



## South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #2 – June 2013

### Overview:

This bulletin provides a monthly update on estimates of recreational fin fishing effort and catch in the marine waters of southern British Columbia, within 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 2013, available on the DFO *ExtraNet*:

[http://www-ops2.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/xnet/content/salmon/sc\\_creelbulletins](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 the responsibility of all fishers to be familiar with the current regulations prior to fishing. The 2013-2015 British Columbia Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Guide will provide you with information on many of regulations and management measures that are in place. A copy of this may be obtained from most licence vendors. It may also be viewed at the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pacific Region Recreational Fishery webpage at:

<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/index-eng.htm>

In season management measure are sometimes required that are not published in the guide. These decisions are implemented by the issuance of a fishery notice which can be viewed at:

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

### FISHERY COMMENTARY:

#### North Island

**Area 11** effort and catch started off slowly because of severe weather conditions however increased slightly in the latter part of June. With this increased effort came a noticeable increase in chinook catches in the approach areas to Queen Charlotte Strait. Coho catches appeared to be about average. Anecdotal reports point to the presence of some very large chinook being taken during the last few days of the month.

**Area 12** around Port Hardy has seen an overall decrease in effort possibly again due to weather conditions early in the month. Chinook catches have been lower than average however coho abundance and an increased number of hatchery-marked coho being encountered has resulted in a catch above the five-year average.

In Campbell River, **Area 13** has seen a much stronger than normal chinook presence and harvest, with large numbers of chinook being caught, with some chinook over 30 pounds caught in late May and early June. Effort is also well above average. Reports have come in from anglers and DFO staff of encounters of 40 or more chinook per day observed through on-the-grounds and ramp checks. Area guides are



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also advising that this season, at least early on is looking to be a very good one. Coho have also shown up in abundance in the area with encounters being considerably earlier and catch much greater in number than of recent record. Anglers are also reporting large amounts of juvenile herring in the area which is likely accounting for increased presence of both chinook and coho. Reports of hatchery-marked coho in the area of up to one of every four being caught on some days. Halibut catch is also well above average.

### Strait of Georgia

Effort and catch are both up considerably throughout the Strait of Georgia with an increased presence of bait very noticeable in the area. Chinook are more abundant than average and larger fish are being observed. There is also a considerable increase in the presence of hatchery-marked coho throughout the area.

**Area 14**, Comox area anglers are reporting better than average chinook fishing, with fish size being smaller than last year. Some of the biggest chinook caught in the South Coast last year in June, were from this area. Coho fishing is reported to be the best in years, with a considerable number of marked fish. Fishing for coho and chinook in the French Creek area has been very good.

In **Area 15 and 16** anglers and DFO staff reported that Powell River is experiencing some of the best chinook fishing that they have ever had. Reports from the lower parts of the Sunshine Coast through Sechelt are also good. No creel survey or effort count flights were conducted in these areas in June.

In **Area 17**, the early chinook fishery has been very good over the last several years, with this year being probably the best. The Silva Bay Father's Day Derby that took place the weekend of June 15 and 16 where anglers usually fish from north of Nanaimo to Porlier Pass, almost doubled in effort and the amount of chinook salmon weigh-ins from what they had in 2012. Fish over 30 pounds were reported from the Nanaimo area on a fairly regular basis, in greater numbers than you would expect for this time of year. Coho are being encountered in most areas in fair to considerable numbers. Large amounts of baitfish, primarily juvenile herring seem to have been holding along the east side of the Strait of Georgia this spring. Overall the Strait of Georgia seems much more productive than it has been in previous years, with increased amounts of bait, whale and bird activity, being reported by anglers and the boating public.

**Area 18** is presently subject to Fraser River chinook restrictions and reports seem to indicate that this is having an effect on catch. Although effort is above average it appears to be more directed at other finfish species where there has been a slight increase in lingcod harvest.



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### Southern Vancouver Island

Fraser River chinook restrictions are likely dampening the effort that southern Vancouver Island might usually expect at this time of year. Although effort seems to be about average, other areas have observed increased effort greater than 300%. There has been no similar increase in effort in **Area 19 and 20**. However those fishing are reporting good results in spite of size restrictions on chinook, especially in **Area 20**, and a few large chinook, some over 40 pounds, are being released in accordance with the management measures in place. Similar to the Strait of Georgia is the large amounts of baitfish, primarily juvenile herring and needlefish being reported in the area.

### Southwest Vancouver Island

In **Area 21/121** large numbers of coho, predominately wild, were reported west of Sheringham, up to 20-30 encounters each day with some large fish to 15 pounds among them. Port Renfrew and Swiftsure effort increased through June but weather conditions in the early part of the month dampened angler enthusiasm. Chinook catches were steady through the later part of June to finish well above average for the month.

**Area 23/123**, Barkley Sound and the offshore approach area has seen above average chinook harvest. Most of the fishery took place early in the season on inside waters and near shore due to weather. There was a good presence of medium-sized feeder springs in **Area 23** and along the surfline for most of May and June. Following the pattern elsewhere, large schools of baitfish have been present along the coastline which seems to keep fish around the area much to the anglers benefit. Offshore, chinook followed a typical pattern of moving through in waves, with a notable increase in abundance from time to time followed by a void in their presence. Halibut harvest was about average, slightly higher in **Area 123** and slightly lower in **Area 23**. Fishing effort was about average.

Cool mild weather conditions resulted in mixed results for the Alberni Inlet sockeye fishery throughout June. The fishery opened with a four fish limit in the inlet and two fish limit in the river. Effort was about average. Harvest in the river at Paper Mill Dam was average or slightly above while it remained below average in the inlet.

In **Area 24** there was a considerable presence of needlefish, sardine and juvenile herring being reported in the Tofino area. Effort in **Area 24** was above average while offshore effort in **Area 124** remained about average. Coho in relatively large numbers in the inshore waters around Tofino were observed in early June which was earlier than the norm. Chinook and coho catches were above average while halibut catch in **Area 124** was below average.



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### Northwest Vancouver Island

No creel surveys or effort count flights occurred in June in **Area 25/125** or **Area 26/126** but lodges and guides report about average effort. Chinook harvest was also reported to be average in Nootka Sound and Esperanza Inlet. Coho were reported very abundant in Esperanza and Kyuquot with anglers having difficulty targeting chinook due to coho presence. DFO staff confirmed reports that mackerel were present in the waters around Gold River. Reports also were heard about large numbers of coho holding off Estevan Point.

**Area 27/127** saw a decrease in effort with catch similarly being below average. Chinook harvested were said to be a larger size than usual for the time of year. Feed in the form of sardine and needlefish were reported abundant compared to recent years.

### **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. Maps identifying the PFMA's are available in the 2013-2015 British Columbia Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Guide, or follow the link provided above to the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pacific Region Recreational Fishery webpage.

### **Recreational Catch Estimates:**

A summary of preliminary kept and released catch estimates for key species by PFMA are presented in Tables 2 through 5. Table 6 presents kept Chinook catch estimates by Pacific Fishery Management Area, divided into Aggregate Abundance-based Management and Individual Stock-based Management groupings.

### **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  
250-949-9273

***Strait of Georgia Survey (PFMA's 13 – 20, 28 & 29)***  
David O'Brien - Program Head, Strait of Georgia Salmon Stock Assessment  
250-756-7003

***West Coast Vancouver Island Survey (PFMA's 20 – 26 & 121 – 126)***  
Diana Dobson - Program Head, WCVI Salmon Stock Assessment  
250-756-7186



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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, June 2013.

Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA)	Number of Creel Interviews	Number of Effort Count Flights <sup>1</sup>	Effort			
			Estimate	% SE <sup>2</sup>	Year to date <sup>3</sup>	Year to date 5-yr average
11	71	5	189	25%	189	277
12	303	5	1010	15%	1010	1810
13	200	8	6486	16%	6486	2273
14	176	8	4539	10%	4539	1276
15	No Survey this month					
16	No Survey this month					
17	142	8	4730	16%	4730	1938
18	55	8	1567	13%	1567	487
19	262	8	2878	9%	2878	1481
20	341	12	6214	12%	6214	5214
21	0 <sup>6</sup>	6	38	41%	38	48
121	75	6	539	37%	539	213
23	234	13	3812	10%	3812	3897
123	68	6	1418	29%	1418	1126
24	22	6	293	15%	293	186
124	39	6	647	37%	647	654
25	No Survey this month					
125	No Survey this month					
26	Based on Logbooks	4	118	0%	118	39
126	Based on Logbooks	4	452	0%	452	162
27 <sup>5</sup>	45	4	158	27%	158	339
127 <sup>5</sup>	30	4	251	10%	251	329
28	No Survey this month					
29	No Survey this month					
<b>Totals <sup>4</sup></b>	<b>2063</b>		<b>35399</b>		<b>35339</b>	<b>21749</b>

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

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

<sup>3</sup> 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)

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

<sup>5</sup> Estimate represents June 15<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Catch per unit effort (CPUE) calculated from adjacent area PFMA 20-1



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**Table 2** Preliminary recreational kept catch estimates (number of fish) for key salmon species by Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA), June 2013. 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 <sup>1</sup>	Year to date 5-yr. average <sup>1</sup>	Estimate	%SE	Year to date <sup>1</sup>	Year to date 5-yr. average <sup>1</sup>	Estimate	%SE	Year to date <sup>1</sup>	Year to date 5-yr. average <sup>1</sup>
11	735	25%	735	343	64	35%	64	70	0		0	0
12	445	20%	445	547	322	28%	322	88	0		0	0
13	4316	19%	4316	1321	5186	24%	5186	86	0		0	0
14	2271	14%	2271	586	2316	17%	2316	37	0		0	0
15	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
16	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
17	1938	20%	1938	779	2261	42%	2261	0	0		0	0
18	51	50%	51	95	0		0	0	0		0	0
19	662	22%	662	246	93	34%	93	7	0		0	0
20	4156	12%	4156	2438	2093	21%	2093	448	0		0	0
21	38	26%	38	100	22	54%	22	30	0		0	0
121	2630	23%	2630	627	757	50%	757	336	0		0	0
23	3084	13%	3084	2018	489	24%	489	711	4891	6%	4891	15119
123	3701	23%	3701	2897	1987	27%	1987	301	0		0	2
24	808	22%	808	107	414	30%	414	67	0		0	0
124	2331	28%	2331	1422	981	34%	981	225	0		0	0
25	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
125	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
26	214		214	87	254		254	13	0		0	0
126	1499		1499	492	914		914	92	0		0	0
27	161	37%	161	235	389	33%	389	448	0		0	0
127	438	38%	438	268	99	40%	99	107	0		0	0
28	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
29	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
Kept Total <sup>2</sup>	29478		29478	14608	18641		18641	3066	4891		4891	15121

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

<sup>2</sup> 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), June 2013. 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 <sup>1</sup>	Year to date 5-yr. average <sup>1</sup>	Estimate	%SE	Year to date <sup>1</sup>	Year to date 5-yr. average <sup>1</sup>	Estimate	%SE	Year to date <sup>1</sup>	Year to date 5-yr. average <sup>1</sup>
11	127	34%	127	119	28	44%	28	10	0		0	0
12	547	20%	547	681	340	27%	340	77	2	103%	2	9
13	5815	21%	5815	839	17292	21%	17292	263	0		0	0
14	6728	16%	6728	428	7194	18%	7194	100	0		0	0
15	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
16	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
17	18866	25%	18866	877	9141	31%	9141	74	0		0	0
18	63	55%	63	45	0		0	0	0		0	0
19	113	47%	113	89	51	81%	51	23	0		0	0
20	2913	20%	2913	1004	4447	25%	4447	771	23	102%	23	15
21	39	34%	39	28	38	69%	38	55	0		0	0
121	2910	27%	2910	191	1982	52%	1982	351	0		0	0
23	1466	18%	1466	1196	610	50%	610	744	51	52%	51	630
123	1822	30%	1822	2555	6357	22%	6357	1159	0		0	0
24	0		0	0	45	74%	45	100	0		0	0
124	1158	27%	1158	662	1621	30%	1621	727	0		0	0
25	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
125	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
26	165		165	134	355		355	62	0		0	0
126	1350		1350	1695	1872		1872	961	0		0	0
27	48	49%	48	174	112	42%	112	296	0		0	0
127	67	67%	67	148	58	46%	58	168	0		0	0
28	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
29	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
Released Total <sup>2</sup>	44197		44197	10865	51543		51543	5941	76		76	654

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

<sup>2</sup> 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), June 2013. 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 <sup>1</sup>			
	Estimate	%SE	Year to date <sup>2</sup>	Year to date 5-yr. average <sup>2</sup>	Estimate	%SE	Year to date <sup>2</sup>	Year to date 5-yr. average <sup>2</sup>	Estimate	%SE	Year to date <sup>2</sup>	Year to date 5-yr. average <sup>2</sup>
11	214	25%	214	351	18	74%	18	196	58	46%	58	612
12	284	25%	284	669	51	51%	51	120	96	29%	96	385
13	192	43%	192	43	252	41%	252	101	326	36%	326	115
14	17	59%	17	12	238	47%	238	33	72	74%	72	49
15	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
16	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
17	0		0	0	283	33%	283	341	288	33%	288	293
18	13	116%	13	16	110	71%	110	74	117	58%	117	118
19	1045	16%	1045	338	62	58%	62	63	250	26%	250	222
20	1139	26%	1139	171	156	44%	156	85	882	23%	882	504
21	1	95%	1	85	1	137%	1	11	9	51%	9	20
121	1288	41%	1288	662	38	61%	38	21	184	46%	184	100
23	61	13%	61	187	98	46%	98	90	228	23%	228	351
123	1659	30%	1659	1271	139	23%	139	561	538	3%	538	847
24	36	73%	36	54	269	82%	269	50	1343	48%	1343	95
124	616	43%	616	625	29	47%	29	125	202	12%	202	402
25	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
125	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
26	46		46	45	70		70	40	111		111	70
126	752		752	290	1393		1393	542	585		585	408
27	43	40%	43	93	29	46%	29	101	34	38%	34	275
127	201	33%	201	416	243	37%	243	492	282	35%	282	624
28	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
29	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
<b>Kept Total<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>7607</b>		<b>7607</b>	<b>5328</b>	<b>3479</b>		<b>3479</b>	<b>3046</b>	<b>5605</b>		<b>5605</b>	<b>5490</b>

<sup>1</sup> All rockfishes; including those not identified to species

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

<sup>3</sup> 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), June 2013. 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 <sup>1</sup>			
	Estimate	%SE	Year to date <sup>2</sup>	Year to date 5-yr. average <sup>2</sup>	Estimate	%SE	Year to date <sup>2</sup>	Year to date 5-yr. average <sup>2</sup>	Estimate	%SE	Year to date <sup>2</sup>	Year to date 5-yr. average <sup>2</sup>
11	60	32%	60	75	40	49%	40	125	0		0	0
12	109	37%	109	114	108	34%	108	289	254	29%	254	799
13	0		0	0	834	30%	834	717	686	30%	686	401
14	10	146%	10	0	293	48%	293	182	271	39%	271	171
15	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
16	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
17	86	98%	86	76	343	40%	343	1175	1341	27%	1341	1110
18	0		0	0	157	49%	157	291	728	37%	728	430
19	132	53%	132	18	720	23%	720	612	884	24%	884	442
20	298	53%	298	71	779	32%	779	1441	1521	23%	1521	1049
21	0		0	0	2	111%	2	4	18	48%	18	1
121	253	58%	253	92	0		0	0	28	80%	28	15
23	0		0	0	36	68%	36	480	182	31%	182	172
123	222	77%	222	138	62	65%	62	236	7	92%	7	33
24	0		0	0	202	74%	202	43	0		0	0
124	10	170%	10	57	0		0	0	0		0	0
25	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
125	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
26	77		77	21	74		74	37	72		72	60
126	983		983	284	665		665	918	174		174	215
27	0		0	0	3	100%	3	68	0		0	0
127	133	77%	133	106	29	72%	29	57	127	58%	127	185
28	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
29	No survey this month				No survey this month				No survey this month			
Released Total <sup>3</sup>	2373		2373	1052	4347		4347	6675	6293		6293	5083

<sup>1</sup> All rockfishes; including those not identified to species

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

<sup>3</sup> 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), June 2013, divided into Aggregate Abundance-based Management (AABM) and Individual Stock-based Management (ISBM) groupings.

Area	Region	AABM			ISBM		
		Estimate	Year to Date <sup>1</sup>	Year to Date 5-yr average <sup>2</sup>	Estimate	Year to Date <sup>1</sup>	Year to Date 5-yr average <sup>2</sup>
21	<b>Nitinat</b>	38	38	100	0	0	0
121	<b>Swiftsure Bank</b>	2630	2630	650	0	0	0
23 -1,2	<b>Alberni Inlet</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
23 - 3 to 11	<b>Barkley Sound</b>	3084	3084	2000	0	0	0
123	<b>Offshore Barkely</b>	3701	3701	2900	0	0	0
24	<b>Clayquot Sound</b>	808	808	100	0	0	0
124	<b>Offshore Clayquot</b>	2331	2331	1400	0	0	0
25	<b>Nootka Snd. / Esperanza Inlet</b>	No survey this month		250	0	0	0
125	<b>Offshore Nootka</b>	No survey this month		500	0	0	0
26	<b>Kyuquot Sound</b>	214	214	100	0	0	0
126	<b>Offshore Kyuquot</b>	1499	1499	500	0	0	0
27	<b>Quatsino Sound</b>	161	161	250	0	0	0
127	<b>Offshore Quatsino</b>	438	438	250	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>14904</b>	<b>14904</b>	<b>9000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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

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