Fisheries and Oceans Canada | Pêches et Océans Canada

South Coast Assessment Bulletin
September 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 PFMAs 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 PFMAs 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, September 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	No Survey This Month			%	1394	1481
111	No Survey This Month			%	296	710
12	No Survey This Month			%	4448	5843
13	148	8	4548	10%	20360	22017
14	224	8	4371	12%	21154	18255
15	6	8		%	3488	6735
16	1	8		%	6521	8127
17	154	8	2678	19%	13601	11321
18	45	8	1244	11%	4995	4216
19	113	8	2467	15%	8486	8991
20	203	8	5261	18%	23020	26776
21	No Survey This Month			%	295	465
121	No Survey This Month			%	1555	1710
23	218	5	3118	18%	29555	26999
123	66	6	480	13%	5814	5951
24	No Survey This Month			%	2595	1307
124	No Survey This Month			%	3555	3062
25	No Survey This Month			%	8473	8994
125	No Survey This Month			%	2631	3068
26	No Survey This Month			%	4674	2566
126	No Survey This Month			%	2115	1965
27	No Survey This Month			%	3043	3483
127	No Survey This Month			%	2311	1951
28	79	8	1313	11%	5089	6166
29	118	8	12125	40%	18323	12719
Total[4]	1382		37605	13%	197791	194878

[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), September 2026. 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.

	Chinook				Coho				Sockeye			
Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA)	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												
111												
12												
13	2551	14%	13031	16798	7912	10%	20319	11784				
14	4149	15%	18965	14971	7778	12%	23416	11934				
15												
16												
17	1487	23%	5911	3289	1136	30%	7435	7108				
18	620	19%	1031	446	258	22%	1015	182				
19	854	28%	1959	2599	401	33%	630	620				
20	2194	19%	15231	20371	7267	22%	19689	13369				
21												
121												
23	2611	16%	26437	26922	2303	19%	16687	10914				
123	623	19%	11639	12010	124	38%	2872	4408				
24												
124												
25												
125												
26												
126												
27												
127												
28	621	19%	989	1583	636	30%	5945	2189				
29	15704	38%	16866	10513	6432	40%	13792	7259				
Sum[2]	31414	19%	112059	109502	34247	10%	111800	69767				

[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), September 2026. 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.

	Chinook				Coho				Sockeye			
Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA)	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												
111												
12												
13	8830	17%	41600	44337	7459	16%	48761	27727				
14	9612	16%	50756	37743	6904	17%	57165	26207				
15												
16												
17	8585	25%	34360	23010	3843	27%	25580	21831				
18	3402	20%	8029	3807	1724	18%	3865	907	12	106%	12	44
19	2590	26%	7368	5378	3912	31%	5687	2721				
20	6240	23%	43050	50360	53173	21%	91453	45364				
21												
121												
23	2238	24%	32084	46335	2592	29%	9908	3711	0		4011	2373
123	386	27%	4860	9834	451	25%	7443	10544				
24												
124												
25												
125												
26												
126												
27												
127												
28	746	21%	5809	3530	1351	23%	10287	3405				
29	13502	44%	23554	15615	35983	43%	53400	18227	523	126%	562	586
Sum[2]	56131	12%	251470	239949	117392	16%	313549	160644	535	123%	4585	3003

[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), September 2026. 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.

	Halibut				Lingcod				Rockfishes[1]			
Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA)	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												
111												
12												
13	0		0	36	326	33%	4215	3630	136	68%	1821	2537
14	0		0	29	144	51%	497	632	1091	28%	2814	1428
15												
16												
17	0		52	0	178	41%	1757	1365	350	46%	1907	1866
18	0		27	4	132	40%	1108	677	155	68%	1243	1177
19	13	71%	341	564	81	44%	734	565	246	36%	1771	2070
20	35	112%	298	257	264	51%	2658	2007	1229	23%	5856	5646
21												
121												
23	0		137	108	71	58%	2570	1773	579	39%	5033	3370
123	413	35%	3962	5976	796	28%	4584	2700	859	25%	5894	3608
24												
124												
25												
125												
26												
126												
27												
127												
28	0		0	0	35	69%	35	9	0		2	30
29	0		86	0	98	45%	887	506	9	86%	156	604
Sum[3]	461	33%	4903	6974	2125	15%	19045	13864	4654	12%	26497	22336

[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), September 2026. 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.

	Halibut				Lingcod				Rockfishes[1]			
Pacific Fishery Management Area (PFMA)	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												
111												
12												
13	0		55	23	1769	46%	9679	8500	456	33%	3376	4328
14	0		2	6	196	40%	580	1513	559	32%	2260	5374
15												
16												
17	0		0	10	445	45%	1505	1942	230	41%	2224	2586
18	0		21	0	191	43%	1404	2308	371	42%	1906	1857
19	37	80%	67	104	503	27%	2521	5088	443	29%	2357	2998
20	0		116	68	379	46%	3457	4438	837	45%	3793	5741
21												
121												
23	0		29	38	102	74%	1629	2187	359	56%	3586	4301
123	36	64%	1882	1217	215	54%	1559	2487	327	43%	2149	1844
24												
124												
25												
125												
26												
126												
27												
127												
28	0		3	10	34	117%	96	75	28	95%	28	75
29	0		60	4	14	73%	376	857	9	74%	130	745
Sum[3]	73	51%	2235	1480	3848	23%	22806	29395	3619	15%	21809	29849

[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), September 2026, 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	0	4822	3450	0	104	0
123	Offshore Barkley	154	2961	6600	469	8678	5400
124	Offshore Clayoquot	0	3342	4150	0	1545	1000
125	Offshore Nootka	0	1072	1950	0	1271	1650
126	Offshore Kyuquot	0	348	1050	0	0	0
127	Offshore Quatsino	0	4877	2250	0	397	500
20 (West)	Juan de Fuca	0	0	0	0	6813	7100
21	Nitinat	0	1401	1400	0	0	400
23-1,2	Alberni Inlet	0	101	0	832	3298	6400
23-3 to 11	Barkley Sound	0	8881	7950	1779	14158	12500
24	Clayoquot Sound	0	2779	600	0	556	200
25	Nootka Snd. / Esperanza Inlet	0	2306	1500	0	10526	10500
26	Kyuquot Sound	0	1825	1200	0	8117	3950
27	Quatsino Sound	0	1008	1300	0	2137	2350
Total		154	35723	33400	3080	57600	51950

[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.