



## THE STRAIT OF GEORGIA DATA CENTRE

PSF's Centralized Repository for  
Strait of Georgia Marine Ecosystem Data





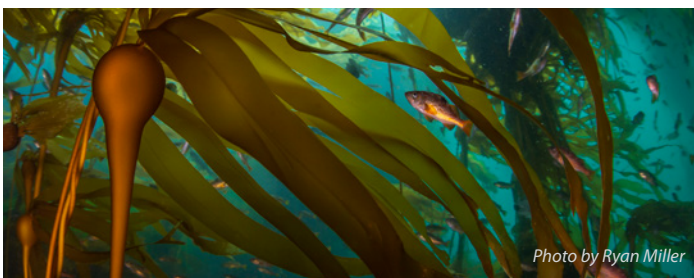
## WHAT IS THE STRAIT OF GEORGIA DATA CENTRE?

The Strait of Georgia Data Centre (SGDC) is a one stop shop for ecological, environmental, and human use information for the Strait of Georgia, British Columbia. The SGDC is tailored towards open access to marine data, with guiding principles of sharing, informing, and promoting learning. Furthermore, at the SGDC you can find data from various organizations that might otherwise be sitting on a shelf. These data and more are available to you through the SGDC Marine Data Portal and brought to life visually through the SGDC Map Catalogue. In making marine data more accessible, the SGDC strives to ensure that you have the information you need to protect salmon and their marine habitat.

## WHY SHARE DATA?

Access to publicly archived data is a fairly recent development which has been made possible by advances in information technology and communication. Many scientific journals and funding agencies now require that the data (or methods or source codes) associated with a peer-reviewed publication be made freely available. Still, this is a relatively new area for researchers, many of whom may still feel reluctant about sharing their data. Some benefits of sharing data include the following:

1. Leads to increased personal visibility, recognition, and higher number of citations.
2. Data become more easily discoverable for large-scale analyses via their metadata.
3. Encourages collaboration among researchers to share resources, acquire more data, and produce new findings.
4. Will assist in the development of integrated scientific programs, interdisciplinary studies, modelling and ecosystem management.
5. Researchers are motivated to produce higher quality data for sharing with peers, the scientific community, and the public.
6. It reduces the risk of repeating work already done, and instead allows for researchers to build up on the work of others. This saves a lot of time and money.
7. It allows for informed decision making leading to better environmental policy and planning.



## CONCERNS ABOUT DATA SHARING:

1. Inappropriate use of the shared data.
2. Security concerns over the handling of sensitive or confidential data.
3. Lack of acknowledgements or citation of the shared data.
4. Other researchers may use the data and gain scientific credence, create funding competition, or show that the original research was faulty.

### How are we addressing these concerns?

The SGDC is a centralized repository for data for the Strait of Georgia ecosystems, with database infrastructure physically located in Canada in the UBC Informatics Cloud. A repository is a location where data are both stored and maintained, and submission of data to a repository such as this enables a researcher to make sure that their data are preserved for the long term. A key objective of the SGDC as a useful data repository is to ensure that the data can be easily discovered, accessed, and potentially, reused.

The SGDC is following best practices around data preservation, storage and access and aims to address users' concerns by the following:

- The SGDC practices favourable data sharing techniques and provides detailed metadata for all data sets that are submitted and archived.
  - We provide clear documentation which allows other researchers to see the data, understand the content and purpose of the research, and which will clarify any security or confidentiality concerns.
  - We provide any links to web sites or other repositories associated with the data which allow for further understanding and for the data to be placed in its context.
- We request a data citation for any data that are used from the SGDC which should address appropriate acknowledgement concerns.
  - We use proper data citations and unique identifiers for the datasets and other content.
  - Where possible, data are stored in a format that will be readable over the long-term.

## TYPES OF PRODUCTS OFFERED BY THE STRAIT OF GEORGIA DATA CENTRE:

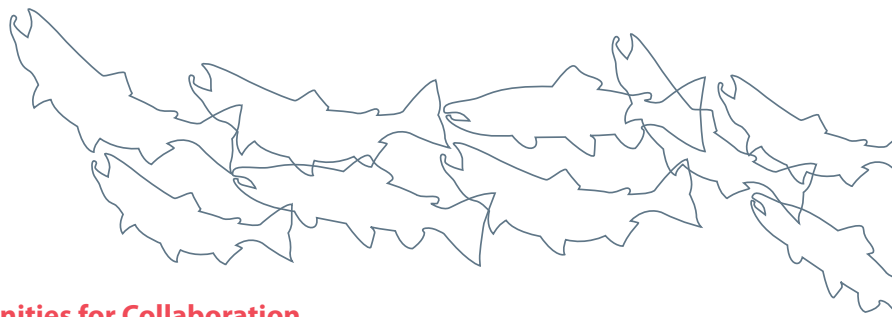
- > Interactive maps
- > Story maps
- > Non-interactive maps
- > Links to external data
- > Downloads for internally stored data
- > Detailed metadata records
- > List of publications relevant to the Strait of Georgia
- > List of researchers working in the Strait of Georgia

Data are stored in a centralized repository that is easily accessed.

The screenshot displays the user interface of the Strait of Georgia Data Centre. At the top, there are tabs for 'Latest news' and 'Most popular'. Below this is a grid of 12 data product thumbnails, each with a title and a representative image or map. The thumbnails include:

- Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative's Proposed Bo...
- Bathymetry of Strait of Georgia, Juan de Fuca Strait an...
- Eelgrass Extent at Select Sites in the Southern Gulf Isla...
- Bull Kelp Surface Extent at Select Sites in the Southern ...
- Nutrients in Strait of Georgia, 2015 to 2020
- Chlorophyll from titrated measurements throughout the ...
- Kelp forest presence from aerial and satellite imagery a...
- Quantifying kelp resilience in the Salish Sea region, fro...
- Sea floor bottom grabs in Strait of Georgia, 1999-2007
- Dataset for manuscript "Comparison of infectious agent...
- Background sediment organic biomass and turnover dat...
- Citizen Science Program





## GOALS FOR THE NEAR FUTURE



### Creating Opportunities for Collaboration

Behind every dataset are people. The SGDC wants to ensure that the information they house is best incorporated into the ongoing efforts for marine conservation around the Strait of Georgia. Additionally, SGDC staff want to work with you and your team to make your marine data more accessible to the aquatic conservation community at large. Therefore, SGDC staff are always actively seeking opportunities to collaborate on projects that benefit salmon and their marine environment. They have worked or are working with non-profits, government, consulting firms, academic institutes, and other interested parties to make this happen.

### Outreach

To increase awareness of the SGDC, staff are involved in an outreach push via various online platforms. The SGDC can now be found on Twitter ([@strait\\_data](#)), Instagram ([sogdatacentre](#)), Facebook ([@sogdatacentre](#)), and LinkedIn ([Strait of Georgia Data Centre](#)). Follow them on any of these social media channels for updates.

### Partnering with First Nations

SGDC staff recognize that data are not always embodied in the means available through Western science. Indigenous knowledge is a valuable piece of the puzzle that SGDC staff are eager to better represent. Tsleil-Waututh Nation and SGDC are currently involved in a partnership focusing on increasing ease of access to data for the Burrard Inlet region. SGDC staff are grateful for this partnership and welcoming of future collaborative opportunities with First Nations.

**Please email [pearsalli@psf.ca](mailto:pearsalli@psf.ca) if you are interested in collaborating.**



*Photos by Eiko Jones*

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