with 10/0 Gamakatsu Hooks
- 80lb Leader Material
- 1/Pkg of 7" Herring
- 1/Pkg Miracle Thread
- 2/16oz Weight

1/12oz Weight

1/20oz Weight

Halibut Fishing Maps:

Mutiny Bay [Click Here](#)

Partridge Bank [Click Here](#)

McCarthur Bank [Click Here](#)

Eastern Bank [Click Here](#)

Dallas Bank [Click Here](#)

Admiralty Bay [Click Here](#)

Anchoring for Halibut

Many anglers are anchoring their boat and fishing for Halibut. This is proving to be a very effective way to fish. One appealing feature of this method is that it takes less effort and produces the same or more fish. **Warning: You have to let out at least three times or more anchor line as it is deep.**

John's Sporting Goods Sidewalk Project

Sometime near the first week of March, the sidewalks in front of John's Sporting Goods are going to be replaced. The store will be open during the entire sidewalk project. If you come to the store to shop and the entrance is blocked, feel free to use the back door. You don't have to knock. There will be a sign in the front window of the store as a reminder. There will also be a sign on the back door identifying the back entrance.

The current sidewalks were poured in the 1920's.

Please fill free to park at the Tai Restaurant next to John's Sporting Goods. I pay for parking in the restaurant parking lot. So ignore the "NO Parking" signs. All John's Sporting Goods have the privilege of parking in the lot without asking.



Tight Lines



A Publication of Everett Steelhead & Salmon Club

March 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 the Everett Fireman's Hall 2411 Hewitt Ave. Everett.**

Web Site : www.esscwa.com

Blackmouth Derby [Click Here](#)

The Derby has been Sold Out

GONE! Is the word that our Blackmouth Derby Chair Woody Woods says about the remaining tickets for this year's derby. Our 4th annual Blackmouth Derby is to be held on March 20th, Woody says it will be better than ever. We start off the derby with a **seminar hosted by John Martini's of Johns Sporting Goods on the March 12th at Bayside Marine.**

The following Saturday March 20, is the derby. Weather permitting a good time is in store for all. The Blackmouth derby is now part of the Northwest Derby Series. **1st place is \$3000.00, 2nd is \$1500.00, 3rd takes home \$500.00 and 4th will be \$250.**

And a special Mystery Weight Fish sponsored by Greg's Custom Rods. Good Luck to all!

Woody Woods and John Martinis were instrumental in coming up with the \$100 ticket/100 Tickets idea. It was a great idea and very successful. The tickets sold out in 30 days. Anglers are still calling John's Sporting Goods and other dealers and practically begging for tickets.

Maybe we should put John and Woody in charge of fund raising??

A piece of history: When John first put on his popular seminars at the then Everett Pacific Hotel with help from ESSC, the ESSC membership surged to over 200 members. The membership prior to the seminars was stuck at between 60-80 members.

Close to 1,000 people would attend one of those seminars.

There will be a membership table at the March 20th seminar. We will be encouraging attendees to fill out membership applications to our club..

Pizza Night at Alfy's

February brought us our annual Membership pizza night feed at Alfy's in Everett. A very good turn out and an enjoyable time was had by all. This year we ran a membership drive contest and saw 11 new members show up for

Pizza! Welcome to the club! The winners of the Membership drive will be named at our March general meeting. The evening was capped off by a raffle and the grand prize, a guided float trip with J & J Guide service went to Gerry Crum. Thanks to Kelli Mack, Charleen Davis and Buz Bauman for making this event a success.

Snohomish Chapter of CCA Banquet

ESSC members filled over 2 tables at this year's Snohomish County CCA Banquet held on February 13th. It is our general feeling that since CCA is involved with so many crucial areas in supporting our Salmon and sport fishing, we were happy to support them as well. Not only did we have a great time sharing fishing stories, many of us "caught" some nice auction and raffle items.

Eagle Creek Hatchery

Kelli Mack says the eggs have hatched and the small fry are now in the holding tank! She now has a list of volunteers to feed the young ones. Great job to all the Hatchery Crew!

**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.

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1913 Broadway
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**20% Discount
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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