

North Coast Discards to August 4th

Discards to date in 2013 North Coast salmon fisheries to August 4th are as follows:

Area & Gear	Geographical Area	Total Discards	Sockeye	Coho	Chums	Springs	Steelhead
Area 3 GN	Portland Canal -	11,402		4,433	5,077	1,532	360
Area 3 SN	north of Prince Rupert	54,391	18,190	6	35,097	998	100
Area 6 SN	Central Coast near Hartley Bay	95,237	23,349	16,385	54,690	756	57
Area 8 GN	Fisher and FitzHugh	1,756	193	1,263	0	53	247
Area 8 SN	Sounds/ Inside Passage	2,226	1,163	988	0	66	9
		165,012	42,895	23,075	94,864	3,405	773

DFO is unable to provide any estimate of the condition of the discards other than to say mortality is likely high in seine fisheries. A 2012 study in Area 20 indicated that under near perfect conditions - a skipper with years of DFO C&R test fishing experience, very small sets, and science staff/observers onboard - mortality rates were 28% higher than the 15% mortality rate used by DFO in North Coast seine fisheries.

Observer coverage in 2013 (data is up to and including week 30) is much lower than what is required by current DFO policy or academic literature. Both suggest that 20% is a minimum standard of coverage when stocks of concern are present.

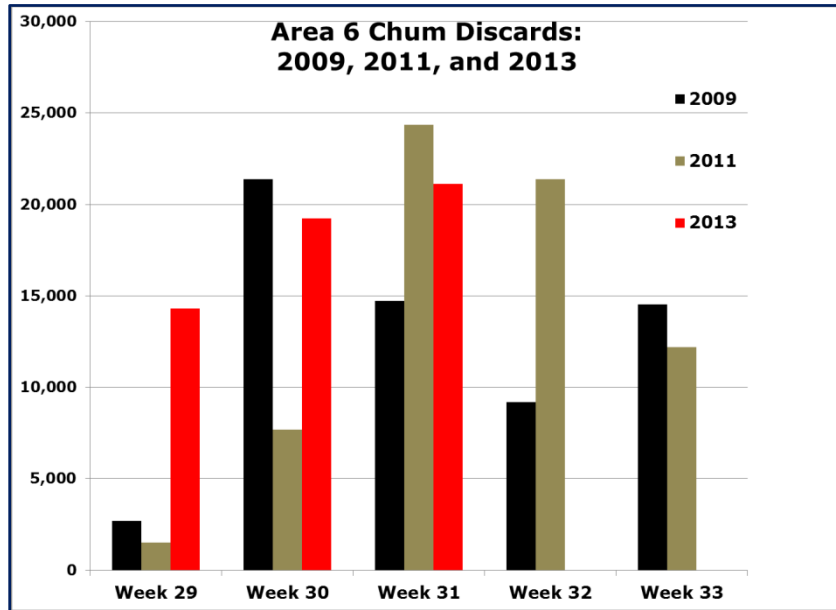
Area & Gear	Observer Coverage
Area 3 GN	1.2%
Area 3 SN	3.7%
Area 6 SN	4.7%
Area 8 GN	0.0%
Area 8 SN	0.0%

Observers are required to record the condition of discards upon release. Managers, when asked, said they do not have the capacity to evaluate the data related to the condition of discards, or provide an estimate of the proportion of discards that will survive to spawn. Hence, this information is not incorporated into management decisions.

Area 6 pink catches remain strong. Pink escapements appear that they will meet or exceed targets. Chum escapements are more problematic. Concerns have been raised by people walking streams that chum escapements are lower than what they would like to see.

Furthermore, the proportion of hatchery chums In Area 6 is likely lower in 2013 than it was in 2009. The abundance of Kitimat hatchery chums allowed for a directed GN fishery in 2009. A similar fishery is unlikely to occur in 2013.

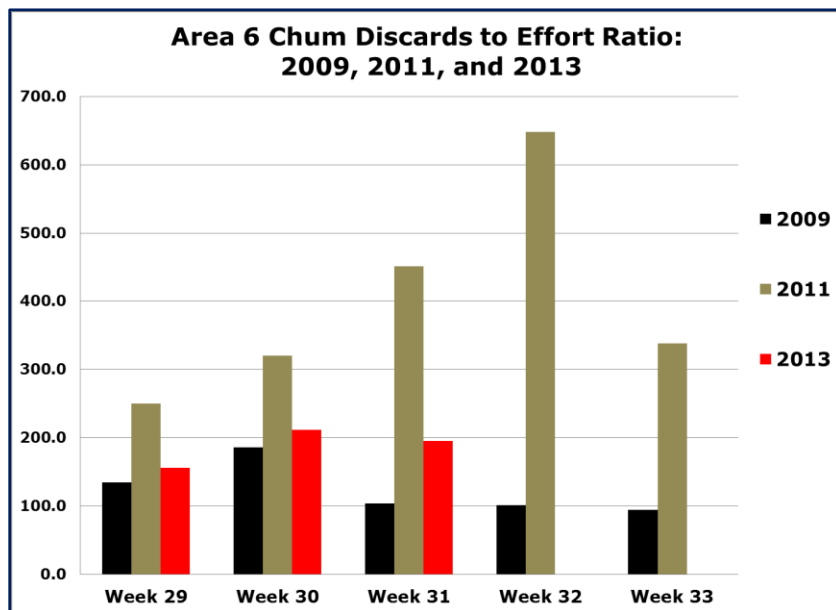
Area 6 Seine Chum Discards
Weeks 29 to 31 are complete.



Area 6 Ratio of Seine Chum Discards to Effort to August 4th

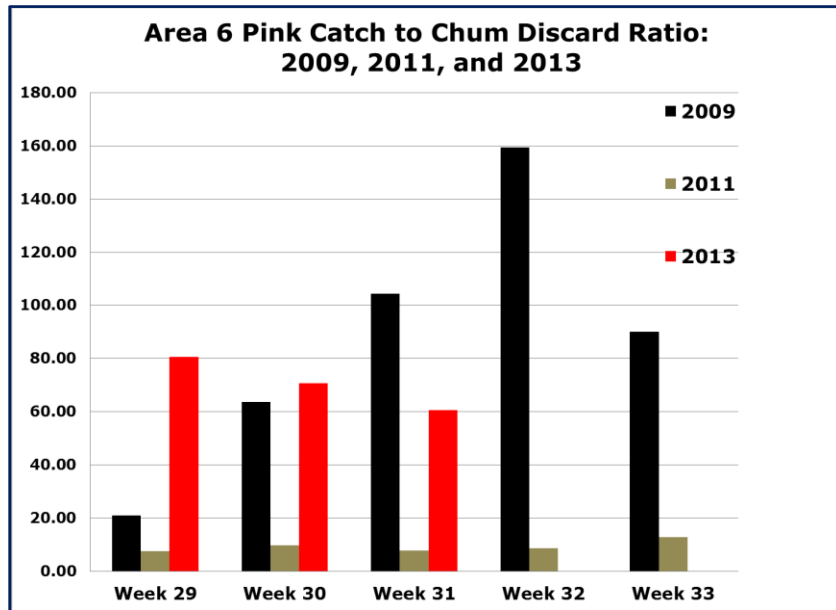
Caution: effort varies between years

How to read graph: in 2009 approximately 200 chums are discarded each day by each boat participating in the fishery

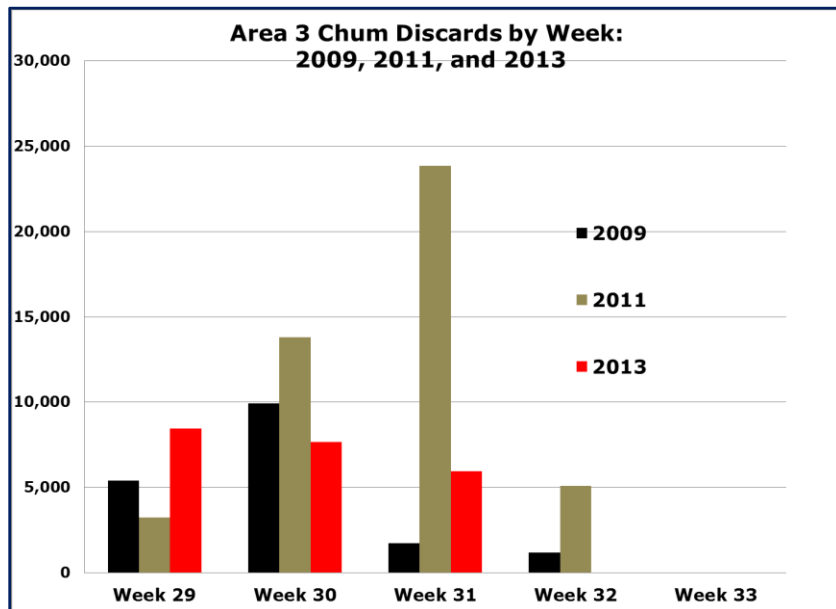


Area 6 Ratio of Seine Pink Catch to Chum Discards to August 4th

How to read graph: in 2009, 60 pinks were caught for every chum discarded

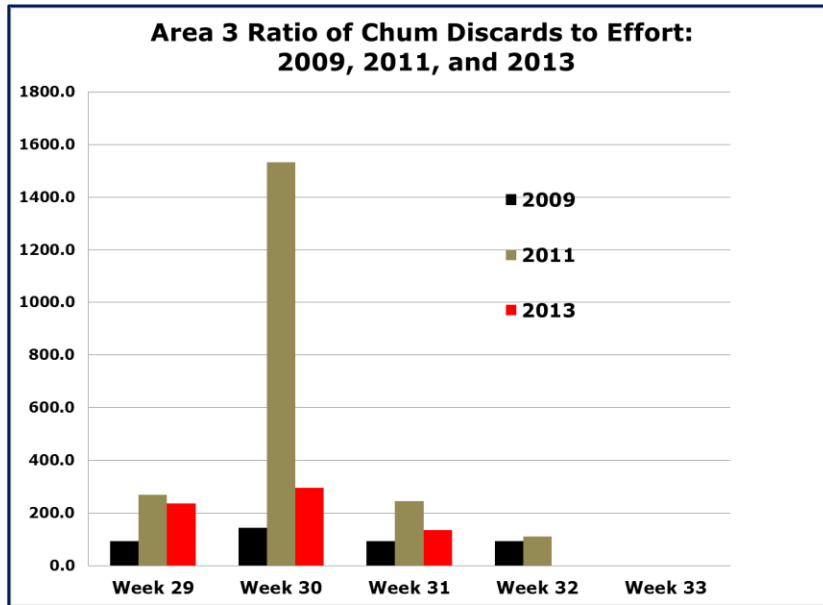


Area 3 Seine Chum Discards Weeks 29 to week 31 are complete.

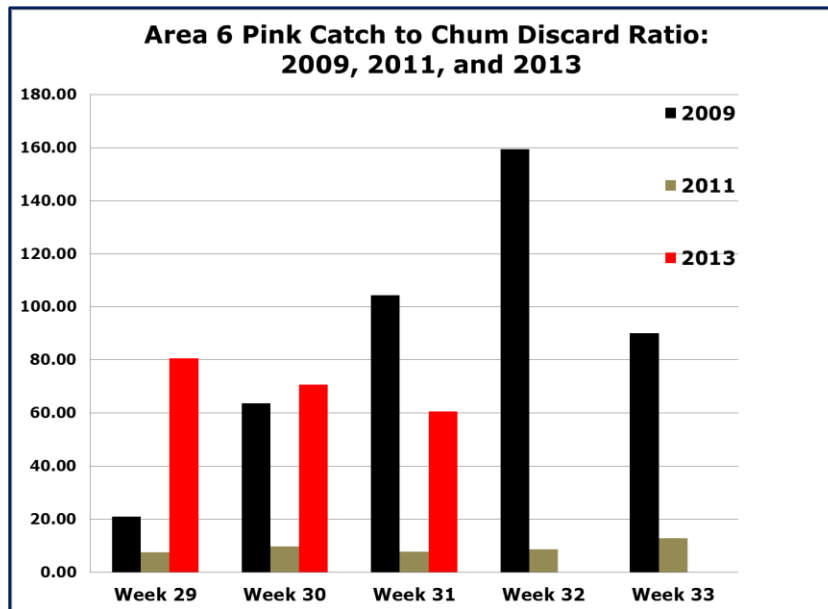


Area 3 Ratio of Seine Chum Discards to Effort to July 31st

Caution: Effort varies by Year



Area 3 Ratio of Seine Pink Catch to Chum Discards to August 4th



Weekly Effort

Weeks 29 to 31 are complete.

Weekly Effort	Area 3 2009	Area 3 2011	Area 3 2013	Area 6 2009	Area 6 2011	Area 6 2013
Week 29	58	12	36	20	6	92
Week 30	69	9	26	115	24	91
Week 31	19	97	44	142	54	108
Week 32	13	46		91	33	
Week 33	9			154	36	

Stat Week Converter

Week	29	30	31	32	33
2009	July 12-18	July 19-25	July 26-Aug 1	Aug 2-8	Aug 9-15
2011	July 10-16	July 17-23	July 24-30	July 31-6	Aug 7-13
2013	July 14-20	July 21-27	July 28-Aug 3	Aug 4-10	Aug 11-17

The Marine Stewardship Council Surveillance Audit of BC pink fisheries is scheduled for October 7, 2013. The audit will be evaluating whether fishermen are complying with the Terms and Conditions of licence, efforts are being made to reduce discards, DFO can produce "scientifically defensible estimates" of discards, and the impact of discards on non-target stock status is better understood.

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 August 5, 2013