

## Tourism and Recreation – Marinas and Coastal Facilities

### description

Tourism is one of the province's leading economic drivers, generating \$13.8 billion in spending, \$6.6 billion in gross domestic product (GDP), 131,000 person-years of employment and \$4.7 billion in wages and salaries in 2008 (Tourism BC, 2009). The money spent by visitors and residents on ocean tourism and recreation activities in BC supports thousands of businesses and employees in coastal communities. Most marine tourism and recreation activities are seasonally dependant and use is concentrated in months with the most favourable weather conditions. However, timing varies according to the activity and some activities are pursued year-round.

Marinas, small craft harbours, yacht club outstations, fishing lodges and ecotourism lodges provide important infrastructure and amenities that allow marine users, both tourists and recreationists, to access the coast safely and conveniently. They also generate considerable economic activity. A study of the tidal water fishing lodges in 2002 found that 125 lodges saw 200,000 client days, which generated 820 person years in employment and \$120 million in revenue, plus an additional \$36 million in spending on accommodation, meals, travel, etc. that did not flow directly to the fishing lodge businesses (GSGislason & Associates, 2003). A study of the BC boating sector (Genesis, 2007) estimated recreational boating expenditures in 2006 totalling \$2.7 billion, and generating over \$1 billion in GDP, 19,300 jobs, \$705 million in employment income and \$380 million in government taxes.

The map displays a number of different types of marine facilities. A *marina* is a facility that contains docks and moorings for small boats, and often offers other amenities such as water, laundry, marine fuels, repairs, and other services and supplies. Those close to communities provide mostly permanent moorage with some transient space while more remote marinas focus on providing services for the transient market. Some are community run, while others are privately owned. *Yacht Clubs* are marinas that permit moorage by members only. Many offer reciprocal mooring rights at other yacht clubs or marinas and several operate outstations for their members.

A *public wharf* is a facility that provides access to a community, allowing for the loading and unloading of goods and people. Most were originally constructed and maintained by Transport Canada or Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and are known by their iconic red railings. Until 1995 Transport Canada maintained a network of 158 port facilities in BC, which included public wharves. Since then many public wharves have been divested to municipalities, local harbour authorities or decommissioned. There are currently 16 *Transport Canada Public Wharves* (ports) in BC, all designated as "remote" meaning they provide the only means of access to isolated communities. Transport Canada will continue to operate these remote ports unless local stakeholders express an interest in acquiring them.

DFO operates a national *Small Craft Harbour* (SCH) program. There are three categories of SCH: Core Fishing Harbours (harbours critical to the fishing and aquaculture industries that are managed by *Harbour Authorities*); Non-Core Fishing Harbours (harbours that support the fishing and aquaculture industries but are not managed by Harbour Authorities); and Recreational Harbours (harbours that support the recreational community). BC currently has 95 Small Craft Fishing Harbours, 78 of which are managed by 54 Harbour Authorities. There are 70 Small Craft Recreational Harbours in BC, 56 of which have been divested and 14 of which are in the process of being divested to local harbour authorities.

*Coastal ecotourism lodges* are coastal tourism facilities that provide overnight accommodation as well as ecotourism opportunities such as kayaking or wildlife viewing. Some lodges may be accessed by motor vehicle, while others require boat or air transport. Most offer all-inclusive packages comprising accommodation, meals and activities. *Fishing lodges* are similar to ecotourism lodges in that they provide accommodation, but sport fishing dominates the activity offerings. Fishing lodges are clustered in the North and Central Coast area, with density decreasing farther south. Although most northern lodges focus exclusively on the sport fishing market, dominated by non-resident anglers, others have broadened their activity base to include ecotourism. Fishing lodges can be divided into two categories: land-based and *floating fishing lodges*. Some floating lodges will spend the entire season in one location and be towed to a community during the off-season while others may change locations one or more times during a fishing season.

The data on marinas and coastal facilities available from the Province of BC were originally mapped as part of the Coastal Resource Inventory. Different contractors compiled the data between 1992 and 1998 for separate projects in Southern and Northern Strait of Georgia, Johnstone Strait/Central Coast and North Coast/Haida Gwaii. Some sites in the provincial dataset contained no attribute information such as facility name or amenities. The Province merged the data from each regional project into the Coastal Resource Information Management System (CRIMS) after 2001.

The CRIMS marinas and coastal facilities data were found to have gaps in coverage for the certain types of facilities, and did not accurately reflect the current state of coastal tourism infrastructure, with many closed, newly opened or relocated operations. These data gaps were partially filled by a Parks Canada dataset that validated attributes and location of some of the provincial data through use of Small Craft Harbours, Transport Canada, and NDI databases and the Pacific Yachting Boaters Blue Pages and PacWest Sailing Guide. BC Marine Conservation Analysis (BCMCA) conducted further validation and added additional facilities through review of provincial Tourism Opportunity Studies, websites, a database of marine fuelling locations provided by the Canadian Coast Guard, provincial Crown land tenures and local knowledge of BCMCA Project Team members. Google earth was used extensively to verify the location of facilities.

### data sources

- BCMCA, local knowledge and website review
- Canadian Coast Guard, Marine Fuelling Stations
- Parks Canada, Marinas and Docks of the Pacific Northwest Geodatabase
- Province of British Columbia, Coastal Resource Information Management System
- Province of British Columbia, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, GeoBC (tenures)
- Province of British Columbia, Tourism Opportunity Studies

### data resolution

- Sites were mapped against CHS Nautical Charts with scales ranging from 1:300,000 to less than 1:20,000.

### date compiled

- Original source data were compiled by the Province of BC between 1992 and 2003.
- Parks Canada, 2008
- Canadian Coast Guard, 2008
- GeoBC (tenures), 2010
- Data were compiled and gaps filled by the BCMCA in 2011.

### reviewers

- Not reviewed.

### reviewer comments

- None provided.

### caveats of use

- Not to be used for navigational purposes.
- Attributes contained in the database are incomplete and not verified. Not all locations have been ground-truthed.
- Recommended date of expiry for use of these data in a marine planning context: The dataset should be refreshed every year or two to reflect changes in the industry.

### map, feature data and metadata access

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

### references

- Genesis Public Opinion Research Inc. Smith Gunther Associates. September 2007. *Economic Impact of the Canadian Recreational Boating Industry: 2006*. Discover Boating.
- GSGislason & Associates Ltd. *Saltwater Fishing Lodges in BC — An Economic Profile*. Report prepared for BC Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, 2003. [www.agf.gov.bc.ca/clad/strategic\\_land/blocks/cabinet/saltwater\\_fishlodges.pdf](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/clad/strategic_land/blocks/cabinet/saltwater_fishlodges.pdf)
- Tourism BC. *The Value of Tourism in British Columbia Trends from 1998 to 2008*. 2009. [www.tti.gov.bc.ca/research/IndustryPerformance/pdfs/tourism\\_indicators/Value\\_of\\_Tourism\\_in\\_British\\_Columbia.pdf](http://www.tti.gov.bc.ca/research/IndustryPerformance/pdfs/tourism_indicators/Value_of_Tourism_in_British_Columbia.pdf)
- Tourism Opportunity Studies can be accessed at: <http://archive.ilmb.gov.bc.ca/cis/initiatives/tourism/index.html>
- More information about the Transport Canada's ports program can be found here: [www.tc.gc.ca/eng/programs/ports-menu-1127.htm](http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/programs/ports-menu-1127.htm)
- More information about the DFO's Small Craft Harbour program can be found here: [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sch-ppb/aboutsch-aproposppb-eng.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sch-ppb/aboutsch-aproposppb-eng.htm)
- Coastal Resource Information Management System can be accessed at: <http://archive.ilmb.gov.bc.ca/cis/coastal/others/crimsindex.htm>

Spatial information on marinas and coastal facilities was extracted from the following tourism studies:

- Clayoquot Sound/Central Region Tourism Opportunities Study, 2000.
- Commercial and Public Recreation Study for the Sunshine Coast Forest District, 2002.
- Forest and Fisheries Tourism Opportunities Study for the North Coast Forest District, 2000.
- Forest and Fisheries Tourism Opportunities Study for Portions of the Campbell River and Port McNeill Forest Districts, 2000.
- Nootka Sound Forest Recreation and Tourism Opportunity Study, 1998.

The following websites provided information on marinas and marine facilities:

- [www.marinas.com](http://www.marinas.com)
- Harbour Authority Association of BC: [www.haa.bc.ca](http://www.haa.bc.ca)
- Transport Canada and DFO Small Craft Harbours (see above)
- Various individual webpages for marinas, yacht clubs and harbour authorities, listed in the attributes of the marinas database.

**BCMCA Atlas**  
**Tourism & Recreation**  
**Marinas and Coastal Facilities**

**Legend**

**Facility Types**

- Coastal Ecotourism Lodge
- Fishing Lodge
- Floating Fishing Lodge
- Harbour Authority/Public Wharf
- Harbour authority with Marine Fuel Services
- Marina
- Marina with Marine Fuel Services
- Marine Fuel Services
- Private Marina/Yacht Club/Yacht Sales
- Transport Canada Public Wharf
- Transport Canada Public Wharf with Marine Fuel Services

**Data Sources:**

BCMCA,  
 Canadian Coast Guard,  
 Parks Canada,  
 Province of British Columbia

**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

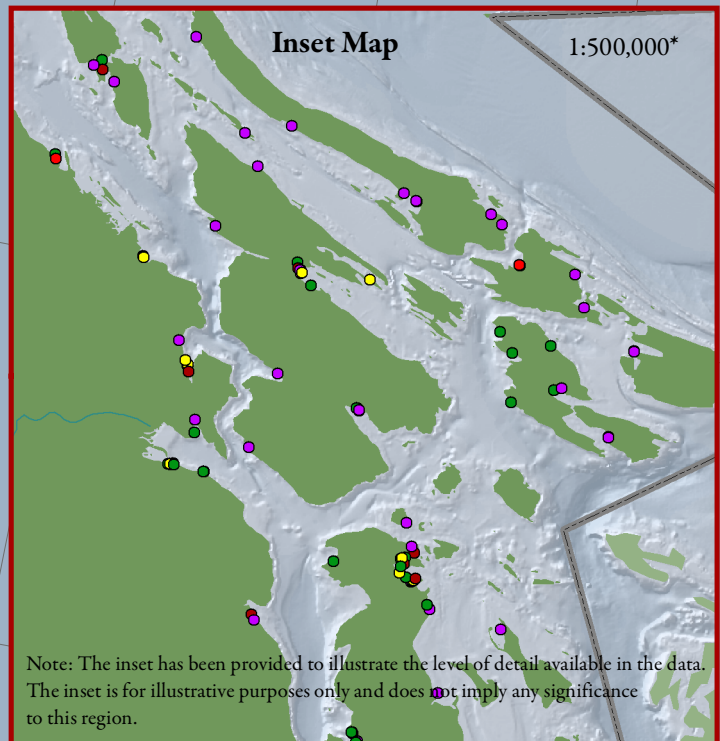
1:4,250,000\*

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

Prepared for:



Map template by Caslys Consulting Ltd.  
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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.