

Moratoria

Moratoria on offshore oil and gas exploration in BC were established by the federal government in 1972 and BC government in 1989.¹

Exploratory Wells

Exploratory wells are drilled to test for the presence of oil or gas reserves in new areas. The first exploratory oil well in BC was drilled in 1913 on Graham Island in Haida Gwaii.¹

The accompanying map shows the location of the 18 exploratory onshore and offshore oil wells drilled in PNCIMA.² All were drilled before 1989.³ Two sites at Naden Harbour (Haida Gwaii) overlap, so only 17 points are visible on the map.

Tenures

The accompanying map shows the location and ownership of offshore petroleum tenures under the provincial and federal governments.

Notably, there are no tenures around the southern part of Haida Gwaii. This is because the four major oil companies who claimed petroleum rights within the existing Gwaii Haanas

Federal and provincial moratoria on offshore oil and gas exploration in BC were established in 1972 and 1989

National Marine Conservation Area Reserve and Haida Heritage Site boundaries relinquished their rights in 1997. This was a necessary prerequisite for the establishment of the Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve and Haida Heritage Site in 2010.^{4,5,6}

Note that offshore petroleum tenure blocks do not extend onshore. With the exception of masking the terrestrial portion of the tenures, data are displayed as provided. Nothing should be inferred where tenures extend beyond international boundaries displayed on the map.⁷

1 Conway, K.W. and Johannessen, D. 2007. Ecosystem overview: Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA). Appendix A: Geology. Can. Tech. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 2677. 60pp.
 2 Lucas, B.G., Verrin, S. and Brown, R. 2007. Ecosystem overview: Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA). Can. Tech. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 2667. 92pp + appendices.
 3 Natural Resources Canada. 2003. Metadata for GIS shapefile "Offshore Wells" https://apps.gov.bc.ca/pub/geometadata/metadataDetail.do?recordUID=7431&recordSet=ISO19115
 4 Parks Canada. 2010. Background: Establishing Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve and Haida Heritage Site. http://www.pc.gc.ca/APPS/CP-NR/release_e.asp?bgid=1352&andor1=bg (Accessed April 2011).
 5 Dietrich, J.R., Morrell, G.R. and Fortier, M.C. 1992. Petroleum resource potential in the proposed area of Gwaii Haanas/South Moresby National Park, British Columbia. Geological Survey of Canada Open File 2557, 16+pp.
 6 N. Irving and T. Tomascik, Parks Canada Agency; and C. Rigg, Haida Oceans Technical Team/Haida Fisheries Program. Personal communications, April 2011.
 7 British Columbia Marine Conservation Analysis Project Team. 2011. Marine atlas of Pacific Canada: a product of the British Columbia Marine Conservation Analysis. Available from www.bcmca.ca (Accessed March 2011).



Offshore oil rig on artificial island, Alaska
 Photo: Captain Budd Christman, NOAA Corps/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/Department of Commerce



Offshore oil platform, Gulf of Mexico
 Photo: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/Department of Commerce

