



South Coast Assessment Bulletin  
September 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's 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 September 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's 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:

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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, September 2025.**

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 avg
11	No Survey This Month			%	1246	1527
111	No Survey This Month			%	854	587
12	No Survey This Month			%	4981	6554
13	124	8	3115	16%	21926	21091
14	122	8	2209	25%	19639	18817
15	93	8	464	18%	5906	6644
16	30	8	844	25%	9399	8032
17	108	8	1642	32%	17241	10025
18	47	8	1176	23%	5399	4112
19	154	8	2817	25%	10505	8623
20	322	7	2843	30%	25681	27732
21	No Survey This Month			%	411	458
121	No Survey This Month			%	1858	1740
23	184	4	1940	14%	25946	26085
123	No Survey This Month	4		%	6192	5750
24	No Survey This Month			%	1469	1143
124	No Survey This Month			%	4060	2703
25	No Survey This Month			%	8992	9357
125	No Survey This Month			%	3583	2780
26	No Survey This Month			%	2811	2980
126	No Survey This Month			%	1548	2181
27	No Survey This Month			%	3405	3790
127	No Survey This Month			%	2247	1851
28	48	8	1223	12%	9194	5798
29	125	8	8383	33%	18962	11540
Total <sup>4</sup>	1404		26656	12%	213455	191900

<sup>1</sup> The number of flights where weather conditions allowed effort 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 2025) to date summed across periods where surveys are active.

<sup>4</sup> 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), September 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 <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												
111												
12												
13	1326	21%	13959	16814	4308	16%	18352	8497				
14	1707	26%	11535	14829	3388	23%	30553	7030				
15	196	20%	3683	4703	317	18%	2978	1151				
16	225	28%	1941	2785	270	43%	4252	1206				
17	276	48%	5255	2805	1166	38%	20234	3598				
18	441	46%	790	351	234	68%	648	99				
19	948	43%	3393	2095	880	48%	1286	441				
20	1226	26%	25381	17624	2528	26%	10592	15055				
21												
121												
23	1677	18%	26975	24975	1459	14%	10931	9084				
123												
24												
124												
25												
125												
26												
126												
27												
127												
28	381	32%	1187	1518	850	19%	4945	1528				
29	16094	39%	17517	7800	9206	41%	18204	4281				
Sum <sup>2</sup>	24497	26%	111616	96299	24606	16%	122975	51970				

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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), September 2025. Percent standard error (%SE; one standard error as a percentage of the estimate), a measure of uncertainty, is indicated for estimates from PFMA 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												
111												
12												
13	3511	24%	32189	42720	2200	30%	34069	22146				
14	2739	28%	30250	38413	2586	28%	57230	17684				
15	718	23%	15387	13961	393	31%	9536	3732				
16	727	35%	11796	8814	382	42%	16000	4661				
17	4382	39%	31035	22597	5906	36%	45293	14016				
18	1213	41%	6581	2739	376	53%	1819	652				
19	2288	43%	8354	4077	3810	37%	5762	1830	66	113%	66	60
20	2496	24%	69167	40545	9909	23%	32748	46294	33	62%	1090	331
21												
121												
23	1431	35%	38534	40364	835	18%	3881	3201	20	116%	1583	2208
123												
24												
124												
25												
125												
26												
126												
27												
127												
28	426	34%	6101	2530	1384	24%	11602	1889				
29	9076	28%	24334	12912	13738	29%	42453	11530	74	104%	188	510
Sum <sup>2</sup>	29007	12%	273728	229672	41519	13%	260393	127635	193	58%	2927	3109

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup> 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), September 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 <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												
111												
12												
13	0		0	40	988	34%	4856	2919	294	42%	2622	2310
14	0		77	15	19	72%	921	542	195	60%	2164	1234
15	0		0	26	42	64%	592	469	15	50%	689	441
16	0		0	28	172	58%	775	1190	150	48%	1307	1925
17	0		0	0	49	46%	3049	909	41	52%	1413	1596
18	0		0	4	149	56%	874	578	298	45%	937	1190
19	6	115%	397	636	224	48%	802	484	678	39%	1668	2053
20	10	123%	289	339	185	51%	2065	1934	433	28%	5854	5738
21												
121												
23	15	103%	136	133	86	43%	2052	1520	126	27%	3934	2797
123												
24												
124												
25												
125												
26												
126												
27												
127												
28	0		0	2	0		0	10	0		0	34
29	0		0	1	26	65%	578	466	20	75%	348	747
Sum <sup>3</sup>	31	67%	899	1224	1940	20%	16564	11021	2250	17%	20936	20065

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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), September 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)	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												
111												
12												
13	22	101%	22	25	830	26%	7480	8132	901	26%	3075	4406
14	0		25	7	35	57%	1083	1961	51	53%	1647	5625
15	0		0	4	114	40%	1265	1701	149	29%	1664	1713
16	0		0	0	220	61%	2116	2165	148	94%	2797	4326
17	0		0	10	20	46%	2077	1825	127	72%	2240	2563
18	0		0	16	294	55%	2351	1982	559	40%	2362	1845
19	66	113%	235	79	842	34%	2755	5142	882	36%	2976	3050
20	0		183	42	276	49%	2909	4344	927	43%	6510	5323
21												
121												
23	0		76	23	48	52%	1654	2061	147	36%	5114	3467
123												
24												
124												
25												
125												
26												
126												
27												
127												
28	0		101	0	0		194	58	0		86	81
29	0		0	4	83	94%	1250	715	62	58%	621	697
Sum <sup>3</sup>	88	88%	642	210	2762	16%	25134	30086	3953	16%	29092	33096

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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), September 2025, 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>
121	Swiftsure Bank	0	5044	2850	0	0	0
123	Offshore Barkley	0	5597	6800	0	4536	5300
124	Offshore Clayoquot	0	6037	3450	0	1092	900
125	Offshore Nootka	0	1733	1650	0	1660	1550
126	Offshore Kyuquot	0	1497	1400	0	0	0
127	Offshore Quatsino	0	2914	1800	0	1298	300
20 (West)	Juan de Fuca	0	0	0	0	9213	6500
21	Nitinat	0	1953	1100	0	0	300
23-1,2	Alberni Inlet	0	0	150	503	5423	6500
23-3 to 11	Barkley Sound	0	8306	7100	1173	13212	11350
24	Clayoquot Sound	0	1028	450	0	0	200
25	Nootka Snd. / Esperanza Inlet	0	1962	1350	0	12474	9600
26	Kyuquot Sound	0	0	1200	0	5166	4000
27	Quatsino Sound	0	2026	1100	0	2637	2000
Total		0	38097	30400	1676	56711	48500

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

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