

“Vern Coverdale Memorial Boat Basin Salmon Derby

Westport Marina salmon fishing is currently open. Salmon that have been reared in boat-basin pens as fingerlings and released in May of each year return to the Westport Marina every fall. The derby will start Sept. 15, and will end on Oct. 31. Participants are not required to purchase tickets to participate in the derby. Fishers will, instead, enter their catches for free and vie for merchandise and services prizes provided by local merchants. Fish are weighed ‘in the round.

Derby rules

- All salmon must be caught in the Westport Boat Basin. Fishing is open seven days a week, with a state-mandated allowable catch of 6 salmon (no more than 4 adults) that are 12 inches or more in length.
- Contestants must land their own fish using sport fishing tackle.
- Help with netting or gaffing is permitted.
- Fish that are snagged, netted or caught by other illegal methods will be disqualified.
- The Seafood Connection judges will have the final decision in all cases. Prizes will be awarded for the largest salmon, judged by weight. In the case of a tie, the winner will be judged by length. Only one prize per fisher will be awarded.

Weigh-in rules

- Seafood Connection is the official weigh-in station. It is located on Float 8, Slip G.
- All salmon will be weighed in between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., seven days a week.
- Following weigh-in, participants may not field-dress their fish on any float, the marina bankline or discard any fish parts into marina waters. Violation of any rule is subject to suspension from the competition.

Derby winners

Winners will be determined at the close of the Derby at 5 p.m. on Oct. 31, and they will be notified by phone, email or mail by Nov. 10. Prizes will be awarded for the top three fish of the season in the Adult Division, as well as for the top fish in the Junior Division – ages 15 and under.