

Technical Reports

BC Coastal Forest Sector Hem-Fir Initiative

PROGRAM:	Harvesting and Conversion Program
PROJECT #:	H.14
PROJECT TITLE:	Evaluate the Costs and Benefits of Water Transportation Versus Truck-based Transportation of Logs on the BC Coast
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Abstract

This report identifies and quantifies direct and indirect costs for three modes of water transportation of logs on the BC coast, and compares them with costs for a log trucking mode. Bundle boom towing is the dominant log transportation method on the coast because it has the lowest direct cost and is the most compatible with the current supply chain infrastructure. However, when the indirect costs associated with the salt water immersion of logs are considered, direct-to-barge log barging may become the lowest cost mode.

Although log trucking is a valuable option for moving small specialty packages of logs to mills on a just-in-time basis, it cannot be used for the approximately 70% of BC coastal forests that are inaccessible by road or are separated by water from the appropriate mills and require some form of water-based transportation.

The cost information was developed from interviews with forest industry experts. Research is needed to better quantify the impacts of salt water immersion of logs on mill corrosion and lumber drying.

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