



South Coast Assessment Bulletin
August 2025 Creel Survey Update
Recreational Fishery South Coast Tidal Waters

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 (PFMA) 11 - 29, 111, and 121 - 127. These estimates are generated from data collected by the DFO's South Coast Creel Survey. An overview of the survey, the study area, and methods used to collect data and generate these estimates is provided in the first bulletin of 2025 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. Information on regulations and management measures in place can be accessed from the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pacific Region Recreational Fishery webpage:

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

In addition, Fisheries and Oceans fishery notices of in-season regulation updates can be viewed here:

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

Creel Survey Data:

A summary of survey statistics and preliminary recreation effort, measured in boat trips, by PFMA are presented in Table 1. Maps identifying the PFMA are available by following the link provided above to the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pacific Region Recreational Fishery webpage.

Cumulative totals are calculated June to August inclusive and where surveys were active.

Recreational Catch Estimates:

Summaries 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 PFMA, divided into Aggregate Abundance-based Management (AABM) and Individual Stock-based Management (ISBM) groupings.

Note:

As of March 2022, catch and effort estimates for the creel sub-areas within the management corridor along the west coast of Vancouver Island (i.e. 1 nm seaward from the surfline, from Barkley to Quatsino) are included as part of the associated offshore PFMA, with the exception of Chinook AABM/ISBM catch estimates (Table 6) as per the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

During overflights in PFMA 24, 124, 25, and 125, Five Nations vessels are indistinguishable from sport vessels. Current in-season estimates are not adjusted to remove Five Nations effort.

Contacts:

For additional information on the South Coast Creel Survey Programs, please contact:

Johnstone Strait & North Island Surveys (PFMAs 11, 12, 26, 27, 111, 126, 127)

Matthew Clarke– Program Head, Johnstone Strait Salmon Stock Assessment
Matthew.Clarke@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
250-527-0157

Strait of Georgia Survey (PFMAs 13 – 20, 28, 29)

Kevin Pellett– Program Head, Strait of Georgia Salmon Stock Assessment
Kevin.Pellett@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
250-619-3781

West Coast Vancouver Island Survey (PFMAs 20 – 25, 121 – 125)

Sarah Power– Acting Program Head, WCVI Salmon Stock Assessment
Sarah.Power@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

All South Coast Area

Erin Rechisky– Area Chief South Coast Salmon Stock Assessment
Erin.Rechisky@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
778-269-2196

© His Majesty the King in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, 2025 Cat. No. Fs142-5E-PDF ISSN 2817-3910

Correct citation for this publication:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada. 2025. South Coast Assessment Bulletin, August 2025 Creel Survey Update, Recreational Fishery South Coast Tidal Waters: 8pp.

Table 1: Creel survey statistics (number of interviews and flights) and preliminary effort estimates (number of boat trips) by Pacific Fishery Management Area, August 2025.

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 avg
11	57	6	404	26%	1246	1496
111	33	5	158	35%	854	583
12	274	6	2460	15%	4981	6173
13	439	8	7123	17%	18811	17505
14	310	8	4825	14%	17430	14682
15	136	8	1592	15%	5442	5784
16	113	8	2570	10%	8555	7113
17	201	8	3104	18%	15598	8249
18	58	8	1612	10%	4223	3276
19	329	8	4834	7%	7688	6294
20	1264	15	15565	6%	22825	20618
21	1	10	13	55%	410	453
121	120	10	753	20%	1809	1634
23	713	11	10671	7%	24006	21828
123	354	10	3256	10%	6192	5072
24	61	10	728	16%	1469	926
124	229	10	1883	25%	4060	2446
25	264	10	4518	10%	8980	8886
125	63	8	996	32%	3524	2668
26	Based on Logbooks	4	1436	0%	2811	2863
126	Based on Logbooks	4	887	0%	1548	2168
27	129	4	898	35%	3405	3483
127	108	4	1061	41%	2247	1773
28	105	8	4775	11%	7971	3792
29	79	8	3101	15%	10579	5660
Total ⁴	5486		79223	3%	186664	155425

¹ The number of flights where weather conditions allowed effort counts.

² %SE is a measure of uncertainty: one Standard Error as a percentage of the estimate.

³ Cumulative effort (from June 2025) to date summed across periods where surveys are active.

⁴ Individual flights cover multiple PFMAs, so an additive total is not appropriate.

Table 2: Preliminary recreational kept catch estimates (number of fish) for key salmon species by Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA), August 2025. Percent standard error (%SE; one standard error as a percentage of the estimate), a measure of uncertainty, is indicated for estimates from PFMAs 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	503	34%	3035	3126	611	27%	1161	1197				
111	424	39%	3457	1645	207	40%	412	222				
12	1700	19%	3111	2832	541	21%	1896	2280	550	30%	550	0
13	5473	14%	12633	14317	2642	26%	14044	5252	9018	33%	9018	15
14	4186	16%	9829	11718	5144	17%	27165	4436	490	101%	490	2
15	626	27%	3488	4194	592	33%	2660	871				
16	318	32%	1716	2634	897	25%	3983	1054				
17	1201	25%	4979	2443	4000	24%	19068	3272				
18	226	29%	350	248								
19	2370	13%	2445	1481	336	26%	406	136				
20	21469	5%	24155	14515	6166	9%	8065	8608	908	21%	908	13
21												
121	2731	18%	4188	2836	2734	29%	4475	2682				
23	16958	9%	25299	22739	7434	7%	9471	7476	725	27%	21494	20536
123	6662	10%	10133	11190	3239	16%	4485	3950				
24					1473	20%	1854	1189				
124	2616	17%	7130	4228	1648	21%	2237	662				
25	7146	12%	14362	10818	4356	12%	6317	3517				
125	836	31%	3289	3193	1677	37%	2077	1357				
26	2469		5166	4940	3314		5106	1480				
126	1213		1573	873	276		316	159				
27	575	38%	4663	3047	1409	46%	3346	3251				
127	2219	45%	4212	2042	285	55%	509	501				
28	778	33%	806	549	905	33%	4095	1069	307	57%	307	0
29	357	38%	1423	745	620	29%	8998	2991	116	80%	116	12
Sum ²	83056	4%	151442	126353	50506	5%	132146	57612	12114	25%	32883	20578

¹Cumulative kept catch (from June 2025) to date summed across periods where surveys are active. Only displayed for PFMA where surveys were active this month.

² These are simple sums of the numbers displayed in the columns for the month.

Table 3: Preliminary recreational released catch estimates (number of fish) for key salmon species by Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA), August 2025. 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	256	41%	1314	1441	217	56%	310	448				
111	5	113%	480	447	76	95%	179	13				
12	2104	21%	5405	8017	3562	22%	4354	4748	146	73%	146	29
13	7093	22%	28678	37345	6259	23%	31870	18967	2553	44%	2631	141
14	7829	14%	27511	32181	11304	18%	54645	14123	38	108%	59	9
15	2100	24%	14670	13114	2646	34%	9143	3374	6	74%	6	26
16	1212	21%	11069	8273	4178	22%	15618	4249	0		0	120
17	4435	21%	26653	18937	7625	22%	39387	11699				
18	1982	20%	5368	1903	190	41%	1443	300	43	112%	55	41
19	4564	14%	6066	2635	1904	42%	1952	413	0		0	47
20	48220	8%	66637	34082	16627	10%	22835	25477	923	48%	1056	302
21	0		678	228								
121	564	31%	1066	850	4390	30%	6990	2671				
23	16279	11%	37102	38027	2160	20%	3045	2884	452	31%	1563	2172
123	4315	14%	7704	8695	8408	19%	11535	8857	9	103%	9	7
24	32	95%	468	308	314	49%	486	150				
124	802	45%	4238	1707	3282	26%	5237	1528	13	112%	54	11
25	3337	21%	8508	11843	3499	23%	4017	1533				
125	379	71%	2257	3408	1261	50%	1980	765				
26	897		1662	1190	2568		2990	140				
126	285		344	293	112		147	267				
27	216	41%	1869	2858	1180	45%	2697	1957				
127	406	70%	723	546	2168	78%	3504	848				
28	885	25%	5675	1933	2147	23%	10218	1442	0		28	83
29	2812	24%	15258	7484	4073	22%	28715	7816	66	88%	113	193
Sum ²	111009	5%	281403	237745	90150	6%	263297	114669	4249	29%	5720	3181

¹Cumulative kept catch (from June 2025) to date summed across periods where surveys are active. Only displayed for PFMA where surveys were active this month.

² These are simple sums of the numbers displayed in the columns for the month.

Table 4: Preliminary recreational kept catch estimates (number of fish) for key groundfish species by Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA), August 2025. 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	207	47%	564	726	492	46%	1264	1503	462	31%	1894	2234
111	80	48%	487	377	121	59%	770	345	146	58%	1121	938
12	209	35%	595	1022	344	29%	869	607	490	23%	1389	1727
13	0		0	40	1867	37%	3868	2498	441	26%	2329	1945
14	4	111%	77	13	107	46%	902	440	327	41%	1969	892
15	0		0	26	11	86%	550	454	193	51%	674	400
16	0		0	28	279	34%	603	1104	610	25%	1157	1545
17	0		0	0	53	65%	2999	740	463	42%	1373	1343
18	0		0	0	211	37%	725	421	176	31%	641	977
19	177	51%	392	511	250	33%	578	337	290	29%	991	1677
20	135	42%	279	261	1000	19%	1874	1326	3098	11%	5424	4313
21	16	89%	52	62	0		263	99	0		580	198
121	1334	27%	3866	4254	1445	22%	2330	636	883	21%	1412	1011
23	93	72%	121	133	709	26%	1965	1337	1293	19%	3807	2421
123	1629	25%	3603	5552	1926	21%	3896	1623	2272	14%	3934	2805
24	0		6	24	24	109%	39	146	37	65%	332	315
124	1334	47%	2325	1892	1214	29%	3895	2053	1037	26%	2337	1282
25	0		108	230	592	48%	1691	935	1165	32%	2269	1685
125	168	93%	812	1024	2232	35%	7291	4217	1352	32%	4887	2403
26	34		71	197	405		682	1384	793		1663	1594
126	326		622	2141	2264		3719	4192	551		1018	2510
27	84	30%	478	497	377	23%	1666	1666	453	33%	2352	1983
127	508	60%	1110	1733	3668	46%	7932	4895	1733	38%	3649	2368
28	0		0	2	0		0	7	0		0	10
29	0		0	1	0		552	414	0		328	647
Sum ³	6338	15%	15568	20746	19591	13%	50923	33379	18265	7%	47530	39223

¹ All rockfishes including those not identified to species.

² Cumulative kept catch (from June 2025) to date summed across periods where surveys are active. Only displayed for PFMA where surveys were active this month.

³ These are simple sums of the numbers displayed in the columns for the month.

Table 5: Preliminary recreational released catch estimates (number of fish) for key groundfish species by Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA), August 2025. 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	13	87%	34	118	30	106%	324	521	65	84%	580	1813
111	19	72%	149	44	16	130%	187	325	23	82%	299	597
12	28	87%	105	148	76	41%	215	565	713	32%	2466	4699
13	0		0	25	1981	24%	6650	6961	926	36%	2173	3905
14	0		25	2	201	65%	1048	1574	299	59%	1597	4155
15	0		0	4	201	29%	1151	1619	174	36%	1515	1605
16	0		0	0	452	40%	1895	1792	1089	42%	2649	3828
17	0		0	10	75	49%	2057	1484	801	38%	2113	2083
18	0		0	16	866	42%	2057	1583	542	35%	1804	1498
19	75	61%	170	62	960	23%	1912	3850	715	29%	2093	2344
20	53	66%	181	42	1146	17%	2653	3382	3457	14%	5588	4224
21	0		0	4	0		84	44	0		242	79
121	237	38%	827	423	498	29%	659	145	303	40%	402	259
23	42	98%	76	23	543	30%	1606	1734	2354	27%	4968	3005
123	477	39%	1338	947	1706	32%	3658	1604	1309	18%	2425	1399
24	0		6	0	19	109%	19	48	75	85%	117	248
124	291	47%	447	340	243	50%	830	624	524	31%	1202	553
25	45	84%	60	20	8	100%	346	682	1126	41%	2759	1486
125	178	89%	236	166	825	42%	2419	1648	1148	36%	4214	2103
26	18		30	44	25		71	86	126		221	648
126	142		306	404	199		300	171	349		531	2150
27	46	61%	120	114	106	93%	872	605	329	35%	2525	1786
127	291	85%	612	326	501	52%	1429	841	1797	38%	3780	2080
28	0		101	0	135	40%	194	40	77	51%	86	95
29	0		0	2	477	55%	1167	600	266	62%	559	535
Sum ³	1955	22%	4823	3284	11289	10%	33803	32528	18587	8%	46908	47177

¹ All rockfishes including those not identified to species.

² Cumulative kept catch (from June 2025) to date summed across periods where surveys are active. Only displayed for PFMA where surveys were active this month.

³ These are simple sums of the numbers displayed in the columns for the month.

Table 6: Preliminary recreational kept Chinook catch estimates (number of fish) by Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA), August 2025, 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
121	Swiftsure Bank	2731	4188	2800	0	0	0
123	Offshore Barkley	2126	5597	6550	4536	4536	4650
124	Offshore Clayoquot	1524	6037	3400	1092	1092	850
125	Offshore Nootka	287	1733	1650	548	1556	1550
126	Offshore Kyuquot	1213	1497	1050	0	0	0
127	Offshore Quatsino	1985	2914	1800	233	1298	250
20 (West)	Juan de Fuca	0	0	0	8499	9213	5750
21	Nitinat	0	1953	1100	0	0	300
23-1,2	Alberni Inlet	0	0	150	4920	4920	5900
23-3 to 11	Barkley Sound	0	8306	7100	12038	12038	9650
24	Clayoquot Sound	0	1028	450	0	0	0
25	Nootka Snd. / Esperanza Inlet	0	1888	1350	7146	12474	9450
26	Kyuquot Sound	0	0	1200	2469	5166	3950
27	Quatsino Sound	0	2026	1100	575	2637	1950
Total		9866	37167	29700	42056	54930	44250

¹Cumulative kept catch (from June 2025) to date summed across periods where surveys are active.

²Cumulative kept catch 5-year averages have been rounded to the nearest 50 fish.