



WWF

FACTSHEET

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Marine

Ocean-Dependent Economic Activities on British Columbia's North Coast



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VALUE

OCEAN INDUSTRIES
CONTRIBUTE UP TO
\$1.2-BILLION

Introduction

A WWF-Canada funded study, undertaken by the University of British Columbia's Fisheries Centre, shows that ocean-based industries are critical to the regional economy and well-being of communities on B.C.'s North Coast. This summary provides highlights of the report examining the value of four ocean-based industries: commercial fishing, port activities, ferry transportation and marine tourism.¹ WWF-Canada commissioned this study to better understand how oil spill risks on B.C.'s North Coast could affect these ocean-based industries, which currently contribute as much as **\$1.2-billion to regional communities each year.**



The North Coast Region and Economy

B.C.'s North Coast Region encompasses coastal and inland areas; bordered to the west by the Pacific Ocean, and to the east by the Nechako region. Its regional population of 56,145 includes the coastal communities of Kitimat (pop. 9,200), Prince Rupert (pop. 12,900) and Haida Gwaii (pop. 6,700).

Economic activity is predominantly resource-based here with significant

commercial fishing and processing, a growing tourism sector and expanding industrial development. The economies of coastal and First Nations communities – including Kitimaat Village, Hartley Bay, Metlakatla, Lax Kw'alaams, Skidegate and Old Masset – are directly affected by ocean-based activities.

Ocean industries are critical to the well-being of communities.



When indirect and induced values are considered, North Coast ocean-based industries provide employment for an equivalent of nearly 30 per cent of the regional population.

Employment Benefits of Ocean-Based Industries

North Coast Region ocean-based industries are estimated to directly employ about 10 per cent of the population. When indirect and induced values are considered, ocean-based industries provide employment for an equivalent of nearly 30 per cent of the

regional population. Unemployment is relatively high in this region with a rate of 9.3 percent compared to the provincial rate of 6.6 per cent. This suggests that ocean-based industries are critical to the regional economy and well-being of communities.

INDUSTRY	VALUE OF OUTPUT (2011 CAD, millions)	EMPLOYMENT (PYS)	CONTRIBUTION TO GDP (2011 CAD, millions)
Commercial fishing	155 - 190	863 - 1,061	74 - 91
Port activities*	800	4,550	420
<i>Non-tourism activities</i>	780	4,436	410
<i>Cruise ship tourism</i>	20	114	10
Ferry transportation**	46	451	34
<i>Non-tourism activities</i>	29	284	21
<i>Ferry tourism</i>	17	167	13
Marine tourism	120 - 181	2,922 - 4,352	139 - 198
<i>Recreational fishing</i>	52 - 89	1,128 - 1,920	56 - 95
<i>Other activities</i>	68 - 92	1,794 - 2,432	83 - 103
TOTAL	1,121 - 1,218	8,983 - 10,216	667 - 743

* Figures were reported in (InterVISTAS Consulting 2012). A range of values was not provided.

**Estimates were generated based on operating revenue reported in (BC Ferries 2004-2011). A range of values was not provided.

Total Value of Ocean-Based Industries for the B.C. North Coast Economy

These estimates show that ocean-based industries contribute a total of **\$1.1 to \$1.2 billion Canadian in output value, 8,983 to 10,216 person years (PYS) of employment and \$667 to \$743 million in gross domestic product (GDP)** to the regional economy each year.

These values provide a very conservative estimate of total output, employment and contribution to GDP resulting from ocean-based activities within the North Coast Region. Estimates for commercial fishing and marine tourism are believed to be low due to limited data availability for these industries.



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Up to \$743-million in GDP yearly from ocean industries.

First Nations Food, Social and Ceremonial (FSC) Fishing

The contribution of FSC fishing (fishing for food, social and ceremonial purposes) by First Nations communities could not be accurately evaluated. This is due to lack of reliable catch data and deficiencies in current valuation approaches for non-market values related to social, educational

and cultural values and well-being. First Nations councillors and fisheries managers have expressed a very high perceived value associated with FSC fishing and consider FSC fishing opportunities to be irreplaceable to their communities.



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WWF-CANADA'S VISION

To protect B.C.'s coastal communities, livelihoods, and the ecosystems that sustain them, we must maintain healthy oceans. To find out more about what WWF is doing to support healthy oceans through smart ocean management, visit wwf.ca.

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¹ Ngaio Hotte & Rashid Sumaila, Potential economic impact of a tanker spill on ocean-based industries in British Columbia, Fisheries Centre Research Report 20(7), Vol. 20 No. 7 Pages: 45, 2012. References have been omitted here and can be found in the full study which is available at www.fisheries.ubc.ca/publications/potential-economic-impact-tanker-spill-ocean-based-industries-british-columbia. The scope includes economic activity that is generated within the region, undertaken by local residents as well as visitors, and economic activity in other jurisdictions that results from ocean-related activities within the North Coast region.



Why we are here

We are creating solutions to the most serious conservation challenges facing our planet, helping people and nature thrive.

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