



# ROUND TABLE 'Boating in the Okanagan'

WEDNESDAY JUL Y23-3pm  
Rose's-On-The-Water-Kelowna

## ROUND TABLE-REACTOR PANEL

### WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS

Project Participants: RCMP Coast Guard, Transport Canada, Okanagan Basin Water Board, BC Ministry of Environment, BC Parks and Recreation, Tourism Kelowna and private sector delegates.

### Review Project Overview-Flow Chart

#### Roundtable Topics with Directions

#### 1. OKANAGAN LAKE ACTIVITY

**Backgrounder**-June 29.08-2,285 boats were monitored -1,384 boats passed under bridge  
*A single 360 sighting in the Kelowna range was at a high of 320 boats*

The Activity on the Major Lakes has been monitored over a 60 day- May-Jul.08 period  
Statistically, the initial projected figures reflect counts at peak and off-time activity periods

**FINDING:** The capacity of Lake Okanagan, Wood Lake and Kalamalka Lake is generally underutilized, in most periods of a calendar year. Lake activity stress can be projected for 12-14 days each season, *July-August - weekends*, if ideal sunny-calm conditions prevail.  
*Ipsos Reid findings were that 4 of 10 households own a boat-1 in 10 will purchase a boat.*

**DIRECTION:** That government and agencies continue to include 'activities on the lakes' for prime & shoulder seasons in business and marketing plans to residents, tourist and developers.

#### 2. LAKE LAUNCH ACCESS

**Backgrounder:** On July 1.08 – 1433 boats were launched in the Central Region. The Major Lakes have 28 Launch Sites—8 can be considered heavily used to a peak of 200 boats per day.-14 sites with peaks of 80 per day and 6 'lesser'-unofficial sites can be used 12 times in a peak period There are 1,458 commercial/public boat slips in the Central Region generating a peak usage rate of 29% activity. Figures include rental boats but private moorage.

**FINDING:** Access to the lakes is being compromised at 8 launch sites on a regular basis and 20 sites create user difficulty for access and trailer parking. *Ipsos Reid findings were that 8 of 10 households' state current marine facilities are insufficient to meet the demand of growing population and tourism.*

**DIRECTION:** Upgrade all designated boat launches and re-construct to include accessible parking and conduct an existing marina/slip review for a consistency usage upgrade.

#### 3. BOATING STORAGE

**Backgrounder:** 560 boaters are on 'official' waiting list for moorage slips. The Central Region has, 600 dry-land storage units- 70% utilize 'concierge' or pick-up and launch services.

**FINDINGS:** The Ipsos-Reid analysis indicates that 4 of 10 residents own boats, thus fewer than 1 of 50 boaters use public/commercial storage. *Ipsos Reid results indicate a low priority by most for the need for dry dock boat storage*

**DIRECTION:** Develop a comprehensive private-public initiative for dry-storage with easy water access, (not on foreshore) for residents and seasonal-regular visitors.

#### 4. DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

**Backgrounder:** 6 of 11 developer promotional campaigns feature lake access and private moorage as a major emphasis for foreshore applications and buyer incentives.

**FINDINGS:** Over 1,800 private slips/moorage sites could be approved within the next 5 years  
*8 of 10 Ipsos Reid respondents support government working in partnership with private sector.*

**DIRECTION:** Developer approvals for foreshore development be conditional on a portion of the amenities include public access, to slips, launches, parking and moorage.

## 5. BOATING PROJECTIONS

**Backgrounder:** Boating is a \$3B industry in BC with an Okanagan Economic Impact of \$30M, from data collected by Discover Boating Canada and the BC Marine Trades Industry. The direct local boating dollar spending is 27cents at Marinas, 21c for fishing/tourism, 18c on fuel, 16c on retail, 14c on boat purchase, 6c on insurance and licenses.

**FINDINGS:** 47% of boater spending is tourism related; travel, accommodations, dining, entertaining and the annual growth rate over the past 5 years has been 2.6%. *The flash storm in July created an economic impact loss in the \$300,000 over two days at 3 marina operations*

**DIRECTION:** The Central Okanagan develop a strong boating friendly awareness campaign to both local and tourist markets which includes high visible site direction, tourist moorage/storage sites and on lake travel routes with designated mooring buoys.

## 6. ECO-FRIENDLY OPPORTUNITIES

**Backgrounder:** The Okanagan Lakes are the primary source for drinking water and home to aquatic life, plants and fish. Boating is a contributor to lake pollution and oxygen depletion.

**FINDINGS:** Green Boating is being made possible by the high cost of fossil fuel and concerns of global warming. Over 60% of global oxygen comes from lakes and ocean. *Lake and shoreline authorities have been successful in trial strategies for green boating and beach use.*

**DIRECTION:** A major public-boater awareness campaign be positioned for short term impact with enforcement for respectful recreational use of the lakes. A longer term strategy for boating in the Okanagan Lakes be aimed at being fossil fuel free.

## 7. JURISDICTION

**Backgrounder:** Greater Victoria has operated successfully with a port authority for 3 years Boating in the Okanagan is without borders from Vernon to Penticton

**FINDINGS:** There are common needs across the Okanagan and local, provincial, federal issues. *9 of 10 Ipsos Reid respondents support government provision of marine facilities, a slight majority prefer local government retaining jurisdiction.*

**DIRECTION:** A Greater Okanagan Lake Alliance be implemented with a strategy to developing a self - funding jurisdictional authority.

## ADDITIONAL DELIVERABLES AND RATIONALES

SUPPLEMENTARY CURRENT DATA- Pleasure Crafts Licensed in Canada- 2.9M / Apr.06-Jun.08-30,600 licensed in BC As at Jan 1.08 1.4M Pleasure Craft Operator Cards issued in Canada / 144,000 in BC 25% of Ipsos Reid boat-owner respondents have a valid Pleasure Craft License

## UPCOMING DIALOG

PUBLIC DROP-INS / CONSULTATIONS- AUG. 13- The Jammery 3-6pm, Lake Country/Kelowna  
AUG. 19- Bliss Café 3-6pm Peachland

FINAL PUBLIC MEETING AND WORKSHOP-SEPT 10 –Kelowna Waterfront

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS WILL GO TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE AFTER SEPTEMBER 5  
AND THE RDCO BOARD OCTOBER 9

For Further Information Contact: Bob Sugden [okboating@shaw.ca](mailto:okboating@shaw.ca) [www.boatingintheokanagan.com](http://www.boatingintheokanagan.com)