

Marine Areas 5, 6, and 7 Sockeye Fishing Techniques



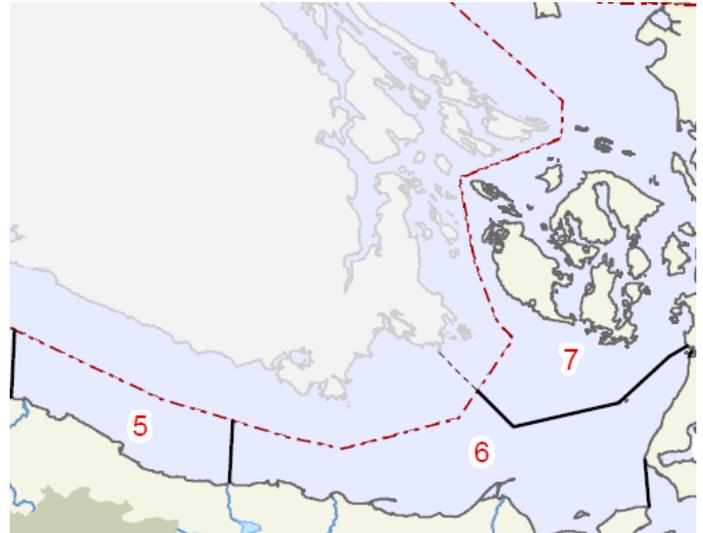
Fraser River sockeye pass through the Strait of Juan de Fuca and San Juan Islands during the summer months. During strong Fraser River sockeye runs, Marine Areas 5-7 often allow for an additional two sockeye to be kept in addition to the salmon daily limit. To improve your success, use the following and other marine sockeye fishing tactics. These fishing methods should help reduce bycatch, which helps keep your line in the water.

When:

- Typical peak run is late July to mid-August
- Early morning
- Start around 30 feet and fish down to 100 feet as the day progresses

Where:

- Use your fish finder extensively to put your gear at the same depth as the fish
- Consider fishing as far north as possible
- Fish very slow (approximately 2 mph)



What:

- Small bright pink hootchies with single-point barbless hooks (5/0)
 - Remove the majority of the arms/tentacles, as many as all but two (optional)
 - Pink/green bead inserted in head (optional)
- Tie the lure 20-30 inches (start with 24 inches) behind the flasher with 20-25 pound line
- Attach the small silver flasher to the downrigger line about 10 feet behind the boat
- Additional dummy/teaser flashers should be attached to downrigger line/ball to create a schooling effect; consider stacking lines to get everyone's lure in the water
- Try small pink spoons or two single-point red/black bare single-point barbless hooks tied in tandem if nothing else is working
- Bait is not recommended as it affects the lure's motion; try krill scent (gel) if you want

Other:

- Consider adjusting the remaining tackle to resemble the set-up that is helping you catch more fish
- Note that sockeye have soft mouths; once you positively identify the fish, net it quickly if you plan on keeping it

Pacific Salmon ID – Marine Phase

Available at: wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/salmon/identification.html



Chinook (king)

- Mouth is dark with a black gum line at base of its teeth
- Large, sharp teeth
- Spots on both lobes of tail, silver is prominent
- Large spots on back



Coho (silver)

- Mouth is light with a white gum line, tongue may be black
- Medium size, sharp teeth
- Spots on back and only upper lobe of tail
- Silver streaks on the tail



Sockeye (red)

- Mouth is white with a white gum line, lips are fleshy
- Small well developed teeth in both jaws, no teeth on base of tongue
- No spots on tail or back, no silver on tail
- Large, bright gold, glassy eye



Chinook



Coho



Sockeye

