

## FISHING SOUTHEAST ALASKA

Cal and Nancy Massey, Hale Kai N4035: **Salmon**

Larry and Marcia Crass, Hale Kai N4302: **Halibut**

**PLEASE HOLD QUESTIONS UNTIL BOTH PRESENTATIONS ARE FINISHED**

### DOOR PRIZE DRAWING

RESEARCH: advance of fishing event

\* Review charts of fishing area, Networking, Local tackle shops, Guide info, Notice Lodge boats, Review Tide and Current tables,

\* Alaska DFG data for Salmon, run timing and the best areas for each Salmon Species.  
*See attached email*

WHAT AND WHEN:

Salmon Species: General Times \*\*Best

Chinook.....Kings / May, \*\*June, early July

Coho.....Sillers/ middle to late July, \*\*August, \*\*September

Pinks.....Humpies/ June, \*\* July, August

Sockeye.....Red Salmon/June, July, August

Chum.....Dog Salmon/June, \*\*July, August

WHERE: Find **BAIT** – Herring, Anchovy, Sand Lance (Needlefish)

Fish Finder: (**No Blank Finder Screens**) adjust screen and use zoom function, speed up screen, Diving Birds, on Visual bait balls. Do not get taken in by non-feeding Seagull Conventions!

Charts: use charts to find drop offs, shoals, deep water near vertical walls, etc.

**Kings:** Start early (Sunrise) in top 30 feet and move out and deeper, 50 +/- feet per hour as the day moves on, and as deep as 150 feet. Kings like Bait, structure, kelp, shade, and deep water for navigation to their home streams. **Fish with the current**, Salmon will hold **into** current. Fish current rips (lines). Bait is pushed and concentrated here especially on strong current changes. Areas of less current such as back eddies, behind points, small bays along shore lines or under

water structure should be considered. The bait will be pushed up against the structure both on Flood and Ebb tides. When planning your fishing day consider structure, drop-offs, a kelp patches and constant depth lines as areas that may hold Bait. Your electronics (GPS and Depth Finder) will assist. Fish the first high **slack** and last low **slack** current. As the current slows the salmon become more active. Be fishing at least 2 hours before high **slack** and 1 hour before low **slack**. High current flows tend to depress fishing action. This is generally true for all Salmon. As the sun sets, Kings tend to move to shallow water near structure and kelp areas then remain overnight. Therefore, first light is your best time for most Salmon! Keep the boat moving in S turns, raise and lower terminal gear 10'-15' "stop and drop" let line go vertical then bring boat back to speed, 45 deg. line angle is your STW indicator. Check gear frequently especially if using bait- herring or anchovies. If things are slow and the other boats are having success ask them or just change your offering, flasher, lure depth, speed or move out or closer to the shore line if by a steep wall.

The above information should be considered for downrigger or **NO** downrigger fishing and using alternate methods to get the Terminal Gear down. Small dinks 10-12' may not be able to get much below 30 feet without steering issues if using only one downrigger.

**Coho:** This is an exciting Salmon to hook on rod and reel! They jump and run all over the place. Look for them around bait in the top 50 feet early. They also will move deeper as the day moves on. They could be as deep as 120 feet and generally stop feeding on the slack current. Again fish structure, current rips, (current lines) where the flood current meets the slack. This is an area where the bait stack up, it can get interesting. Of course, if no bait then the salmon probably moved. Coho and Pinks are schooling salmon. The Coho could be found mid channel, and near tide lines as the currents get stronger. Try pink and white, orange, or red Hootchies and colors that represent and match the herring bait.

**Pinks:** Frequently you will see jumping salmon these could be Pinks. The "jumpers" are usually not "biters" but fish around the "jumpers" because there is an active school and, look for bait! Fish slack +/- an hour and at dusk along shore lines and rocks. Lures suggested are bright orange and pink Hootchies, 36" behind your flasher.

The above three Salmon Species will be the main attraction at this time of the summer. As you change areas look for guide boats, fishing fleets and use your Intel to give you the best shot at Salmon. Remember the Salmon are heading to their home streams so keep the big picture in view. The Currents, Tides and Structure are your friends!

**HOW:** Trolling, Mooching, Drift Jigging

**Trolling - Downriggers:** This is probably the best way to **SEARCH**, when using the bigger boats and of course the shore/fishing dinks as well. The brand and style is best determined by each

owner/fisherman. Downrigger weights vary in style and wt. Most sporty fisherman use 10#, 12#, and 15# depending on conditions. They are the best for really deep fishing and electric is even better because the electric up function really helps to bring gear up in a hurry, saves lots of sore muscles and \$\$ at the tackle store! The trolling wire or fiber line is again a personal choice. I have used both and repaired too many steel cables because of user mistakes. The fiber lines seem to work better, less maintenance, reduces the electric charge that the steel cable puts in the water. The Drop Back Distance, Leader Length and Size are covered in the **Jambo Salmon Quick reference** handout. These are his suggestions and he has used them fishing Sitka. Mike granted me permission to use these numbers for our group.

**Trolling-w/o Downriggers:** Use an **alternate weight system** or a Diver device –Luhr Jensen, Deep Six, etc.

Alternate weight: *Banana/Crescent* weight of 2-8oz. **fixed** above the flasher on the mono leader. The bead-chain swivel goes towards the flasher and attaches to the leader material. Top swivel on crescent weight attaches to main line snap swivel.

Alternate weight: *slider weight*, mini cannon balls 2oz to 8oz attach to a sliding plastic tube with a snap swivel or a single snap swivel that is attached to the main line, and then the mini cannon ball weight is snapped into the sliding device. This can also be used with or without the flasher.

**NOTES:** If fishing a Hootchie or Fly then a Flasher or Dodger must be used to give the Hootchie and in most cases the Fly the needed action. Herring, whole, cut plug or strip, or Anchovy with a teaser head do not require a Flasher or Dodger.

A very good ball-bearing swivel or a 7-bead chain swivel should be inserted between the leader and Flasher or the main line w/o flasher. If not, there is a very good chance that the main line will twist badly!!

The suggested maximum length from hook setup to top of leader including flasher should not exceed rod length minus one foot. On a 9' rod with an 8' leader to the main line snap swivel, this leader length facilitates landing the fish. If fishing from a higher position, larger boat, then adjust leader and flasher as needed.

**Mooching:** Drifting and Motor

Mooching is done mostly drifting, anchored or with a motor to slow the drift, or troll with a Mooching setup at a very slow speed, check bait spin.

Bait: Herring; cut plug, or whole Herring with a Herring teaser head on two hook rig or with a strip of herring fileted and attached to strip style bait holder and hook set, similar to an Anchovy teaser head. Refer to YouTube for these videos.

Rods: *conventional mooching rods* are special in that the tip is very sensitive and normally will handle at least an 8oz in-line fixed banana/crescent wt. or the mini cannon balls weights on a slider system. The swivel bead chain goes toward the hooks. A good rod is one made of composites and around 8.5-9.0' With this system a conventional level wind reel that will hold 200-300yds of mono 15/20# is the setup.

*Fly Rod mooching system:* normally uses a 10.5' long mouch fly rod with a *single action fly reel* with a sensitive tip and the rod loads into the handle. The rod and reel with line should balance just in front of reel where the left hand would hold the rod if right handed. If this is not the case then change an item, the rod or reel.

Line is 15-25# mono

Leaders: 6'-10' mono with two hooks snelled on the 10# leader. Light, but that is so the bait can "swim" easily and the rod will take the shock when the salmon grabs. Reel down on the line until the angler feels the weight of fish then set hooks smartly! A little "coaching" from an experienced angler would be very helpful.

**Terminal gear:** line swivel to hook setup, common to all methods **except** Drift Fishing

Flashers: Standard is 11". Colors: Consider Glow or UV. Flashers are not normally used when mooching

Silver w/red or bright orange; Silver w/green or chartreuse; Purple Haze; Gold w/green

Hootchie: GLOW splatter back green 6" Gold Star #11258142, 3.5"OG142R, WHITE3.5"OG55R, 3.5"OG236R GREEN/WHITE/ORANGE, Black and white (cop car), purple haze.

Spoons: GLOW, Coyote-green/white, black/white, blue/silver, Silver Horde #918, #618 "yellow tail"; some red or orange on spoon colors is good like a stripes or dots.

**Drift Fishing:** Jigging Lures

Drift fishing for Salmon is a basic and family oriented method with light weight tackle. Gear is simple and easy to use, very effective when bait and salmon are in the fishing area. This technique can be used from a drifting, anchored, or slow motored boat.

Rods: 7-10' light weight with a sensitive tip. The rod with reel and line should be well balanced, same as with Mooching rods.

Reels: **Spinning:** Reels that will hold 300yds of mono line or the newer Spectra line.

**Level Wind:** Reels with the same capacity, with good drags also work. 50# Power Pro is the same dia. as 16# mono and 3X stronger. More line can be installed with this newer line material, color of the line is not important to the fish.

However, if fishing two rods suggest using different line colors; hence, easier to untangle lines. **Fly:** Reels: Islander, Shimano, Diawa (Knuckle Busters) and others are good choices. With this style of reel the rod may be 10.5'. The handle in all cases should be around 12" so that the angler can handle the rod with both hands in front of their person. The line and capacity is about the same for each reel type.

Leaders: 12-15# used with drift lures. A swivel is again necessary to prevent line twist. The swivel should be a ball-bearing style placed on the main line and leader not to exceed rod length minus 1'. The leader is normally tied directly to drift lure or to a small split ring that is inserted into the top of the drift lure. If possible soft solder the split ring closed. Always tie the leader to this ring; if not, then directly to the lure.

**Note:** If fishing with lures, a good set of split ring pliers and extra split rings should be in the tackle box! Old rusty dull hooks need to be changed often.

### **Drift Lures:**

Style and Brand: Buzz Bombs, Zzingers, Stingslida, Pirk, Pirken, 7 to 60g.

**May/June:** 2.5-3.0" 25-30g (1.0 oz); **July/Aug:** 3.0-3.5" 40g (1.5oz)

**September:** 3.5-4.0" 60g (2.0 oz)

Colors: "Match the Hatch" Silver or White, if available a small line of stick on color can juice up the lure sides. Other colors: Buzz Bombs & Stingslida; white, white w/grey stripe; white/green.

Technique: Cast lure, let it fall with erratic action to the depth of salmon (30-80'), salmon look up, **slowly** lift rod tip alternating 2' and 4' lifts then let it fall again quickly, continue and reel in when it has drifted near bottom with same lifting and dropping motion. If it stops drifting mid water column reel in quickly until the fish is felt, set hook.

Action & Size: are the most important elements of a drift lure; custom bend a slight C or S shape into the lure to change the action. Some of the brands already have custom bends.

**Additional Gear:**

Landing Net: Large

Measuring Device: Legal y/n

Bonker

Filet Knife: for bait and bleeding salmon at gills

Safety Gear

License & Rule Book to ID closed areas

**References: \*\*\* outstanding**

Jambo's Sportfishing: [www.jambosportfishing.com](http://www.jambosportfishing.com)

\*\*\**MAXIMUM SALMON*, D.C. REID, Harbour Publishing, Madeira Park, BC

\*\*\***Little Boat-BIG SALMON**, Erv Jensen; Three Trees Publishing, (find on Amazon)

\*\*\***ALASKA FISHING, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, by** Rene Limeres and Gunnar Pedersen (Best **Where** Book on Alaska fishing)

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**How TO Catch a Salmon**, Charlie White, HERITAGE HOUSE PUBLISHING COMPANY, LTD,  
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**Mooching**, David Nuttall, HANCOCK HOUSE PUBLISHERS, Blaine, WA; Surrey, BC

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