

Seaplane Base Boat Launch District of Ucluelet



Completion Report

District of Ucluelet
P.O. Box 999, 200 Main Street
Ucluelet, B.C. V0R 3A0
250-726-7772
www.ucluelet.ca

Abby Fortune
Director of Parks & Recreation
afortune@ucluelet.ca

Project Name: Seaplane Base Boat Launch

Context for the project:

Ucluelet is one of the busiest ports on Vancouver Island and offers sheltered moorage to commercial boat owners. The District of Ucluelet Council with input from the Ucluelet Harbour Advisory Commission identified a need for public boat launch access to local waters. Commercial Industry, Sport Fishing and small commercial vessels did not have a public place for launching or repairs for the waters of this immediate area. . It was felt that without this type of facility Ucluelet in fact could lose business and business and tourism would go elsewhere without the boat launch.

Summary of work and methodology in relation to project objectives (what and how)

The project was to provide a public boat launch as a benefit to a wide range of users including commercial fishers, tour and charter operations and recreational use for fishing, kayaking and canoeing.

- Installation of concrete ramp
- 3' granular crush placed on each side of the ramp
- 9 pilings to support the ramp floats
- 5 ramp floats installed (with provisions to install 3 more)
- Planting of native species on top section of launch
- Garden and landscape area, with signage and memorial bench
- Paving at top end of the ramp and top end of sea plane base road
- Environmental monitoring reports

Statement of completion of project objectives

The District of Ucluelet did meet the objective of creating a boat launch for the tourism and small commercial vessel sector. Charter boats and pleasure boats are able to use this site. There has been a much higher launch rate for commercial charter boat and smaller commercial vessels.

We are still looking at long term phased plan for the larger vessels at this launch site.

Explanations if some project objectives have not been completed

Mitigation was not required as we did not put in a second ramp. Therefore, the foot print, as per the secondary report from Castor Consultants indicated, that the work was not required at the time.

Castor Consultants did monitor the environmental impact throughout the project and has completed a one year follow-up report. Please see attached.

Explanations if the scope or work is different from proposal

- In the end we did not build out a double launch recognized that the costs associated became prohibited. We are in the process of re-structuring the remaining section of the launch into a phased project.
- Design was changed as the secondary portion would require dredging. This wasn't anticipated/identified in the original proposal as laid out.
- Paving portion of the project was scaled back due to the fact that it was determined that only top end of the ramp and road edge required paving. Further paving may be required when a full parking plan is designed for the area.
- Original design of the launch was to be pre-casted concrete slabs, which were to be in-kind donations. The donation was not successful; therefore cast in place was pursued.
- As we did not have a mitigation portion, as identified by the Environmental consultant, these additional funds were not required for the trails and steps as originally outlined.

Number of temporary jobs created during construction

- Many jobs were created during construction phase of the project.
- Primarily out of town contractors due to the specialty of the project, thus bringing in money to the community.

Number of permanent new jobs created (if possible)

- As this is a public boat launch no specific jobs were created, however, with this facility there is a better support of the charter fishing industry in Ucluelet possibly creating new job opportunities.
- Estimated 1 - 12 month position or 4 – 3 month positions have been created through this process

Information related to the economic impact of the project/Tourism

- Increase in Tourism, additional use of the facility facilitates have created further opportunities for tourism based outdoor adventures
- The boat launch has had a strong spin off effect with the boat launch for kayaks. Many companies are now using this area as it is a safe and efficient location to launch kayaks.

Economic Benefits – Primary Services

1. Commercial Industry
 - a. The Sports fisherman are making substantial use of the boat launch area. This has allowed them to be more efficient with their timing and ultimately be able to provide a better service which in turn supports the business.
 - b. AS the Light commercial and sport fishing become stronger there is a trickle-down effect to the community itself.
2. Deep Water Boat Launch
 - a. Larger commercial boats are able to launch from this area saving both money and time.
3. Significant protection
 - a. This has been a huge boon to our commercial industry and has allowed them to become more productive and efficient with loading and unloading

Any other pertinent project information such as lessons learned, best practices development, best practices shared etc.

- Lessons learned provided the Municipality with further education and understanding towards environmental impacts on the foreshore.
- There was a further development of an overall to understanding the parameters of construction and requirements in navigable waters.
- We were able to explore the ability reassesses and overcome original design and criteria due to unforeseen circumstances.
- Best practices shared could include: tighter control, more focal point on anticipated donations and policies around potential short falls.
- Learning took place towards a better approach to future grant application projects and timing around them.

Media coverage the project has received (please attach media stories)