

# Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

May 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**

**May 1: All Areas of Puget  
Sound are closed  
for salmon fishing**

**Shrimp Bait Formula  
[click here](#)**

## Keep on Shrimping!

By John Martinis

**Area 6 is open  
seven days a week**

Investing in an Electric Pot Puller and four shrimp pots fully rigged costs an easy \$1000+. Don't get depressed and settle for fishing the Puget Sound shrimp season that lasts only a couple of days.

Area 7 South, shrimping dates are May 5, 6, 7, 8, 21 and 22. After the inner Puget Sound shrimp season is over, go to the San Juan Islands and fish for shrimp.

Area 6, is the Grand Daddy of all shrimp seasons. This area is open every day of the week. Pick the good tides and fish for Halibut and shrimp at the same time when both are open. This is the best of all worlds if you have a taste for spot prawns. Last year Area 6 did not close until September.

These are the spots that I recommend: Partridge Bank ([Click here for map](#)), Dallas Bank ([Click here for map](#)), Eastern Bank ([Click here for map](#)) and Lawson Reef ([Click here for map](#)). Nobody that I know has even tried shrimping on Hein Bank. I will guarantee you that Hein Bank has excellent shrimping. You just have to experiment with some different areas until you find the good spots. Hein Bank has the perfect contour for spot shrimp, it drops off rapidly and it is slightly rocky. I will bet

that we only know 10% of the good shrimping areas in Area 6.

If you are going to try shrimping in Area 6, there are two good places to launch a boat: Fort Casey ([Click here for Map](#)) on Whidbey Island and Cornet Bay (Deception Pass) ([Click here for Map](#)). If you launch out of Cornet Bay, it is only 7 miles down to Partridge Bank and 10 miles to Eastern Bank.

If you are going to try shrimping on Dallas Bank, I would recommend launching at Fort Casey.

## Ling Cod

By John Martinis

The tides for opening day (May 1) of Ling Cod are really ripping! This will not make for good Ling fishing. Don't despair; you can still fish around the tide changes. I have found that Ling Cod like to feed when the tide is slack. When the tides are bigger than we would like, it does not eliminate the opportunity to fish, it just narrows the window of time when the fish are available to be caught.

There a couple of good ways to fish for ling cod: With artificial lures and with live bait. The live bait option is a little more difficult because you have to catch sculpins or poggies (young pile perch, [click here for picture](#)) for bait. Sculpins ([click here for picture](#)) can be caught with worms in about 60 feet of water. Poggies can be caught around pilings with a smelt or herring jig.



Live bait can be rigged with a 2-4oz sinker and 3/0 hook on a short leader. Take the hook and run it through the top lip of the live bait or run it through the dorsal fin.

Artificial lures that are good for Ling Cod are; 4"-6" twin tail scampi tails ([click here to see tackle](#)) rigged on a 2-3 ounce lead head jig. Anytime that you are using these artificial baits, you must use a strip of salted herring to give the lure some scent.

The methods for using live bait and artificials are so much different. With live bait, you merely let the live fish down to the bottom to swim around. When a fish grabs your live bait, you just start reeling. If you jerk, you will pull the hook right out of the Ling's mouth. The Ling will not let go of the live bait if you reel slowly.

When you are using scampi tails, you swim the bait slowly. Don't jig the scampi tails. Make the tail look like it is gently swimming along. When a Ling grabs an artificial bait, you must strike fast and hard. If you don't the fish will spit the lure every time.

## Anchoring for Halibut

By John Martinis

A good friend of mine has landed 28 halibut in his boat in the past month on the Canadian side of the border. That is as good as halibut fishing gets around here! You can do the same on either side of the border.

The technique that is gaining in popularity is anchoring for halibut.

This technique is so much better than any other fishing method for halibut. In fact, it is so deadly I wonder how much longer it will be allowed?

The anchoring method is simple: You need to use three times as much rope than it is to the bottom. Caution: Do not take any chances and use less than the recommended rope length, because you can sink your boat. Anchor in 90-120 feet of water after you figure out which way the current is moving. The wind will also affect your anchored position.

To make anchoring effective you must prepare a scent bag that you will attach to a downrigger ball. In the scent bag is fish carcasses that you have or that you get at the super market. The fish pellets that are sold for shrimp bait also works. I would recommend using a combination of fish carcasses, fish pellets and liquid scent in the bait bag. The bait bags are bags that are made out of fine mesh fish netting. I sell these at John's Sporting Goods. The bait bags are then clipped onto the downrigger ball with a halibut snap.

There two different fishing methods that work well when using the anchoring method. You can clip your line to a downrigger release and let your line to the bottom with the downrigger. You are essential plunking when you are using this method. You just wait until a halibut comes along and takes the bait and pulls the line free from the downrigger. Do not use a spreader bar with this method. Just use a 7" white plastic squid with a herring tied to a couple of 10/0 hooks.

The second way to fish is to use the downrigger to let the scent bag down, but to fish with a lead weight attached to your fishing line. Using this method, you do not attach the line to the downrigger. Use a spreader bar and the standard rig with herring that I usually recommend ([click here for rig](#)).

### Halibut Season Areas 6-10

Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
May 1-30

### Area 7 Shrimp Southern Portion

*Map: [click here](#)*

May 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 21, 22

Area 8-1, 8-2, 9, 10 Shrimp  
May 1 and May 5  
7AM-3PM

Ling Cod  
Areas 6-9  
May 1-June 15  
Open Every Day

## Westport Rockfish

By John Martinis

My wife and I recently fished for rockfish at Westport aboard the charter boat "Slammer". As usual, the fishing was fast and furious for black sea bass. We brought home 20 rockfish and 1 ling cod.

The skipper of the Slammer is Rhet Weber. Rhet has his entire boat rigged with light rods and 1ounce jigs for rockfish. This makes the fishing so enjoyable. The fish are all fileted and bagged by the deck hand.

If you want to fish on the Slammer, call 1-800-562-0151.



# Tight Lines



A Publication of Everett Steelhead & Salmon Club

May 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](http://www.esscwa.com)

### May is For the Kids!

May brings the ESSC Kids fishing Events. These events are co-sponsored with State and local organizations including John Martinis of Johns Sporting Goods, who helps with the fish plant in Jennings pond. Each year the Club set's aside a good portion of their proceeds from the Coho and Blackmouth derbies and put it back into the community in the form fishing for Kids. For many of these kids it will be their 1st fish or maybe just the only chance they will have to fish. The events are well attended and well received by the kids and parents! It's great to see the support ESSC members

put into preserving fishing for the kids and for fishing heritage. Check out our web site [everettsteelheadandsalmonclub.com](http://everettsteelheadandsalmonclub.com) for times and locations and make it a goal of yours to take a child fishing this year.

### April Trout & May Halibut

It's that time of year for many club members to venture out to their favorite fishing hole to pursue either Trout or Halibut. I've heard many stories of past trips and we can look forward to this years success stories at the next Club general meeting!

May 20th Meeting

### May's Featured Speaker.

We are excited to have John Beath who will share his knowledge and tales of adventure of Puget Sound Halibut. As always, our door is open. Hope to see you there!

### Washington's Salmon Fisheries set for 2010

PORTLAND - Salmon anglers will have improved fishing opportunities for chinook on the coast and in the Columbia River,

while most recreational fisheries in Puget Sound will be similar to seasons adopted last year, according to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

Washington's 2010 salmon fishing seasons, developed by WDFW and treaty Indian tribal co-managers, were approved today during the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (PFMC) meeting in Portland. The fishing package defines regulations for salmon fisheries in Puget Sound, the Columbia River and Washington's ocean and coastal areas.

"This comprehensive package of fisheries meets our conservation goals for wild salmon populations, while providing a variety of salmon fishing opportunities on abundant stocks," said Phil Anderson, WDFW Director. "Developing these fishing opportunities wouldn't be possible without strong cooperation between the state, the tribes and our constituents."

One of the most promising opportunities this year will be fishing for chinook salmon on the coast and in the Columbia River, said Anderson.

Nearly 653,000 fall chinook are forecasted to return to the Columbia River this season, about 234,000 more chinook than the number returning last year. The increased numbers represent strong returns to Spring Creek and other Columbia River hatcheries, which traditionally have been the backbone of the recreational ocean

chinook fishery.

As a result of the anticipated run, the PFMC today adopted a recreational ocean quota this year of 61,000 chinook. That's well above the 2009 ocean chinook quota of 20,500.

The PFMC also implemented a pilot mark-selective fishery for hatchery chinook in Washington's ocean areas. Mark-selective fisheries allow anglers to catch and keep abundant hatchery salmon, which are marked with a missing adipose fin, but require that they release wild salmon.

The selective fishery for hatchery chinook in marine areas 1-4 will run from June 12-30. Anglers will have a daily limit of two hatchery chinook.

"This is the first season we will have a selective fishery for hatchery chinook in the ocean," said Anderson. "By using this management tool we can meet our conservation goals and give anglers an additional opportunity to fish for hatchery chinook in the ocean."

While the chinook forecast is up, the Columbia River coho return is expected to be down this year. Nearly 390,000 Columbia River coho are projected to make their way along Washington's coast this summer, compared to one million coho in 2009 - the largest return in nearly a decade.

The PFMC, which establishes fishing seasons in ocean waters three to 200 miles off the Pacific Coast, set a recreational coho harvest quota of 67,200 coho. Last year's ocean coho quota was 176,400.

Recreational ocean salmon fisheries for chinook and coho will begin July 1 off LaPush, Neah Bay and Ilwaco and July 4 off Westport.

All areas will have a two-salmon daily limit, only one of which may be a chinook. As in past years, only

hatchery coho salmon with a clipped adipose fin can be retained in ocean fisheries.

In the Columbia River, the Buoy 10 fishery will be open for chinook and coho beginning Aug. 1. Through August, anglers will have a two-salmon daily limit, only one of which may be a chinook. From Sept. 1 through Dec. 31, anglers will have a daily limit of two fish, but must release chinook.

The mainstem Columbia River from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to Bonneville Dam will be open for recreational salmon fishing from Aug. 1 through Dec. 31. Anglers will be allowed to retain one adult chinook as part of their daily bag limit. Beginning Sept. 12, chinook retention will only be allowed upstream of the Lewis River.

In Puget Sound, most salmon fisheries in the marine areas will be similar to last season, said Pattillo, salmon policy coordinator for WDFW.

However, one major change for 2010 will occur in the Elliott Bay chinook fishery. Responding to a low forecast of Green River wild chinook, fishery managers reduced the Elliott Bay recreational fishery from four days each week to three - Friday through Sunday, said Pattillo. The fishery is scheduled to begin July 2, but salmon fishing after Aug. 8 will be closed unless in-season tests show the run is large enough to meet spawning goals for wild chinook.

In the freshwater, the Skokomish River fishery was converted to a selective fishery for hatchery chinook this year to meet conservation goals for wild chinook, said Pattillo. The Skokomish, from the mouth of the river to the Highway 101 Bridge, will be open from Aug. 1 through

Sept. 30 with a two salmon-daily limit, but anglers must release wild chinook and chum.

In addition, state and tribal fishery managers altered their fishing seasons on the Skokomish River to avoid gear conflicts, said Pattillo. The Skokomish River upstream of the Highway 106 Bridge will be closed to sportfishing each Monday from Aug. 1 through Sept. 13 (with the exception of Sept. 6) to ensure treaty tribal fishers can fish unimpeded, he said.

To avoid similar gear conflicts, the recreational fishery on the Puyallup River also was changed, said Pattillo. This summer, a portion of the Puyallup River - upstream of Freeman Road - will open for salmon fishing Aug. 1, about two weeks earlier than last year. Downstream of Freeman Road will remain closed to salmon fishing until Aug. 16, when it will open for fishing seven days a week except closed Aug. 22, 29, 30 and Sept. 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14.

"We worked closely with the Puyallup Tribe to develop fisheries on the Puyallup River that maintain opportunities for anglers and tribal fishers, and help increase safety," said Pattillo.

Specific regulations for marine areas in Washington and a portion of the Columbia River will be available next week on WDFW's North of Falcon website (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/northfalcon/>).

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1913 Broadway  
Everett, WA 98201**

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