

## RIVERS INLET CREEL SURVEY 2004

The survey ran from July 13 to Aug. 30 and employed 1 Wuikinuxv Fish Tech working with a DFO contract employee. It was budgeted for \$14,000 and completed for \$10,368. The methodology consisted of:

- 1) Approaching lodge clients on the water and checking their adherence to regulations.
- 2) Checking angler knowledge of the new voluntary regulations; no downriggers and 1 line per angler.
- 3) Inquiring about their salmon catch.
- 4) Collecting logbook data from the lodges.

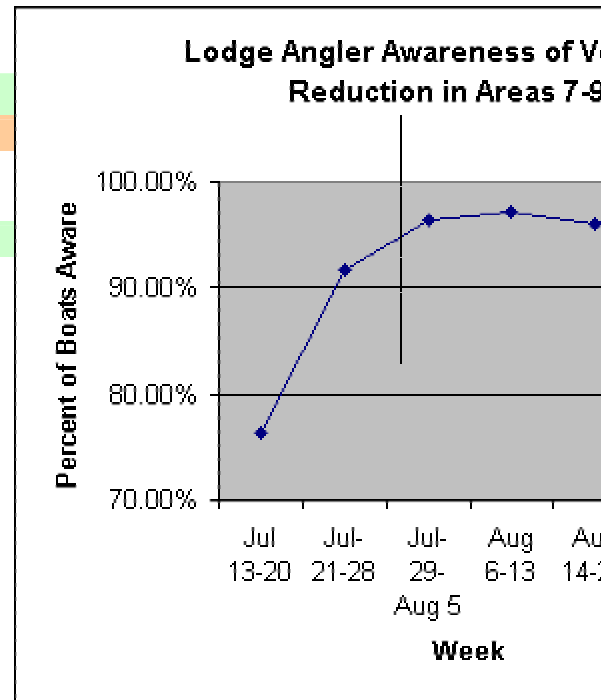
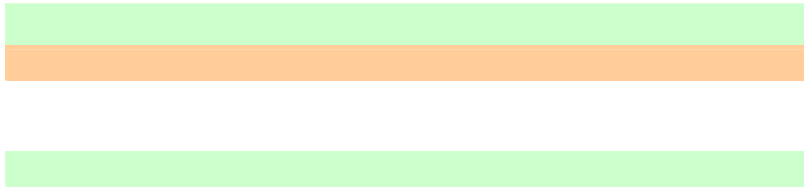
The catch of non-lodge affiliated fishermen was estimated.

**Number of Lodge Boats Interviewed: 863**

**Number of Info Docs distributed to Lodge Boats: 149**

### Lodge Awareness of Voluntary reduction in gear:

W	#	%
Jul 13-20	29/38	76
Jul-21-28	178/194	91
Jul-29-Aug 5	83/86	96
Aug 6-13	167/172	97
Aug 14-21	98/102	96
Aug 22-29	148/150	98



The project ran smoothly with the following exceptions.

- 1) One lodge refused to participate.
- 2) The surveyors were subjected to some verbal harassment.
- 3) One lodge owner was suspected of instructing his clients not to answer questions under the guise of not being able to speak English.

In addition, the project suffers from some structural problems.

- 1) The surveyors have no authority to inspect boats and must rely on angler verbal statements.
- 2) Wuikinuxv Fisheries had real concerns about angler Halibut catch at Pearl Rocks but this area was never checked.
- 3) There was no consultation with Wuikinuxv Fisheries about some of the major decisions, such as exempting 1 of the lodges from the survey.
- 4) Ground fish catch data is not compiled.
- 5) The project does not add to our employee knowledge or skills.
- 6) RSSEPS should not be paying management costs for a fishery.

The project was funded as a last minute replacement for the cancelled hydro acoustic survey, but for the reasons above I recommend that RSSEPS not fund this project again.

Bruce Burrows  
Fisheries Manager  
Wuikinuxv nation