

# GWAII HAANAS USER STATISTICS

2004

**Prepared by Anna Gajda**

Heritage Resource Conservation

Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site

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# 2004 GWAII HAANAS USER STATISTICS

## 1.0 Introduction

This report summarizes the activities of various users in Gwaii Haanas throughout 2004.

Users of Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve are:

- Independent and tour visitors,
- Commercial tour staff,
- Haida Gwaii Watchmen,
- Gwaii Haanas staff,
- Volunteers,
- Researchers,
- Contractors.

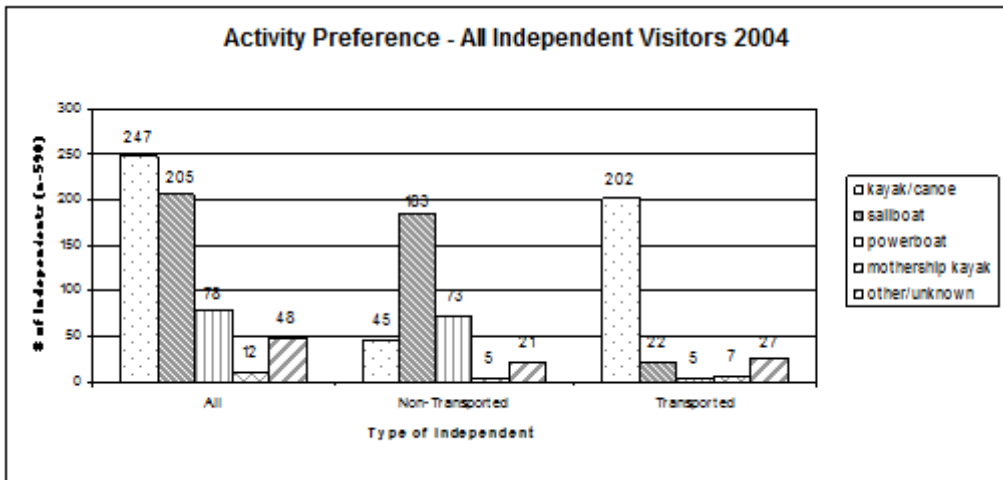
As with reports produced since 1996, only those activities within Gwaii Haanas (i.e. south of the Tangil Peninsula) have been used in the analyses, although site-specific information is also provided for K'uuna Inagaay (Skedans).

## 2.0 Independent Visitors

The total number of independent travellers registered in 2004 (fully independent and transported independent travellers combined) was 590. Fully independent travellers made up 55% of all independents.

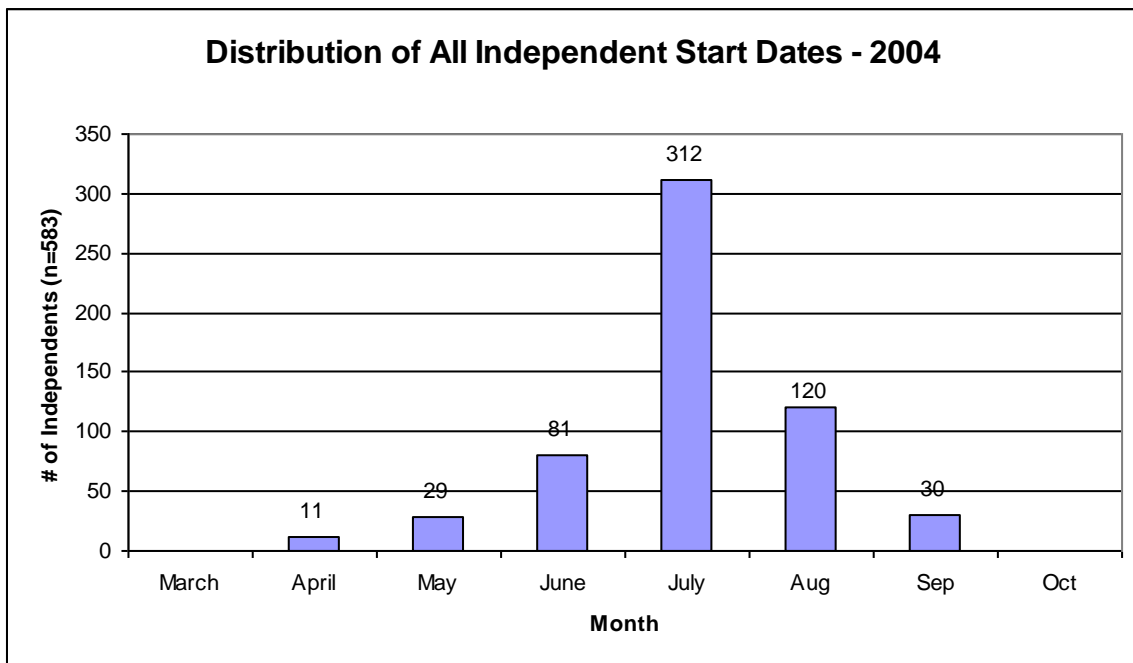
Figure 1 shows the activity preferences, inferred from mode of travel in Gwaii Haanas, for all types of independent travellers.

**Figure 1**



Independent visitors travelled in groups ranging in size from 1 to 12. The average group size was 2.6 and the most common group size was 2 (45% of groups). As in previous years, visitation was highest in July and August (Figure 2).

**Figure 2**

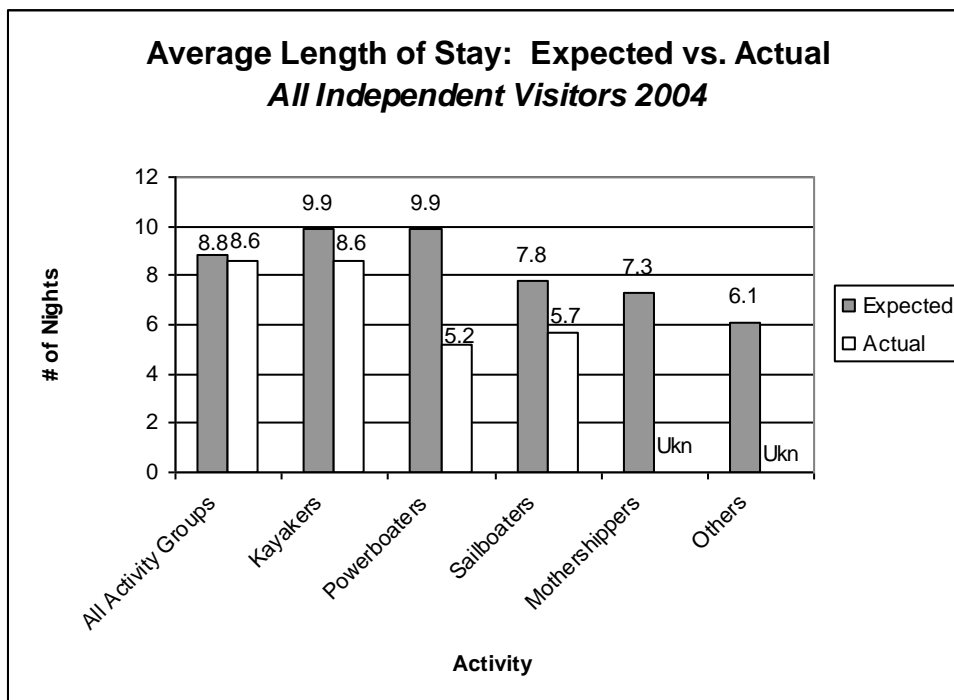


**Note:** 7 independent visitors did not provide start dates on their registration forms, and thus the sample size is smaller for this analysis.

## Trip Length

Planned trip length was 8.8 nights, on average, with a range of 1 to 41 nights, based on estimates received from 566 independents at the time of registration (96% of all registered independents), but actual trip length reported in trip logs averaged 7.9 nights (Figure 3). No mothershippers submitted trip logs and so the actual average trip length could not be determined for this group.

Figure 3



## User-nights

Using activity-specific averages, independent visitors in 2004 spent an estimated 4,148 nights in Gwaii Haanas, down from 2003's estimated 4,668 visitor-nights.

## Preferred Activities

In 2004, kayaking remained the preferred activity overall among independent travellers (42%), followed by sailing (35%) and powerboating (13%). Sailing was up substantially from previous years, primarily due to visitation by a flotilla from a Vancouver Island yacht club.

## 2.1 Analysis of Independent Trip Logs

The independent trip log serves several purposes. It was initially designed to collect information about trip length, routes travelled, locations visited, and areas used for camping. Similar information is collected from tour operators and, together, these data sets help us monitor use levels and patterns of use. Independent travellers are also asked about facilities and services used, such as Moresby Camp as a departure area, water hoses, mooring buoys, garbage bin, use of transportation services.

The trip logs also provide an indication of whether, and under what circumstances, people may be feeling “crowded” on their trip, and whether this detracts from their experience. A tour client trip log was initiated in 2004 to measure visitor experience for these individuals. Results of the analysis of these logs are presented in Section 3 of this report.

### 2.1.1 Number of Responses

Of the 588 independent visitors registered in 2004, 102 (17%) returned their trip logs. This is a significant decrease from 2003 (47%) and previous years, which had approximately the same response rates. The decrease is most likely attributable to a change in the “reward system” in 2004. In previous years, every visitor who properly completed and returned their trip log within 30 days of the end of their trip were sent an art-quality print of the Gwaii Haanas logo. As stated above, trip logs for tour clients were initiated in 2004, and it was not financially viable to send a print to every independent and tour visitor who returned a properly completed trip log, given the response rate of previous years and the fact that 70% of Gwaii Haanas visitors travel with a tour operator. It was therefore decided to change to a draw system. Every visitor (regardless of whether they were an independent or a tour visitor) who submitted a properly completed trip log within the 30 day deadline were entered into a draw for one of 10 rewards, each of which included a Gwaii Haanas canvas tote bag, ball cap, survival tool, and key-ring flashlight. These individual respondents represented 26% of all the independent *groups* that travelled in Gwaii Haanas. Forty-one percent (41%) of the trip log respondents started their trip between July 15 and August 20.

### 2.1.2 Use of Moresby Camp

Sixty-four (64) trip log respondents reported that they used Moresby Camp (the closest road access to Gwaii Haanas) as the staging point for their trip. Of these, 63 were paddlers (kayak or canoe) (Table 1).

**Table 1: Use of Moresby Camp by Independent Visitors 2004**

Type of Visitor	No. of Responses	No. of groups represented
Paddlers (transported)	49	33
Paddlers (not transported)	14	3
Motorboaters	1	1
Sailboaters	0	0
All independents	64	37

### 2.1.3 Use of Commercial Transportation Services

A total of 61 trip log respondents used commercial motorboat transportation service at either the start or the end (or both) of their trip to Gwaii Haanas. All of the motorboat transportation reported was provided by one company, and all the users of the transportation services were paddlers. Of these users, 34 paddlers reported using transportation at both the beginning and end of their trip, 20 used it for drop-off only, and 7 for pick-up only. Thirty-nine (39) paddlers said that they did not use any commercial transportation service in to or out of Gwaii Haanas.

Thirteen (13) different drop-off locations were used for drop-offs by motorboat transport, compared to 19 in 2003. Raspberry Cove was the most frequently used drop-off location, followed by Rose Harbour. These two locations accounted for 48% of all motorboat drop-offs. Outside the Houston Stewart Channel area, drop-off points were quite well distributed. The next most popular drop-off area was Kat Island, accounting for 11%, followed by 9% for the Swan Islands. The percentage of drop-offs at Crescent Inlet this year (2%) was lower than in 2003 (11%).

Ten (10) different locations were used for pick-up at the end of trips, compared with 16 in 2003. Crescent Inlet was the most commonly used location (37% of users), which was higher than in 2003 when it was used for 29% of reported pick-ups. Kunga Island (12%) and T'aanuu Ilnagaay (12%) were next in popularity, followed by Rose Harbour (10%).

#### 2.1.4 Use of Water Hoses

There was decrease in the use of the Shuttle Island water supply – from 16 groups who reported using it in 2003 to 6 groups reporting use in 2004. Sixty-seven percent (67%) of the reported use in 2004 was by kayakers (3 groups). The Louscoone water hose was only reported as used by one powerboat group.

#### 2.1.5 Use of Mooring Buoys

Twelve (12) independent vessels – 7 sailboats and 5 motorboats – reported using mooring buoys. The number of buoys used per trip ranged from one to three. A total of five (5) different buoys were used in Gwaii Haanas, and 3 between Moresby Camp and Tangil Peninsula. Buoys at Rose Harbour and Ramsay Island were the most frequently used. (Table 2).

**Table 2: Use of Mooring Buoys by Independent Vessels**

<b>Use of Mooring Buoys by Independent Vessels 2004 (based on Trip Log responses)</b>			
<b>Buoy</b>	<b>Motorboats</b>	<b>Sailboats</b>	<b>Total</b>
Rose Harbour	2	5	7
Ramsay	2	3	5
Shuttle Island	1	1	2
Louscoone Inlet	1	0	1
Gandl K'in Gwaayaay/ Hotspring Island	1	0	1

Four (4) sailboats reported using buoys outside of Gwaii Haanas, between Cumshewa Inlet and the Tangil Peninsula. This year, Gordon Cove, Beattie Anchorage, and K'uuna Inagaay/Skedans had their use reported.

Two comments on the mooring buoys were provided by 2004 trip log respondents. One respondent appreciated having the buoys at both safe harbours as well as at the Haida Gwaii Watchmen sites, while a second stated that some Watchmen were not able to provide accurate information on the location of mooring buoys at the sites.

#### 2.1.6 Garbage disposal facilities at Moresby Camp

In 2004, a garbage bin and pick-up service was again provided at Moresby Camp from the beginning of June to the end of September. Seventeen (17) respondents representing 14 groups said they made use of this service. All the respondents were kayakers. These represent about 35% of the paddler respondents who started their trip from Moresby Camp – a decrease from 2003's 43%.



### 2.1.7 Vessel Encounters

Questions in this section are designed to replicate questions asked in the Gwaii Haanas 1995 Visitor Survey (Vaske et al., 1996) That study established a baseline for tracking the number of vessels seen by visitors during their trip, and also how “crowded” visitors felt under various circumstances. Visitors are first asked to estimate the number of kayaks, motorboats (including powerboats, sailboats, fishing boats), helicopters and airplanes seen during their entire trip (a) when travelling on the water, (b) while camping, or (c) at Haida Gwaii Watchmen sites. Visitors are also asked to rate, on a nine-point scale, how “crowded” they felt under the same set of circumstances (1 = not at all crowded, 9 = extremely crowded). Finally, visitors are asked whether the degree of crowding they felt detracted from their experience.

#### *Number of vessels seen*

The number of kayaks seen during the entire trip ranged from 0-40 seen while travelling on the water, 0-17 while camping, and 0-16 while visiting Watchmen sites. The average number of kayaks seen by all groups combined during the entire trip was 9.3 while travelling on the water, 3.7 while camping, and 2.9 at Watchmen camps (Table 3).

**Table 3: Encounters with Kayakers 1998 - 2004**

<b>Average No. of Kayaks seen by Trip Log Respondents 1998 - 2004</b>							
	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>On Water</b>	11.1	7.7	11.1	10.7	9.1	9.6	9.3
<b>From camp</b>	5.7	3.9	5.4	3.5	3.9	4.1	3.7
<b>At Watchmen Sites</b>	4.8	4.0	4.3	5.2	3.4	4.1	2.9

The number of motorboats seen ranged from 0-50 seen when travelling on the water, 0-25 when camped or moored, and 0-20 seen at Watchmen sites. The average number of motorboats seen by all groups combined during the entire trip was 9.3 seen on the water, 5.3 seen from camp, and 2.9 seen at Watchmen sites (Table 4). Notable are the higher average number of reports of motorboats on the water and from camp compared to previous years.

**Table 4: Encounters with Motorboats 1998 – 2004**

<b>Average No. of Motorboats seen by Trip Log Respondents 1998 - 2004</b>							
	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>On Water</b>	8.6	6.8	8.6	6.7	6.8	7.0	9.3
<b>From camp</b>	5.3	3.0	4.1	2.8	3.2	2.8	5.3
<b>At Watchmen Sites</b>	3.5	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.9

Tables 5–7 on the following pages track the trend in the average number of sightings for each activity group. In 1998, three categories showing significant upward trend were flagged for particular attention in subsequent years. These were: kayakers seeing more motorboats while camping, kayakers seeing more airplanes while camping, and sailboaters seeing more kayaks when moored. In reviewing the tables, what is apparent is the higher number of motorboat encounters reported by kayakers and sailboaters while camped or moored. For kayakers, the average encounters of 5.4 is the highest report by this group since 1998. For sailboaters, the average encounter rate of 7.7 was substantially higher than in any previous measures for this group. Interestingly, this is in contrast to Motorboaters, whose average encounter rate of 1.4 was lowest report since 1995. The reason for the discrepancy is unknown. These parameters will be closely monitored over the next few years to determine if these increases are maintained. If so, the AMB will review visitor use levels and patterns in more detail to evaluate the impacts to visitor experience.

The number of airplane encounters while camped or moored also showed increases, in this case for all types of activities. These values are the highest reported since measurements began in 1995, and thus points to the need for closer monitoring of this parameter in the next few years as well.

**Table 5: Average Number of Vessels Encountered While Travelling on the Water**

<b>Average No. of Vessels Encountered by User Groups:</b>									
<b>(a) While Travelling on Water (Entire Trip)</b>									
<b>Kayaks Encountered While Travelling on Water</b>									
<b>Encountered by</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Kayakers	17.3	10.3	10.7	8.5	12.5	10.3	8.0	9.9	9.7
Motorboaters	13.3	13.1	10.5	9.5	10.7	12.7	7.2	7.1	3.9
Sailboaters	19.8	10.3	12.5	5.0	10.3	8.6	14.2	10.5	11
<b>Motorboats Encountered While Travelling on Water</b>									
<b>Encountered by</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Kayakers	15.6	8.4	10.0	7.5	6.7	6.8	6.9	6.2	9
Motorboaters	15.3	12.3	6.6	4.5	6.6	5.0	6.1	7.5	7.4
Sailboaters	20.3	6.6	8.0	5.3	7.2	8.9	7.6	8.6	12.9
<b>Airplanes Encountered While Travelling on Water</b>									
<b>Encountered by</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Kayakers	3.3	3.9	4.9	5.1	4.5	4.3	3.6	2.9	4.5
Motorboaters	2.9	3.3	2.3	2.1	2	1.4	4.9	1.1	0.5
Sailboaters	4.9	2.3	2.9	1.3	2.1	3.3	1.6	1.9	2.4
<b>Helicopters Encountered While Travelling on Water</b>									
<b>Encountered by</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Kayakers	0.9	0.7	1.0	1.3	1.3	0.8	0.7	0.4	1.4
Motorboaters	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.5	0.3	0.4
Sailboaters	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.5	1.2	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.5

**Table 6: Average Number of Vessels Encountered While Camped or Moored**

<b>Average No. of Vessels Encountered by User Groups:</b>									
<b>(b) While Camped or Moored (Entire Trip)</b>									
<b>Kayaks Encountered While Camped or Moored</b>									
<b>Encountered by</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Kayakers	7.4	5.4	6.1	4.6	7.0	3.5	4.2	5.3	3.8
Motorboaters	4.4	3.0	3.6	2.9	4.1	3.0	4.6	2.2	2.8
Sailboaters	4.6	3.5	5.9	2.7	2.7	2.1	3.4	2.3	3.4
<b>Motorboats Encountered While Camped or Moored</b>									
<b>Encountered by</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Kayakers	4.7	3.9	5.8	3.6	4.3	2.8	3.5	2.6	5.4
Motorboaters	4.4	3.6	3.7	2.0	3.2	2.6	2.5	2.8	1.4
Sailboaters	6.4	3.3	5.1	2.2	4.3	3.3	2.8	3.3	7.7
<b>Airplanes Encountered While Camped or Moored</b>									
<b>Encountered by</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Kayakers	0.9	1.6	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.0	2.3	1.2	3.1
Motorboaters	0.6	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.2	2.2	1.6	0.7	1.8
Sailboaters	0.6	0.4	1.5	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.5	2
<b>Helicopters Encountered While Camped or Moored</b>									
<b>Encountered by</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Kayakers	0.10	0.20	0.50	0.80	0.33	0.4	0.40	0.2	0.5
Motorboaters	0.30	0.20	0.06	0.30	0.53	0.1	0.30	0.1	0
Sailboaters	0.20	0.00	0.10	0.10	0.55	0.2	0.10	0.1	0.08

**Table 7: Average Number of Vessels Encountered at Watchmen Sites**

<b>Average No. of Vessels Encountered by User Groups:</b>									
<b>(c) At Watchmen Sites (Entire Trip)</b>									
<b>Kayaks Encountered at Watchmen Sites</b>									
<b>Encountered by</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Kayakers	7.1	5.4	4.6	4.2	4.8	3.5	2.6	5.0	2.7
Motorboaters	6.1	7.3	4.0	2.9	4.1	3.0	3.5	2.7	1.7
Sailboaters	9.3	6.6	6.7	4.8	4.1	2.1	6.1	2.5	5.1
<b>Motorboats Encountered at Watchmen Sites</b>									
<b>Encountered by</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Kayakers	6.1	3.4	4.1	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.6
Motorboaters	4.4	3.8	2.5	2.1	2.9	2.6	2.3	2.7	2.5
Sailboaters	4.5	3.1	3.1	1.7	2.4	3.3	2.5	1.8	5.3
<b>Airplanes Encountered at Watchmen Sites</b>									
<b>Encountered by</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Kayakers	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.23	2.0	0.3	0.4	0.4
Motorboaters	0.6	0.8	0.3	0.1	0.2	2.2	0.3	0.1	0.4
Sailboaters	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.8
<b>Helicopters Encountered at Watchmen Sites</b>									
<b>Encountered by</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
Kayakers	0.10	0.01	0.10	0.06	0.04	0.4	<0.1	0.01	0
Motorboaters	0.20	0.10	0.06	0.00	0	0.1	0.20	0.02	0
Sailboaters	0.20	0.20	0.10	0.06	0.06	0.2	0.10	0	0

### 2.1.8 Perceptions of crowding

Respondents were asked how crowded they felt by the number of (a) kayaks and (b) motorboats they encountered under different circumstances – while they were on the water, while they were camped or moored, while they were visiting Watchmen sites. For each location, respondents rated crowding on a nine-point scale from (1) “not at all crowded” to (9) “extremely crowded.” Ratings shown in Table 8 are *average* crowding scores compared across the three main activity groups.

**Table 8: Average Rating of Crowding Reported by Trip Log Respondents 2004**

<b>Average Rating of Crowding by Independent Trip Log Respondents 2004 (Numbers in parentheses are from 2003, 2002 and 2001 respectively)</b>									
	<b>Kayakers</b>			<b>Motorboaters</b>			<b>Sailboaters</b>		
	Rating	Range	Detraction?	Rating	Range	Detraction?	Rating	Range	Detraction?
<b><i>How crowded did you feel by the number of motorboats encountered:</i></b>									
- while on the water?	1.7 (1.2;1.4; 1.4)	1-7	4/78	1.0 (1.1;1.2; 1.2)	1-1	0/9	1.4 (1.1;1.2; 1.1)	1-3	0/11
- while in camp/moored?	1.7 (1.3;1.3; 1.2)	1-8	4/78	1.0 (1.2;1.4; 1.4)	1-1	0/7	1.6 (1.2;1.4; 1.6)	1-4	0/11
- at Watchmen sites?	1.6 (1.5;1.7; 1.6)	1-5	1/70	1.0 (1.6;1.7; 1.5)	1-1	0/9	2.1 (1.4;1.6; 1.6)	1-6	1/11
<b><i>How crowded did you feel by the number of kayaks encountered:</i></b>									
- while on the water?	1.2 (1.2;1.2; 1.2)	1-7	4/79	1.6 (1.0;1.2; 1.4)	1-6	1/9	1.1 (1.1;1.1; 1.1)	1-2	0/11
- while in camp/moored?	1.3 (1.3;1.5; 1.3)	1-6	0/79	1.0 (1.3;1.5; 1.3)	1-1	0/7	1.3 (1.1;1.3; 1.1)	1-4	0/11
- at Watchmen sites?	1.2 (1.5;1.3; 1.5)	1-5	0/70	1.0 (1.2;1.7; 1.3)	1-1	0/9	1.5 (1.2;1.8; 1.1)	1-5	0/11

The Backcountry Management Plan (August 2003) defines different standards for acceptable levels of crowding that can be experienced during peak period (July 15–August 20) and at other times during the visitor season. Outside of the peak season no more than 5% of independent trip log respondents should rate their perception of crowding while travelling on the water, or while camped, at 3 or higher. During the peak season, the standard rises to 10%.

Tables 9 and 10 summarize the levels of crowding for reported encounters with vessels during peak and non-peak periods.

**Table 9: Crowding Ratings of 3 or Greater for Peak Season 2004  
(Percentages that exceed the 10% standard are highlighted in bold)**

<b>Crowding by:</b>	<b>No. rating 3 or greater</b>	<b>% of peak season logs (n=42)</b>
<b><i>Motorboats</i></b>		
- on water	6 (3 detracting)	<b>14.3%</b>
- while camped	10 (3 detracting)	<b>23.8%</b>
<b><i>Kayaks</i></b>		
- water	3 (0 detracting)	7.1%
- while camped	6 (0 detracting)	<b>14.3%</b>

**Table 10: Crowding Ratings of 3 or Greater Outside of the Peak Season 2004  
(Percentages exceeding the 5% standard are highlighted in bold)**

<b>Crowding by:</b>	<b>No. rating 3 or greater</b>	<b>% of non peak logs (n=60)</b>
<b><i>Motorboats</i></b>		
- on the water	8 (1 detracting)	<b>13.3%</b>
- while camped	2 (0 detracting)	3.3%
<b><i>Kayaks</i></b>		
- on the water	2 (1 detracting)	3.3%
- while camped	3 (0 detracting)	5.0%

In 2002, the non-peak period standard of 5% was exceeded for both motorboats (6.1%) and kayaks (10.2%) seen while camping. No standards were exceeded in the peak period. In 2003, the 10% peak period standard was exceeded for kayaks seen while camping (13%). In 2004, three out of the four peak season parameters exceeded the 10% standard for crowding. The low sample size in this year may have resulted in higher percentages than if more independents would have completed a trip log. However, if some of these same standards are exceeded in 2005, particularly “kayaks seen while camped” (since it was also exceeded in 2003), then a management review of visitor limits will be required to discuss the quality of the visitor experience.

The non-peak period measurement of “motorboats seen on the water” also exceeded its standard of 5% in both 2004 and 2003. Results in 2005 will determine if a review of visitor limits in the non-peak period is also required.

### 2.1.9 Haida Gwaii Watchmen Sites

Eighty-eight percent (88%) of trip log respondents made at least one visit to a Watchmen site, and 77% made two or more visits, either to different sites, or to the same site more than once.

For Watchmen sites, the primary consideration for acceptable crowding levels as defined in the Backcountry Management Plan is the number of times more than 12 other people are encountered on site (10% outside of peak season, 20% during peak season). The measure of crowding is used as a secondary indicator; the standard – applicable at any time of the season – is that no more than 10% of trip log respondents will report a level of crowding of 3 or higher. Table 11 summarizes the level of crowding reported at Haida Gwaii Watchmen sites during both peak and non-peak periods. Note that crowding at Gandl K'in Gwaayaay was more than double the indicator standard of 10% for the non-peak period.

**Table 11: Crowding Levels at Watchmen Sites 2004. Measures that exceeded standards are highlighted in bold.**

Site	“12 people ashore” standard exceeded (% of responses)		“Crowding” rated at level 3 or higher (% of responses) [% who found that crowding was a detraction]	
	Non-Peak	Peak Period	Non-Peak	Peak Period
<u>K</u> 'uuna Ilnagaay	<b>26.7%</b>	13.3%	<b>46.7%</b> [6.7%]	<b>20.0%</b> [0%]
T'aanuu Ilnagaay	0%	0%	2.6% [0%]	<b>21.7%</b> [4.3%]
Hlk'yah <u>G</u> aaw <u>G</u> a	0%	6.3%	6.9% [0%]	<b>32.0%</b> [0%]
<u>G</u> andl K'in Gwaayaay	<b>14.6%</b>	0%	<b>34.1%</b> [2.4%]	<b>25.0%</b> [2.1%]
<u>S</u> Gang Gwaay	0%	0%	<b>20.0%</b> [5.0%]	<b>14.3%</b> [0%]

When all visits to Watchmen sites are combined according to season, 7.0 % of non-peak period visitors and 2.3 % of peak period visitors saw more than 12 persons ashore during their trip. Both these values are well within the standards.

When looking at crowding, significantly more respondents identified being at least slightly crowded during at least one visit to the Watchmen sites. Looking at each site separately, the 10% standard was exceeded in both the non-peak and peak periods at K'uuna Ilnagaay, Gandl K'in Gwaayaay, and SGang Gwaay. The standard was also exceeded during the peak period at T'aanuu Ilnagaay and Hlk'yah GaawGa. When results for all sites were combined, 19.6% of respondents reported being at least slightly crowded during a visit to a Watchmen site during the non-peak period; of those respondents, 2.1% of respondents felt that the crowding detracted from their experience. During the peak period, the percentage increases to 20.0%, with 1.5% of those respondents also recording a corresponding detraction.



Table 12 compares these indicator measures for all Watchmen sites combined over the last four years.

**Table 12: Comparison of the percentage of occurrences of seeing more than 12 others ashore at Haida Gwaii Watchmen sites, as well as the percentage of occurrences of feeling at least slightly crowded at Watchmen sites from 2001 to 2004. The percentage of visitors who felt that crowding detracted from their experience is provided in braces. Percentages that exceed the relevant standards are highlighted in bold.**

	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Seeing &gt;12 other visitors at Watchmen sites</b>				
- Non-peak period	1.9%	1.5%	4.4%	7.0%
- Peak period	4.2%	8.3%	12.4%	2.3%
<b>Visitors feeling at least slightly crowded at Watchmen sites</b>				
- Non-peak period	<b>12.2%</b> [3.0%]	<b>14.5%</b> [3.9%]	<b>17.7%</b> [2.2%]	<b>19.6%</b> [2.1%]
- Peak period	<b>27.5%</b> [4.5%]	<b>28.6%</b> [8.0%]	<b>22.1%</b> [5.4%]	<b>20.0%</b> [1.5%]

As was mentioned earlier, the standard for crowding is a secondary indicator, and was set at 10% for both the peak and non-peak periods. It is interesting to note that although the percentage of visitors reporting feeling at least slightly crowded are quite high, the percentage of visitors reporting that this crowding was a detraction was substantially lower. Given that the primary indicator (percentage of visitors seeing more than 12 ashore at the Watchmen sites) has not been exceeded in either period over the last four years, the AMB may wish to consider if the standard for the crowding indicator should be amended.

### 2.1.10 Visitor Satisfaction

Independent visitors were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with their visit to Gwaii Haanas specifically, as well as Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands generally. On a scale of 1 (not at all satisfied) to 5 (very satisfied), 98 respondents were very satisfied with their trip to Gwaii Haanas (average rating of 4.9) and their trip to the Islands as a whole (average rating of 4.8).

Visitors were also asked about the quality of service they experienced from both Parks Canada staff and Haida Gwaii Watchmen. They were asked to rate each on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good) according to helpfulness, friendliness, and communication skills. Average satisfaction rates for Parks Canada staff were 4.6 for all three measures, and 4.8, 4.9, and 4.7 respectively for Watchmen.

### 3.0 Visitors Travelling on Commercial Tours

A total of 1,532 visitors travelled on a commercial tour to Gwaii Haanas in 2004. Twenty-three (23) commercial operators were licensed to work in Gwaii Haanas; and all but two ran trips during the season.

#### 3.1 Day Visitors

In 2004, 714 visitors took day trips with commercial operators into Gwaii Haanas. Four hundred and ninety-eight (498) visitors took powerboat or inflatable tours; 2 of those people were registered independents who took a powerboat day trip to SGang Gwaay. Because some visitors took multiple day-trips from bed and breakfasts in Rose Harbour, 498 visitors account for 556 visitor-days in Gwaii Haanas. One hundred and fifty-eight (158) visitors flew to Rose Harbour and took a powerboat tour to SGang Gwaay before their return flight to Queen Charlotte. Fifty-eight (58) visitors flew to Gandl K'in Gwaayaay/Hotspring Island on day trips.

Staff time accounted for an additional 164 days spent within Gwaii Haanas. Therefore, there was a total of 936 user-days related to day tours in Gwaii Haanas.

**Table 13: Number of Day Trip Visitors to Gwaii Haanas 1996 – 2004**

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	% Change 2003 - 2004	% Change 1996- 2004
<b>Powerboat</b>	118	95	269	248	260	364	421	362	498	+38%	+320%
<b>Air/Powerboat to SGang Gwaay</b>	70	123	136	134	176	126	107	127	158	+24%	+126%
<b>Air to Gandl K'in Gwaayaay/ Hotspring Island</b>	0	28	61	27	26	9	32	65	58	-11%	+107% (1997 – 2003)
<b>TOTAL</b>	188	218	466	409	462	499	560	554	714	+29%	+280%

#### 3.2 Transport Clients

See Section 2.

### 3.3 Multi-Day Tour Visitors

A total of 668 visitors travelled in Gwaii Haanas on multi-day commercial tours or stayed at one of the bed and breakfasts in Rose Harbour, and spent 4,176 nights within the protected area or at a bed & breakfast in Rose Harbour. An additional 150 visitors spent 279 nights on powerboat tours that involved either stays at a float camp located in Crescent Inlet just north of the Gwaii Haanas, or at a bed and breakfast in Rose Harbour. Of the 4,176 visitor-nights spent continuously in Gwaii Haanas, 2,066 (49%) of those were spent on live-aboard vessels. Of the remaining nights, 1,779 (43%) were spent on shore camping and 331 (8%) were spent at a guesthouse in Rose Harbour. Staff spent an additional 1,460 nights in Gwaii Haanas; 871 (60%) of those were spent on the water, while 589 (40%) of staff stayed ashore. Thirty-seven (37) nights were spent by staff at the float camp north of Gwaii Haanas or at a bed & breakfast in Rose Harbour.

To summarize, a total of 5,636 user-nights were spent in Gwaii Haanas by multi-day tour visitors and bed and breakfast clients, and 316 user-nights were spent at the float camp in Crescent Inlet or at a bed and breakfast in Rose Harbour. This represents a 8% decrease in nights from 2003 and a 9% decrease in nights from 2002.

In 2004, kayaking was the most popular activity, with 239 (29%) of multi-day visitors participating (Table 14). Sailing was the second most popular activity, with 233 (28%) multi-day visitors participating. One hundred and eighty-six (186) (23%) of visitors took multi-day powerboat tours. Mothership kayaking was the activity chosen by 80 multi-day visitors (10%), who used either a powerboat or a sailboat as the mothership. Eighty (80) (10%) visitors stayed at a bed and breakfast in Rose Harbour, and did either kayaking and/or powerboating daytrips from that location (these individuals have also been counted under powerboat daytrips; double-counting of these individuals is corrected in Table 15). Average trip lengths were 7.1 nights for kayak tours, 5.5 nights for mothership kayak tours, 6.6 nights for sail tours, and 2.5 nights for powerboat tours.

**Table 14: Types of Multi-Day Tours Taken by Visitors in 2004 (n=818)**

<b>Activity</b>	<b># of Multi-Day Visitors</b>	<b>% of Multi-Day Visitors</b>
Sailing	233	28%
Kayaking	239	29%
Powerboating	186	23%
Mothership Kayaking	80	10%
Bed & Breakfast	80	10%

**Table 15: Number of Multi-day Visitors to Gwaii Haanas 1996 – 2004**

Activity	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	% Change 1996 - 2004	% Change 2003 - 2004
<b>Kayaking</b>	371 (38%)	355 (39%)	370 (41%)	374 (41%)	315 (32%)	245 (26%)	298 (32%)	309 (33%)	239 (29%)	-36%	-23%
<b>Sailing</b>	390 (40%)	259 (28%)	266 (29%)	278 (30%)	416 (42%)	353 (38%)	287 (31%)	317 (33%)	233 (28%)	-40%	-27%
<b>Power-boating</b>	212 (22%)	296 (33%)	272 (30%)	263 (29%)	207 (21%)	221 (24%)	149 (16%)	164 (17%)	186 (23%)	-12%	+13%
<b>Mother- shipping</b>	n/r	[41] [5%]	[46] [5%]	[70] [8%]	[48] (5%)	53 (6%)	112 (12%)	94 (10%)	80 (10%)	n/a	-16%
<b>Bed &amp; Breakfast</b>	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	46 (5%)	59 (6%)	74 (8%)	66 (7%)	80 (10%)	n/a	+21%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>931</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>-14%</b>

n/r = not recorded; n/a = not available

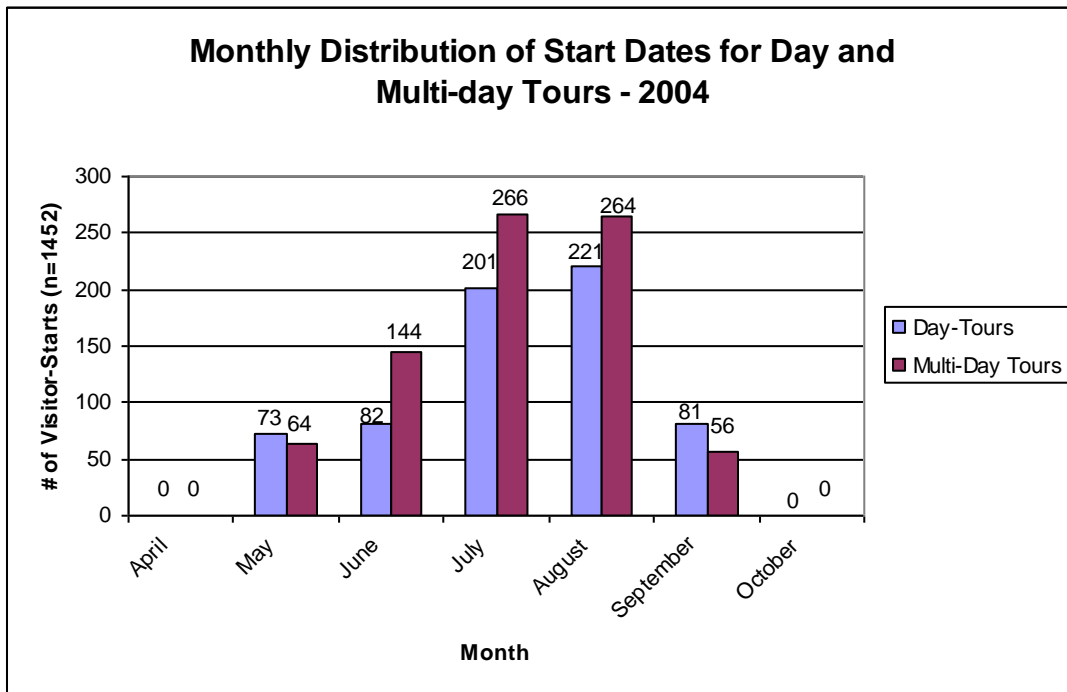
In 2004, it was discovered that one of the two air transport companies had been under the impression that they did not have to report trips that were strictly transportation (as opposed to a tour). As a result, air transport statistics as far back as 2000 are inaccurate. Unfortunately, the records that were retrieved for the years 2000 – 2004 did not include information on who the transportation service was provided to (independent visitors, other tour operators, Gwaii Haanas staff, or Haida Gwaii Watchmen), and thus there is no way to correct the oversight after the fact.

The one air transport company that did submit transport data recorded that it transported 258 people to and from commercial tours in Gwaii Haanas. Five (5) operators used this company’s aircraft to transport their clients at the beginning and at the end of their trips, and thus at least 129 visitors had a fixed-wing flight as a component of their trip.

### **3.4 Tour Visitor Start Dates**

The majority (68%) of tour visitors travelled into Gwaii Haanas in July or August (Figure 4). Most visitors do not bring children on tours, and thus it is thought that most people travel during these months because it is a time when there is the highest probability of “good” (i.e. sunny) weather, or because of the cultural tradition of taking “summer” holidays.

Figure 4



**Note:** Chart shows the number of visitor-starts. Some visitors were not counted due to missing start dates.

### 3.5 Analysis of Tour Visitor Trip Logs

The main purpose of the tour visitor trip logs is to get an indication of visitor satisfaction. Other trip details are collected through the logs that are completed by the tour operator facilitating the trips of these visitors. Tour visitor trip logs were given to tour operators, and the tour operators were asked to provide a log to each tour visitor along with their visitor handbook. The handbook (given to both independent and tour visitors) acts as the visitor's proof of user-fee payment and provides information on the ecology, history and culture of Gwaii Haanas, as well as a review of the rules related to public access in the protected area.

The tour visitor trip logs provide an indication of whether, and under what circumstances, people may be feeling "crowded" on their trip, and whether this detracts from their experience.

#### 3.5.1 Number of Responses

Of the 1,532 tour visitors registered in 2004, 142 (9%) returned their trip logs. As stated earlier, trip logs for tour clients were initiated in 2004, and it was not financially viable to send a art-quality Gwaii Haanas logo print to every independent and tour visitor who returned a properly completed trip log, given the response rate of previous years and the fact that 70% of Gwaii Haanas visitors travel with a tour operator. Every visitor (regardless of whether they were an independent or a tour visitor) who submitted a properly completed trip log within the 30 day deadline were entered into a draw for one of 10 rewards, each of

which included a Gwaii Haanas canvas tote bag, ball cap, survival tool, and key-ring flashlight.

Forty-two percent (42%) of the trip log respondents started their trip between July 15 and August 20.

### **3.5.2 Vessel Encounters**

#### *Number of vessels seen*

The number of kayaks seen during the entire trip ranged from 0-20 seen while travelling on the water, 0-16 while camping, and 0-12 while visiting Watchmen sites. The average number of kayaks seen by all respondents combined during the entire trip was 3.6 while travelling on the water, 0.9 while camping/mooring, and 1.0 at Watchmen camps.

The number of motorboats seen ranged from 0-17 seen when travelling on the water, 0-16 when camped or moored, and 0-12 seen at Watchmen sites. The average number of motorboats seen by all respondents combined during the entire trip was 3.0 seen on the water, 1.1 seen from camp, and 1.4 seen at Watchmen sites.

The number of floatplanes seen ranged from 0-25 seen when travelling on the water, 0-6 when camped or moored, and 0-8 seen at Watchmen sites. The average number of floatplanes seen by all respondents combined during the entire trip was 1.1 seen on the water, 0.2 seen from camp, and 0.2 seen at Watchmen sites.

The number of helicopters seen ranged from 0-3 seen when travelling on the water, 0-2 when camped or moored, and 0-3 seen at Watchmen sites. The average number of floatplanes seen by all respondents combined during the entire trip was 0.1 seen on the water, 0.04 seen from camp, and 0.04 seen at Watchmen sites.

### **3.5.3 Perceptions of crowding**

Tour trip log respondents were asked how crowded they felt by the number of (a) kayaks and (b) motorboats they encountered under different circumstances – while they were on the water, while they were camped or moored, while they were visiting Watchmen sites. For each location, respondents rated crowding on a nine-point scale from (1) “not at all crowded” to (9) “extremely crowded.” Ratings shown in Table 16 are *average* crowding scores compared across the three main activity groups.

**Table 16: Average Rating of Crowding Reported by Tour Trip Log Respondents in 2004**

<b>Average Rating of Crowding by Tour Trip Log Respondents 2004</b>									
	<b>Kayakers</b>			<b>Motorboaters</b>			<b>Sailboaters</b>		
	Rating	Range	Detraction?	Rating	Range	Detraction?	Rating	Range	Detraction?
<b><i>How crowded did you feel by the number of motorboats encountered:</i></b>									
- while on the water?	1.6	1-9	2/27	1.0	1-2	0/28	1.1	1-3	0/54
- while in camp/moored?	1.7	1-9	3/27	1.3	1-7	1/28	1.2	1-4	0/54
- at Watchmen sites?	1.9	1-8	2/27	1.4	1-5	0/28	1.3	1-8	1/54
<b><i>How crowded did you feel by the number of kayaks encountered:</i></b>									
- while on the water?	1.0	1-1	0/27	1.0	1-1	0/28	1.0	1-2	0/54
- while in camp/moored?	1.2	1-6	0/27	1.2	1-7	0/28	1.0	1-2	0/54
- at Watchmen sites?	1.0	1-1	0/27	1.0	1-2	0/28	1.0	1-2	0/54

The Backcountry Management Plan (August 2003) defines different standards for acceptable levels of crowding that can be experienced during peak period (July 15–August 20) and at other times during the visitor season. Outside of the peak season no more than 5% of independent trip log respondents should rate their perception of crowding while travelling on the water, or while camped, at 3 or higher. During the peak season, the standard rises to 10%.

Tables 17 and 18 summarize the levels of crowding for reported encounters with vessels during peak and non-peak periods.

**Table 17: Tour Visitor Crowding Ratings of 3 or Greater for Peak Season 2004 (Percentages that exceed the 10% standard are highlighted in bold)**

<b>Crowding by:</b>	<b>No. rating 3 or greater</b>	<b>% of peak season logs (n=59)</b>
<b>Motorboats</b>		
- on water	5 (2 detractions)	8.5%
- while camped	6 (3 detractions)	<b>10.2%</b>
<b>Kayaks</b>		
- water	3 (0 detractions)	5.1%
- while camped	3 (0 detractions)	5.1%

**Table 18: Tour Visitor Crowding Ratings of 3 or Greater Outside of the Peak Season 2004 (Percentages exceeding the 5% standard are highlighted in bold)**

<b>Crowding by:</b>	<b>No. rating 3 or greater</b>	<b>% of non peak logs (n=83)</b>
<b>Motorboats</b>		
- on the water	2 (2 detractions)	2.5%
- while camped	5 (2 detractions)	<b>6.0%</b>
<b>Kayaks</b>		
- on the water	2 (2 detractions)	2.5%
- while camped	2 (2 detractions)	2.5%

Based on these results, it appears that the only motorboats seen while camped or moored (non-peak period) is the only measure that showed indications of crowding in excess of the standard. This measure will be followed closely in future years to determine if the extent of crowding remains consistent or increases. If this occurs, the AMB will discuss the situation to determine if some action is required to minimize further increases in crowding.

### **3.5.4 Haida Gwaii Watchmen Sites**

Eighty-seven percent (87%) of trip log respondents made at least one visit to a Watchmen site, and 79% made two or more visits, either to different sites, or to the same site more than once.



As mentioned earlier, the primary consideration for acceptable crowding levels at Watchmen sites as defined in the Backcountry Management Plan is the number of times more than 12 other people are encountered on site (10% outside of peak season, 20% during peak season). The measure of crowding is used as a secondary indicator; the standard – applicable at any time of the season – is that no more than 10% of trip log respondents will report a level of crowding of 3 or higher. Table 19 summarizes the level of crowding reported at Haida Gwaii Watchmen sites during both peak and non-peak periods.

**Table 19: Tour Trip Log Respondent Crowding Levels at Watchmen Sites 2004. Measures that exceeded standards are highlighted in bold.**

<i>Site</i>	<b>“12 people ashore” standard exceeded (% of responses)</b>		<b>“Crowding” rated at level 3 or higher (% of responses) [% who found that crowding was a detraction]</b>	
	<i>Non-Peak</i>	<i>Peak Period</i>	<i>Non-Peak</i>	<i>Peak Period</i>
K’uuna Innagaay	1.2%	0%	4.8% [1.2%]	5.1% [0%]
T’aanuu Innagaay	0%	0%	1.2% [1.2%]	3.4% [0%]
Hlk’yah GaawGa	0%	0%	4.8% [1.2%]	0% [0%]
Gandl K’in Gwaayaay	0%	3.4%	<b>10.8%</b> [4.8%]	<b>18.6%</b> [8.5%]
SGang Gwaay	0%	3.4%	2.4% [2.4%]	<b>11.9%</b> [3.4%]

### 3.5.5 Visitor Satisfaction

Tour visitors were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with their visit to Gwaii Haanas specifically, as well as Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands generally. On a scale of 1 (not at all satisfied) to 5 (very satisfied), 138 respondents were very satisfied with their trip to Gwaii Haanas (average rating of 4.9) and their trip to the Islands as a whole (average rating of 4.9).

Visitors were also asked about the quality of service they experienced from both Parks Canada staff and Haida Gwaii Watchmen. They were asked to rate each on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good) according to helpfulness, friendliness, and communication skills. Average satisfaction rates for Parks Canada staff were 4.8 for helpfulness and friendliness, and 4.7 for communication skills. Average Watchmen satisfaction rates were and 4.6, 4.8, and 4.5, respectively.

### 3.5.6 Comparison Between Independent and Tour Trip Log Responses

With respect to vessel encounters, tour visitors generally encountered fewer other groups (regardless of mode of transport) during all aspects of their trip as compared to independent visitors. This may be related to the fact that tour operators often communicate amongst themselves and with the Watchmen to coordinate their visits to various locations, and can thereby decrease the encounters as compared to independent visitors.

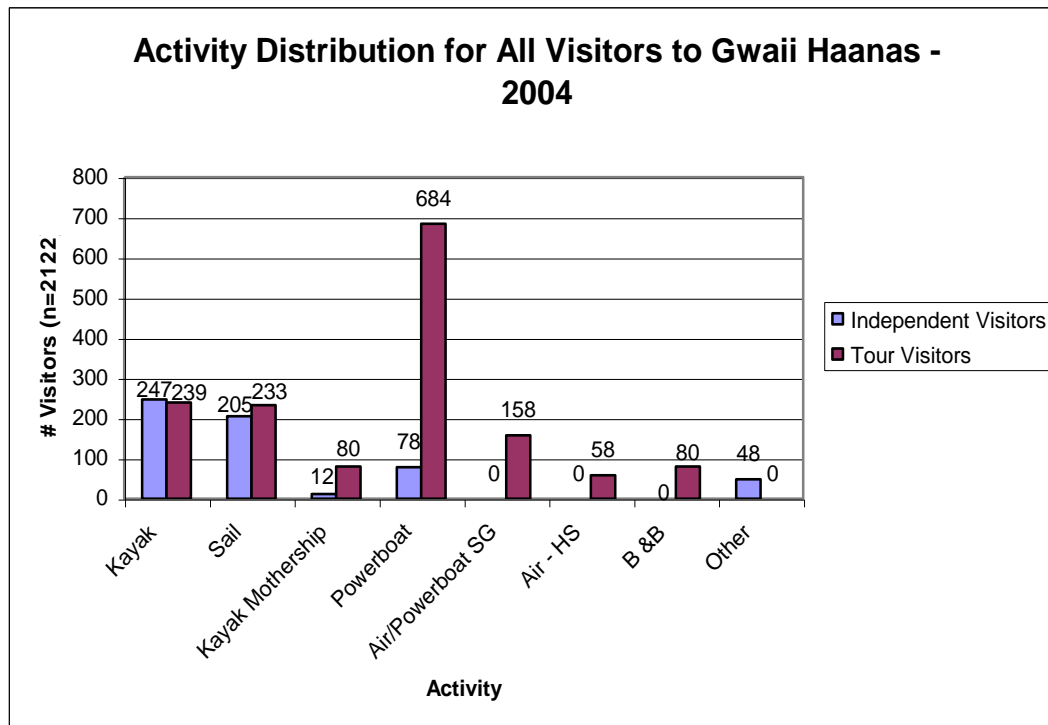
Average ratings for perceptions of crowding by different vessels were similar with independent and tour visitors. However, more independent visitors reported being at least slightly crowded by motorboats and kayaks during the peak period as compared to tour visitors. Outside the peak season, more independents felt crowded by motorboats while camped as compared to tour visitors, who recorded increased crowding by motorboats while on the water. With regard to the peak season, again the coordination efforts of tour operators to avoid other groups could be the cause of the difference. Another cause may be that independents travel in smaller groups and therefore may be more sensitive to the presence of other groups compared to tour visitors, who travel in larger groups. The reason for the difference in the non-peak period is unknown.

At the Haida Gwaii Watchmen sites, both independents and tour clients did not report significant instances of there being more than 12 others ashore at the same time. However, crowding ratings of 3 or higher were recorded for a high percentage (i.e. above the 10% standard) of both independent and tour visitors at Gandl K'in Gwaayaay. It is interesting to note that although the percentage of independent visitors reporting a higher rating was greater than for tour visitors, a higher percentage of tour visitors who reported feeling at least slightly crowded found that crowding to be a detraction as compared to independents. The reason for this difference is not clear.

## **4.0 Independent and Tour Visitors Combined**

A total of 2,120 people visited Gwaii Haanas in 2003. Figure 5 shows the distribution of these visitors according to the type of activity, Figure 6 shows the distribution of trip start dates, and Table 20 provides the percentage distribution into the various activity types for 1997 - 2004.

Figure 5



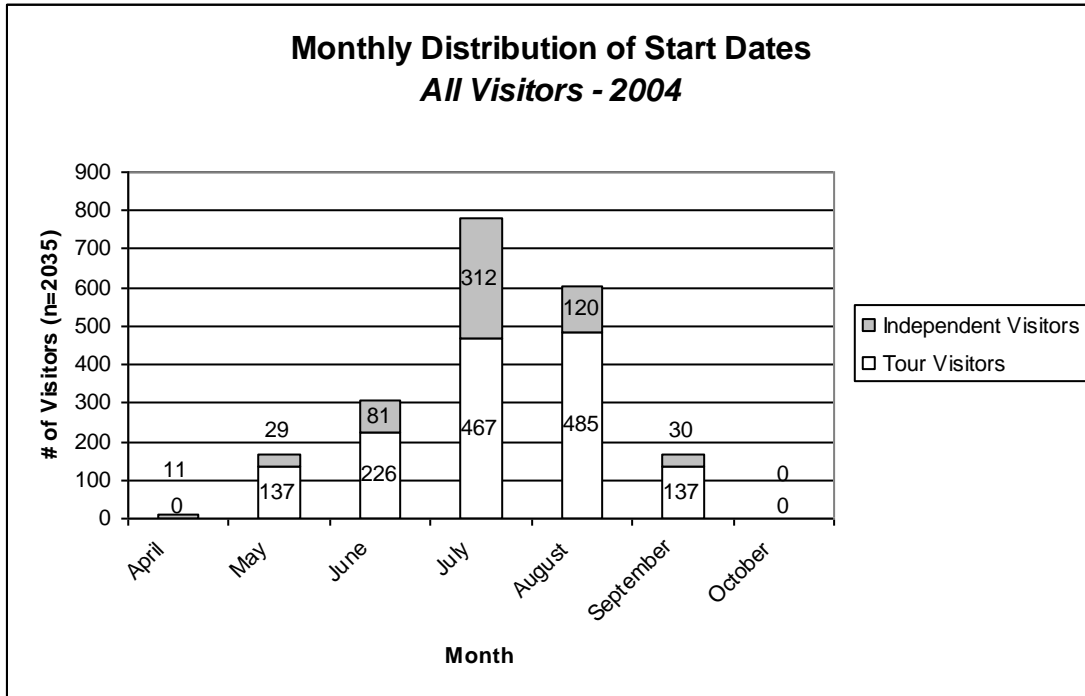
**Note:** Two independent visitors also took a day tour to SGang Gwaay, and are therefore double-counted in this analysis.

Table 20: Activity Distribution of All Gwaii Haanas Visitors 1997-2004

ACTIVITY	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Kayaking	41%	44%	36%	31%	30%	29%	30%	23%
Sailing	20%	19%	19%	26%	24%	20%	21%	21%
Mothership kayaking	2%	3%	4%	3%	3%	7%	6%	4%
Powerboating	28%	22%	32%	27%	27%	33%	29%	36%
Air/Powerboat – S <u>G</u> ang Gwaay	7%	8%	7%	9%	9%	6%	6%	7%
Air – Hotspring Island	<1%	3%	2%	1%	1%	2%	3%	3%
Bed & Breakfast	n/m	n/m	n/m	n/m	n/m	4%	3%	4%
Other	2%	1%	1%	3%	3%	<1%	2%	2%

n/m=not measured separately from “other”

Figure 6



**NOTE:** The discrepancy in total visitors (2,035 vs. 2,120) is due to lack of start dates for some trips.

Although the number of visitors was higher than in 2003, the number of visitor-days/nights decreased 8% from an estimated 10,168 visitor-days/nights in 2003 to an estimated 9,373 visitor-days/nights in 2004. Factors contributing to this decrease include a higher number of day tour visitors and a lower number of multi-day tour visitors, and a large number of visitors involved in a flotilla who spent a shorter-than-average amount of time in Gwaii Haanas compared to most independent visitors.

## 5.0 Educational Groups

One educational group (35 individuals) was authorized to conduct a one-day visit to SGang Gwaay.

## 6.0 Camping Distribution

2004 marked the eighth year of an ongoing program to monitor the impacts of camping on the natural and cultural heritage of Gwaii Haanas. In order to understand the relationship between levels of use and levels of impacts, it is critical to gather detailed information on camping locations. Commercial and independent trip logs provide valuable information on camping locations. Camping locations of staff, researchers, and educational groups are also recorded, and all camping information is entered into a database that will be used to relate impacts to levels of camping activity.

Detailed analyses of campsite impacts will be reported in a separate document.

## 7.0 Haida Gwaii Watchmen Basecamps

The Haida Gwaii Watchmen Program coordinates the protection of five significant cultural sites in southern Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands. Three of these sites are located in Gwaii Haanas (Hlk'yah GaawGa - Windy Bay, Gandl K'in Gwaayaay - Hotspring Island, and SGang Gwaay). T'aanuu Ilnagaay, while south of the Tangil Peninsula (northern boundary of Gwaii Haanas), is an Indian Reserve and is thus excluded from Gwaii Haanas. Both T'aanuu Ilnagaay and Kuuna Ilnagaay (Skedans) are managed through the Skidegate Band Council.

At each of these sites, visitors are asked to sign a guestbook; visitors here include tourists, fishers, local people, Parks Canada staff, and commercial tour staff. Therefore, these numbers cannot be related directly to visitation discussed previously. Watchmen site numbers do, however, provide a good indication of changes in overall use levels, since they have been recorded in a consistent fashion since 1993.

Visitation decreased at all sites except K'uuna Ilnagaay and SGang Gwaay, where use rose 26% and 10%, respectively, compared to 2003. An increase in day tour visitors may have contributed to the decrease at T'anuu Ilnagaay and Hlk'yah GaawGa. At Gandl K'in Gwaayaay, the warm, dry summer resulted in poor water quality in the pools. The subsequent warnings by the AMB about the potential risks of pool use under such conditions deterred some visitors from using the pools, according to some Watchmen on site during that time.

Watchmen spent 1,038 nights at Hlk'yah GaawGa, Gandl K'in Gwaayaay, and SGang Gwaay in 2004.

**Table 21: Visitation at Haida Gwaii Watchmen Basecamps, 1993 - 2004**

Basecamp	Year												% Change 2003-2004
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	
<b>Kuuna Ilnagaay (Skedans)</b>	1547	1895	2160	1597	1827	2406	1581	1370	1353	1462	1606	2026	+26%
<b>T'aanuu Ilnagaay (Tanu)</b>	748	580	819	1105	1265	1407	955	1004	1154	1078	1097	922	-16%
<b>Hlk'yah GaawGa (Windy Bay)</b>	741	476	915	1088	957	994	1136	746	612	490	676	591	-13%
<b>Gandl K'in Gwaayaay (Hotspring Island)</b>	2580	2126	2198	3014	3351	2757	2841	2434	2508	2841	2767	2547	-8%
<b>SGang Gwaay (Ninstints)</b>	2035	1523	1657	1564	1619	1562	1695	1702	1204	1548	1439	1580	+10%

## 8.0 Management/Research Trips

Gwaii Haanas and other Parks Canada staff spent a total of 718 nights in Gwaii Haanas. These nights were either spent aboard a vessel, at the warden stations at Huxley Island or Ellen Island, or at field camps on the Bischof Islands or Section Cove.

Non-staff researchers and volunteers spent 644 nights in Gwaii Haanas. Therefore, a total of 1,362 user-nights were spent on research, operations, and management activities in Gwaii Haanas during 2004.

## 9.0 Summary

Table 22 provides a summary of use levels by visitors, and Table 23 summarizes use levels for all the various groups visiting or working in Gwaii Haanas. Compared to 2003, there was a 5% increase in visitation, but an 8% decrease in the number of visitor-days/nights. This can be attributed to a 29% increase in the number of day-tour visitors and a 14% decrease in the number of multi-day tour visitors. Table 24 provides a comparison of visitor use levels from 1996 to 2004.

Table 22: Summary of 2004 Visitor Use Levels in Gwaii Haanas

Type of Visitor	Number of Visitors	Number of Visitor-Days	Number of Visitor-Nights
Independent Kayakers	247	-	2,122 (estimated)
Independent Powerboaters	78	-	406 (estimated)
Independent Sailors	205	-	1,168 (estimated)
Independent Mothership Kayakers	12	-	73 (estimated)
Independents - Others/Unknown	48	-	379 (estimated)
<b>TOTAL INDEPENDENTS</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,148 (estimated)</b>
<b>Guided Kayakers</b>	239	-	1,674
<b>Guided Powerboaters</b>	682	554	395
<b>Guided Sailboaters</b>	233	-	1,596
<b>Guided Mothership Kayaking</b>	80	-	459
<b>Guided Air/Powerboat tours to SGang Gwaay</b>	158	158	-
<b>Air Tours to Gandl K'in Gwaayaay/Hotspring Island</b>	58	58	-
<b>Bed &amp; Breakfast</b>	80	-	331
<b>TOTAL GUIDED</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>4,455</b>
<b>Total Kayakers</b>	486	-	3,796 (estimated)
<b>Total Powerboaters</b>	760	554	801 (estimated)
<b>Total Sailors</b>	438	-	2,764 (estimated)
<b>Total Mothership Kayakers</b>	92	-	532 (estimated)
<b>Total Others</b>	344	216	710 (estimated)
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2,120</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>8,603 (estimated)</b>

\* Double-counting of guests who stayed at a bed and breakfast and took one or more powerboat day tours, or independent visitors who also took a powerboat day tour was corrected by removing these clients from the powerboat tour visitor total.

Table 23: Summary of All 2004 Activity Levels in Gwaii Haanas

Person-Type	# People	# User-Days	# User-Nights
All Independents	590	-	4,148 (estimated)
Commercial Staff Providing Transport Services	18	^291	-
Day Tour Visitors	712	934	-
Commercial Staff Providing Day Tours	23	164	-
Multi-Day Tour Visitors	818	-	4,455
Commercial Staff Providing Multi-day Tours	37 (plus 19 that also provide day-tour service)	-	1,460
Students & Instructors	35	35	-
Haida Gwaii Watchmen (Hlk'yah GaawGa, Gandl K'in Gwaayaay, SGang Gwaay)	27	-	1,038
Management/ Research	65	-	1,362
<b>Total Visitors</b>	<b>2,120</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>8,603 (estimated)</b>
<b>Total Users</b>	<b>2,325</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>12,463 (estimated)</b>

**^Note:** Transport numbers for one air transportation company are not included in this table because trip counts were not available.



**Table 24: Comparison of Visitor Use in Gwaii Haanas from 1996 to 2004**

	Independents		Day-Tour Visitors		Multi-Day Tour Visitors**		All Visitors	
	# Visitors	# Nights (estimate)	# Visitors	# Days	# Visitors	# Nights	# Visitors	# Days & Nights
<b>1996</b>	984	10,266	188	188	973	5,778	2,145	16,192
<b>1997</b>	619	4,769	218	218	*910	*4,629	*1,798	*9,749
<b>1998</b>	631	5,462	466	466	**908	**4,588	2,005	10,516
<b>1999</b>	539	3,795	**361	**361	915	5,151	**1,815	**9,307
<b>2000</b>	521	4,208	**382	**382	**967	5,565	1,870	10,155
<b>2001</b>	508	4,095	395	395	*924	*4,581	*1,827	*9,071
<b>2002</b>	500	3,299	*543	*558	867	4,928	*1,910	*8,780
<b>2003</b>	558	4,674	537	599	*978	*5,003	*2,073	*10,276
<b>2004</b>	590	4,148	*747	*969	818	4,455	*2,155	*9,572

\* Educational groups were added to the totals.

\*\* Report had errors in these categories; these numbers are the corrected values.

# Appendix 1

## 2004 Independent Visitor Registration Form

# Appendix 2

## 2004 Independent Visitor Trip Log

# Appendix 3

## 2004 Tour Visitor Trip Log