

# DAWLEY PASSAGE PROVINCIAL PARK

## PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

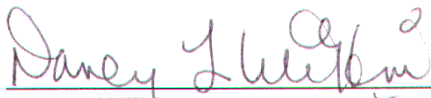
August 2003

Approved by:



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Dick Heath  
Regional Manager  
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: August 8/03



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Nancy Wilkin  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Jan. 21/04

## DAWLEY PASSAGE PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

### Primary Role

The **primary** role of Dawley Passage Park is to protect the natural values associated with a fast water marine ecosystem. Fast currents that run through the tidal narrows of Dawley Passage result in a high marine species diversity and rich subtidal fauna. The park protects the only known occurrence of the red-listed white hydrocoral. Dawley Passage also provides habitat to several marine mammals, finfish, crabs, clams, and coastal marine birds such as great blue herons, geese, swans, ducks, and nesting bald eagles.

### Secondary Role

The **secondary** role is to provide a natural backdrop to marine-based recreational opportunities along a tourism corridor. Dawley Passage is situated between Vancouver Island and Meares Island at the south end of Fortune Channel. Clayoquot Sound is popular destination for boating, kayaking, and fishing. Scuba diving occurs in the park and wilderness camping is allowed but no facilities are provided. The park has a small anchorage and there is a nearby one in Gunner Inlet just past Island Cove. Conditional anchorages can be found at nearby Windy Bay on Meares Island and Island Cove on Vancouver Island.

### Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Lack of knowledge of natural and cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Encourage research on marine species and upland environment.</li> <li>➤ Conduct a cultural inventory and traditional use study in conjunction with First Nations.</li> </ul>
Lack of park awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Install boundary signage.</li> <li>➤ Increase level of interpretation information available to the public.</li> </ul>
Adjacency issues: logging of upland portion adjacent to park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Work with Ministry of Forests and industry to ensure protection of park values and visual resources.</li> </ul>
Previously harvested sites in upland area of park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Rehabilitate disturbed sites through revegetation plans.</li> </ul>
Impact of commercial marine harvesting, recreational diving, industrial traffic, and other adjacent issues (barges, fish farms) on natural and recreational values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Work with DFO on commercial fishery closures (crabs) in the park (currently considered a moderate to low value commercial fishery within the MPA).</li> <li>➤ Liaise with the diving community to ensure awareness of red-listed species and other marine values.</li> <li>➤ Work with industry (fish farms, barges) to minimize water column contamination and reduce floating garbage.</li> </ul>
Relationships with First Nations and pending treaty settlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Develop good working relationships with First Nations to develop an understanding and appreciation of protected area status and park values.</li> <li>➤ Liaise with Central Region Board (CRB) to inform them of management issues in the park.</li> </ul>

Participation in Biosphere Reserve	➤ Work with the Biosphere Foundation and CRB to ensure the Environmental Stewardship Division's perspective is taken into account in Biosphere activities and projects.
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## Zoning

**Natural Environment Zone** - covers the entire park (154.1 hectares) in recognition of the conservation and recreation values. The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

### Conservation

- Representation  
- ecosection  Dawley Passage Park makes a very minimal contribution of 0.03% to the representation of the Windward Island Mountains Ecosection (WIM), which is well represented in the protected areas system at 17.4%.  
  
Minimal contribution of 0.1% to the overall representation of the Vancouver Island Shelf *Marine* Ecosection (VIS), which is under protected provincially at 5.4%.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant  Dawley Passage Park makes a very minimal contribution of 0.07% to the representation of CWHvh1, which is well represented in the protected areas system at 19.3%.
- Special Features  High marine biodiversity, fast water passage, bald eagle nests
- Rare/Endangered Values  Only known occurrence of the *red-listed* white hydrocoral in BC. This species is found in the subtidal zone in rocky habitat with strong currents. *Blue-listed* great blue heron. *Yellow-listed species of conservation concern (S3-S4)*: bald eagle.
- Scientific/Research Opportunities  Subtidal fauna, white hydrocoral, fast water marine ecosystem

### Recreation

- Representation  
backcountry  Not Applicable  
destination  Not Applicable  
travel corridor  Fortune Channel is a tourism corridor in the Clayoquot Sound area for paddling and cruising  
  
local recreation  Boating, fishing, diving
- Special Opportunities  None known at this time
- Education/Interpretation Opportunities  Understanding and appreciation of marine biodiversity and white hydrocoral

### Cultural Heritage

- Representation  Values unknown
- Special Feature  None known at this time.

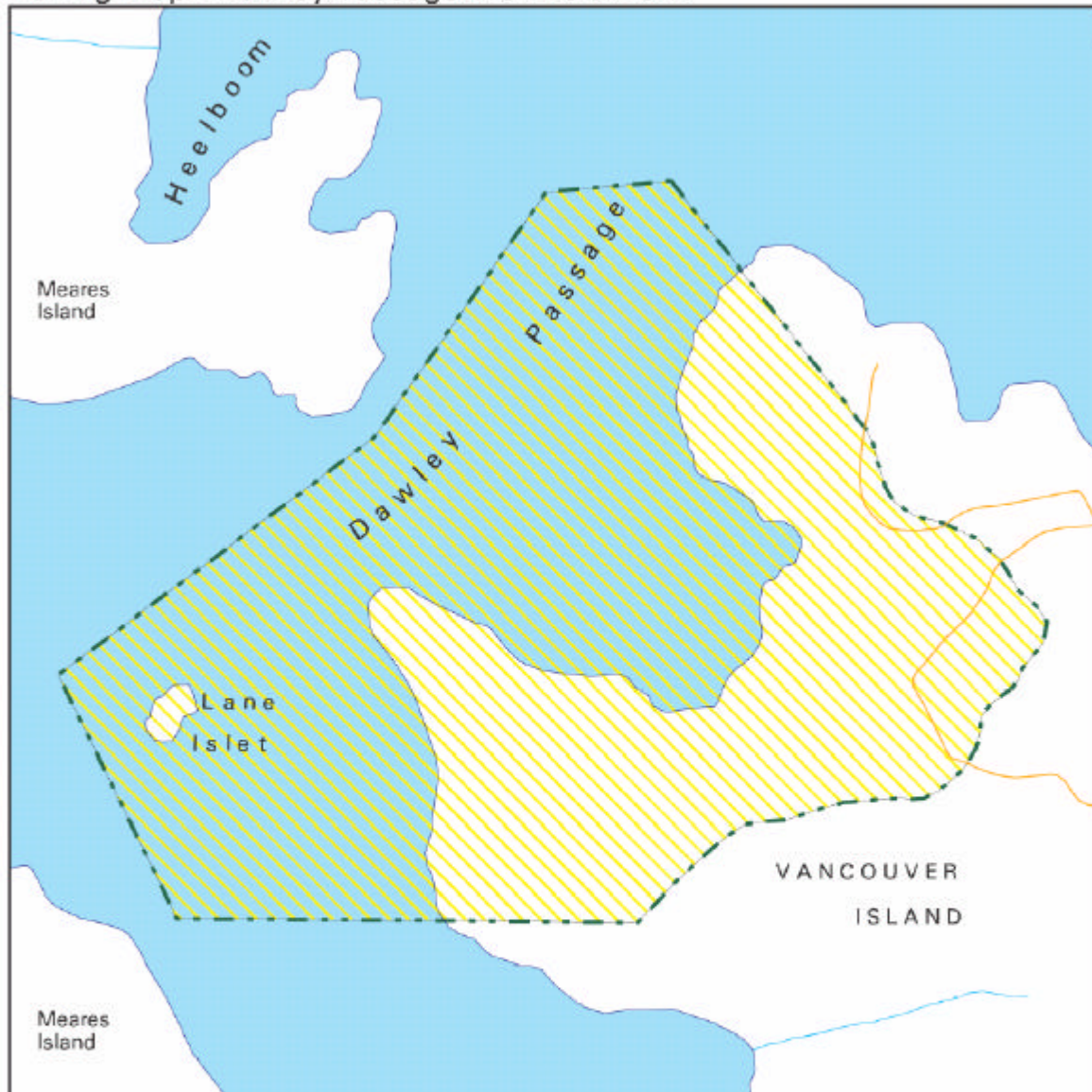
### Other Management Considerations

Other Designations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part of Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve
Relationship to other PAs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part of a system of protected areas in Clayoquot Sound. Near the Long Beach Unit of Pacific Rim National Park.
Co-operative Management Arrangements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Encompassed in the Interim Measures Extension Agreement with the Central Region Board.  Commercial fishery closure specific to the park: Pacific oyster is prohibited from harvesting
Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable
Vulnerability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural values are vulnerable to commercial marine harvesting (crab and clam), recreational diving, industrial traffic, barges, fish farms, and adjacent logging in upland area
Relationship to other Strategies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Interim Measures Extension Agreement. Identified for protection in the 1993 Clayoquot Sound Land Use Decision. Marine Protected Areas Strategy.

**Area:** 154.1 hectares (61.6 ha upland; 92.5 ha foreshore)

**Date of establishment:** July 12, 1995

# Zoning Map - Dawley Passage Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas  
Datum: NAD83



 Natural Environment  
 Protected Area Boundary



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