



South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #3 – July 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 2012, 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 effort and catches appeared to stabilize in July, from the surge that we saw in June. Effort in this area is still well above the 5 year average but chinook and coho catches appear to be about average, with halibut catches are slightly up from 2011.

Area 12 around Port Hardy saw a drop in effort, chinook and halibut catch of about 50% compared to 2011 and catch remains below the long term average. Coho catch and releases have been near average in the area and we haven't seen the abundance of coho in these fisheries that we did in Area 13. Effort in **Area 13** around Campbell River is similar to what we saw in 2011 but estimates of chinook catch are about 50% higher than last year and slightly higher than the 5 year average. Coho catches are up about 50% and releases are up about 250% compared to the long-term average

Strait of Georgia

Area 14 effort and chinook catch stabilized in July from the large surge we saw in June. Chinook catch in the area is still about 50% than what we saw last year and remains to be double the 5 year average. This is the second month that we have seen Area 14 catches much stronger than normal, and large migratory chinook continued to show up in the creel survey throughout the month.



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Area 15/16 – effort was slightly above average in Area 15 and almost doubled in Area 16, chinook catches more than doubled in both areas and local reports indicated that conditions and migratory fish abundances in local waters close to the coast were good through most of July.

Area 17 showed a decline in effort this month compared to June, and was about 50% less than what we saw in July 2011. Reports indicated the abundance of chinook in the area was lower than in 2011 and catch was down about 60% compared to the same month last year. Total chinook catch for the area still remains well above average because of the excellent chinook fishing earlier in the season.

Area 18 catch and effort have remained about average through the month of July.

South Island – Juan de Fuca

Areas 19 saw about a 25% increase in effort for the month of July. Chinook catches were up about the same amount. Anglers appeared to be changing their focus from halibut to salmon in this area, as migratory chinook abundance increases and size regulations came off mid-month. The halibut catch in Area 19 dropped off in July to about 50% of what it was in June, and halibut catch was slightly lower than in 2011.

Area 20 saw a decrease in effort by about 25% compared to 2011 and the long term average. Coho abundance and encounters in this area dominated the Juan de Fuca fishery in July. Coho catches were about 600-700% higher than the 5 year average, and coho releases were up about 500%. The sheer abundance of coho likely had an effect on the chinook fishery, which had about a 30% lower catch than in July 2011. Local reports indicated that on certain days it was almost impossible to catch chinook because of the amount of coho in the area. Halibut catches were up slightly in Area 20.

SWVI

Swiftsure Bank and Area **21/121** saw increased effort and chinook catches in the month of July. Coho abundance dominated the fishery at certain times and coho catch was up about 100% compared to 2011 and about 300% greater than the 5 year average. Halibut catch also increased in 121 by about 25% compared to July 2011. Bamfield and Ucluelet **23/123** saw declines in effort inshore and average effort in the offshore fishery compared to 2011. The inshore chinook fishery was very strong, and catches and CPUE were noticeably higher than in 2011. Good abundances of chinook have been in Barkley Sound consistently through the month of July. Offshore chinook catch was down compared to 2011 and the long term average, likely due to the decline in effort. Halibut catches were slightly above July 2011, but halibut catch in the area remains below the 5 year average. The coho abundances that were observed in Juan de Fuca and Swiftsure were not as prolific in Area 123, although coho catch in Area 123 was up compared to last year, but similar to the 5 year average. Large schools of mackerel have been observed both inshore and offshore.



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Areas **24/124** saw about average effort for both the inshore and offshore fisheries. Inshore chinook catches are up, but chinook and coho catch in the offshore fisheries are both about average. Halibut catch in 124 continues to be strong and the catch for July was approximately double that in July 2011 and up about 100% compared to the 5 year average. Large schools of mackerel have been observed both inshore and offshore.

NWVI

Area **25/125** started their creel survey in July. Effort was estimated to be up slightly from 2011 in both the inshore and the offshore fisheries, possibly due to the incredible chinook fishing seen here in 2011. Chinook catch was down about 50% compared to July 2011, but still above the 5 year average. Some of this reduction in catch may be due to the large presence of mackerel and the diminishing effects they have on the ability to catch chinook in the inshore area. Coho catch was average in both the inshore and offshore fisheries. Halibut catch in 125 continues to be strong and is approximately double what it was in 2011 and up about 50% compared to the 5 year average.

Area **26/126** catch is estimated using logbooks and lodge manifests. Effort inshore and chinook catch were both about average in July. Offshore effort was estimated to be up about 100% and chinook and halibut catch were both up by about 300%. Coho catches have also been exceptionally high in the offshore fisheries.

Area 27/127 saw a decrease in inshore effort and catch for both salmon and halibut. The offshore fishery effort was similar to what we saw last year and chinook and coho catches are both about average. Halibut catches are up slightly from last year.

South Coast Wide

Coho have migrated through most areas of the South Coast and have been hugely abundant in Juan de Fuca and the Swiftsure Bank area. Smaller but still significantly above average coho schools showed up in Campbell River and in Kyuquot in July. Reports from guides and anglers indicate a good mix of clipped and unclipped fish in these areas, and we aren't seeing the huge discrepancy that we did in 2011 between released and retained coho numbers.

Mackerel moved onto the west coast of the Vancouver Island in July mainly between Barkley Sound and Quatsino Sound. Reports of other warm water species such as tuna, moonfish and ocean sunfish have come from some of our west coast fisheries and will likely continue as this warm water pattern persists into August.



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Currently the WCVI AABM chinook catch in the recreational fishery through the end of July is estimated to be 41,885 pieces tracking above the 5 year average of 31,450

The monthly effort in July is estimated to slightly less than that in 2011. The total cumulative effort is estimated to be higher than in 2011, likely due to some of the strong fisheries we had earlier in the season.

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 July 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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Table 1 Creel survey statistics (number of interviews and flights) and preliminary effort estimates (number of boat trips) by Pacific Fishery Management Area, July 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	215	8	945	14%	1423	794
12	611	8	4954	11%	6854	7740
13	150	10	6559	6%	9179	7597
14	105	10	1846	9%	3988	2796
15	28	10	973	11%	1513	885
16	30	10	1188	13%	1435	1116
17	153	11	2215	9%	5928	3653
18	66	10	984	8%	1679	1593
19	233	10	2228	11%	3743	3101
20	1060	12	7291	11%	11037	14540
21	4	9	73	20%	100	149
121	95	8	1668	9%	1955	886
23	495	15	6224	6%	11339	11281
123	204	9	2687	14%	3538	4001
24	59	9	356	14%	534	618
124	128	9	1303	15%	1978	1533
25	536	9	7882	14%	7882	5693
125	145	9	1403	20%	1403	930
26	Based on Logbooks	7	218		260	324
126	Based on Logbooks	7	941		1179	623
27	514	8	761	14%	1065	1570
127	286	8	1060	15%	1392	1604
28	64	10	2311	10%	2789	2279
29	12	10	1277	11%	2754	1287
Totals ⁴	5193		57347		84947	76593

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), July 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	1600	16%	2178	1587	1741	16%	1971	628	0		0	0
12	2301	12%	3039	3529	2567	14%	2770	3120	0		0	0
13	5074	18%	6181	4415	260	45%	260	165	0		0	0
14	417	23%	1914	717	62	63%	62	72	0		0	0
15	537	28%	623	206	3	72%	3	0	0		0	0
16	265	37%	302	90	0		0	0	0		0	0
17	165	35%	2072	748	0		0	0	0		0	0
18	101	38%	289	178	0		0	0	0		0	0
19	415	24%	606	464	77	45%	83	14	0		0	0
20	4278	8%	6745	7162	9720	16%	9935	1568	51	71%	51	114
21	18	94%	18	223	0		56	30	0		0	0
121	7581	8%	8755	2614	3927	15%	4766	1616	0		0	0
23	5815	8%	9718	6835	4839	9%	5331	2918	4819	12%	17643	43396
123	6843	15%	8784	11147	2942	23%	3171	3197	145	50%	153	82
24	707	30%	942	354	749	28%	780	615	0		0	3
124	3808	16%	5098	4060	882	18%	1457	698	18	76%	18	2
25	7874	10%	7874	6970	3692	15%	3692	3471	0		0	0
125	2152	21%	2152	1347	407	34%	407	443	0		0	0
26	307		382	755	24		33	375	0		0	0
126	3338		4082	1719	283		432	445	0		0	0
27	750	15%	984	1072	1830	15%	2254	2830	0		0	0
127	1832	15%	2052	2595	361	25%	551	590	0		0	0
28	258	75%	258	118	220	48%	220	201	0		0	0
29	41	65%	264	176	10	85%	10	43	0		0	0
Kept Total ²	56477		75312	59081	34596		38244	23039	5033		17865	43597

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), July 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	743	24%	850	403	1605	23%	1620	280	7	78%	12	5
12	3755	14%	4762	3768	2654	15%	2726	2299	190	34%	190	84
13	3451	17%	4222	3275	2705	41%	2727	1077	566	48%	566	361
14	2015	22%	2679	1011	452	43%	717	181	0		0	0
15	1816	25%	3188	430	3	90%	3	18	0		0	0
16	981	48%	1129	238	19	67%	19	4	0		0	0
17	738	26%	2285	1162	102	49%	174	71	0		0	0
18	91	50%	174	195	0		0	0	0		0	0
19	70	55%	178	155	37	106%	37	113	0		0	0
20	1594	22%	2845	3529	22224	17%	22726	3896	621	37%	621	280
21	0		0	0	0		139	85	0		0	0
121	2140	21%	2370	935	4909	20%	6005	1536	0		0	0
23	3944	12%	6134	6362	3373	18%	3505	2759	183	41%	275	2295
123	4691	15%	5605	7629	6276	19%	6798	8380	12	86%	12	60
24	349	41%	439	217	515	33%	580	529	0		0	0
124	5386	21%	6332	2582	2715	20%	2966	2400	66	70%	66	14
25	5208	20%	5208	3209	2827	19%	2827	3324	6	101%	6	39
125	2453	46%	2453	523	1913	26%	1913	1798	52	95%	52	0
26	283		411	122	445		504	18	8		8	0
126	6717		8799	2055	4441		5765	340	40		40	0
27	708	16%	894	693	1412	15%	1684	1858	3	76%	8	7
127	1029	22%	1122	846	1705	23%	1760	1692	14	79%	14	27
28	116	41%	116	219	31	76%	38	172	0		0	0
29	197	39%	260	487	1	123%	5	53	0		0	0
Kept Total ²	48475		62455	40045	60364		65238	32883	1768		1870	3172

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 4 Preliminary recreational kept catch estimates (number of fish) for key groundfish species by Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA), July 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	1100	18%	1606	1209	361	22%	678	382	1395	16%	2516	1082
12	1153	18%	1898	2233	297	27%	477	333	829	15%	1134	1349
13	130	57%	162	70	426	58%	591	334	56	70%	199	305
14	2	84%	11	18	30	66%	40	172	169	36%	321	156
15	4	70%	4	2	77	55%	85	91	7	87%	22	109
16	0		0	0	221	28%	298	176	103	38%	219	464
17	0		0	0	253	34%	1117	397	262	49%	661	826
18	0		0	0	86	44%	205	114	191	28%	477	307
19	208	39%	657	600	99	60%	177	107	487	30%	756	494
20	131	39%	268	395	193	40%	304	230	866	20%	1418	1461
21	7	157%	21	186	0		0	0	0		0	0
121	3913	12%	4643	3664	473	30%	473	239	996	22%	1041	328
23	73	48%	213	355	255	24%	273	429	381	21%	716	1980
123	3077	15%	4213	5789	490	22%	648	2342	1715	11%	2392	2465
24	113	45%	142	114	62	57%	77	117	204	80%	307	260
124	2343	18%	3118	1533	138	43%	163	271	1175	51%	1445	971
25	208	30%	208	342	183	33%	183	345	1350	26%	1350	1265
125	1361	30%	1361	790	2630	42%	2630	598	1997	24%	1997	1224
26	129		147	229	348		366	403	582		615	306
126	1821		2178	1187	3227		4090	1172	1467		1973	678
27	128	22%	219	380	141	25%	196	456	364	17%	501	1089
127	1554	16%	2130	1842	2562	17%	3414	2173	2556	13%	3431	2666
28	0		0	0	0		0	0	5	95%	5	253
29	0		0	0	242	37%	422	66	341	47%	490	146
Kept Total ³	17455		23199	20938	12794		16907	10947	17498		23986	20184

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



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Table 5 Preliminary recreational released catch estimates (number of fish) for key groundfish species by Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA), July 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	300	29%	351	190	513	22%	768	438	723	23%	1013	405
12	352	32%	532	323	918	51%	1150	679	2071	33%	2989	2717
13	0		93	24	1574	74%	2965	1298	975	80%	1999	966
14	0		0	0	193	49%	258	920	199	55%	316	463
15	0		0	0	213	32%	220	362	1	119%	102	296
16	0		0	0	437	28%	768	1115	299	61%	395	855
17	92	68%	163	5	539	36%	1511	2291	1450	26%	3168	2888
18	0		0	0	221	38%	352	755	919	24%	1358	1404
19	6	129%	38	27	303	33%	608	1531	845	29%	1253	1020
20	0		0	0	846	27%	1085	3204	1141	26%	2162	2342
21	0		0	0	4	157%	4	22	18	157%	18	6
121	94	49%	175	268	19	90%	19	51	460	36%	469	59
23	0		39	20	95	52%	193	782	529	38%	682	977
123	241	29%	396	313	178	62%	200	510	211	41%	211	148
24	0		0	0	49	71%	166	67	96	71%	110	99
124	432	44%	432	136	236	45%	649	252	191	47%	273	293
25	27	53%	27	57	480	27%	480	477	2008	35%	2008	726
125	87	73%	87	62	1078	72%	1078	235	757	50%	757	342
26	24		44	1	162		195	8	396		451	10
126	668		966	527	1315		2208	50	647		855	8
27	33	41%	45	70	157	28%	224	233	132	22%	267	439
127	722	22%	1017	286	730	21%	842	407	453	26%	588	618
28	0		0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0
29	0		0	0	121	53%	262	136	234	47%	267	101
Kept Total ³	3078		4405	2309	10381		16205	15823	14755		21711	17182

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



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Table 6 Preliminary recreational kept Chinook catch estimates (number of fish) by Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA), July 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	18	18	200	0	0	0
121	Swiftsure Bank	7581	8755	2600	0	0	0
23 -1,2	Alberni Inlet	44	44	200	0	0	0
23 - 3 to 11	Barkley Sound	5772	9675	6650	0	0	0
123	Offshore Barkely	6843	8784	11150	0	0	0
24	Clayquot Sound	681	916	350	26	26	0
124	Offshore Clayquot	3808	5098	4050	0	0	0
25	Nootka Snd. / Esperanza Inlet	0	0	200	7874	7874	6900
125	Offshore Nootka	2152	2152	1350	0	0	0
26	Kyuquot Sound	0	75	150	307	307	650
126	Offshore Kyuquot	3338	4082	1700	0	0	0
27	Quatsino Sound	0	234	250	750	750	900
127	Offshore Quatsino	1832	2052	2600	0	0	0
Total		32069	41885	31450	8957	8957	8450

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.