



South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #2 – May 2009

Overview:

This bulletin provides a monthly update on estimates of recreational fishing effort and fin fish catch in the marine waters of southern British Columbia (Pacific Fisheries Management Areas 11 through 29 and 121 to 127). These estimates are generated from data collected by the DFO's South Coast Creel Survey in four geographic regions: Johnstone Strait, Strait of Georgia, west coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI) and Quatsino Sound. An overview of the objectives of the survey, the study area and methods used to collect data and generate these estimates are reviewed in the first bulletin of 2009, available on the DFO *ExtraNet*:

http://www-ops2.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/xnet/content/salmon/sc_creelbulletins

*The estimates presented in this bulletin are based on **in-season data** and should be interpreted as **preliminary and subject to revision** as the data are finalized.*

Recreational Fishery Links:

It is your responsibility to know the current fishing regulations prior to fishing. A listing of recreational fishing regulations can be viewed at the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pacific Region Recreational Fishery webpage:

<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/index-eng.htm>

In addition, Fisheries and Oceans fishery notices of inseason regulation updates can be viewed at:

<http://ops.info.pac.dfo.ca/fishman/fnotice/fnotice.htm>

Creel Survey Data:

Johnstone Strait

Creel surveys begin in June.

Strait of Georgia

In May there were 190 interview survey shifts at 28 fishing access sites in the study area. A total of 683 angling parties (boat trips) were interviewed at the conclusion of their fishing trips. Average catch per boat across the study area in May were (approximately): 0.3 Chinook, 0.1 lingcod, 0.1 halibut and 0.1 rockfish per boat trip.

There were six aerial over-flights of the study area in May and total effort was 1.2 times the recent 5-year average May effort (Figure 2). May fishing effort estimates are presented in Table 2. A comparison of monthly fishing effort in 2009 and average effort for the period 2005 – 2008 (5-year average) are presented in Figure 2.

WCVI

Creel surveys begin in June.

Quatsino Sound

Creel surveys begin in June.



South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #2 – May 2009

Recreational Catch Estimates:

Johnstone Strait

Creel surveys begin in June. See Figure 1 for 5-year average catch (July and August).

Strait of Georgia

The May recreational catch estimates for Chinook, coho, lingcod, halibut and rockfish are presented in Table 2. Monthly recreational catch estimates to date in 2009 are compared to the 5-year monthly average catches in Figure 2.

Catches of salmon and halibut in May are 2.2 and 2.7 times higher than the recent 5-year average, while rockfish catch is 1.5 times higher. Retention of lingcod in May is new for 2009 in the Strait of Georgia. Cumulative kept catches to date (from 01 May to 31 May 2009) across the study area are: 4918 Chinook, 0 coho, 1924 halibut, 805 lingcod, and 1464 rockfish.

WCVI

Creel surveys begin in June. See Figure 3 for 5-year average catch (June to September).

Quatsino Sound

Creel surveys begin in June. See Figure 4 for 4-year average catch (July and August).

Contacts:

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South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #2 – May 2009

Table 1 *Johnstone Strait Survey estimates commence with the June bulletin.*

Table 2 Recreational catch (kept and released) estimates for the Strait of Georgia Creel Survey - **May 1 – 31, 2009.**

<i>Type</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Boat Trips</i>	<i>Chinook</i>	<i>Chum</i>	<i>Coho</i>	<i>Pink</i>	<i>Sockeye</i>	<i>Halibut</i>	<i>Lingcod</i>	<i>Rockfish¹</i>
Kept	13	746	37						337	443
	14	2201	675							98
	15	274	74						18	24
	16	276	17						20	13
	17	3511	3514						188	264
	18	816	51						110	172
	19	3206	123					1710	116	295
	20 (SG)	2578	164					215	13	93
	28	512	139						4	63
	29	292	123							
Kept Total		14413	4918	0	0	0	0	1924	805	1464
Released	13	746	96						1341	9
	14	2201	1657						53	
	15	274	27						547	45
	16	276	3						306	10
	17	3511	3638			29			625	2991
	18	816							1554	588
	19	3206	7					300	851	71
	20 (SG)	2578	290			13		13	509	
	28	512	125							
	29	292	164							
Released Total		14413	6006	0	41	0	0	313	5786	3714

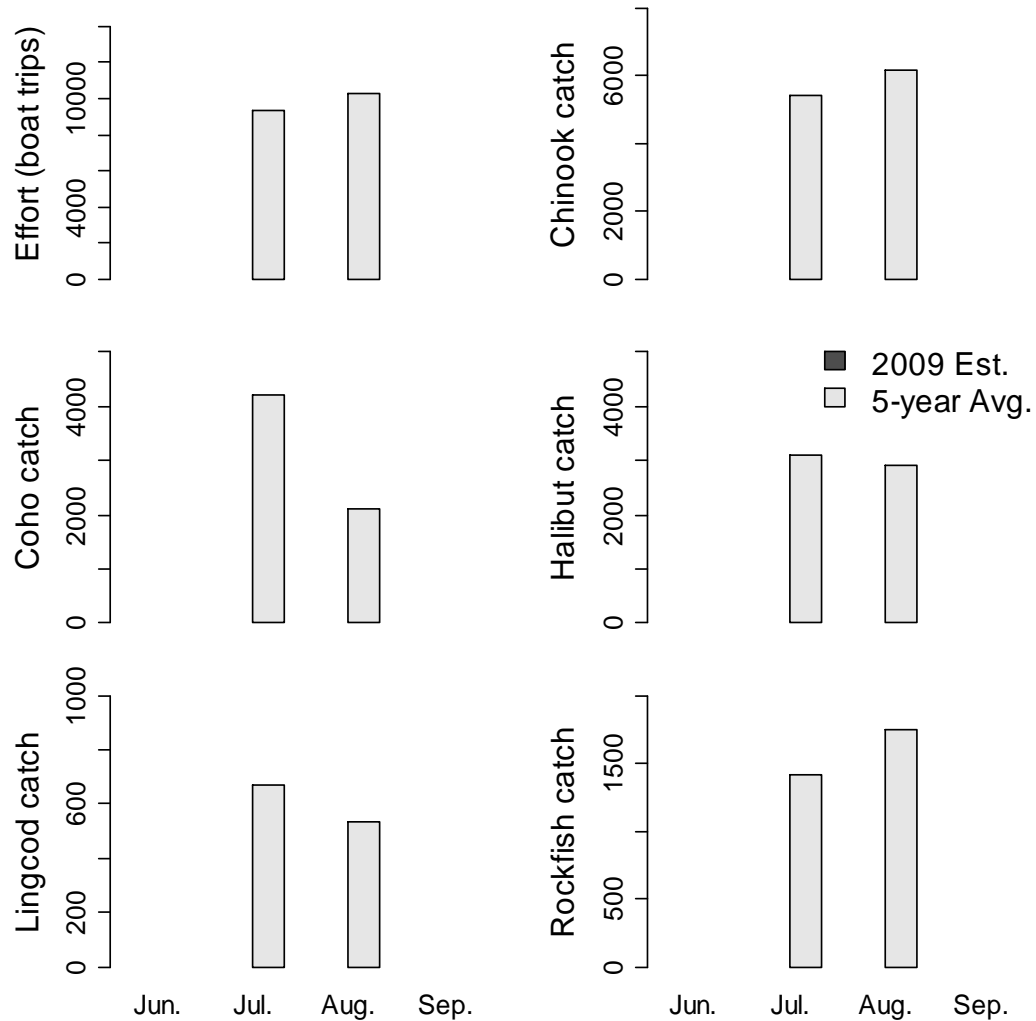
Rockfish¹ = yelloweye, quillback, copper, china, and tiger

Table 3 *WCVI Survey estimates commence with the June bulletin.*

Table 4 *Quatsino Sound Survey estimates commence with the June bulletin.*



South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #2 – May 2009

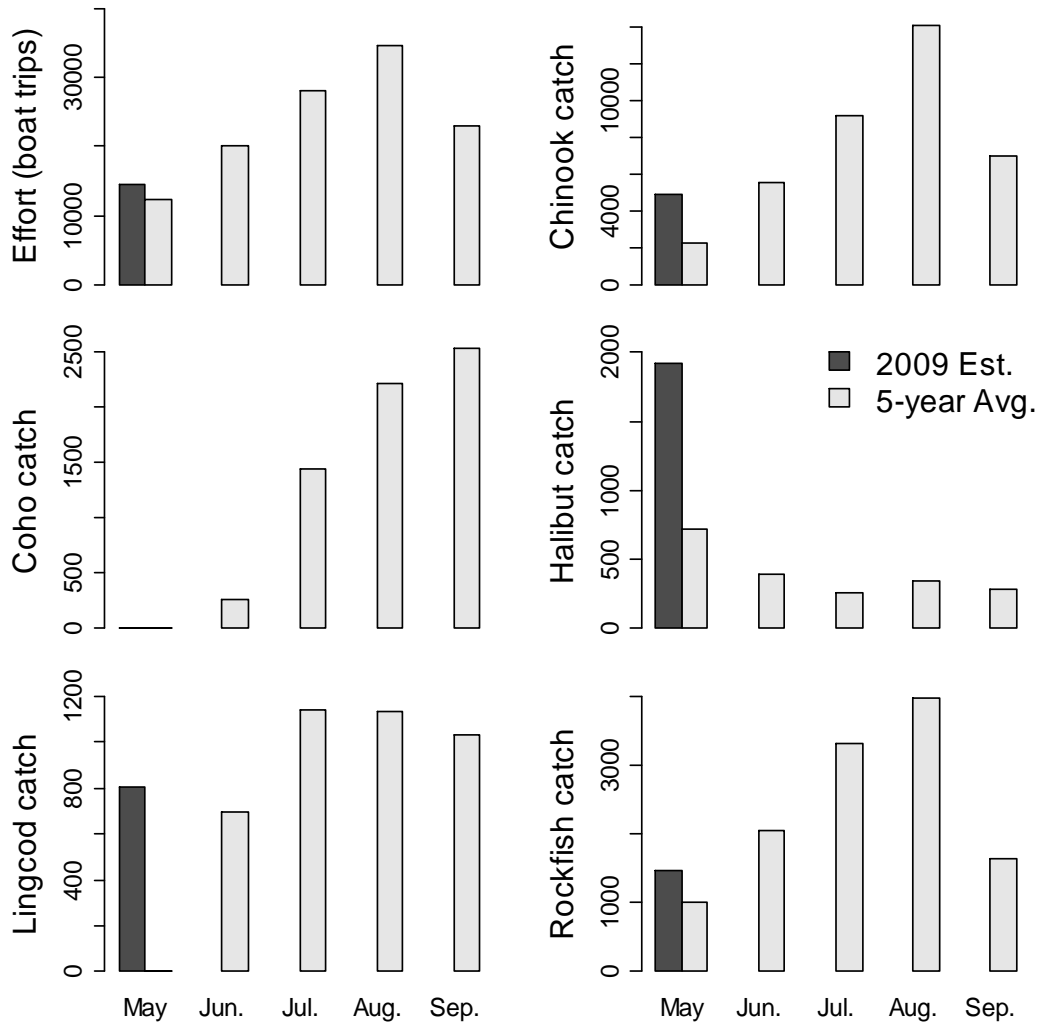


Monthly estimates - Johnstone Strait

Figure 1 Monthly estimates of effort and kept catch by species in 2009 (dark bars) and the average over the last five years (2004 to 2008 average, light bars) in the Johnstone Strait Creel Survey. *Estimates from 2009 commence with the June bulletin.*



South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #2 – May 2009



Monthly estimates - Strait of Georgia

Figure 2 Monthly estimates of effort and kept catch by species in 2009 (dark bars) and the average over the last five years (2004 to 2008 average, light bars) for the Strait of Georgia Creel Survey.



South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #2 – May 2009

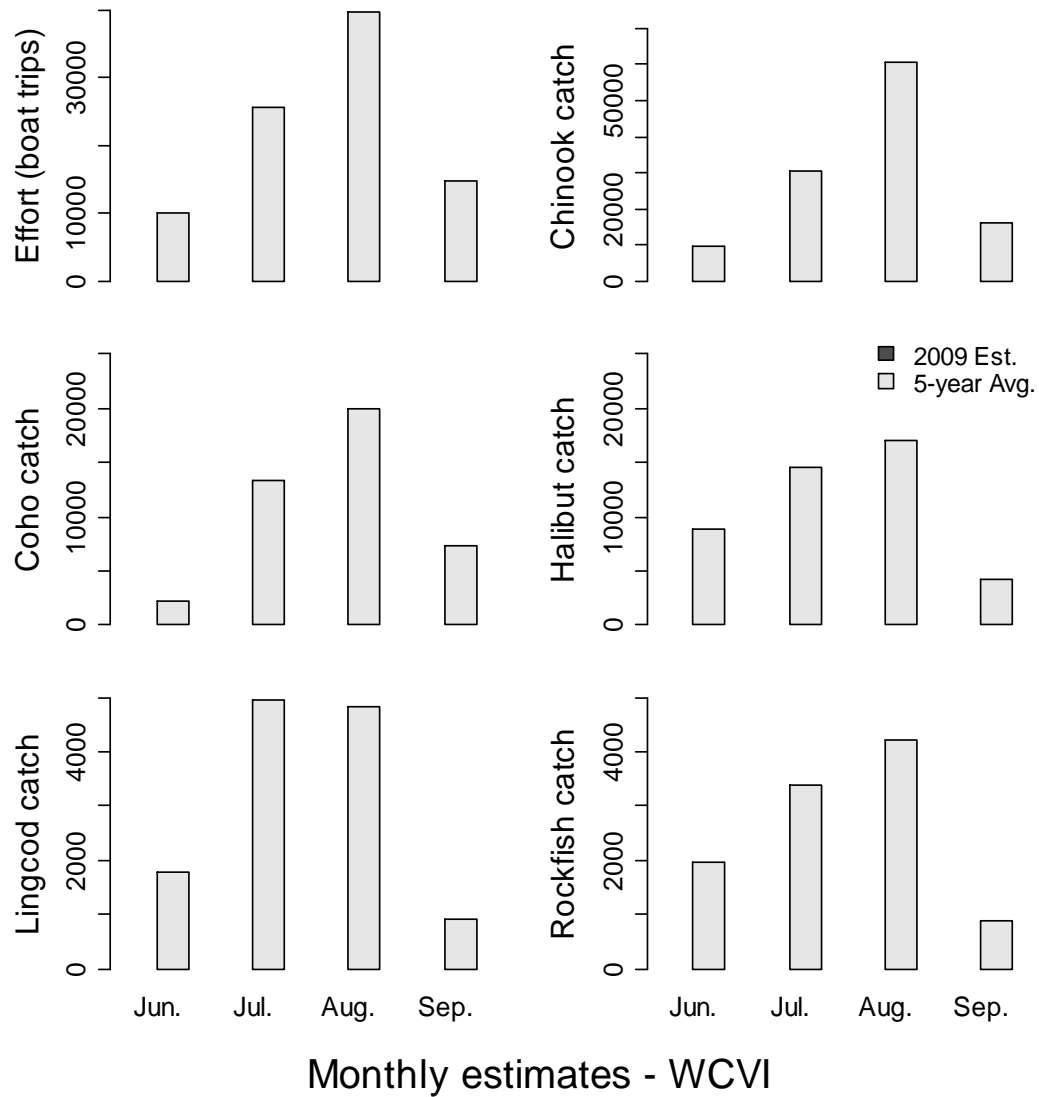
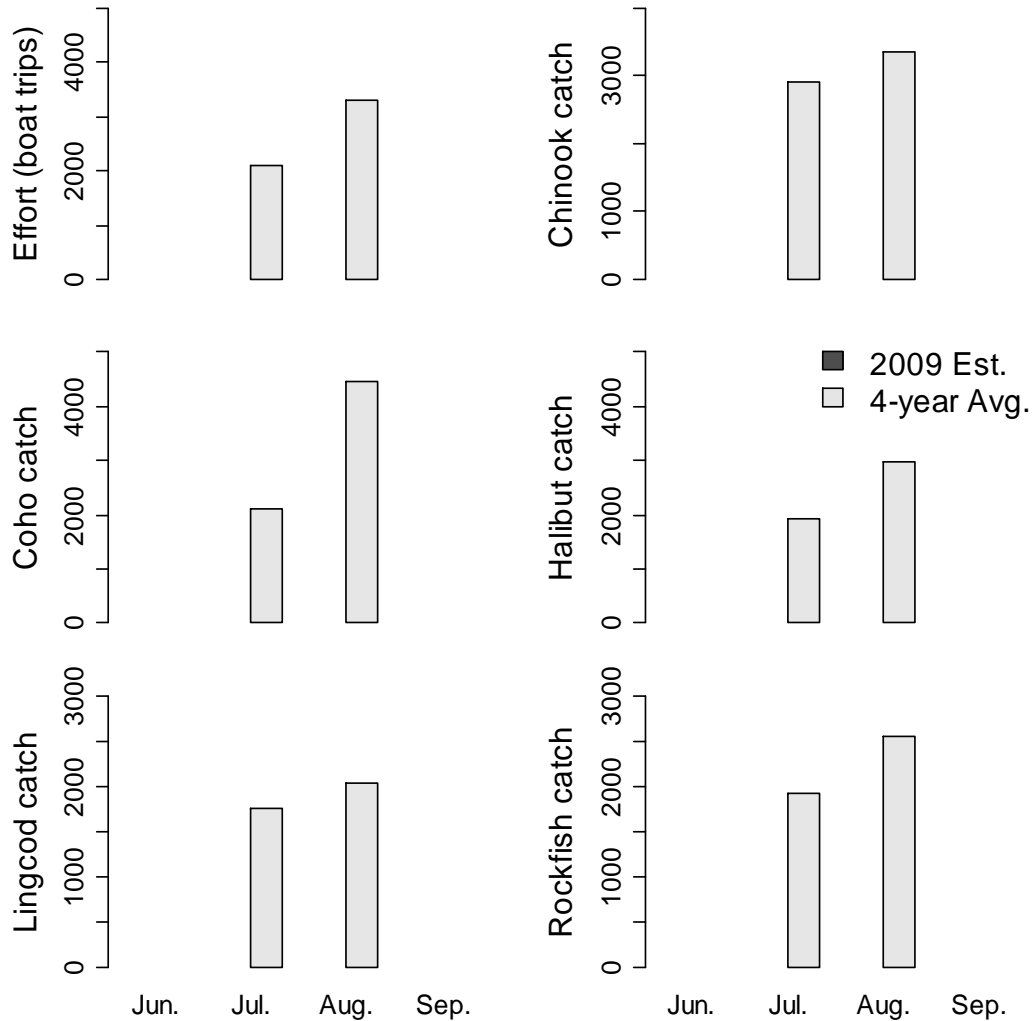


Figure 3 Monthly estimates of effort and kept catch by species in 2009 (dark bars) and the average over the last five years (2004 to 2008 average, light bars) for the WCVI Creel Survey. *Estimates from 2009 commence with the June bulletin.*



South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #2 – May 2009



Monthly estimates - Quatsino Sound

Figure 4 Monthly estimates of effort and kept catch by species in 2009 (dark bars) and the average over the last four years (2005 to 2008 average, light bars) for the Quatsino Sound Creel Survey. *Estimates from 2009 commence with the June bulletin.*