Sport Fishing – Prawn and Shrimp

description
This atlas page portrays areas along the BC coast used for recreational (sport) fishing for prawn and shrimp. Sport fishing is as much about the overall experience as it is about the actual catch, hence the map portrays where effort is expended, not necessarily where fish are caught. The information reflects both independent and guided participation.

Sport fishing in the tidal waters of British Columbia, which has taken place since the first Western Europeans settlers arrived, is an important social activity, especially in small coastal communities. BC Stat estimated that in 2005 the tidal sport fishery in BC generated $467 million in direct economic output, $135 million in GDP, 4,200 full-time equivalent employees and $88.9 million in employment income.

As of 2003, the SFAB started to map coastal BC sport fishing areas. This includes areas that are tied to the size of boat used by the individual providing the ranking.

The SFAB is a volunteer-based tidal water angling consultation process organized by and overseen by DFO. The local SFAB committees balance participation of members who recreationally fish as a hobby as well as those who businesses or jobs earn them revenue from sport fishing. Through interactions with the BC Wildlife Federation, the BC Federation of Drift Fishers, the BC Federation of Fly Fishers and the Sport Fishing Institute, the SFAB is broadly accepted as the voice of tidal water sport fishing in BC.

data sources
- Province of British Columbia Coastal Resource Information Management System (CRIMS), updated by BC Marine Conservation Analysis (BMCMA) with local knowledge
- Parks Canada

data resolution
- Fishing areas were mapped using CHS Nautical Charts ranging in scale from 1:70,000 to 1:120,000.

date compiled
- Province of BC: 1993 – 1996
- Parks Canada: 2006
- Data were verified and updated by BMCMA between 2008 and 2009.

reviewers
- C. Bos and D. Daugert, Sport Fishing Advisory Board

reviewer comments
- There is no practical way to test or verify data that were collected anecdotally at local meetings. "I noted several instances where I knew of specific areas fished on occasion that were not identified."

- The obvious shortcoming is that the data do not provide a metric of intensity, economic value, or social value. All of these need to be taken into account if these data are to be used for planning in the future.

- The tidal portion of streams and rivers was not included. These areas are defined as marine fisheries by DFO, and are some of the most heavily fished areas, particularly by families. Because these waters are important from a life cycle perspective and because they are so accessible by individuals and families there may be significant uses and impacts which we are not aware. This is not to say that the data currently exist and as such represent a gap. Rather, if and when these data do become available they should also be included.

- Presence / absence of data do not reflect the full range of interests and importance to all users, hence caution should be applied to not use the data as a basis for trade-offs.

- Recreational prawn fishers most frequently set traps between 40 and 100 metres. Those depth contours could be used to further refine the use areas.

caveats of use
- Not to be used for navigational purposes.
- An absence of a polygon on the map does not indicate an absence of sport fishing in a given area.
- There is no measure of economic value attached to each fishery category or identified fishing ground.
- Fishing locations change over time in conjunction with changes in fish migration patterns, food distribution, weather and other environmental variables that constitute "good fishing grounds". Some locations provide fishing opportunities for one target species for only a few weeks per year as they migrate through the area. Others provide opportunities for multiple species at different times of the year. The data do not contain a comprehensive indication of frequency of use to show how often a particular location is visited or whether that use is seasonal or year round.
- Any relative importance rankings assigned are from the historic Provincial data. In verifying and updating data there was no grading of relative importance of one fishing area over another. Reasons include: Areas overlap, and fishing grounds that may be important to one community may be less important to another.
- Area size is a major factor for accessing fishing grounds. Bigger boats can range further from shore. The relative importance of an area is tied to the size of boat used by the individual providing the ranking.
- While there was widespread participation in the mapping exercise by SFAB members throughout the coast, participants may not be a representative sample when it comes to ranking importance. Ranking fishing grounds on a basis of relative importance would create a bias towards areas preferred by tidal water anglers who agreed to participate in the mapping exercise.
- Data sets representing the recreational shellfish by trap fishery for the area from Sooke to Nanaimo did not differentiate between crab and prawn and are shown on both maps.
- Recommended date of expiry for use of these data in a marine planning context: Between 2012 and 2014.

map, feature data and metadata access
- Visit www.bcmca.ca/data for more information.

references

www.bcmca.ca Marine Atlas of Pacific Canada
Inset Map

1:500,000*

Note: The inset has been provided to illustrate the level of detail available in the data. The exact pixel dimensions may not be large enough to depict the significance in this region.

Legend

Prawn and Shrimp

Data Sources:
BCMA, Parks Canada, Province of British Columbia

Base Data:
ESRI Base Data, GeoBase, GeoBC, NSIDC, Natural Resource Canada, USGS, Washington State Government

Thematic Data:
For more information on data sources and methods please refer to the facing page to this map

Projection: BC Albers NAD83

* Written scales are approximate and are based on an 11 x 17 inch paper size.

Prepared for:

BCMCA Atlas
Sport Fishing
Prawn and Shrimp

Map templates by Cadlys Consulting Ltd.
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