

# Tourism and Recreation – Recreational Boating Routes

## 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.

Recreational boaters, also known as pleasure craft operators, travel in powerboats and sailboats on trips that can last from a single day to multiple weeks. The activity occurs on a guided and unguided basis throughout the BC coast, however the greatest use is concentrated near larger population centres where infrastructure exists, such as public docks, boat launches and repair facilities. Boating is closely linked to other activities, including swimming, fishing, scuba diving, sightseeing, or wildlife viewing. 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 data on recreational boating routes available from the Province of BC were originally mapped as part of the Coastal Resource Inventory. Different contractors compiled the data between 1995 and1998 for separate projects in Johnstone Strait/Central Coast, and North Coast/Haida Gwaii. Each route was assigned a relative importance value, although the basis and methods used to assign those values varied from project to project. The Province merged the data from each regional project into the Coastal Resource Information Management System (CRIMS) after 2001.

The CRIMS recreational boating routes data were found to have gaps in coverage for the Southern and Northern Strait of Georgia, and the West Coast of Vancouver Island. These data gaps were filled by the BC Marine Conservation Analysis (BCMCA) with information extracted from guidebooks (see references below), spatial data from Tourism Resource Inventories (1996) and Tourism Opportunity Studies (1998-2003) conducted by the Province of BC, and spatial data prepared for the province for the Central Coast LRMP by the Outdoor Recreation Council (1998). With the exception of some of the Tourism Opportunities Studies, no relative importance information was available for these added routes.



PHOTO: BARBARA WATSON



PHOTO: JOCELYN MANDRYK

## data sources

- BCMCA, digitised from guide books (see references)
- Outdoor Recreation Council (provided by GeoBC)
- Province of British Columbia, Coastal Resource Information Management System
- Province of British Columbia, Tourism Opportunity Studies

## data resolution

- Routes 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 1995 and 2003.
- Outdoor Recreation Council data were compiled from interviews conducted in 1997-1998.
- Data were compiled and gaps filled by the BCMCA in 2008 and 2010.

## reviewers

- Not reviewed.

## reviewer comments

- None provided.

## caveats of use

- Not to be used for navigational purposes.
- Data represent coastal routes only; offshore routes are not included.
- Routes are representational and reflect the shoreline/channel travelled. The actual routes used vary from boater to boater.
- 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.

## references

- Coastal Resource Information Management System can be accessed at: <http://archive.ilmb.gov.bc.ca/cis/coastal/others/crimindex.htm>
- Genesis Public Opinion Research Inc. Smith Gunther Associates. September 2007. *Economic Impact of the Canadian Recreational Boating Industry: 2006*. Discover Boating.
- 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>

Spatial information on recreational boating routes was extracted from the following tourism studies:

- 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.
- Vancouver Island Tourism Resource Inventory, 1996.

The following books were referenced for information on the location of recreational boating routes:

- Douglass, Don and Hemingway-Douglass, Reanne. *Exploring Vancouver Island’s West Coast: A Cruising Guide*. Fine Edge Productions, 1994.
- Hale, Robert (ed.). *Waggoner Cruising Guide 2007: The Complete Boating Reference*. Weatherly Press, 2006.
- Vassilopoulos, Peter. *Docks and Destinations with GPS: The Complete Guide to Pacific Northwest Marinas*. Pacific Marine Publishing, 2005.
- Vipond, Anne and Kelly, William. *Best anchorages of the Inside Passage: British Columbia’s south coast from the Gulf Islands to Cape Caution*. Ocean Cruise Guides Ltd., 1998.
- Wolferstan, Bill. *Cruising Guide to British Columbia, Vol. 1: Gulf Islands and Vancouver Island from Sooke to Courtenay*. Whitecap Books, 1991.
- Wolferstan, Bill. *Cruising Guide to British Columbia, Vol. 2: Desolation Sound and the Discovery Islands*. Whitecap Books, 1987.
- Yeadon-Jones, Anne and Yeadon-Jones, Laurence. *Dreamspeaker Cruising Guide Series, Gulf Islands & Vancouver Island: Victoria & Sooke to Nanaimo, Volume 1*. Harbour Publishing, 1998.
- Yeadon-Jones, Anne and Yeadon-Jones, Laurence. *Dreamspeaker Cruising Guide Series, Vancouver, Howe Sound & the Sunshine Coast: including Princess Louisa Inlet & Jedediah Island, Volume 3*. Harbour Publishing, 2003.

**BCMCA Atlas**  
**Tourism & Recreation**  
**Recreational Boating Routes**

**Legend**

**Relative Importance (use)**

- Unassigned
- Low
- Low to Moderate
- Moderate
- Moderate to High
- High

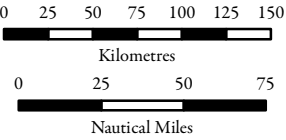
Note  
- Data represents coastal routes only.  
- Routes are representational, they do not indicate actual route used.

**Data Sources:**  
BCMCA,  
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



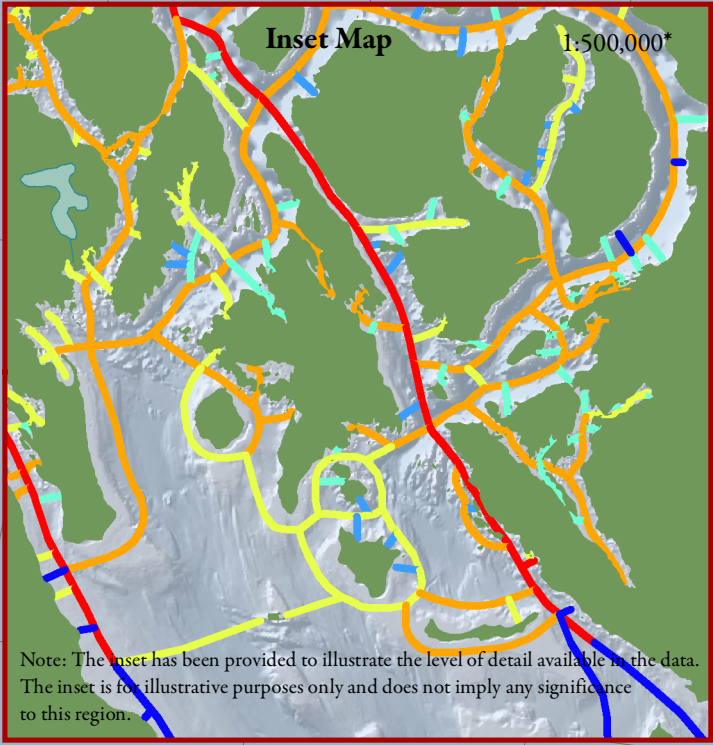
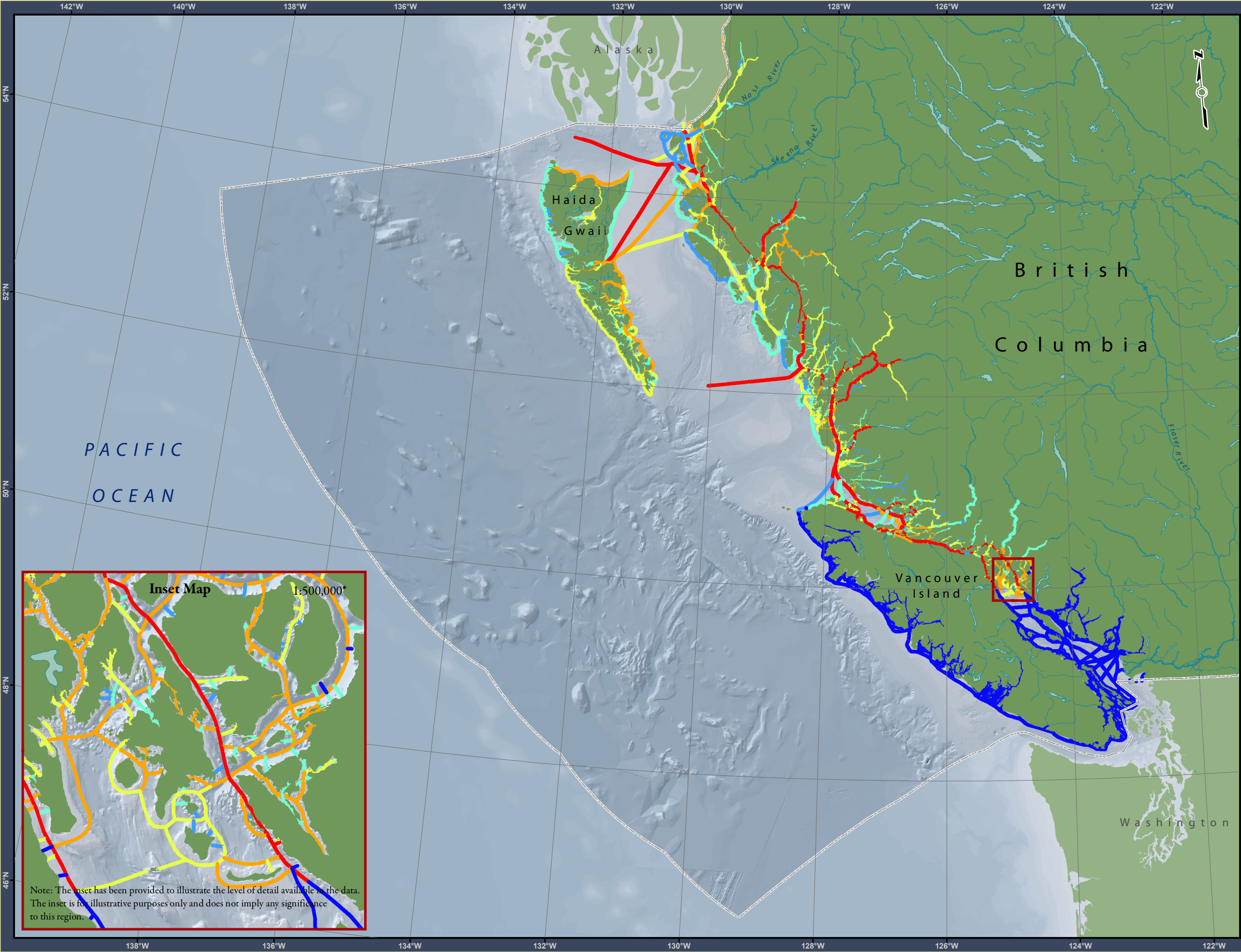
1:4,250,000 \*

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

Prepared for:



Map template by Caslys Consulting Ltd.  
January 20, 2011



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.