

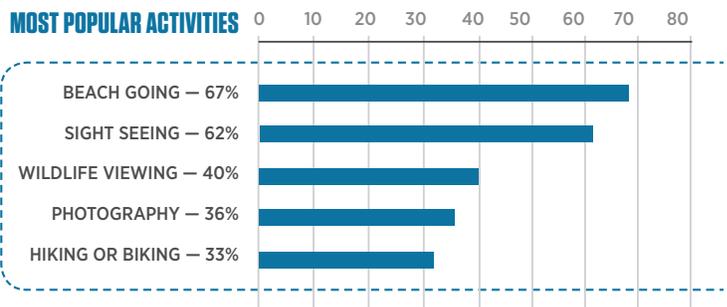
NON-CONSUMPTIVE RECREATION ALONG THE WASHINGTON COAST

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Non-consumptive recreation is widely practiced along the extent of Washington's coast (Pacific Coast & Strait of Juan de Fuca). Popular activities include **beach going, sight seeing/scenic enjoyment, wildlife viewing, photography, and hiking & biking**. This study, a collaborative effort between the Surfrider Foundation and Point 97, investigated activity participation, geographic use, and economic impacts in the state of Washington.

What Activities Do People Participate In?

Washington residents visit the coast regularly and participate in a broad range of recreational activities. A random sample of six thousand residents found that over 40% had visited the Washington coast at least once in the past 12 months. The most popular activities were shore-based, with over 60% of respondents indicating they had participated in beach going and scenic enjoyment in the past year.



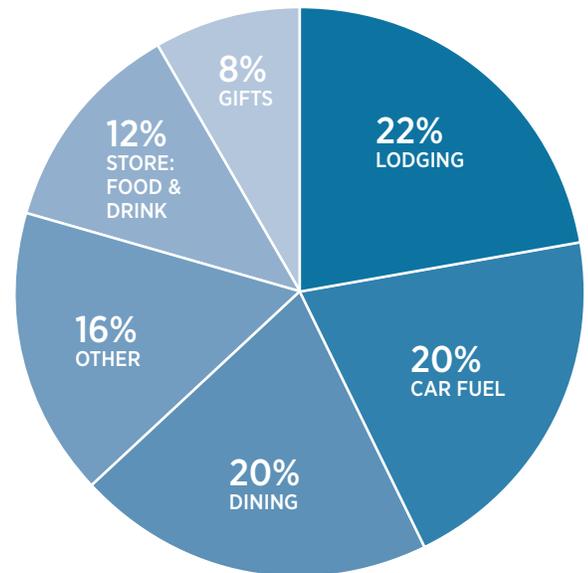
Wildlife viewing activities such as bird and whale watching were also popular, with over a third of respondents indicating participation. Meanwhile, ocean-based activities such as surfing, kayaking, and boating captured between 2-7% of the survey sample.



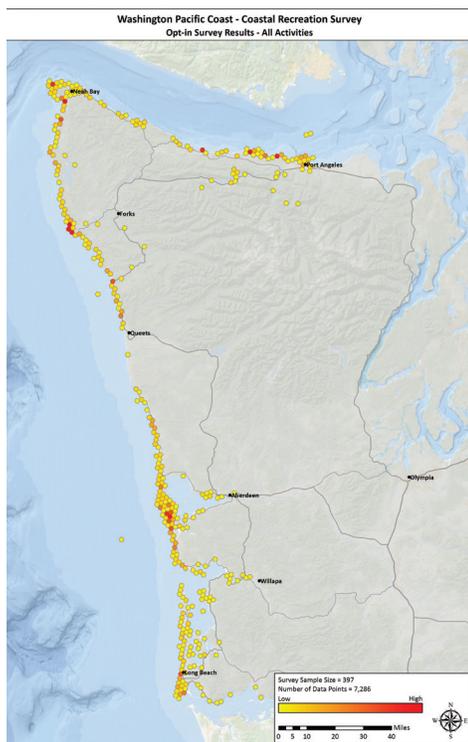
Economic Impacts

Non-consumptive recreation provides significant **economic and social benefits** to coastal communities and the state—these include direct expenditures, as well as social benefits such as citizen enjoyment. In 2014, Washington residents took an estimated 4.1 million trips to the coast, with nearly 60 percent indicating their primary purpose was recreation. The average respondent spent \$117.14 per trip, translating to an estimated **\$481 million** dollars in total direct expenditures. The graph on the right displays the major categories and percentage of different expenditures.

AVERAGE EXPENDITURES PER PERSON PER COASTAL VISIT



Respondents spent an average of \$117.14 per coastal visit.



Geographic Use

Spatial data on recreational activities were collected through a web-based survey that incorporated OpenOcean Map, an interactive mapping tool developed by Point 97. Respondents provided information by “dropping pins” on specific locations to reflect areas of use during their last trip to the coast. Data were collected through both a random sample of Washington residents, as well as through an “opt-in” survey that allowed interested stakeholders to participate. The opt-in survey also enabled respondents to indicate other places of use aside from areas visited during their last trip.

The final report, more information about the study, and the Washington MSP Mapping Application can be found at: www.msp.wa.gov/explore.

MORE INFORMATION

To access full report: [washington.surfrider.org](http://www.washington.surfrider.org)

If you have any questions please contact Gus Gates at 541-999-0272, or email ggates@surfrider.org

The Surfrider Foundation is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches through a powerful activist network.



POINT 97