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An update on trends in catch of Pacific salmon in Canada

by

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INTRODUCTION

Six species of Pacific salmon are harvested in Pacific region coastal waters. Commercial catches are comprised mainly of sockeye, pink, and chum salmon. Recreational fisheries traditionally targeted chinook and coho salmon but other salmon species are becoming a larger proportion of the recreational catch. Steelhead constitute a minor component of the catch, and are not discussed in this document.

In general, escapement goals are established in Canada for major sockeye, pink, and chum stocks, and fisheries are managed to meet these escapement objectives. Chinook and coho fisheries are managed to achieve specified harvest rates although escapement goals have also been established for key stocks.

This document reports data on commercial catch (numbers and total weight), recreational catch (numbers only) and aboriginal catch (numbers only) for the five major salmon species caught in British Columbian waters for the period from 1952 (commercial), 1953 (recreational), or 1951 (aboriginal) to 2001.

Catch Trends

Commercial Fisheries

The 2001 catch was 23,037 tonnes, about one third of the average since 1952, and 20 percent higher than the 2000 commercial catch. Almost half of the 2001 catch was composed of pink (10,575 tonnes).

The sockeye catch was 6,231 tonnes, and the chum catch was 5,549 tonnes. Chinook salmon production has decreased steadily since the early 1970's and the 2001 catch of 636 tonnes was the third lowest on record. Coho salmon catches in 2001 were again severely reduced at 14 tonnes with complete elimination of coho harvest in southern B.C. waters.

Total commercial catch, by numbers and weight, is reported in Tables 1 and 2, respectively, for the period 1952-2001. Tables 3 and 4 provide a breakdown of salmon catch by major statistical area in 2001, by numbers and weight, respectively. Note that weights are given as round equivalents, which implies an increase of approximately 20 percent to troll-caught fish reported previously as dressed head-on.

Recreational Fisheries

Recreational catch for 1953-2001 is given in Table 5, with a breakout by major statistical area for 2001 in Table 6. It should be noted that the locations and time periods which are surveyed vary from year to year, so it is not meaningful to look at the annual summaries as trend indicators. Chinook and coho are the main traditional targets of recreational anglers, but harvest of these species has declined during the past decade in response to conservation concerns, and recreational catch of other species, notably pink and chum salmon, has been an increasing proportion of the catch.

Aboriginal Fisheries

Aboriginal catch for 1951-2001 is given in Table 7. The data for 1997-2001 are incomplete, with many areas not represented. The data for 1995 and 1996 are complete, but subject to further revision.

In general, reporting inconsistencies with aboriginal catch data make it difficult to use the annual summaries as trend indicators.

TABLES

Table 1.	Commercial salmon catch (numbers) by species and year, 1952-2001
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Table 6.	2001 Recreational salmon catch (numbers) by species and area
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FIGURES

Fig. 1 a,b.	Major statistical reporting areas for Pacific salmon catches in British Columbia.
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Table 1: Commercial Salmon Catch (numbers) by Species and Year, 1952-2001

Year	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
1952	906,000	4,838,000	2,752,000	11,217,000	2,479,000	22,192,000
1953	1,021,000	5,914,000	2,893,000	11,110,000	4,672,000	25,610,000
1954	880,000	6,702,000	2,445,000	5,439,000	5,838,000	21,304,000
1955	876,000	2,835,000	2,976,000	11,240,000	1,569,000	19,496,000
1956	983,000	3,257,000	3,050,000	7,352,000	2,458,000	17,100,000
1957	948,000	3,036,000	3,137,000	11,310,000	2,412,000	20,843,000
1958	1,074,000	12,045,000	2,989,000	6,908,000	3,192,000	26,207,000
1959	956,000	3,260,000	2,897,000	6,776,000	2,015,000	15,904,000
1960	753,000	2,858,000	2,030,000	4,098,000	1,837,000	11,575,000
1961	701,000	4,564,000	3,300,000	8,305,000	1,218,000	18,088,000
1962	722,000	3,499,000	3,626,000	23,429,000	1,496,000	32,771,000
1963	803,000	2,086,000	3,421,000	12,201,000	1,463,000	19,975,000
1964	965,000	3,619,000	4,148,000	9,628,000	2,253,000	20,614,000
1965	981,000	3,020,000	4,443,000	5,109,000	633,000	14,186,000
1966	1,165,000	4,020,000	5,412,000	17,261,000	1,311,000	29,169,000
1967	1,130,000	6,750,000	3,318,000	9,846,000	1,130,000	22,174,000
1968	1,083,000	6,346,000	5,262,000	20,249,000	3,095,000	36,035,000
1969	1,100,000	4,268,000	2,407,000	2,571,000	1,310,000	11,656,000
1970	1,212,000	4,078,000	3,945,000	13,601,000	3,680,000	26,518,000
1971	1,593,000	6,306,000	4,789,000	8,456,000	1,263,000	22,407,000
1972	1,549,000	3,563,000	3,356,000	13,996,000	6,031,000	28,495,000
1973	1,424,000	7,586,000	3,530,000	6,521,000	6,225,000	25,286,000
1974	1,467,000	7,225,000	3,694,000	7,374,000	2,202,000	21,962,000
1975	1,412,000	2,271,000	2,332,000	4,634,000	1,147,000	11,796,000
1976	1,543,000	4,814,000	3,698,000	10,349,000	1,901,000	22,305,000
1977	1,493,000	6,346,000	3,317,000	10,356,000	1,088,000	22,600,000
1978	1,368,000	7,222,000	3,350,000	10,748,000	2,979,000	25,666,000
1979	1,329,000	5,691,000	3,647,000	11,823,000	866,000	23,356,000
1980	1,272,000	3,260,000	3,442,000	8,419,000	3,453,000	19,846,000
1981	1,134,000	8,443,000	2,822,000	18,086,000	1,123,000	31,608,000
1982	1,241,000	10,074,000	3,177,000	2,677,000	2,975,000	20,144,000
1983	956,000	5,524,000	4,130,000	23,946,000	1,006,000	35,561,000
1984	1,011,000	5,081,000	3,602,000	7,491,000	1,851,000	19,036,000
1985	881,000	12,248,000	2,951,000	20,228,000	5,493,000	41,801,000
1986	825,000	10,557,000	4,905,000	17,978,000	5,580,000	39,844,000
1987	778,000	5,393,000	3,360,000	13,357,000	2,299,000	25,185,000
1988	738,000	4,473,000	2,745,000	23,122,000	6,189,000	37,267,000
1989	659,000	13,782,000	3,435,000	17,051,000	1,821,000	36,748,000
1990	678,000	14,197,000	3,872,000	17,257,000	3,144,000	39,148,000
1991	649,000	10,360,000	3,510,000	23,978,000	2,358,000	40,856,000
1992	697,000	8,218,000	2,963,000	10,263,000	4,023,000	26,164,000
1993	635,000	18,132,000	1,896,000	10,127,000	4,229,000	35,020,000
1994	442,000	11,570,000	2,567,000	2,207,000	4,340,000	21,127,000
1995	210,000	4,489,000	1,889,000	11,728,000	2,477,000	20,793,000
1996	61,000	5,928,000	1,411,000	5,890,000	1,368,000	14,685,000
1997	219,000	10,665,000	229,000	6,483,000	1,890,000	19,486,000
1998	157,000	1,769,000	5,000	2,409,000	4,473,000	8,812,000
1999	127,000	668,000	8,000	6,074,000	939,000	7,816,000
2000	78,000	3,352,000	3,000	4,326,000	557,000	8,316,000
2001	95,000	2,234,000	14,000	5,931,000	1,102,000	9,376,000

Table 2: Commercial Salmon Catch (round weight, tonnes) by Species and Year, 1952-2001

Year	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
1952	6,540	14,000	10,070	23,260	14,460	68,320
1953	7,110	16,030	10,510	28,010	24,690	86,330
1954	6,120	21,330	9,380	11,680	33,750	82,260
1955	5,680	7,550	10,680	28,710	8,250	60,880
1956	6,210	9,750	11,410	13,140	12,440	52,960
1957	5,740	7,140	10,330	25,990	12,360	61,550
1958	6,450	33,620	11,200	15,380	17,290	83,940
1959	6,130	8,190	8,880	15,890	10,480	49,570
1960	4,680	7,020	6,450	7,710	9,220	35,080
1961	4,120	12,070	11,220	22,710	6,630	56,750
1962	4,110	9,120	12,070	42,450	8,190	75,940
1963	4,610	5,390	11,560	27,480	7,000	56,030
1964	6,060	10,410	14,360	16,680	10,860	58,370
1965	5,750	7,360	16,640	10,400	3,020	43,160
1966	6,950	11,660	17,550	33,330	6,970	76,450
1967	6,960	16,820	10,210	23,430	5,510	62,930
1968	6,910	18,770	15,140	25,220	16,560	82,610
1969	6,450	10,950	7,990	6,270	6,080	37,740
1970	6,570	11,420	13,650	24,020	16,770	72,430
1971	8,700	17,330	14,090	17,630	5,420	63,170
1972	8,350	9,520	10,530	18,140	30,190	76,740
1973	7,560	21,530	11,250	13,310	32,760	86,400
1974	7,640	21,690	10,380	11,210	12,480	63,400
1975	7,290	5,680	7,740	10,240	5,390	36,330
1976	7,780	12,340	9,320	17,060	10,920	57,410
1977	7,520	17,390	9,860	24,720	6,030	65,520
1978	7,890	22,320	9,150	15,330	15,860	70,550
1979	6,850	14,530	10,340	24,700	4,750	61,170
1980	6,540	7,730	9,030	13,720	16,810	53,820
1981	5,920	21,000	7,510	38,250	6,160	78,840
1982	7,090	30,140	9,300	3,980	15,090	65,600
1983	5,380	14,330	10,460	39,540	4,900	74,600
1984	6,250	12,880	10,090	12,060	9,000	50,280
1985	5,470	31,570	8,980	37,700	23,650	107,360
1986	5,010	30,830	13,240	29,510	25,200	103,780
1987	5,250	15,040	8,420	26,920	11,000	66,620
1988	5,920	11,940	7,080	32,220	30,300	87,460
1989	5,240	34,380	8,750	31,000	9,320	88,700
1990	5,230	37,130	10,570	26,240	17,180	96,350
1991	5,060	25,210	10,050	35,100	10,240	85,650
1992	5,340	20,940	7,330	14,910	17,960	66,480
1993	4,820	42,530	4,320	16,050	17,270	84,980
1994	3,530	30,560	7,700	3,350	20,080	65,210
1995	1,480	10,290	4,840	19,600	11,820	48,030
1996	464	15,523	3,866	8,597	6,519	34,968
1997	1,678	25,310	749	12,219	8,677	48,634
1998	1,401	5,059	21	3,920	19,906	30,309
1999	807	1,706	27	9,529	4,952	17,021
2000	510	8,503	13	7,126	2,774	18,926
2001	636	6,231	46	10,575	5,549	23,037

Table 3: 2001 Commercial Salmon Catch (numbers) by Species and Area

Area	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Totals
AREA 1	1,234	2,038	2	131,853	1,121	135,128
AREA 2E	367	0	1,166	29	33,220	1,562
AREA 2W	10,530	0	0	242	53	10,772
AREA 3	3,044	189,422	10,587	1,134,769	29,624	1,367,446
AREA 4	23,008	1,705,316	77	1,125,549	18,661	2,853,949
AREA 5	33	13,952		234,270	4,626	248,254
AREA 6	399	17,090	30	1,644,604	53,738	1,662,122
AREA 7	1,445	405	2,153	244,647	146,660	248,649
AREA 8	4,546	2,180	66	792,199	275,336	798,991
AREA 11	9	4,843	0	1,236	345	6,088
AREA 12	337	89,711	7	421,764	110,929	511,819
AREA 13	179	49,452	0	179,181	74,824	228,812
AREA 14	0	0	0	0	49,508	0
AREA 16	0	0	0	0	5,915	0
AREA 17	0	0	0	0	606	0
AREA 18	0	0	0	0	14,330	0
AREA 20	0	37,468	10	12,023	27	49,501
AREA 21	0	0	0	0	168,188	0
AREA 23	36,216	63,440	0	2,164	9	101,820
AREA 24	3,701	2,469	0	272	19	6,442
AREA 25	2,284	126	0	404	68,183	2,814
AREA 26	3,668	37	0	344	44	4,049
AREA 29AB	208	35,471	0	2,070	27,372	37,749
AREA 29D	4,171	20,877	0	2,979	18,448	28,027
TOTALS	95,379	2,234,296	14,096	5,930,598	1,101,785	8,303,993

Table 4: 2001 Commercial Salmon Catch (round weight, Kilograms) by Species and Area

Area	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Totals
AREA 1	9,609	5,999	7	233,737	5,274	254,881
AREA 2E	3,904	0	3,826	61	160,500	168,458
AREA 2W	98,649	0	0	533	218	99,499
AREA 3	28,092	545,580	34,246	2,029,150	172,688	2,812,566
AREA 4	217,387	4,768,680	264	2,045,119	113,265	7,151,859
AREA 5	279	38,895	0	410,529	28,351	478,532
AREA 6	2,816	47,514	82	2,888,654	341,299	3,283,646
AREA 7	6,468	1,287	7,267	416,303	679,649	1,112,085
AREA 8	48,701	6,119	222	1,406,407	1,534,691	2,999,136
AREA 11	68	13,778	0	2,226	1,845	17,935
AREA 12	2,219	252,594	15	761,472	583,655	1,601,555
AREA 13	1,155	136,170	0	341,470	385,571	865,231
AREA 14	0	0	0	0	220,617	220,838
AREA 16	0	0	0	0	26,840	26,867
AREA 17	0	0	0	0	2,881	2,884
AREA 18	0	0	0	0	67,807	67,875
AREA 20	0	106,234	18	19,438	117	125,933
AREA 21	0	0	0	0	674,809	675,483
AREA 23	137,415	139,158	0	5,593	35	282,483
AREA 24	16,036	7,179	0	723	73	24,036
AREA 25	11,284	366	0	660	324,467	337,113
AREA 26	14,961	107	0	607	205	15,896
AREA 29AB	1,675	99,998	0	4,387	128,914	235,209
AREA 29D	35,570	60,928	0	7,943	95,653	200,294
TOTALS	636,290	6,230,585	45,946	10,575,011	5,549,424	23,060,293

Table 5: Recreational Salmon Catch (numbers) by Species and Year for 1953-2001

Year	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
1953	74,400	0	130,200	0	0	204,600
1954	75,900	0	134,400	0	0	210,300
1955	89,200	0	184,600	0	0	273,800
1956	106,500	0	197,500	0	0	304,000
1957	101,300	0	252,300	10,200	0	363,700
1958	106,000	400	261,800	3,100	0	371,300
1959	93,600	0	243,000	36,800	0	373,500
1960	68,900	0	238,100	800	0	307,800
1961	46,300	100	157,200	26,500	0	230,000
1962	55,400	100	184,100	3,500	0	243,000
1963	61,000	100	197,500	111,000	0	369,500
1964	49,300	0	181,000	2,300	0	232,600
1965	52,800	100	188,600	9,600	0	251,000
1966	61,400	0	253,000	5,000	0	319,400
1967	61,300	0	169,200	29,100	900	260,500
1968	63,700	0	218,500	5,600	0	287,900
1969	66,800	1,400	143,900	36,400	0	248,400
1970	97,500	500	236,900	10,700	0	345,600
1971	85,600	200	371,100	46,000	0	503,000
1972	294,600	1,900	345,200	12,100	0	653,800
1973	281,500	4,500	384,400	51,700	0	722,200
1974	282,200	3,400	788,100	16,400	0	1,090,100
1975	439,700	2,300	469,800	28,500	0	940,300
1976	515,500	1,200	440,400	16,600	0	973,800
1977	255,000	900	255,200	33,900	1,800	546,800
1978	276,000	300	378,700	6,500	4,900	666,400
1979	188,900	2,400	407,300	89,600	1,300	689,600
1980	204,100	0	393,500	0	0	597,600
1981	197,200	0	317,100	0	0	514,300
1982	124,400	0	411,700	2,800	0	538,900
1983	198,400	0	404,000	54,900	0	657,300
1984	457,800	0	449,600	10,200	0	917,600
1985	292,800	3,000	760,200	111,800	3,100	1,170,800
1986	220,300	1,600	614,600	35,900	2,900	875,300
1987	196,500	33,200	735,700	128,000	5,500	1,098,900
1988	195,400	18,600	1,121,200	58,700	7,200	1,401,200
1989	255,000	15,000	591,700	148,900	9,400	1,020,000
1990	245,600	45,700	740,100	50,100	4,200	1,085,800
1991	206,600	107,500	232,500	297,600	5,800	850,000
1992	219,500	121,700	717,800	65,400	7,300	1,131,700
1993	226,300	131,200	879,300	181,100	4,300	1,422,100
1994	187,400	45,400	366,200	23,200	2,700	624,900
1995	152,500	18,400	197,100	198,300	6,800	573,000
1996	120,300	72,500	249,800	21,900	6,500	470,900
1997	206,400	91,700	253,000	119,400	6,300	676,800
1998	189,800	120,900	1,800	33,200	8,000	353,700
1999	170,900	5,200	19,300	88,200	5,400	288,900
2000	110,300	31,500	34,200	47,300	4,800	228,000
2001	109,841	18,858	108,059	155,695	15,409	407,862

Table 6: 2001 Recreational Salmon Catch (numbers) by Species and Area

Area	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
AREA 1	20,500	27	40,000	4,000	675	65,202
AREA 2E	6,500	0	0	0	0	6,500
AREA 3 COMBINED	17,626	276	23,424	5,246	644	47,216
AREA 4	7,882	56	9,208	1,472	114	18,732
AREA 6	2,111	1	2,157	2,148	397	6,814
AREA 8	2,269	0	7,759	3,514	569	14,111
AREA 9	1,984	0	9,230	1,625	231	13,070
AREA 12	2,500	0	83	481	59	3,123
AREA 13	13,589	1,197	4,082	60,676	4,490	84,034
AREA 14	5,037	0	5,097	1,531	16	11,681
AREA 15	1,097	0	90	39	12	1,238
AREA 16	1,758	0	6	90	1	1,855
AREA 17	4,993	0	580	415	0	5,988
AREA 18	1,710	57	9	5,577	0	7,353
AREA 19	5,174	240	252	3,847	1	9,514
AREA 20	12,148	976	2,244	43,946	38	59,352
AREA 21	171	0	109	233	1	514
AREA 23	7,584	8,548	1,072	11,458	3,142	31,804
AREA 24	921	3,136	0	559	561	5,177
AREA 25	5,859	1,213	543	7,151	4,440	19,206
AREA 26	97	0	0	3	0	100
AREA 27	445	2,381	369	503	18	3,716
AREA 28	1,356	0	1,508	308	0	3,172
AREA 29AB	1,607	750	237	873	0	3,467
Totals	124,918	18,858	108,059	155,695	15,409	422,939

Table 7: Aboriginal Salmon Catch (numbers) by Species and Year, 1951-2001

Year	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
1951	14,300	143,000	22,100	10,500	75,500	265,400
1952	19,100	152,800	22,200	9,400	66,600	270,200
1953	21,500	170,300	25,800	12,700	47,700	278,100
1954	22,100	147,500	29,000	7,000	38,800	244,500
1955	20,500	105,100	30,900	19,800	43,100	219,400
1956	17,400	129,900	29,500	17,900	38,800	233,600
1957	18,000	182,800	30,700	39,500	50,100	321,100
1958	19,900	183,300	29,600	21,700	42,000	296,500
1959	22,100	132,100	28,400	28,800	50,000	261,400
1960	17,100	146,000	20,100	8,200	51,700	243,100
1961	16,600	208,700	27,500	41,800	40,300	334,900
1962	16,500	200,000	32,400	15,700	43,600	308,300
1963	15,900	285,800	26,200	55,400	35,400	418,600
1964	17,200	220,000	35,100	9,900	42,200	324,200
1965	16,400	199,800	46,700	43,400	38,900	345,200
1966	14,400	231,800	44,000	17,600	37,500	345,300
1967	14,700	191,100	19,600	35,700	34,800	295,900
1968	16,700	208,500	40,500	14,000	59,500	339,200
1969	18,900	245,400	23,500	31,900	35,900	355,600
1970	26,200	245,900	35,800	31,200	43,900	383,000
1971	21,700	280,600	36,500	47,000	38,600	424,300
1972	23,500	231,000	33,800	14,500	49,400	352,300
1973	22,000	285,900	27,200	66,300	49,000	450,300
1974	27,900	356,200	42,500	10,200	75,800	512,600
1975	29,900	407,100	36,500	59,000	44,200	576,800
1976	28,600	377,500	47,300	24,000	60,600	538,000
1977	36,300	434,200	36,200	51,200	54,300	612,100
1978	29,600	418,600	50,300	19,100	51,100	568,700
1979	28,000	509,300	77,100	84,100	44,200	742,700
1980	40,400	411,500	104,000	13,400	56,400	625,700
1981	39,900	644,800	98,300	88,100	68,000	939,000
1982	76,800	787,400	119,600	43,900	82,200	1,109,900
1983	65,300	650,700	76,200	207,600	68,700	1,068,400
1984	57,000	647,400	121,400	61,400	99,100	986,400
1985	54,900	760,100	85,600	158,400	102,400	1,161,400
1986	79,400	795,500	92,900	45,300	127,100	1,140,200
1987	78,400	748,200	65,900	151,200	103,400	1,147,100
1988	69,400	676,600	68,300	20,500	108,600	943,300
1989	76,900	829,500	62,300	119,700	84,000	1,172,400
1990	69,500	1,150,400	60,600	51,800	147,700	1,480,000
1991	93,700	1,027,700	61,700	177,100	92,100	1,452,200
1992	76,700	861,500	82,300	70,500	197,200	1,288,200
1993	111,100	1,522,300	95,900	37,800	655,900	2,422,800
1994	72,300	1,580,200	121,400	17,500	609,400	2,400,700
1995	38,300	851,500	117,200	186,700	143,000	1,336,700
1996	43,419	970,252	75,634	17,707	519,697	1,626,709
1997	36,175	316,762	49,896	34,853	296,080	733,766
1998	29,784	325,482	4,546	44,825	22,638	427,275
1999	65,024	486,034	25,240	109,207	57,390	744,894
2000	48,227	1,495,735	70,751	24,050	74,035	1,714,798
2001	44,840	781,662	14,352	133,821	74,787	1,051,463

Figure 1 a

READ CAREFULLY

1. Reporting of all catches to the Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans is the Responsibility of the fisherman and a condition of licence renewal.
2. Accurate catch reports must include the map number or numbers showing the area in which your fish were caught.
3. The statistical areas shown on this map are to be used as a guide only. For more exact information refer to the Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations.

● Dept of Fisheries and Oceans Office
 — Statistical areas
 — Surfline
 Note: All areas revised February 1985

Fisheries and Oceans Pêches et Océans



STATISTICAL AREA MAP

SHOWING AREAS OF CATCH FOR
 BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERS
 SOUTHERN HALF

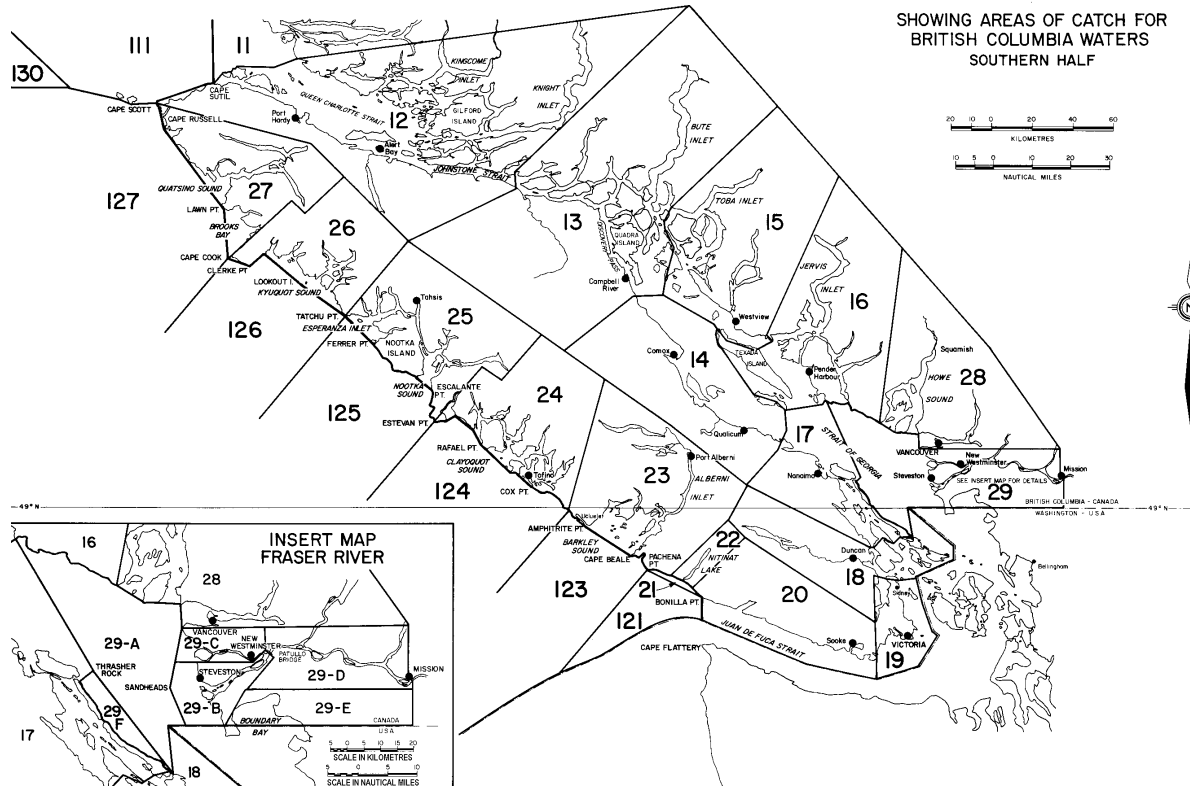


Figure 1 b

READ CAREFULLY

1. Reporting of all catches to the Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans is the Responsibility of the fisherman and a condition of licence renewal.
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- Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans Office
 - Statistical areas
 - Surflines
- Note: All areas revised February 1985

 Fisheries and Oceans Pêches et Océans



STATISTICAL AREA MAP

SHOWING AREAS OF CATCH FOR
BRITISH COLUMBIA WATERS
NORTHERN HALF

