
NEWS RELEASE

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE KEY TO OFFSHORE OIL & GAS ISSUE

The University of Northern British Columbia today released ***A Review of the State of Knowledge of Marine and Shoreline Areas in the Queen Charlotte Basin***, the second in a series of publications about BC offshore oil and gas.

By combining scientific data with the personal knowledge of local residents, the researchers have been able to document the extent to which the Queen Charlotte Basin is used by marine species, commercial and sport fishers, tourists, First Nations, and others. The report, produced in partnership with LGL Ltd. Environmental Research Associates, includes more than 130 maps. It has also developed a model to fill gaps in knowledge.

“Every scientific review of BC offshore oil and gas issues has placed high priority on identifying special and sensitive areas prior to any development,” noted Norman Dale, Program Manager with UNBC’s Northern Coastal Information and Research Program (NCIRP). “This report provides a powerful set of tools for doing this, and in a way that can integrate local and traditional information sources with scientific data.”

This research report is the second in the series, UNBC Community-Collaborative Studies on British Columbia Offshore Oil and Gas. The NCIRP publications will allow the people of BC, and specifically residents of the Queen Charlotte Basin, to better inform themselves and take a greater role in discussions and decision-making around offshore oil and gas.

NCIRP is a research program of UNBC’s Northern Land Use Institute. Funding for the program was provided by the BC Ministry of Energy and Mines.

Copies of ***A Review of the State of Knowledge of Marine and Shoreline Areas in the Queen Charlotte Basin*** as well as other NCIRP publications, can be downloaded from www.unbc.ca/nlui/ncirp or ordered at cost from Peggy Crough: fax (250) 960-5545 email croughp@unbc.ca. The first publication was ***A Citizen’s Guide to Offshore Oil and Gas***.

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