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South Coast Assessment Bulletin
August 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 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'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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Table 1: Creel survey statistics (number of interviews and flights) and preliminary effort estimates (number of boat trips) by Pacific Fishery Management Area, August 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	199	5	752	49%	1394	1454
111	12	5	30	33%	296	709
12	545	5	2075	48%	4448	5689
13	406	10	6706	7%	15812	18379
14	361	10	7811	7%	16783	14694
15	17	10	1170	12%	3488	6083
16	72	10	3120	12%	6521	7255
17	309	10	4179	10%	10923	9554
18	95	10	1760	9%	3751	3378
19	232	10	3175	9%	6019	6643
20	752	14	10857	7%	17759	20933
21		8	9	95%	295	462
121	88	8	745	15%	1555	1644
23	747	11	12908	6%	26459	23387
123	367	11	3092	9%	4999	5409
24	176	9	963	17%	2677	1099
124	369	10	1621	21%	3640	2847
25	275	9	3845	12%	8473	8664
125	80	9	1299	13%	2631	3019
26	Based on Logbooks	6	1792	0%	4674	2551
126	Based on Logbooks	6	864	0%	2115	1958
27	107	7	1015	15%	3043	3368
127	51	7	1088	15%	2311	1938
28	102	10	1592	10%	3776	4403
29	93	10	2836	10%	6197	6531
Total ⁴	5486		75304	3%	160039	162051

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), August 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	1517	32%	3848	3205	1005	32%	1488	1253				
111												
12	483	21%	1370	2895	506	51%	2329	2290				
13	5985	8%	10481	14400	2638	13%	12407	7752				
14	8205	11%	14816	11948	4816	18%	15638	8463				
15	1773	19%	2680	4575	682	33%	2882	1371				
16	1327	25%	3347	2540	229	48%	949	1757				
17	2471	14%	4423	2920	2564	21%	6299	6590				
18	357	25%	411	292	287	103%	757	121				
19	1065	16%	1105	1863	193	35%	229	188				
20	11612	6%	13037	17348	10454	10%	12422	8406				
21												
121	3231	12%	4926	3466	3439	16%	5938	3109				
23	14910	7%	23999	24536	11311	8%	14193	9126	1166	28%	33352	23704
123	7361	9%	9770	11237	1825	27%	2682	4057				
24	239	32%	3051	633	2044	17%	3687	1527				
124	2636	14%	5223	5041	261	24%	721	1076				
25	6108	12%	12832	11922	1469	16%	3748	4570				
125	1150	30%	2344	3554	516	30%	662	1752				
26	3929		9942	4880	2128		3105	1815				
126	111		351	861	115		146	167				
27	594	20%	3145	3592	1124	18%	3052	3583				
127	2883	22%	5274	2748	666	42%	1621	547				
28	171	31%	368	618	857	21%	5309	1668				
29	791	18%	1163	953	2406	20%	7360	4617				
Sum ²	78909	3%	137906	136027	51535	4%	107624	75805	1166	28%	33352	23704

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), August 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	785	34%	1858	1391	765	32%	885	463				
111	21	86%	360	522	14	82%	17	39				
12	1960	53%	5362	7659	5010	53%	7516	4749	7	203%	25	57
13	12037	10%	32769	38590	9558	11%	41302	24407	119	32%	129	649
14	13777	12%	41144	32206	13972	13%	50261	22202	74	65%	75	29
15	2447	18%	7573	14290	2071	29%	8946	5047	12	63%	17	21
16	4164	31%	7834	8544	1296	35%	4509	6931				
17	10763	16%	25775	19783	9018	22%	21737	18425				
18	2390	20%	4627	2855	847	70%	2140	509				
19	2682	28%	4778	3589	1446	23%	1775	720	27	98%	27	35
20	23396	11%	36810	44056	34410	11%	38279	26787	19	102%	55	484
21												
121	417	40%	1056	1061	5953	18%	8173	3752				
23	18119	10%	29851	43770	5655	15%	7052	3261	131	63%	3902	2333
123	2751	17%	4188	9440	5218	37%	6725	9923				
24	244	27%	1823	386	546	33%	910	243				
124	915	22%	2150	2359	1839	27%	2874	2503				
25	2692	16%	8377	12074	336	35%	1331	2213				
125	364	35%	739	3790	390	48%	442	1150				
26	2431		3971	1313	794		969	227				
126	28		112	294	156		179	273				
27	364	23%	1194	2838	1613	30%	3207	2351				
127	161	65%	434	619	413	46%	933	1485				
28	1713	22%	5063	2934	2403	22%	8935	2861				
29	4281	16%	10052	9676	7243	19%	17417	12527	39	63%	39	164
Sum ²	108902	4%	237900	264039	110966	6%	236514	153048	428	26%	4269	3772

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), August 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	279	73%	706	726	827	31%	1977	1577	1508	21%	2900	2281
111	3		242	447	137	50%	470	483	87	33%	880	1105
12	207	67%	734	807	159	49%	584	707	450	40%	1254	1749
13	0		0	36	2019	13%	3889	3063	306	34%	1684	2173
14	0		0	27	104	55%	353	536	922	23%	1723	1121
15	0		0	26	291	26%	502	493	76	49%	289	498
16	0		0	28	578	36%	976	930	646	36%	1252	1342
17	0		52	0	530	41%	1579	1213	521	26%	1556	1642
18	0		27	0	246	48%	976	533	441	31%	1089	991
19	55	68%	328	482	207	47%	653	426	616	25%	1525	1688
20	73	45%	263	207	1474	27%	2394	1496	2725	13%	4624	4498
21												
121	1480	18%	3458	4345	918	25%	1755	852	518	21%	1372	1003
23	47	96%	138	104	941	27%	2483	1579	2068	18%	4206	2926
123	2074	18%	3447	5413	1955	18%	3571	2262	2322	14%	4603	3259
24	0		216	13	424	29%	1413	117	99	50%	274	276
124	1493	40%	2565	2270	2056	33%	5574	2691	1444	21%	3976	1617
25	0		145	200	419	48%	899	1116	1258	31%	2991	1867
125	646	33%	1199	1078	4604	23%	7035	5450	2174	31%	3996	3128
26	47		229	186	576		1579	1057	769		1729	1281
126	678		1424	2007	2822		5856	4027	988		2638	1928
27	234	31%	710	496	725	29%	2263	1696	1256	21%	2874	2205
127	845	33%	1441	1766	5275	27%	10810	6098	2481	28%	5090	2816
28	0		0	0	0		0	6	2	89%	2	54
29	0		86	0	87	42%	789	459	87	56%	147	558
Sum ³	8161	12%	17410	20664	27374	9%	58380	38867	23764	6%	52674	42006

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), August 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	34	43%	145	116	234	39%	542	527	795	37%	1556	1421
111	0		43	71	90	89%	362	351	31	77%	376	650
12	116	68%	224	150	112	62%	277	486	1670	35%	3370	4279
13	24	61%	55	19	4047	16%	7910	7371	786	30%	2920	3717
14	1	89%	2	5	143	33%	384	1249	742	22%	1702	4003
15	0		5	3	304	37%	879	1517	931	44%	1114	1671
16	0		0	0	720	54%	1929	1786	775	40%	1882	3287
17	0		0	10	196	55%	1060	1668	459	39%	1994	2169
18	12	105%	21	0	119	37%	1213	2074	375	36%	1536	1596
19	5	119%	30	82	431	25%	2018	3929	617	29%	1915	2366
20	40	71%	116	68	989	38%	3078	3509	1312	22%	2956	4680
21												
121	23	48%	370	574	0		193	190	0		86	284
23	0		29	38	271	32%	1522	1916	822	27%	3317	3752
123	1087	33%	1920	1155	475	25%	1124	2248	625	29%	1638	1669
24	0		53	2	0		277	43	85	29%	687	133
124	271	41%	510	444	226	39%	974	759	817	32%	2253	745
25	0		0	32	93	74%	513	648	686	37%	2508	1881
125	28	78%	116	199	566	29%	915	1953	1400	23%	3033	2710
26	25		115	50	75		203	78	365		798	435
126	104		349	388	63		502	163	893		1651	2141
27	147	60%	382	126	188	46%	469	718	325	32%	822	1880
127	65	72%	512	450	430	78%	907	981	528	48%	1381	2485
28	3	108%	3	10	3	108%	63	57	0		0	76
29	60	77%	60	2	60	77%	362	740	0		120	588
Sum ³	2045	21%	5060	3994	9835	10%	27676	34961	15039	8%	39615	48618

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), August 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	3127	4822	3450	104	104	0
123	Offshore Barkley	389	2798	6400	6972	6972	4850
124	Offshore Clayoquot	1044	3632	4100	1591	1591	950
125	Offshore Nootka	509	1072	1900	641	1271	1650
126	Offshore Kyuquot	108	348	1050	0	0	0
127	Offshore Quatsino	2770	4877	2250	113	397	500
20 (West)	Juan de Fuca	0	0	0	6266	6813	6500
21	Nitinat	0	1401	1400	0	0	400
23-1,2	Alberni Inlet	0	101	0	2461	2461	5850
23-3 to 11	Barkley Sound	0	8988	7950	12448	12448	10700
24	Clayoquot Sound	0	2812	600	239	239	0
25	Nootka Snd. / Esperanza Inlet	0	2306	1500	6108	10526	10450
26	Kyuquot Sound	0	1825	1200	3929	8117	3900
27	Quatsino Sound	0	1008	1300	594	2137	2250
Total		7947	35990	33100	41466	53076	48000

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.