



MARINE ACCESS REVIEW

Part 1 Engagement Update and Key Directions for Part 2

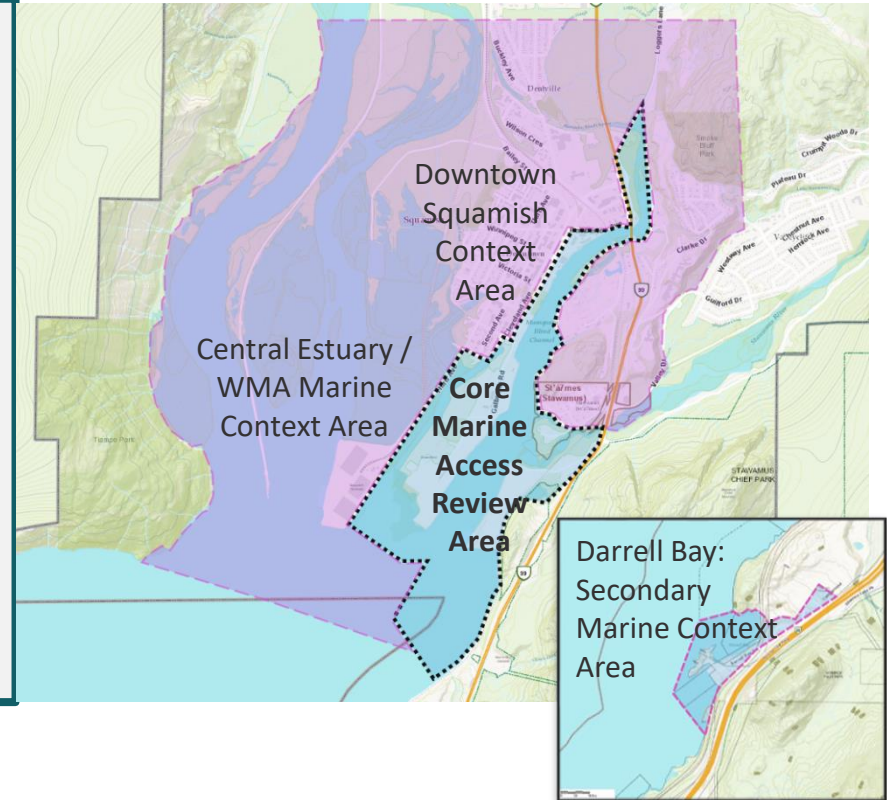
Community Planning & Sustainability

April 12, 2022

Council Committee of the Whole

Purpose + Core Marine Review Area

Assess marine access needs to improve tactical planning and coordination of access areas and infrastructure and enhance accessibility and management of existing, interim and future proposed marine access points in Squamish.



MASt Priorities - Implementation

Focus Area 1

Governance + Shared Leadership

Mobilize shared leadership to enhance coordination and good governance of the marine environment.



Focus Area 2

Coastal Ecosystems

Support stewardship and the protection of the marine environment and our local coastal ecosystems.



Focus Area 3

Marine Economy

Support a thriving marine economy and working waterfront in harmony with community social, cultural, environmental and economic aspirations.



Focus Area 4

Marine Gateway

Enhance the community's connection to the water through an improved, safe and accessible gateway to our local marine environment for the social, cultural and recreational enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.



safe and
effective access
to coastal
waters

commercial
recreation +
marine based
business
opportunities

marine
industry access
+ land use
compatibility

marine-related
infrastructure,
amenities and
facilities

public
waterfront
accessibility

Marine Action Strategy

Project Stages, Tasks + Deliverables

1 Marine Access + Needs Mapping (Jan – March 2022)

- ✓ Collect and map marine access needs, opportunities, activity areas and infrastructure recommendations
- ✓ Draft community-based marine access maps
- ✓ Initiate marine access surveys and boat launch special study

2 Draft Directions + Recommendations (April – June 2022)

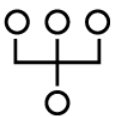


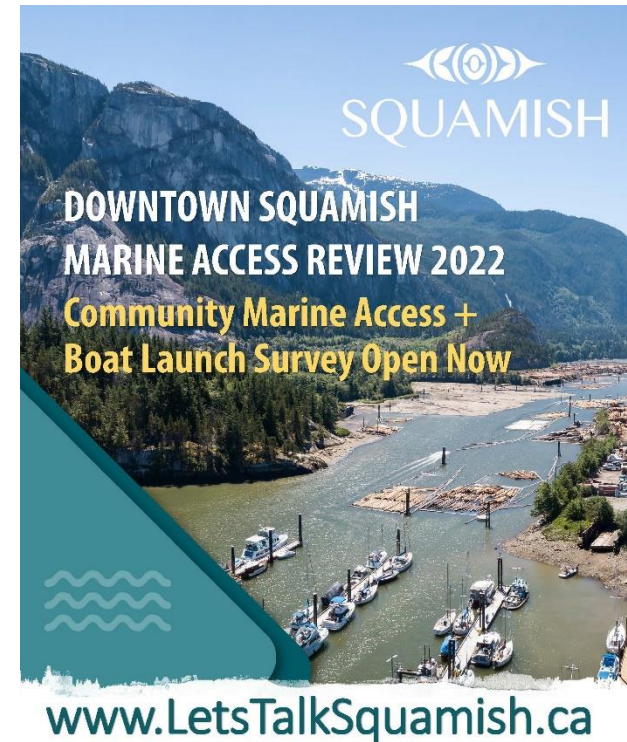
- ✓ Review marine access inputs and draft recommendations (Council workshop April)
- Evaluate boat launch needs and options (interim and long term) – host focus group sessions
- Community review and comment period (online and community pop-ups, open house)

3 Final Marine Access Recommendations (September 2022)

- Consolidate final inputs for consolidated marine access areas map
- Present recommendations for Council to inform ongoing waterfront access plans and implementation (resourcing)

Part 1 Engagement Tools + Reach

 LetsTalkSquamish.ca 460+ new registrations 2.4 K site visits 263 max per day	 weekly e-News Blasts Feb 17-March 11	5 Newspaper Ads ¹ 3 x Squamish Chief 2 x Pique NewsMagazine	130+ Direct email outreach ² marine stakeholder group contacts February 18 2022
 6 Facebook Posts Feb 17-March 10 6 Instagram Posts 2 stories Feb 17-Mar 13	 Sponsored social posts March 10-13 6,698 Post Reach, 284 Link clicks, 3,098 post engagement 2,770 video plays	40 2 Community Pop Ups March 4 Boat Launch March 11 Adventure Center 40 In-Person Connections	 350 pins Online Map Tool 113 Contributors
6 Project Poster Displays Squamish Public Library, Municipal Hall, Brennan Park, Boat Launch Xwu'nekw Park, Adventure Centre	 Community Newsletters Squamish Economic Development Tourism Squamish, Squamish Chamber, Downtown BIA	 Survey Promotion Flyers Distribution to local businesses	 In Person + Virtual Cross-Promotions ³ 7+ community groups



A group of people are gathered outdoors for a community meeting. In the foreground, a man in a plaid shirt and sunglasses stands on the left, and a woman in a dark jacket and baseball cap stands on the right, both smiling. In the background, three other men are looking at a tablet on a table. The setting is outdoors with a building and a cloudy sky in the background.

Marine Access Review Part 1

Engagement Highlights



SQUAMISH

Marine Access Survey Results

February 17 – March 13
2022



NEED HELP ON THE WATER?

Dial *16 or #SAR on
your cell phone to get
in direct contact with
Coast Guard and
Rescue Volunteers.

**STATION 04
RCMSAR SQUAMISH**



**ROYAL CANADIAN MARINE
SEARCH & RESCUE**
Saving Lives on the Water

STATION 4 • SQUAMISH

SQUAMISH

**DOWNTOWN SQUAMISH
MARINE ACCESS REVIEW 2022
Community Marine Access +
Boat Launch Survey Open Now**

Project Lead
and Co-Lead
Project
Manager

www.LetsTalkSquamish.ca

The District of Squamish is reviewing marine access needs, priorities and
recommendations for enhanced safety and enjoyment for all, while
protecting natural values, shoreline and habitat. The review includes
community, business, and industry input on infrastructure and amenities
along the Marquise River Channel as well as the Calverville Slough. A boat
launch study will explore current and long-term needs and options within
the community.



Public Participation

347 Community / Rec Surveys

83% Resident, 14% Visitor

Broad age range (11-82!)

65% active members of local marine recreation or stewardship groups

80% used non-motorized watercraft

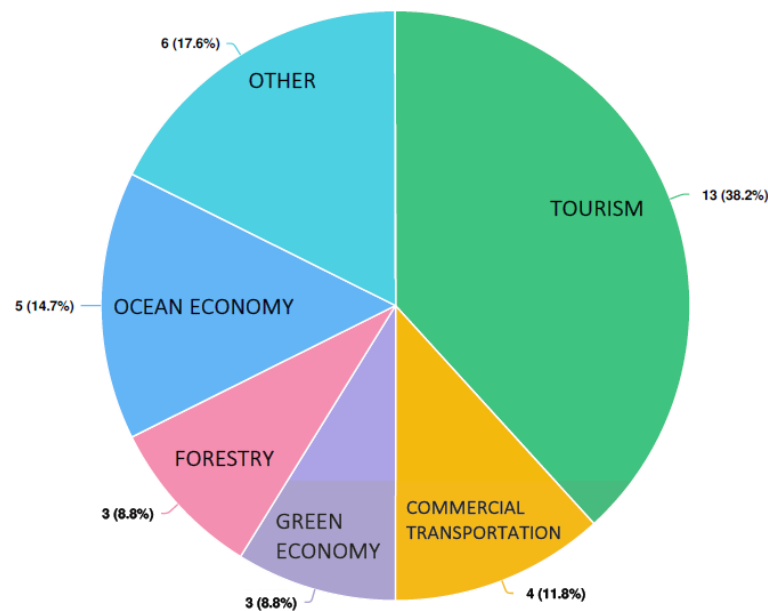
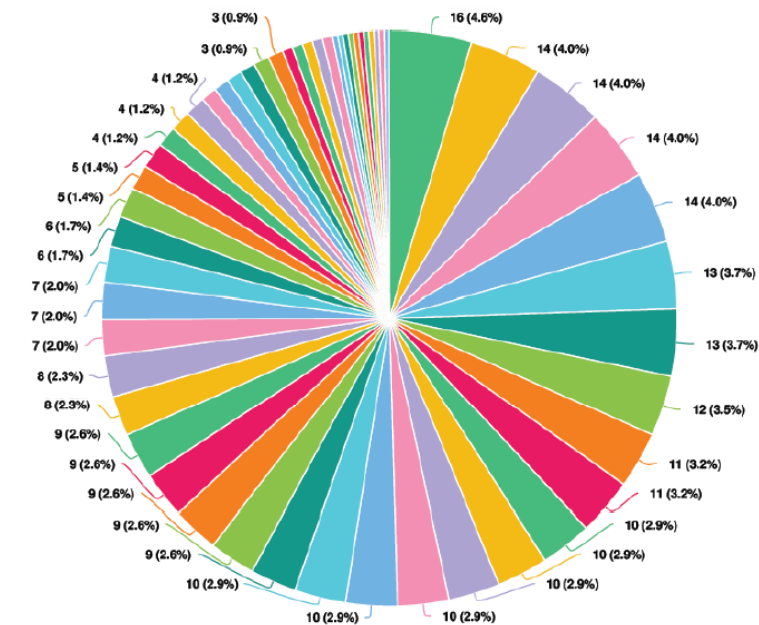
41 Business / Industry Surveys

34 + 7 Public Sector Agencies

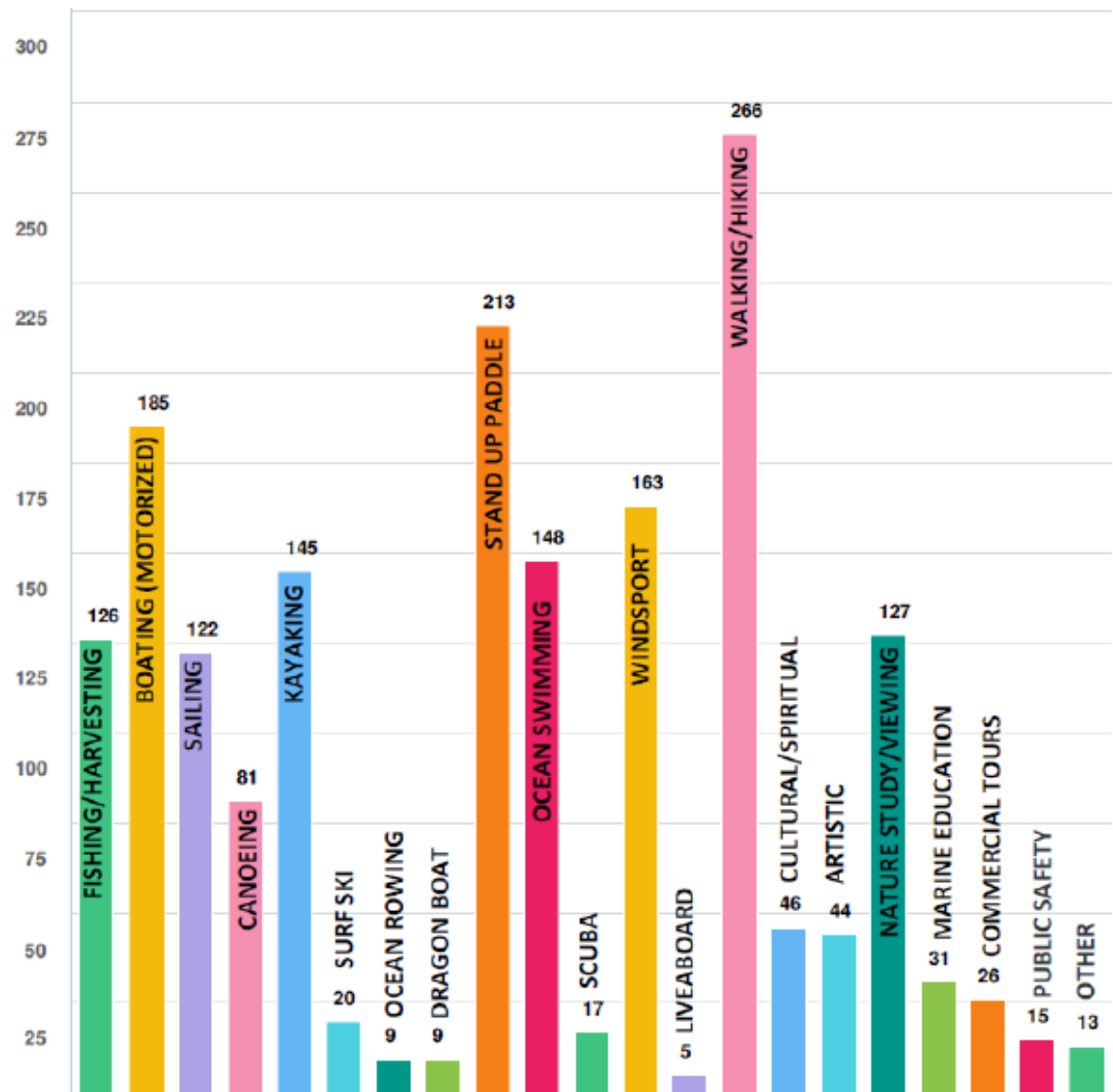
Multi-sector representation

53% on the water daily

Approx split 70% motorized 30% non-motorized



Top Marine Activities Squamish Ocean Folk

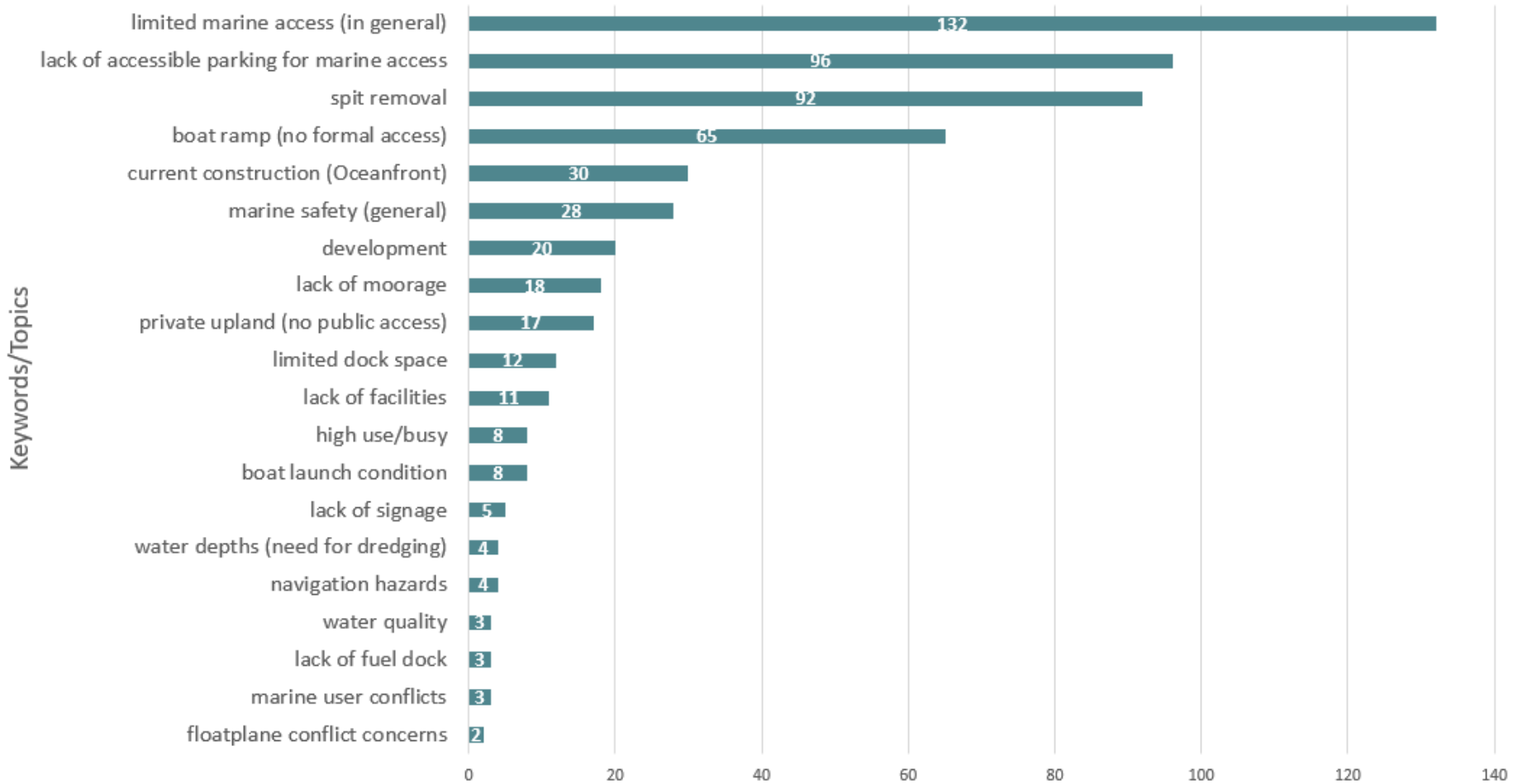


What we heard

- Top marine activities
- Motorized vs non-motorized use
- Watercraft particulars + storage
- Vessel moorage, waitlists, fees
- Marine access sites, preferred location and accessibility, transportation
- Access barriers
- Desired marine access infrastructure
- Desired future launch locations (non-motorized, motorized) and amenities



Top Marine Access Barriers



of responses by keyword/topic (text analysis)

Views on Marine Access

- Access points are poorly signed
- Navigation area in MBC needs better delineation, as well as greater awareness and boating safety education
- Navigation is generally safe but channel depths in MBC are of concern
- Marine debris and sunken vessel removal also important
- Community users do not feel industrial areas are well understood/demarcated
- Increased oversight in MBC needed for navigation safety
- Clearly marked marine access points and use areas desired as well as signage for environmentally and culturally sensitive areas
- Most important access and amenity needs are increasing non-motorized and motorized access, securing public foreshore access, and designating staging and parking areas, and increasing moorage supply
- Separation of motorized and non-motorized launch sites stated as important by all to avoid use conflicts
- Public washroom facilities also seen as highly important

Boat Launch Situation Report

- Increasing demands on private unmanaged facility
- Shared recreational and commercial use (+both motorized and non-motorized watercraft)
- Unmaintained; in poor physical condition, tidal constraints; unsafe below 8-10', no tie up floats
- Limited capacity and parking (frequent wait times; peak periods)
- No identified future site
- Desire for expanded 2 lane facility with parking;
- 30% community users and >50% businesses willing to pay for launch/parking access in Squamish



Boat Launch Facility Needs + Key Decisions

- Physical ramp improvements and additional launch ramp, dedicated day (+ overnight) parking highest priorities
- Interim approach vs long term site+ facility determination
- Competing preferences for MBC/existing launch area and Darrell Bay
- Key decision points:
 - Integrated or stand-alone facility, or facilities?
 - Shared recreation and commercial use
 - Site suitability downtown vs outside of downtown
 - User separation (motorized, non-motorized)



Community Input

Key Themes

- Vital importance of ocean access – need for enhanced focus and leadership to prioritize and integrate access
- High concern respecting
 - Construction+ disruptions and lack of interim access/staging plans
 - Growing pressure + demands on limited access areas, and impacts on sensitive foreshores and cultural areas
 - Changes to and loss of access at spit
- Need for clear holistic picture for marine access areas and planned infrastructure
- Active management of shared use for marine safety and marine gateway functions; focus on access for water-dependent uses, public safety and business sectors



Focus + Directions for Part 2

- A. Downtown Construction Staging + Marine Access Communication Plans
- B. Boat Launch Options Focus Sessions
 - Interim access solutions
 - Long-term site evaluation + recommendations
- C. Community 'blueway' network: waterfront park and amenity coordination and implementation
- D. Responsible Marine Recreating, Sensitive Areas and No-Wake Signage + Education



A photograph of a couple sitting on a concrete dock, looking out at a body of water. A surfboard is lying on the dock to the right. The text "Questions, discussion, directions.." is overlaid on the image.

Questions, discussion, directions..

Recommendation_Main Motion

THAT the District of Squamish receive the Stage 1 Engagement Summary for the Squamish Marine Access Review and Boat Launching Situational Analysis;
AND THAT the District of Squamish provide feedback and direction on the core themes and associated preliminary action areas and recommendations for Part 2 of the Marine Access Review detailed in the April 12, 2022 Staff Report, as follows:

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ALTERNATE MOTION

THAT the District of Squamish refer the Marine Access Review to an additional workshop for further discussion prior to staff advancing Part 2 of the Marine Access Review.

