

ROCK BAY MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

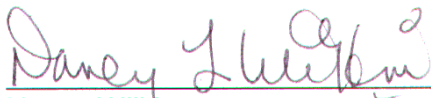
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Approved by:



Dick Heath
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: August 8/03



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Jan. 21/04

ROCK BAY MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Rock Bay Marine Park is to protect representative marine ecosystems. The park is a major contributor to the representation of the Johnstone Strait *Marine* Ecosection which is poorly protected provincially. Rock Bay Marine Park consists of foreshore only and a few rocky islets; therefore it does not contribute significantly to terrestrial ecosystem representation. The park protects rich intertidal and marine ecosystems at the confluence of three channels of water (Johnstone Strait, Discovery Pass, and Nodales Channel). It is part of the Johnstone Strait region where all adult salmon species hold prior to spawning. The area is also abundant with rockfish, lingcod, green and red sea urchins, and serves as excellent habitat for the blue-listed harbour porpoise. Numerous other species of seabirds and other marine mammals also use the area.

Secondary Role

The **secondary** role is to provide a regionally important destination area for marine recreation and a recreation experience for boaters traveling the Inside Passage. The Inside Passage is a popular route for long distance boaters heading to the North Coast or Alaska and safe anchorages with a natural setting have been established for this purpose. Otter Bay provides a sheltered anchorage to small vessels waiting to transit the nearby tidal passes in Discovery Passage and Johnstone Strait. A private campground, dock and walking trails are located outside the park boundaries. While onshore facilities are outside the park, when combined with the park's attractive waterfront, and anchorage, day-use opportunities such as scuba diving, kayaking, fishing, wildlife viewing, beachcombing and boating are available. The facilities are accessible by a logging road that connects to Highway 19.

Management Issues

| Known Management Issue | Response |
|--|---|
| Lack of knowledge of natural and cultural values | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Undertake an ecological inventory to increase knowledge of marine and upland elements. ➤ Conduct a cultural inventory and traditional use study in conjunction with First Nations. |
| Fish buying barge tie-up point in anchorage displacing recreational use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with DFO and Coast Guard to relocate tie-up point and/or issue a park use permit. |
| Lack of upland area to complement the park's conservation and recreation values | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pursue acquisition of upland area. |
| Adjacency issues (lighthouse/private resort) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure private dock and lighthouse dock are controlled under permit. ➤ Liaise with Coast Guard and private owner (Merrill-Ring) on park management issues. |
| Commercial and recreation fishing conflicts and impacts of intensive fishing pressures on the natural values | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with DFO to ensure harvesting does not impact the protection of marine species. |
| Lack of public awareness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop educational materials (i.e. signage on uplands area) and enhance website. ➤ Ensure that park boundaries are signed and on marine charts. |

Zoning

Natural Environment Zone - covers the entire area of the park in recognition of the natural and recreational features. The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

-Conservation

- Representation
- ecosection Rock Bay Marine Park is the 4th largest (at 5.6%) out of 16 protected areas that contribute to the representation of the Johnstone Strait *Marine* Ecosection (JS), which is under represented provincially at 3.7% Broughton Archipelago Park is the largest contributor to the representation of JS with 53.8%.
- The upland area is too small to be representative
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant The upland area is too small to be representative
- Special Features Rich intertidal and marine ecosystems
- Rare/Endangered Values *Blue-listed* harbour porpoise. *Yellow-listed species of conservation concern (S3-S4):* coho, chinook, and sockeye salmon.
- Scientific/Research Opportunities Research on marine species

Recreation

- Representation
backcountry Not Applicable
destination SCUBA diving, sport fishing, anchorage
travel corridor At the junction of a principle marine route, and highly used sea kayaking route
local recreation Camping and sport fishing
- Special Opportunities SCUBA diving
- Education/Interpretation Opportunities Marine values

Cultural Heritage

- Representation First Nation sites (fish traps) in intertidal area
- Special Feature Archaeological sites

Other Management Considerations

- Other Designations Not Applicable
- Relationship to other PAs Part of a system of protected areas and anchorages along the Inside Passage

Co-operative Management Arrangements



Commercial fishery specific to Rock Bay Marine Park: Pacific oyster – harvesting is prohibited under the *Park Act*

Partnerships



Not Applicable

Vulnerability



The natural values are vulnerable to intensive commercial and recreational fishing

Relationship to other Strategies



Identified for protection in the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan Goal 2 process, Marine Protected Areas Strategy.

Area: 525.6 hectares (2.3 ha upland; 523.3 ha foreshore)



Date of establishment: July 12, 1995

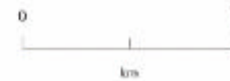
Zoning Map - Rock Bay Marine Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



 Natural Environment
 Protected Area Boundary



Produced in May 2003 for
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