

# Tourism and Recreation – Sea Kayaking 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.

Sea kayaking is a self-propelled activity that provides marine users the opportunity to view the coast at a leisurely pace. The activity can be undertaken as a guided or unguided single or multi-day excursion from staging areas that include public docks, boat launches or larger boats. A 2006 survey of sea kayaking businesses found that this sector consists of 114 companies (rentals, instruction, and guides) who provided services to almost 70,000 clients in 2005, generating \$14.3 million in gross revenue of which \$11.3 million can be attributed to tourism revenues (Tourism BC, 2007).

The availability of tours, charters and BC Ferries services have made it possible to access virtually any area of the coast, however, the density of use for kayaking varies dramatically due to remoteness, exposure or a lack of other recreation features. Activities linked with kayaking include bird watching, whale watching and other wildlife viewing, camping, hiking, swimming and beach activities, and fishing and marine cruising. Sea kayakers more frequently use areas with diverse marine values, scenery, wildlife viewing and First Nations culture.

The data on sea kayaking routes 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, West Coast Vancouver Island, Johnstone Strait/Central Coast, and North Coast/Haida Gwaii. Some routes were assigned an intensity of use value, although the basis and methods used to assign those values varied from region to region. For example, a high use area on the North Coast will not necessarily have the same number of users as a high use area in the Strait of Georgia.

The Province merged the data from each regional project into the Coastal Resource Information Management System (CRIMS) after 2001. Some gaps in the CRIMS kayaking route data were filled by the BC Marine Conservation Analysis (BCMCA) with information extracted from 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). No intensity of use values were available for the added routes.



PHOTO: PAUL MORTON



PHOTO: KW LADELL

## data sources

- 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 1992 and 2003.
- Outdoor Recreation Council data were compiled from interviews conducted in 1997-1998.
- Data were compiled into one dataset by the BCMCA in 2010.

## reviewers

- Not reviewed.

## reviewer comments

- None provided.

## caveats of use

- Not to be used for navigational purposes.
- There is a known data gap around southern Vancouver Island and the Strait of Georgia between Barkley Sound and Campbell River and Vancouver and Desolation Sound.
- Routes are representational and reflect the shoreline/channel travelled. The actual routes used vary from user to user.
- 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.

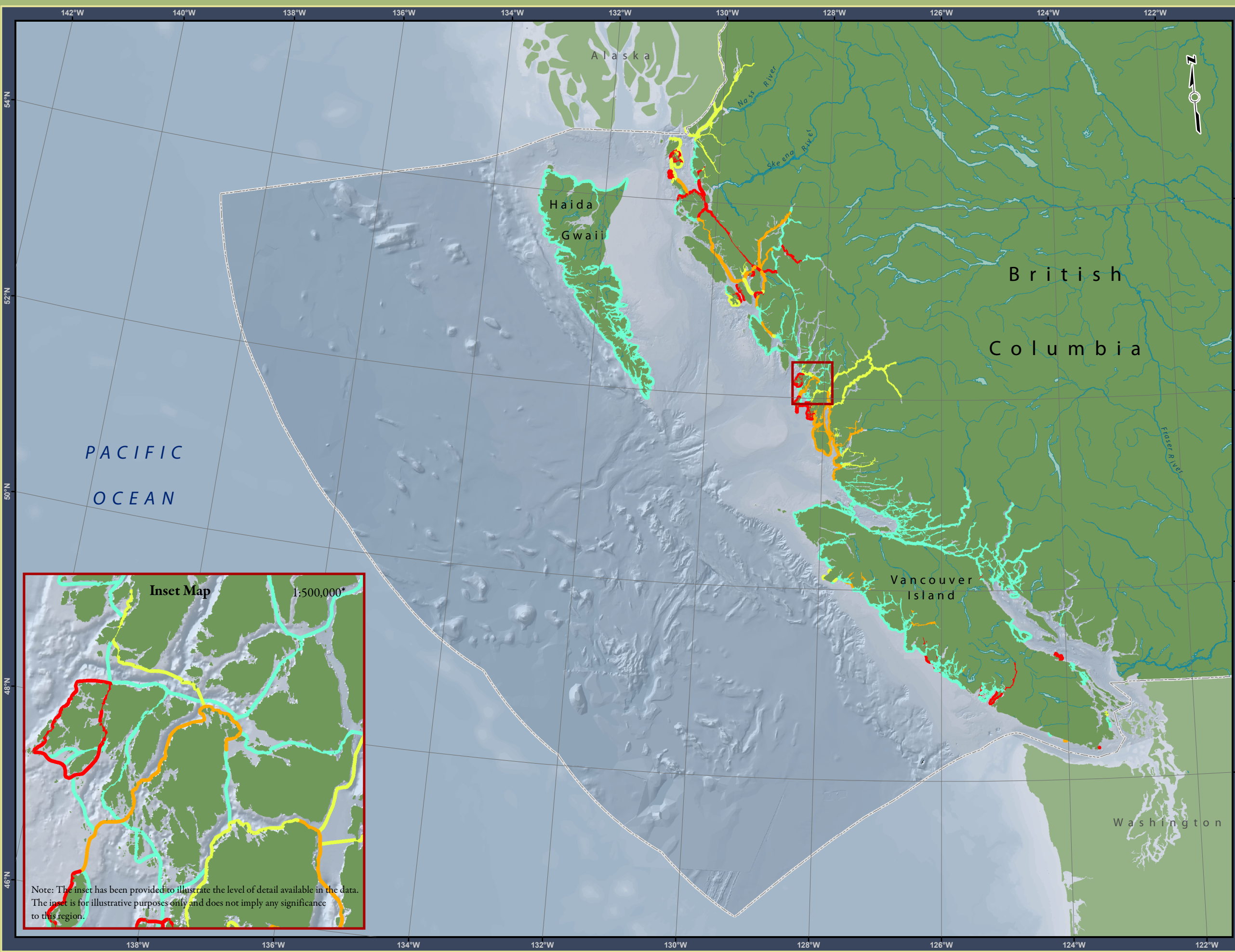
## references

- Coastal Resource Information Management System can be accessed at: <http://archive.ilmb.gov.bc.ca/cis/coastal/others/crimindex.htm>
- Tourism BC. British Columbia's Sea Kayaking Sector (2005). Published by Research Services, Tourism British Columbia in cooperation with the Sea Kayak Guides Alliance of BC, Wilderness Tourism Association and Malaspina University College Department of Recreation and Tourism Management. 2007. [www.tti.gov.bc.ca/research/ResearchbyActivity/pdfs/water\\_based/British\\_Columbia\\_s\\_Sea\\_Kayakers\\_Report\\_2005.sflb.pdf](http://www.tti.gov.bc.ca/research/ResearchbyActivity/pdfs/water_based/British_Columbia_s_Sea_Kayakers_Report_2005.sflb.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>

Spatial information on sea kayaking routes 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.
- Vancouver Island Tourism Resource Inventory, 1996.





**BCMCA Atlas**  
**Tourism & Recreation**  
**Sea Kayaking Routes**

- Legend**
- Sea Kayaking Routes**  
(relative intensity of use)
- Unassigned
  - Low
  - Moderate
  - High

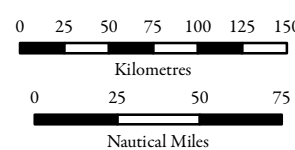
Note:  
- Routes are representational, they do not indicate actual route used.

**Data Sources:**  
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

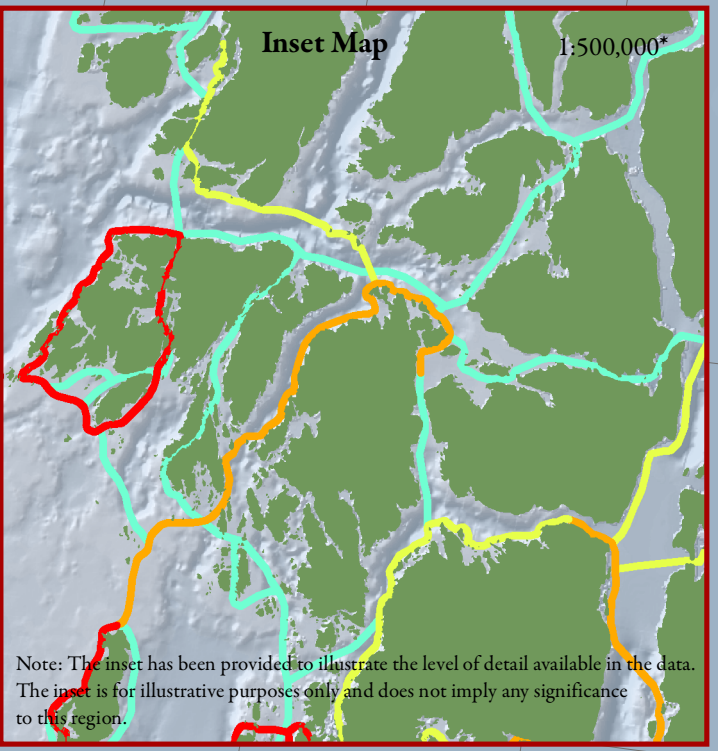


1:4,250,000 \*  
\* Written scales are approximate and are based on a 11 x 17 inch paper size.

Prepared for:



Map template by Caslys Consulting Ltd.  
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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.