

HALKETT BAY PROVINCIAL MARINE PARK

MASTER PLAN

Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Parks



**HALKETT BAY
PROVINCIAL MARINE PARK**

**MASTER
PLAN**

Prepared By:

SOUTH COAST REGION

HALKETT BAY PROVINCIAL MARINE PARK

MASTER PLAN

December, 1989



Province of
British Columbia

SOUTH COAST REGION

Ministry of
Parks

MEMORANDUM

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Regional Director
South Coast Region

This Master Plan for Halkett Bay Provincial Marine Park
is submitted for your consideration and approval.

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Dec. 15, 1989

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TABLE OF CONTENTS
HALKETT BAY PROVINCIAL MARINE PARK
MASTER PLAN

	Page
1.0 PLAN HIGHLIGHTS	1
2.0 INTRODUCTION	2
2.1 Plan Purpose	2
2.2 Background Summary	2
3.0 THE ROLE OF THE PARK	3
3.1 Regional and Provincial	3
3.2 Conservation Role	5
3.3 Recreation Role	5
4.0 ZONING	6
4.1 Natural Environment Zone	6
4.2 Development Subzone	6
5.0 NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	8
5.1 Land Management	8
5.2 Water Management	8
5.3 Vegetation Management	9
5.4 Wildlife Management	9
5.5 Visual Resource Management	9
6.0 VISITOR SERVICES	10
6.1 Introduction	10
6.2 Visitor Opportunities	10
6.3 Management Services	11
6.4 Marketing and Information Program	13
7.0 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION	14

APPENDIX I
BACKGROUND REPORT

	Page
1.0 INTRODUCTION	15
2.0 NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES	18
2.1 Physiography.....	18
2.2 Fish and Wildlife	18
2.3 Visual Resources	19
2.4 Vegetation.....	20
2.5 Atmosphere.....	20
2.6 Heritage Resources	20
2.7 Resource Analysis	21
3.0 TENURES, OCCUPANCY RIGHTS AND JURISDICTIONS	22
4.0 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES	23
5.0 MARKET ANALYSIS	24
5.1 Existing Use.....	24
5.2 Demand.....	25
5.3 Supply.....	26
6.0 KEY ISSUES	27
6.1 Hunting/Firearms in the Park.....	27
6.2 Log Boom Storage	27
6.3 Level of Development.....	27

APPENDIX II

Readily Noticeable Species of Waterfowl, Waders and Shorebirds in the Howe Sound Area.....	29
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APPENDIX III

Recreation Facilities Available at Parks in Howe Sound	31
BIBLIOGRAPHY	32

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
FIGURE 1 Regional Context Map	4
FIGURE 2 Zoning Map	7
FIGURE 3 Development Plan	12
FIGURE 4 Regional Location.....	16

1.0 PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

Halkett Bay Provincial Marine Park was established June 15, 1988. Its purpose is to provide expanded marine-oriented recreational opportunities in Howe Sound, while conserving the unique visual quality of the area.

Howe Sound has long been popular with pleasure boaters because of its close proximity to the Greater Vancouver, Sunshine Coast and Squamish population. Halkett Bay is currently used by boaters for both day use recreation activities and for overnight moorage.

There are several key issues involved in this plan:

1. Possible conflicts between pleasure boaters using the bay for recreation activities, and the forest industry who use the east side of the bay for storing log booms.
2. Type and level of development.

Based on the purpose of this park and the issues to be addressed, this Master Plan establishes a set of management guidelines and direction statements.

Specifically, the plan recommends:

1. Acquisition of any foreshore leases in Halkett Bay which are used in a manner incompatible with park objectives.
2. Acquisition of D.L. 2259 on Halkett Point.
3. Minimal development of facility-oriented recreation opportunities.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Plan Purpose

The purposes of this park are to expand the recreation opportunities available to the pleasure boater in Howe Sound, and to conserve the unique visual quality of the area surrounding Halkett Bay.

2.2 Background Summary

Located in scenic Howe Sound, Halkett Bay Marine Provincial Park is typical of the glaciated coastline found in the sound. The steeply-sloped mountains, rugged coastlines, and the scattered islands and waters of the sound offer a breathtaking visual experience.

The area is already used by pleasure boaters for day use recreation activities such as hiking, viewing, swimming and picnicking. The bay is also used for overnight moorage.

The park augments swimming, moorage, picnicking, camping and other facilities available at other provincial parks in Howe Sound. As well, there are a number of yacht club or privately-owned outstations on Gambier Island with limited, member-only access.

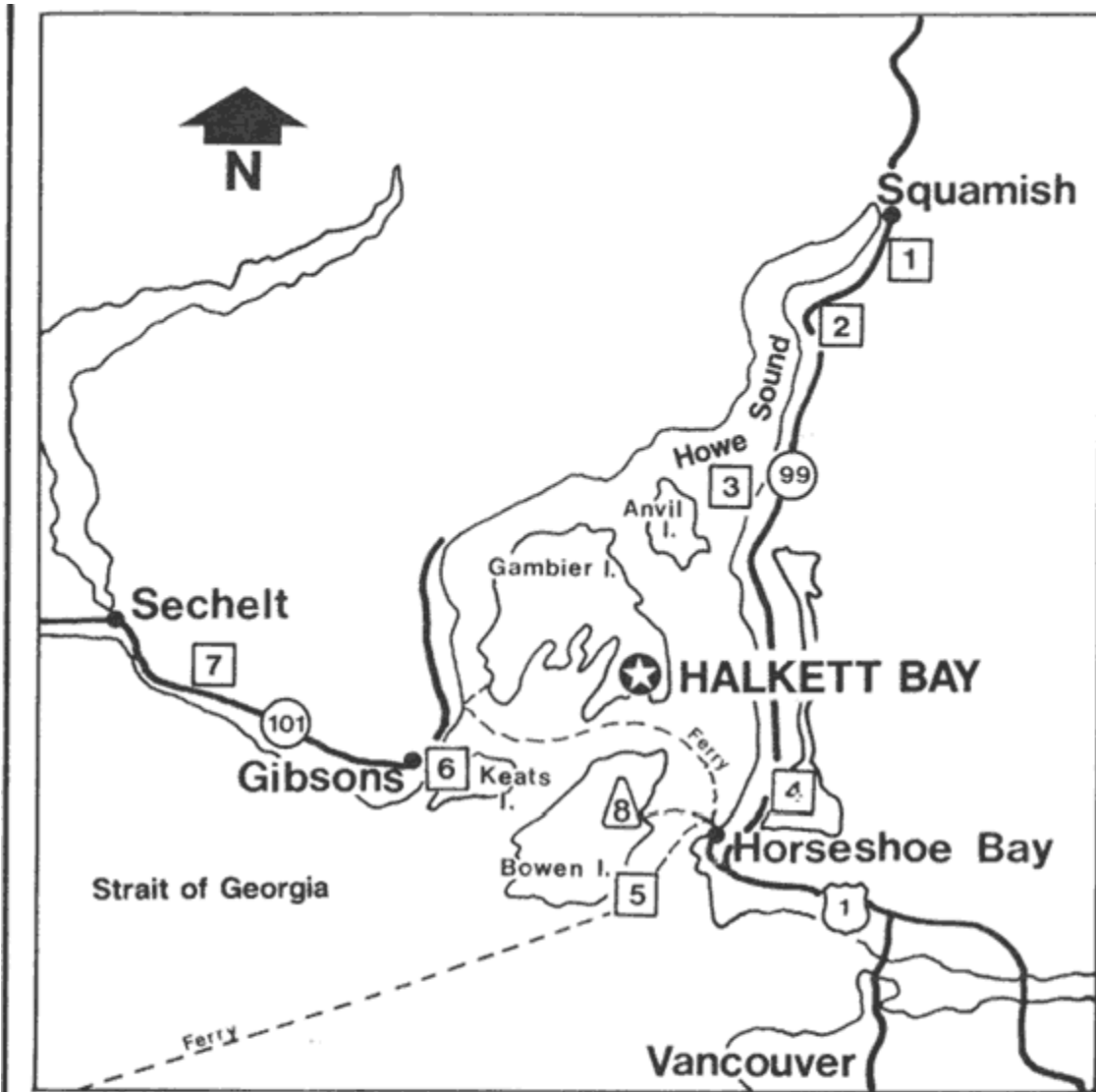
3.0 THE ROLE OF THE PARK

3.1 Regional and Provincial

Halkett Bay Marine Provincial Park is located 15 kilometres from Horseshoe Bay on the southeastern corner of Gambier Island in Howe Sound (Figure 1). Located 40 kilometres from marinas in Vancouver, it is well within day use range of most boaters.

Howe Sound has a history of recreational and industrial uses. The protected anchorages in the bays of Gambier Island have long been used as storage areas for log booms. In addition, the islands and bays of the sound have been popular recreational areas for locals.

The area's natural features, as well as its proximity to a large boating population, make the area a valuable contribution to the park system.



LEGEND

Provincial Parks

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Shannon Falls | 5 Apodaca |
| 2 Murrin | 6 Plumper Cove M. |
| 3 Porteau Cove | 7 Roberts Creek |
| 4 Cypress | |

Regional Parks

- 8 Crippen (GVRD)

SCALE 1 : 400,000

FIGURE 1 Regional Context Map

3.2 Conservation Role

One of the conservation objectives of the Ministry of Parks is to have a park system that contains representative examples of British Columbia's natural landscapes. The natural features of the area with its steep mountains, rugged coastlines and scattered islands in the waters of the sound, provide a good representation of a coastal marine environment. The sheltered, tranquil nature and untouched beauty of Halkett Bay itself are also of significance. The conservation role of the park, therefore, is to conserve and protect a representative portion of the Georgia Lowlands Regional Landscape for the enjoyment of park visitors.

3.3 Recreation Role

The recreation role of the park is to provide moorage, camping, hiking, viewing and picnicking opportunities for the boating public and local residents.

4.0 ZONING

Introduction

To assist in park planning and management, a zoning system is used to divide each park into logical units based upon uniform and consistent management objectives. Zones are intended to reflect future land use, levels of management and development permitted, and the level of human activity that is to be accommodated. If the nature of the zone needs to be more specific, then it is broken down into subzones, which give more detail in respect to area, objectives and management guidelines.

Halkett Bay Provincial Park is zoned entirely Natural Environment Zone, which also includes a Development subzone (Figure 2).

4.1 Natural Environment Zone

This zone provides for a variety of easily accessible outdoor recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment. This zone is characterized by low use levels and minimal development, such as hiking trails, and lookouts to allow visitors a view of Howe Sound and Halkett Bay.

4.2 Development Subzone

This subzone allows high use visitor services such as walk-in campsites, day use picnic area, information/sanitary facilities and a marine wharf (Figure 3).

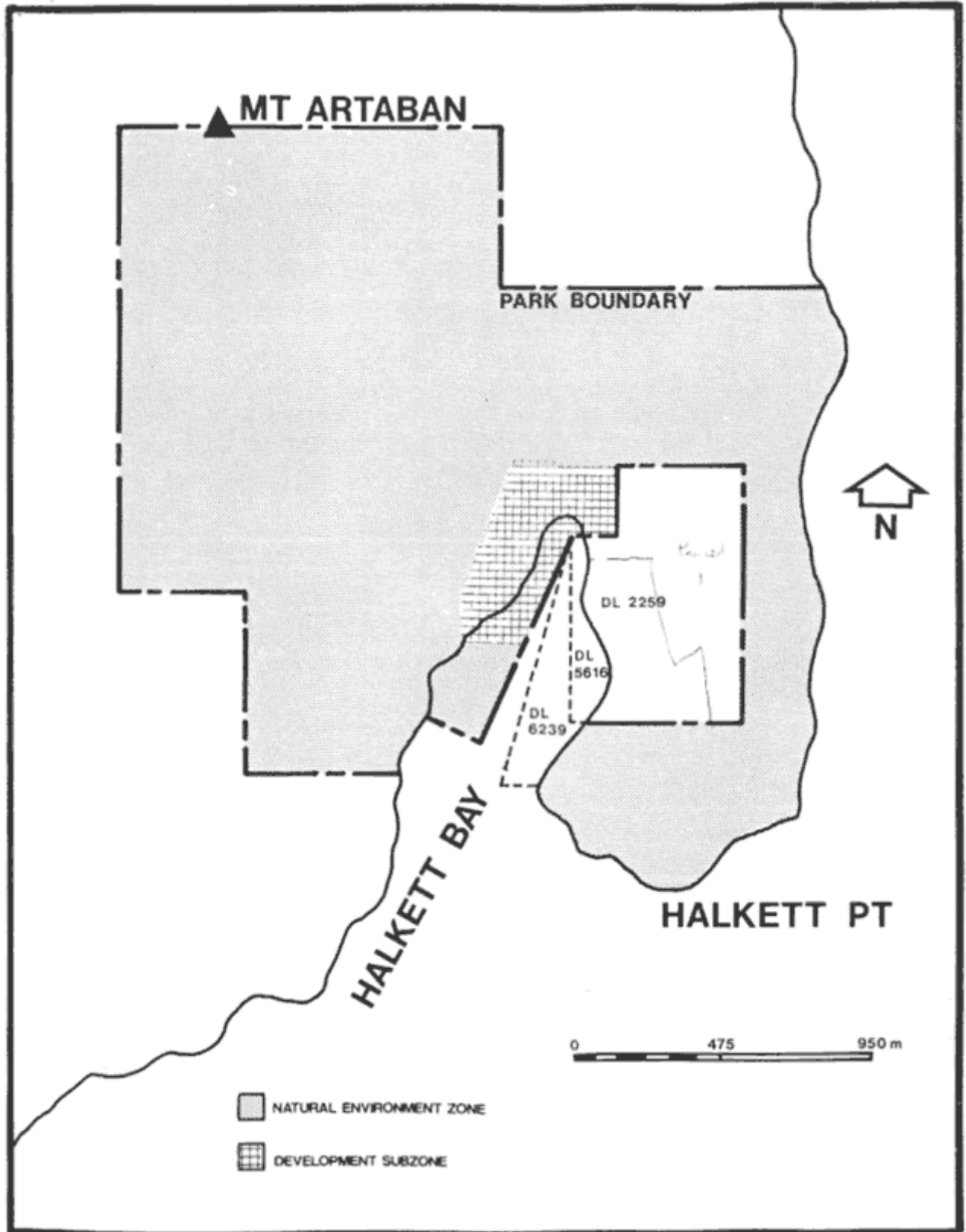


FIGURE 2: Zoning Map

5.0 NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Introduction

The overall management of resources will be based upon the *Park Act*, Park Regulations and ministry policies, and the role of Halkett Bay Provincial Marine Park in the overall system of provincial parks and recreation areas. The resource management objective is to ensure Ministry of Parks' goals are met by:

- protecting the natural resources of the park;
- providing only minimal levels of development for upland camping and water-oriented public recreation;
- monitoring use impacts and resource conditions so that appropriate actions may be taken; and
- establishing resource guidelines that will protect the park's recreation and conservation resources.

5.1 Land Management

There are two inholdings affecting the park. Foreshore on the east side of Halkett Bay is leased by RivTow Straits Ltd. for log boom storage. As well, D.L. 2259, comprising approximately 36 hectares of undeveloped upland on the west side of Halkett Point is owned by RivTow Straits Ltd.

Objective: To remove any fee-simple inholding incompatible with the recreation and conservation goals of the park.

Action: The Ministry of Parks should acquire D.L. 2259 from RivTow Straits Ltd. when priorities permit purchase and enter into discussions with RivTow to determine their future log storage needs as they affect the park.

5.2 Water Management

Objective: To maintain and preserve a high degree of water quality for the streams and foreshore within Halkett Bay Provincial Park.

Action: Ensure sanitary facilities are properly designed and located. There will be minimal park development adjacent to streams, in order to lessen the impact of recreational use.

5.3 Vegetation Management

Generally, the vegetation in the park is a well-established mix of mature and immature species. These are unlikely to require any significant action.

Objective: To maximize the preservation of existing vegetation.

Action: Comply with standard Parks policy with respect to forest and vegetation management. Fires will only be allowed in designated areas due to the difficulty of suppressing any wildfires because of the limited land access.

5.4 Wildlife Management

The wildlife resources associated with the park are largely transient.

Objective: To maintain wildlife levels in the park.

Action: Protect existing wildlife habitat and food sources in the park. The park will remain closed to hunting.

5.5 Visual Resource Management

The visual resources identified in the Background Report will be a high priority for preservation and enhancement.

Objective: To preserve and enhance the major visual experiences in the park.

Action: Provide trail access to natural lookouts on the summit of Mt. Artaban and on Halkett Point for improved visual access to Howe Sound and Gambier Island.

6.0 VISITOR SERVICES

6.1 Introduction

Halkett Bay Marine Provincial Park will be used by local residents but the main target group for marketing will be recreational boaters from the marinas of Greater Vancouver. Recreationalists without boats and wanting to enjoy Halkett Bay Provincial Park can obtain marine access utilizing available water taxi service. The visitor services concept for this park will be to provide access, information and interpretation of the resources and to develop camping and day use opportunities.

The information strategy will be directed towards the target group by providing information prior to entering the park, upon arrival, and while engaging in park activities. This will be accomplished through the Marine Parks of British Columbia brochure, tourist information centres and district park headquarters. On-site information, including park regulations and features, will be conveyed by information signs.

Interpretation initiatives will consist of a signed, self-guiding interpretive trail possibly on the theme of succession in a hardwood (broadleaf) forest.

6.2 Visitor Opportunities

There are five major visitor opportunities available in Halkett Bay Marine Provincial Park. They are boating, viewing, hiking/walking, camping and picnicking. The objectives for each opportunity are as follows:

- Boating: to provide safe, secure and sheltered moorage
- Viewing: to enhance the viewing opportunities through the development of trails
- Hiking/walking: to provide trails to the summit of Mt. Artaban and to Halkett Point
- Camping: to provide walk-in camping facilities
- Picnicking: to provide facilities to enhance day use

For Halkett Bay Park to realize its recreation and conservation objectives, the following facilities and services are proposed:

- information shelter/marine portal
- sanitary facilities
- hand pump/potable water supply system
- 20-unit upland walk-in camping area
- upland picnic area including picnic shelter
- big leaf maple interpretive trail
- signed trail to summit of Mt. Artaban
- signed trail to Halkett Point

Figure 3 represents the park's development plan.

6.3 Management Services

a) Headquarters and Service Yards -

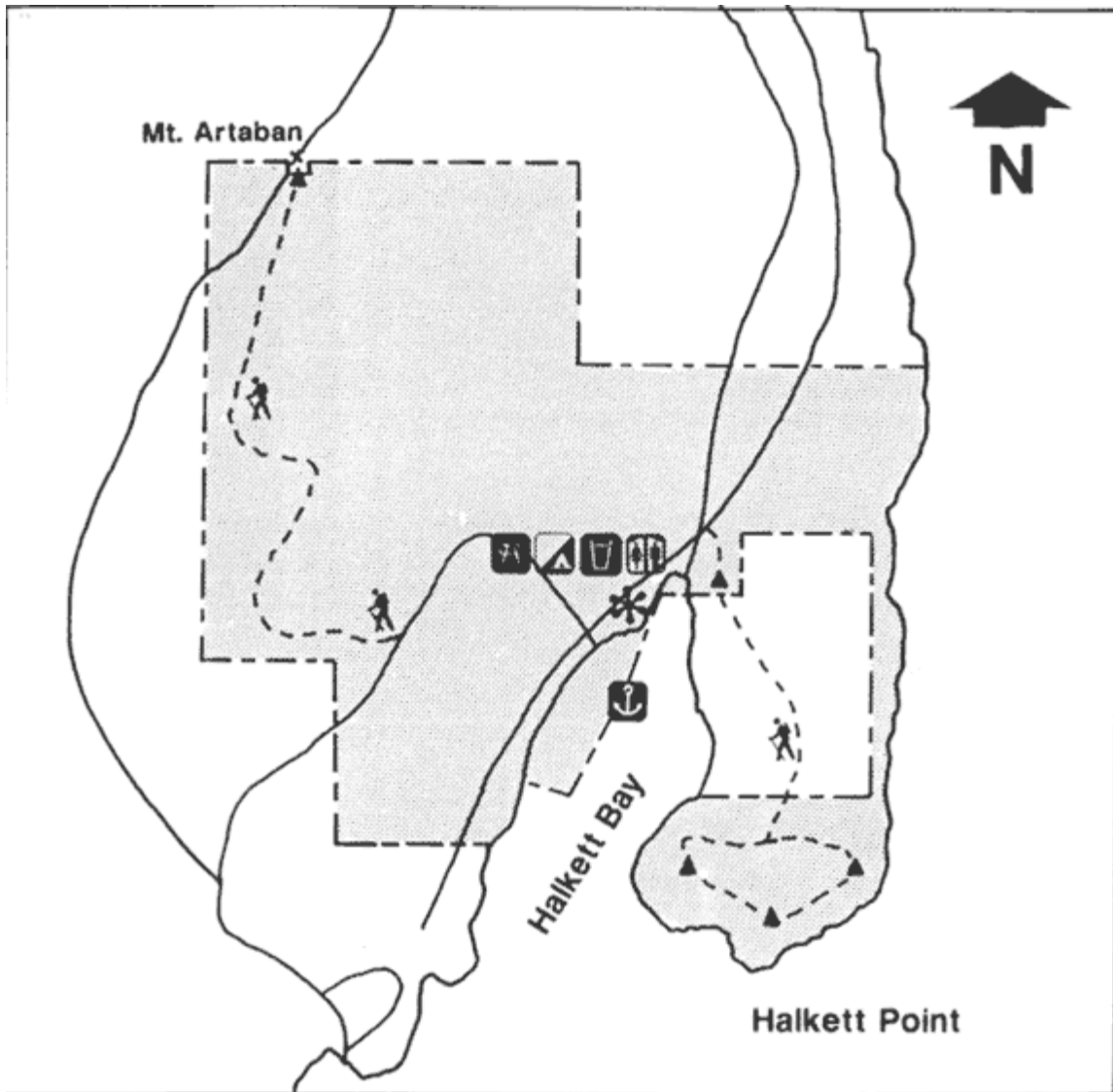
Overall management of Halkett Bay Marine Provincial Park falls under the jurisdiction of the Garibaldi/Sunshine Coast District office, with specific park management guidance coming from the local office at Porpoise Bay Provincial Park, four kilometres east of Sechelt. Inter-agency cooperation will continue with Islands Trust.

b) Site and Facility Design Standards -

All sites and facilities developed for public use within the park will meet the design standards of the Ministry of Parks. Attention will be paid to consideration of safety, visual values, and operation efficiency, while providing rustic, durable and cost-efficient products.

c) Safety and Health -

The safety of park visitors is a paramount concern. Natural hazards easily accessible to the public will be appropriately posted, removed or minimized. There will be periodic safety inspections of all high use areas.



LEGEND

- Park Boundary
- Logging Roads
- - - Proposed Trails
- ▲ Proposed Lookouts
- * Walk-in Campsite

Scale 1 : 20,000

FIGURE 3: Development Plan

6.4 Marketing and Information Program

The marketing strategy for Halkett Bay Marine Provincial Park focuses on directing facilities and services to the group with the most potential for providing increased levels of park use. This group has been identified as the recreational boater departing from the marinas in the Vancouver area. The main opportunity to be marketed is that of a destination marine park within day use range of Vancouver.

For those not owning boats, a water taxi service is available to provide day users and campers marine access.

Park brochures and staff will provide pre-visit information to all visitors.

Information centres at Vancouver and Horseshoe Bay will provide information on the park to boaters. Other marine parks in Howe Sound will each provide regional recreation information, including information on Halkett Bay Provincial Marine Park.

7.0 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The majority of actions recommended in this plan can be implemented as part of the park's normal management procedures. Other actions, such as new development, will be phased over a period of time as regional and district priorities dictate, and in accordance with the following levels of priority.

PHASE I

- provide information services
- provide sanitary facilities
- acquire D.L. 2559 and associated foreshore
- hand pump/potable water supply
- upland camping and picnic area

PHASE II

- signed trails to Halkett Point and to the summit of Mt. Artaban

APPENDIX I

Background Report

APPENDIX I
BACKGROUND REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Halkett Bay Provincial Marine Park encompasses 290 hectares of upland and 19 hectares of foreshore on the southeastern corner of Gambier Island. Located 15 kilometres from Horseshoe Bay and 40 kilometres from marinas in Vancouver, it is well within day use range of most local boaters. At this time, access is almost exclusively by boat (Figure 4).

In June of 1792, Captain George Vancouver ascended Howe Sound in a longboat, surveying the coast and searching for the fabled "Northwest Passage". Vancouver named this sound after Admiral Richard Scrope, Earl Howe, who later became the hero in a British naval victory.* Captain Richards, R.H., who made a more detailed survey in 1859-60, named all the principle islands, passages and mountains of the area after vessels and officers engaged in Earl Howe's victorious combat. Halkett Bay and Halkett Point are named after Sir Peter Halkett, Bart., who was in the service at the time of Lord Howe's victory.

There has been a history of industrial and recreational development in Howe Sound. The protected anchorages in the bays of Gambier Island have long been used as storage areas for log booms being transported down the coast to mills in the Lower Mainland. Gambier Island itself has been logged at various times. As well, parts of the island have been subject to mineral exploration, and several valid claims still exist.

* Known as the "Glorious First of June", Lord Howe in command of twenty-five sail and seven frigates, attacked and defeated a French fleet under the command of Admiral Villaret in June, 1794.

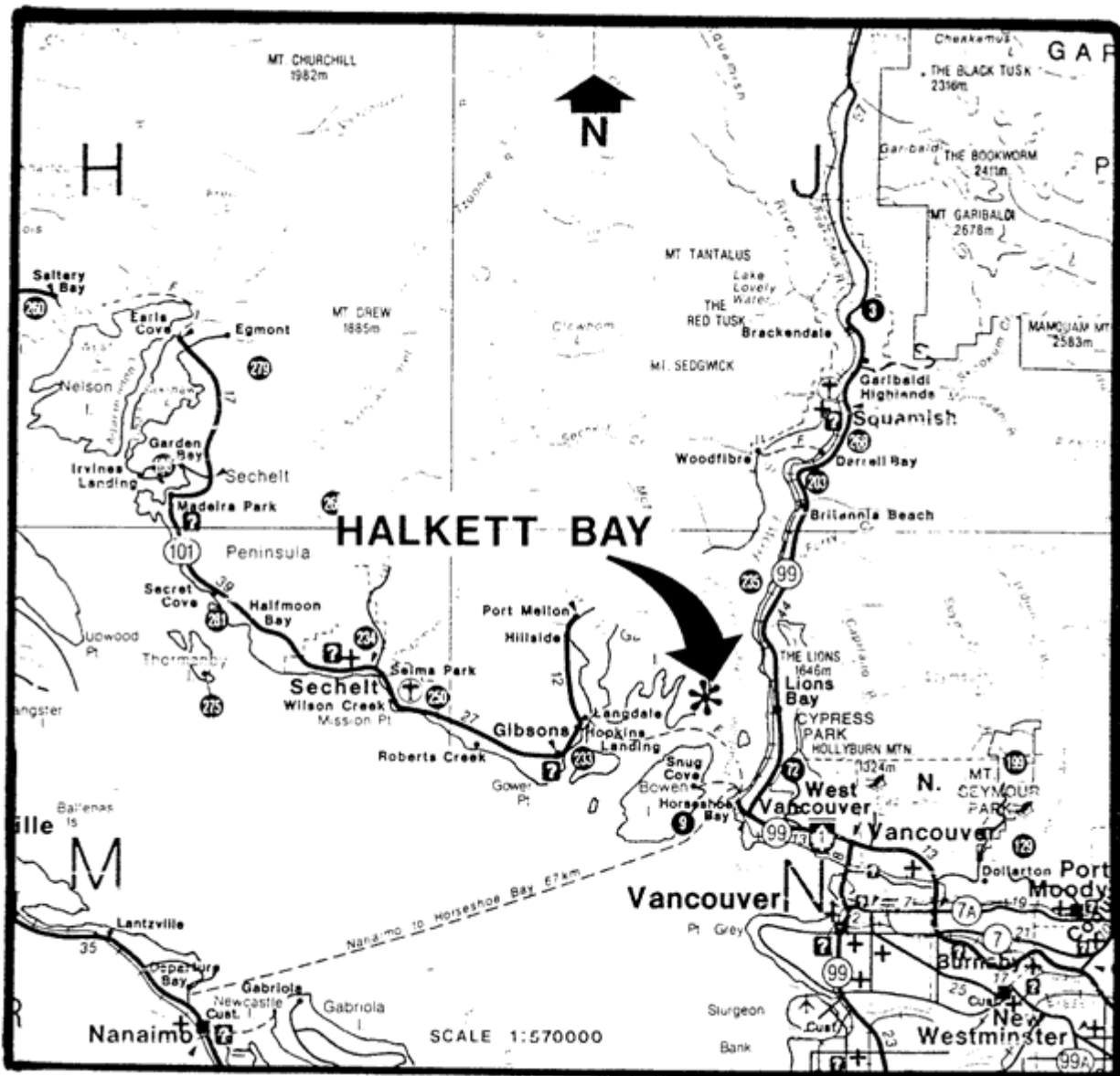


FIGURE 4 : Regional Location

Howe Sound has been a popular recreation area amongst locals for decades. The Union Steamship Company organized regular excursions to Bowen Island, and in the 1930's, dance cruises reached their heyday. The Union Steamship Company also provided a regular ferry service throughout Howe Sound well into the 1950's. In more recent times, the sound has become popular with recreational boaters because of its sheltered and scenic waters.

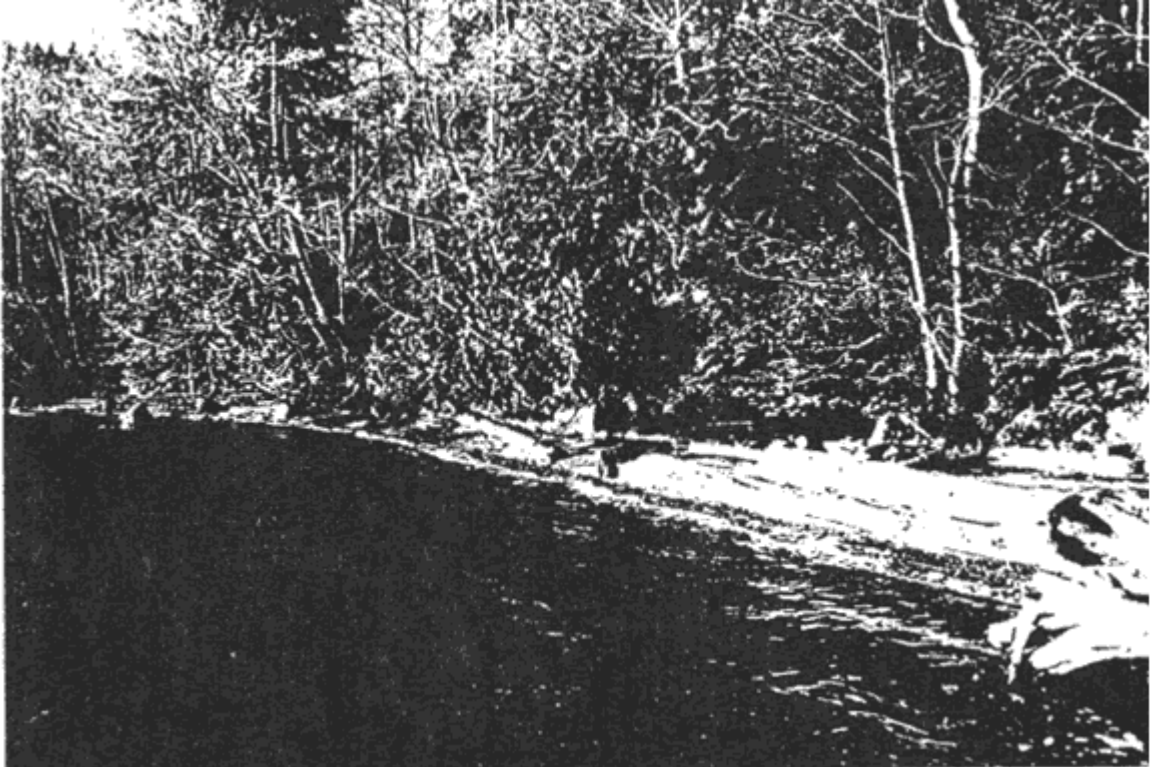
The islands of Howe Sound have been subject to urban development by those seeking a more rustic lifestyle in close proximity to Vancouver. Urban development has been concentrated on Bowen Island and the west side of Gambier Island. The east side of Gambier Island, including Halkett Bay, has remained largely undeveloped with only trail access to the park.

A recreation reserve was placed over Crown-owned lands on Halkett Point in 1959. In 1976, the Gambier Island Official Community Plan recommended and zoned Halkett Bay as a marine park. A park proposal was developed in 1979, and in 1988 Halkett Bay was established as a Class "A" Provincial Marine Park.

2.0 NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

2.1 Physiography

Halkett Bay Marine Provincial Park is located in the Georgia Lowlands Regional Landscape. Typical of the area, the glaciated coastline has rock outcroppings and small beaches. The composition of these beaches consists of a mixture of pebbles, gravel and sand material.



There are many logs lying on the beaches of Halkett Bay. These afford opportunities for beachcombing.

2.2 Fish and Wildlife

The fish and wildlife resources of the island are typical of the larger islands in the Howe Sound region. There is a resident black-tail deer population as well as many small mammals such as squirrels, marten, mink and raccoons.

Waterfowl and shorebirds are also abundant on the island. Ducks, geese, swans, gulls, grebes and cormorants are some of the waterfowl present (Appendix II). Other birds present are ruffed grouse, bald eagles and several other types of raptors. Howe Sound supports populations of game fish, including salmon and rock and ling cod. There are also marine bottom dwelling species such as shellfish (oysters, clams, mussels, scallops), crustaceans (crabs, shrimp, prawns), octopus, sponges, anemones and starfish.

2.3 Visual Resources

The major visual resource of the area is Howe Sound itself. The scenic resources in Howe Sound are found in its steep mountains, rugged coastlines, and the scattered islands and waters of the sound. The second major view is of Halkett Bay with Mt. Artaban as a backdrop, and seen by water. This view captures the sheltered, tranquil nature and untouched beauty of the area.



Halkett Point and Mt. Artaban as seen by water

2.4 Vegetation

The park lies within the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone (Krajina, 1970). The characteristic species associated with this zone, and found in the park, include Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). Other existing tree species are Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*) and Broadleaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*). The understorey consists of Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*), Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), Red Huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*) and Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*). Mosses present include *Plagiothecium undulatum*, *Rhacomitrium* spp., and *Dicranum* spp. Examples of Arbutus (*Arbutus menziesii*) can also be found on drier, well drained sites.

2.5 Atmosphere

The climate of the area is typical of the lower west coast marine climate with mild, wet winters and moderately warm, dry and sunny summers. The mean average temperatures range from 16 degrees Celsius in August to 4 degrees Celsius in January (the mean temperature for May to September is 14 degrees Celsius). The precipitation averages approximately 300 to 325 centimetres per year (the mean precipitation for May to September is approximately 25 to 30 centimetres).

2.6 Heritage Resources

The heritage resources in the park area include two shell middens (DiRt 11 and 12) of the Coast Salish/Squamish Indians. They are located on the west shore and at the head of Halkett Bay. The sites are classed as being in poor condition because of disturbances by wave action and past logging activity.

2.7 Resource Analysis

The area's marine, fishery and coastal resources are prime assets for recreation development, all of which contribute towards the overall conservation and recreation goals of the Ministry of Parks. The recreational focus of the area is on the coastal marine environment which serves as the main feature for serving our recreational goals. The visual opportunities associated with Halkett Bay will also attract visitors. Our conservation goals will be served through the maintenance of the unique visual quality of Howe Sound and the surrounding area.



O.I.C. Holdings Ltd. holds a foreshore lease on the east side of Halkett Bay which is used for log boom storage.

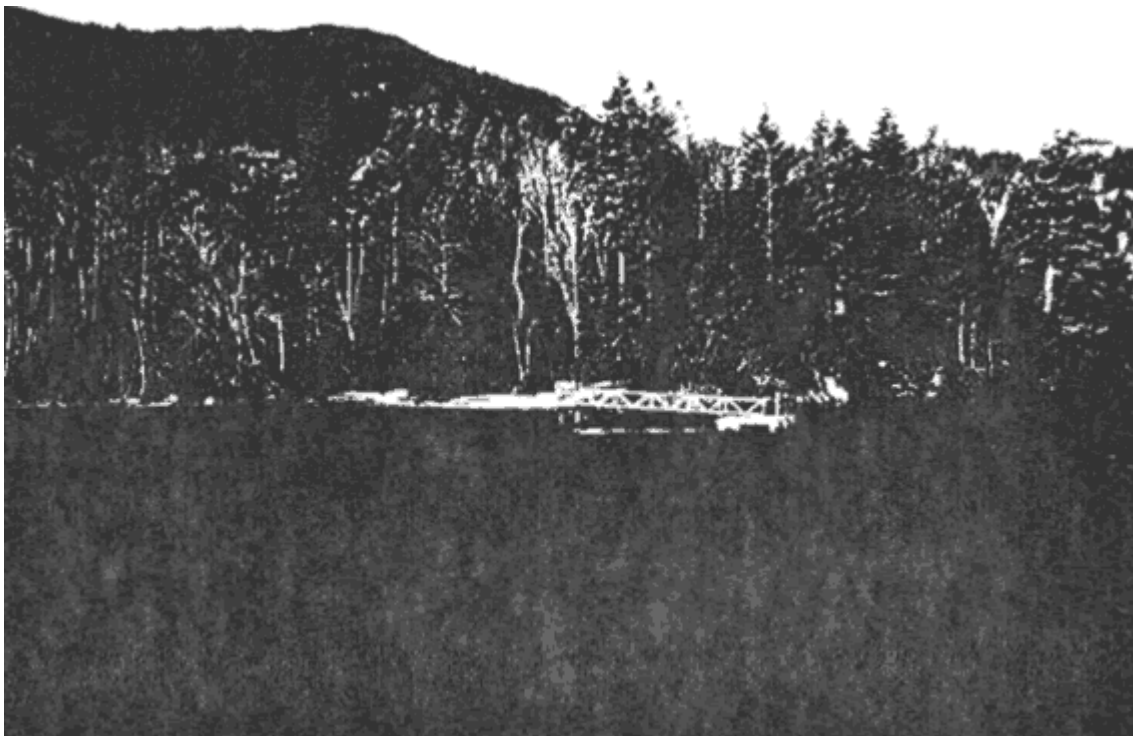
3.0 TENURES, OCCUPANCY RIGHTS AND JURISDICTIONS

Leases and Permits	:	None
Fee Simple Inholding	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) D.L. 2259 is owned by RivTow Straits Ltd.2) RivTow also has applied for foreshore leases on D.L. 5616 and Block A of D.L. 6239.3) O.I.C. Holdings Ltd. holds a small foreshore lease within D.L. 6239 which is used for log boom storage.
Forest Tenures	:	None
Water Rights	:	None
Rights-of-Way	:	None
Mineral Claims	:	None
Trespasses	:	None
Statutory Jurisdiction:		<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) No hunting or firearms within park boundaries.2) No salmon sport fishing on the eastern shore of Halkett Point from June 1 to December 1.3) Shellfish collection will be subject to seasonal closure regulations.

4.0 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

The natural resources of the area have a high capability for a variety of recreational activities. Present recreation activities include sailing, cruising, water skiing and fishing. There are suitable areas for onshore opportunities such as camping and picnicking. In addition, the open bedrock uplands within the park, including Mt. Artaban, provide excellent opportunities for hiking and viewing. Other activities which occur are swimming, beachcombing and underwater diving.

With the aid of a grant from Canadian National Sportsmens' Shows, a wharf was built in late 1988 to facilitate upland access. To date, there has been no development of upland facilities.



Wharf and float constructed in 1988 at Halkett Bay

5.0 MARKET ANALYSIS

5.1 Existing Use

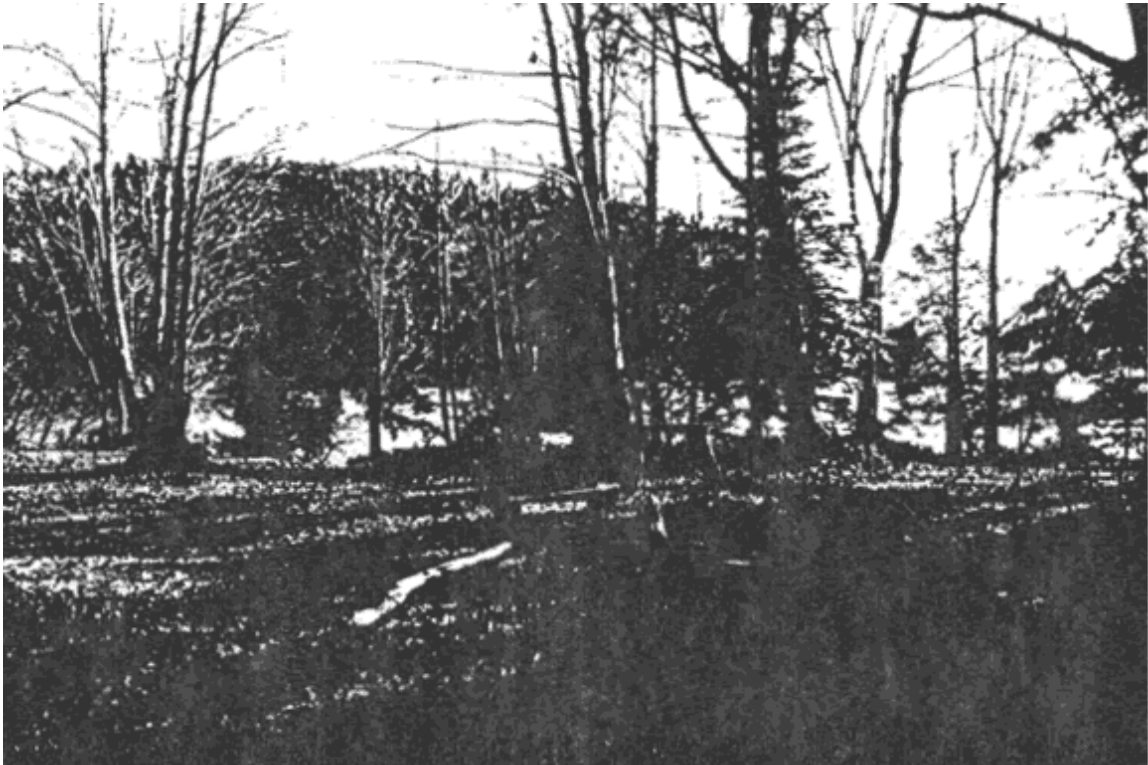
Log Booms provide moorage for boaters. The existing old logging roads serve as trails providing access to the island's interior. As well, the immediate upland is utilized by boaters for day use. As the wharf was completed very late in the year, it is likely that very few boaters are aware of its existence.



The old logging roads readily facilitate access to the interior of Gambier Island, as many of them link up with existing trails on the Island

5.2 Demand

Fishing, sailing and cruising are long-established recreation activities in Howe Sound. While over 2,700 boats are moored in the Sound, some 13,000 households in Gibsons, Squamish and the North Shore own one or two boats, and 43,000 households in Greater Vancouver own a boat (Mos and Harrison, 1974). A weekend day sees some 400 boats on the sound, yet there are virtually no on-shore recreation facilities available to the boating public on Gambier island. Existing facilities in Howe Sound are very heavily used. High demand is further evidenced by the use of undeveloped areas such as Halkett Bay.



The pastoral upland areas of Halkett Bay are already used by boaters for day use.

5.3 Supply

Recreational opportunities for the pleasure boater in Howe Sound are focused on provincial parks, yacht club and privately-owned out-stations, and other areas where boaters can gain upland access. Also, there is Crippen Regional Park at Snug Cove on Bowen Island which is administered by Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks Department. The facilities available at these locations can be found in Appendix III. Given the heavy use of existing facilities, the current use of undeveloped areas, and the fact that the four bays of Gambier Island are some of the most popular boating destinations in Howe Sound, development of facilities at Halkett Bay is both needed and desirable.

6.0 KEY ISSUES

6.1 Hunting/Firearms in the Park

There are to be no firearms or hunting within the park. This will necessitate the clear identification of park boundaries on the upland to ensure hunting regulations are not violated.

6.2 Log Boom Storage

Possible conflict could arise between pleasure boaters and holders of foreshore leases on the east side of Halkett Bay, as they use the area for storage of log booms. A positive aspect of the booms is that they can provide additional moorage for boaters. However, the booms restrict upland access and can reduce visitors' visual enjoyment of the area. As well, the bark and other litter from the booms accumulates beneath the boom storage area and degrades the quality of the marine environment below. This has a detrimental effect on the quality of diving in the area, as it reduces both the quantity and variety of marine flora and fauna available for viewing.

6.3 Level of Development

Halkett Bay Provincial Marine Park is to be managed for marine upland camping and water-oriented public recreation. The immediate pastoral upland is to be minimally developed to provide a variety of facility-oriented recreation opportunities such as camping, picnicking, information and sanitary facilities. The surrounding area of rugged rock outcroppings and coniferous forest is to be preserved as much as possible in its natural state. Development in this area will be limited to trails and lookouts, providing visitors superb views of Howe Sound.

Pollution could be a problem as use increases. This concern encompasses both litter in the park itself, as well as sewage from boats in the bay. Through an awareness program, boaters will be encouraged to take with them all litter and garbage, and not to release their holding tanks in the bay.

Fire control will be a concern with higher use. The limited land access to the park makes suppression of any wildfires that may occur most difficult. Therefore, no fires will be allowed in the park, except in designated areas.

APPENDIX II

Readily Noticeable Species of Waterfowl, Waders
and Shorebirds in the Howe Sound Area

APPENDIX 11

A Partial List of Readily Noticeable Species of Waterfowl, Waders and Shorebirds in the Howe Sound Area

Waterfowl

Dabbling Ducks

- Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
- American Wigeon (*Anas americana*)
- Pintae (*Anas acuta*)

Diving Ducks

- Scaup (*Anthya* spp.)
- Goldeneye (*Bucephala* spp.)
- Scoter (*Melanitta* spp.)
- Merganser (*Merginae*)
- Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*)

Geese and Swans

- Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*)
- Whistling Swan (*Olor columbianus*)
- Trumpeter Swan (*Olor buccinator*)

Gulls

- Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glucescens*)
- Mew Gull (*Larus canus*)
- Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)
- Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*)

Seabirds

- Common Murre (*Uria aalge*)
- Marbled Murrelet (*Barchyramphus marmoratum*)
- Pigeon Guillemot (*Cepphus Columba*)
- Grebe (*Podicipedidae*)
- Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax* spp.)
- Loon (*Gavia* spp.)

Shorebirds

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus Scholopaceus*)

Western Sandpiper (*Calidis mauri*)

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*)

Yellowlegs (*Tringa* spp.)

Waders

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*)














* Source: *Howe Sound Overview Study*

APPENDIX III

Recreation Facilities Available at Parks in Howe Sound

APPENDIX III

Recreation Facilities Available in Howe Sound

PROVINCIAL PARKS													
Plumper Cove	16	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•
Porteau Cove	44	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•
Apodaca*		•	•	•	•	•							•
<hr/>													
GVRD PARKS													
<hr/>													
Crippen		•	•	•	•	•					•		•
<hr/>													

*PROPOSED

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2. Mos, Gerard J. and Harrison, Mary C. *Resident Boating in Georgia Strait*, 1974.