

BYERS/CONROY/HARVEY/SINNETT ISLANDS ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

July 2003

Approved by:



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Date: July 31/03

**BYERS/CONROY/HARVEY/SINNETT ISLANDS
ECOLOGICAL RESERVE
Purpose Statement**

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Byers/Conroy/Harvey/Sinnett Islands Ecological Reserve is to protect terrestrial and marine habitats and prevent the disturbance of nesting seabirds and raptors.

Secondary Role

The secondary role is to protect representative ecosystems. Byers/Conroy/Harvey/Sinnett Islands Ecological Reserve contributes 41% of the overall protected areas system representation of the Queen Charlotte Sound *Terrestrial* Ecosession, which is well represented in the protected areas system (52.5%). With more than 11,500 hectares of foreshore, it contributes 10% of the protected areas system representation of the under-represented Queen Charlotte Sound *Marine* Ecosession.

Known Management Issues	Response
Lack of presence	Recruit an ecological reserve warden.
Lack of knowledge	Ensure at least one site visit every 2 years.
Public access	Pursue closure of public access to the ecological reserve to protect nesting seabirds.

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

- One of 4 protected areas in the well represented Queen Charlotte Sound *Terrestrial* Ecosection (52.5%). The ecological reserve makes the second greatest contribution (41.5%) to the protected areas system representation of this ecosection behind Moore/McKenney/Whitmore Ecological Reserve.
Siuated in the Queen Charlotte Sound *Marine* Ecosection which has 3.14% protected. This ecological reserve contributes 10% of the overall protected areas representation of this marine ecosection, placing it 3rd out of 5 areas after Gwaii Haanas and Hakai Conservation Study Area
- Small islands are categorized in the CWHvh2 biogeoclimatic zone, of which 9.96% is protected in 17 protected areas. The vast majority of the area in this ER is water, with only small rocky islets and a few treed islands.

Special Feature

- The only know occurrence of peregrine falcons nesting in trees. Only significant breeding site of tufted puffins along the mainland coast. Seal pupping areas. Extensive kelp reefs and eel grass habitat.

Rare/Endangered Values

- Sea otter; abalone

Scientific/Research Opportunities

- Long term study of seabirds, raptors and marine mammals.

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry n/a
- destination n/a
- travel corridor n/a
- local recreation n/a

Special Opportunities

-

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

-

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation

-

Special Feature Nothing noted

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

Relationship to Other PAs

Co-operative Management Arrangements

Partnerships

Vulnerability Oil spills.

Relationship to Other Strategies Marine Protected Areas Strategy

Area: 12,205 ha (425 ha of upland and 11,780 ha of marine foreshore)

Date of Establishment: April 9, 1981