

WHALEBOAT ISLAND MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

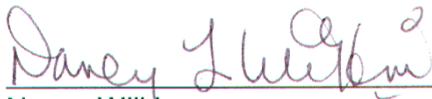
August 2003

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

WHALEBOAT ISLAND MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Whaleboat Island Marine Park is to protect an entire forested island and part of the marine foreshore. The small rocky ten-hectare island, off the south end of Ruxton Island, is part of the beautiful De Courcy Group of islands. Small marine islets like Whaleboat are important wildlife habitat as they are isolated from larger land predators. Birds like American black oystercatchers, pigeon guillemots, gulls and cormorants are potential nesters on these islands. Marine mammals such as harbour seals, northern and California sea lions, orcas, and other dolphins have been spotted foraging in the reefs off the islands. Herring spawn along the shoreline.

Secondary Role

The **secondary** role is to provide marine-oriented recreation opportunities. The De Courcy Group of islands provide stunning paddling, boating and wildlife viewing opportunities around the interesting geological formations and sheltered intertidal shore. Steep banks and difficult access have prevented any development on this island and continue to protect it from recreational disturbances .

Tertiary Role

The **tertiary** role is to protected cultural heritage features. Traditionally the islets were important to First Nations for bird egg gathering and food plant collection. In the 1940s there was a booming logging industry on the islands and Whaleboat Island was logged at this time. Remnants of the industry lie hidden in the now reforested understory.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Lack of knowledge of natural and cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Undertake field assessment of natural values of park including rare and endangered species and sensitive areas. ➤ Assess nesting bird habitat. ➤ Conduct an inventory of cultural values in consultation with First Nations.
Minor impacts of recreation use (litter) and lack of sanitation facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop sign to inform public of appropriate use in a provincial park . ➤ Recruit park volunteers or stewardship groups to help protect natural values. ➤ Investigate installation of sanitation facilities, when warranted by impacts to the environment.
Lack of foreshore to protect marine values and control access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pursue the addition of the foreshore to secure access and protect marine values.

Zoning

Natural Environment Zone – covers the entire park (10 ha) to reflect the recreation and conservation 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 Whaleboat Island Marine Park contributes very minimally (0.08%) to the representation of the Southern Gulf Islands Ecosection which has only 5.62% protected provincially. It also contributes very minimally (0.09%) to the representation of the Strait of Georgia *Marine* Ecosection of which only 0.94% is protected provincially.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant Whaleboat Island Marine Park contributes very minimally (0.04%) to the representation of the CDFmm variant which has only 2.43% protected provincially. However, any protected that contributes to the protection of this ecosystem may be considered important given the fragmented nature of this ecosystem and the limited opportunities available for its protection.
- Special Features Values unknown for island and foreshore
- Rare/Endangered Values Values unknown
- Scientific/Research Opportunities Assess nesting bird habitat

Recreation

- Representation
backcountry Not Applicable
destination Not Applicable
travel corridor Marine route in the southern Gulf Islands
local recreation Limited day use and overnight opportunities for boaters and kayakers as landing and, therefore access, is difficult; sometimes used as an overflow area for boaters when Pirates Cove Park is full. Wildlife viewing
- Special Opportunities None known at this time
- Education/Interpretation Opportunities None known at this time

Cultural Heritage

- Representation Traditional First Nations egg gathering and food plant collection site.
- Special Feature Remnants of logging industry

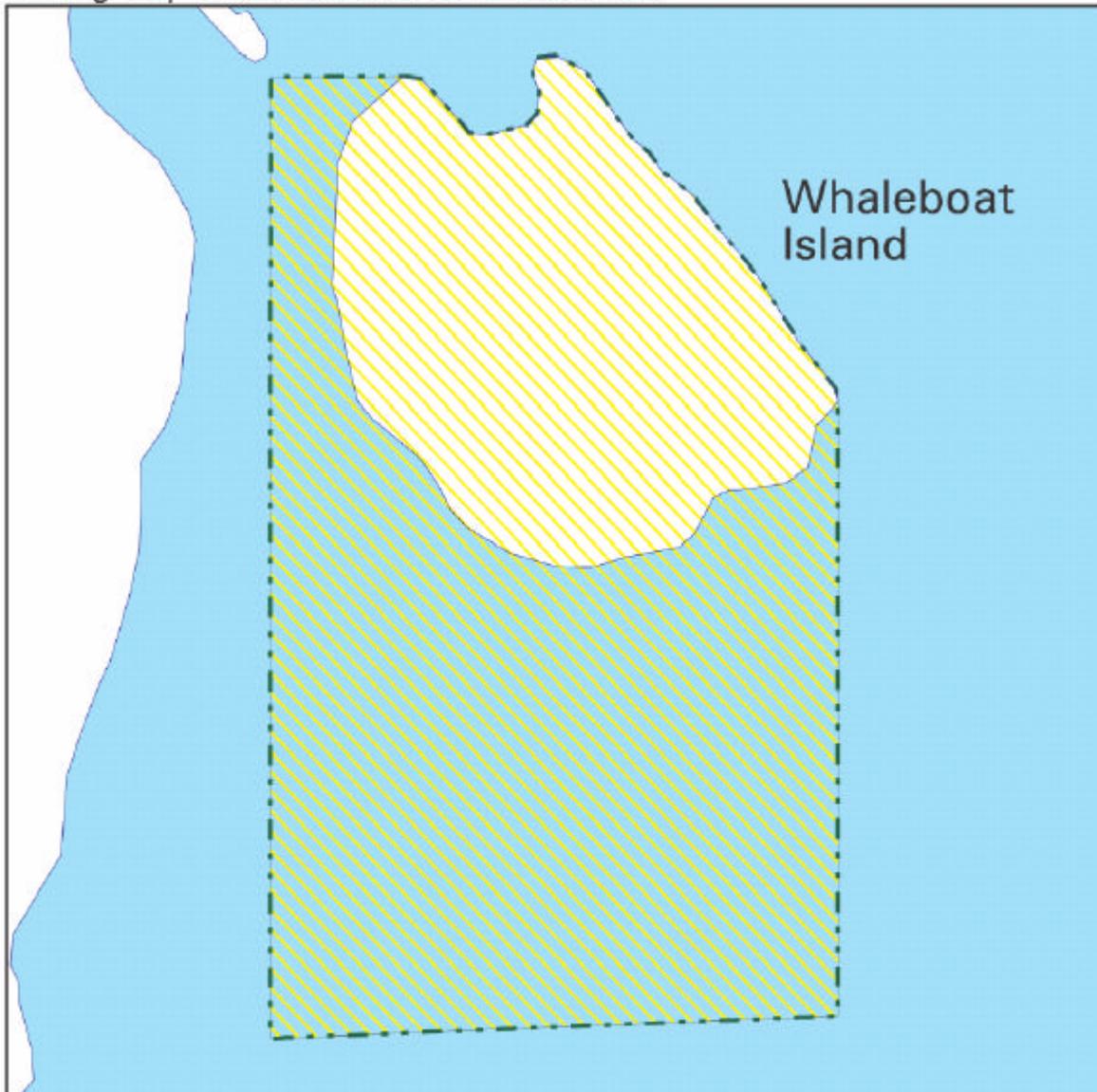
Other Management Considerations

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Other Designations | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not Applicable |
| Relationship to other PAs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | One of 21 marine protected areas in the southern Vancouver Island area |
| Co-operative Management Arrangements | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not Applicable |
| Partnerships | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not Applicable |
| Vulnerability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Visitor impact, unattended fires, no toilet facilities, no staff presence, increasing recreational use, concentrated small boat anchoring, exploitation of marine species within the park |
| Relationship to other Strategies | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Marine Protected Areas Strategy, Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy |

Area: 10 hectares (7ha foreshore, 3ha upland)

Date of establishment: November 5, 1981

Zoning Map - Whaleboat Island Marine Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NADB3



 Natural Environment
 Protected Area Boundary



Produced in Feb 2003 for
Ministry of Water, Land and Air
Protection by MSRM, Decision
Support Services

This is a visual representation
only and should not be used for
legal purposes.