

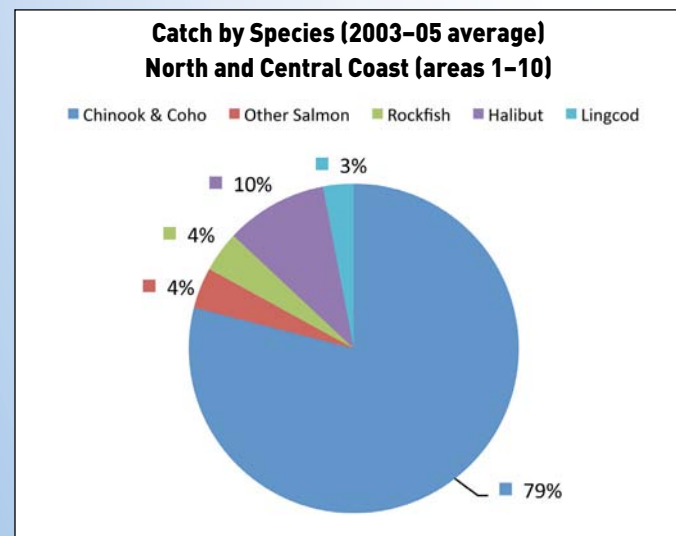
Recreational Fishing

Recreational fishing, also known as sport fishing, is considered fishing by any means for recreational purposes.¹

Fish caught through recreational fishing cannot be legally bought, sold or bartered in Canada. The recreational marine, or tidal, fishery is managed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and is regulated by the *BC Sport Fishing Regulations* under the *Fisheries Act*. Freshwater recreational fishing is managed and regulated under the jurisdiction of the Province of BC. Management measures include catch and size limits, licensing, gear restrictions, and seasonal and area closures. These measures are applied to varying degrees by area and species.¹

Species and Catch Levels

Chinook and coho salmon are the most common recreational species caught in PNCIMA, although anecdotal evidence suggests fishing of invertebrate species is increasing. Between 2003 and 2005, coho represented 41 percent of the average catch and chinook represented 38 percent, for a combined 79 percent share of the recreational catch. Halibut was the third most abundant species fished in the area (see pie chart).¹

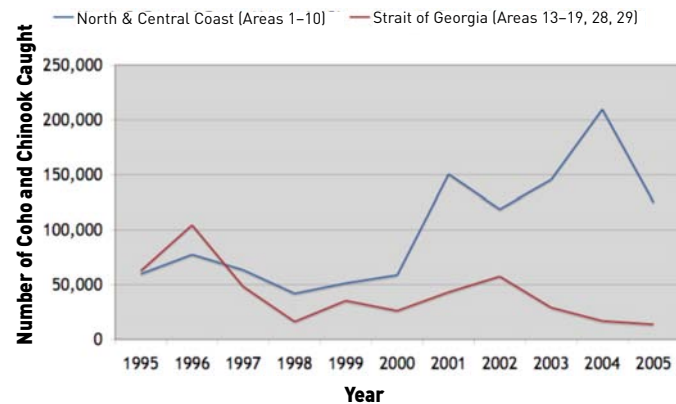


Langara Fishing Lodge (Haida Gwaii).
Photo: Langara Fishing Adventures



Sport fishing in Broughton.
Photo: Jack Mathias

Regional Comparison: Combined Coho and Chinook Catch¹



Catch statistics reveal a shift in the recreational fishery from south to north. Between 1995 and 2005, the number of coho and chinook caught in the Strait of Georgia dropped from more than 100,000 to less than 50,000 (see graph). Coho and chinook catches on the north and central coast increased between 1998 and 2004, reaching more than 200,000 in 2004.¹

Fishing Lodges

As of 2009, there were 50 fishing lodges in PNCIMA that catered to recreational anglers. They provide a range of services, from basic to full service including equipment rentals, guided fishing excursions, meals, accommodation (basic to luxury), and other non-fishing activities. This number includes only those lodges which have a marine component (floating lodges or live aboard marine vessels which are moored in a semi-permanent or recurring location, and land-based lodges with docks).² Fishing and charter operations which moor boats at marinas are not identified on the accompanying map. Those operations house guests in in-town lodges or bed-and-breakfast style accommodation, or simply offer day charter services.

¹ MacConnachie, S., Hillier, J. and Butterfield, S. 2007. Marine use analysis for the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area. Can. Tech. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci 2677: viii + 189 p.
² British Columbia Marine Conservation Analysis Project Team. 2011. Marine atlas of Pacific Canada: a product of the British Columbia Marine Conservation Analysis. Available from www.bcmca.ca (Accessed March 2011).

