



South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #5 – September 2011

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 Fishery Management Areas 11 through 29 and 121 to 127). **This is the final in-season bulletin of 2011.** These estimates are generated from data collected by the DFO's South Coast Creel Survey. A brief overview of the survey, the study area and methods used to collect data and generate these estimates is provided in the first bulletin of 2011, 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 in-season regulation updates can be viewed at:

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

Fishery Commentary:

September is generally characterised by a sharp drop in recreational fishing effort compared to the peak summer months of July and August as summer holidays end and many lodge and charter businesses finish their seasons after the Labour Day long weekend. Effort in inside waters remained relatively high in September 2011 compared to recent year averages. This higher than average effort in the inside waters was driven primarily by effort in the Victoria (Area 20: 56% higher than recent-year average effort in September) and Campbell River areas (Area 13: 81% higher than average). Effort on the west coast dropped off through September in a manner more consistent with recent trends. Sockeye retention in most South Coast marine waters was 4/day from 25 August to 16 September 2011 and this was likely one reason effort was higher than recent averages in the waters of Juan de Fuca and Georgia Strait.

Salmon

Recreational salmon fishing overall continued to be good in most of the South Coast marine waters through the month of September. Chinook catches moderated somewhat from the excellent fishing observed in July/August, although catch rates were particularly good through September in Barkley Sound on the west coast and in the northern Strait of Georgia (Area 13 and 14) relative to recent year averages. Chinook fishing also remained strong in the Strait of Georgia off the Fraser River and in lower Howe Sound (Area 28/29). The south-western Strait of Georgia saw effort and catches more similar to recent-year trends. Juan de Fuca Strait Chinook catches were down in September relative to recent years, although releases of sub-legal sized Chinook continued to be higher than average; a trend observed all summer. Coho catch rates in portions of the west coast remained strong in



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September, particularly in Area 23 (more than 250% of the recent-year September average – keeping in mind that the historical average only reflects catch during the first half of the month); while coho catches in most other areas were close to or slightly above recent-year September trends. Sockeye catch in early September was focused near the mouth of the Fraser in Areas 28 and 29, with some fish caught in Area 13.

Groundfish

With the closure of the recreational halibut fishery on 5 September, catches in most South Coast areas were, as expected, down relative to recent year averages for September. In-season analyses to date indicate that halibut catch from June through September was about 35% below the recent 5-yr average. As noted in the August bulletin, comments from the recreational fleet indicate that some of this catch reduction is due to less angler effort targeting groundfish because of the exceptional salmon fishing in offshore waters, along with relatively poor halibut catch rates in some areas this year.

Both lingcod and rockfish catches in the South Coast have approximately followed recent-year trends with September catches near the 5-yr average in most areas. These catch trends are despite increases in effort in some areas this year, but may reflect more salmon directed effort as opposed to decreasing groundfish catch per unit effort because of the good salmon fishing in most South Coast areas.

Creel Survey Data:

A summary of survey statistics and preliminary recreation effort, measured in boat trips, by Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA) are presented in Table 1 (attached). A map of PFMA's is available in the 2011-2013 British Columbia Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Guide. We conducted surveys in some key areas of the West Coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI) through September for the first time in recent years. Because of this, the average catch for the recent 5-yr period for WCVI areas only reflect estimates for the first half of the month while estimates for Barkley Sound and south (PFMA's 123, 23, 121, 20) reflect full month estimates for September 2011. Estimates for the Nootka area (PFMA's 25/125) were estimated for in-season purposes using effort counts from this month and catch per unit effort estimates from August as no angler surveys were conducted.

Recreational Catch Estimates:

A summary of preliminary kept and released catch estimates by PFMA for key salmon (Tables 2 and 3) and groundfish (Tables 4 and 5) species are attached. These tables track the cumulative kept and released catches of these key species as well as the 5-year average cumulative kept and release catch to allow comparison with recent catch trends. In addition, a breakdown of Aggregate Abundance and Individual Stock based management breakdowns of retained Chinook catch (AABM and ISBM, respectively) for west coast fishing areas is shown in Table 6. The cumulative catches reported in tables sum catch estimates from June through September, except for west coast PFMA's as described in the 'Creel Survey Data' section above. A map of PFMA's is available in the 2011-2013 British Columbia Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Guide.



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Contacts:

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Table 1 Creel survey statistics (number of interviews and flights) and preliminary effort estimates (number of boat trips) by Pacific Fishery Management Area, September 2011.

Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA)	Number of Creel Interviews	Number of Effort Count Flights ¹	Effort			
			Estimate	%SE ²	Year to date ³	Year to date 5-yr. average ³
11			No Survey in September 2011			
12			No Survey in September 2011			
13	50	6	5,550	8%	22,957	17,203
14	85	6	3,020	8%	8,159	7,167
15	30	6	831	17%	2,804	1,529
16	22	6	415	15%	1,878	2,569
17	87	7	928	16%	7,345	5,962
18	62	7	1,576	25%	5,140	3,295
19	171	7	1,973	24%	6,963	6,928
20	605	7	8,607	21%	35,521	37,238
21	1	7	73	61%	207	578
121	25	8	204	37%	2,459	2,072
23	303	9	6,962	20%	29,853	31,227
123	42	8	608	43%	7,160	8,918
24	6	8	183	37%	1,041	1,509
124	23	8	420	44%	4,010	2,784
25	0	8	410	26%	13,183	10,984
125	0	7	133	91%	3,162	2,334
26			No Survey in September 2011			
126			No Survey in September 2011			
27			No Survey in September 2011			
127			No Survey in September 2011			
28	102	7	2,144	22%	6,523	4,510
29	33	7	2,070	27%	6,454	4,899
Totals ⁴	1,647		36,108		164,817	151,706

¹ The number of flights where weather conditions allowed effort counts; not including on-water counts

² %SE is a measure of uncertainty; one Standard Error as a percentage of the estimate.

³ Cumulative effort to date (June through September) summed across periods where surveys are active

- note that WCVI 5 year averages including September are unavailable (N/A)

⁴ Individual flights cover multiple PFMA's, so an additive total is not appropriate



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Table 2 Preliminary recreational kept catch estimates (number of fish) for key salmon species by Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA), September 2011. Percent standard error (%SE; one standard error as a percentage of the estimate), a measure of uncertainty, is indicated for estimates from PFMA's where they are calculated in-season.

Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA)	Chinook				Coho				Sockeye				
	Estimate	%SE	Year to date ¹	Year to date 5-yr. average ¹	Estimate	%SE	Year to date ¹	Year to date 5-yr. average ¹	Estimate	%SE	Year to date ¹	Year to date 5-yr. average ¹	
11	No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate				
12	No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate				
13	1,191	30%	9,588	6,912	443	38%	549	719	1,088	27%	5,038	6,083	
14	1,041	19%	2,219	1,984	98	52%	125	169			15	31	
15	111	45%	580	342	10	109%	12	0	10	73%	10	0	
16			42	188			0	2			0	0	
17	166	38%	1,633	687	11	78%	22	9	8	79%	27	0	
18	48	42%	655	298	54	71%	269	6	73	48%	73	211	
19	996	60%	2,124	840	178	64%	248	45			109	38	
20	1,488	19%	16,695	20,141	1,237	24%	3,451	4,165	138	68%	2,046	7,377	
21			43	679			22	110			0	0	
121	675	37%	11,328	4,199	169	88%	3,101	3,787			0	300	
23	8,462	17%	35,690	23,850	5,054	16%	13,620	6,302			40,343	48,112	
123	1,881	46%	25,565	19,807	929	55%	10,352	8,199			324	161	
24	4	175%	453	801	499	56%	2,390	1,196			3	8	
124	1,249	40%	15,813	7,388	652	50%	4,035	1,688			51	150	
25	199	35%	20,540	10,646	383	21%	10,750	3,891			90	32	
125	140	129%	5,416	3,471	59	118%	2,255	1,148			47	44	
26	No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate				
126	No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate				
27	No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate				
127	No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate				
28	509	39%	597	410	161	52%	294	392	2,598	37%	3,152	97	
29	429	34%	1,236	403	92	40%	175	125	2,374	34%	6,396	6,976	
Kept Total²	18,592		150,219	103,046	10,028		51,670	31,955	6,288		57,724	69,619	

¹ Cumulative kept catch to date (June through September) summed across periods where surveys are active

² Including only those areas with in-season estimates this month



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Table 3 Preliminary recreational released catch estimates (number of fish) for key salmon species by Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA), September 2011. Percent standard error (%SE; one standard error as a percentage of the estimate), a measure of uncertainty, is indicated for estimates from PFMA's where they are calculated in-season.

Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA)	Chinook				Coho				Sockeye				
	Estimate	%SE	Year to date ¹	Year to date 5-yr. average ¹	Estimate	%SE	Year to date ¹	Year to date 5-yr. average ¹	Estimate	%SE	Year to date ¹	Year to date 5-yr. average ¹	
11	No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate				
12	No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate				
13	757	32%	5,370	4,661	9,482	20%	13,272	5,074			945	682	
14	2,138	26%	4,114	2,664	288	32%	700	836	37	78%	37	0	
15	411	31%	966	704	69	66%	215	16			0	0	
16			41	498			0	21			0	0	
17	1,185	33%	4,452	1,803	231	52%	561	321	1	133%	3	0	
18	288	73%	1,048	253	233	114%	583	160	11	67%	11	29	
19	393	61%	875	600	42	61%	108	251			0	7	
20	4,285	28%	10,206	3,274	1,490	59%	6,543	9,380			1,520	752	
21			28	112			0	161			0	0	
121	114	68%	3,289	1,046	3	134%	3,351	2,315			0	0	
23	1,790	29%	15,437	10,295	2,315	27%	12,689	3,142			733	2,610	
123	1,226	47%	18,319	11,677	3,469	46%	29,501	16,021			22	32	
24			337	257	230	73%	2,487	844			18	1	
124	345	65%	8,401	5,671	1,601	56%	12,433	4,993			14	56	
25	120	35%	6,691	5,353	45	42%	6,672	3,020			85	5	
125	45	109%	1,515	1,420	147	158%	9,125	4,219	3	238%	22	5	
26	No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate				
126	No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate				
27	No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate				
127	No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate				
28	582	57%	874	745	20	112%	28	311	260	99%	432	1	
29	694	42%	1,850	1,259	27	84%	146	147	225	69%	1,533	421	
Kept Total²	14,372		83,812	52,293	19,692		98,415	51,233	536		5,374	4,602	

¹ Cumulative released to date (June through September) summed across periods where surveys are active

² Including only those areas with in-season estimates this month



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Table 4 Preliminary recreational kept catch estimates (number of fish) for key groundfish species by Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA), September 2011. Percent standard error (%SE; one standard error as a percentage of the estimate), a measure of uncertainty, is indicated for estimates from PFMA's where they are calculated in-season.

Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA)	Halibut				Lingcod				Rockfishes ¹			
	Estimate	%SE	Year to date ²	Year to date 5-yr. average ²	Estimate	%SE	Year to date ²	Year to date 5-yr. average ²	Estimate	%SE	Year to date ²	Year to date 5-yr. average ²
11	No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate			
12	No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate			
13			40	54			381	545	949	39%	1,541	506
14			9	7	1	164%	688	176	44	89%	680	239
15			0	0			426	59	5	125%	369	193
16			0	5	118	39%	416	375	29	67%	719	1,078
17	34	78%	34	2	192	47%	985	783	106	43%	1,207	1,473
18			0	6	92	98%	472	327	637	71%	1,277	567
19	325	70%	949	1,050	17	100%	147	297	173	31%	949	882
20	1	122%	346	759	364	49%	664	701	1,112	31%	3,312	3,336
21			16	572			0	30			9	52
121	273	60%	6,401	10,200	45	83%	571	821	494	64%	1,375	1,119
23	8	116%	458	576	430	49%	1,457	756	1,009	43%	3,757	3,175
123	458	55%	6,074	13,871	166	91%	1,099	3,905	85	56%	2,484	5,028
24	39	117%	236	136	10	100%	258	123	132	71%	620	478
124	323	65%	3,240	2,106	22	132%	200	436	43	93%	1,000	1,204
25	20	83%	673	430	100	51%	903	604	134	65%	2,823	2,169
125	208	65%	2,232	2,034	341	74%	4,358	1,326	237	53%	3,883	2,585
26	No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate			
126	No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate			
27	No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate			
127	No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate			
28			0	0			73	22			0	479
29			0	0	8	89%	103	1	76	63%	371	160
Kept Total³	1,687		20,708	31,808	1,906		13,202	11,287	5,266		26,379	24,723

¹ All rockfishes; including those not identified to species

² Cumulative kept to date (June through September) summed across periods where surveys are active

³ Including only those areas with in-season estimates this month



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Table 5 Preliminary recreational released catch estimates (number of fish) for key groundfish species by Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA), September 2011. Percent standard error (%SE; one standard error as a percentage of the estimate), a measure of uncertainty, is indicated for estimates from PFMA's where they are calculated in-season.

Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA)	Halibut				Lingcod				Rockfishes ¹			
	Estimate	%SE	Year to date ²	Year to date 5-yr. average ²	Estimate	%SE	Year to date ²	Year to date 5-yr. average ²	Estimate	%SE	Year to date ²	Year to date 5-yr. average ²
11			No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate	
12			No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate	
13			0	8	109	59%	1,235	1,883	264	72%	305	1,692
14			0	3	49	80%	3,379	1,276	219	48%	614	1,044
15			0	0	19	58%	1,378	568			306	368
16			0	0	253	40%	1,555	2,565	95	59%	1,003	2,002
17			0	1	366	34%	3,513	3,462	820	30%	5,158	4,666
18			0	3	300	91%	1,246	1,450	1,072	100%	3,094	2,165
19	8	100%	28	67	418	39%	1,844	2,773	314	38%	1,966	1,940
20			92	100	1,584	36%	4,394	5,119	1,876	33%	5,443	4,513
21			0	34			67	8			0	25
121			461	430			102	42	99	78%	251	75
23			87	38	632	51%	1,988	1,340	114	59%	2,053	2,164
123	32	87%	376	865			893	815	23	138%	320	371
24			7	15	4	175%	187	163			196	380
124			225	157			132	535			249	521
25			0	110	68	90%	1,064	665	39	81%	1,323	1,564
125	1	238%	84	277	149	117%	1,865	440	37	80%	952	740
26			No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate	
126			No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate	
27			No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate	
127			No September Estimate				No September Estimate				No September Estimate	
28			0	0			0	125	3	101%	21	390
29			0	0	114	91%	392	23	184	70%	493	58
Kept Total³	42		1,361	2,108	4,065		25,235	23,251	5,160		23,747	24,679

¹ All rockfishes; including those not identified to species

² Cumulative released to date (June through September) summed across periods where surveys are active

³ Including only those areas with in-season estimates this month



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Table 6 Preliminary recreational kept Chinook catch estimates (number of fish) by Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA), September 2011, divided into Aggregate Abundance-based Management (AABM) and Individual Stock-based Management (ISBM) groupings.

Area	Region	AABM			ISBM		
		Estimate	Year to date ¹	Year to date 5-yr average ²	Estimate	Year to date ¹	Year to date 5-yr average ²
21	Nitinat	-	11	300	-	32	400
121	Swiftsure Bank	675	11,328	4,200	-	-	-
23 -1,2	Alberni Inlet	-	44	200	5,380	18,264	6,300
23 - 3 to 11	Barkley Sound	-	5,922	6,100	3,082	11,460	11,250
123	Offshore Barkley	1,881	25,565	19,900	-	-	-
24	Clayquot Sound	-	446	300	4	7	500
124	Offshore Clayquot	1,249	15,813	7,400	-	-	-
25	Nootka Snd. / Esperanza Inlet	-	-	100	199	20,540	10,500
125	Offshore Nootka	140	5,416	3,500	-	-	-
26	Kyuquot Sound	-	-	200	-	1,300	1,300
126	Offshore Kyuquot	-	5,332	4,000	-	-	-
27	Quatsino Sound	-	0	100	-	2,174	1,800
127	Offshore Quatsino	-	5,710	5,000	-	-	-
Total		3,945	75,587	51,300	8,665	53,778	32,050

¹ Cumulative kept to date (June through September) summed across periods where surveys are active.

² Cumulative kept to date 5 year averages have been rounded to the nearest 50 fish.