

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

February 2015

Fishing Dates

**Everett
Blackmouth Derby
March 14
\$100/Boat
Tickets at John's
More info**

**Aanacortes
Samon Derby
March 21-22
\$60/Ticket
Tickets at John's
More info**

**Area 7
New Rules
Click Here**

**Area 8-1
Nov 1-April 30
Daily limit two
Chinook, hatchery only**

**Area 8-2
Nov 1-April 30
Daily limit two
Chinook, hatchery only**

**Area 9
Nov 1-Nov 30
Daily limit two
Chinook, hatchery only**

**Shop Online at
John's Sporting Goods
shop.johnssportinggoods.com**

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Area 7 Rule Change

Seminars 2015

By John Martinis
Chinook Seminar
Wednesday March 11th
at Bayside Marine @7PM

San Juan's Chinook Fishing
Seminar at Master Marine
Mt Vernon March 7th

2015 Ways to Make a Difference

**Jennings Park
Kids Fishing Derby
May 2015**

**Everett Lions Club
Derby for the Blind
September 2015**

This is the time of year to contribute to two great events: The Jennings Park Kids Fishing Derby and the Everett Lions Club Derby for the Blind.

I will match any donation dollar for dollar that you contribute to either event.

I have been involved in the Blind Derby for many years. The Blind people who are involved in this derby will pull at your heart strings. They are so full of enthusiasm and excitement. Can you only imagine what it is like to be on the water salmon fishing and being blind? Please help. 100% of this money will be given out as cash prizes.

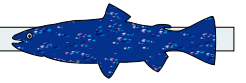
Including my matching money (2014), we raised \$3000 for the Blind Derby and \$1,500 for the Jennings Park Kids Fishing Derby. Thank you for your donations!

Contact John Martinis (425-259-3056) to contribute to either event. Thank you for your help!

Fishing with Herring

Flashers, spoons and squid are such easy ways to fish that sometimes we forget about that good ol' reliable, the herring. I think the best measurement on how popular herring is for salmon fishing can be measured by how fast the herring freezer is emptied at John's Sporting Goods. Only one word describes it, quickly! Herring is still immensely popular for salmon fishing. In fact, it is interesting to see what I describe as the "really good salmon anglers" usually add to their purchase. Most of them always include herring in their purchases. They are not just buying the herring to make herring strips. They include herring in their daily mix of "Baits" for salmon fishing. Are they relying on herring to get the job done?

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No. They include herring as one of the items they will use when salmon fishing.

The best way to sum up herring for salmon fishing is; "have it available at all times." You can use the herring for strips or as whole bait.

The three most popular methods to fish with herring are: cut plug herring, whole herring and using plastic herring heads.

Cut plug herring: Cut plug herring has been the most popular method to fish with herring for the last 50 years. To be a successful cut plug herring salmon angler, there must be a little preparation to ensure that the herring stays on the hooks while fishing.

When I first started salmon fishing with my dad in the 1950's, there was only one method for curing herring: a heavy dose of rock salt. This would firm up the herring, but the downside was that it burned the herring by the mid-part of the day. We finally came up with a home brewed concoction that worked well for curing and didn't burn the herring. The formula is: one part rock salt, one part powdered borax plus one part powdered milk. We mixed these three items together in 2 quarts of water. If you want to cure your own herring, this is one of the best herring curing formulas.

Not too long ago, "Mike's" started making bottled (31oz. bottle) herring cures (Brite-n-Tight) and brighteners that you could pour on your herring. These bottled herring cures proved to be a great alternative to making your own herring cures. It's fast and easy and comes in different colors. Yes, herring fishing has evolved to the point where you need to make a decision about what color your herring will be. I am not going to judge about

colored herring since there are a good deal of anglers who believe in dying herring different colors.

Getting back to cut plug herring. Cut off the herring heads the night before you go fishing and put them in the curing solution and they will be ready to fish the next morning. Cutting the herring heads off allows the curing solution to penetrate the meat and gives you a firmer bait. The most popular angle for cutting the heads off is a 45° angle from the top of the herring to the herring belly. This cut should be a compound miter cut, meaning that the angle cut should also be 45° from one side of the herring to the other side of the herring.

If you ask five different people on how to rig the cut plug herring with hooks, I am confident that you will get five different answers. With that said, let's take a look at two methods which I feel are very effective.

Resources:

[Cut Plug Herring Illustration](#)

[Cut Plug Herring Power Point](#)

First method: Remove the guts from the herring. Take the trailing hook and insert it through the inside cavity and thread it to the outside of the herring. Let this hook dangle. The leading hook can be inserted at the highest point of the cut and around the backbone into the outside of the herring. To get the correct spin, the hook should come out at the high point of the back of the herring. This will give it a fairly narrow fast spin. You can adjust the spin by inserting the leading hook at different angles.

Second method: this is a method perfected by Mike Greenleaf. Take a look at his series of pictures from my PowerPoint presentation. You need to scroll down a bit before you get to Mike's presentation.

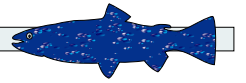
Rigging whole herring: A couple years ago Tom Nelson taught me an excellent way to rig whole herring. The beauty of this method is that you take a whole herring and rig them on the hooks. I can only describe this as a "no fuss no muss" method. In other words, it's really just easy to do. I would still recommend brining the herring overnight to add shine and toughen up the herring.

Begin rigging the whole herring by inserting the trailing hook into the underside of the gill plate and through the top of the nose. Follow that hook by threading the second hook through the same hole. Now insert the top hook into the lateral line of the herring and let the trailing hook dangle. To get the bend in the herring, lightly pull the leader and make two half hitches around the nose of the herring. Simple. Your whole herring should now have the perfect spin. Take a look at the video that Tom and I made called: [Rigging Herring](#)

Rigging plastic herring heads: Rigging plastic herring heads has its place as a very effective salmon fishing technique. The plastic herring heads are an excellent choice for rigging 4 inch and 5 inch herring. The plastic heads are also a great choice if you are not confident in rigging cut plug herring or whole herring. These plastic heads are not a second choice or second best for rigging Herring. When I am fishing winter Chinook I prefer the plastic heads because I usually use small herring. Small herring are very hard to rig without the aid of a plastic head because there's just not enough meat to secure a set of hooks and have confidence that herring will stay on the hooks.

There are two leading brands of plastic herring heads: Rhys Davis and Krippled Herring. I prefer the Rhys

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Davis anchovy heads which are a preferred choice for rigging small herring. However, Rhys Davis herring heads are too large for 4 to 5 inch herring. These Rhys Davis anchovy heads come in a variety of colors. Personally, I like the clear UV anchovy head.

I rig the clear UV anchovy head with two 4/0 Gamakatsu black octopus hooks. Tie the two hooks close together on 20 pound fluorocarbon leader material.

When you rig the herring with the Rhys Davis anchovy head, insert the herring into the helmet and then insert the red pin to hold the herring in place. The leading hook should be inserted into the herring along the lateral line.

You can fish the herring with a helmet by itself or 60 inches behind a flasher.

If you are having trouble with the leader tangling when you're using herring, a suggestion would be to tie a #2 or #3 Sampo ball bearing swivel at the midpoint of the leader. A good quality bead chain swivel can also work.

Resources:

[Rigging Anchovies](#)

[Rigging Helmets by Tom Nelson](#)

Here is a selection of Rhys Davis Bait Holder heads: [Click Here](#)

There are three distinct techniques for using herring: Downrigger trolling; Trolling with lead weight and drift mooching.

Downrigger Trolling: Downrigger trolling with herring can be done in a variety of ways. 1) The herring can be rigged as a cut plug. 2) The herring can be rigged with a Rhys Davis herring head. 3) The herring can be rigged 60 inches behind a flasher.

When you are downrigger trolling and you choose the cutplug herring method, it is critical that you do everything in slow motion while letting the herring down to the desired depth on the downrigger. If you don't, the herring will get ripped off the hooks and you will be trolling along until you discover that your herring is missing. Not good. Put the cutplug herring out roughly 25 feet behind the boat and put your fishing line into the downrigger release. Then lower the downrigger slowly until you reach the desired depth. I would also recommend trolling much slower than you would with a flasher. The other hazard for trolling too fast is that you can also rip the herring off the hooks.

Trolling with a lead sinker while using cutplug herring is the next best way to fish for Chinook or Coho if you don't have a downrigger. The only drawback to trolling a cutplug herring with a lead weight is that it is difficult to fish close to the bottom while Chinook fishing. Coho are a mid-water fish, so trolling with a lead weight is very effective. Trolling sinkers in the 3 to 5 ounce range is effective for getting Coho. Trolling sinkers for Chinook fishing should be at least 6 ounces to be effective. Rigging a trolling sinker to use with a cutplug herring is simple: Tie the sinker to the end of the fishing line. Now tie a 6 foot salmon mooching leader to the other end of the sinker. Put the cutplug herring on the hooks like I already described. Now, let the fishing line out a distance of 50 to 100 feet.

If you want to be effective when trolling with 6 ounces of lead for Chinook, I would recommend fishing in 50 to 65 feet of water. Don't not try to fish in 90 to 120 feet of water using this method because you will never get close to the bottom where the salmon

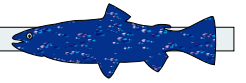
are feeding.

Drift Mooching with Herring: All of you who are at least 50 years old and older and started fishing at a young age, all of you, including myself learned to fish for salmon by drift mooching with herring. Drift mooching is simply using a cut plug herring and drifting with the current with no engines running. We have previously discussed rigging a cut plug herring and rigging a mooching sinker. For drift mooching, we are going to rig exactly the same way as we did for trolling with a lead sinker. The only difference in the rigging will be using 3 to 4 ounces of lead weight.

To get the most out of drift mooching, you must set up a drift pattern that keeps you at the desired depth for a long period of time. Knowing the direction of the current is the first and most important step in setting up a drift pattern. If possible, I would try to keep my depth to between 65 and 90 feet of water. Once you get below 90 feet, it gets progressively more difficult to reach the bottom with your mooching sinker.

Here is how it works: Let the mooching sinker and herring go to the bottom and then slowly retrieve the herring so that it is spinning. Do this until the herring reaches the surface and then repeat the process. At least half of the time Chinook pick up the herring while you are letting your line out. If you are not experienced with drift mooching, there's a good chance that you will never detect the salmon picking up your bait. It is important that you always watch your fishing line when letting line out. If the line goes slack before the line hits the bottom, most likely there is a salmon picking up your bait. If you detect the line going slack, gently reel back some line and when you feel some

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resistance, strike hard and reel fast.
Fish on!

If you feel a gentle tug while retrieving the line, don't quit reeling. If you stop reeling, the salmon will release the bait and you will end up empty-handed. No salmon and bait with only teeth marks. If you detect a salmon picking up the bait, continue to reel at the same speed until line gets tight. When the line gets tight, strike hard and reel fast. Fish on!

Start experimenting with herring. Herring can be a very effective bait, it always has been and will continue to be a mainstay in every salmon angler's bag of tricks. Fishing with herring is not just a method for catching Chinook and Coho, it's an art form that needs to be mastered. Good luck fishing.

Kids Fish-In

Tackle a fish! Expert fishing guides help kids reel in the excitement. Bring your own rod, reel and tackle. Children ages 4-14 are invited to participate. The event is limited to the first 600 kids, so register early. Registration begins February 2.

Registration form

Saturday, May 9, 2015

7:30am - 3:30pm

Thornton A. Sullivan Park at Silver Lake

11405 W. Silver Lake Rd., Everett
FREE!

Contact Info:

Everett Parks & Recreation Dept.
802 E. Mukilteo Blvd.
Everett, WA 98203
T: 425-257-8300
F: 425-257-8325

Salmon fishing in San Juan Islands open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only starting Jan. 29

OLYMPIA – The recreational salmon fishery in Marine Area 7 (San Juan Islands) will be closed for one day on Thursday, Jan. 29, and then will reopen on a schedule of Friday, Saturday and Sunday each week.

Fishery managers with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) made the change after catch rates continued to be higher than anticipated in the San Juan Islands, said Ron Warren, policy lead for WDFW's fish program.

"Anglers have been very successful fishing in the San Juan Islands in recent months, prompting us to reduce the number of days each week this fishery is open," Warren said. "This step will help us meet our overall conservation objectives for stocks of concern throughout Puget Sound."

Anyone still hoping to fish for chinook salmon in nearby waters Monday through Thursday can head to marine areas 6 (eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca), 8-1 (Deception Pass), 8-2 (Port Susan) and 9 (Admiralty Inlet), which are scheduled to remain open into April. Anglers should check for updates on WDFW's Fishing Hotline (360-902-2500).

Everett Steelhead & Salmon Club ESSC

General Meeting

When

Thu, 19 February, 19:00 – 21:00

Where

Everett Yacht Club 404 14th St
Everett WA 98201 ([map](#))

Description

Membership Renewal Night

Pizza/Beverages

You are Invited

the pizza is free

John's Sporting Goods Facebook

Monday

Puget Sound Advice

Share your succesful methods

Thursday

Big Fish Thursday

Share your fish pictures

Friday

Fishbuster Friday

Great prices that can only be
found at

John's Sporting Goods



Chinook Seminar March 11th, 2015 By John Martinis

“High Percentage Chinook Fishing”

John Martinis will be presenting his very popular Chinook Seminar at Bayside Marine. The public is invited to the seminar. There is no charge for the Seminar. Spend an hour with John Martinis and Mike Greenleaf discussing how to be a successful Chinook Angler.

The Everett Stealhead and Salmon Club will have a raffle for some great fishing tackle, at the conclusion of this seminar.

**March 11th @ 7:00 PM
Chinook Seminar at
Bayside Marine
1111 Craftsman Way
Everett, WA 98201**

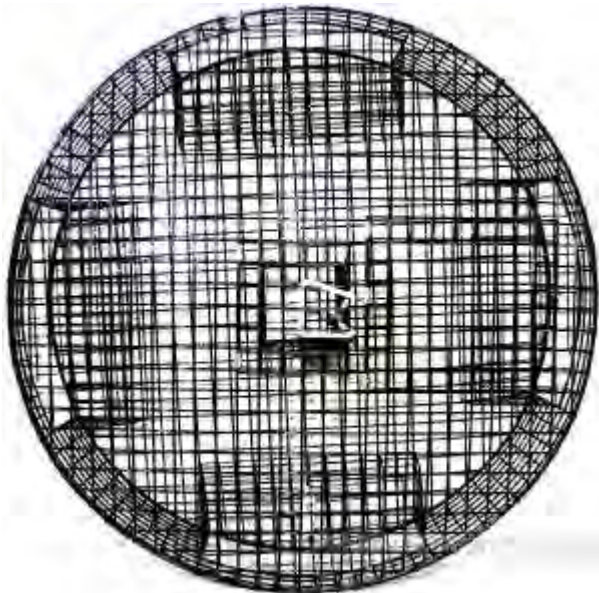


Special Purchase

Tackle For The Serious Angler

Shrimp Pot Sale February 1-28

Shrimp Pot Rigging Video: [Click Here](#)



SMI 19001 Sale Price \$72.00
John's #1 Selling Shrimp Pot
Reg. Price \$89.50



Ladner Style Shrimp Pot
Medium Size \$79
Large Size \$88
Reg. Price \$89-\$119



SMI 19027 Sale Price \$79.50
McKay Style Pot
Reg. Price \$99.50



1/4" Leaded Rope Sale Price \$38
600ft Leaded Rope
Reg. Price \$48

No Coupons or Discount Gift Certificates can be Used on these On-Sale Items

John's Sporting Goods

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 Products, Traxtech Products, Rods and Reels, Electronics, CTO3R Crab Pot, SMI Crab Pots & Shrimp Pots, Braided Line, items that are discounted, on sale, repairs, parts and closeout items. Cannot be used in combination with discounted gift certificates.

10% Discount

Regular priced Shrimp Pots, Crab Pots, Rods and Reels
Excludes G-Loomis, St Croix, Daiwa Electric Reels

Not valid for online purchases or mail order
Valid only with coupon at the time of sale

Expires February 28, 2015

You Must have this coupon in your hand at the time of purchase. No exceptions made.

Send your fish pictures to:
customerservice@johnssportinggoods.com

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http://www.facebook.com/?ref=tn_tnmn#!/pages/Johns-Sporting-Goods/166123680152608



Scotty Downrigger
Maintenance
300ft Cable
or
300ft Spectra Braid
\$55

Included in the price is new brake pads, your choice of 300' of 150lb. Cable or 300' 200lb. of Cortland spectra downrigger line, cleaning and lubricating the downrigger.

Coupons and discounted gift certificates cannot be used for this service

John's Sporting Goods
Facebook

Thursday: Big Fish Day

Friday: Deal of the Day

Scotty Downrigger Deal
Exclusive at
John's Sporting Goods

Scotty 1106
Guide Series

Installed with
300ft 200lb Braided Spectra
#1148 Ball hook
#371 Scotty Snubber
\$525

Standard Scotty 1106
\$473

Fishing Tackle-Crabbing Supplies-Shrimping Supplies

Store Hours: 9:00AM - 5:30PM Monday - Saturday
425-259-3056 - 1913 Broadway, Everett, WA 98201

John's Sporting Goods
Fishing Tackle
for
The Serious Angler