

Fraser River (Fall) Fishery Assessment (Creel) Survey **October 20 – November 30, 2001**

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Regulations

The recreational fishery was closed at night, from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.

Tidal Waters: downstream of the CPR Bridge at Mission

October 16-December 31

- **Chinook:** 4 per day (minimum size 30 cm, none over 62 cm)
- **Coho:** 2 hatchery fish per day (minimum size 25 cm)
- **Chum and Pink:** 4 per day (minimum size 30 cm)

Non-Tidal Waters: CPR Bridge at Mission upstream to the Alexandra Bridge

October 19-December 31

- **Chinook:** 4 per day (minimum size 30 cm, none over 62 cm) permitted from CPR Bridge at Mission upstream to the Powerline crossing immediately above the Agassiz/Rosedale Bridge
- **Chinook:** 4 per day (minimum size 30 cm, only one may be over 50 cm) was permitted from the Powerline crossing immediately above the Agassiz/Rosedale Bridge to Trans Mountain Pipeline and Hope Trans Canada Bridge to Sawmill Creek
- **Coho:** 2 hatchery fish per day (minimum size 25 cm)
- **Chum and Pink:** 2 per day (minimum size 30 cm)

Study Area

The Fraser River study area extended from the mouth of the Fraser River up to the outlet of Harrison River.

Survey Methods

The Fraser River Fall recreational fishery survey began on October 20, 2001.

The surveyors worked all weekends and holidays with rotating days off during the week. They worked one of two shifts (morning or afternoon) that spanned the entire daylight period. Shifts were randomly assigned to each survey day.

The surveyors conducted angler interviews at their survey sites to obtain the following information: where the angler was fishing, party size, length of angling trip, when their fishing lines were in the water, how much longer they intend to fish, target species, gear used, total catch retained, total catch released. Interviews were used to determine catch-per-unit effort (CPUE), release-per-unit effort (RPUE), and to summarize the angler characteristics listed above.

Daily effort is calculated using a combination of interview data, hourly rod counts conducted at the survey sites, and overflight rod counts of the survey area (conducted twice per week: one weekend and one weekday drive through of the entire system). Using total effort, CPUE and RPUE is expanded to determine catch and release numbers by species for the entire study area. Such analyses are documented in several DFO publications (Schubert 1992; Schubert 1995)

Three surveyors assessed the Fraser River fall recreational fishery. One surveyor was stationed at the Island 22 boat launch where they conducted interviews from anglers returning by boat. Hourly rod counts were also conducted at this site. A second surveyor was stationed at Duncan Bar in October and Derby Reach (Edgewater Bar) in November. At these sites this surveyor conducted hourly rod counts and conducted interviews from anglers that had finished fishing for the day (complete interviews). A third surveyor was stationed at the Pattullo Bridge (Brownsville Bar) where they conducted hourly rod counts and conducted interviews from anglers that had finished fishing for the day (complete interviews).

The surveyors began conducting complete hourly rod counts on October 20. Instantaneous effort counts began on October 20; counts occurred during peak effort (12:00 pm).

For analyses the data were stratified into month, day type (weekend and weekday), and region (Region 1: below Mission Bridge; Region 2: above Mission Bridge). Data were stored and analyzed using excel.

References

Schubert, N.D. 1992. Angler Effort and Catch in the 1985-1988 Lower Fraser River Sport Fishery. Canadian Manuscript Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences No. 2170.

Schubert, N.D. 1995. Angler Effort and Catch in Four Fraser River Sport Fisheries, 1991. Canadian Manuscript Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences 2267.

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