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Canada

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# Pacific Region Conservation and Protection

## 2016 SALMON PROGRAM RESULTS

Forum on Conservation & Harvest Planning for Fraser Salmon  
January 24, 2017

Canada



# South Coast Area

## Vancouver Island and Sunshine Coast

Patrols during closed periods, including flights by the Arial Surveillance plane and Mid-Shore patrol vessels.

Observations and comments by officers indicated a high level of compliance by all sectors during sockeye migration timing.



## South Coast Area Patrol Time Results 2013 - 2016 (hours)

|  |                     |                     |                     | 2016        |                 |            |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|
|  | Patrol Time<br>2013 | Patrol Time<br>2014 | Patrol Time<br>2015 | Patrol Time | Persons Checked | Violations |
| Aboriginal - Salmon                        | 563.25              | 471.25              | 482.5               | 219.75      | 57              | 33         |
| Aboriginal - Salmon (economic opportunity) | 55.5                | 78.75               | 157.5               | 159.75      | 57              | 32         |
| Commercial Salmon - Net                    | 360.75              | 1059.75             | 804.25              | 768.5       | 328             | 85         |
| Rec - Salmon (non-tidal)                   | 401                 | 180                 | 388.75              | 309         | 76              | 17         |
| UCAT - Salmon Unlicensed/Closed Area/Time  | 873.75              | 540.25              | 945.75              | 642.75      | 412             | 80         |
| Rec - Salmon (tidal)                       | 1450                | 2157.5              | 2612.75             | 2151.25     | 3251            | 374        |
| Commercial Salmon - Troll                  | 14                  | 167.5               | 151                 | 74.5        | 44              | 5          |



# 2016 South Coast Area Successes

Observed compliance declines in commercial salmon fisheries. C&P focused on conservation & catch reporting priorities and increased attention to South Coast commercial & Economic fisheries.



## S.C. C&P Challenges

Slot limits (maximum size or variable size limits) for Early Fraser Chinook conservation efforts are difficult to enforce. The proximity to less restrictive fishing areas and necessity to 'prove' where the fish was caught has unduly complicated and hampered enforcement.





## SC C&P observations

Patrols during the limited FSC fishing in Johnstone Straits indicated good compliance

Fishing effort was quite low compared with other years.



## SC C&P Recreational fishery effort

Additional monitoring was conducted on the South Island Recreational Fishery and included dockside landings and on water fishing activities throughout Juan Du Fuca strait, Victoria and the lower Strait of Georgia.

Early Time Chinook protection measures were enforced.



## Mixed Stock Chinook Fisheries

Demo AABM salmon fisheries occurred throughout the season by the T'aaq-wii-hak first nations in the Tofino and Nootka Sound offshore areas.

Early timed Chinook protective measures included delayed openings in southern waters. Compliance to these spring & early summer conservation measures was good.





## S.C. C&P observations

During summer Demo salmon fisheries compliance by the small vessels was good but fishing area and gear use violations by high capacity type vessels (trollers) required C&P response.



## S.C. C&P observations

Fishing by the T'aaq-wii-hak trollers outside the designated fishing area (greater than 9 miles) and lack of plug use was detected.

As a result, a large portion of the 2016 Chinook catch was caught outside the licenced fishing area during summer fisheries. Dispute over implementation and aspects of the Ahousaht decision have complicated that enforcement.



## 2016 Commercial Fisheries

C&P monitored JST and Fraser approach fishing activity to ensure compliance & protection.

In contrast WCVI Sockeye returned at near record levels -  
Somass Sockeye virtually equaled Fraser River return.

Violations were encountered in catch and effort reporting, particularly during fisheries with less frequent openings or reduced C&P presence.

Compliance improved with C&P presence



# 2016 Commercial Fisheries

Concerns with hail ins (start fishing and catch reporting violations).

As a result of poor compliance in 2014/2015, enhanced monitoring was conducted on Johnstone Strait chum gill net fisheries. The most frequent violation was failure to hail in or out



## 2016 Recreational Fisheries

Enforcement of recreational fisheries focused on conservation concerns and areas with reduced compliance

Changes to the WCVI conservation corridor made for more effective enforcement

C&P worked with RM to simplify complex regulations to increase compliance and enforceability

Online licencing problems created situations where licenses were not always available





# Marine Patrol Program



The Vessel Martin Charles was operational for 226 patrol days in the South Coast and Lower Fraser areas.

This vessel was deployed to monitor Fraser River Sockeye conservation measures.

This improved catch reporting, verification and accountability



# Aerial Surveillance Program

Aerial surveillance generated sightings and violations information that was shared on a near real time basis with the Fishery Officers in detachments and the Marine Patrol Program

Violations in salmon fisheries were identified and tasked to land based detachments

Photographs identified multiple violations including closed area fishing in commercial, recreational and FSC fisheries



# Lower Fraser - Howe Sound to Hells Gate





### Lower Fraser Area Patrol Time Results 2013 - 2016 (hours)

|   |                     |                     |                     | 2016           |                 |            |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|
|   | Patrol Time<br>2013 | Patrol Time<br>2014 | Patrol Time<br>2015 | Patrol Time    | Persons Checked | Violations |
| <b>UCAT - Salmon Unlicensed/Closed Area/Time</b>  | <b>3690.5</b>       | <b>3258.5</b>       | <b>4150.25</b>      | <b>4180.25</b> | <b>410</b>      | <b>230</b> |
| <b>Commercial Salmon - Net</b>                    | <b>153.25</b>       | <b>617.25</b>       | <b>167</b>          | <b>197.25</b>  | <b>103</b>      | <b>25</b>  |
| <b>Aboriginal - Salmon</b>                        | <b>1104.75</b>      | <b>748</b>          | <b>1357.5</b>       | <b>785</b>     | <b>188</b>      | <b>40</b>  |
| <b>Rec - Salmon (tidal)</b>                       | <b>269</b>          | <b>268.25</b>       | <b>616.75</b>       | <b>465.5</b>   | <b>527</b>      | <b>67</b>  |
| <b>Rec - Finfish (non-tidal)</b>                  | <b>1628.25</b>      | <b>1035</b>         | <b>1551.5</b>       | <b>1080</b>    | <b>106</b>      | <b>7</b>   |
| <b>Rec - Salmon (non-tidal)</b>                   |                     |                     |                     |                | <b>1535</b>     | <b>73</b>  |
| <b>Aboriginal - Salmon (economic opportunity)</b> | <b>257</b>          | <b>261</b>          | <b>83.5</b>         | <b>73</b>      | <b>130</b>      | <b>1</b>   |
| <b>Commercial Salmon - Troll</b>                  | <b>5</b>            | <b>7</b>            | <b>0</b>            | <b>6</b>       | <b>0</b>        | <b>0</b>   |





## 2016 Lower Fraser Area Successes

- Aboriginal salmon: Officers continued to meet with aboriginal groups to discuss issues such as illegal harvesting, unauthorized sales or C&P processes.
- Many of these meetings are one-on-one with the local fishery advisor.
- The Detachment Supervisors attended the larger Lower Fraser Fishery Alliance tier 2 meetings in person and on the conference calls regularly throughout the year
- Worked with RCMP to increase enforcement presence in systems like the Pitt River and Coquitlam River





## 2016 Lower Fraser Area Challenges

- During the short Fraser River recreational chinook fishery – Large number of charges for no licence or incorrect licence, snagging and barbed hooks.
- September saw a large increase in recreational fishing activity on the river systems due in part to the large population base in the Lower Mainland and the recreational sockeye fishery closure on the Fraser River. This resulted in significant snagging issues on spawning grounds and over limit issues on Coquitlam, Alouette, Stave and Vedder where fishing violations were frequently encountered.
- F.V. East Detachment seized 108 gillnets during the close time. There were 25 First Nation persons charged, resulting in seizures of 15 vessels. Many of these violations were for gear, licence or fishing closed time.



## Fraser Coastal

Area E commercial chum fishery: poor compliance,  
Monday October 24:

- 25 vessels checked, 30 persons checked
- No FRC – 3 appearance notices, 1 warning
- Coho retention – 2 appearance notices, 2 tickets
- No revival tank and closed time - 2 appearance notices, still fishing 1 hour after close.



## Fraser Coastal (cont.)

- Thursday October 27:
- 20 vessels checked, 30 persons checked
- Fail to produce FRC – 6 tickets
- No revival tank and no FRC – 1 appearance notice
- Coho and Chinook retention – 1 appearance notice
- No revival tank – 3 warnings



## Rec. Salmon fishery – mouth of the Fraser River

Recreational salmon fishery at the mouth of the Fraser River: poor compliance

For example:

Saturday September 10:

- 21 vessels checked, 60 persons checked
- 11 violations – barbed hook, fail to record Chinook and undersized Chinook.



## Aboriginal salmon fishing

The only violations encountered this year in this area were for fishers that did not have their designation cards while they were participating in FSC fisheries - warnings issued.





## Fraser Valley West Commercial Chum

October 24 – Fraser R.

- 12 vessels checked out of 90+ vessels
- 5 violations – revival tank not in operation while pulling gear, FRC, VRN faded and not recognizable

October 27 – Fraser R.

- 12 vessels checked
- 4 violations – fish closed time, revival tank and VRN



## FVW Recreational fishery

October 05 – tidal Fraser R. - 7 checks

- 2 violations – fish without licence, fail to produce licence

October 18 – Nicomekl, Little Campbell and Serpentine R. - 24 checks

- 3 violations – barbed hook, fish within 23 m of an obstruction



## FVW Rec. fishery (cont).

October 19 – Fraser R. -18 checks

- 3 violations – fail to produce licences, barbed hook
- November 05 - Fraser R. - 21 checks
- 7 violations – no fishing licence, fish more than one rod, use treble hook



## FVW Aboriginal Fisheries

Very limited sockeye opportunities – good compliance.

C&P effort was re-directed to the recreational fishery on all non-tidal and tidal streams within the FVW patrol area.



## FVE overall patrol summary

Fraser Valley east staff conducted 381 vehicle patrols, 109 Vessel patrols and 17 Helicopter patrols:

- 1066 recreational checks conducted and 57 charges
- 104 P.O.P.U. set nets seized 8 vessels and 2 ATV`s seized
- 14 First Nations Charges





# BC Interior – Hells Gate to Prince George to Alberta Border





## BC Interior Area Patrol Time Results 2013 - 2016 (hours)

|  |                     |                     |                     | 2016        |                 |            |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|
|  | Patrol Time<br>2013 | Patrol Time<br>2014 | Patrol Time<br>2015 | Patrol Time | Persons Checked | Violations |
| UCAT - Salmon Unlicensed/Closed Area/Time  | 3138.5              | 1256.75             | 2035.5              | 2088.75     | 564             | 134        |
| Rec - Salmon (non-tidal)                   | 562.5               | 906.75              | 763.75              | 750.5       | 398             | 87         |
| Aboriginal - Salmon                        | 1151.5              | 735.75              | 1466.75             | 1055        | 278             | 46         |
| Aboriginal - Salmon (economic opportunity) | 3                   | 75                  | 2                   | 8           | 0               | 0          |
| Commercial Salmon - Troll                  | 237.25              | 449.75              | 665                 | 243         | 44              | 4          |
| Other - Protest (aboriginal)               |                     |                     |                     | 178.75      | 40              | 113        |
| Rec - Finfish (non-tidal)                  |                     |                     |                     | 214.75      | 159             | 44         |



## 2016 BCI Successes

- Fishery Officers were strategically placed to deal with fishing closures and illegal activities such as illegal fishing on the Fraser River sockeye runs – especially during weak runs
- Consultations and regular communications along with enforcement provided a deterrence in most areas to combat illegal sockeye fishing
- Relatively good compliance for the sockeye closure, except for 10 days, dealing with First Nations protesting the sockeye close time in Lillooet



## BCI success (cont).

- The enforcement actions taken in 2015 resulted in better deterrence, higher compliance and a reduction in First Nation protest activity in 2016
- C&P and R.M. staff invited and participated in First Nations Elders Gathering in Williams Lake (est. 5000 participants).



## 2016 BCI Challenges

Officers from Kamloops and Salmon Arm spent the majority of the summer months in Lillooet dealing with extensive close time fishing for Fraser River sockeye

Officers spent a substantial amount of time and effort capturing over 300 violations on First Nation protest fisheries and illegal fishing for sockeye on weak runs

Proactive patrols for the protection of salmon habitat were not conducted due to recent changes in habitat programs, procedures and direction. Habitat enforcement by Fishery Officers was limited in comparison to previous years, except for Mount Polley Investigation





## Mount Polley Breach

August 4, 2014 Imperial Mines had a tailings pond breach. More than 10 million cubic meters of effluent was released into Polley and Quesnel Lake near the town of Likely

Extensive Joint investigation being conducted into the breach by the Conservation Officer Service, Environment Canada and DFO

Violations of the Fisheries Act - section 35(1) Destruction of Fish Habitat and 36(3) – deleterious substances deposit.

Six Fishery Officers are working full time on Mount Polley file. The conclusion of the Investigation should occur in 2017. As of November 22, 2016, C&P dedicate 13, 898.5 hours to investigation



## North Coast

- C&P has directed enforcement efforts on the commercial troll fishery that numbers average around 100 trollers
- Restorative Justice processes on persistent violations of conditions of licence specifically illegal gear and failing to provide heads for sampling have resulted in much better compliance in the fishery



## North Coast

- Area 1 and 2 Recreational fishers at the established lodges on the north island number on average 15000 fishers per year
- Targeted enforcement activities have resulted in numerous charges and two significant fines.