HUDSON ROCKS ER #137

ORIGINAL PURPOSE To protect seabird breeding habitat and intertidal and nearshore subtidal habitat typical of the Strait of Georgia Marine Ecosection

OVERVIEW

Date established:	30 April 1996	**Location:**	25 km N of Newcastle Island
ORC #:	9743		
Map number:	92 G/4	**Latitude:**	49º12'N
Marine chart number:	3447	**Longitude:**	123º54'W
Total Area:	50 ha	**Elevation:**	-50-10 m
Land:	2 ha		
Marine:	48 ha		
Access:	Accessible by boat.		
Biogeoclimatic Zone:	Coastal Douglas-Fir (CDF)		
Biogeoclimatic Variant:	CDFmm Moist Maritime		
Marine Ecosection:	Strait of Georgia		
Region:	Vancouver Island		
Management Area:	Qualicum		

COMPOSITION

Physical: The reserve is almost entirely subtidal and protects approximately 48 ha of coastal waters and four semi-exposed rocky islets totalling two ha. The waters are influenced by high turbidity and seasonally stratified water temperature in summer. The islets are comprised primarily of undifferentiated mudstone and sandstone bedrock characteristic of the Nanaimo Group of the Late Cretaceous age. The shorelines of the islets gently slope to sea level.

Biological: The reserve is an important breeding and feeding ground for Glaucous-winged Gulls, Pelagic Cormorants, Black Oystercatchers, and Pigeon Guillemots. Other birds that use this area are loon, grebes, Bald Eagles, Harlequin Ducks, Mew Gulls, Common Murres and alcids. The rocks are also used as a haul out area for Harbour Seals, and the foreshore as a nursery area for salmon and herring. There is abundant shellfish habitat and neritic plankton communities. Harbour Porpoises use the marine protected area as well.

Cultural: Hudson Rocks area has known significance to the Snuneymuxw First Nations.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES	BC LIST STATUS	COSEWIC STATUS	CF PRIORITY
Double-crested Cormorant	Blue listed	Not At Risk (1978)	2

THREATS

Climate Change: The rocks in this reserve may be subject to habitat loss due to rising sea levels and increased storm activity. Changes in sea

	surface temperature may also impact the sea bird populations due to a loss in synchrony between the life cycles of the seabirds and their marine food sources. Such changes may result in reduced reproductive success in the seabird populations, or population relocation due to unsuitable habitat.
Boating Activity:	Area is a popular local salmon fishing site and the site is along a popular marine vessel corridor. The boats traveling through the reserve impact nesting behaviour on the rocks.
RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES	The reserve is a good site for research on seabird populations.
ER WARDEN ACTIVITIES	Annual Bird counts Flora inventory Marine life inventories

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE HUDSON ROCKS ER ACCOUNT

Flora
None mentioned

Fauna
Cormorant, Double-crested (*Phalacrocorax auritus)*
Duck, Harlequin (*Histrionicus histrionicus*)
Eagle, Bald (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus)*
Guillemot, Pigeon (*Cepphus columba)*
Gull, Glaucous-winged (*Larus glaucescens)*
Gull, Mew *(Larus canus*)
Herring, Pacific (*Clupea pallasii*)
Loon (*Gavia* spp.)
Murre, Common (*Uria aalge)*
Oystercatcher, Black (*Haematopus bachmani)*
Porpoise, Harbour (*Phocoean phocoena)*
Salmon (*Oncorhynhus* spp.)
Seal, Harbour (*Phoca vitulina*)