



South Coast Creel Survey Bulletin #4 – August 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

*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 the 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 and coho catch continued to trend above the five-year average in Area 11 although chinook size is reported to be lower than in recent past years. Halibut fishing was poor during August with smaller fish making up much of the catch however some larger fish encountered and released in accordance with the 2013 size limits.

Area 12

Area 12 fishers continued to experience poorer catches of chinook salmon at the beginning of the month and this continued through August. Halibut catch was also very poor with smaller fish making up much of the catch.

Area 13

Chinook catch in Area 13 continued to be very good and above the five-year average. Coho abundance also continued to trend very high with a large number of wild fish present. Lingcod abundance has proved well above average with some very large fish coming into the fishery.



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Strait of Georgia

Area 14

Excellent chinook and coho fishing continued throughout the area. Wild coho have been very abundant in Area 14. Slightly less than 30,000 coho have been released to date. The five-year average is 727.

Area 15

Fishers around Powell River and Lund continued to experience the best fishing they have had in at least 30 years. Not only has there been a share of chinook in the 15 to 20 pound range like in most areas of the south coast, but there have been plenty over 40 pounds and a few breaking 50. In addition larger lingcod have been plentiful and have made nice additions to round out a day on the water. A few halibut have also been trolled up off the bottom incidentally on salmon gear.

Area 16

August was another very productive month for fishers on the Sunshine Coast. Lots of chinook in the teens and low twenties with some larger. Lingcod fishing has also been more productive than in recent years with several in the 8 to 11 pound range.

Area 17

Fishing around the Nanaimo area continued to be extremely productive for area fishers. The chinook harvest is double the five-year average and coho presence, which has been basically nil in the recent past is now suitable to support a very good fishery. A fair number of catchable sized lingcod are also being encountered.

Area 18

Fishing in the Cowichan Bay area has been about average for the month of August. Effort has been down with most fishers from the Duncan area traveling to areas of greater abundance when seeking opportunity.

Southern Vancouver Island

Area 19

August began with fishing around Victoria being as consistently good as it had been through July for chinook to 30 pounds and halibut fairly abundant. The majority of the chinook landed were as in many other areas on the southcoast in the teens and low twenties but with larger fish showing later in the month. Esquimalt, Constance Bank and Oak Bay Flats reported as all fishing well early in the month for chinook. Pink salmon encounters were plentiful throughout the month. Rockfish and lingcod were also plentiful with some large Copper and Yelloweye rockfish reported in the catch.



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Area 20

Around the Sooke area there have been plenty of chinook in the 15 to 25 pound range making up the bulk of the fishery with a few reaching over 30 pounds. Catch did slow down towards the very end of the month with poorer catches during the last week of August. Coho continued abundant with pink salmon encounters building through the month of September. Good fishing for chinook, coho and pinks near the beach. Halibut fishing was weather and current dependant but was consistently good.

Southwest Vancouver Island

Area 21/121

Some limited activity was reported at the Gap with anglers harvesting chinook and lingcod. Coho encounters in the area were fewer and sporadic with the majority being wild. In Area 121 there was very good fishing for chinook to thirty pounds with the majority harvested showing in the high teens. Coho were abundant most days but harder to find at times. Some coho landed in the high teens.

Area 22

Some limited activity in the lower end of Nitinat Lake with anglers using cutplug herring to take chinook returning to Nitinat River. Most activity was during the last full weekend of the month and the Saturday of the Labour Day long weekend.

Area 23/123

Fishing was still very good especially offshore for the first half of the month but chinook presence began to dwindle in the latter half of the month. Restrictions are in place in Area 23 with no chinook retention over 77 cm in Barkley Sound and no chinook retention in Alberni Inlet. A few fish over 30 pounds were encountered however an average of 13 to 18 pounds seemed to be the norm at the start of the month with larger fish encountered later on. The mostly fine weather made for some good halibut fishing offshore though mainly fish less than 15 pounds were encountered but some larger fish as well. Coho fishing offshore and throughout Area 23 continued to be the best in several years for fish in the range of 7 to 12 pounds with wild fish predominant and a few hatchery-marked finding their way into the catch. Pink salmon encounters picked up around the middle of the month especially offshore.

Area 24/124

Fishing offshore in Area 124 continued to be good with most fishers not having any trouble finding limits of chinook. Coho fishing was about average both offshore and inside Area 24 though most of the encounters were on wild fish. Some large lingcod were taken along with some large yelloweye and a few vermillion rockfish. Halibut fishing was slow. Tuna fishing has been fair and not been as abundant as last year.



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Northwest Vancouver Island

Area 25/125

Very good fishing encountered in Area 125 with chinook and coho limits obtained by most. Ferrer Point, the Highway and Bajo Reef produced some nice chinook. Fishers on the inside waters found no trouble seeing limits of chinook under 77cm as required by regulation at Hoiss Point, Camel Rock and in Tlupana Inlet. Esperanza Inlet was also productive for coho and small chinooks on the days when weather made offshore fishing a bit tougher. A commercial fishery harvested approximately 8900 chinook from Tlupana Inlet during three days fished. Some activity with pinks in the early part of the month was observed with larger pinks being reported compared to previous years. Halibut fishing was also very good with fish in the 15 to 30 range.

Area 26/126

Fishing offshore for chinooks in the 20 to 30 pound range continued throughout the month of August out on the Highway. Still lots of coho passing through nearshore with some larger ones encountered into the high teens. Small halibut incidentally harvested on deep salmon gear was pretty common with larger fish found on and the pinnacles produced large lingcod and yelloweye rockfish consistently. Tuna fishing has been spotty however some good days were enjoined for those willing to travel far offshore for the opportunity.

Area 27/127

There was still very good fishing for chinook and coho through most of August although it tapered off more for chinook early on while coho remained more abundant although wild fish made up most of the encounters.

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.



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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, August 2013.

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	77	5	802	20%	1687	1449
12	449	5	4734	8%	9644	14249
13	235	9	8209	9%	22068	15111
14	291	9	14857	15%	25522	5768
15	No Survey this month					1430
16	No Survey this month					
17	97	9	2690	14%	10262	6272
18	86	9	3179	10%	5937	2852
19	280	9	2438	8%	8047	5393
20	1143	10	14700	5%	29476	28007
21	5	4	74	20%	216	426
121	112	5	930	23%	1885	1755
23	347	10	5430	8%	15262	24123
123	534	7	1877	25%	5055	7312
24	127	6	552	20%	1380	1030
124	116	6	864	36%	2001	3505
25	489	10	5456	16%	10815	10168
125	318	10	1130	20%	1814	3005
26	Based on Logbooks	3	168		641	445
126	Based on Logbooks	3	896		2205	1654
27	385	7	1496	7%	2486	3450
127	231	6	1409	21%	2873	3184
28	91	9	2313	16%	5459	4102
29	31	10	2282	17%	2994	4059
Totals ⁴	5444		76486		167729	148749

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), August 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 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	1043	26%	3676	2420	745	24%	1685	1481	0		0	0
12	1372	13%	3981	6447	599	16%	4354	3405	0		0	0
13	3850	16%	13105	8266	1502	23%	12170	467	0		0	0
14	3440	30%	6834	1698	837	40%	5641	110	0		0	0
15	No survey this month											
16	No survey this month											
17	280	46%	2606	1308	0		2549	18	0		0	0
18	376	41%	456	403	0		0	0	0		0	0
19	688	17%	2131	936	34	52%	223	56	0		0	0
20	18366	5%	28377	15391	4054	9%	11579	5067	0		0	0
21	33	66%	95	441	0		72	157	0		0	0
121	4200	13%	9229	6098	3118	29%	6178	3506	0		0	0
23	2935	22%	10156	19575	7872	13%	12104	6217	0		16781	41658
123	8732	29%	20545	20600	2615	39%	5763	8550	0		0	0
24	205	20%	2230	483	3261	19%	5705	1310	0		0	0
124	1616	33%	6132	10425	1353	38%	3417	2750	0		0	0
25	8619	16%	15962	11491	2747	15%	9535	5964	0		0	0
125	2044	19%	3018	4979	1467	29%	2204	1846	0		0	0
26	159		915	869	553		1401	340	0		0	0
126	2558		5873	5074	965		2735	1574	0		0	0
27	1147	7%	2548	2107	4260	8%	6870	7214	0		0	0
127	2902	14%	6066	5307	1378	18%	2475	1470	0		0	0
28	72	49%	195	236	299	44%	1938	576	0		0	0
29	824	34%	884	507	0		5	97	0		0	0
Kept Total ²	65461		145014	125061	37659		98603	52175	0		16781	41658

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), August 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 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	250	37%	1029	770	871	38%	1336	938	0		6	8
12	2346	16%	5975	7666	5821	11%	10390	8215	24	65%	40	540
13	9253	14%	21494	4624	15567	14%	51740	5187	1865	38%	1865	725
14	13782	26%	28893	2986	7865	28%	29574	727	0		0	0
15	No survey this month											
16	No survey this month											
17	2167	25%	24524	3660	312	41%	10881	551	0		0	0
18	633	52%	751	400	0		0	0	122	61%	122	26
19	200	27%	822	474	161	40%	547	173	15	71%	15	37
20	13381	9%	20696	7361	14161	9%	40138	12077	1089	28%	1489	879
21	0		64	81	0		113	129	0		0	0
121	Not available in-season											
23	2770	20%	9472	9183	1204	32%	6614	4227	0		5321	2101
123	Not available in-season											
24	767	23%	1054	354	2141	30%	2378	1241	0		0	0
124	959	45%	3490	7668	3739	36%	7747	8787	0		0	0
25	7335	17%	12026	6531	887	35%	11464	4063	0		0	0
125	925	55%	1310	2058	7323	33%	10618	6394	0		0	0
26	Not available in-season											
126	Not available in-season											
27	507	10%	1318	1778	2073	13%	4059	4215	0		0	0
127	816	22%	2255	1913	3403	23%	5235	4068	0		0	0
28	307	92%	730	476	105	63%	510	476	105	64%	105	5
29	1130	41%	1191	1707	3	109%	19	114	306	61%	306	831
Released Total ²	57528		137094	59690	65636		193363	61582	3526		9269	5152

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), August 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 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	472	24%	1199	1750	323	22%	569	763	625	23%	1462	2099
12	828	20%	1890	3368	90	35%	408	682	684	23%	1513	2357
13	27	91%	338	92	836	34%	2575	463	349	39%	1581	622
14	7	105%	24	12	450	61%	1135	262	786	59%	1128	371
15	No survey this month											
16	No survey this month											
17	0		27	17	611	40%	1161	816	1070	34%	2204	1302
18	0		19	27	291	46%	446	234	369	35%	543	468
19	324	37%	1874	1011	78	40%	178	204	307	36%	1049	775
20	308	38%	1647	580	316	24%	579	449	1440	14%	3341	2699
21	82	52%	108	341	0		19	37	144	77%	240	75
121	2102	27%	5042	5536	Not available in-season							
23	50	42%	228	503	439	35%	823	746	624	31%	1768	2219
123	3093	26%	3179	8189	Not available in-season							
24	29	44%	206	133	141	40%	518	151	665	36%	2083	353
124	1404	35%	2939	3037	196	39%	329	598	164	62%	437	1746
25	99	50%	389	461	279	41%	839	552	368	34%	1192	1935
125	630	30%	991	2047	935	40%	1540	2700	1207	29%	2038	3824
26	37		179	485	Not available in-season							
126	1321		3179	2618	Not available in-season							
27	221	11%	393	557	340	13%	524	691	519	12%	781	1869
127	1404	21%	2652	3662	1493	20%	3323	4878	1931	14%	4103	5700
28	0		0	0	0		0	0	48	63%	48	199
29	0		0	0	80	75%	98	169	109	73%	211	236
Kept Total ³	12438		26503	34426	6898		15064	14395	11409		25722	28849

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), August 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 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	239	43%	395	318	56	47%	207	676	882	33%	1137	920
12	375	35%	835	583	169	33%	576	1175	1204	21%	2468	5690
13	0		0	0	2022	35%	5652	2357	651	34%	3952	1508
14	10	101%	19	2	2488	55%	4141	1486	1891	51%	2428	692
15	No survey this month											
16	No survey this month											
17	0		86	160	1033	60%	2430	3353	2390	34%	5719	4510
18	0		0	0	485	34%	986	910	732	37%	2017	1954
19	15	101%	229	54	328	27%	1704	2041	574	38%	2345	1484
20	86	69%	404	102	647	24%	1817	4774	1568	19%	4280	4076
21	62	77%	62	28	0		2	21	0		87	27
121	Not available in-season											
23	0		69	33	279	42%	451	1118	212	52%	495	1427
123	Not available in-season											
24	0		7	21	23	63%	225	152	110	64%	110	182
124	579	94%	701	360	1	167%	1	785	0		0	0
25	10	71%	23	123	596	65%	801	648	235	42%	577	934
125	57	55%	79	157	513	79%	870	926	1288	76%	1494	865
26	Not available in-season											
126	Not available in-season											
27	117	20%	199	89	83	21%	145	448	143	21%	267	1018
127	536	27%	1033	709	267	30%	775	932	133	35%	365	956
28	0		0	0	48	45%	132	90	73	47%	100	589
29	0		0	0	28	72%	34	195	94	85%	114	211
Released Total ³	2086		4141	2739	9066		20949	22087	12180		27955	27043

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), August 2013, 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	63	200	33	33	250
121	Swiftsure Bank	4200	9229	6100	0	0	0
23 -1,2	Alberni Inlet	0	0	50	0	0	5650
23 - 3 to 11	Barkley Sound	0	5584	6350	2935	2945	7550
123	Offshore Barkely	8732	20545	20600	0	0	0
24	Clayquot Sound	0	2025	450	205	205	50
124	Offshore Clayquot	1616	6132	10450	0	0	0
25	Nootka Snd. / Esperanza Inlet	0	0	250	8619	15962	11400
125	Offshore Nootka	2044	3018	5000	0	0	0
26	Kyuquot Sound	0	201	100	159	714	800
126	Offshore Kyuquot	2558	5873	5050	0	0	0
27	Quatsino Sound	0	161	250	1147	2386	1850
127	Offshore Quatsino	2600	5738	5300	0	0	0
Total		21750	58570	60150	13098	22245	27550

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.