



# TECH BULLETIN

## OREGON

# TILLAMOOK BAY

Compiled from the Diaries and Logs of the Luhr Jensen Fishing Research Team.



By Buzz Ramsey

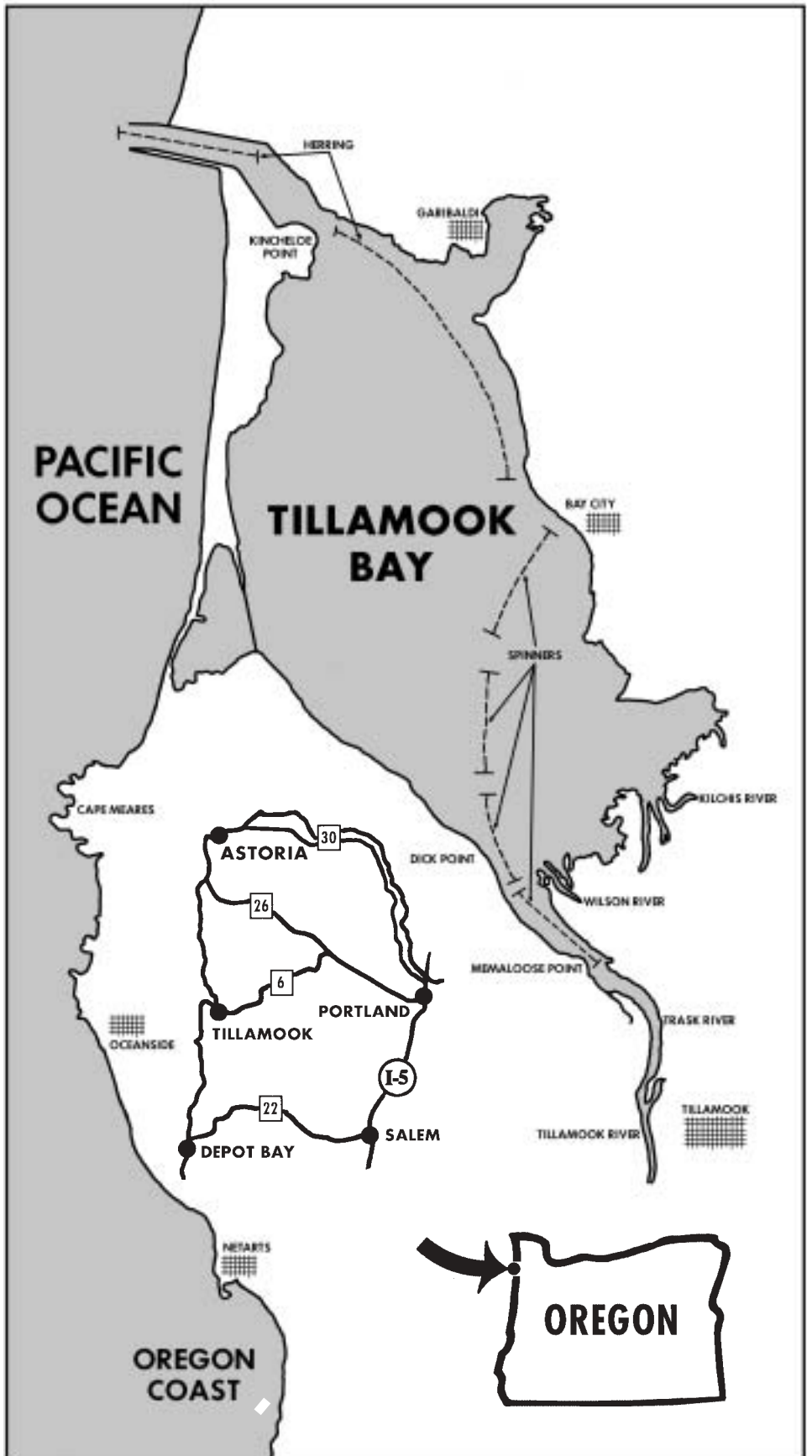
A Northwest native and avid angler for more than 35 years, Buzz has been with Luhr Jensen for nearly 35 of those years and is a key member of the sales and marketing team. He has taught fishing at a Portland college and is nationally recognized for his knowledge of coldwater sport fisheries. He has been inducted into the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame as a "Legendary Angler" and for several years held a world steelhead record of 30-lbs. 5-oz. Buzz conducts fishing tackle and technique seminars at major sports shows across the country, is featured in fishing films and writes free-lance for various publications.

The season at the "Jaws" starts the last week of August and continues well into September. Fishing is best from low slack through high slack tides. The best time of the month to fish is when the low slack occurs in the morning. A popular technique in the lower bay is to troll or mooch herring.

However, when fishing the upper bay, the system changes from using herring to trolling either large spinners or bait-wrapped *Kwikfish*®. On cloudy days or during the early morning, the best spin-

ner is a #5 Teespoon in *Rainbow* or *Green Rainbow*. In the afternoon, or on bright days, you will do best with a #8 or #9 *Clearwater Flash*™ spinner in a *Genuine Gold Plate* finish.

The best time to fish in the upper bay is during low tide because the fish get "kegged up" in the holes. The better places to troll are the "Oyster House" in front of the boat houses, the "Sheep Pen" and the "Bay City



## RECOMMENDED LURES



Light".

When the tide is running hard, it's best to anchor or tie up to a piling and put a K15 or K16 Kwikfish out. Use a spreader with a 23- to 30-in. sinker line and a 5-ft. leader. A 25- to 30-lb. main line with a 60-lb. leader works best. The extra heavy leader prevents these giant chinook from biting it in two.

I prefer a 7'-9" Berkley® IM-7 medium backbouncing rod with a Garcia® 6000 reel filled with 25- to 30-lb. mono or 40- to 60-lb. braid. For spinner fishing, use 1 to 4 ounces of lead, depending on how hard the tide is running, and 14 pulls (24" each) of line out for trolling.

If you are out on the bay and the wind comes up, try taking a run up the Tillamook, Trask or Wilson river arms which are more protected. Use the same rigging as you would in the bay.

Another piece of equipment that will increase your fishing enjoyment is a good depth sounder such as those produced by Bottomline®. One especially nice thing about Bottomline is that their units have sidefinding capability which allows you to search or scan for fish to the side of your boat as well as under it. A good quality fish finder will tell you the exact water depth and show you if fish are present. The deeper holes are where salmon will congregate, especially during low tide. Having a fish finder to locate them is essential. It will also keep you from grounding on hidden sand bars.

### BAITWRAPPER

One of the hottest ways of making a salmon-size Kwikfish (K13, K14, K15 or K16) even more deadly is with the addi-

tion of a bait wrapper. Developed and used on the Sacramento River in California, it remained a local secret for 25 years before being attempted on other rivers.

Veteran Sacramento guides all agree, you'll get more strikes and better hookups if you keep a fresh baitwrapper on your Kwikfish. It's fast becoming the most widely used lure/bait combination and is consistently an excellent salmon producer.

When wrapping a bait fillet on a Kwikfish, remember it should be centered around the belly screw-eye which is the balance point of the lure. Be sure it is tied on with the skin next to the lure. Use a fillet of herring, anchovy or sardine (sardine is the most popular and is available at most sporting goods stores).

Fillet each side away from the backbone and cut into rectangular pieces 3/4" x 2-1/4" for the K14 size; 1" x 2-3/4" for the K15 and 1-1/8" x 3" for the K16. Your bait fillet doesn't have to be exactly those dimensions, but you'll find them to be a handy reference. It's most important to have the fillet correctly positioned so that you maintain proper lure action once it's all put together.

Split the fillet halfway so it can be fitted around the belly eyelet, then begin wrapping with transparent thread. I prefer Kwikfish® Stretchy Thread which can be found in tackle shops, or small diameter monofilament (2- to 4-lb. test). Secure it with 30 to 40 wraps and finish with a minimum of three half-hitches. Some anglers use small orthodontic rubber bands to hold the baitwrapper in place.

A fresh baitwrapper puts out the best scent trail, so it's recommended that you replace it every hour or so. Many anglers

will wrap several lures the evening before and then freeze them for use the next day. This saves valuable fishing time. The fillet lays out a scent trail and the Kwikfish's action provokes the strike. A real winning combination!

### HOT TAIL™ SERIES

After more than a year of field testing to prove their effectiveness, Luhr Jensen introduced a new series of "Hot Tail™" finishes that are now those preferred by guides and other knowledgeable anglers. Instead of painting the lure head with the accent color (e.g. Silver/Chartreuse Head), we have reversed the patterns and are painting the tail or hook end of the lure with the accent color. Fish will normally zero-in on the colored end and these new finishes result in more hookups and better hooked fish.

You will still need to wait for the rod to pump down three to five times before setting the hook, but you'll find that when using Hot Tail™ finishes, the fish are better hooked, generally by the lure's tail hook. In fact, many anglers have begun to remove the belly hook, which makes wrapping the bait fillet much easier.

### SHARP HOOKS PAY OFF!

One of the easiest things you can do to improve your fishing success is to maintain super-sharp hooks on your lures at all times. A fine-toothed file such as Luhr Jensen's Sharp Hook File™ is the absolute best hook sharpening tool available.

Hold the file parallel to the hook point and with gentle, one-way strokes, remove a small amount of metal on at least two sides to obtain a sticky-sharp point with a knife-like cutting edge. To obtain a copy of our Hook Sharpening Tech Sheet #8822-565, send a business size self-addressed, stamped envelope to Luhr Jensen Hook Sharpening Tech Sheet, P.O. Box 297, Hood River, OR 97031, Attn: Customer Service.

### CHECK RULES & REGULATIONS

Because rules, regulations and conditions can change from time to time, it is strongly recommend that you check them out before heading out.

