



**South Coast Assessment Bulletin
June 2020 Creel Survey Update
Recreational Fishery South Coast Tidal Waters**

COVID-19:

COVID-19 affected implementation of the creel survey and so estimation of catch and effort in the June recreational fishery. The June estimates are incomplete in this bulletin. Revised June estimates will be provided in the post season bulletin.

The most significant factor was that the start of dock side monitoring / interviewing was delayed until mid to late June, and under strict Covid guidelines to protect surveyors and the public participating in the fishery. The result is that data in some areas did not meet minimum standards required to produce scientifically defensible estimates for the June 2020 reporting period. Alternative sources of data such as iREC, logbooks, etc. will be used to develop catch estimates for June – but these will not be available until the post season bulletin.

Fishing vessel counts from aircraft did go ahead starting in April in Juan de Fuca and expanding to the broader South Coast area in May and June. However, with no dock side interviews, assumptions of daily fishing patterns, which are key to the expansion from observed counts to total daily fishing effort, had to be made based on previous years activity patterns. As a result estimates of effort presented in this bulletin must be considered preliminary.

Assuming the spread of COVID-19 remains limited, the creel survey will continue, so July and August estimates should be developed as close to normal as possible.

Overview:

This bulletin provides a monthly update on estimates of recreational fin fishing effort in the marine waters of southern British Columbia, within Pacific Fishery Management Areas 11 through 29 and 121 to 127. These estimates are normally 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 2019, available on the Federal Science Library catalogue:

<http://science-libraries.canada.ca/eng/home/>

The search term “South Coast assessment bulletin, creel survey” is helpful to find the bulletins

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 online British Columbia Sport Fishing Guide will provide you with information on regulations and management measures in place. The guide can be accessed from the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pacific Region Recreational Fishery webpage at:

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

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://notices.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fns-sap/index-eng.cfm>

Creel Survey Data:

A summary of preliminary recreation effort, measured in boat trips by Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA) are presented in the following figures and tables. The years 2018, 2019 and 2020 as well as the average of 2014 to 2018 as the 5yr average.

Maps identifying the PFMA's are available by following the link provided above to the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pacific Region Recreational Fishery webpage.



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)

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Strait of Georgia Survey (PFMA's 13 – 20, 28 & 29)

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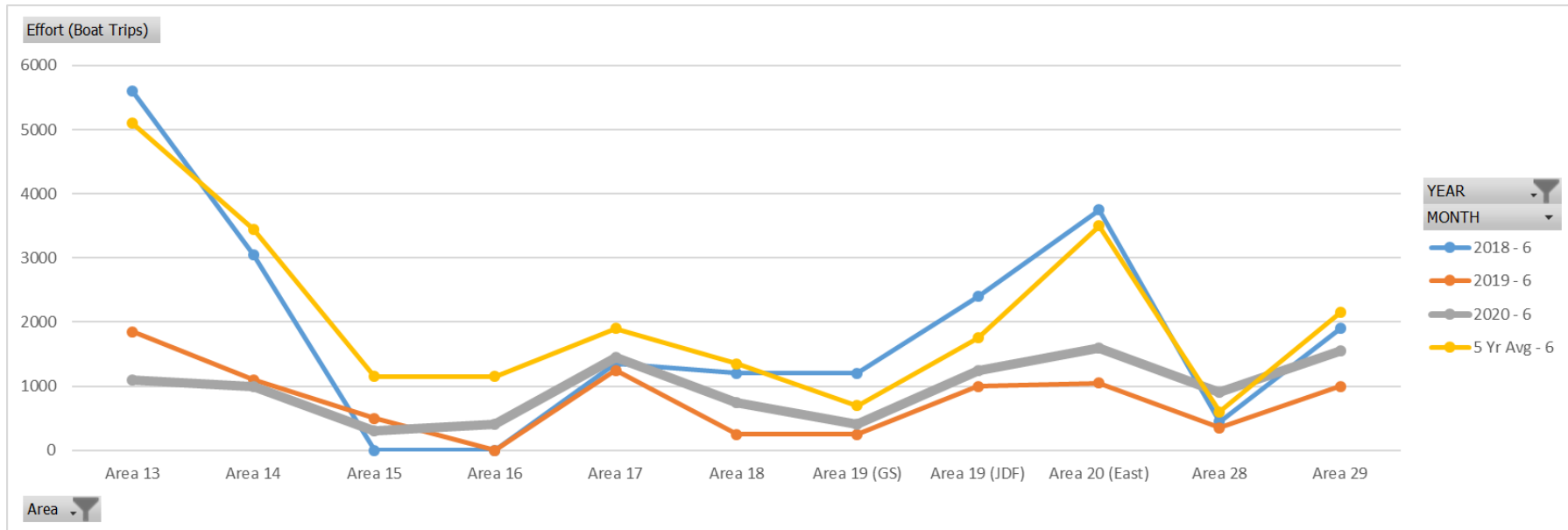
West Coast Vancouver Island Survey (PFMA's 20 – 26 & 121 – 126)

Karin Mathias - Biologist, WCVI Salmon Stock Assessment
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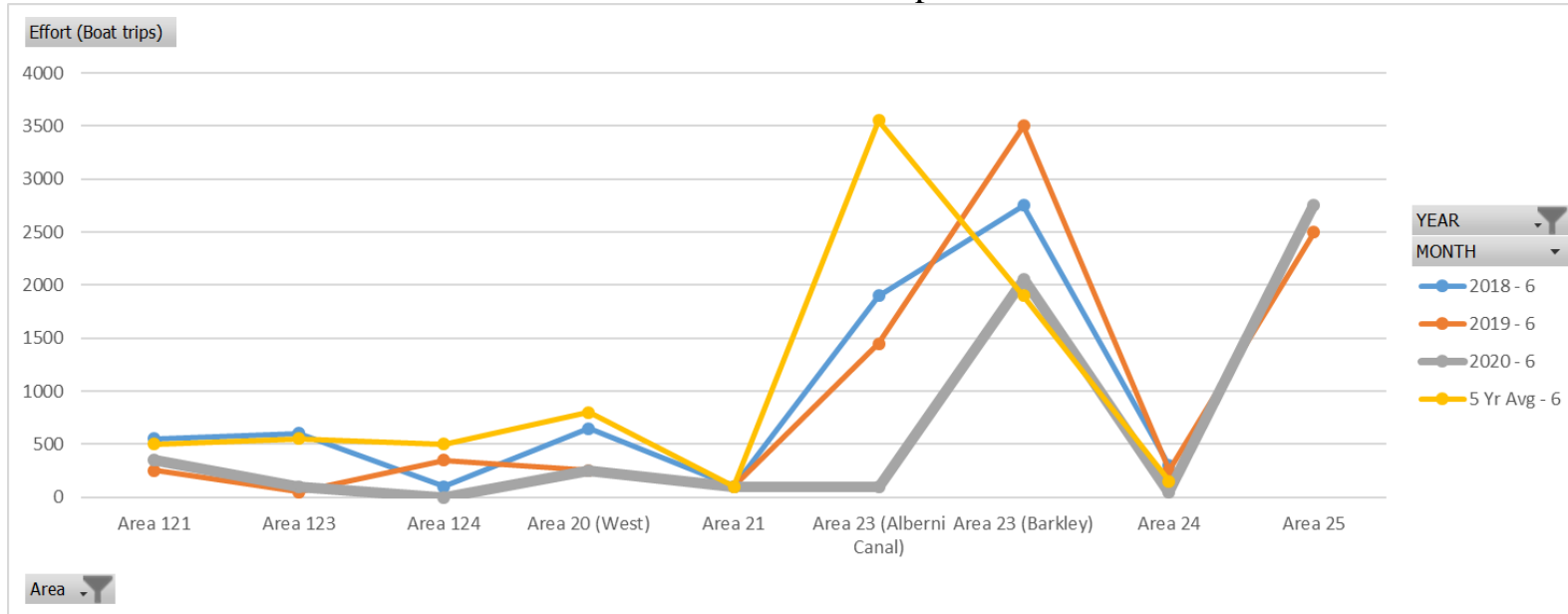
Strait of Georgia Estimates of Effort in Boat Trips



June				
Area	2018	2019	2020	5 Yr Avg
Area 13	5600	1850	1100	5100
Area 14	3050	1100	1000	3450
Area 15		500	300	1150
Area 16			400	1150
Area 17	1350	1250	1450	1900
Area 18	1200	250	750	1350
Area 19 (GS)	1200	250	400	700
Area 19 (JDF)	2400	1000	1250	1750
Area 20 (East)	3750	1050	1600	3500
Area 28	450	350	900	600
Area 29	1900	1000	1550	2150



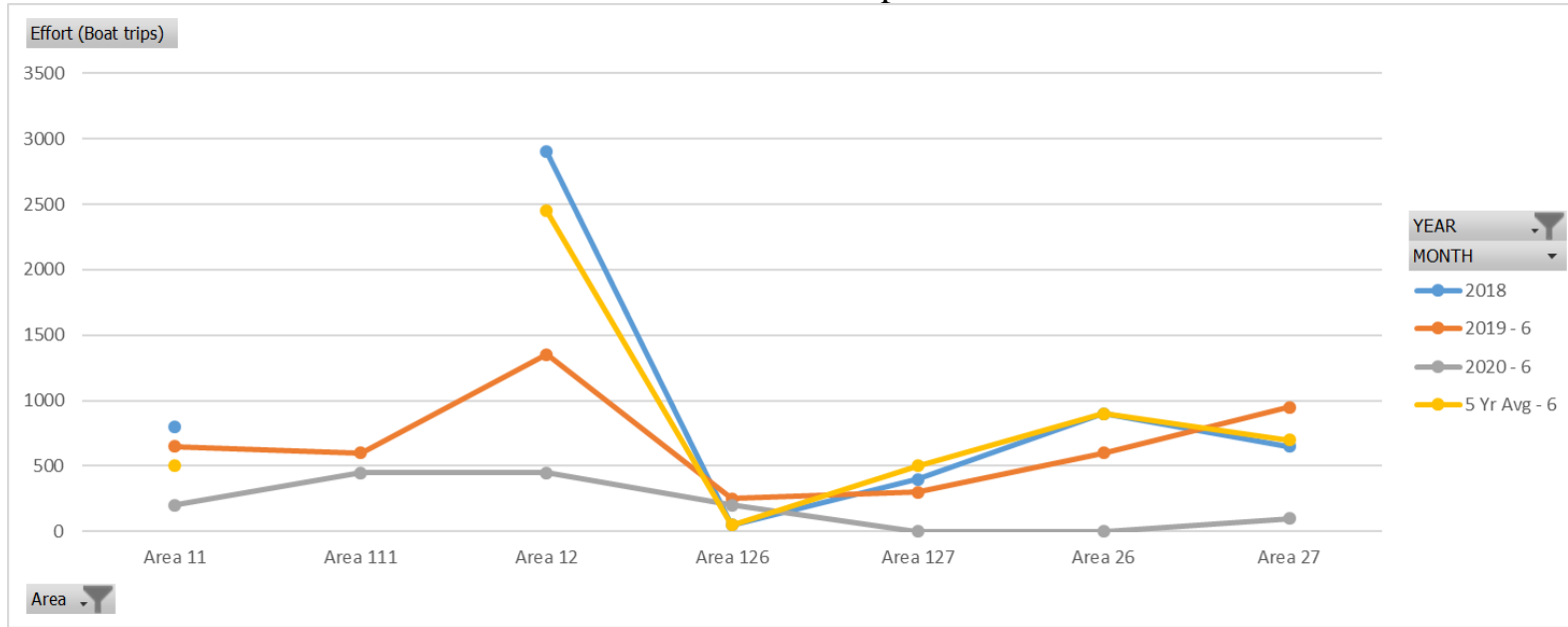
West Coast Vancouver Island Estimates of Effort in Boat Trips



June				
Area	2018	2019	2020	5 Yr Avg
Area 121	550	250	350	500
Area 123	600	50	100	550
Area 124	100	350	0	500
Area 20 (West)	650	250	250	800
Area 21	100	100	100	100
Area 23 (Alberni Canal)	1900	1450	100	3550
Area 23 (Barkley)	2750	3500	2050	1900
Area 24	300	250	50	150
Area 25		2500	2750	



Northern Vancouver Island Estimates of Effort in Boat Trips



June				
Area	2018	2019	2020	5 Yr Avg
Area 11	800	650	200	500
Area 111		600	450	
Area 12	2900	1350	450	2450
Area 126	50	250	200	50
Area 127	400	300	0	500
Area 26	900	600	0	900
Area 27	650	950	100	700