

Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

February 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**

ESSC Club Blackmouth Derby

March 20, 2010

The Derby tickets are half sold, I would highly recommend getting your ticket prior to February 15 or you might not get one.

The ticket will get issued to the captain of the boat. Up to four anglers can fish and enter fish on the one ticket. **The 1st place is \$3000.00, 2nd is \$1500.00, 3rd takes home \$500.00 and 4th will be \$250**, plus other merchandise prizes. The tickets are \$100. The ticket will cost you as little \$25 if you fish four people out of your boat.

John Martinis Salmon Seminar

Friday, March 12 7PM

The ticket will also give you admission to the **Salmon Seminar sponsored by John Martinis**. This is the first seminar that John has given in a decade. Speakers at the Salmon Seminar will include John Martinis, Mike Greenleaf, Mike Jamboretz and Ryan Bennet. This is a chance to listen to four experts on salmon fishing. John Martinis and Mike Jamboretz will have outstanding Power Point presentations that will add great detail to their information.

You must have an ESSC Derby Ticket to gain admission to the seminar.

The seminar will be held at Bayside Marine on the Everett waterfront: <http://www.baysidemarine.com/>. **March 12, 7PM** will be the seminar date.

February Chinook Fishing Puget Sound and San Juan's

By John Martinis

If you look at the salmon fishing data over the years, January and February are not the two hottest months for Chinook fishing in Puget Sound. That stated, I am not making a case for staying home. I remember 30+ years ago when the minimum size limit on Chinook was 16". Believe me, there were boat loads of Chinook that measured just under 16" to be had in the winter months. The one thing I do remember from years gone by; you really had work at catching legal Chinook in the heart of winter. Things have not changed too much.

One week the San Juan's will be good, the next week Columbia Beach will be good and there will always be a fishing hole such as Useless Bay that will be hitting on all cylinders. I guess what I am building up to, is that there are always pocket of good salmon fishing. It reminds of the saying by Wall Street book author Jim Cramer, "there is always a bull

Just Fishing



market somewhere.” The same goes for salmon fishing.

There will be pockets of good salmon fishing; our job is to find those places. This month, I will examine just two places to fish: One in the San Juan's (Lopez Flats) and one in the heart of Puget Sound (Useless Bay). Now remember, these fish are mobile and good salmon fishing is dependant on bait fish being available for the salmon to feed on.

Lopez Flats: Much is written about Lopez Flats for just one reason, it is a consistent salmon producer and it is easy to fish. It is also close to the boat launch at Washington Park ([boat launch and park info click here](#)).

Going to the San Juan's for a day trip salmon fishing is closer than you think. You can drive to the boat launch at Washington Park in about forty-five minutes from Everett. One thing to note about this boat launch, it is only accessible when the tide is at least at 1.0 foot or more. In other words: not at low tide! Plan your day around the tide accordingly.

Once you get your boat in the water, take an approximate 243 degree (magnetic) compass heading on go to the west side of “Bird Rocks” until you are in 90-120 feet of water. James Island will be to the North of you and Decatur Island will be to the West of you. ([Lopez Flats Map Click here](#))

Fishing this area is relatively easy. The tide runs north and south and so does the sandy flat that makes up this area. You can easily troll into the current or troll in the same

direction of the current and still maintain the proper fishing position on the flat. Fish very close to the bottom (five feet or less from the bottom) and keep your trolling speed up above 2.5mph. The number one mistake anglers make while trolling for Chinook is trolling to slow. The only case that I can make for trolling less than 2.5mph is when you are trolling bait by itself.

One of my most ardent rules for fishing the San Juan Islands is this: always fish trough the tide. Don't be running around wasting time. Salmon will come on and off the bite with a flip of a switch. Fishing the San Juan's is a game of patience. When you set down to fish a place, stay put until the very end of the tide that you are fishing. Many times I have fished Thatcher Pass (just North of Lopez Flats) and waited two or three hours without a bite. Then, the bite comes on. Sometimes the bite will come on an hour into the tide, sometimes in the middle of the tide and many times right at the end of the tide when the water just begins to slow down. I wish there was some consistency so that I could just state a reasonable expectation when the salmon will bite your hook. That's Fishing? Be patient!

If you want to check a San Juan Islands fishing report go WDFW web page and click on the Green “ N ” for north : <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/creel/pug-et/> ([Click here to take you to the page](#)).

Fishing in the Central part of Puget Sound in January was like looking for gold at the end of the rainbow. Some anglers were reporting good catches from Columbia Beach (see

last months map) and Useless Bay. Others were reporting an occasional Chinook from all of the popular fishing areas. If you are looking for information on the current salmon report at a specific location or boat launch go to this W D F W web page : <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/creel/pug-et/> ([Click here to take you the page](#)). Click on the Blue “C” for Central Puget Sound Central Puget Sound.

I think that Chinook fishing in Useless Bay is the “go to” spot in February if you are fishing Central Puget Sound. Don't confuse this with fishing Double Bluff. When you are fishing Useless Bay, you are fishing on the West side of the Bay in front of the houses on the beach. If you troll too far south, the tide will get you and you will have to pick up all your gear and run back into the bay.

I usually recommend fishing Useless Bay when the tide is coming in. The current makes a nice back eddy deep inside the bay. The bait and salmon like to get out of the current and make their way deep inside the bay. I like to fish all the way to the back of the bay. The water is quite deep near the beach. Follow the 90-120 depth line as you troll in a north and south pattern. ([See map click here](#)).

I started by saying that I recommend fishing Useless Bay when the tide is coming in. I have caught Chinook here on both tides. In fact, one of the best days of Chinook fishing that I have had here is when the tide was going out. The fish were not biting at all that day, nothing. The tide turned to go out and the Chinook went on a feeding/biting binge. My Dad,



brother and I limited out in no time. If we had left at the end of the incoming tide, we would have gone home empty handed. This also makes a good case for staying put once you start fishing. I cannot emphasize this enough!

If you are fishing in the Sound or San Juan's, stay with the herring size lures at least for another month. I would recommend the Goldstar 4.0 spoon in these colors: Red Racer, Cookies and Cream and White Lightening. Use these spoons 42" behind a Hot Spot Flasher. Flashers that I recommend are: Red Racer and Purple Haze. Always tie your spoons to the flasher with 30lb Ultra Green Maxima leader.

Downrigger Line Angle vs Depth

I have two interesting charts that Jim Drake made and gave to me so that I can pass them on to you. They both compute downrigger cable angle and depth. These charts are helpful if you are trying to figure out where the downrigger ball is in relationship to the bottom.

Chart 1: [click here](#)

Chart 2: [click here](#)

Parking New Parking Area at John's Sporting Goods

Parking at John's Sporting Goods can sometimes be a problem if you are parking out on Broadway.

You can park with your car, truck or truck and boat at the Thai Restaurant that is on corner near

my store.

I pay for parking from the owners of the Thai Restaurant. So, ignore the no parking signs and feel free to park as long as you like.

Anacortes Salmon Derby

2010 Derby is scheduled for the last weekend of March. Opening events Friday March 26th with fishing March 27 and 28.

Tickets to go on sale February 1st. Buy your tickets early (tickets sold out in just two weeks last year) Only *1,000 tickets* will be sold.

Tickets are \$50. They go on sale February 1. John's Sporting Goods will have the tickets as soon as they are available.

Derby information

<http://www.anacortessalmonderby.com/>

Custom Made Shrimp Pots

Exclusive at
John's Sporting Goods

I am having custom made shrimp pots that will only be available at John's Sporting Goods. These pots are heavier than most shrimp pots. They are made of welded rebar. The bar is rubber wrapped. The main part of the trap is 7/8" rubber coated steel mesh. The entries are made out of netting. I had these pots a few years ago and they sold very quickly. They are nice heavy duty pots that are made to last.

Scotty Downrigger Warranty Policy

All downriggers have a lifetime warranty against defective workmanship and materials when used for fishing. *The lifetime warranty extends to the original owner only.* Damage and failure to function as a result of home servicing may void the warranty Scotty offers.

Stainless steel downrigger wire, plugs, sockets, and power cords are not covered by warranty. (Corrosion is not considered warranty claim).

Missing parts are not covered under warranty. We must have the faulty part in order to replace it with a new one.

The motor has a lifetime warranty, unless it has been submerged.

Any oils or grease solvents used to lubricate the brakes or to protect the wire could void warranty.

Bending of the downrigger boom for any reason is not covered by warranty.

Any downrigger which has been submerged is not covered under warranty.

Any damage or loss resulting from bottom hang-up, snagging or improper installation is not covered under warranty.

Register your Downrigger

[Click here to View and Submit the Downrigger Lifetime Warranty »](#)



Tight Lines



A Publication of Everett Steelhead & Salmon Club

February 2010

Club News

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

Our 4th annual Everett Blackmouth Derby to be held on March 20th. To kick off this event for all ticket holders, **John Martini's of John's Sporting Goods is giving a Salmon Seminar on Friday March 12th** at 7pm at Bayside Marine on the Everett waterfront. This will be John's 1st seminar in 10 years and should prove valuable to beginners as well as seasoned pros. The Blackmouth derby is now part of the Northwest Derby Series giving us the opportunity to make it bigger and better than previous years. **1st place is \$3000.00, 2nd is \$1500.00, 3rd takes home \$500.00 and 4th will be \$250.** This is family fun filled event with several sponsor prizes and a special Mystery Weight Fish sponsored by Greg's Custom Rods. Tickets are \$100 per boat with only 100 tickets to be sold. Hurry and claim your ticket at John's Sporting Goods, Bayside

Marine, Greg's Custom Rods, Ted's Sports Center & Ed's surplus. Mark your calendar for **March 20th!** www.everettblackmouthderby.com

ESSC Membership Drive

February brings our annual club pizza feed and membership drive held on the 18th. This year's promotion for the membership drive is that any member who brings into the club a new member they will receive an ESSC t-shirt; bring in 2 new members they receive a t-shirt and your 2010 dues paid for. For each additional new member above 2 that you bring in, you will be entered into a drawing for a guided float trip for two! Also we'll be raffling off a guided trip for two with Jim Stahl of J & J Guide Service. We should have a lot of fun with this and as always we look forward to meeting new people interested in fishing & family fishing activities.

Eagle Creek Hatchery

Our Eagle Creek Hatchery team that is headed up by Kelli Mack has spent the past few months cleaning away over grown vegetation, repairing and rebuilding the hatchery. To our joy, we now have 60,000+ plus Coho eggs nested and ready to be

hatched and cared for. This is by far the best and biggest project we have undertaken as a club for quite awhile. We are extremely proud of this project and the work that Kelli and her crew has put into the effort!

Net Pen Up and Running

We have completed some clean-up and repairs to the Coho Net Pen on the Everett waterfront under our Chairman John Wayne's direction and by the time this article is out, it should be full!

Club Outings

The highlight of 2010 will be some of the club member outings. We are currently working on activities and dates. These will range from Trout, Salmon and Halibut fishing adventures, Picnics, BBQ's and more. Keep posted on the web site for more information.

**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 Mason 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 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