



September 17th
2019

BEACH FISHING PRIMER

**Almost everything that you ever wanted to know about beach fishing
but were afraid to ask!**

Produced by Alnus Sinuata

Edited by Juniperus Scopulorum

With significant contributions from...

Bruce Morrison

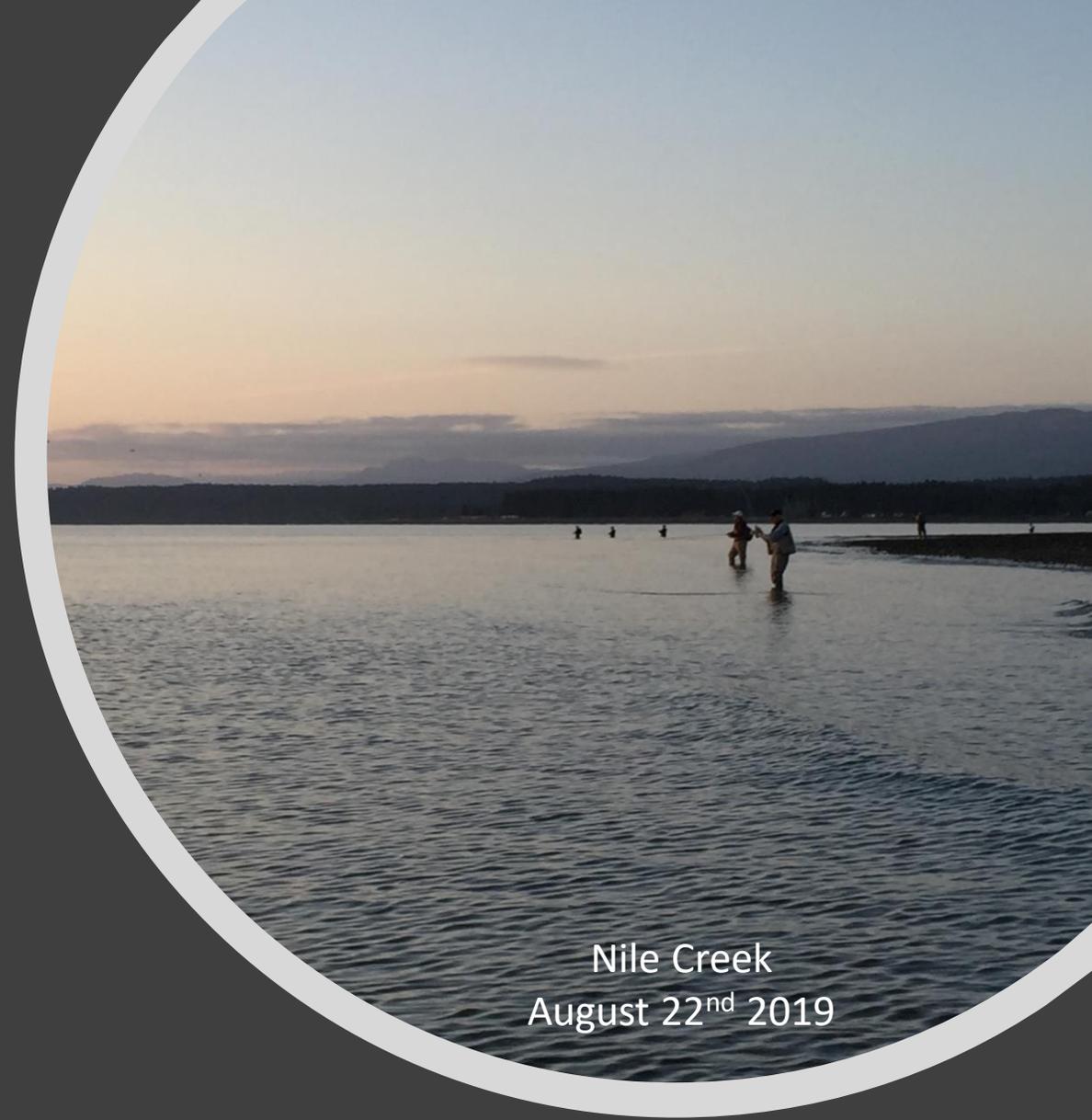
Jeff Allen

Murray Coen

Cormack Gates

Agenda

- Pacific Salmon
- Where to fish for salmon
 - Regulations
 - Access to the beach
- When to fish for salmon
 - Tide tables
- What gear to use
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- Taking care of your catch



Nile Creek
August 22nd 2019

The Pacific Salmon

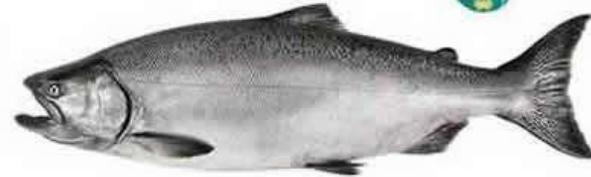
- Pink
- Chinook or Spring
- Chum
- Coho
- Sockeye (west coast only)
- Steelhead

Pacific Salmon ID – Marine Phase
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Available on line at http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/identification/pac_salmon.htm



Chinook (king)

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



Coho (silver)

- Mouth is light with a white gum line
- Medium size, sharp teeth
- Spots only on upper lobe of tail
- Spots on back
- Wide caudal peduncle



Pink (humpy)

- Mouth is white with a black gum line.
- In marine areas, almost no teeth
- Large oval spots on both lobes of tail
- Large black spots on back
- Pointed lower jaw
- No silver on tail
- Very small scales



Chum (dog)

- Mouth is white with a white gum line
- Well developed teeth
- No spots on tail or back
- Calico markings (vertical bars) – faint on bright fish
- Narrow caudal peduncle
- White tip on anal fin



Sockeye (red)

- Mouth is white with a white gum line
- Almost toothless
- No spots on tail or back
- Large, bright gold, glassy eye



January 18, 2008

Where to Fish for Pacific Salmon

Salmon arrive along Vancouver Island at different times during the summer and fall.

The runs start on the north end of the Island and progress south as the season advances.

- Pink salmon are the first to arrive followed by...
- Chinooks or Springs followed by ...
- Coho and, finally...
- Chum.

Sockeye do not spawn in east coast Vancouver Island rivers

Summer steelhead arrive about the same time as Coho although there are winter run in some areas.

Beaches & Estuaries

- Salmon can be found cruising along the beaches prior to entering their home rivers to spawn.
- They gather and hold up in estuaries waiting for river water levels to rise.
- Most east coast Vancouver Isl. river estuaries and beaches offer accessed to anglers.
- Be aware of the fishing regulations for the area you plan on fishing.

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/regulations/docs/1921/Region_1_vancouver_island.pdf



Nile Creek Beach and Estuary

When scouting out a beach, carry binoculars and check for cruising salmon, look for fins on the surface, or jumping salmon.

When to fish for salmon

- *Sunrise* is a popular time to fish for salmon on the beach.
- *Overcast skies* offer shallow feeding fish protection from predators.
- *Low tide* is also a popular time – check the tide tables and plan ahead.
 - Low tide is best for checking beach structure. Look for points of land, spits, or deeper pockets of water.



<http://www.waterlevels.gc.ca/eng/station?sid=7938>

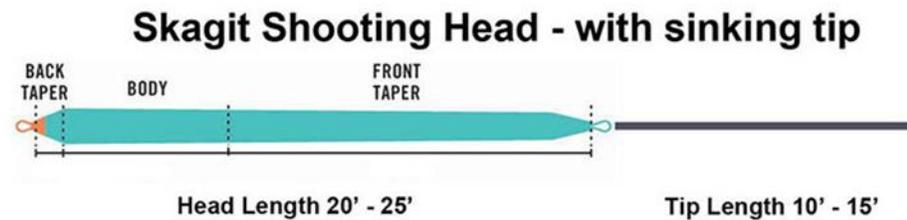
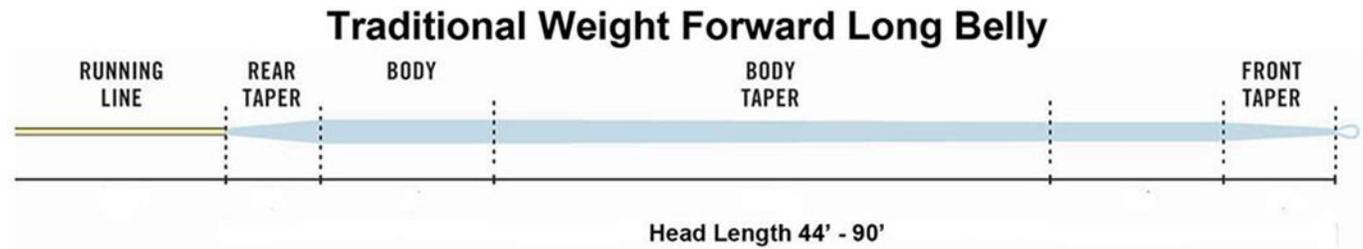
Gear to Use

- Rods
 - Single handed
 - Switch
 - Spey

7 weight rods work well for pink salmon, while 8 or 9 weight rods handle the larger salmon better



Lines



A "scandi" line (floating) with an intermediate tip to which you can add 3 to 4 feet of monofilament tippet works well!
Fish are caught at or near the surface!

Salmon Flies

Suggestions for flies are made on the beach fishing chart handout. Check with fellow anglers and with your local fly shop for suggestions – *Teddy's Tackle shop website offers great options with images.*

If you are fishing for big fish buy or tie flies on 1-4 size hooks!

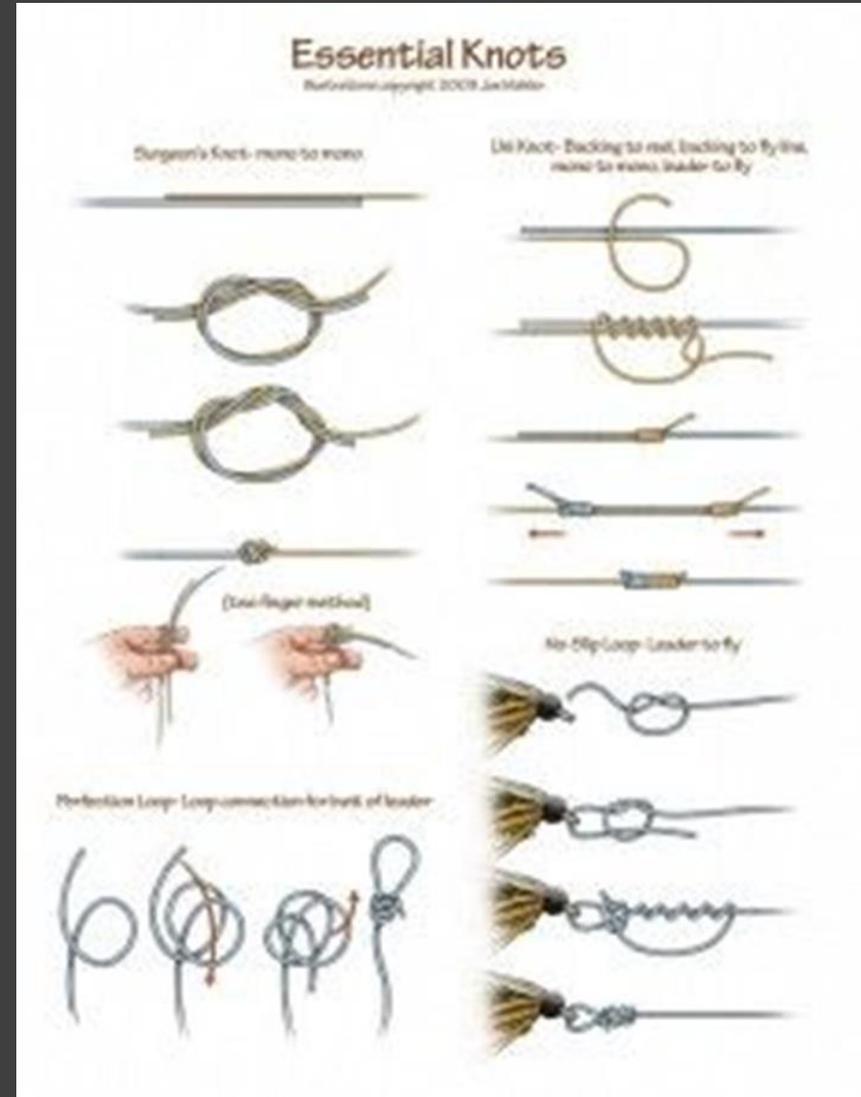


Knots
Everybody
loves them!



Standard Knots

- The *Castaways'* website is a great resource for knots and other tips; check the Introductory Fly Fishing Course page.
- YouTube is also a good resource.
- Be sure to practice them BEFORE you hit the beach!



Stripping Baskets



Playing the Fish

When you hook a big fish the natural response is to raise your rod tip and to control it that way. If you do you will probably break your rod! Keep the rod lower so you have a bend in the midsection of the rod, not the tip. When the fish gets close to shore lay your rod down and grab your line and bring it in hand over hand.



Handling the Fish...

When you bring your fish to hand, if you plan to release it, keep it in the water. If you want a hero shot of the fish, again keep it in the water!

If you plan to retain it then kill it as quickly as possible, with either a blow to the back of the head with a fish billy or sever its spinal cord with a knife.



Taking Care of your Catch



- If you are keeping fish, be sure to check the regulations beforehand for size and number allowed.
- Many fishers carry a mesh bag weighted with a rock to keep their catch fresh while on the beach.
- Be sure it is out of the sun, keep it cool and clean it as soon as possible.

BEACH FISHING 101

Fish	Gear/Equipment	Flies	Season	Casts
PINKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rod: 7 or 8-wgt, Switch or Single Handed Line: Floating – wgf (single handed sink tips) Leader: 12-15 lbs, flourocarbon Hook size: 6-8 long shank 	Handle Bar Pink Fuzzy Harvey's Happy Hooker Ugly Bugger Bead head Muddler (diff. colours) Shrimp patterns	July 20 to Labour Day Weekend (Varies from north to south on island)	30' – 100'
COHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rod: Single – 8-wgt., Spey or Switch Rod Equipment: Same as Pinks with 10-12 lb. Leaders, (intermediate) Hook size: 4-8 	Ugly Bugger Deceiver patterns Small Polar minnows Large Polar minnows Coho Bugger – AKA Neil (Vary weight in ocean)	Sept. 15 th to Second week of November	60' – 100'
CHINOOK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rod: 8 or 9-wgt., Switch or Spey; can also use Single Handed Rod Leader: 9-12' (15-20 lb.) Line: sink tip, intermediate or slow sink tip Hook size: 4-6 	Large Minnow patterns Large 2" Coho buggers Large Shrimp clousers	Late July to First week September	60' – 100'
CHUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rods: Same as above for Chinook Same as above, but sinking lines/leaders Hook sizes: 4-6 	Coho buggers (Chartreuse heads) Large Shrimp Chartreuse & white 3" minnows Comet clousers	1 Oct. to Late November	60' – 110'
SOCKEYE	Same as Coho	Snowmass/Stamp are only rivers you can fish for them-not on beaches.	Last week in June to middle of July	30'-40'
CUTTHROAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rods: 4-6 weight, 9-10' Single handed or Small Switch rods are ideal Line: Floating – wgf Leader: 3-6 lb. Hook size: 6-10 long shank 	Large dry Flies Rolled Muddler Small polar bear Gugglers Minnows Large dry flies	On the beaches all year around	10' – 70'

Additional Information...

It is worth-while having some good reference material to aid your salmon fishing. Here are three sources worth owning. They are probably also in our club library.

- Vancouver Island Back Road Mapbook
- Fly-Fishing for Pacific Salmon II by Bruce Ferguson & Les Johnson
- Vancouver Island Fishing Guide by D.C. Reid



Tight Lines and Have Fun!