



South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #2 – June 2012

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). 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:

North Island

Area 11 continues to see an increase of effort compared to the 5 year average, similar to what we witnessed in 2012. Most the effort in this Area is from guides and charter operators in the Port Hardy area. Sources indicate this is due to increased coho opportunities in Area 11, good chinook fishing and typically better bottom fishing.

Effort and catch in **Area 12** around Port Hardy is similar to the 5 year average, and almost the same as what we saw at this time last year.

Effort in **Area 13** around Campbell River is similar to the 5 year average. We haven't seen the same CPUE for chinook in 2012 as we did in this area in 2011.

Strait of Georgia

Area 14 effort more than doubled the average for the month of June. There has been great chinook fishing in the local area, and anglers are enjoying one of the best chinook fisheries in recent memory. Some of the largest chinook caught in the South Coast area so far in 2012 have come out of Area 14.

Area 15/16 - effort is up slightly compared to the 5 year average in Area 15, but chinook catches are still relatively small. Area 16 was lower than average in both catch and effort.



South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #2 – June 2012

Area 17 is showing another large surge in effort and chinook catch so far this year. In 2011 we saw above average effort because of good chinook fishing, and that seems to be similar to what we are seeing in 2012. Chinook abundances and patterns seem to be delayed by several weeks, and many anglers believe this is due to the cool spring that we have seen on most parts of the South Coast.

Area 18 has seen a small effort increase in 2012 compared with the 5 year average and chinook catches are up almost 100% in Area 18.

South Island – Juan de Fuca

Areas 19 and 20 saw effort stabilize in June and return to near normal levels, from their initial spike in May. Chinook catches are close to average in Area 19 and slightly above average in Area 20 for the month of June in both areas. Halibut catches were reported as being good and returned to near normal levels from higher than average catch in May.

SWVI

Swiftsure Bank and Area **21/121** saw average effort in the month of June but chinook catches were very good, more than doubling the long-term average. Halibut catch was estimated to be 50% lower in June 2012 compared to the 5 year average. Bamfield and Ucluelet **23/123** had about 40% less effort in the offshore fishery in June compared to normal, with some of that reduction being due to weather where we see effort shift to inside waters, and we also saw more effort in Area 124 due to the abundance of chinook and coho in that area. Chinook catches in Area 23 are above average, and halibut catches are also up in inshore areas due to more angler effort in inside waters.

Areas **24/124** saw more effort and increased chinook and halibut catches in June compared to the 5 year average. This was also the case in 2011 and this area continues to have one of the most prolific fisheries in the South Coast area.

NWVI

Area **25/125** did not have a creel survey in June and catch information is not available at this time. Preliminary reports from operators in the area suggest that in general catch and effort has been similar to last year, with halibut catch being average to above-average and chinook catch estimated to be below average.

Area **26/126** catch is estimated using logbooks and effort and catch of chinook and halibut is up in both the inshore and offshore areas compared to the 5 year average.

Area 27/127 was about average for effort and chinook catch, and slightly above average for halibut catches.



South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #2 – June 2012

South Coast Wide

Currently the WCVI **AABM** chinook catch in the recreational fishery through the end of June is estimated to be about 9815, tracking above the 5 year average of 7850.

Coho have migrated through most areas of the South Coast and have been caught in good numbers in some parts of the South Coast including Swiftsure Bank and between Tofino and Ucluelet. Fishing tourism and traffic appeared to be down in many parts of the South Coast in June and local operations attribute that to a continuing weak economy in the US and poor weather. Operators in the Juan de Fuca area have been noting that the US has had a very strong chinook and coho recreational fishery this spring, and that may be factoring in to less traffic from south of the border.

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.

Recreational Catch Estimates:

A summary of preliminary kept and released catch estimates for key species by PFMA are presented in Table 2 and 3 (attached). Regional kept catch totals for June relative to recent 5-year averages are presented in Figures 1 through 4 (attached). A map of PFMA's is available in the 2011-2013 British Columbia Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Guide.

Contacts:

For additional information on the South Coast Creel Survey Programs, please contact:

Johnstone Strait and North Island Surveys (PFMA's 11, 12, 27, & 127)
Pieter Van Will - Program Head, Johnstone Strait Salmon Stock Assessment
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Strait of Georgia Survey (PFMA's 13 – 20, 28 & 29)
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West Coast Vancouver Island Survey (PFMA's 20 – 26 & 121 – 126)
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South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #2 – June 2012

Table 1 Creel survey statistics (number of interviews and flights) and preliminary effort estimates (number of boat trips) by Pacific Fishery Management Area, June 2012.

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
11	81	5	478	27%	478	186
12	322	6	1900	14%	1900	1195
13	84	8	2621	15%	2621	2251
14	91	8	2143	12%	2143	1095
15	30	8	540	21%	540	266
16	18	7	247	20%	247	308
17	119	11	3713	20%	3713	1365
18	32	7	695	13%	695	548
19	132	8	1515	15%	1515	1451
20	352	12	3746	11%	3746	5788
21	2	6	28	28%	28	47
121	31	7	287	13%	287	305
23	338	7	5115	20%	5115	3623
123	50	7	851	12%	851	1400
24	21	7	178	23%	178	187
124	12	7	675	7%	675	566
25			No Survey this month			
125			No Survey this month			
26	Based on Logbooks		42	0%	42	63
126	Based on Logbooks		238	0%	238	93
27	120	5	304	28%	304	278
127	59	4	332	69%	332	329
28	32	7	478	16%	478	566
29	11	7	1477	22%	1477	519
Totals 4	1937		27603		27603	22708

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



South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #2 – June 2012

Table 2 Preliminary recreational kept catch estimates (number of fish) for key salmon species by Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA), June 2012. 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	578	42%	578	243	230	52%	230	25	0		0	0
12	738	18%	738	400	202	42%	202	41	0		0	0
13	1107	27%	1107	1239	0		0	0	0		0	0
14	1496	22%	1496	301	0		0	0	0		0	0
15	85	47%	85	128	0		0	0	0		0	0
16	37	48%	37	45	0		0	0	0		0	0
17	1907	23%	1907	352	0		0	0	0		0	0
18	188	29%	188	94	0		0	0	0		0	0
19	191	39%	191	210	6	141%	6	0	0		0	0
20	2467	12%	2467	2498	216	25%	216	386	0		0	0
21	0		0	0	56	95%	56	17	0		0	0
121	1173	20%	1173	363	840	24%	840	215	0		0	0
23	3903	15%	3903	2466	492	45%	492	806	12823	20%	12823	13599
123	1941	15%	1941	2667	229	31%	229	411	8	98%	8	0
24	234	28%	234	117	31	51%	31	73	0		0	0
124	1290	15%	1290	1103	575	35%	575	115	0		0	0
25							No survey this month					
125							No survey this month					
26	75		75	132	9		9	87	0		0	0
126	744		744	225	149		149	34	0		0	0
27	234	28%	234	236	424	32%	424	454	0		0	0
127	221	53%	221	279	191	94%	191	87	0		0	0
28	0		0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0
29	223	40%	223	93	0		0	0	0		0	0
Kept Total ²	18832		18832	13191	3650		3650	2751	12831		12831	13599

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



South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #2 – June 2012

Table 3 Preliminary recreational released catch estimates (number of fish) for key salmon species by Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA), June 2012. 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	107	45%	107	121	16	106%	16	8	5	123%	5	0
12	1007	30%	1007	597	72	49%	72	78	0		0	0
13	771	28%	771	1029	22	56%	22	207	0		0	0
14	664	28%	664	391	266	79%	266	147	0		0	0
15	1371	39%	1371	221	0		0	0	0		0	0
16	149	57%	149	113	0		0	0	0		0	0
17	1546	33%	1546	500	72	151%	72	75	0		0	0
18	82	41%	82	55	0		0	0	0		0	0
19	108	52%	108	76	0		0	0	0		0	0
20	1251	37%	1251	929	502	25%	502	605	0		0	0
21	0		0	0	139	95%	139	13	0		0	0
121	230	45%	230	182	1096	34%	1096	140	0		0	0
23	2190	41%	2190	1560	132	66%	132	807	93	69%	93	503
123	914	22%	914	2206	522	36%	522	986	0		0	0
24	90	49%	90	39	66	62%	66	58	0		0	0
124	946	27%	946	430	251	61%	251	514	0		0	0
25							No survey this month					
125							No survey this month					
26	128		128	11	59		59	6	0		0	0
126	2082		2082	461	1324		1324	117	0		0	0
27	187	30%	187	170	273	38%	273	304	4	87%	4	3
127	93	60%	93	166	55	74%	55	205	0		0	0
28	0		0	0	7	92%	7	49	0		0	0
29	63	54%	63	175	3	130%	3	14	0		0	0
Kept Total ²	13979		13979	9432	4877		4877	4333	102		102	506

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



South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #2 – June 2012

Table 4 Preliminary recreational kept catch estimates (number of fish) for key groundfish species by Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA), June 2012. 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	506	33%	506	264	317	63%	317	134	1121	31%	1121	394
12	745	22%	745	437	181	29%	181	71	305	24%	305	273
13	33	103%	33	41	165	37%	165	72	143	58%	143	90
14	9	97%	9	18	9	97%	9	57	152	44%	152	74
15	0		0	0	8	68%	8	20	15	50%	15	22
16	0		0	0	77	31%	77	55	117	34%	117	93
17	0		0	0	864	34%	864	234	399	51%	399	288
18	0		0	0	119	51%	119	70	286	33%	286	115
19	449	40%	449	257	79	45%	79	52	269	49%	269	190
20	138	46%	138	162	112	40%	112	92	552	36%	552	477
21	14	95%	14	109	0		0	0	0		0	0
121	731	22%	731	1424	0		0	0	44	52%	44	147
23	140	27%	140	254	18		18	139	336	27%	336	714
123	1136	20%	1136	2387	158	26%	158	720	676	2%	676	1057
24	29	43%	29	67	16	75%	16	56	103	68%	103	137
124	775	18%	775	550	25		25	115	270	9%	270	395
25							No survey this month					
125							No survey this month					
26	18		18	38	18		18	64	33		33	86
126	357		357	236	863		863	126	506		506	177
27	91	36%	91	76	54	48%	54	90	138	46%	138	248
127	575	72%	575	376	852	70%	852	402	875	56%	875	561
28	0		0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0
29	0		0	0	180	48%	180	17	149	65%	149	13
Kept Total ³	5746		5746	6696	4115		4115	2586	6489		6489	5551

¹ All rockfishes; including those not identified to species

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

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



South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #2 – June 2012

Table 5 Preliminary recreational released catch estimates (number of fish) for key groundfish species by Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA), June 2012. 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	50	73%	50	81	255	52%	255	92	291	32%	291	133
12	180	41%	180	97	232	35%	232	303	918	42%	918	769
13	93	80%	93	12	1390	41%	1390	497	1024	26%	1024	307
14	0		0	0	64	76%	64	295	117	53%	117	213
15	0		0	0	7	72%	7	99	101	73%	101	83
16	0		0	0	331	28%	331	234	96	64%	96	188
17	71	106%	71	5	971	41%	971	1072	1718	30%	1718	1132
18	0		0	0	131	42%	131	222	439	57%	439	437
19	32	97%	32	10	305	35%	305	545	408	34%	408	352
20	0		0	0	239	31%	239	1625	1021	38%	1021	1014
21	0		0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0
121	82	44%	82	117	0		0	0	9	125%	9	17
23	39	85%	39	15	98	56%	98	472	153	63%	153	268
123	155	34%	155	142	22	58%	22	272	0		0	0
24	0		0	0	117	76%	117	37	14	88%	14	115
124	0		0	0	413	61%	413	100	83	43%	83	62
25							No survey this month					
125							No survey this month					
26	20		20	1	33		33	8	55		55	10
126	298		298	128	893		893	50	208		208	13
27	13	65%	13	38	67	43%	67	69	135	93%	135	37
127	295	65%	295	59	112	67%	112	43	135	86%	135	201
28	0		0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0
29	0		0	0	141	61%	141	29	33	81%	33	27
Kept Total ³	1328		1328	705	5821		5821	6064	6958		6958	5378

¹ All rockfishes; including those not identified to species

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

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



South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #2 – June 2012

Table 6 Preliminary recreational kept Chinook catch estimates (number of fish) by Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA), June 2012, 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	0	0	100	0	0	0
121	Swiftsure Bank	1173	1173	350	0	0	0
23 -1,2	Alberni Inlet	0	0	50	0	0	0
23 - 3 to 11	Barkley Sound	3903	3903	2450	0	0	0
123	Offshore Barkely	1941	1941	2650	0	0	0
24	Clayquot Sound	234	234	100	0	0	0
124	Offshore Clayquot	1290	1290	1100	0	0	0
25	Nootka Snd. / Esperanza Inlet	No Survey this month		100	0	0	0
125	Offshore Nootka	No Survey this month		0	0	0	0
26	Kyuquot Sound	75	75	150	0	0	0
126	Offshore Kyuquot	744	744	250	0	0	0
27	Quatsino Sound	234	234	250	0	0	0
127	Offshore Quatsino	221	221	300	0	0	0
Total		9815	9815	7850	0	0	0

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.