

## Marine Fish and Invertebrates – Shrimp Trawl Survey Observed Catch Density - 2008

### description

Shrimp trawl surveys are conducted by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to provide biomass indices of shrimp by species for the shrimp trawl fisheries. Surveys take place annually in the spring (late May to June) and all biota from each tow are recorded. The surveys are termed 'area swept' surveys, and are of a fixed station design. These surveys are considered to be fishery independent, defined as research efforts undertaken independent of commercial fishing activity.

This series of maps illustrates the spatial variability in the catch densities (kilograms per square kilometre) observed and the relative catch densities across each region within any given year. (One map is provided in the print atlas, and BC Marine Conservation Analysis (BCMCA) provides separate maps for each year from 2004 to 2009 on their data repository. See the link below, under 'Map, feature data and metadata access.'). Catch in this case includes all biota, both fishes and invertebrates.

Data were provided by DFO as values for each BCMCA planning unit with survey tows. The mean density for each planning unit was calculated, and these values are displayed in equal interval classes determined by looking at the range of values from all years of data. Thus, data may not exist in all classes for every survey year, but colour classes are comparable among years.

### data sources

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Marine Ecosystem and Aquaculture Division, Shellfish Section

### data resolution

- Source data is collected by tow and GPS locations are recorded. DFO summarized the data illustrated here into 2 kilometre by 2 kilometre planning units.

### date collected

- 2008

### reviewers

- Leslie Barton, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (April 2010)

### reviewer comments

- None provided.

### caveats of use

- Spatial extents of trawl surveys are limited (see atlas page titled, *Shrimp Trawl Survey Areas*). Lack of data outside these areas should not be interpreted as lack of fish and invertebrate biota.
- All surveys are a limited view of reality. Species caught and recorded are partly a function of the fishing gear used. Each survey has unique gear limitations and therefore the size of individuals caught varies and the net efficiency varies. Data are post-processed by DFO to standardize for gear and duration of tow.
- Catch density is comprised of many different species which may not all be encountered by a given tow in a given year. These surveys target shrimp species primarily; other species are caught but not necessarily consistently. Therefore, these density values represent indices of relative value for the area surveyed only, for limited species and age groups. These values should not be interpreted as indices of overall ecosystem abundance or density, nor should they be used as absolute measures or compared among years.
- Survey data represents only the season when the data were collected (generally spring), and many species do migrate with season.
- There has been a gradual change over time in DFO's ability to identify taxonomic units. More recent data reflect a greater capacity to identify discrete taxonomic units.
- Recommended date of expiry for use of these data in a marine planning context: None provided.

### map, feature data and metadata access



- Visit [www.bcmca.ca/data](http://www.bcmca.ca/data) for more information.

**BCMCA Atlas**  
**Marine Fish and Invertebrates**  
**Shrimp Trawl Survey**  
**Catch - 2008**

**Legend**

**Observed Catch Density**  
(kilograms per square kilometre)

- < 60,000
- 60,001 - 120,000
- 120,001 - 180,000
- 180,001 - 240,000
- 240,001 - 300,000
- 300,001 - 360,000

Depth (m)  
 100  150

Note:  
- Data may not exist in all classes for this survey year.

**Data Sources:**  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

**Base Data:**  
ESRI Base Data, GeoBase, GeoBC, NOAA, Natural Resources 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

0 25 50 75 100 125 150

Kilometres

0 25 50 75

Nautical Miles

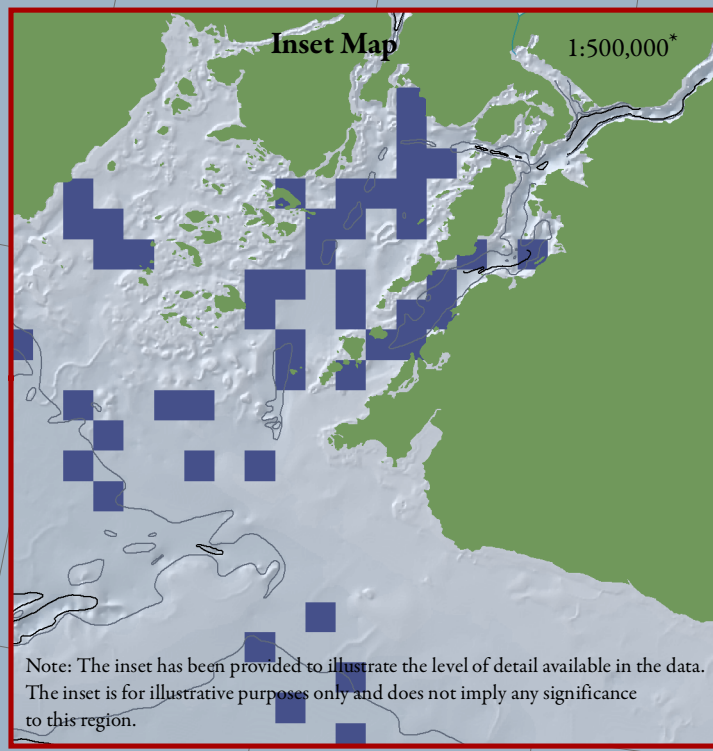
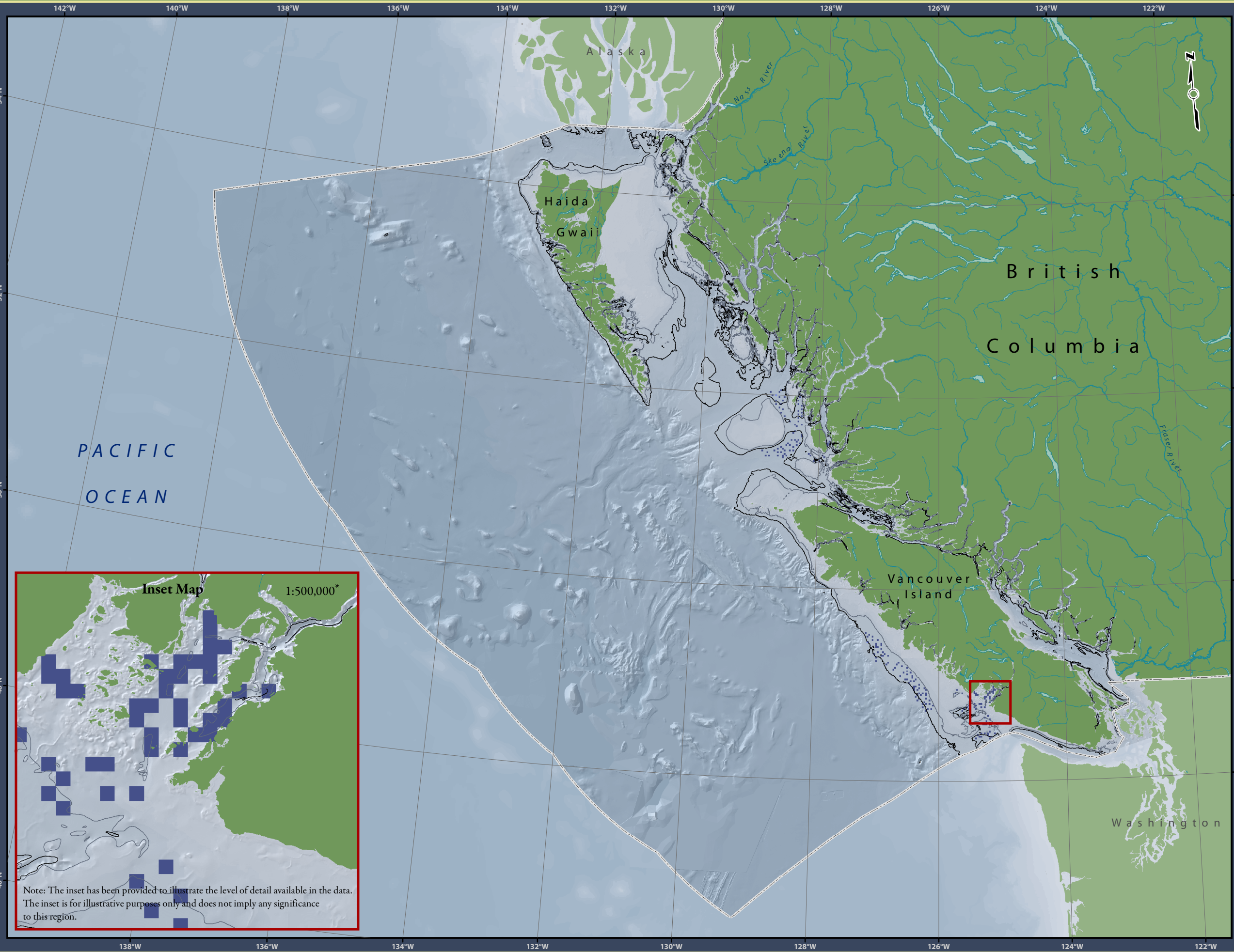
1:4,250,000 \*

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

Prepared for:



Map template by Caslys Consulting Ltd.  
August 25, 2010



Note: The inset has been provided to illustrate the level of detail available in the data. The inset is for illustrative purposes only and does not imply any significance to this region.