



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

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Visions Forum

**South Coast FSC and domestic use
Fisheries Monitoring and Catch
Reporting
Nov 27, 2024**

Canada 



Outline

1. Fishery* Monitoring Program
2. Fishing Area/Target Species
3. Uncertainty/Errors
4. Benefits/ Challenges
5. Conclusion

*the focus is on salmon fisheries for domestic purposes (Modern Treaty Nations) or FSC (Historic Treaty Nations and non-Treaty Nations), which includes home use catch during right-based sale fisheries.





Fishery Monitoring Program

- Communal Licences issued for a year duration from April 1 to March 31 (ECVI) or June 16 to June 15 (WCVI) and includes fishing areas, gear, species, catch reporting times, closed areas.
- Everything is open 24hrs, 7 days/week unless closed (eg Fraser River Sockeye closed by Variation Order for the Early Stuart window closure).
- Nations/Aggregates may issue designations to members (or contractors) or consider all members designated to fish.
- Apart from C&P, no DFO personnel dedicated to conduct monitoring.
- Monitoring and catch reporting mainly done by the Nations/Aggregates themselves.



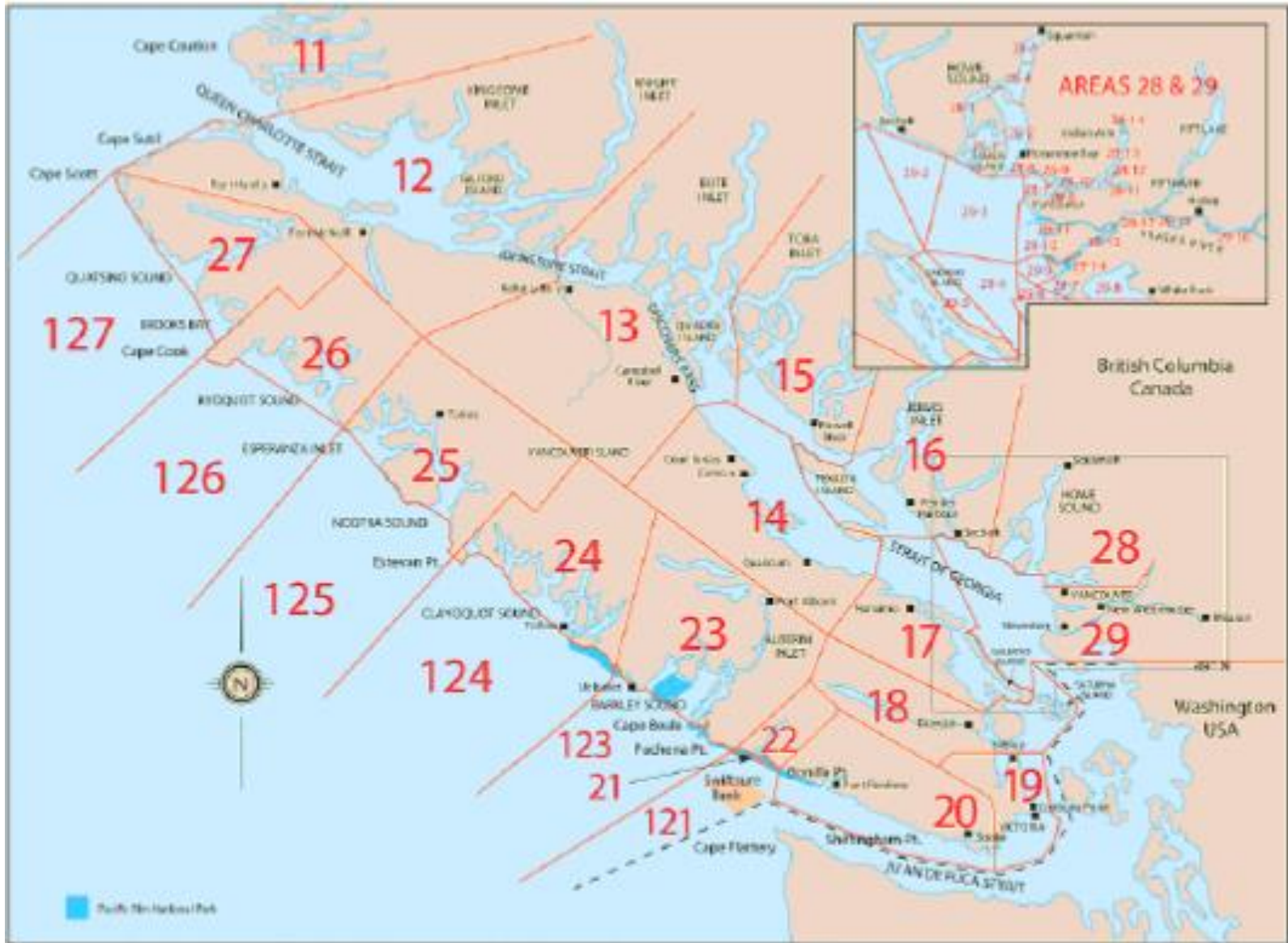
FSC Fishery Monitoring Program (Cont.)

- This means catch reporting by:
 - **Individual fishermen calling into a Nation with catch (smaller Nations with limited funding).**
 - **Nation's Guardians/Fishery Manager monitoring the fishery and/or offload (larger Nations/Aggregates).**
 - **Catch monitoring, dockside validation in right-based sale fisheries.**
- Nations/Aggregates report catch back to DFO.
- Weekly managed stocks (e.g. Fraser Sockeye and Somass River salmon) tend to be the best reported species in-season.
- Some Nations/Aggregates use database tools (e.g. AHMS) to report catch to DFO, and all Nations/Aggregates may use a variety of other methods to report catch (e.g. text, email, phone).



FSC Fishery Monitoring Program (Cont.)

- DFO AFS Managers follow up in-season for fishing effort and catch information.
- Nations/Aggregates report back catch through their catch as part of AFS reporting deliverables.
- In some cases, DFO will get DNA samples from FSC fisheries eg Coho in areas 13 and 14 in September for stock ID.
- WCVI home use catch during right-based sale fisheries are incorporated into Nations' FSC catch reports, with a review process being developed collaboratively focused on identifying AABM/ISBM catch.
- In terms of effort, DFO uses information from Nations on vessels out and catch, in combination with on grounds observations of activity (e.g. from C&P).
- We do not extrapolate FSC catch, use what we are given from the Nation.





Fishing Area/Target Species

- Marine Fisheries occur all around Vancouver Island
- Pacific Management Areas (PFMA) (11-27, at times 29)
- FSC fisheries on the inside (11-20) major target species
 - **Fraser River Sockeye**
 - **Chum**
 - **Chinook**
 - **Pink Salmon are typically not a desirable FSC species**
- FSC Fisheries on the West Coast (21-27; 121, 123-127) major target species
 - **Somass Sockeye, some Fraser River Sockeye and terminal Sockeye for FSC**
 - **Chinook**
 - **Coho**
 - **Chum**



Uncertainty/Errors

- The general rule is the larger the Nation/Organization the better the catch information we have due to their higher funding, capacity and higher volumes of catch.
- Smaller groups DFO generally calls to acquire catch information.
- The better the relationship and/or funding situation, the better the catch info we tend to get.
- Catch information depends on each Nation or Organization.
- Nations can be very reluctant in providing DFO information as they are afraid it will be used against them and their general mistrust of DFO.
- There are gaps in our monitoring and catch information programs – due to resourcing and funding.
- These are sweeping generalizations for discussion and illustrative purposes only.



Benefits/Challenges

- Impacts on fisheries and relationships with DFO vary considerably in South Coast, resulting in asymmetric benefits and challenges.
- The benefits to the program is getting some catch information as opposed to none. Knowing the out takes in all fisheries (First Nations, Commercial and Recreational) is one of the crucial factors in managing a resource.
- Larger groups with larger funding pots tend to have better catch monitoring programs.
- The data DFO receives again depends on the Nation or group.
- The challenge is really to get the best catch information we can within the existing funding and resource constraints.



Conclusion

- In South Coast our catch monitoring programs vary from simple phone in catch by Nations/Aggregates Resource Managers to fully funded catch monitoring, dockside validation programs (Ha'oom and Somass Sockeye fisheries) which may include use of catch reporting databases.
- To improve our catch monitoring programs additional financial and personnel resources are required for all the Nations/Aggregates to conduct proper catch monitoring and support relationship building towards collaborative management.