



Appendix 6

Johnstone Strait Recreation Project

Background Material related to Land Use Plans, Policies and Guidelines

*Final draft
February 26, 2008*

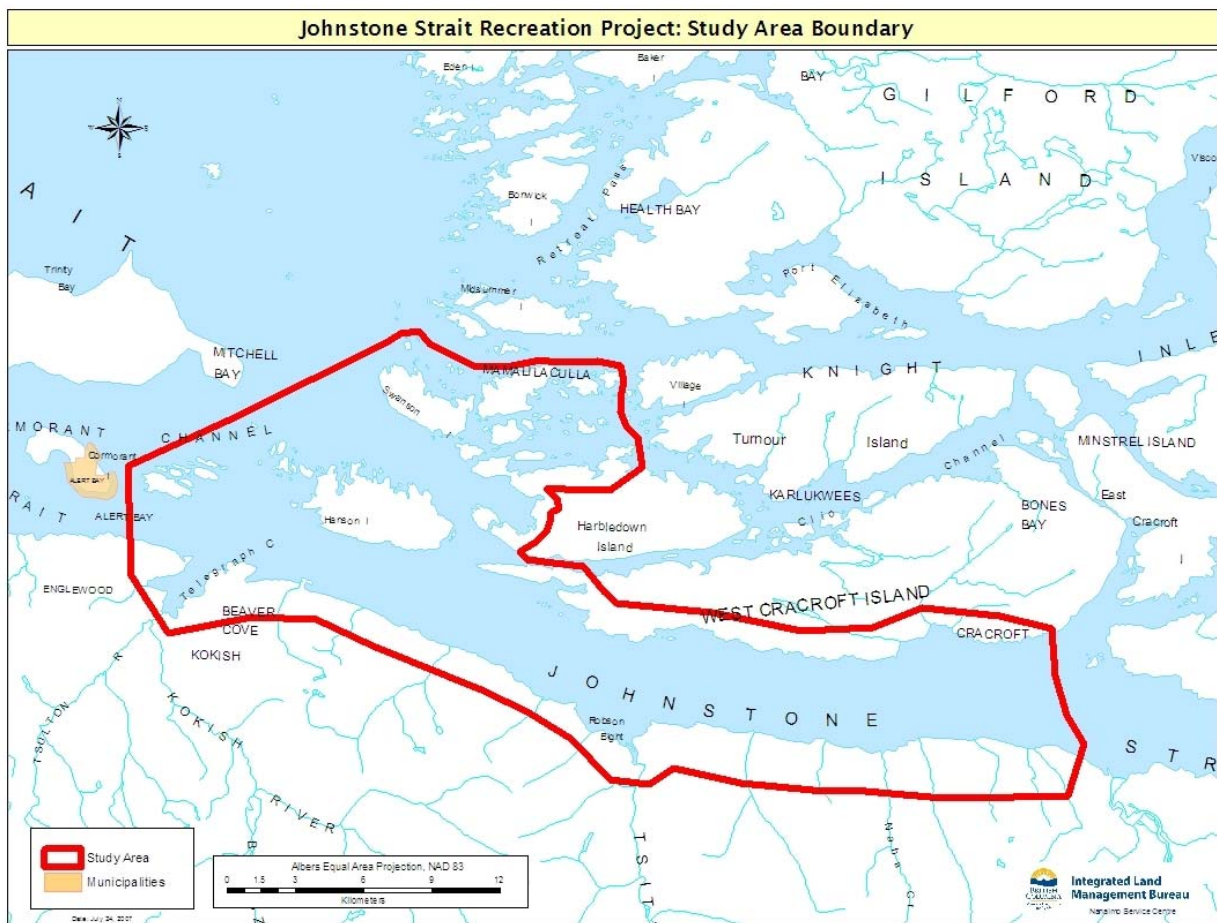
***To accompany the Johnstone Strait
Recreation Project Status Report
Available online at:***

<http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/rcsd/lac/index.html>

***A cooperative project focused
on improving the management of
sea kayaking and camping in
Johnstone Strait***

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Overview:

The Johnstone Strait Recreation project (LAC pilot) will be guided by existing land use plans, policies and guidelines, including:

I. Vancouver Island Summary Land Use Plan

- VILUP Summary Document – Land Use Zones and Management Direction
- VILUP Higher Level Plan Objectives

II. Central Coast Land Use Decision (2006)

- Central Coast Land and Resource Management Plan (CCLRMP) Land Use Zones
- KNT Land Use Agreement-in-Principle (AIP)

III. Protected Area Management Direction

- Robson Bight Ecological Reserve
- Lower Tsitika River Provincial Park
- Broughton Archipelago Provincial Park
- Cormorant Channel Marine Provincial Park
- Qwiqallaaq/Boat Bay Conservancy

IV. North Island Straits Coastal Plan

- Planning Unit Management Direction

V. Visual Quality Objectives and other legal orders

VI. Applicable Regulations, Policies, and Guidelines

It will also be guided by applicable policies and guidelines including:

- MTSA policy regarding public and commercial recreation, including Provisions for Recreation under FRPA
- Other Regulations with Relevance to Recreation
- Wildlife Guidelines for Backcountry Tourism/Commercial Recreation
- DFO Whale Watching Guidelines for BC, and
- Other Public and Commercial Recreation Guidelines.

These land use plans, policies and guidelines are described in this document.

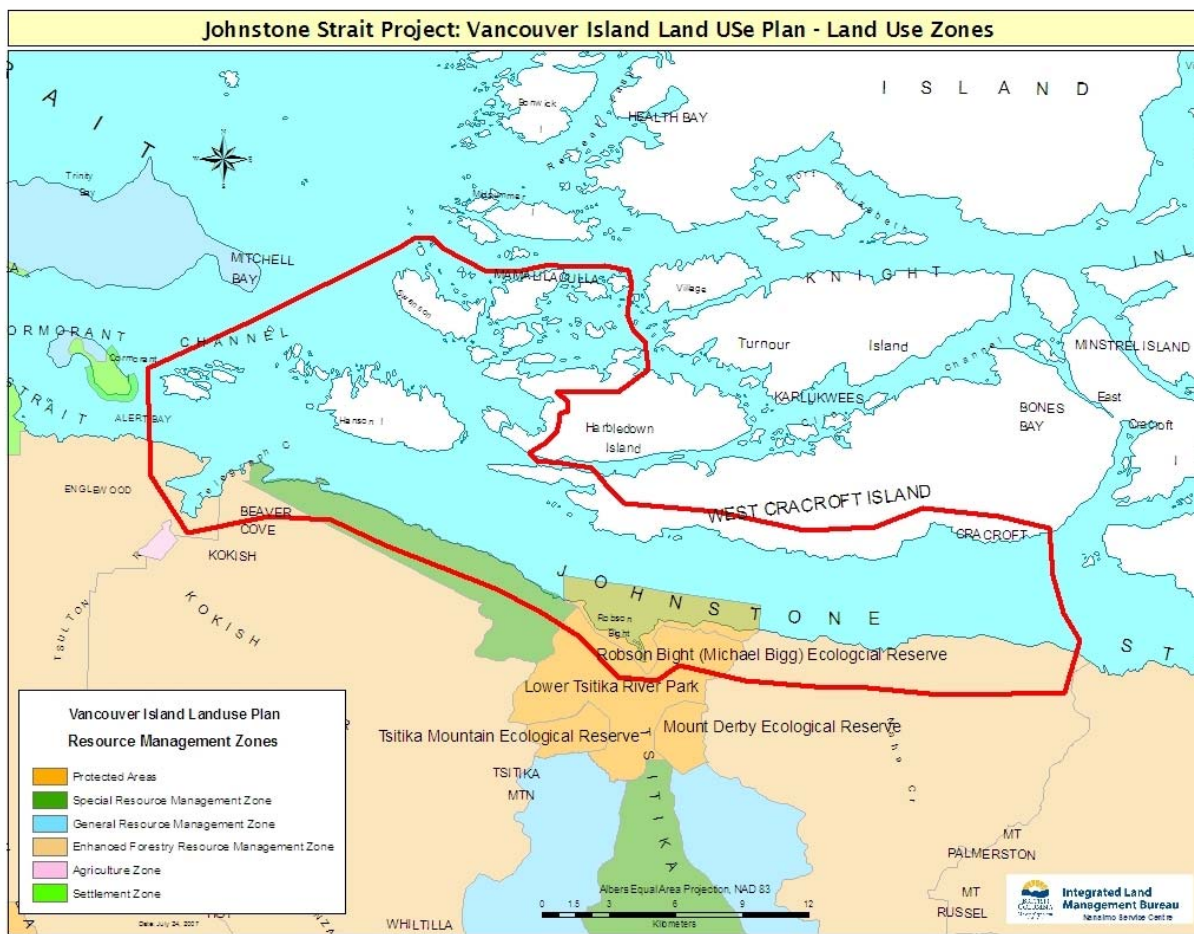
I. Vancouver Island Summary Land Use Plan

http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/ilmb/lup/lrmp/coast/vanisle/summary_lup/toc.htm

The Vancouver Island Land Use Plan consists of a number of government decisions that were consolidated in the Cabinet endorsed Vancouver Island Summary Land Use Plan (VISLUP) in 2000.

The VISLUP provides the key components of strategic land and resource management decisions made by government for Vancouver Island as a result of its 1994 land use decision. These components include reports and announcements made since 1994 on protected areas and resource management zones and objectives. The VISLUP was prepared to assist government agencies, the public, and stakeholder groups by providing a concise guide to future management and planning of land and coastal zone resources. The Inter-Agency Management Committee (IAMC) is charged with coordinating plan implementation, monitoring and review.

There are three key land use zones applicable to the Johnstone Strait Project area: *the Johnstone Strait Special Management Zone; Robson Bight (Michael Bigg) Ecological Reserve and Tsitika River Park, and; the Naka Enhanced Forestry Zone* (see Figure 2).



1. Johnstone Strait Special Management Zone

This upland and foreshore zone extends along the mountain slopes facing Johnstone Strait south-east of Port McNeill, up the Lower Tsitika protected area. The primary values are:

- Scenic values visible from marine zone;
- Old growth biodiversity values;
- Shoreline recreation opportunities; and
- Coastal wildlife habitats.

The overall management guidance is to provide primary focus on maintaining recreational opportunities along coast, including coastal viewsheds, as well as maintaining marine habitats, and old growth biodiversity values.

Key recreation resources are coastal: whale watching, kayaking, boating and fishing. Key tourism resources are also coastal with recognition of potential lodge/resort development. Key visual resources are the highly sensitive viewshed along coast and inside passage. Key wildlife resources are coastal with moderate upland values.

This SMZ falls within the Special Recreation Resource Management Regime where the overall goal/intent is to maintain the integrity of the significant recreation resources identified as primary values in the SMZ. The objective is to:

- maintain, as a priority, a wide spectrum of recreation resource features and opportunities occurring in the zone, including scenic landscapes, semi-primitive recreation opportunity settings, cultural and heritage landmarks and developed recreation facilities, with particular emphasis on the areas included in the recreation resource description for the zone.

The accompany strategies offered for consideration where suitable are:

- maintain and/or enhance a complete and updated inventory of recreation features, opportunities (recreation opportunity spectrum) and activities;
- identify recreation features and make them known in accordance with the Forest Practices Code (note: known features have been carried forward under FRPA);
- manage known recreation features and opportunities in accordance with the significance and sensitivity of the recreation values in the zone.

The SMZ also falls within the Special Tourism Resource Management Regime where the overall goal/intent is to maintain the quality of areas within SMZ which are of high importance to tourism, including associated employment and economic benefits. The objective is to:

- maintain, as a priority, the quality of resource values of high importance to tourism where identified as primary values in SMZ.

The accompanying strategies offered for consideration where suitable are:

- in consultation with the Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture (now MTSA), identify resource values of high importance to tourism in those SMZ where those values are listed as primary; these values include: existing and potential facility and use settings, shorelines, scenic areas, recreation features, and travel corridors/access routes;
- manage access in a manner that maintains the tourism and amenity resources where identified as primary values in the zone;

- manage recreation and visual resources in accordance with the special recreation and visual resource management objectives of the zone.

2. Robson Bight (Michael Bigg) Ecological Reserve and Tsitika River Park

The Robson Bight ecological reserve existed prior to the Vancouver Island land use decision. The Vancouver Island land use decision created the 3744 hectare Lower Tsitika protected area (now a provincial park) which is additional to, and further upland of, the ecological reserve. See Section III: Protected Area Management Direction for more information on the management of these parks.

3. Naka Enhanced Forestry Zone

This zone extends along Johnstone Strait from the Lower Tsitika protected area to Mount Palmerston. The overall management direction: enhanced silviculture and limited opportunity for enhanced timber harvesting in remaining old forests; maintenance of coastal viewsheds and associated recreational values; objectives for biodiversity and other resources are to be integrated at the basic stewardship level.

Key recreation resources include high values along coast (killer whale rubbing beaches). Key tourism resources include high capability for coastal tourism.

Vancouver Island Land Use Plan Higher Level Plan

<http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/lup/lrmp/coast/vanisle/vihlp.htm>

Components of the VISLUP related to forest development were later established as 'higher level plan' objectives under the Forest Practices Code and these legal objectives were carried forward to the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA). Forest licensees who prepare Forest Stewardship Plans under FRPA provide results or strategies that are consistent with the objectives. The Order establishing the objectives identifies the primary visual resource values for the Johnstone Strait SMZ.

II. Central Coast Land Use Decision

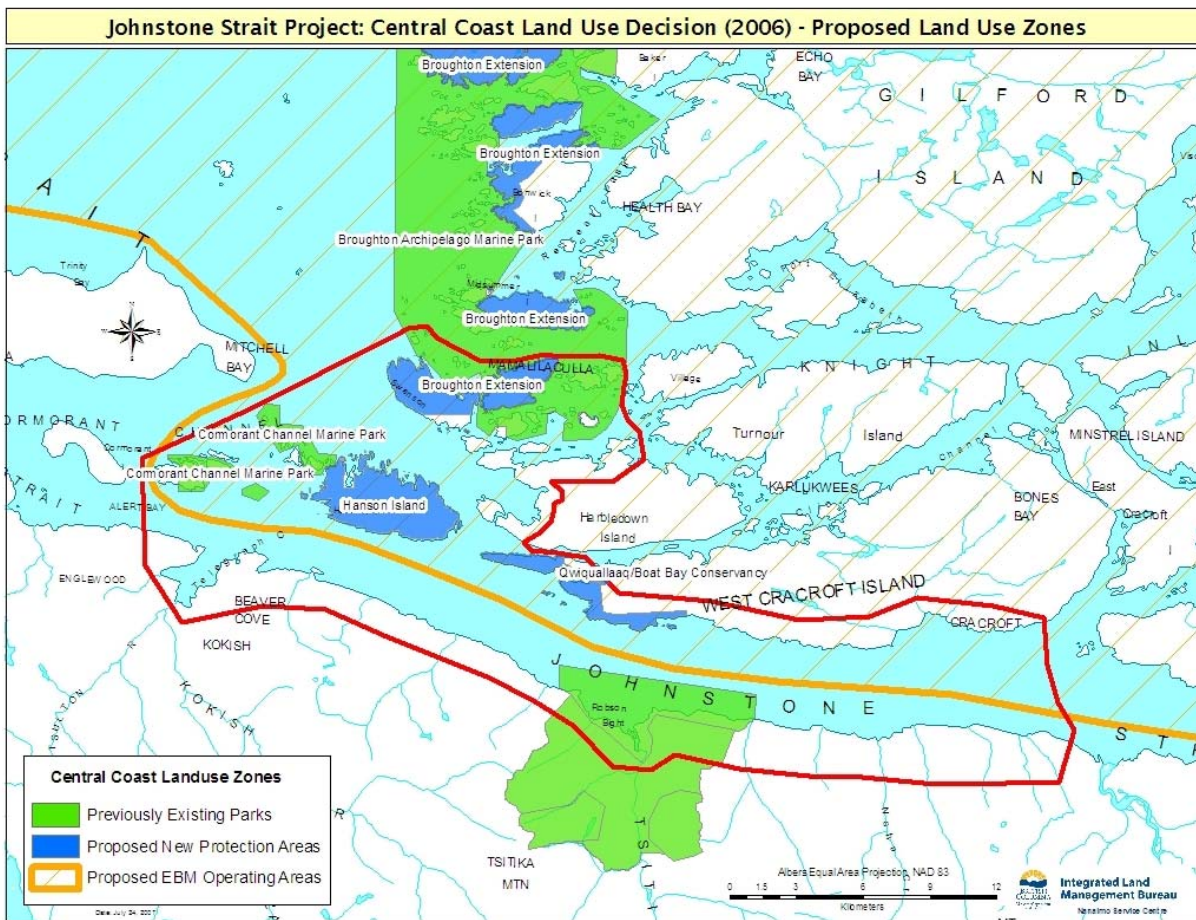
Central Coast Land Use Zones and KNT Land Use Agreement-in-Principle (AIP)

<http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/lup/lrmp/coast/cencoast/news.html>

http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/lup/lrmp/coast/central_north_coast/docs/KNT_FN_AIP_Signed.pdf

In February 2006 the Province announced Land Use Agreements with First Nations for the Central and North Coast of BC. As part of these agreements, three types of land use zones were identified for the central and north coast: Protection areas, Biodiversity areas, and Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) operating areas. The agreements also included a commitment to fully implement EBM by March 2009; and to developing a governance structure to oversee the implementation and monitoring of the LRMP. Of critical importance in the announcement was a commitment of the province to continue to work jointly with First Nations on land use management.

There are two land use zones applicable to the Johnstone Strait Recreation Project area – Protection Areas and EBM Operating Areas, as shown in Figure 3.



Land Use direction specific to the Johnstone Strait project area is outlined in the *KNT Land Use Agreement-in Principle (AIP)*, signed in March of 2006. The AIP includes specific agreements reached by the Province and the KNT First Nations¹, and forms a basis for negotiating final land use planning and other agreements contemplated in the document. The AIP is not legally binding, is not a treaty or land claims agreement and does not affect the ability of the KNT First Nations to exercise their aboriginal rights.

Key elements of the AIP include the following:

- recommended land use zones (protection areas, biodiversity areas and EBM operating areas), allowable uses and designations;
- initial management objectives for cedar, freshwater ecosystems, biodiversity, grizzly bear habitat and visual management areas;
- an EBM Implementation Framework,
- agreement to establish a Land and Resource Forum, through which the parties will undertake to implement the AIP, and;
- agreement to cooperatively undertake detailed strategic planning for Traditional Territories.
- agreement to negotiate and attempt to reach specific agreement on arrangements concerning tenuring and site selection for commercial recreation, archaeological and heritage site inventory, impact assessment and site alteration permitting, and stewardship of cedar and other cultural forest resources

One aspect of the AIP that is particularly relevant to the Johnstone Strait Recreation Project is the development of detailed strategic plans. Any recommendations resulting from the current project may be taken into account during those planning processes.

New Protection Areas

Three new Protection Areas were announced as part of the 2006 Land Use Agreement and the KNT AIP that are located within the Johnstone Strait Project area: *Qwiquallaaq / Boat Bay*, *Broughton Extension*, and *Hanson Island*. While the long term legal designations for these areas had not been confirmed at the time of the signing of the AIP, the agreement notes that all protection areas may eventually be established as Ecological Reserves, Parks or Conservancies. For all of these designations, commercial timber harvesting, mining and commercial hydro-electric generation are not permitted. Recommendations for roles and allowable uses for these three new protection areas are outlined below.

a. Qwiquallaaq / Boat Bay

This proposed protection area is located on the western end of West Cracroft Island. The primary roles identified in the AIP for this area are habitat conservation / protection and cultural heritage use. Ecosystem representation and recreation are identified as secondary roles. Allowable use activities include motorized and non-motorized recreation, wildlife / nature viewing, fishing, hunting/trapping, lodge/resort development, kayaking/pleasure boating, cultural tourism and botanical harvesting.

¹ The KNT First Nations are members of the Kwakiutl District Council, Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council and Tlowitsis Nation collective of First Nations residing on the Central Coast of British Columbia.

In April 2007, this area was legally established as a Conservancy under the Park Act (see Section III: Protected Area Management Direction for more information).

b. Broughton Extension.

The Broughton Extension includes a number of islands located within and adjacent to the Broughton Archipelago Marine Park. The primary roles identified in the AIP for this protection area are habitat conservation / protection and cultural heritage use, while secondary roles are ecosystem representation and recreation. Allowable use activities include motorized and non-motorized recreation, wildlife / nature viewing, fishing, hunting/trapping, lodge/resort development, kayaking/pleasure boating, cultural tourism and botanical harvesting.

As of August 2007, the long-term legal designation for this area has not yet been confirmed.

c. Hanson Island

The primary roles identified in the AIP for Hanson Island are habitat conservation/ protection and cultural heritage use. Ecosystem representation is noted as a secondary role, along with recreation opportunities that are consistent with the primary roles for this area. Allowable use activities include summer motorized and all non-motorized recreation, wildlife / nature viewing, fishing, hunting/trapping, lodge/resort development, kayaking/pleasure boating, cultural tourism and botanical harvesting.

Hanson Island was first established as a protection area under the Environment and Land Use Act in May 2002 (OIC #410). In July 2003 a Management Agreement was signed between the Province and the Hanson Island First Nations (the Namgis, Tlowitsis and Mamalilikulla First Nations) that outlined a new relationship between the parties and a management structure for Hanson Island. The objectives of this Agreement were to protect the First Nations culture and heritage values and natural values of Hanson Island, while permitting continued traditional activities, public recreation opportunities, and sustained economic benefits to the Hanson Island First Nations. The parties committed to jointly developing a management plan for the island, to try to reach agreement on a long-term legal designation, and for the Province to decide upon a head lease application submitted by the First Nations for Hanson Island.

In 2005 a Head Lease was granted by the province to the Yukusam Heritage Society², authorizing the Hanson Island First Nations to manage all Land Act tenures for the island, including the issuance of tenures and collection of revenues.

The 2006 AIP confirmed the objectives for protection of Hanson Island, but the designation of an appropriate long-term legal designation for this island is still under discussion.

² The Yukusam Heritage Society is jointly controlled by the Namgis, Tlowitsis and Mamalilikulla Qwe Qwa Sot Em First Nations.

EBM Operating Areas

EBM Operating Areas are that part of the Central Coast plan area available for the full range of economic uses consistent with the application of EBM, and defined by general management direction as noted in Chapter 4. Economic activities such as commercial forestry, mineral exploration and development, and hydro-electric development are permitted, as are smaller-scale and emergent economic activities such as tourism, commercial recreation, fish and shellfish processing, aquaculture, manufacturing, “green” energy production, non-timber forest product harvesting, and community settlement.

The focus of resource development within the EBM Operating Areas is to enhance community stability and individual well-being, to encourage economic diversification and innovation, and to increase the local employment, economic development, revenue, cultural and environmental amenities and other benefits derived from resources.

III. Protected Areas Management Direction

Figure 4 outlines the Parks, Ecological Reserves and proposed new Protection Areas located within the Johnstone Strait Project area. Management Direction that has been developed for each of the Parks and Ecological Reserves is outlined below.



Robson Bight (Michael Bigg) Ecological Reserve

www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/planning/mgmtplns/robsonb/robson_ps.html

This 1715 hectare ecological reserve consists of 467 hectares of upland and 1248 hectares of marine environment. The 2003 Purpose Statement for the Robson Bight (Michael Bigg) Ecological Reserve states the primary role of the reserve is to provide a sanctuary for killer whales and to protect significant killer whale habitat. It is the only sanctuary for killer whales on the west coast of Canada and is globally significant. The whales are a large tourism draw for the North Island, but here in the ecological reserve, the whales are free from harassment. The area is unique for its intensity of use by killer whales, and the range of activities engaged by them.

Other marine mammals that occur in the area include humpback whales, Dall's porpoises and Pacific white-sided dolphins.

The ecological reserve also protects the only undisturbed estuary on the east coast of Vancouver Island, forested shorelines, and an environment rich with marine life due to strong tidal currents that produce constant mixing of Johnstone Strait waters. Up to 70 percent of the salmon heading for the Fraser River spawning ground pass through the area.

Since Robson Bight (Michael Bigg) Ecological Reserve is a sanctuary for killer whales, **all** boaters are expected to refrain from entering the reserve. To support its role as a sanctuary, the upland portion of ecological reserve is **closed** to all uses or entry.

Lower Tsitika River Provincial Park

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/planning/mgmtplns/lower_tsit/lower_tsit_ps.html

This 3,745 hectare park, situated in the Lower Tsitika River drainage, helps to protect the upland portions of Robson Bight (Michael Bigg) Ecological Reserve and its sensitive Orca habitat. This park receives minimal visitation as hikers are prohibited to enter the Tsitika River estuary.

The primary role of Lower Tsitika River Provincial Park is to protect the lower part of the Tsitika River, which in turn protects old growth forest, high wildlife, fish and biodiversity values. Together with Robson Bight (Michael Bigg) Ecological Reserve, Mount Derby Ecological Reserve and Tsitika Mountain Ecological Reserve, much of the lower part of the Tsitika River watershed has been protected.

The secondary role is to provide a buffer to the killer whale rubbing beaches and pristine estuary of Robson Bight (Michael Bigg) Ecological Reserve. The resident population of killer whales in this area is red-listed provincially and listed as threatened.

Two of four management issues have implications to the LAC pilot: 1) Lack of understanding and awareness of complete natural and cultural values in the park, and 2) First Nation relations. The response:

- Implement inventory plan in conjunction with ecological reserves.
- Undertake a cultural inventory and traditional use study in conjunction with First Nations.
- Increase offsite interpretation efforts.
- Install boundary signage to clearly mark park and ecological reserve boundaries.
- Develop good working relationships with First Nations to develop an understanding and appreciation of protected area status and ER values

The entire park is zoned Wilderness Recreation to reflect the wilderness character of the park while providing for limited recreation opportunities. The objective of this zone is to protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities depending on a pristine environment where air access may be permitted to designated sites. This zone is characterized by very low use with minimal facility development for user safety and convenience and the protection of the environment. This zoning complements the adjacent ecological reserves and aids in their protection.

Broughton Archipelago Provincial Park

www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/planning/mgmtplns/broughton/brought_ps.html

This 11 679 hectares park consists of 1645 hectares of upland and 10 034 hectares of marine environment. Only the southern tip of the park occurs within the LAC pilot area. The 2003 Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan for the Broughton Archipelago Provincial Park states the primary role of the park is to contribute to the protection of marine ecosystems. The park protects a diverse and rich marine environment with numerous rare species due to its location at the interface of two major bodies of water (Johnstone Strait and Queen Charlotte Strait) and habitat offered by forested islands, rocky islets, kelp beds, and complex shorelines. The park provides nesting habitat and is a migration stop and resting area for pelagic and shore birds. Marine mammals include northern sea lions, killer whales, humpback whales, gray whales, minke whales, sea otters, Pacific white-sided dolphins, Dall's porpoises, harbour porpoises and harbour seals. In addition, the park serves as habitat for a wide variety of other marine life.

The secondary role of the park is to provide marine recreation experience for boaters traveling in the Inside Passage. The park is a wilderness area consisting of a maze of several small islands, islets and adjacent foreshore. Kayakers and boaters seek out the park as a destination for ocean kayaking, scuba diving, fishing and cultural heritage appreciation. In addition, there is an opportunity to view killer whales and other marine mammals. The park plays a significant role in the tourism economy of northern Vancouver Island and will continue to do so as ecotourism develops on the North Island. The park's location in the Inside Passage with its numerous excellent anchorages serves as a stop over area for long-distance boaters heading to the North Coast or Alaska.

The tertiary role is to protect cultural features. The Kwatiutl people have a vibrant First Nations heritage associated with Broughton Archipelago, and a number of traditional territories overlap in this area indicating its importance as a fishing and gathering site. A diversity of cultural heritage sites are found on the islands that are important for understanding and appreciating the First Nation history and culture.

One of the four known management issues has LAC implications: carrying capacity for site both commercial and private kayakers and resulting conflict. The response:

- Work with commercial operators to limit impact on site and between users until such time as a management plan can be prepared. Preparation of a management plan is a high priority.

The wilderness recreation zone covers the entire park; the objective of the zone is to protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities depending on a pristine environment where air access may be permitted to designated sites. The zone is characterized by very low use with minimal facility development for user safety and convenience and the protection of the environment. Approved facilities include trails, primitive campsites and shelters.

Cormorant Channel Marine Provincial Park

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/planning/mgmtplns/cormorant/cormor_ps.html

This 744 ha Marine Park is made up of a number of islands of the Pearse and Plumper groups of islands, situated at the western end of Johnstone Strait in between Hanson Island and Cormorant Island (Alert Bay). This marine-access park offers safe overnight anchorages for boaters traveling these waters.

Cormorant Channel is part of the core habitat of the northern resident Orca (killer whale) population. As such, it is one of the best places in the world to witness these magnificent creatures in their natural habitat.

The primary role of Cormorant Channel Marine Park is to protect a significant example of a fast water productive marine ecosystem. The swift currents, cold upwelling water, rocky islets, kelp beds and location at the interface of two major bodies of water combine to make this area a particularly rich and diverse marine environment. The secondary role is to provide a marine recreation experience in a popular tourism destination area.

Two key management issues have implications to the LAC pilot: 1) Lack of knowledge and public awareness of cultural and natural values, and 2) Impact of recreational activities on the marine species (especially rare ones). The response for the first is as detailed above for Lower Tsitika River Provincial Park, and the response for the second:

- Liaise with whale watching and dive community to ensure impacts are minimized.

In addition to whale watching and wildlife viewing, these undeveloped islands provide visitors with a number of recreational opportunities, including boating and kayaking. Cormorant Channel is part of the extremely popular Johnstone Strait sea kayaking circuit, and paddlers can easily find places to haul out and camp for the night among the many islands. The park also provides world class salt water fishing and scuba diving in the wildlife-rich tidal channels.

Qwiquallaaq/ Boat Bay Conservancy

Qwiquallaaq/Boat Bay Conservancy (639 hectares) is a new conservancy established pursuant to government's land use decision for the Central Coast LRMP area. The conservancy is within the asserted territories of the Gwa'sala-Nakwaxda'xw and Tlowitsis First Nations. The conservancy is located on the western end of West Cracroft Island. The conservancy was established to facilitate appreciation of and research on marine wildlife, particularly killer whales.

The conservancy contains a rustic campground and picnic sites used by small boaters, especially kayakers; a killer whale research camp; and sheltered anchorages at Growler Cove and Boat Bay for recreational and commercial boaters. The conservancy is located 72 km southeast of Port Hardy, 103 km northwest of Campbell River and 300 km northwest of Vancouver.

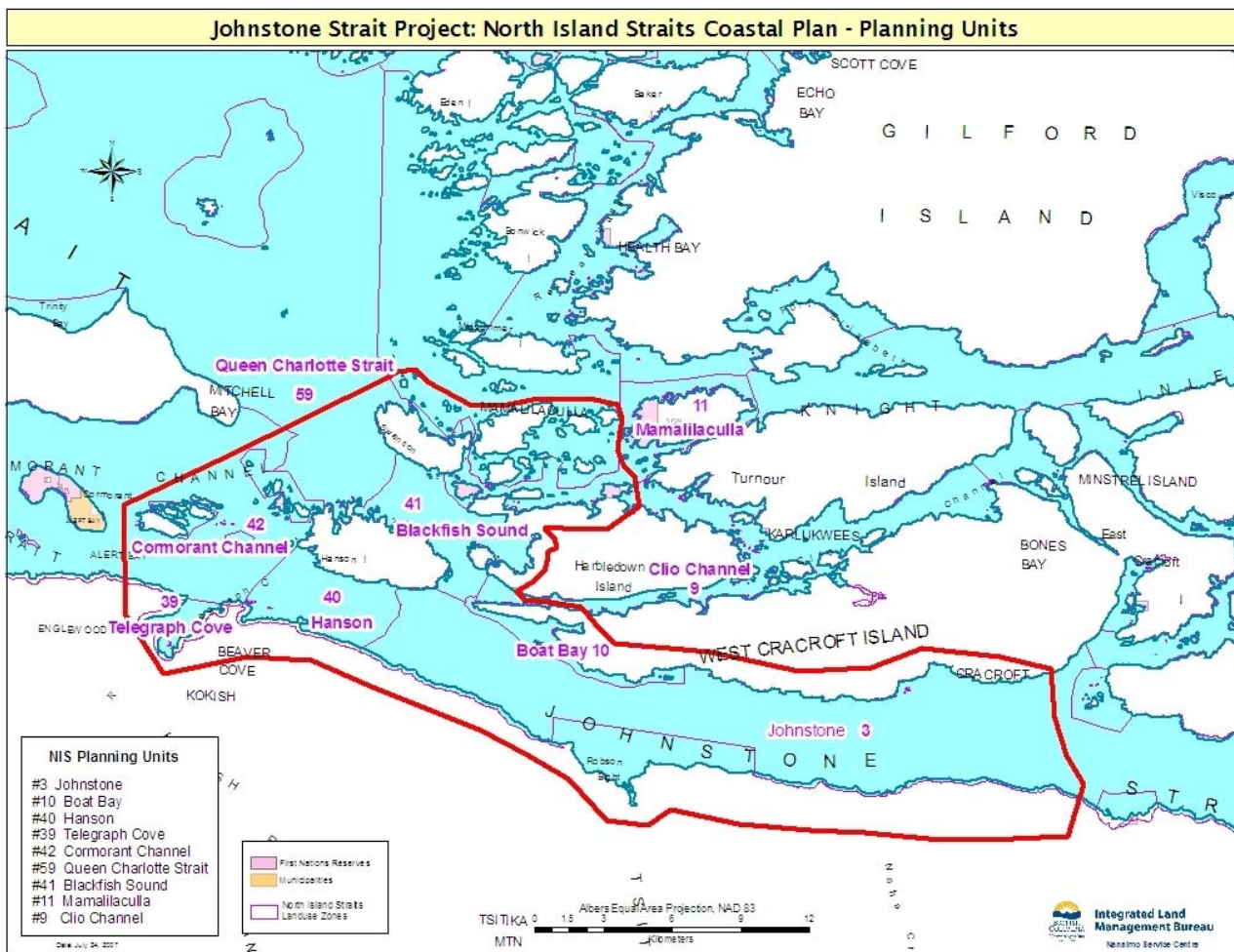
The Boat Bay Conservancy does not have any BC Parks management plan in place at this time. The planning process will likely begin later this summer (2007) or next year (2008).

IV. North Island Straits Coastal Plan

http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/lup/coastal/north_island/nis/index.htm

The 2002 North Island Straits (NIS) Coastal Plan provides recommendations for acceptable uses in the foreshore (intertidal) area between high and low tide mark, and nearshore area (generally within a few kilometers of the foreshore to about 20 metres depth). These recommendations address a range of tenure programs under the *Land Act*. The Plan also addresses recreation and conservation values that should be reserved or withdrawn from tenure opportunities. In some areas, the Plan also contains recommendations for resolution of issues concerning the interaction of fisheries, public recreation, navigation and other activities that are not administered by the province.

The plan identifies a number of ‘plan study units’ that are described with acceptable uses and activities, and management provisions offered. There are 9 planning units that overlap the Johnstone Strait Recreation project area, as shown in Figure 5 below.



The *Johnstone planning unit (#3)* overlaps the majority of the study area for the Johnstone Strait Recreation project. This unit is characterized by rocky shoreline with a few pocket beaches. The Strait is heavily used for fisheries and as a major marine transportation route. It is a critical whale habitat area with high rates of sea kayak and whale watching activity due to the significant whale rubbing beaches of the adjacent Robson Bight Ecological Reserve.

Management provisions identified in the NIS plan related to public and commercial recreation in the Johnstone unit include the following:

- This unit should be managed to accommodate existing uses and activities while improving management for whale watching and other recreational activities in the area
- New tenures should be located to avoid impact on high value whale habitat
- The regional district should address local recreational interest in its review of tenure referrals
- MSRM and LWBC (now ILMB and MTSA) should work with affected groups, the regional district and the Tlowitsis First Nation to develop a strategy for management and allocation of campsites in this unit for both recreational and tourism uses

The management emphases and allowable activities identified for all nine NIS planning units located within the Johnstone Strait project area are outlined in the table below.

Unit #	Name	Management Emphasis	Key Attributes & Current Uses	Acceptable & Conditionally Acceptable Uses (CA)	Non-Acceptable Uses
3	Johnstone	General Marine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Critical resting, feeding and migration route for transient and resident orcas ▪ Significant salmon migratory route ▪ First Nations fishing grounds ▪ High use for fishing, boating, commercial and public kayaking and remote camping ▪ Principal marine navigation route 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservation ▪ Commercial Recreation - guiding operations ▪ Log handling & storage (at current levels only) ▪ Marine telecommunications & utilities (CA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Institutional ▪ General commercial ▪ Light industrial ▪ Rural development ▪ Private moorage ▪ Aquaculture ▪ Comm. Recreation-Lodges and Base Camps
10	Boat Bay	Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Primary use area for orcas ▪ Significant for waterfowl and alcids. ▪ Salmon migratory route ▪ First Nations fishing and gathering areas ▪ High use for recreation and tourism ▪ Whale research site ▪ Sports and commercial fisheries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservation ▪ Institutional ▪ Commercial Recreation - guiding operations ▪ Marine telecommunications & utilities (CA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General commercial ▪ Light industrial ▪ Rural development ▪ Private moorage ▪ Aquaculture ▪ Comm.Recreation-Lodges and Base Camps
39	Beaver, Telegraph Cove	Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Important staging area for whale watching, kayaking and other tourism and recreation activities ▪ Variety of commercial and industrial uses – log handling & storage, fish processing plant, commercial wharf, 2 marinas ▪ First Nations fishing and shellfish harvesting areas and culturally significant sites ▪ Commercial and sports fishing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservation ▪ General Commercial ▪ Light industrial ▪ Marine telecommunications & utilities ▪ Rural development ▪ Log handling & storage ▪ Private moorage ▪ Comm. Recreation – guiding operations ▪ Finfish aquaculture (CA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Institutional ▪ Plant aquaculture ▪ Shellfish aquaculture ▪ Comm. Recreation-Lodges and Base Camps

Unit #	Name	Management Emphasis	Key Attributes & Current Uses	Acceptable Uses	Non-Acceptable Uses
40	Hanson	Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Important orca habitat ▪ Popular destination for commercial sea kayaking and whale watching ▪ First Nations fishing, shellfish harvesting and culturally significant areas ▪ Commercial fishery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservation ▪ Commercial Recreation - guiding operations ▪ Log handling & storage ▪ Marine telecommunications & utilities (CA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Institutional ▪ General commercial ▪ Light industrial ▪ Rural development ▪ Private moorage ▪ Aquaculture ▪ Comm.Recreation-Lodges and Base Camps
42	Cormorant Channel	Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Includes settlements of Port McNeill, Alert Bay and Sointula, and associated activities ▪ Significant habitat for aquatic birds ▪ Significant marine habitat values ▪ First Nations fishing, shellfish harvesting and cultural significant areas ▪ Light industrial and commercial uses ▪ Commercial fisheries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservation ▪ Institutional ▪ General Commercial ▪ Light industrial ▪ Marine telecommunications & utilities ▪ Log handling & storage ▪ Private moorage ▪ Plant aquaculture ▪ Shellfish aquaculture ▪ Comm. Recreation – guiding operations (CA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rural development ▪ Finfish aquaculture ▪ Comm. Recreation-Lodges and Base Camps
59	Queen Charlotte Strait	General Marine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Important orca habitat ▪ Major salmon migration route ▪ First Nations fishing, shellfish harvesting and cultural significant areas ▪ Commercial and sports fisheries ▪ Major marine transportation route ▪ Camping and recreational use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservation ▪ Institutional ▪ General Commercial ▪ Private moorage ▪ Finfish aquaculture ▪ Comm. Recreation - guiding operations ▪ Comm. Recreation- Lodges and Base Camps ▪ Marine telecommunications & utilities (CA) ▪ Plant aquaculture (CA) ▪ Shellfish Aquaculture (CA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Light industrial ▪ Rural development ▪ Log handling & storage
41	Blackfish Sound	Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Important orca habitat ▪ Significant migratory bird habitat ▪ Salmon migration route ▪ Popular route for kayaking and marine based wildlife viewing ▪ Sports and commercial fisheries ▪ Marine transportation corridor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservation ▪ Institutional ▪ General Commercial ▪ Log handling & storage ▪ Marine telecommunications & utilities ▪ Comm. Recreation - guiding operations ▪ Plant aquaculture (CA) ▪ Shellfish Aquaculture (CA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Light industrial ▪ Rural development ▪ Private moorage ▪ Finfish aquaculture ▪ Comm. Recreation-Lodges and Base Camps
11	Mamalilikula	Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extensive kelp beds and bird habitat ▪ Significant habitat for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds ▪ Orca habitat ▪ Humpback whale resident area ▪ First Nations fishing, shellfish harvesting and cultural significant areas ▪ Kayaking route & destination ▪ 2 salmon farms ▪ Commercial and sports fishery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservation ▪ Institutional ▪ General Commercial ▪ Log handling & storage ▪ Private moorage ▪ Plant aquaculture ▪ Shellfish beach aquaculture ▪ Comm. Recreation - guiding operations ▪ Rural development (at current levels) ▪ Finfish aquaculture (at current levels) ▪ Marine telecommunications & utilities (at current levels) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Light industrial ▪ Plant aquaculture ▪ Shellfish Deepwater Aquaculture ▪ Comm. Recreation-Lodges and Base Camps

Unit #	Name	Management Emphasis	Key Attributes & Current Uses	Acceptable Uses	Non-Acceptable Uses
9	Clio Channel	Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Considerable recreational use ▪ Significant habitat for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds ▪ Moderate to high marine habitat values (various) ▪ First Nations fishing and shellfish grounds, and sensitive cultural sites ▪ Public wharf, marinas, fishing camp, remote campsites, boat haven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservation ▪ Institutional ▪ General Commercial ▪ Private moorage ▪ Plant aquaculture ▪ Shellfish beach aquaculture ▪ Comm. Recreation - guiding operations Comm. Recreation- Lodges and Base Camps (at current levels only) ▪ Log handling & storage (at current levels only) ▪ Rural development (at current levels only) ▪ Marine telecommunications & utilities (CA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Light industrial ▪ Shellfish Deepwater Aquaculture ▪ Finfish aquaculture

V. Visual Quality Objectives and other legal orders

www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/legsregs/frpa/frparegs/govact/GAR-ORDERS.htm

Under the authority of FRPA's *Government Actions Regulation*, the North Island-Central Coast and the Campbell River Forest Districts have established visual quality objectives (VQOs) for several established scenic areas. The VQO for the scenic area portion of the Johnstone Strait SMZ is retention. The VQOs established under GAR replace the interim direction provided in the higher level plan for Vancouver Island.

For the Central Coast portion of the Johnstone Strait Project area, visually significant areas have been identified and a visual management area system proposed as part of the KNT Land Use Agreement In Principle http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/lup/lrmp/coast/central_north_coast/docs/KNT_FN_AIP_Signed.pdf. However, visual quality zones and VQO's have not yet been legally established.

Other legal orders (as assembled in what is often referred to as an 'objectives matrix') under FRPA are listed in www.for.gov.bc.ca/dcr/Stewardship.htm for Campbell River Forest District and www.for.gov.bc.ca/dni/gar/GARNH.htm for North Island-Central Coast Forest District. This includes wildlife habitat areas for species at risk, ungulate winter range, recreation features, recreation sites and trails, and old growth management areas.

VI. Applicable Regulations, Policies, and Guidelines

MTSA policy regarding public and commercial recreation, including provisions for recreation under FRPA

Public recreation

www.tsa.gov.bc.ca/publicirec/

Legislation and regulations governing the management of public recreation, including recreation campsites, is covered under FRPA with responsibilities delegated to MTSA Recreation, Sites and Trails (RST) Branch. MTSA RST staff are responsible for determining the adequacy/appropriateness of management plans including measures incorporated to address resource values. Other agencies such as MOE provide assistance/expertise when deemed necessary. Management agreements with other organizations at recreation facilities such as sites and trails can be entered into with MTSA RST staff. The agreements can specify how other resource values are to be addressed to help ensure sustainable practices.

The major provisions for public recreation under FRPA are described in Part 5, Protection of Resources, Division 3 - Recreation.

Section 56 enables the Minister to establish, vary the boundaries, or disestablish interpretive forest sites, recreation sites and recreation trails on Crown land. It also allows the Minister to establish objectives for interpretive forest sites, recreation sites and recreation trails provided they are consistent with any land-use objectives set by government for the area.

Section 57 prohibits the construction, rehabilitation or maintenance of unauthorized trails or other recreation facilities on Crown land.

Section 58 prescribes measures to protect recreation and range resources on Crown land. The Minister can, by order, restrict or prohibit recreational use on Crown land if deemed necessary to protect recreation or range resources. The Minister can also restrict or prohibit the non-recreational use of areas designated for recreation, including resource management zones, landscape units, sensitive areas, and interpretive forest sites, recreation sites and recreation trails.

In terms of delegated authority, Section 56 allows the Minister to delegate authority to the Chief Forester, the Regional Executive Director, or the District Manager. For Section 57, authority may be delegated to the District Manager. For Section 58, authority may be delegated to either the Regional Executive Director or District Manager.

Forest Recreation Regulation

The Forest Recreation Regulation sets out procedures for establishing recreation orders to restrict or regulate public recreation use on Crown land to protect range or recreation resources, or to manage conflicting recreation uses. It also outlines the procedures an applicant must follow for submitting a proposal to construct, rehabilitate or maintain an authorized trail or recreation facility for public use. The regulation also details rules for the use of recreation sites, recreation

trails and interpretive forest sites, describes provisions for recreation site and trail fees, and specifies enforcement actions for non-compliance with the recreation components of FRPA.

Section 13 prohibits a person from camping at a recreation site for more than 14 consecutive days unless authorized by a designated forest official.

Section 16 requires anyone who proposes a competitive sporting event and/or a business or industrial activity at a recreation site, recreation trail, or interpretive forest site to seek approval from a designated forest official. Anyone proposing to use a recreation site as a gathering for 15 or more people, or as a place of temporary residence, while engaged in a business or industrial activity outside the site, is also required to seek approval from a designated forest official.

The minister may determine that a fee is required to use a recreation site or trail if he or she is satisfied that the fee is justified by the provision of a service at the site or trail. Section 22 specifies several provisions regarding fees for the use of recreation sites and trails, including:

- Maintenance and repair of the site or trail;
- Supervision at the site or trail;
- Provision of overnight camping facilities, parking, boat launch ramps, mooring buoys, warming huts or cabins at the site or trail.

Commercial recreation

www.tsa.gov.bc.ca/resorts_rec/tenure/commercialrecreation/index.htm

Crown land policies for commercial recreation reside with MTSA Adventure Tourism Branch and address a variety of activities including guided sea kayaking. Commercial recreation policy requires that resource values are addressed in management plans that form part of the tenure document, which must be adhered to by operators. MTSA Adventure Tourism staff are responsible for determining the adequacy/appropriateness of management plans including measures incorporated to address resource values. Other agencies such as MOE provide assistance/expertise when deemed necessary.

Other Regulations with Relevance to Recreation

Other measures for restricting or regulating recreation use on Crown land are provided in the *Wildlife Act* and *Land Act*. Section 111 of the *Wildlife Act* allows the Minister to regulate access, including recreational access, to designated areas for the purpose of wildlife management. Section 61 of the *Land Act* allows the Lieutenant Governor in Council to prohibit specific uses of Crown land in designated areas.

Wildlife Guidelines for Backcountry Tourism/Commercial Recreation

www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/twg/index.html#crp

The guidelines were developed to help ensure that backcountry recreation activities are conducted in a manner that does not compromise the current distribution of wildlife, the sustainability of their populations, or the integrity of their habitats. The guidelines define results, desired behaviors, indicators, and limits for backcountry activities in relation to wildlife and their habitat.

For example, related to boating, the desired result includes minimizing physiological and behavioral disruption on wildlife. Desired operating behavior includes: recording wildlife encounters, actions taken and responses of animals; do not harass wildlife; stay at a distance sufficient to prevent changes to the behavior of animals (at least 100 metres in open areas is default for large mammals); and avoid landing vessels where wildlife are encountered along shorelines. Indicators include proportion of encounters resulting in an alarm response (movement by animals, usually to safer locations). Limits include no increase in rate of alarm responses over time caused by boating activities, and no harassment caused by boating activities.

DFO Whale Watching Guidelines for BC

www.britishcolumbia.com/wildlife/?id=104

DFO has developed guidelines for whale watching in Johnstone Strait:

Approach whales from the side, not from the front or the rear.

- Approach no closer than 100 metres and shift your motor into neutral or idle.
- Keep noise levels down - no horns, whistles or racing of motors.
- Start your motor only after the whales are more than 100 metres from your vessel.
- Leave the area slowly, gradually accelerating when you are more than 300 metres from the whales.
- Approach and depart slowly, avoiding sudden changes in speed or direction. Do not "leapfrog."
- Avoid disturbing groups of resting whales.
- Maintain low speeds and constant direction if travelling parallel to whales.
- When whales are travelling close to shore, avoid crowding them near the shore or coming between the whales and the shore.
- Limit the time spent with any group of whales to less than 30 minutes at a time when within 100 to 200 metres of whales.
- If there is more than one vessel at the same observation site, be sure to avoid any boat position that would result in encircling the whales.
- Minimize the time spent and the number of vessels with any one group of whales.
- Limit time, as above, and then move out to allow other vessels access to good viewing positions.
- Coordinate activities by maintaining contact with other vessels, and ensure that all operators are aware of the whale watching guidelines.

DFO, BC Parks and numerous other partnering organizations have developed a poster [Guidelines for Watching Marine Wildlife](#).

Other Public and Commercial Recreation Guidelines

A variety of organizations have developed principles, guidelines, low-impact practices, codes of conduct (or ethics) that collectively provide important guidance to the recreational use of the Broughton/Johnstone Straits LAC pilot project area. This includes:

Ministry of Environment and Wilderness Tourism Association

Shared Environmental Stewardship Principles between MOE and Wilderness Tourism Association www.env.gov.bc.ca/esd/wilderness_operator_stewardship.html

Ministry of Environment

Backcountry and Marine Ethics www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/conserv/conserv_info.html

Sea Kayak Guides Association of BC

Low impact best practices www.skgabc.org/low-impact.php

Sea Kayak Association of BC

Wildlife Viewing Guidelines; Reporting Cetacean Sightings; Low Impact Camping
www.skabc.org/conserv.html

Outdoor Recreation Council of BC

Water Recreation Code of Ethics, Backcountry Sanitation, and Wilderness Code of Ethics
www.orcbc.ca/research_pub.htm