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South Coast Assessment Bulletin
July 2026 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 2026 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 is 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 July 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.

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Cat. No. Fs142-5/{23-2649}E-PDF ISSN 2817-3910

Correct citation for this publication:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada. 2026. South Coast Assessment Bulletin, July 2026 Creel Survey Update, Recreational Fishery South Coast Tidal Waters: 8p.

Table 1: Creel survey statistics (number of interviews and flights) and preliminary effort estimates (number of boat trips) by Pacific Fishery Management Area, July 2026.

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	244	7	461	23%	642	889
111	61	7	266	33%	266	581
12	534	7	2086	18%	2373	2989
13	318	13	6704	16%	9107	10239
14	292	13	5467	12%	8971	8093
15	50	13	1501	13%	2318	3856
16	78	13	2750	13%	3401	4825
17	257	12	4017	19%	6744	5900
18	36	12	1120	9%	1991	1882
19	149	12	1352	11%	2844	2885
20	436	15	4213	12%	6902	7527
21	74	8	106	57%	286	420
121	123	9	677	38%	810	1025
23	599	9	7264	9%	13551	11411
123	302	10	1456	14%	1907	2502
24	123	8	1051	15%	1713	649
124	240	9	1437	15%	2018	1612
25	283	9	3586	12%	4628	4203
125	98	9	817	14%	1331	2361
26	Based on Logbooks	5	1948	0%	2882	1619
126	Based on Logbooks	5	746	0%	1252	1194
27	184	6	1287	9%	2028	2129
127	85	6	835	12%	1223	1129
28	122	12	1315	7%	2184	1896
29	87	12	2102	12%	3362	3974
Total ⁴	4801		54564	4%	84734	85790

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 2026) 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), July 2026. 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	1645	14%	2331	2231	458	24%	482	519				
111	1062	19%	1062	1926	111	40%	111	174				
12	887	14%	887	1503	1597	15%	1823	1921				
13	4344	26%	4496	7989	7221	16%	9769	5792				
14	6527	16%	6611	5533	4686	14%	10822	6488				
15	821	20%	907	3296	1147	16%	2200	1062				
16	1949	16%	2020	2008	595	30%	720	1402				
17	1919	35%	1952	1492	2664	25%	3735	4576				
18					279	50%	470	69				
19												
20	1285	15%	1425	1657	1824	22%	1968	4349				
21	437	38%	1401	1398								
121	1695	41%	1695	1211	2499	54%	2499	1241				
23	2999	10%	9089	7988	1421	14%	2883	3380	16565	16%	32186	22491
123	1824	13%	2409	4082	843	29%	857	1419				
24	1822	18%	2812	608	1308	21%	1643	521				
124	2364	18%	2588	2700	426	31%	460	409				
25	4418	10%	6725	6032	913	17%	2279	1900				
125	682	24%	1194	3011								
26	4188		6013	3221	627		976	938				
126	240		240	311								
27	1543	11%	2552	2948	1493	14%	1928	2042				
127	2075	19%	2391	1311	547	28%	955	260				
28					1594	19%	4453	1133				
29	357	29%	372	370	3459	17%	4954	3881				
Sum ²	45083	5%	61172	62826	35712	6%	55987	43476	16565	16%	32186	22491

¹ Cumulative kept catch (from June 2026) 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), July 2026. 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	676	18%	1073	976	120	49%	120	107	0		0	4
111	339	34%	339	492	4	131%	4	30				
12	3126	16%	3403	4888	2019	18%	2506	1849	18	86%	18	11
13	13965	13%	20732	24049	22883	17%	31744	17089				
14	9277	17%	27367	20370	16933	16%	36289	15653				
15	2566	13%	5126	10391	3163	15%	6875	3577				
16	2441	20%	3670	7089	2672	23%	3213	5172				
17	9922	22%	15012	12417	8432	23%	12719	11198				
18	2032	26%	2238	1444	851	51%	1294	305				
19	967	25%	2096	956	27	78%	329	78				
20	9769	15%	13413	12842	3449	18%	3869	13155				
21	25	85%	157	338	100	75%	100	39	3	105%	3	1
121	639	44%	639	308	2220	55%	2220	1023				
23	3261	19%	11732	27031	617	40%	1397	1679	2126	17%	3772	1773
123	1064	35%	1437	4320	1477	40%	1507	3596				
24	1266	25%	1578	320	242	34%	365	141				
124	1148	31%	1236	1579	1035	37%	1035	934				
25	4882	20%	5685	7538	459	69%	995	923				
125	144	40%	375	3429	27	63%	52	805				
26	983		1540	893	175		175	167				
126	84		84	95	22		22	73				
27	456	24%	831	2039	957	22%	1593	1404				
127	273	35%	273	294	414	41%	520	674				
28	1065	23%	3350	2216	2201	18%	6532	2290				
29	2668	23%	5772	6741	6824	19%	10174	8832				
Sum ²	73038	6%	129158	153055	77323	7%	125649	90793	2147	17%	3793	1789

¹ Cumulative kept catch (from June 2026) 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), July 2026. 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	345	28%	427	511	745	26%	1149	1075	1016	17%	1394	1470
111	239	39%	239	382	332	39%	332	404	793	28%	793	1012
12	371	26%	528	539	294	29%	425	473	677	20%	803	1115
13	0		0	25	1469	20%	1870	1854	793	25%	1378	1266
14	0		0	17	196	51%	249	393	286	27%	802	720
15	0		0	9	149	26%	210	443	37	48%	212	296
16	0		0	18	339	41%	398	569	394	31%	605	794
17	52	97%	52	0	490	37%	1049	1016	821	34%	1034	1038
18	27	103%	27	0	440	33%	731	345	171	36%	648	680
19	113	44%	273	399	228	32%	446	256	412	29%	909	974
20	86	47%	190	137	579	29%	920	794	1308	29%	1898	2243
21	0		20	49	67	90%	121	121	79	41%	208	267
121	1619	37%	1977	3097	666	57%	838	441	753	42%	855	537
23	18	58%	91	40	1038	25%	1541	913	1125	16%	2136	1728
123	1068	30%	1373	2714	1233	20%	1617	1088	1713	20%	2281	1438
24	85	66%	216	11	312	45%	989	68	113	62%	176	192
124	662	23%	1072	1467	2577	20%	3518	1624	1577	20%	2534	1013
25	107	57%	145	168	380	51%	480	700	997	28%	1733	1124
125	271	50%	553	752	1247	25%	2431	4039	1210	21%	1823	2473
26	77		182	124	353		1003	693	663		960	848
126	359		746	1415	1828		3034	2561	817		1648	1293
27	322	21%	476	346	935	20%	1539	1315	994	18%	1616	1469
127	506	31%	596	1112	4716	22%	5535	3705	2240	22%	2607	1664
28	0		0	0	0		0	6	0		0	59
29	86	69%	86	0	495	49%	702	414	9	111%	60	519
Sum ³	6413	13%	9269	13332	21108	8%	31127	25310	18998	6%	29113	26232

¹ All rockfishes including those not identified to species.

² Cumulative kept catch (from June 2026) 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), July 2026. 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	77	40%	111	84	193	26%	308	405	613	24%	762	865
111	43	53%	43	61	272	35%	272	330	345	37%	345	537
12	91	46%	108	108	119	42%	165	388	1489	20%	1701	2267
13	31	83%	31	12	2766	22%	3863	4584	1497	28%	2135	2407
14	1	141%	1	4	204	39%	242	826	716	31%	960	1614
15	5	94%	5	3	296	33%	576	1238	60	53%	182	1276
16	0		0	0	1176	43%	1208	1371	697	58%	1107	1832
17	0		0	10	155	44%	864	1218	580	52%	1536	1297
18	9	115%	9	0	285	35%	1094	1345	586	40%	1161	1023
19	25	73%	25	60	591	36%	1587	2519	727	32%	1297	1537
20	74	107%	77	52	619	24%	2089	1927	871	21%	1644	2303
21	0		18	4	17	84%	65	53	54	80%	64	125
121	262	39%	346	485	100	59%	193	95	76	118%	86	157
23	16	77%	29	23	649	23%	1251	1205	1583	19%	2496	1938
123	717	50%	833	535	379	24%	649	1203	700	19%	1014	756
24	26	87%	53	2	97	50%	277	29	423	68%	602	71
124	144	44%	239	301	510	32%	748	465	1069	23%	1439	480
25	0		0	23	294	33%	419	451	1473	33%	1822	1092
125	14	82%	88	131	302	34%	349	1605	957	42%	1634	2164
26	39		90	25	111		128	51	278		433	247
126	147		245	282	271		440	108	464		758	1705
27	228	52%	234	85	154	31%	281	569	320	21%	497	1206
127	442	52%	447	301	295	47%	477	732	567	35%	855	1619
28	0		0	10	3	67%	60	32	0		0	43
29	0		0	2	184	50%	302	581	33	83%	120	470
Sum ³	2391	21%	3032	2603	10042	10%	17907	23330	16178	8%	24650	29031

¹ All rockfishes including those not identified to species.

² Cumulative kept catch (from June 2026) 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), July 2026, divided into Aggregate Abundance-based Management (AABM) and Individual Stock-based Management (ISBM) groupings.

Area	Region	AABM			ISBM		
		Esti- mate	Year to date ¹	Year to date 5-yr. average ²	Esti- mate	Year to date ¹	Year to date 5-yr. average ²
121	Swiftsure Bank	1695	1695	1200	0	0	0
123	Offshore Barkley	1824	2409	4100	0	0	0
124	Offshore Clayoquot	2364	2588	2700	0	0	0
125	Offshore Nootka	0	563	1650	630	630	1350
126	Offshore Kyuquot	240	240	450	0	0	0
127	Offshore Quatsino	1790	2107	1200	284	284	350
20 (West)	Juan de Fuca	0	0	0	547	547	750
21	Nitinat	437	1401	1400	0	0	0
23-1,2	Alberni Inlet	0	101	0	0	0	0
23-3 to 11	Barkley Sound	2999	8988	7950	0	0	0
24	Clayoquot Sound	1822	2812	600	0	0	0
25	Nootka Snd. / Esperanza Inlet	0	2306	1500	4418	4418	4550
26	Kyuquot Sound	0	1825	1200	4188	4188	2250
27	Quatsino Sound	0	1008	1300	1543	1543	1650
Total		13171	28043	25250	11610	11610	10900

¹ Cumulative kept catch (from June 2026) to date summed across periods where surveys are active.

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