



## South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #3 – July 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 measures 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** Chinook catches continued to be well above the average while effort remained slightly less than average, Coho encounters were low in general especially during the early portions of the month relative to what was seen in Area 12. Groundfish harvests including halibut have been below average. This below average harvest of halibut is likely attributed to the reduced abundance of halibut on the coast.

**Area 12** continued to see decreased effort through July with chinook catches lower than average. The sizeable coho presence continued to provide a good fishery at nearly 50% above the five year average for both wild and hatchery marked encounters. Chinook catches for July included some fish in excess of forty pounds. Halibut fishing was below the five year average again attributed to the lower abundance of halibut on the coast. Halibut releases have shown an increase but this is felt due to the annual limit reduction to six which is encouraging day anglers to release smaller halibut so that larger fish (<126 cm) could be taken if encountered; and encounters with specimens in excess of the 126 cm maximum size limit. Several halibut in excess of 100 pounds were reported released.



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Fishing in Campbell River, **Area 13**, has continued to far exceed the five-year average with many chinook in the teens to low twenties and a few over thirty being caught. The presence of herring and needlefish in the area well above what has been observed in recent years likely continues to provide reason for salmon to be more abundant. Coho fishing continued strong for the first three weeks of July, tapered off for a few days and then continued as good as it was earlier. Also being reported is fewer encounters of sub-legal lingcod with a higher number of fish being harvested some of which have exceeded thirty pounds. Halibut catch has also been well above average with many fish in the 12 to 25 pound range harvested and a few larger fish being released.

### **Strait of Georgia**

The presence of large amounts of feed continues to be observed.

**Area 14**, Comox area anglers are still having no trouble encountering chinook and coho, commenting that the presence of both has not been observed in such abundance since the late 1980s. The Kitty Coleman area has produced coho steadily for the past two months however hatchery marked encounters are few compared to wild releases.

In **Area 15 and 16** anglers report that Powell River is still experiencing terrific chinook and coho fishing with no indication in it slowing down in the last month. Limited pink encounters have been reported in the area and no change in encounters with groundfish. No creel survey or effort count flights were conducted in these areas in July.

In **Area 17**, the chinook fishery continued to provide anglers with regular encounters during the first part of the month and then slowed. Coho continue to be encountered throughout the area with a few in excess of fifteen pounds. Large amounts of baitfish, primarily juvenile herring are still present throughout the Strait of Georgia.

**Area 18** is presently subject to Fraser River chinook restrictions and reports seem to indicate that this is having an effect on catch. Effort continues to be high and above average. Chinook catch was below average for the month with many fish being small in size. Pink salmon encounters built up strongly towards the last week in July. Coho encounters were not as high as in other areas along the east coast of Vancouver Island.

### **Southern Vancouver Island**

Effort throughout July was steady around Victoria and the Sooke area. Chinook harvest is near to three times the average for **Area 19** and shows a 30 percent increase in **Area 20**. Many small chinook are being encountered with a number less



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than 14 pounds, however there has been some large hatchery marked chinook landed. The halibut harvest has been very good seeing increased landings for both areas respectively, doubling and tripling the five-year averages. Several large fish have been released in excess of 126 cm. Pink salmon encounters have been numerous especially in the Sooke area.

### Southwest Vancouver Island

In **Area 21/121** large numbers of wild coho continued to be encountered. Wind has kept many fishers near shore where fishing has been productive for chinook. Fish have been generally small in size however a few in excess of 30 pounds have been weighed in at Port Renfrew.

**Area 23/123**, Barkley Sound and the offshore approach area has witnessed a decrease in effort over the past month. This again could be due to the very good fishing conditions in the Strait of Georgia, Victoria and Johnstone Strait areas. Chinook catches have been about average while encounters with wild coho continued to build throughout the month. Halibut harvest continues at average levels.

Effort directed towards adult sockeye waned as their presence dwindled throughout the month and numerous jack sockeye, which have been present in number all year, continued to comprise the majority of the late season run. Management measures were implemented in the Somass River below Paper Mill Dam out to Lone Tree Point in Alberni Inlet late in the month to ensure limited impact on the remainder of the run. Effort was about average the first two weeks of the month although it dropped considerably afterward due to the increased encounters with jacks and the tail end of the sockeye run becoming noticeable.

Effort in **Area 24** was above average while offshore effort in **Area 124** was down about 30 percent. Chinook encounters in Area 124 were below average while wild coho encounters were more numerous. The harvest of hatchery marked coho in the area is almost three times the five-year average. Halibut catches in the area continued to be below average.

### Northwest Vancouver Island

Lodges and guides continue to provide effort and catch data through the log book program and report above average catch in **Area 25** while **Area 125** catches are below the five-year average. Effort on inside waters has been about average while offshore effort has dropped. This is not unusual when fishing inside is good as has been the case. Coho continue to be very abundant offshore of Esperanza and Kyuquot with anglers having difficulty targeting chinook due to coho presence. Some anglers reported coho encounters of up to ten an hour with some days seeing gear spending little time in the water without it being taken by one of the numerous coho.



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**Area 27/127** saw a continued decline in effort however chinook encounters have been slightly above average while coho encounters have been about average. Halibut catch is below the five year average.

### **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:

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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 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	89	8	696	13%	885	927
12	559	8	3901	9%	4910	7701
13	258	9	7373	6%	13859	7848
14	187	9	6125	8%	10664	3141
15	No survey this month					1008
16	No survey this month					1240
17	185	9	2842	12%	7572	4194
18	69	9	1190	11%	2758	1470
19	284	9	2731	11%	5609	3332
20	932	9	8563	16%	14777	14271
21	4	5	101	42%	142	158
121	95	5	629	26%	1168	924
23	594	16	6020	7%	9832	12057
123	283	8	1750	29%	3168	3899
24	69	7	536	19%	829	593
124	148	7	490	16%	1137	1728
25	435	8	5359	20%	5359	5420
125	167	7	684	28%	684	1188
26	Based on Logbooks	7	353		471	256
126	Based on Logbooks	7	884		1336	788
27	239	7	832	14%	990	1626
127	182	7	1213	18%	1464	1729
28	106	9	3146	14%	3146	2478
29	13	9	712	17%	712	1631
Totals <sup>4</sup>	4906		56128		91470	79607

<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 ( from June 2013) to date 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



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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 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	1898	15%	2633	1692	876	17%	940	968				
12	2164	10%	2609	3628	3434	13%	3755	2652				
13	4939	10%	9255	5040	5482	11%	10668	215				
14	1123	50%	3395	954	2489	40%	4805	69				
15	No survey this month											
16	No survey this month											
17	388	29%	2326	1098	288	49%	2549					
18	29	90%	81	201								
19	781	19%	1443	520	96	40%	189	33				
20	5855	10%	10011	7036	5432	20%	7525	3116				
21	25	61%	63	188	50	100%	72	39				
121	3349	16%	5979	3571	2410	27%	3168	1918				
23	2500	18%	5584	6397	3744	19%	4233	2988	11890	11%	16781	38277
123	8112	33%	11813	11737	1161	30%	3148	2734				
24	1216	19%	2025	440	2030	19%	2444	600				
124	2185	15%	4516	4785	1082	23%	2063	950				
25	7343	17%	7343	6683	6788	13%	6788	3467				
125	975	21%	975	1942	737	26%	737	617				
26	552		766	567	592		846	141				
126	2122		3621	2432	1041		1955	542				
27	1240	10%	1401	1101	2221	12%	2610	3008				
127	2726	12%	3164	2663	997	17%	1096	616				
28	124	45%	124	162	1639	29%	1639	204				
29	60	87%	60	224	5	66%	5	37				
Kept Total <sup>2</sup>	49706		79187	63061	42594		61235	24914	11890		16781	38277

<sup>1</sup> Cumulative kept catch (from June 2013) to date 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), July 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	652	19%	779	567	437	29%	465	548	6	109%	6	7
12	3082	14%	3629	4473	4229	19%	4569	2547	14	104%	16	107
13	6426	11%	12241	2773	18881	10%	36172	1438				
14	8383	21%	15111	1106	14514	33%	21708	298				
15	No survey this month											
16	No survey this month											
17	3490	28%	22357	1547	1427	28%	10569	94				
18	56	58%	119	182	0		0	0				
19	509	56%	622	153	335	35%	386	105				
20	4402	15%	7315	3074	21529	17%	25976	7375	377	42%	400	357
21	25	100%	64	30	75	58%	113	78				
121	2888	22%	5798	1238	5605	27%	7587	2386				
23	5236	20%	6702	5245	4800	22%	5409	2361	5269	15%	5321	2338
123	11518	35%	13340	8420	2282	32%	8639	8029				
24	286	31%	286	249	192	33%	237	527				
124	1373	20%	2532	3575	2387	23%	4008	2962				
25	4691	18%	4691	3514	10576	18%	10576	3024				
125	386	29%	386	971	3295	27%	3295	2111				
26	558		723	212	384		739	170				
126	1139		2489	3926	3360		5232	1805				
27	763	13%	811	838	1874	16%	1986	2128				
127	1372	16%	1439	1058	1774	19%	1833	2008				
28	423	48%	423	108	405	41%	405	164				
29	61	71%	61	451	15	85%	15	44				
Released Total <sup>2</sup>	57719		101918	43710	98376		149919	40202	5666		5743	2809

<sup>1</sup> Cumulative kept catch (from June 2013) to date 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), July 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	513	17%	727	1147	229	11%	247	487	779	12%	837	1392
12	778	16%	1062	2021	267	25%	318	382	733	16%	829	1315
13	118	48%	310	87	1488	27%	1739	347	907	42%	1232	286
14	0		17	13	447	65%	685	173	270	57%	341	206
15	No survey this month											
16	No survey this month											
17	27	105%	27	0	267	47%	550	555	847	39%	1135	780
18	7	102%	19	16	45	72%	155	126	57	39%	174	330
19	505	36%	1550	690	38	80%	100	132	491	23%	741	554
20	200	30%	1339	377	106	30%	262	246	1019	16%	1901	1506
21	25	100%	26	147	19	100%	19	17	87	60%	96	50
121	2044	26%	3332	2855	51	53%	89	209	140	38%	325	396
23	117	63%	178	336	287	39%	384	349	916	71%	1144	1471
123	2430	38%	4089	4596	224	48%	363	1707	187	39%	725	2338
24	140	37%	177	109	108	72%	377	121	75	57%	1418	260
124	920	22%	1535	1836	104	47%	133	266	71	55%	273	1112
25	291	37%	291	324	561	33%	561	317	824	34%	824	1070
125	361	31%	361	918	605	41%	605	1044	831	24%	831	1488
26	99		145	254	222		292	370	287		398	340
126	1259		2011	1315	2214		3607	1982	1018		1603	1060
27	129	18%	172	353	155	20%	184	393	228	16%	262	1066
127	1046	16%	1247	2008	1586	16%	1830	2662	1891	15%	2172	3052
28	0		0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0
29	0		0	0	18	81%	18	161	102	45%	102	235
Kept Total <sup>3</sup>	11009		18615	19402	9041		12518	12046	11760		17363	20307

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

<sup>2</sup> Cumulative kept catch (from June 2013) to date 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), July 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	95	37%	156	215	112	34%	152	504	255	20%	255	593
12	350	24%	459	385	299	25%	407	869	1010	17%	1264	3128
13	0		0	0	2796	31%	3630	1470	2616	27%	3301	910
14	0		10	3	1360	62%	1653	923	266	42%	537	462
15	No survey this month											
16	No survey this month											
17	0		86	160	1054	38%	1397	2284	1988	26%	3329	2825
18	0		0	0	344	47%	502	661	557	45%	1285	1330
19	81	47%	214	33	656	32%	1376	1432	887	29%	1771	1072
20	19	87%	318	80	390	27%	1170	3152	1191	24%	2712	2548
21	0		0	0	0		2	16	69	58%	87	8
121	224	37%	477	255	0		0	0	21	83%	48	127
23	69	46%	69	19	136	30%	172	710	102	55%	284	938
123	476	52%	699	379	85	44%	147	536	0		7	176
24	7	70%	7	21	0		202	94	0		0	0
124	112	58%	122	171	0		0	0	0		0	0
25	13	68%	13	55	205	46%	205	415	342	39%	342	626
125	22	51%	22	70	357	58%	357	421	206	52%	206	437
26	126		203	30	152		226	102	188		260	219
126	1192		2175	678	745		1410	1444	321		495	317
27	82	58%	82	65	59	14%	62	271	123	41%	123	484
127	364	20%	497	433	479	25%	508	494	105	30%	232	612
28	0		0	0	84	64%	84	102	28	85%	28	584
29	0		0	0	5	66%	5	162	20	104%	20	160
Released Total <sup>3</sup>	3232		5609	3052	9318		13667	16062	10295		16586	17556

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

<sup>2</sup> Cumulative kept catch (from June 2013) to date 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), July 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>	25	63	200	0	0	0
121	<b>Swiftsure Bank</b>	3349	5979	3550	0	0	0
23 -1,2	<b>Alberni Inlet</b>	0	0	50	0	0	0
23 - 3 to 11	<b>Barkley Sound</b>	2500	5574	6350	10	10	0
123	<b>Offshore Barkely</b>	8112	11813	11750	0	0	0
24	<b>Clayquot Sound</b>	1216	2025	450	0	0	0
124	<b>Offshore Clayquot</b>	2185	4516	4800	0	0	0
25	<b>Nootka Snd. / Esperanza Inlet</b>	0	0	250	7343	7343	6600
125	<b>Offshore Nootka</b>	975	975	1950	0	0	0
26	<b>Kyuquot Sound</b>	0	214	100	552	552	500
126	<b>Offshore Kyuquot</b>	2122	3621	2450	0	0	0
27	<b>Quatsino Sound</b>	0	161	250	1240	1240	850
127	<b>Offshore Quatsino</b>	2726	3164	2650	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>23210</b>	<b>38105</b>	<b>34800</b>	<b>9145</b>	<b>9145</b>	<b>7950</b>

<sup>1</sup> Cumulative kept (from June 2013) to date 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.