

Canada's Initial Biennial Report Card on the Economic Value of Marine-related Activities

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Attempts to calculate the economic value of marine related activities at a national level in Canada during the 1990s and early 2000s were fraught with methodological difficulties. A number of sub-national studies during the same period had somewhat more success however, methodological differences between the eight studies made it near impossible to make valued comparisons across the various studies.

A decision was taken in 2006 to work towards the development of a cost effective national programme to produce a biennial 'Canada Report Card' on the economic value of marine related activities. Towards this goal, work was undertaken to prepare a baseline methodology as a foundation upon which to build a national programme. The methodology was tested in 2007 during a subsequent sub-national study in British Columbia.

The paper describes the difficulty in undertaking these types of surveys at a national level but more importantly will discuss the 'underestimation' of the various sub-sectors due to a significant number of gaps in the current availability of statistical data.



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