

Ollcott Fishing

By Captain Harry Zimmerman

Springtime Fishing for salmon is certainly one of the most action packed seasons of the year on Lake Ontario. Being dressed for the unpredictable weather at this time of the year is a must, but the outcome is well worth the effort. The King Salmon (Chinook) start swimming onto the Niagara Bar between the third and fourth week of April and if both weather and water conditions stay constant, the Kings will stay in this area through May.

Captain's Proven Patterns

With the cold-water conditions at this time of the season, speed of presentation is paramount. Under normal conditions we try to maintain a speed of 2.5- to 2.8-mph at the lures for the most part. As with everything in this sport, you must be flexible and be able to vary your fishing methods depending upon new daily challenges of weather and underwater variations of current. My lure choice for the spring salmon is [Dreamweaver Spoons](#) in the magnum size. Good spoon colors can vary daily, but the *Watermelon*, *Glow Frog*, *Blue Sparkle*, and the *Blue and Green Dolphins* produce on a regular basis. I prefer using only a five-rod configuration in the spring, as using too much gear on the spooky salmon can shut down the bite. I set three down riggers and two Dipsey Divers out most of the time, but don't be afraid of setting out your planer boards with stick baits to work the surface for Coho Salmon. This



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type of coverage with the planer boards can make for a lot of action in your fishing day. Normal depths to work the riggers are in the 50-foot range, but work towards the deeper water as the morning progresses. Many times the Kings will suspend over 200- to 250-feet of water, so cover as much water as you can until you find them. Once you find the fish with your basic set-up, note your speed,

the color of your Dreamweaver Spoons and direction of the troll that is working best and reproduce the pattern.

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Don't be afraid to keep changing your tactics to get fish. Have a wonderful season fishing the spring on Lake Ontario - it really is a blast!

Captain Harry Zimmerman operates Northfork Charters out of Ollcott on Lake Ontario in New York State. For more information, please contact him at: 1-888-513-8625.