



South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #3 – June 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

In June there were 38 interview survey shifts at 5 fishing access sites in Johnstone Strait. A total of 363 angling parties (boat trips) were interviewed at the conclusion of their fishing trips. Average catch (retained + released) per boat across the study area in June were (approximately): 1.1 Chinook, 0.2 Lingcod, 0.5 Halibut and 0.5 rockfish per boat trip.

There were five aerial over-flights of the study area in June and total effort was 10% less than the effort observed in 2008. June fishing effort estimates are presented in Table 1. A comparison of monthly fishing effort in 2009 and average effort for the period 2004 – 2008 (5-year average) are presented in Figure 1 (June not included as there is only one other year to draw a comparison, 2008).

Strait of Georgia

In June there were 201 interview survey shifts at 33 fishing access sites in the Strait of Georgia. A total of 880 angling parties (boat trips) were interviewed at the conclusion of their fishing trips. Average catch (retained + released) per boat across the study area in June were (approximately): 0.6 Chinook, 0.4 Lingcod, 0.02 Halibut and 0.2 rockfish per boat trip.

There were six aerial over-flights of the study area in June and total effort was 0.97 times the recent 5-year average June effort (Figure 2). June fishing effort estimates are presented in Table 1. A comparison of monthly fishing effort in 2009 and average effort



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for the period 2004 – 2008 (5-year average) are presented in Figure 2.

WCVI

In June there were 89 interview survey shifts at 13 fishing access sites on the WCVI. A total of 1,721 angling parties (boat trips) were interviewed at the conclusion of their fishing trips. There were nine aerial over-flights of the study area in June and total effort was 0.97 times the recent 5-year average June effort (Figure 2). June fishing effort estimates are presented in Table 1. A comparison of monthly fishing effort in 2009 and average effort for the period 2004 – 2008 (5-year average) are presented in Figure 3.

Quatsino Sound

In June there were 20 interview survey shifts at 1 fishing access sites in Quatsino Sound and the offshore area. A total of 198 angling parties (boat trips) were interviewed at the conclusion of their fishing trips. Average catch (retained + released) per boat across the study area in June were (approximately): 1.1 Chinook, 0.7 Lingcod, 0.7 Halibut and 0.9 rockfish per boat trip.

There were five aerial over-flights of the study area in June and total effort was 17% less than the effort observed in 2008. June fishing effort estimates are presented in Table 1. A comparison of monthly fishing effort in 2009 and average effort for the period 2004 – 2008 (5-year average) are presented in Figure 1 (June not included as there is only one other year to draw a comparison, 2008).

Recreational Catch Estimates:

Johnstone Strait

The June recreational catch estimates for Chinook, Coho, Lingcod, Halibut and rockfish are presented in Table 1. Monthly recreational catch estimates to date in 2009 are compared to the 5-year monthly average catches in Figure 1 (Comparisons for June are not available as there is only 1 additional year available).

Relative to 2008, catches (retained + released) in June of Chinook and Coho were 2.9 and 13 times higher respectively and Halibut was 0.8 times lower. Cumulative kept catches to date (from 01 June to 30 June 2009) across the study area are: 847 Chinook, 201 Coho, 960 Halibut, 280 Lingcod, and 740 rockfish.

Strait of Georgia

The June recreational catch estimates for Chinook, Coho, Lingcod, Halibut and rockfish are presented in Table 1. Monthly recreational catch estimates to date in 2009 are compared to the 5-year monthly average catches in Figure 2.

Catches (retained + released) of salmon and Halibut in June was 1.3 and 1.1 times the recent 5-year average. Rockfish and Lingcod catch were 0.8 and 1.1 times the recent 5-year average. Cumulative kept catches to date (from 01 May to 30 June 2009) across the study area are: 11,959 Chinook, 680 Coho, 2,352 Halibut, 1,558 Lingcod, and 3,104 rockfish.



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WCVI

The June recreational catch estimates for Chinook, Coho, and Halibut are presented in Table 1. Monthly recreational catch estimates to date in 2009 are compared to the 5-year monthly average catches in Figure 3.

Catches of salmon and Halibut in June was 1.7 and 0.4 times the recent 5-year average. Lingcod and rockfish are estimated post-season only. Cumulative kept catches to date across the study area are: 12,599 Chinook, 5,428 Coho, 3,223 Halibut, and 12,508 Sockeye.

Quatsino Sound

The June recreational catch estimates for Chinook, Coho, Lingcod, Halibut and rockfish are presented in Table 1. Monthly recreational catch estimates to date in 2009 are compared to the 5-year monthly average catches in Figure 1 (Comparisons for June are not available as there is only 1 additional year available).

Relative to 2008, catches (retained + released) in June of Chinook, Coho and Halibut were 2.8, 28 and 1.2 times higher respectively. Cumulative kept catches to date (from 01 June to 30 June 2009) across the study area are: 302 Chinook, 933 Coho, 324 halibut, 308 Lingcod, and 427 rockfish.

Contacts:

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Table 1a Preliminary recreational kept catch estimates in the Johnstone Strait (JS), Strait of Georgia (SoG), west coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI) and Quatsino Sound (QS) creel areas, June 1-30, 2009.

TYPE	Creel	Area	Boat Trips	Chinook	Chum	Coho	Pink	Sockeye	Halibut	Lingcod	Rockfish ¹	
Kept	JS	11	261	314		59			270	236	547	
		12	1776	533		142			690	44	193	
Kept	SoG	13	2968	918					105	69	266	
		14	2181	937						108	39	
		15	415	25						25		
		16	216	4						138	200	
		17	1497	139						190	606	
		18	644	151						45	83	
		19	1787	392					198	53	75	
		20(GS)	8281	4421	49	609	15			125	125	367
		28	845			61						4
		29	578	54		10						1
Kept	WCVI	20 (WCVI) ²	961	345		243			29			
		21 ²	95	60		31			44			
		22				<i>Survey begins in August</i>						
		23	6196	5150		3039		12508	759			
		24	120	14		136			2			
		25				<i>Survey begins July 2nd</i>						
		26				<i>Survey begins July 2nd</i>						
		121 ²	285	1057		724			776			
		123	755	3948		866			1091			
		124	464	2024		390			521			
125				<i>Survey begins July 2nd</i>								
126				<i>Survey begins July 2nd</i>								
Kept	QS	27	218	46	8	723			27	44	46	
		127	302	256	26	210			297	264	381	
Kept Total	JS		2037	847	0	201	0	0	960	280	740	
Kept Total	SoG		19412	7041	49	680	15	0	428	753	1640	
Kept Total ³	WCVI		8876	12598	0	5429	0	12508	3222			
Kept Total	QS		520	302	34	933	0	0	324	308	427	
Kept Total³	South Coast		30845	20788	83	7243	15	12508	4934	1341	2807	

¹ includes Yelloweye, Quillback, Copper, China, Tiger

² Survey began 15 June: estimate for 15 - 30 June only

³ including only those areas surveyed during this time period



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Table 1b Preliminary recreational released catch estimates in the Johnstone Strait (JS), Strait of Georgia (SoG), west coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI) and Quatsino Sound (QS) creel areas, June 1-30, 2009

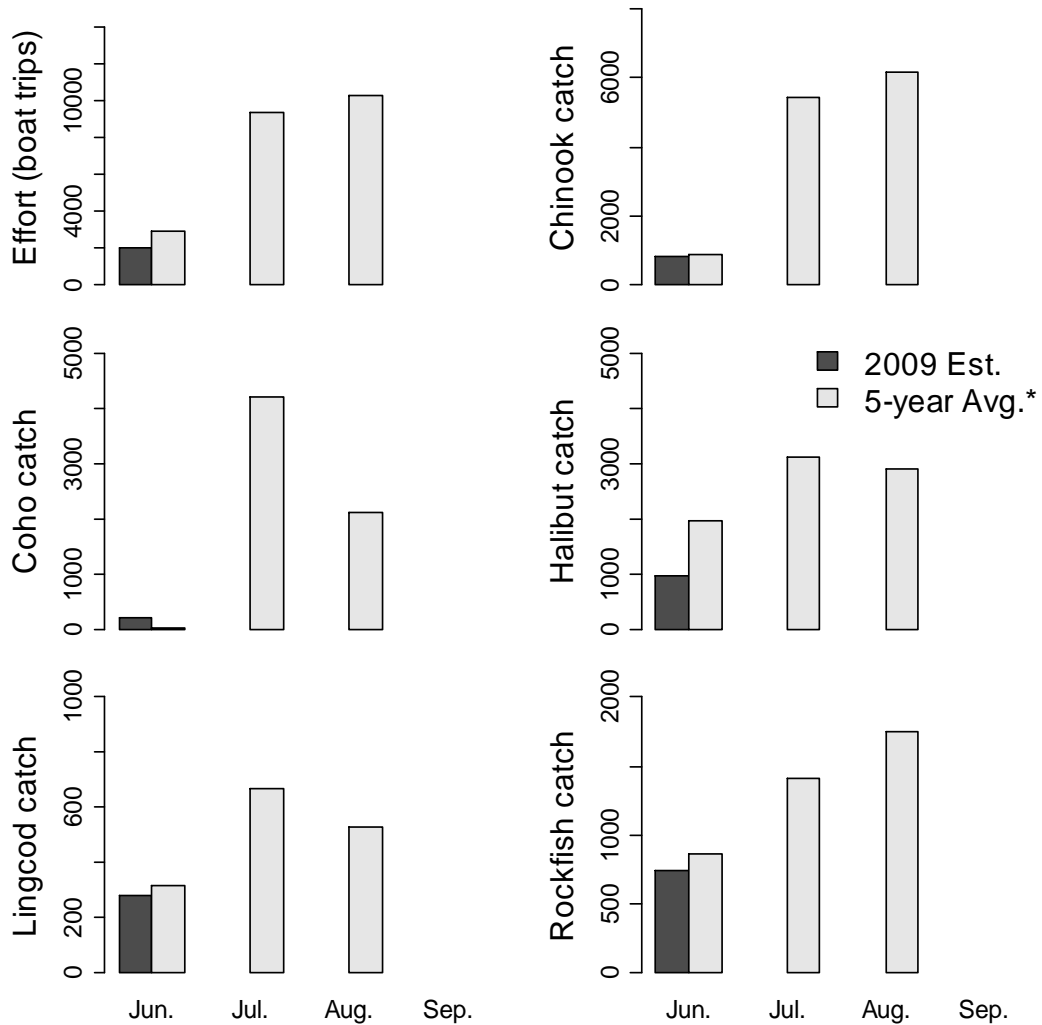
TYPE	Creel	Area	Boat Trips	Chinook	Chum	Coho	Pink	Sockeye	Halibut	Lingcod	Rockfish ¹
Released	JS	11	261	71		5	10		64	16	39
		12	1776	1375		265	51	10	71	111	329
Released	SoG	13	2968	1573						1179	
		14	2181	830						488	35
		15	415	50		12				212	163
		16	216	14		2				360	293
		17	1497	232						812	1086
		18	644	5						337	369
		19	1787	31		23				499	51
		20(GS)	8281	1477		1784	49	15	75	2178	473
		28	845	33		49				4	
		29	578	330		4				2	
Released	WCVI	<i>ALL</i>		<i>Released numbers estimated post-season only</i>							
Released	QS	27	218	80		427		2	2	23	11
		127	302	204		485			24	13	26
Released Total	JS		2037	1446	0	270	61	10	135	127	368
Released Total	SoG		19412	4573	0	1874	49	15	75	6070	2470
Released Total	QS		520	284	0	912	0	2	26	36	37

¹ includes Yelloweye, Quillback, Copper, China, Tiger

² including only those areas surveyed during this time period



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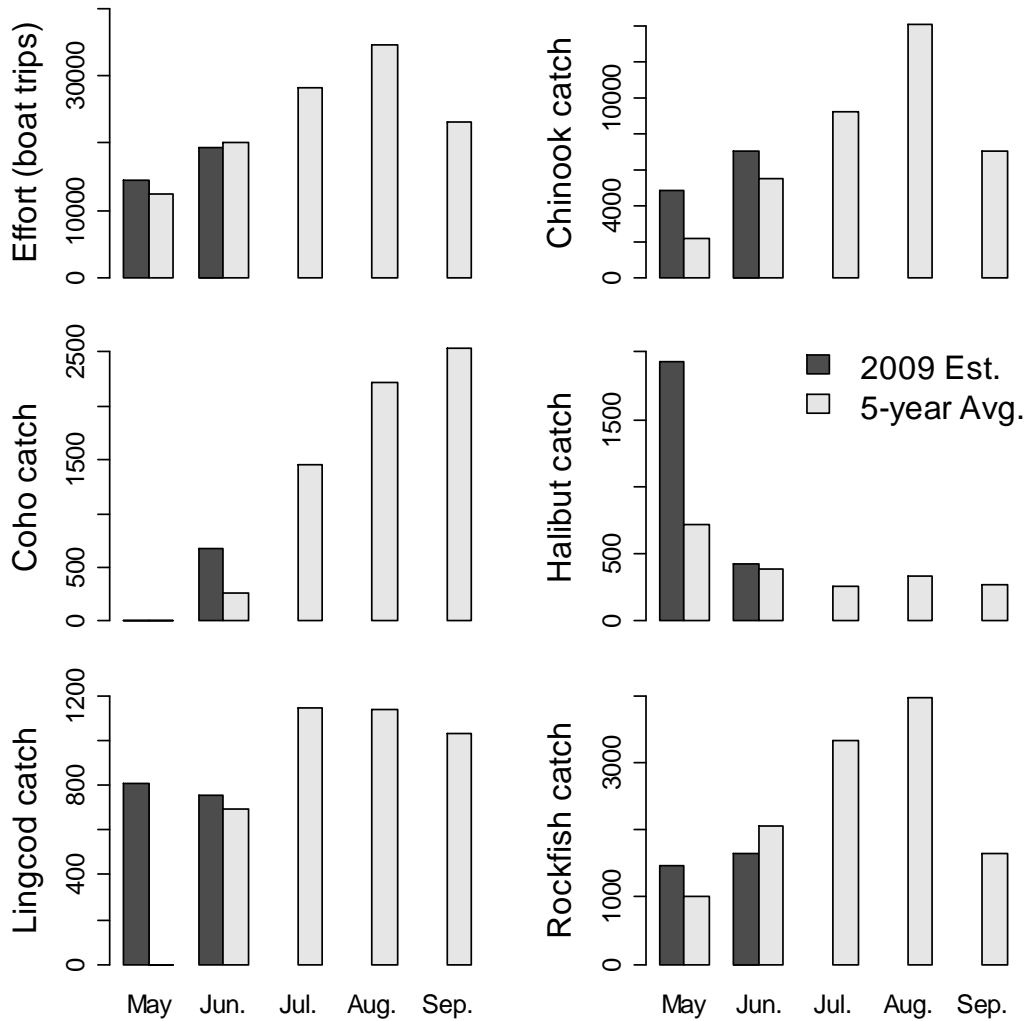


Monthly estimates - Johnstone Strait

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 July and August or past estimates from one year (2008) in June for the Johnstone Strait Creel Survey.



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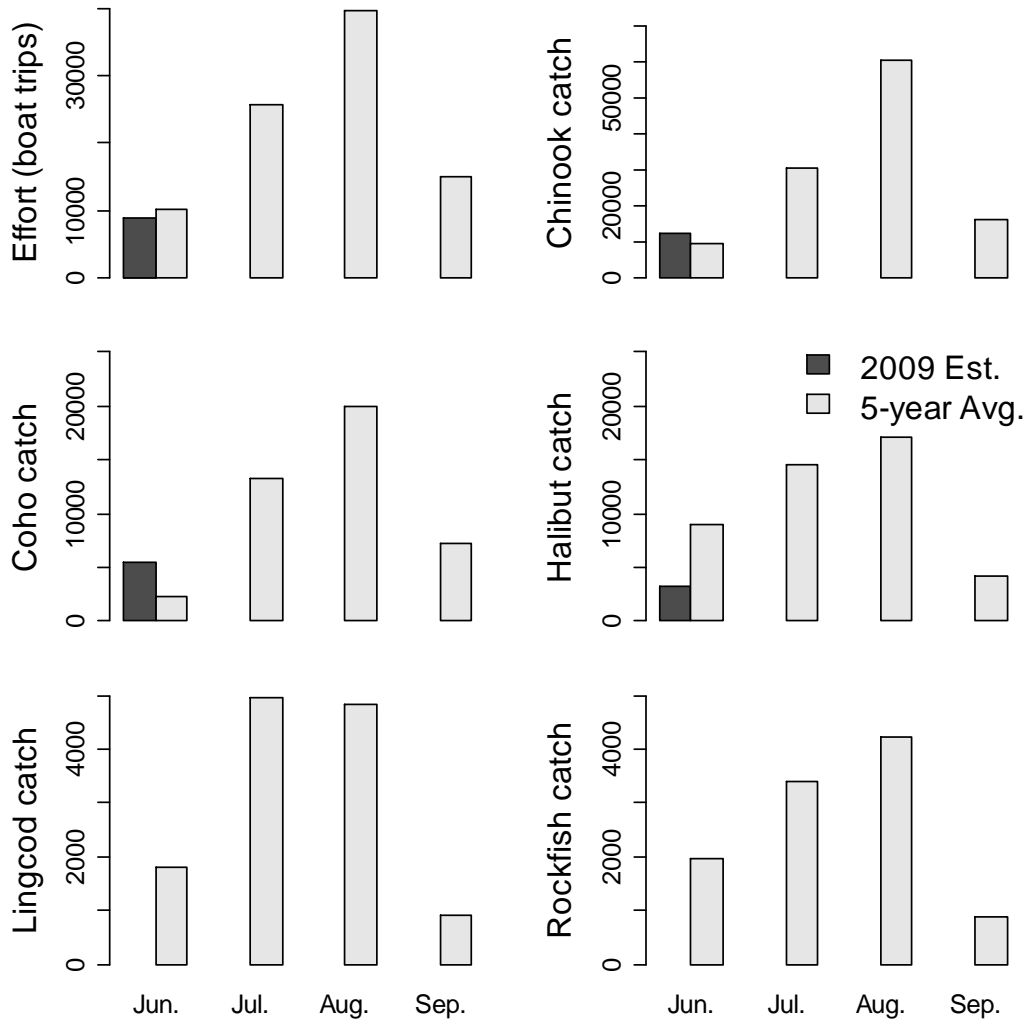


Monthly estimates - Strait of Georgia

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.



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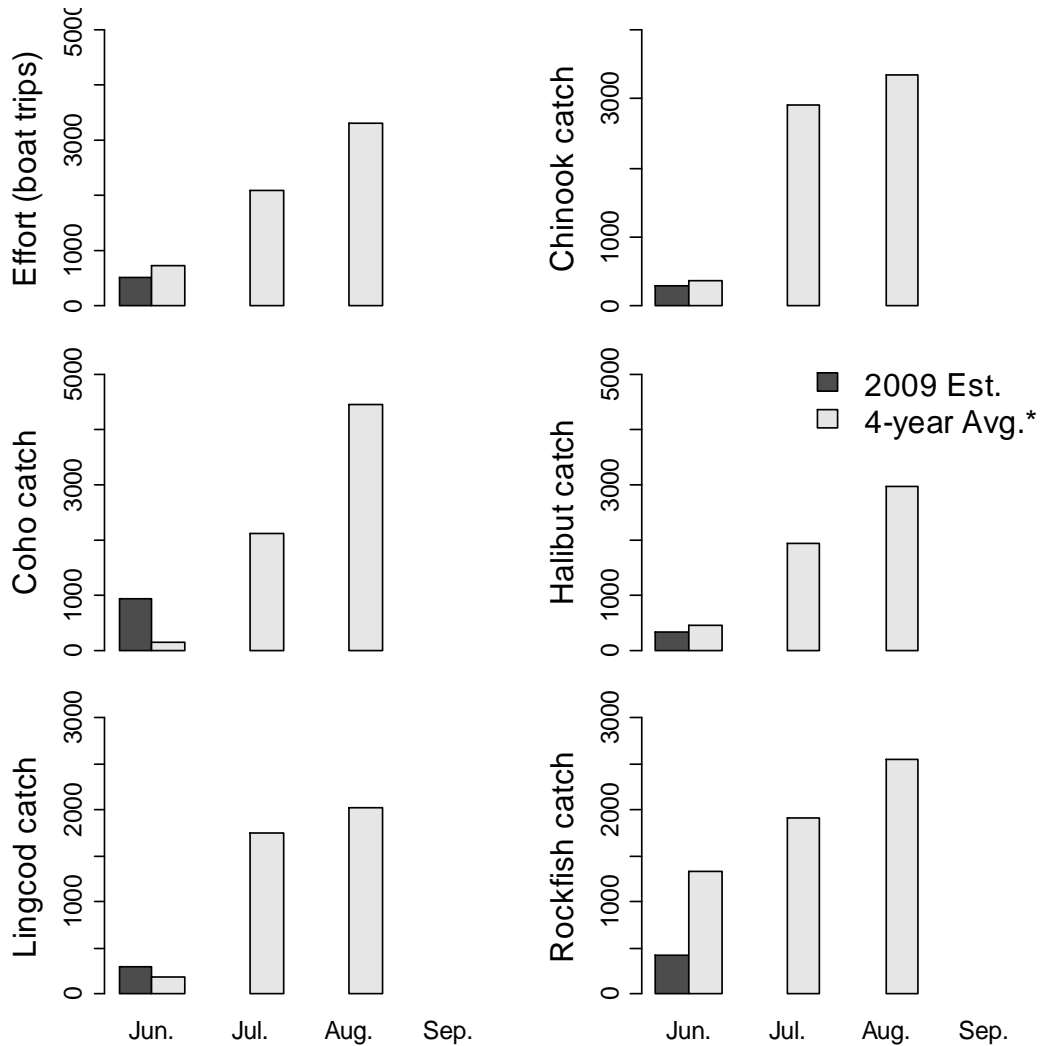


Monthly estimates - WCVI

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.



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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) in July and August or past estimates from one year (2008) in June for the Quatsino Sound Creel Survey.