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 and 1998 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.

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.

Routes 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 for more information.

references

Coastal Resource Information Management System can be accessed at: http://archive.dbh.gov.bc.ca/crs/Coastal/etree/index.html


• Tourism Opportunity Studies can be accessed at: http://archive.dbh.gov.bc.ca/crs/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.


• Vancouver Island Tourism Resource Inventory, 1996.

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


The following sources were referenced for information on the location and use of these routes:

•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 sources