



South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #4 – July 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 July there were 73 interview survey shifts at 5 fishing access sites in Johnstone Strait. A total of 1,848 angling parties (boat trips) were interviewed at the conclusion of their fishing trips. Average catches (retained + released) per boat trip across Johnstone Strait in June were (approximately): 1.9 Chinook, 0.1 Lingcod, 0.4 Halibut and 0.4 rockfish.

There were eight aerial over-flights of the study area in July and total effort was about 29% less than the recent 5-year average July effort (Figure 1). July 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.

Strait of Georgia

In July there were 221 interview survey shifts at 33 fishing access sites in the Strait of Georgia. A total of 1,448 angling parties (boat trips) were interviewed at the conclusion of their fishing trips. Average catches per boat trip across the Strait of Georgia in July were (approximately): 0.6 Chinook, 0.2 Lingcod, 0.01 Halibut and 0.2 rockfish.

There were ten aerial over-flights of the study area in July and total effort was about 12% lower than the recent 5-year average July effort (Figure 2). July 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 2.



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WCVI

There were 13 aerial over-flights of the WCVI area in July and total effort estimate was about 6% higher than the recent 5-year average July effort (Figure 3). July 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 July there were 31 interview survey shifts at 1 fishing access site in the Quatsino Sound study area. A total of 388 angling parties (boat trips) were interviewed at the conclusion of their fishing trips. Average catches (retained + released) per boat trip across Quatsino Sound in July were (approximately): 1.6 Chinook, 0.7 Lingcod, 0.6 Halibut and 0.9 rockfish.

There were eight aerial over-flights of the study area in July and total effort was about 39% higher than the recent 4-year average July effort (Figure 4). July 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 4.

Recreational Catch Estimates:

Johnstone Strait

The July recreational catch estimates for salmon, Halibut, Lingcod 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.

July catches of Chinook and Coho were 12% lower and 57% higher than recent 5-year averages, respectively. Halibut, Lingcod and rockfish catches were 33%, 41% and 23% lower than recent 5-year averages, respectively. Cumulative kept catches to date (from 01 June to 31 July 2009) across the study area were: 5,623 Chinook, 6,816 Coho, 3,037 Halibut, 678 Lingcod, and 1,834 rockfish.

Strait of Georgia

The July recreational catch estimates for salmon, Halibut, Lingcod 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.

July catches of Chinook and Coho were 24% lower and 28% higher than recent 5-year averages, respectively. Halibut, Lingcod and rockfish catches were 6% higher, 43% lower and 52% lower than recent 5-year averages, respectively. Cumulative kept catches to date (from 01 May to 31 July 2009) across the study area were: 18,956 Chinook, 2,535 Coho, 2,629 Halibut, 2,212 Lingcod, and 4,695 rockfish.

WCVI

The July 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 Chinook, Coho and Halibut across the WCVI area in July were 9% higher,



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76% higher and 48% lower than recent 5-year averages, respectively. Lingcod and rockfish catches are estimated post-season only. Cumulative kept catches to date (01 June to 31 July 2009) across the study area were: 46,089 Chinook, 28,864 Coho, 10,830 Halibut, and 48,686 Sockeye.

Quatsino Sound

The July recreational catch estimates for salmon, Halibut, Lingcod 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 4.

July catches of Chinook and Coho were 4% lower and 117% higher than recent 5-year averages, respectively. Halibut, Lingcod and rockfish catches were 28% lower, 4% higher and 27% higher than recent 4-year averages, respectively. Cumulative kept catches to date (from 01 June to 31 July 2009) across the study area were: 3,082 Chinook, 5,531 Coho, 1,704 Halibut, 2,128 Lingcod, and 2,875 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, July 1-31, 2009.

TYPE	GMA	Area	Boat Trips	Chinook	Chum	Coho	Pink	Sockeye	Halibut	Lingcod	Rockfish ¹	
Kept	JS	11	493	1172	4	589	51	0	585	186	437	
		12	6208	3604	58	6026	2433	30	1492	212	657	
Kept	SG	13	5777	2975		103	1237		28	111	205	
		14	2096	446						97	53	
		15	796	44						57	139	
		16	977	28						103	511	
		17	1709	129						21	132	
		18	999	14				30			11	114
		19	1766	291	10	11	531			215	101	198
		20(GS)	8403	2958			1569	9222		34	152	239
		28	1628	68			146	27				
		29	698	44			26	4				
Kept	WCVI	20 (WCVI)	3043	2039		1664				117		
		21	89	92		204				107		
		22					<i>Survey begins in August</i>					
		23	11909	6174		3840		36178	239			
		24	316	5		776			6			
		25	7034	6943		7108			861			
		26										
		121	842	3143		3095			2607			
		123	1739	8926		4588			2003			
		124	737	3631		1506			990			
125	1393	2536		654			677					
126												
Kept	QS	27	1478	562	15	4035	89	4	137	229	362	
		127	1441	2218	39	563	342	0	1243	1591	2086	
Kept Total	JS		6701	4776	62	6615	2484	30	2077	398	1094	
Kept Total	SG		24849	6997	10	1855	11051	0	277	654	1591	
Kept Total ²	WCVI		27102	33489	0	23435	0	36178	7607			
Kept Total	QS		2919	2780	54	4598	431	4	1380	1820	2448	
Kept Total²	South Coast		61571	48042	126	36503	13966	36212	11341	2872	5133	

¹ includes Yelloweye, Quillback, Copper, China, Tiger

² 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, July 1-31, 2009.

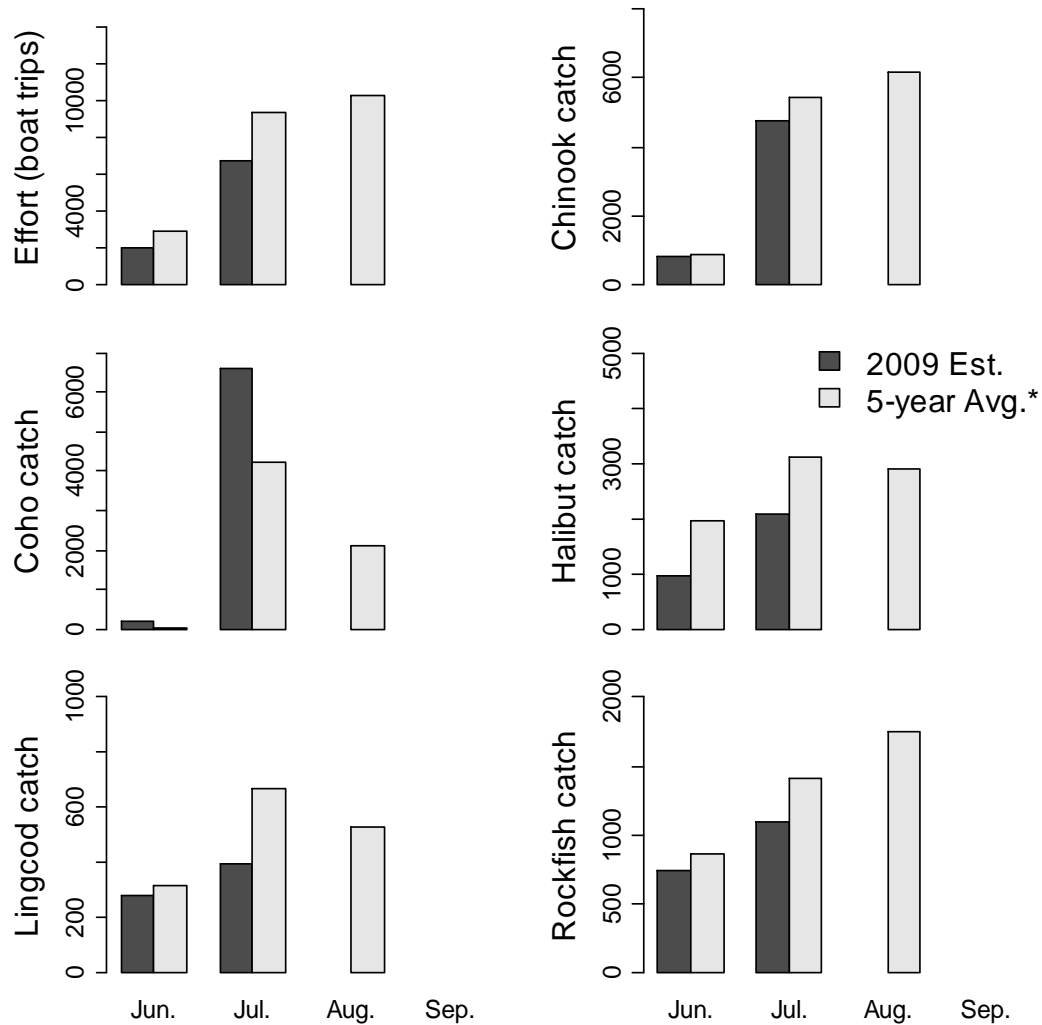
TYPE	GMA	Area	Boat Trips	Chinook	Chum	Coho	Pink	Sockeye	Halibut	Lingcod	Rockfish ¹
Released	JS	11	493	329	0	194	64	2	80	172	286
		12	6208	7441	30	6870	2160	125	271	185	1090
Released	SG	13	5777	2282		1369	334	446		721	16
		14	2096	334		35				319	7
		15	796	169						332	443
		16	977	154		17				1145	1104
		17	1709	599		4				482	272
		18	999	152						351	549
		19	1766	155		147	10	8	23	491	427
		20(GS)	8403	3584		5801	2627	473	34	1357	366
		28	1628	16		155				161	
		29	698	311		62				21	
Released	WCVI	ALL	<i>Released numbers estimated post-season only</i>								
Released	QS	27	1478	1143	0	3868	79	0	6	148	125
		127	1441	779	0	6091	333	0	241	185	101
Released Total	JS		6701	7770	30	7064	2224	127	351	357	1376
Released Total	SG		24849	7757	0	7589	2970	927	57	5380	3183
Released Total	QS		2919	1922	0	9959	412	0	247	333	226

¹ includes Yelloweye, Quillback, Copper, China, Tiger

² including only those areas surveyed during this time period



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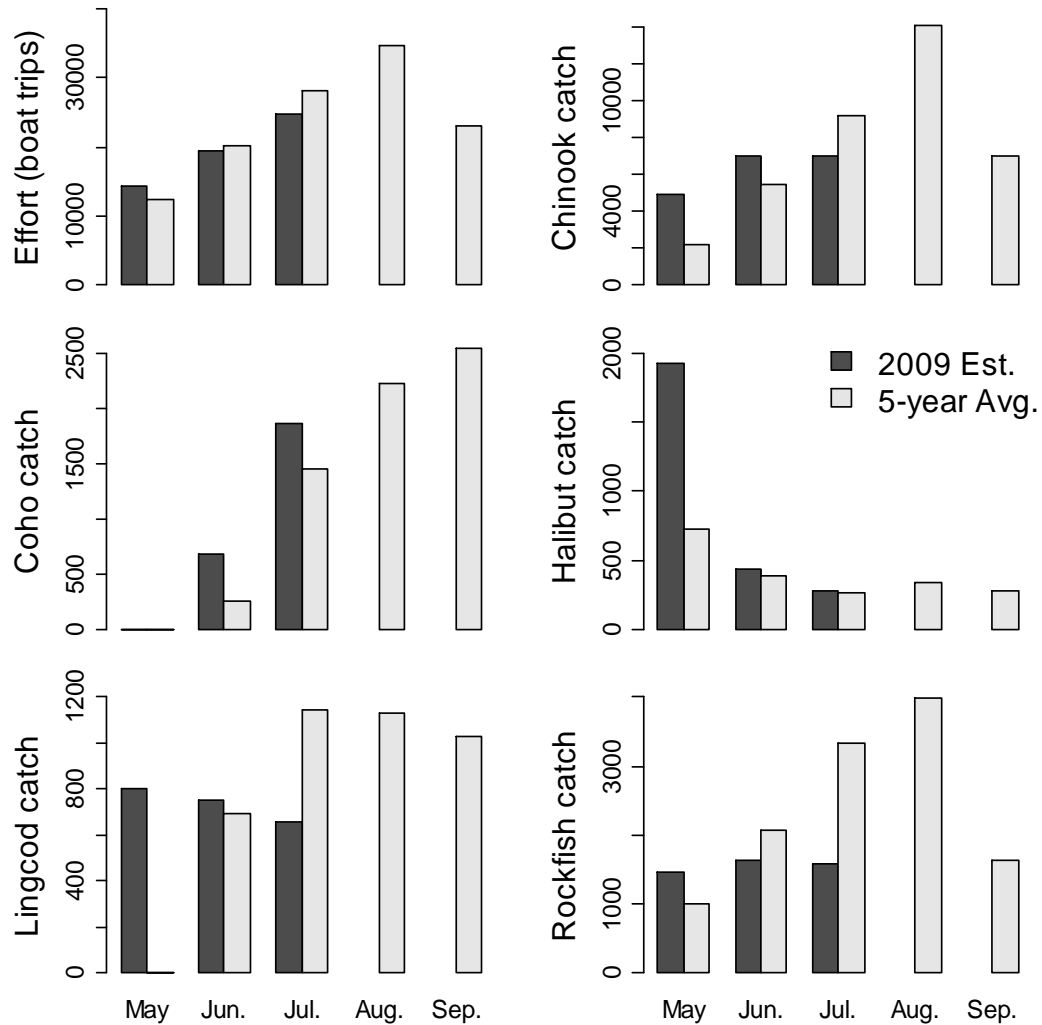


Monthly estimates - Johnstone Strait

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) for the Johnstone Strait Creel Survey. Past estimates for June include estimates from 2008 only.*



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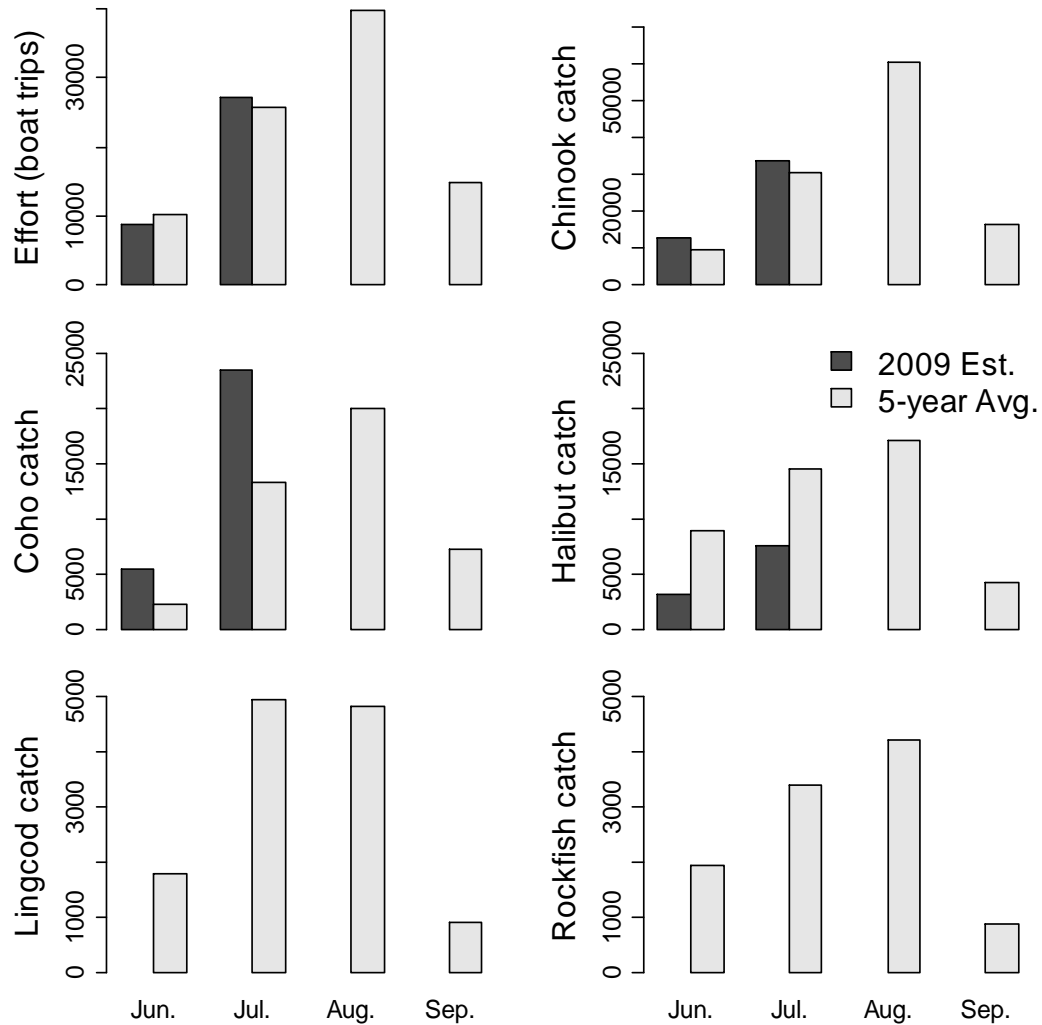


Monthly estimates - Strait of Georgia

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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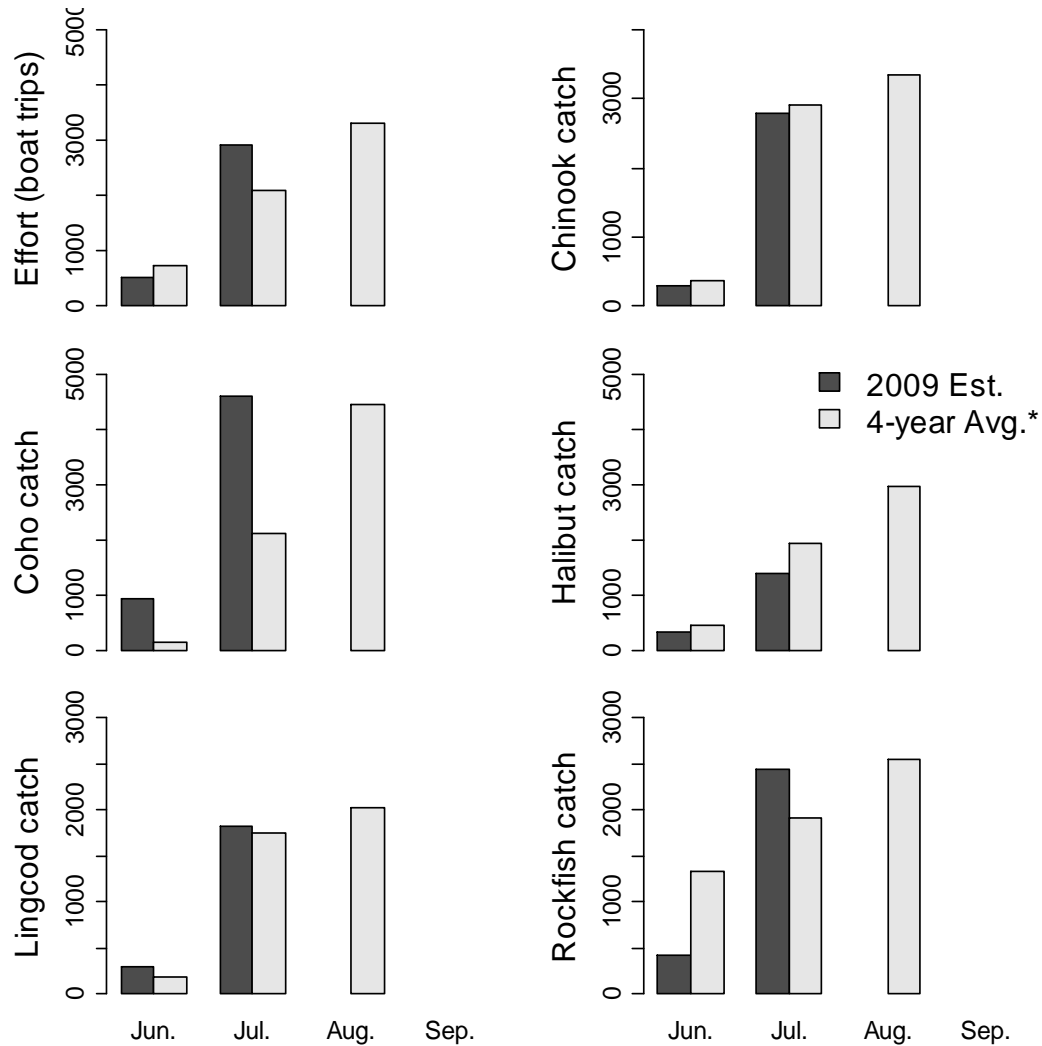


Monthly estimates - WCVI

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. Lingcod and rockfish catches are only estimated post-season for the WCVI 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) for the Quatsino Sound Creel Survey. Past estimates for June include estimates from 2008 only.*