

# Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

September 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. *Map to Bayside Marine [click here](#).*

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.

My good friend **Mike Greenleaf** will be on the program to talk about downrigger fishing with cut plug herring. Mike is the best salmon angler that I know and he is ready to share his secrets of fishing with bait for salmon. This will be a real treat for all of us.

## Edmonds Coho Derby September 11

## Everett Coho Derby September 18 & 19

See Page 5 for Details

## Derby Time Coho 2010

The High Percentage Plays  
By John Martinis

By looking at the front page of the Fishing Journal, it is very apparent that Coho salmon dominate the picture in September. Look at the line-up: Edmonds Coho Derby, September 11. Coho Seminar at Bayside Marine, by John Martinis and Mike Greenleaf, September 17. Everett Coho Derby, September 18 and 19. This is a pretty exciting mix of things to do and plenty of money to be won. That is the topic of this Newsletter. I will cover fishing for Coho in Puget Sound and fishing for Coho in the Snohomish River.

It is going to take a Coho weighing around 16 pounds to win the Edmonds Derby and it is going to take an 18 pound Coho or bigger to win the Everett Derby. The reports that I have been getting from the West side of Vancouver Island is: Coho in the very upper teens and low 20's are being caught regularly. While there might not be as many Coho this year as last, the average size Coho is going to be significantly larger.

So, is it luck or is it skill to catch the winning Derby Coho? Is your Derby ticket just another lottery ticket? I have seen over the many years that I have been selling salmon tackle, the same anglers consistently place in the top ten fish in all the salmon derbies that they enter. I have also seen the

# 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

people that I regard as very good anglers; consistently take top prizes in salmon derbies. My job in this Newsletter is to level the playing field. My job is let you know what the top anglers know. Those top anglers don't have any secrets that you don't know. They have a consistent method that they stick to. They stick to what I call the "**High Percentage Items**". They fish the High Percentage Gear and they Fish the High Percentage fishing spots. They fish like a NFL Quarterback plays football. They stick to their game plan. When it comes to the game winning play, they pass to their best receiver and they go with their favorite play. Fishing is the same. On derby day, we always fish with the rig that has the highest chances of winning first prize. We always fish in areas that are the best places to fish. I will sort out these issues for you, so that you know what the expert anglers know about Puget Sound Coho Fishing. Now remember, a football game can be won with a Hail Mary pass. A fishing derby can be won with Uncle Dick's old wooden plug with the paint all peeling off.

I am going to discuss: **The High Percentage plays** in Coho Fishing.

Let's first discuss Coho Tackle: There are two things that have caught more Coho than all the other tackle combined. I think it is a draw to which one is in first place. Those two items are: Green/Glow squid (OG142R Goldstar Squid) and Herring. There are several good ways to fish the squid and the herring. So, I will sort that out for you.

I will start with rigging the Green/Glow squid. Squid are

traditionally fished 30-36 inches behind an 11" flasher (for Coho). The two colors of flashers that I prefer are the Green Hot Spot flashers with a red stripe. I also like the Purple Haze color flasher. This color of flasher can be found in several different brands. The green flasher with the red stripe can only be found in the Hot Spot Brand of flasher. If you cannot find either, you know who to call, shipping is always free, 425-259-3056 John's Sporting Goods. Ok, so much for the self promotion. Let's get down to business. **On Derby day, we stay with the high percentage baits**: either natural bait (Herring) or artificial bait (Glow/Green Squid). **Coho Rigs [click here](#)**. Remember this, "Everyday you fish someone will catch more and bigger fish than you on something that you do not have in your tackle box. Tune it out! They will most likely do this only one time. You can purchase gear until you are broke and still someone will be catching fish on something that you do not own. Stick with the proven winners on Derby Day.

The leader from the flasher to the squid has to be 30lb test Maxima Ultra Green or Clear leader material. I would make one exception: 40lb Fluorocarbon leader material. The two best brands of Fluorocarbon leader are Pline and Seaguar. Let me tell you a little hint about leader that might seem insignificant to you but I think it is really a big deal. Do not ever wind the leader around the flasher between fishing trips! This leaves kinks in the leader that reflect light. This enables the fish to see the leader. Not Good! Keep your flashers in a flasher bag and arrange the leader in the bag so that

# 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

it will come out as straight as it went in. You have heard me say this before but I will say it again, “do not use 40-50 pound monofilament leader.” Use 30lb. and only 30lb. 30lb leader will consistently draw more strikes than the heavier leader material. Translation, “more fish in the box.” This hocus pocus idea about 40 and 50 pound leader whipping the squid around more. So what? If the fish can see it better and your artificial lure looks more artificial, what have you gained? ***On Derby day, we don't take chances.*** Stay with the high percentage leader material (30lb test).

Back to Glow/Green squid. I like the idea of putting a glow skirt inside of the squid. However, a new way of rigging squid that I really endorse goes like this: put a UV (Ultra Violet) Ace High fly inside the squid as an insert. This gives you the glow from the squid and UV reflection from the Ace High Fly. I like to rig the squid with two stainless steel 4/0 hooks, with the hooks tied so that they are both inside of the squid (not sticking out the back). If you don't know how to tie these hooks, I have custom tied squid hooks available at my store. Gamakatsu and Owner hooks are good, but the points fall off after about six hours of trolling. Plus they rust and ruin your baits between fishing trips. AND, they cannot be sharpened. Have you tried to sharpen a Gamakatsu hook?

Herring. Hmmmmm? This is an art not merely a method to fish properly. This is definitely a high percentage bait if done properly. Even though this is what Coho eat for breakfast everyday, they are like you and I. They like a meal

that looks appetizing. A herring has to be on the hooks so that it looks somewhat natural. In other words, it cannot look like it is doing cartwheels. The bait has to have a nice role or a nice spin to it. Mike Greenleaf and I have some very nice Power Point pictures portraying the proper way to rig herring. Please come to our Seminar September 17th and learn the proper techniques to rigging herring. ***Rig Cut Plug Herring [click here.](#)***

I have talked to many anglers lately who have struggled catching salmon. I addressed this in the August Newsletter. Let's talk about it some more. The most common thread that all these anglers had in common; “trolling too slow.” It just does not seem right to troll with the downrigger cables looking like they are being stretched. The proper trolling speed for Coho is at least 3.0 MPH through the water. That is trolling at a brisk pace. Keep the speed up when trolling for Coho.

The proper fishing depth for Coho is so much different than fishing for Chinook. First of all, there is no bottom hugging stuff going on. That is a big relief for many anglers who struggle following that close to the bottom 90-120 foot depth line. Most Coho (not all) fishing is done fishing in deep water. But, only fishing 30-60 feet deep. I will explain this a little more because the 30-60 foot rule only applies before 9 AM. After 9 AM, you start dropping below 60 feet at rate of at least 10 feet per hour. By 11 AM it is not uncommon to pick up Coho down as deep as 120-150 feet.

Now that we know how and what

# 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

to use, we have to discuss where.

But before discuss where to fish; we have to have a solid reason to fish these places. The fact that matters the most: "The largest Coho in Puget Sound spawn in the Snohomish River System." ***This is definitely a High Percentage Item.*** That fact alone eliminates most of Puget Sound on Derby Day. On Derby Day, we are going to be "**ambush fishing**" for Snohomish River Coho." In order for us to do that, we have understand the route that Coho take to the Snohomish River. Common sense tells us that these fish will be traveling down the southern coastline of Whidbey Island. Likely spots include: Lagoon Point, Possession Bar and the Shipwreck and possibly Browns Bay. These are large geographical areas that we have to break down according to the tides on Derby Day. I wish it was as easy as, "go to the Shipwreck and troll south for a mile." It's not that easy. This is the number one thing that the best anglers understand better than anyone else. "The tides."

My Grandfather (Paul Martinis Sr.) was one of the greatest commercial salmon fishermen that ever lived. My Dad told me that my Grandfathers' understanding of the tides gave him an enormous edge over all the other commercial salmon fishermen. My grandfather was a legendary man in Alaska amongst his fellow fishermen. The same goes for recreational fishing. Being in the right spot at the right time is not an accident. It is a learning process that takes years to perfect.

We will take a look at the tides on

the days for Everett Coho Derby (September 18 & 19):

Sa 18	High	1:31 AM	8.2
18	Low	8:07 AM	1.1
18	High	3:52 PM	10.2
18	Low	9:45 PM	5.1

Su 19	High	2:40 AM	8.4
19	Low	9:01 AM	1.2
19	High	4:22 PM	10.2
19	Low	10:18 PM	4.5

On Saturday the 18th: There is a low tide at 8:07 AM. On this tide, I would be fishing in one of these two places: 1) Right on the dividing line between Area 8-2 and 9. I would troll east and west along that line in the middle of the channel. [See Map click here.](#) 2) Fish the rip that goes to the west of the Scatchet Head Buoy. [See Map click here.](#)

After low tide (8:07 AM), the tide will start coming in. It is a moderate to strong incoming tide. The tide will rise 9ft. Or more than a foot per hour. For those of you who chose to fish the line between Areas 8-2 and 9, I would start trolling toward Mukilteo right up the middle of the channel. I would only troll half way to Mukilteo before trolling back to the 8-2 line. If the tide was too strong, I would pick the gear up and run back. For those who chose to fish the rip at the Scatchet Head Buoy, I would move over to the Horseshoe Hole or to the East side of Possession Bar. [See Map click here.](#) On Sunday (19th) the plan will be the same, just that the tides will be an hour later.

The fishing scenarios that I mapped out are proven winners. Please do not make the most often made mistake of fishing. Do not pull up your gear because one or



two anglers caught a fish at a particular place. The perception is always that the fishing is better on the other side of the lake. Too often, that is not the case! Stick to your game plan. The fish will come on the bite if you are patient. Each spot that I have outlined will have a bite the Saturday and Sunday of the Derby, if your line is not in the water when it happens you will have missed out. **A High Percentage Skill:** Stay and fish a spot because the tide dictates that is the spot to be in.

Good luck in the September fishing derbies! See you at the Coho Seminar at Bayside Marine.

## Edmonds Coho Derby September 11, 2010

The Edmonds Coho Derby is in its 9th year. The derby is brought to you by the SnoKing Chapter of Puget Sound Anglers. This year promises to be the biggest and best derby we have had. There is an addition again this year and that is the Everett Weigh In at Bayside Marine next to the Everett public launch. The weigh in at the popular Edmonds marina will still be there like every year. By adding Everett we are making it possible for you to launch in Everett and weigh in at Bayside in Everett if that is more convenient for you. **Tickets are available at John's Sporting Goods.** *For more information and other ticket outlets click here.*

## Everett Coho Derby September 18th & 19th

### Entry Fees

Adult ticket fee will be \$25.00 US. Youth ticket is free (12 years old or younger).

### Weigh-In

Weigh-in will be from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm on Saturday, September 18th and from 10:00 am until 2:00pm on Sunday September 19th, at the 10th Street Public Boat Launch, off of Marine View Drive in Everett. Deadlines for weigh-in shall be followed.

**Tickets available at John's Sporting Goods.** *For more information and other ticket outlets click here.*

## Open Newsletter Maps with a Mac Computer

### How to Open a PC PDF File on a Mac

The PDF maps that are imbedded in the Newsletter are sometimes difficult or impossible to open with a mac Computer. I found these suggestions on the web. *Click here to open page of suggestions.*

## River Coho Rigs

*Click Here*

## Search John's Sporting Goods Web Site

If you are looking for a particular subject on fishing on the John's Sporting Goods web site, use the Search Function at the top of my home page. This search only searches the John's Sporting Goods website. I did a search on Sturgeon fishing and came up with 25 hits where sturgeon fishing was referenced. This is a quite helpful tool if you are looking for some fishing information that I have referenced in the past.

## Can a Derby be Won in the River?

This is a very simple answer if think about it. Coho and most other salmon are at their most mature stage and size as they enter the river. You actually could not pick a place where they could be found larger. As time goes on, salmon lose their body fat as they swim upstream to the spawning beds. In September, in the lower Snohomish River, Coho are at their maximum size.

The problem with Snohomish River Coho is getting them to bite. If Coho enter the river early, they bite quite well. This all hinges around the weather and the temperature of the river. When we have rainy fall weather, we get good river coho fishing. If the weather is dry and warm, Coho tend to stay out in the saltwater and mature before they enter the river. The weather has definitely been cooler and wetter than normal this year. Maybe we will see some large Coho come from the river.

**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