

SABINE CHANNEL MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK (BUNNY/JERVIS ISLAND)

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

March 2003

Approved by:



Dick Heath
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 25/03



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Mar. 31/03

SABINE CHANNEL MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Sabine Channel Marine Park is to protect the natural environment of small island ecosystems in the Strait of Georgia. The park encompasses two complete islands (Jervis and Bunny) located in Sabine Channel between Texada and Lasqueti islands. These islands are part of a chain of over thirty islands and rocky islets, with Jedediah being the largest. They are comprised of forest ecosystems intermingled with rocky cliffs and outcrops encircled by a rich marine environment.

Sabine Channel Marine Park contributes toward the representation of the Coastal Douglas-fir (CDFmm) biogeoclimatic zone in the Strait of Georgia *Terrestrial* Ecoregion. This zone is highly impacted and fragmented by human development and is under represented in the protected areas system with less than 2.5% of its area protected. Because very little of this ecosystem remains in its natural state and because of its limited range, many of its plants are rare and endangered and any area that contributes to its protection may be considered significant. Although much of Jervis Island has been logged, it will regenerate and provide an example of CDFmm.

Secondary Role

The **secondary** role is to offer a remote ocean-based experience within reach of major population centres and along the Inside Passage. Jervis and Bunny islands have recreation opportunities that are complemented by nearby Jedediah Island Marine Park. Relatively easy access combined with a sense of remoteness and a natural setting provides a popular destination for hiking, boating, kayaking, fishing, scuba diving and nature appreciation. There is an anchorage but no facilities and access is by private boat only.

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 get a better understanding of the conservation values and possible rare elements. ➤ Work with First Nations to get a better understanding of cultural heritage resources. Consult the Cultural Heritage Resource Inventory Project initiated by the Sliammon First Nation.
Impact of feral animals on native ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with local residents to control the animals.
Public safety – risks to public by old mine shafts, manmade sink holes, old log handling site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Address the most dangerous of the hazards and communicate the other risks with signage.
Lack of awareness of the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Put up boundary signage and ensure the park is identified on marine charts.
Lack of foreshore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with Lands and Water BC and stakeholders to protect foreshore and surrounding islands as part of the park.

Restoration of natural conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Identify opportunities for active restoration.➤ Complete Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping➤ Develop a restoration plan.
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Zoning

Natural Environment Zone – applies to the entire area of the park (95 hectares). The objective is to protect the natural environment while providing complementary outdoor recreation opportunities.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contributes 2.3% to the representation of the Strait of Georgia <i>Terrestrial</i> Ecosection, which is under represented in the protected areas system at 5.4%
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contributes 1.4% to the representation of CDFmm, which is under represented in the protected areas system at 2.4%. Any contribution to this fragmented and highly impacted ecosystem may be considered important due to the limited opportunities available for its protection.
Special Features	<input type="checkbox"/>	None known at this time
Rare/Endangered Values	<input type="checkbox"/>	None known at this time
Scientific/Research Opportunities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restoration of CDF ecosystems

Recreation

Representation backcountry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable
destination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kayaking, boating
travel corridor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable
local recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kayaking, boating
Special Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	None known at this time
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	None known at this time

Cultural Heritage

Representation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mineral exploration sites
Special Feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	None known at this time

Other Management Considerations

Other Designations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable
Relationship to other PAs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part of a group of protected areas in the Sabine Channel area of the Strait of Georgia. Complements Jedediah Island Marine Park.
Co-operative Management Arrangements	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable
Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable

Vulnerability



Vulnerable to feral sheep

Relationship to other Strategies



Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy; Marine Protected Areas Strategy

Area: 95 hectares



Date of establishment: April 11, 2001

Zoning Map - Sabine Channel Marine Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83



 Natural Environment
 Protected Area Boundary

0 100
m

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Protection by MSRM, Decision
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