

# Kelp Inventory, 1976

## Part 3. North & West Coasts

### Graham Island (Q.C.I.)

L.M. COON

W. ROLAND

E.J. FIELD

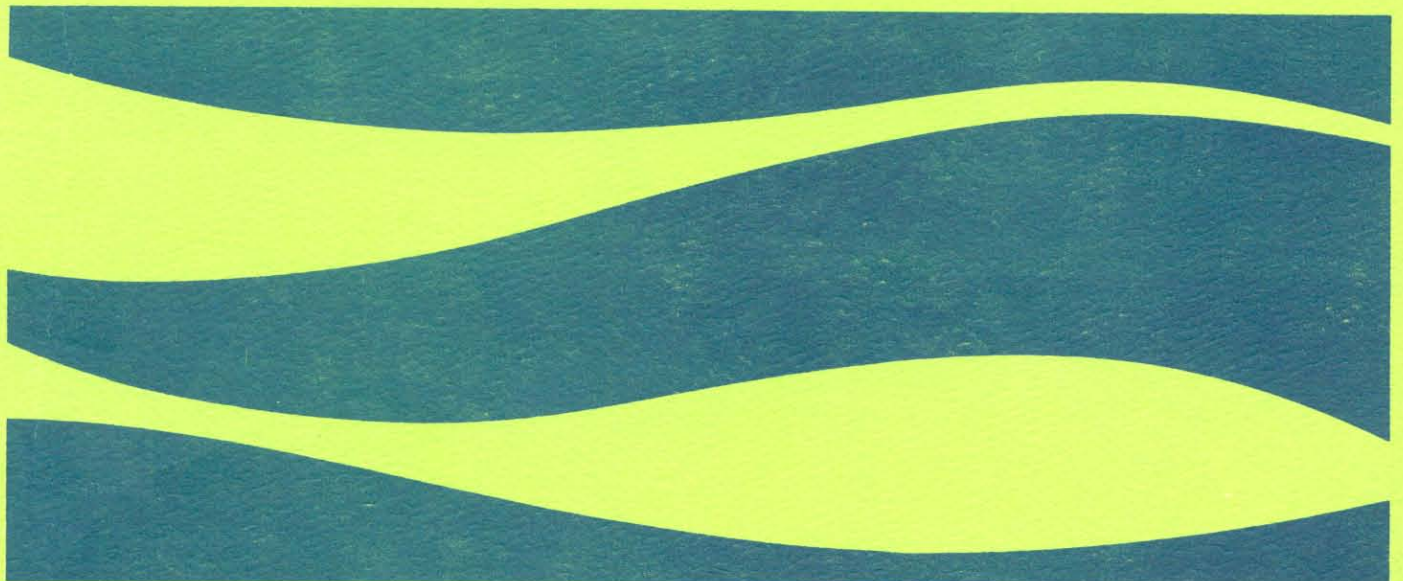
W.E.L. CLAYTON



**marine resources branch**

Ministry of Environment  
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

---



KELP INVENTORY, 1976. PART 3

NORTH AND WEST COASTS GRAHAM ISLAND

(QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS)

by

L.M. Coon, W. Roland, E.J. Field and W.E.L. Clayton

*Fisheries Development Report No. 13*

*Marine Resources Branch  
Ministry of Environment  
Province of British Columbia*

*May, 1979*

*Reprinted October 1980*

A report on a Federal-Provincial Shared-Cost Project financed jointly by Marine Resources Branch, British Columbia Ministry of Environment, and Fisheries and Marine Service (Pacific Region) of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.



## Introduction

In 1976 the Marine Plant Section of the Marine Resources Branch undertook a program to locate and quantify the standing crop of the economically important canopy-forming kelps, *Macrocystis integrifolia* Bory and *Nereocystis leutkeana* (Mertens) Postels and Ruprecht. Five areas were surveyed in August and September, 1976; this report on the kelp stocks of the northwest and north coasts of Graham Island, in the Queen Charlotte Islands, is the third of the series (Field *et al.*, 1977; Field and Clark, 1978). Foreman (1975) developed the basic survey method (KIM-1) used in this program.

Kelp inventory data provide information vital to the evolving kelp management program in British Columbia. Data are collected to provide a basis for resource allocation through licencing, and for establishing area-specific harvest quotas.

Because kelp beds are important to other marine species, there are a growing number of other users of kelp inventory data, particularly those preparing environmental impact statements for major coastal developments or oil transport systems. Inventory charts will also be of value to those conducting surveys of herring spawn, abalone and sea urchins (Coon, 1977).

The north coast of Graham Island, the largest land mass of the Queen Charlotte Archipelago, has long been reported to support some of the most extensive kelp beds on the coast of British Columbia. Yet commercial attention did not focus on these kelp resources until 1966. Apparently the relative isolation of the Queen Charlotte Islands accounted for their being neglected by early kelp survey efforts (Cameron, 1916; Anon., 1947).

North Pacific Marine Products Ltd. was granted kelp harvesting licences covering the whole of the Queen Charlotte Islands in late 1966. In 1967 the company performed an inventory of the kelp stocks

between the Mazarredo Islands and Kliki Damen Creek (Figure 1) on the North Coast of Graham Island (Norpac, 1967). In 1969 the company, renamed Canada Kelp Ltd., encountered financial difficulties and went into receivership before their kelp meal plant and harvester were completed.

In 1973, Equatorial Resources Ltd. purchased the Masset kelp processing plant which had been abandoned by Canada Kelp Ltd. A subsidiary, Kelpac Industries Ltd., attempted to modify the plant and produce kelp meal. Financial problems also forced the abandonment of this commercial attempt about a year and a half after it carried out a trial run of the plant in the late summer of 1973 (Whyte and Englar, 1974).

Spurred by the previously described resource development effort, a team with joint Federal-Provincial funding undertook a second inventory of the floating kelp resources in this area during August-September, 1973 (Blakely and Chalmers, 1973). This survey was limited to a region within an 18 mile radius of Masset; this was generally believed to be the economical operating range of a kelp harvesting vessel.

This region was further visited by Marine Resources Branch staff who, in 1974, conducted a preliminary study of the impact of harvesting on *Macrocystis* regrowth in McIntyre Bay (Coon and Roland, 1979).

This report presents the results of the 1976 Marine Resources Branch survey of the standing crop of *Nereocystis* and *Macrocystis*, along the northwest and north coasts of Graham Island. The results are compared with those obtained in the two earlier surveys.

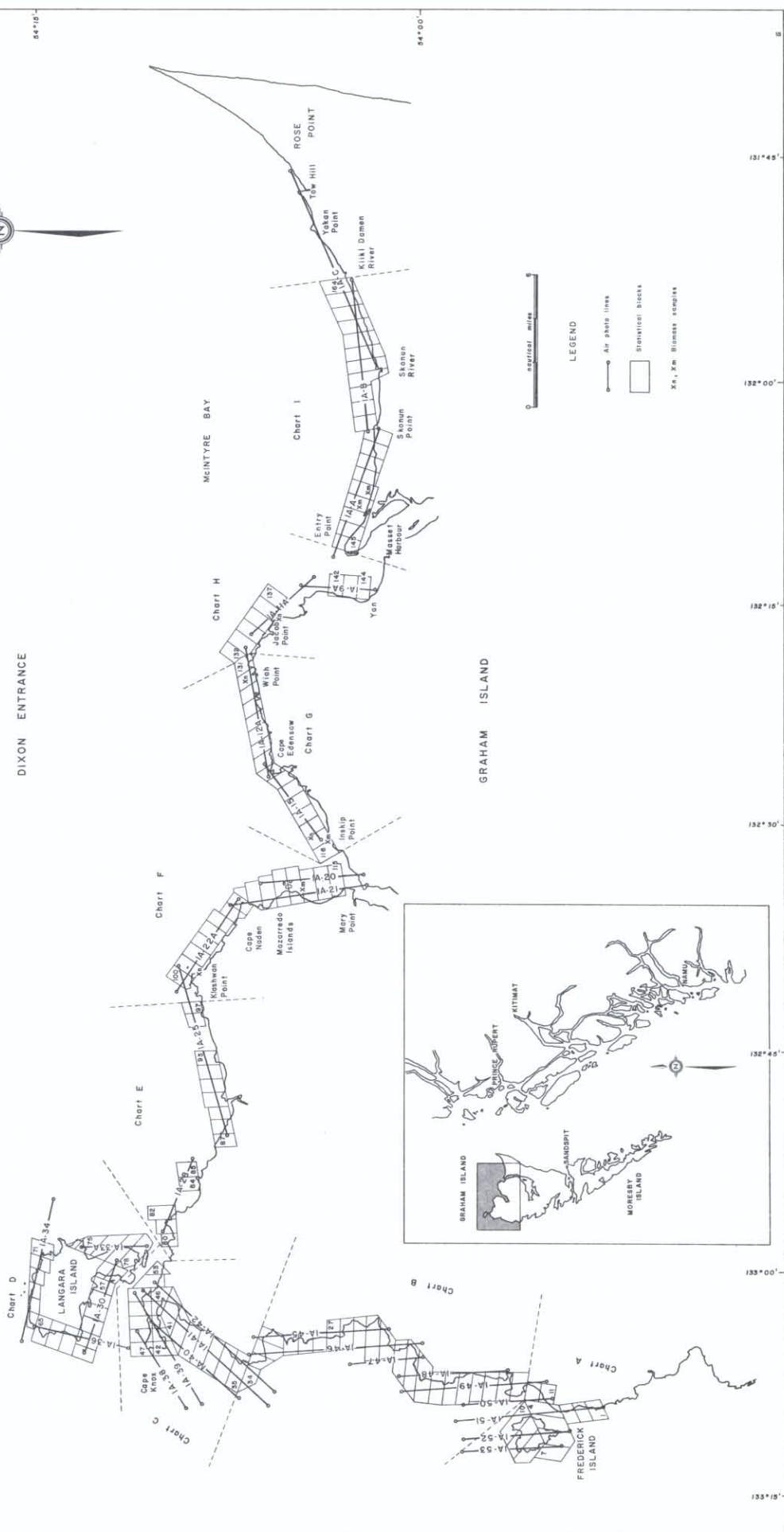


Figure 1: The north and west coast of Graham Island (Q.C.I.), showing the area inventoried for floating kelp resources and the mode of division of this area into inventory charts (see Appendix). Also indicated are the layout of statistical blocks, aerial photographic flight lines and locations of biomass sampling stations.



## Methods

Bed areas, plant or frond densities and biomass of *Nereocystis* and *Macrocystis* were determined by the Kelp Inventory Method (KIM-1) established by Foreman (1975). Modifications of the method as stated by Coon *et al* (1976) and Field *et al* (1977) were employed in this study. Briefly, the KIM-1 technique involves obtaining black and white infrared aerial photographs of the kelp bed and shoreline in the desired region. These photographs are used to prepare charts of the coastline and the offshore kelp beds. On these charts the survey area is divided into 1 km wide statistical blocks. Bed areas for each of six bed types listed below are determined for each block. The density of kelp is determined directly from the photographs with the aid of a microscope. Field crews obtain samples of kelp from the area for mean weight per plant (*Nereocystis*) or frond (*Macrocystis*) determination, near the time that the beds are photographed. The total available kelp per block is determined by multiplying the mean weight per plant/frond values by the observed plant/frond densities and multiplying this product by the observed bed areas. The KIM-1 technique identified six bed types on the basis of:

- a) species - *Macrocystis* or *Nereocystis*
- b) stand purity - pure bed or mixed (42% *Nereocystis* and 58% *Macrocystis*; Foreman, 1975)
- c) plant or frond density - low (less than 10 plants/fronds/m<sup>2</sup>) or high (greater than 10 plants/fronds/m<sup>2</sup>).

The vertical distribution of kelp biomass in the water column was determined along the northwest coast of Graham Island during September 12 - 14, 1976. Random samples of 25 *Nereocystis* plants and 25 *Macrocystis* fronds were gathered at four stations for each genus (Figure 1) in areas selected to be representative of and proportional to the bed depth ranges and exposure environments in the survey area. These plants were cut into 1 m sections and the weights of each section recorded.

Infrared photographs of the survey area were taken by the Air Services Branch, Ministry of the Provincial Secretary and Travel Industry on September 11, 1976. Flight and photographic parameters were as outlined by Foreman (1975). Figure 1 indicates the flight line centers and flight line designations, and illustrates the layout of statistical blocks. Blocks 1 - 20 and 137 - 164 were photographed while the respective tide levels were 1 m lower and 1 m higher than the acceptable level (Mean Water Level  $\pm$  0.6 m) as outlined by Foreman (1975). This resulted in a higher or lower density of fronds or plants on the respective photographs than would occur if the photographs were taken at MWL. A correction procedure for this situation is given below, because the KIM-1 method is dependent on an estimate of plant/frond density at MWL  $\pm$  0.6 m. The correction is made as follows:

To calculate the total biomass obtainable at MWL for blocks photographed at tide heights other than within the acceptable range:

FIRST calculate an adjusted mean biomass per plant/frond factor for MWL as follows:

- 1) Obtain mean biomass per plant/frond from Table 1 at the tide height at which the photographs were taken. (e.g. 3.559 for + 1 m above MWL)
- 2) Divide this value (3.559) by the appropriate combined biomass and density correction factor in Table 10\* for the tide height at which the photographs were taken. (e.g. 0.76 for + 1 m above MWL)

This dividend is the adjusted mean biomass per plant factor for MWL (e.g. 4.683 for statistical blocks 137 - 164; this value appears in Table 2\*\*)

SECOND calculate the total biomass available at MWL for each bed type in each block as follows:

Adjusted mean biomass per plant/frond value	X	The density of fronds/ plants counted in the photographs for that bed type in that statistical block	X	The area of bed type within the block
---	---	--	---	--

All water depth and tide level calculations were based on values obtained from computer-drawn daily tide curves for MacPherson Point and Wiah Point. Cape Naden was the tidal boundary between these tide stations.



## Results

Charts A, B, C, and D (Appendix) illustrate the disposition of kelp resources by bed type off the northwest coast of Graham Island, including Lanagara Island. Charts E, F, G, H, and I cover inventoried areas of the north coast of Graham Island. It will be noted from these charts and Figure 1 that certain portions of the coastline are not represented. This is due either to incomplete photographic coverage or the absence of detectable kelp. However, sufficient space and block numbers have been reserved for these unsurveyed areas should the need arise for their inclusion in a later inventory.

Tables 3 - 6 present estimates of bed areas and kelp biomass available at MWL, by bed type, for each block as follows:

- a) Table 3 - Blocks 1-46; Frederick Island to Cape Knox
- b) Table 4 - Blocks 47-97; Cape Knox to Klashwun Point
- c) Table 5 - Blocks 100-144; Klashwun Point to Masset Harbour
- d) Table 6 - Blocks 145-164; Entry Point to Yakan Point

Tables 7, 8, and 9 summarize the data in these tables by bed type, percent composition of biomass and bed area for each bed type in each geographical subdivision.

A total of 61,528 metric tonnes of kelp were estimated to be available at MWL along the surveyed coastline, with Klashwun Point to Masset Harbour having the most (26,691 tonnes) and Entry Point to Yakan Point the least (6,620 tonnes) (Table 7). The majority (53,185 tonnes, or 86.44%) of the total kelp biomass occurred as pure stands of *Nereocystis*.

---

\* The combined biomass and density and correction factors in Table 10 were obtained by dividing the cumulative biomass values given in Table 1 by the cumulative biomass values for levels above and below MWL.

\*\* These adjusted values in Table 2 do not represent the actual biomass at MWL for these blocks. The same result could be obtained by multiplying the mean biomass per plant/frond value in Table 1 by the observed density, then dividing by the proper combined biomass and density correction factor. However, calculating an adjusted biomass value for MWL is more efficient when performing repetitive calculations and maintains the basic procedure of multiplying mean biomass per plant/frond, times the density, times the bed area to obtain the total biomass of each block.



Table 1. The cumulative number of plants or fronds and their weight (biomass), and the mean weight per plant or frond at one meter increments for samples of *Nereocystis* and *Macrocystis* collected off the north coast of Graham Island.

Cutting Depth (m)	<i>Nereocystis</i>			<i>Macrocystis</i>			Mixed
	Cum B	Cum N	$\bar{x}B/\text{plant}$	Cum B	Cum N	$\bar{x}B/\text{frond}$	* $\bar{x}B/\text{pl or fr}$
+6	2.120	1	2.121	31.995	36	0.889	1.406
+5	20.835	7	2.976	42.305	39	1.085	1.879
+4	45.370	18	2.520	53.435	44	1.214	1.763
+3	109.330	34	3.215	66.260	48	1.380	2.151
+2	192.110	59	3.256	80.485	56	1.437	2.201
+1	291.810	82	3.559	96.415	64	1.506	2.368
MWL	383.800	96	3.998	114.070	68	1.678	2.652
-1	421.298	100	4.213	132.090	78	1.693	2.751
-2	440.448	103	4.276	148.400	88	1.686	2.774
-3	448.413	103	4.353	163.291	102	1.601	2.757
-4	452.403	103	4.392	181.306	107	1.694	2.827
-5	458.113	104	4.405	187.286	110	1.703	2.838
-6	461.968	104	4.442	191.906	110	1.745	2.878

\* Values based on 42% *Nereocystis* and 58% *Macrocystis*.

Cum N = cumulative number of plants or fronds

Cum B = cumulative biomass, in kilograms

$\bar{x}B/\text{plant (frond)}$  = mean biomass per plant or frond

Table 2. Mean biomass per plant or frond (kg) factors used to calculate biomass estimates at MWL for north and west coasts Graham Island (see text).

Species	No. of Stations	Photography at MWL Blocks 21-136	Photography at -1m Blocks 1-20	Photography at +1m Blocks 137-164
<i>Nereocystis</i>	4	3.998	3.830	4.683
<i>Macrocystis</i>	4	1.678	1.459	1.782
Mixed *	-	2.652	2.435	2.960

\* Based on 42% *Nereocystis* and 58% *Macrocystis*

Table 3: Estimates of kelp area and biomass for the west coast of Graham Island: Frederick Island to Cape Knox, September

Block	<i>Nereocystis</i> - low density				<i>Nereocystis</i> - high density				<i>Macrocystis</i> - low density			
	$\bar{x}D/ha$	A	$\bar{x}B/ha$	B	$\bar{x}D/ha$	A	$\bar{x}B/ha$	B	$\bar{x}D/ha$	A	$\bar{x}B/ha$	B
1												
2												
3	8,470	1.037	32.50	33.7					4,580	1.814	6.68	12.1
4	8,470	0.134	31.44	4.2	11,510	0.155	44.48	6.9	4,580	9.590	6.68	64.1
5	8,470	5.754	32.42	186.5	11,510	0.363	44.31	16.1	4,370	4.043	6.39	25.8
6	6,860	12.701	26.27	333.6	11,510	0.207	44.41	9.2	4,370	0.259	6.20	1.6
7	5,190	21.825	19.88	433.9	11,510	2.436	44.02	107.2				
8	6,130	7,258	23.48	170.4	11,510	3.525	44.11	155.3				
9	7,150	17.988	27.38	492.5	11,570	6.013	44.33	266.6				
10	7,320	4.354	28.06	122.2	15,210	1.400	58.27	81.6				
11												
12									4,370	5.443	6.38	34.7
13									4,370	0.207	6.34	1.3
14												
15												
16	7,320	5.391	28.06	151.3	15,210	1.503	58.34	87.7	4,070	0.207	5.64	1.2
17	6,000	6.791	22.95	155.9	15,210	1.348	58.24	78.5	4,070	2.903	5.93	17.2
18	5,970	11.146	22.85	254.7	13,380	0.622	51.11	31.8	4,070	3.266	5.94	19.4
19	5,110	21.565	19.57	422.1	13,380	2.800	51.29	143.6	5,530	3.421	8.06	27.6
20	5,300	4.821	20.34	98.0	13,380	1.089	51.35	55.9	5,530	2.800	8.08	22.6
21	7,310	6.895	29.22	201.5	16,310	0.881	65.38	57.6	5,530	5.495	9.28	51.0
22	5,550	0.259	21.62	5.6					5,230	0.311	8.63	2.7
23	5,550	2.125	22.21	47.2	16,310	0.104	65.38	6.8	5,230	1.140	8.83	10.1
24	5,550	9.279	22.19	205.9	16,310	0.726	65.01	47.2	5,230	2.540	8.79	22.3
25	6,300	1.659	25.32	42.0	16,310	0.137	64.23	8.8	5,230	0.726	8.78	6.4
26	6,300	0.829	25.09	20.8	16,310	0.137	64.23	8.8	5,230	0.052	9.68	0.5
27	6,300	8.865	25.17	223.1	16,310	0.622	64.95	40.4	5,230	4.821	8.77	42.3
28									4,360	1.555	7.34	11.4
29									4,360	1.089	7.24	7.9
30	5,530	0.311	21.86	6.8					4,360	0.933	7.37	6.9
31									4,360	0.052	6.45	0.3
32									4,360	0.274	7.35	2.0
33									4,360	1.348	7.34	9.9
34												
35	5,530	10.834	22.11	239.5	16,310	2.800	65.25	182.7	4,360	2.281	7.28	16.6
36	6,800	17.677	27.18	480.5	16,310	11.042	65.20	720.0	5,680	6.324	9.53	60.2
37	7,110	1.063	25.60	30.4	14,010	9.072	56.01	508.1	5,680	0.830	9.50	7.9
38	7,110	3.370	28.49	96.0	14,010	0.570	56.14	32.0	5,680	0.674	9.46	6.4
39	7,110	3.940	28.40	111.9	14,010	0.104	57.69	6.0	5,680	0.622	9.44	5.9
40	7,110	3.525	28.45	100.3	14,010	0.155	56.77	8.8	5,680	0.778	9.49	7.4
41	7,110	0.104	26.92	2.8					5,680	0.622	9.44	5.9
42	7,110	0.052	30.77	1.6					5,680	1.400	9.59	13.4
43									5,680	0.674	9.46	6.4
44									5,680	0.104	9.68	1.0
45									5,680	0.052	9.68	0.5
46												
Totals		192		4,675		48		2,668		69		533
Means		4.2		101.6		1.0		58.0		1.5		11.6

D = Density (no. of plants or fronds)

A = Area (hectares)

B = Biomass (metric tonnes)

 $\bar{x}$  = Mean

ha = Hectare



1976. See Charts A, B, and C (Appendix).

Macrocyctis - high density				Mixed - low density				Mixed - high density				Total A	Total B
$\bar{x}D/ha$	A	$\bar{x}B/ha$	B	$\bar{x}D/ha$	A	$\bar{x}B/ha$	B	$\bar{x}D/ha$	A	$\bar{x}B/ha$	B		
												nil	nil
11,140	0.104	16.83	1.8									0.104	1.8
11,140	0.622	16.19	10.1									3.473	55.9
11,140	17.055	16.25	277.2									26.934	352.4
12,190	5.858	17.78	104.2									16.018	332.6
												13.167	344.4
												24.261	541.1
												10.783	325.7
												24.001	759.1
12,190	2.125	17.78	37.8									7.879	241.6
												nil	nil
12,190	1.762	17.80	31.4									7.205	66.1
11,780	0.052	16.83	0.9									0.259	2.2
												nil	nil
												nil	nil
												7.101	240.2
11,780	1.192	17.14	20.4									12.234	272.0
11,780	1.451	17.19	24.9	3,990	1.400	9.74	13.6					17.885	344.4
11,780	2.800	17.20	48.1									30.586	641.4
11,780	1.762	17.22	30.3									10.472	206.8
13,810	2.229	23.19	51.7									15.500	361.8
13,810	0.259	23.32	6.0									0.829	14.3
13,810	1.659	23.16	38.4									5.028	102.5
13,810	0.681	23.24	20.5									13.426	295.9
13,810	0.207	23.51	4.9									2.729	62.1
												1.018	30.1
13,810	1.244	23.20	28.9									15.552	334.7
14,100	0.259	23.97	6.2									1.814	17.6
14,100	0.137	23.27	3.2									1.226	11.1
												1.244	13.7
14,100	0.052	22.59	1.2									0.104	1.5
14,100	0.052	22.59	1.2									0.326	3.2
14,100	0.259	23.97	6.2									1.607	16.1
												nil	nil
14,100	5.443	23.65	128.7									21.358	567.5
14,100	8.169	23.66	193.3	3,990	5.132	10.59	54.4					48.344	1,508.4
14,100	0.674	23.65	15.9									11.639	562.3
14,100	0.933	23.74	22.1									5.547	156.5
14,100	0.415	23.86	9.9									5.081	133.7
14,100	0.829	23.68	19.6									5.287	136.1
14,100	0.363	23.58	8.6									1.089	17.3
14,100	0.985	23.68	23.3									2.437	38.3
												0.674	6.4
												0.104	1.0
14,100	0.259	23.97	6.2									0.311	6.7
												nil	nil
	60	1,183			7		68		nil		nil	375	9,127
	1.3	25.7			0.1		1.5					8.1	198.4

Table 4: Estimates of kelp area and biomass for the north coast of Graham Island: Cape Knox to Klashun Point, September

Block	<i>Nereocystis</i> - low density				<i>Nereocystis</i> - high density				<i>Macrocystis</i> - low density			
	$\bar{x}D/ha$	A	$\bar{x}B/ha$	B	$\bar{x}D/ha$	A	$\bar{x}B/ha$	B	$\bar{x}D/ha$	A	$\bar{x}B/ha$	B
47	8,090	7.206	32.35	233.1	16,380	1.814	65.43	118.7				
48	8,090	5.391	32.33	174.3	16,380	0.466	65.24	30.4				
49	7,500	3.784	29.99	113.5	16,380	2.592	65.55	169.9	4,840	0.415	8.09	3.4
50	7,500	19.595	29.99	587.7	16,380	7.465	65.49	488.9	4,840	1.607	8.14	13.1
51	5,590	13.426	22.36	300.2	16,920	11.768	67.64	796.0	4,840	0.259	8.42	2.2
52	6,750	24.883	26.99	671.7	14,390	0.570	57.54	32.8	4,840	1.296	8.16	10.6
53	6,750	1.296	26.85	34.8	14,390	0.778	57.58	44.8	4,840	0.363	8.32	3.0
55	6,750	4.354	26.99	117.5	14,390	1.089	57.67	62.8				
56	6,750	5.236	26.95	141.1	14,390	0.466	57.51	26.8	4,840	0.052	9.68	0.5
57	8,820	6.895	35.26	243.1	14,390	3.058	57.52	175.9				
58	8,820	3.836	35.22	135.1	14,390	4.251	57.56	244.7	4,840	0.052	9.68	0.5
59	8,820	4.251	35.26	149.9	21,860	0.985	92.48	91.1	4,840	0.104	8.07	0.8
60	8,820	1.089	35.26	38.4	21,860	0.052	84.61	4.4				
61	8,820	2.125	35.20	74.8	21,860	0.570	87.72	50.0	4,840	0.207	8.11	1.7
62	8,820	1.296	35.18	45.6	21,860	1.348	87.46	117.9				
63	8,820	8.813	35.24	310.6	21,860	1.037	87.46	90.7	4,840	0.881	8.19	7.2
64	6,570	3.266	26.33	86.0	21,860	3.266	87.38	285.4				
65	8,390	5.391	33.52	180.7	21,860	3.836	87.43	335.4				
66	8,390	1.659	33.51	55.6	15,580	0.622	62.38	38.8				
67	8,390	3.056	33.47	102.3	15,580	1.555	62.19	96.7				
68	8,390	3.318	33.48	111.1	15,580	1.451	62.23	90.3				
69	8,390	3.732	33.52	125.1	15,580	1.400	62.21	87.1				
70	8,390	2.903	33.58	97.5	15,580	1.140	62.46	71.2				
71	8,390	3.577	33.52	119.9	15,580	1.866	62.32	116.3				
74	7,510	1.192	30.20	36.0	15,580	0.207	61.83	12.8				
75	7,510	7.983	30.05	239.9	15,580	2.074	62.25	129.1	4,840	1.866	8.09	15.1
76	6,440	11.508	25.74	296.2	15,580	14.204	62.28	884.7				
77	7,100	8.813	28.40	250.3	14,490	15.241	57.92	882.7	4,840	0.155	8.66	1.3
78	7,100	13.893	28.37	394.2	14,120	7.206	56.42	406.6	4,840	1.555	8.09	12.6
80	7,220	1.192	28.86	34.4	14,120	2.177	56.36	122.7				
81	7,220	2.644	28.89	76.4	14,120	2.644	56.39	149.1				
82	7,220	3.836	28.86	110.7	14,120	4.199	56.46	237.1	4,840	1.037	8.09	8.4
84	7,220	0.363	28.65	10.4	18,920	0.052	76.92	4.0				
85	7,220	1.607	28.87	46.4	18,920	1.711	75.69	129.5	4,840	2.333	8.13	19.0
87	7,220	0.415	28.91	12.0					4,840	0.155	8.66	1.3
88	7,220	3.681	28.88	106.3	18,920	8.294	75.63	627.3	4,840	0.466	8.28	3.9
89	7,220	2.022	28.88	58.4								
90	7,220	2.592	28.86	74.8	14,170	4.925	56.67	279.1				
91	6,730	26.024	26.90	700.0	14,170	9.124	56.65	516.9				
92	6,500	30.119	25.99	782.8	20,600	11.871	82.34	977.5				
93	6,040	6.532	24.17	157.9	14,640	3.473	58.48	203.1				
96	7,190	0.674	28.49	19.2	14,640	0.518	58.69	30.4				
97	7,190	2.903	28.76	83.5	14,640	2.851	58.47	166.7				
Totals		268		7,739		144		9,426		13		105
Means		6.2		180.0		3.4		219.2		0.3		2.4

D = Density (no. of plants or fronds)

A = Area (hectares)

B = Biomass (metric tonnes)

 $\bar{x}$  = Mean

ha = Hectare



1976. See Charts D and E (Appendix).

Macrocystis - high density				Mixed - low density				Mixed - high density				Total A	Total B
$\bar{x}D/ha$	A	$\bar{x}B/ha$	B	$\bar{x}D/ha$	A	$\bar{x}B/ha$	B	$\bar{x}D/ha$	A	$\bar{x}B/ha$	B		
												9.020	351.8
												5.857	204.7
												6.791	286.8
8,980	1.244	15.11	18.8									29.911	1,108.5
8,980	1.192	15.06	18.0	3,990	4.251	10.61	45.1					30.896	1,161.5
8,980	1.711	15.10	25.8	3,990	3.058	10.58	32.4					31.518	773.3
8,980	0.726	15.02	10.9	3,990	0.415	10.86	4.5					3.578	98.0
8,980	0.415	14.96	6.2									5.858	186.5
												5.754	168.4
												9.953	419.0
8,980	0.259	14.90	3.9									8.398	384.2
												5.340	241.8
												1.141	42.8
												2.902	126.5
												2.644	163.5
												10.731	408.5
												6.532	371.4
												9.227	516.1
												2.281	94.4
												4.611	199.0
												4.769	201.4
												5.132	212.2
												4.043	168.7
												5.443	236.2
8,980	0.052	16.13	0.8	3,990	0.104	10.20	1.1					1.399	48.8
												12.079	386.0
												25.712	1,180.9
8,980	0.518	15.23	7.9									24.209	1,134.3
												23.172	821.3
												3.369	157.1
												5.288	225.5
												9.072	356.2
8,980	0.311	15.11	4.7									0.415	14.4
												5.962	199.6
												0.570	13.3
												12.441	737.5
												2.022	58.4
												7.517	353.9
												35.148	1,216.9
												41.990	1,760.3
												10.005	361.0
												1.192	49.6
												5.754	250.2
6		97		8		83		nil		nil		440	17,450
0.1		2.3		0.2		1.9						10.2	405.8

Table 5: Estimates of kelp area and biomass for the north coast of Graham Island: Klashwun Point to Masset Harbour,, Septe

Block	Nereocystis - low density				Nereocystis - high density				Macrocystis - low density			
	$\bar{x}D/ha$	A	$\bar{x}B/ha$	B	$\bar{x}D/ha$	A	$\bar{x}B/ha$	B	$\bar{x}D/ha$	A	$\bar{x}B/ha$	B
100	7,190	1.711	28.75	49.2	14,640	1.140	58.60	66.8				
101	7,190	2.903	28.76	83.5	13,460	5.495	53.83	295.8				
102	7,190	1.762	28.83	50.8	13,460	3.629	53.76	195.1				
103	10,350	2.177	41.29	89.9	13,700	1.400	54.86	76.8				
104	10,350	0.466	41.20	19.2								
105	10,350	0.674	41.54	28.0								
106	10,350	3.940	41.39	163.1	13,700	3.577	54.77	195.9	4,840	0.104	8.07	0.8
107	8,210	6.946	32.81	227.9	13,700	4.458	54.80	244.3	4,840	0.155	8.66	1.3
108	6,410	4.406	25.58	112.7	13,090	4.717	52.30	246.7				
109	6,410	10.316	25.62	264.3	13,360	11.560	53.40	617.3	4,270	2.177	7.17	15.6
110	6,360	28.616	25.43	727.6	12,900	20.943	51.58	1,080.2	4,270	2.540	7.13	18.1
111	6,080	38.828	24.30	943.5	14,350	10.472	57.38	600.9				
112	7,510	5.754	30.01	172.7	14,310	11.716	57.23	670.5	4,270	6.635	7.16	47.5
113	6,780	18.766	27.10	508.5	14,240	8.035	56.92	457.4				
114	6,460	30.283	25.82	782.0	13,800	23.950	55.17	1,321.3				
115	6,250	12.079	24.98	301.8	14,420	3.888	57.69	224.3				
116									4,750	16.900	4.62	78.0
117	5,950	12.286	23.78	292.2	14,420	0.570	57.54	32.8	5,050	12.182	8.47	103.2
118	6,480	18.973	25.89	491.3	16,640	1.970	66.55	131.1	5,510	20.425	9.24	188.8
119	5,830	21.202	23.30	494.1	16,440	13.530	65.71	889.1	4,450	9.850	7.46	73.5
120	4,910	2.436	19.70	48.0	24,230	0.051	94.12	4.8				
121	4,910	11.249	19.62	220.7								
122	7,790	20.010	31.15	623.3	24,230	17.729	96.87	1,717.5	3,040	17.574	5.10	89.6
123	8,210	3.577	32.85	117.5	14,260	0.622	57.23	35.6	3,950	0.778	6.69	5.2
124	8,210	7.361	32.81	241.5	14,260	1.400	57.14	80.0	3,950	2.281	6.62	15.1
125	7,480	11.146	29.91	333.4	14,260	4.147	56.98	236.3	3,950	2.851	6.65	19.0
126	7,480	15.241	29.91	455.8	14,260	1.555	57.04	88.7	3,950	2.696	6.60	17.8
127	6,810	5.080	27.22	138.3	12,830	5.236	64.90	339.8	3,990	3.577	6.71	24.0
128	6,810	8.554	27.25	233.1	16,240	3.784	64.98	245.9	3,990	0.933	6.65	6.2
129	8,640	9.383	34.55	324.2	16,240	3.007	64.88	195.1	4,900	0.622	8.09	5.0
130	7,940	3.162	31.72	100.3	14,680	1.762	58.74	103.5	4,900	2.074	8.25	17.1
131	7,600	14.308	30.37	434.6	14,680	6.324	58.66	371.0	4,900	1.607	8.25	13.3
132	7,110	7.102	28.43	201.9	21,040	7.620	84.11	640.9	4,900	1.192	8.16	9.7
133	7,110	17.574	28.43	499.7	18,850	9.590	75.37	722.8	4,900	5.028	8.21	41.3
134	5,520	20.840	22.06	459.8	13,970	14.671	55.86	819.6	4,140	8.087	6.95	56.2
135	5,480	14.722	21.91	322.6	12,890	19.180	51.53	988.3	4,140	2.800	6.95	19.5
136	5,480	11.457	21.92	251.1	12,950	19.233	51.78	995.9				
137	5,100	1.555	23.79	37.0	12,870	6.791	60.27	409.3				
142	5,100	2.954	23.94	70.7	12,260	1.918	57.38	110.1				
143	5,100	12.027	23.87	287.1	12,260	6.480	57.38	371.8				
144	5,100	2.800	23.92	67.0	12,260	0.881	57.41	50.6				
Totals		425	11,270			263	15,874		123			866
Means		10.4	274.9			6.4	387.2		3.0			21.1

D = Density (no. of plants or fronds)  
A = Area (hectares)  
B = Biomass (metric tonnes)  
 $\bar{x}$  = Mean  
ha = Hectare



ber 1976. See Charts F, G, and H (Appendix).

Macroalgae - high density				Mixed - low density				Mixed - high density				Total A	Total B
$\bar{x}D/ha$	A	$\bar{x}B/ha$	B	$\bar{x}D/ha$	A	$\bar{x}B/ha$	B	$\bar{x}D/ha$	A	$\bar{x}B/ha$	B		
												2.851	116.0
												8.398	379.3
												5.391	245.9
												3.577	166.7
												0.466	19.2
												0.674	28.0
												7.621	359.8
8,980	0.207	15.40	3.2									11.766	476.7
												9.123	359.4
8,920	0.778	14.88	11.6									24.831	908.8
												52.099	1,825.9
												49.300	1,544.4
8,920	4.354	14.95	65.1									28.459	955.8
												26.801	965.9
												54.233	2,103.3
												15.967	526.1
8,920	0.985	14.99	14.8									17.885	92.8
8,920	18.818	14.97	281.7	1,210	0.829	3.20	2.7					44.685	712.6
				1,210	4.613	3.22	14.9					45.981	826.1
												44.582	1,456.7
												2.487	52.8
												11.249	220.7
9,370	0.674	15.68	10.6									55.987	2,441.0
												4.977	158.3
												11.042	336.6
												18.144	588.7
												19.492	562.3
												13.893	502.1
												13.271	485.2
												13.012	524.3
9,370	0.104	16.13	1.7	3,700	0.104	10.20	1.1					7.206	223.7
9,370	0.933	15.65	14.6									23.172	833.5
9,370	0.259	15.55	4.0									16.173	856.5
9,370	1.762	15.71	27.7	3,700	0.881	9.93	8.8					34.835	1,300.3
9,370	9.745	15.72	153.2	3,700	6.687	9.80	65.5					60.030	1,554.3
												36.702	1,330.4
												30.690	1,247.0
												8.346	446.3
												4.872	180.8
												18.507	658.9
												3.681	117.6
	39	588			13	93		nil	nil			862	28,691
	0.9	14.3			0.3	2.3						21.0	699.8

Table 6: Estimates of kelp area and biomass for the north coast of Graham Island: Entr

Block	<i>Nereocystis</i> - low density				<i>Nereocystis</i> - high density			
	$\bar{x}D/\text{ha}$	A	$\bar{x}B/\text{ha}$	B	$\bar{x}D/\text{ha}$	A	$\bar{x}B/\text{ha}$	B
145								
146								
147								
148								
149								
150								
151								
152								
153								
154								
155								
156								
157								
158								
159	5,690	33.489	26.65	892.6	12,260	1.451	57.45	83.4
160	4,870	4.303	22.85	98.3				
161	4,870	7.724	22.80	176.1				
162								
163	4,890	12.338	22.89	282.4				
164								
Totals		58		1,449		1		83
Means		2.9		72.5		0.1		4.2

D = Density (no. of plants or fronds)

A = Area (hectares)

B = Biomass (metric tonnes)

$\bar{x}$  = Mean

ha = Hectare



erry Point to Yakan Point, September 1976. See Chart I (Appendix).

Macrocystis - low density				Macrocystis - high density				Mixed - low density			
$\bar{x}D/ha$	A	$\bar{x}B/ha$	B	$\bar{x}D/ha$	A	$\bar{x}B/ha$	B	$\bar{x}D/ha$	A	$\bar{x}B/ha$	B
3,520	10.212	6.26	64.0	8,440	3.940	15.06	59.3				
3,270	24.831	5.83	144.7	8,440	21.669	15.04	325.9				
2,430	87.039	4.33	376.9	10,350	8.035	18.45	148.3				
3,320	79.522	5.92	470.4	10,350	12.182	18.45	224.7				
3,240	32.244	5.78	186.2	11,490	3.214	20.46	65.8				
3,600	32.244	6.42	206.9	11,490	0.155	20.69	3.2				
2,610	26.801	4.65	124.7	11,490	6.532	20.49	133.8				
3,210	23.069	5.72	132.0	11,930	1.244	21.20	26.4				
2,910	4.873	5.19	25.3								
2,910	36.495	5.19	189.2	11,930	5.806	21.27	123.5				
4,560	19.181	8.13	155.9	11,930	11.871	21.26	252.3				
2,990	41.420	5.33	220.6	9,690	11.975	17.26	206.7				
2,700	50.907	4.81	245.0	9,880	0.829	17.63	14.6				
2,730	11.094	4.87	54.0					1,260	4.614	3.72	17.2
2,700	19.388	4.81	93.2					2,420	1.659	7.14	11.8
4,710	3.421	8.39	28.7					2,420	1.970	7.21	14.2
4,710	0.104	8.57	0.9								
4,710	12.390	8.40	104.1	9,880	5.754	17.59	101.2	2,420	1.814	7.18	13.0
3,660	17.211	6.52	112.3	9,880	2.696	17.58	47.4				
3,660	0.466	6.50	3.0								

## Mixed - high density

$\bar{x}D/ha$	A	$\bar{x}B/ha$	B	Total A	Total B
				14.152	123.3
				46.500	470.6
				95.074	525.2
				91.704	695.1
				35.458	252.0
				32.399	210.1
				33.333	258.5
				24.313	158.4
				4.873	25.3
				42.301	312.7
				31.052	408.2
				53.395	427.3
				51.736	259.6
				15.708	71.2
				55.987	1081.0
				9.694	141.2
				7.828	177.0
				19.958	218.3
				32.245	442.1
				0.466	3.0
	nil		nil	698	6,260
				34.9	313.0

This volume was split almost evenly between low density and high density beds; the densest beds were located from Cape Knox to Masset Harbour (Table 8). Pure *Macrocystis* stands were estimated to be 8,043 tonnes (13.07% of the total standing crop), most of which occurred from Entry Point to Yakan Point. From Frederick Island to Masset Harbour the majority of the kelp was *Nereocystis*, and mean biomass densities ranged from 24.3 - 33.3 tonnes/hectare (calculated from Table 7). But from Entry Point to Yakan Point the density was 8.96 tonnes/hectare, reflecting the high proportion of low density *Macrocystis* in this area. Stands of pure *Nereocystis* comprised 86.44% of the total biomass (Table 8) but only 58.90% of the total surface area (Table 9). This illustrates the important differences in densities of the two species within the areas surveyed.

Factors for estimating biomass at selected cutting levels other than MWL are presented in Table 10. By multiplying these factors times the biomass at MWL, the amount of kelp available at other tide heights can be obtained. Using these factors, estimates of *Nereocystis* and *Macrocystis* standing crops at the different depth levels are given in Table 11 for the entire survey area. We estimated the total standing crop for the whole survey area in September, 1976 to be 77,772 tonnes. This was thought to be a somewhat conservative estimate primarily due to incomplete photographic coverage, and, very secondarily, to inevitable losses of kelp laminae during field sampling procedures which result in low estimates of mean biomass per plant.

#### Discussion: a comparison with previous surveys

The first survey of the kelp resources on the north coast of Graham Island was privately conducted by North Pacific Marine Products Ltd. (Norpac, 1967). The only available report of this survey presents a summary of the results without mentioning the sampling techniques employed in arriving at those results. A second survey was



Table 7. Summary of biomass and kelp bed area estimates, by geographical subdivision and bed type, for the west and north coasts of Graham Island. Estimates are harvestable biomass at MWL  $\pm$  0.6 m.

<u>Geographical Area</u>	<u>Blocks</u>	<u>Biomass (tonnes)</u>	<u>Area (hectares)</u>
<i>Low Density Nereocystis</i>			
Frederick Is. to Cape Knox	1-46	4,675	192
Cape Knox to Klashwun Ptd.	47-97	7,739	268
Klashwun Pt. to Masset Hbr.	100-144	11,270	425
Entry Pt. to Yakan Pt.	145-164	1,149	58
<i>High Density Nereocystis</i>			
Frederick Is. to Cape Knox	1-46	2,668	48
Cape Knox to Klashwun Pt.	47-97	9,426	144
Klashwun Pt. to Masset Hbr.	100-144	15,874	263
Entry Pt. to Yakan Pt.	145-164	83	1
<i>Low Density Macrocystis</i>			
Frederick Is. to Cape Knox	1-46	533	69
Cape Knox to Klashwun Pt.	47-97	105	13
Klashwun Pt. to Masset Hbr.	100-144	866	123
Entry Pt. to Yakan Pt.	145-164	2,938	533
<i>High Density Macrocystis</i>			
Frederick Is. to Cape Knox	1-46	1,183	60
Cape Knox to Klashwun Pt.	47-97	97	6
Klashwun Pt. to Masset Hbr.	100-144	588	39
Entry Pt. to Yakan Pt.	145-164	1,733	96
<i>Low Density Mixed</i>			
Frederick Is. to Cape Knox	1-46	68	7
Cape Knox to Klashwun Pt.	47-97	83	8
Klashwun Pt. to Masset Hbr.	100-144	93	13
Entry Pt. to Yakan Pt.	145-164	56	10
<b>Totals</b>			
Frederick Is. to Cape Knox	1-46	9,127	375
Cape Knox to Klashwun Pt.	47-97	17,450	440
Klashwun Pt. to Masset Hbr.	100-144	28,691	862
Entry Pt. to Yakan Pt.	145-164	6,260	698
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>1-164</b>	<b>61,528</b>	<b>2,375</b>
<b>Totals by Species</b>			
<i>Nereocystis</i>	1-164	52,884	1,399
<i>Macrocystis</i>	1-164	8,043	938
Mixed	1-164	300	38

Table 8: Percent composition of low and high density *Nereocystis*, *Macrocystis* and mixed bed estimates of biomass in each of four geographic subdivisions. The last column gives percent composition of total biomass for the north and west coast of Graham Island.

Bed Type	Frederick/Cape Knox	Cape Knox/Klashwun	Klashwun/Masset Hr.	Entry/Yakan	Combined
<i>Nereocystis</i> - low density	51.22	44.35	39.28	23.15	40.85
- high density	29.23	54.02	55.33	1.33	45.59
<i>Macrocystis</i> - low density	5.84	0.60	3.02	46.93	7.22
- high density	12.96	0.56	2.05	27.68	5.85
Mixed - low density	0.75	0.48	0.32	0.90	0.49
- high density	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil

Table 9: Percent composition of low and high density *Nereocystis*, *Macrocystis* and mixed bed estimates of surface area in each of four geographic subdivisions. The last column gives percent composition of total bed area for the north and west coasts of Graham Island.

Bed Type	Frederick/Cape Knox	Cape Knox/Klashwun	Klashwun/Masset Hr.	Entry/Yakan	Combined
<i>Nereocystis</i> - low density	51.13	61.04	49.23	8.29	39.68
- high density	12.76	32.80	30.50	0.21	19.22
<i>Macrocystis</i> - low density	18.32	2.91	14.27	76.33	31.05
- high density	16.04	1.46	4.48	13.74	8.47
Mixed - low density	1.74	1.78	1.52	1.44	1.58
- high density	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil

Table 10: Combined biomass and density correction factors for cutting levels six metres above and below MWL for the north and west coasts of Graham Island.

Cutting Level (m)	<i>Nereocystis</i>	<i>Macrocystis</i>	Mixed
	n=104	n=110	*
+6	0.01	0.28	0.14
+5	0.05	0.37	0.23
+4	0.12	0.47	0.28
+3	0.28	0.58	0.43
+2	0.50	0.71	0.60
+1	0.76	0.85	0.80
MWL	1.00	1.00	1.00
-1	1.10	1.16	1.13
-2	1.15	1.30	1.24
-3	1.17	1.43	1.33
-4	1.18	1.59	1.41
-5	1.19	1.64	1.44
-6	1.20	1.68	1.46

\* Based on 42% *Nereocystis* and 58% *Macrocystis*



Table 11: Total harvestable kelp biomass at selected depth levels for the north and west coasts of Graham Island, Queen Charlotte Island, in September 1976.

Depth Level (m)	Cumulative Biomass (tonnes)			
	<i>Nereocystis</i>	<i>Macrocystis</i>	Mixed	Total
+6	293	2,252	42	2,587
+5	2,659	2,976	69	5,704
+4	6,382	3,780	84	10,246
+3	14,892	4,665	129	19,686
+2	26,593	5,711	180	32,484
+1	40,421	6,837	240	47,498
MWL	53,185	8,043	300	61,528
-1	58,504	9,330	339	68,173
-2	61,163	10,456	372	71,991
-3	62,226	11,501	399	74,126
-4	62,758	12,788	423	75,969
-5	63,290	13,191	432	76,913
-6	63,461	13,512	438	77,411

carried out by Blakely and Chalmers (1973) for the Federal and Provincial governments; the report on this survey includes details of methodology. The 1967 and 1973 inventories covered only the areas from Cape Naden to Tow Hill. Table 12 presents a comparison of bed area and biomass estimates for these two studies. Table 13 compares bed area, biomass, and density estimates from all three surveys for selected areas within this region. All areas could not be compared due to incomplete photographic coverage in 1976. The 1967 and 1973 inventories report total standing crop biomass of the beds, and by using appropriate correction factors for -6 m in Table 10 and the MWL biomass data in Tables 5 and 6, the total standing crop biomass for 1976 was calculated for comparison.

Estimates of total biomass of *Nereocystis* from Inskip Point to Wiah Point were approximately two times higher in 1967 and 1973 than 1976 (18,528; 24,447 and 10,139 tonnes respectively). The *Nereocystis* beds from Entry Point to Skonun Point were not photographed in 1976. Densities of 3 - 6 kg/m<sup>2</sup> were reported by all surveys, except between Inskip Point and Cape Estevan where the 1973 survey reported a mean value of 16.7 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. While this was an area of abundant *Nereocystis* we consider this value to be unrealistically high. Bed area estimates from the 1967 survey were higher than the two later surveys. We believe that the bed area estimates for the 1967 survey were determined by observers in boats, perhaps supplemented by non-photographic aerial observations. We considered the use of aerial photography for bed area determinations in the 1973 and 1976 inventories to be more accurate; it is noteworthy that the estimates of *Nereocystis* bed areas found by these two later surveys are reasonably similar. The 1973 survey employed 70 mm infrared false color transparencies which were projected to a scale of 1:15,840. KIM-1 use 9x9 inch (22.9 x 22.9 cm) IR black and white transparencies at a scale of 1:7,200.

Estimates of *Macrocystis* total standing crop biomass were 5 - 6 times lower in 1976 than in the other surveys (8,574 tonnes compared

Table 12: Bed areas and standing crops of *Macrocystis* and *Nereocystis* for various regions of the north coast of Graham Island as estimated in the 1967 and 1973 kelp inventories.

Location	North Pacific Marine Products 1967 Inventory			1973 Kelp Inventory		
	<i>Nereocystis</i>			<i>Nereocystis</i>		
	Area (hectares)	Standing Crop (Metric tonnes)	Area (hectares)	Standing Crop (Metric tonnes)	Area (hectares)	Standing Crop (Metric tonnes)
Cape Naden - Mazarredo Island	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	89.3	2,044	N.P.
Mazarredo Island - Mary Point	218.3	9,988	13.9	99.0	3,151	N.P.
Inskip Point - Cape Edensaw	311.0	9,443	199.7	119.9	20,005	21,075
Cape Edensaw - Wiah Point	153.4	9,080	18.6	148.4	4,472	N.P.
Wiah Point - Jacob Point	164.4	13,438	N.P.	142.0	8,225	1,562
Jacob Point - Yan	376.6	9,357	N.P.	140.8	8,150	N.P.
Entry Point - Skonun Point	152.2	2,452	645.6	40.2	363	28,250
Skonun Point - Tow Hill	1,031.2	18,483	493.9	75.7	684	17,529
Masset Inlet and Sound	79.0	608	N.P.	70.3	925	N.P.
COLUMN TOTALS	2,486.1	72,849	1,371.1	925.6	48,819	68,416

Total Area 1967 = 3,857.2 hectares

Total Area 1973 = 1,554.8 hectares

Total Standing Crop 1967 = 140,630 tonnes

Total Standing Crop 1973 = 117,235 tonnes

N.S. - Not Surveyed

N.P. - Not Present



Table 13: Comparison of estimates of bed surface area, density and biomass for selected areas between the 1967, 1973 and 1976 inventories. N.P. = *Nereocystis* beds in this area were not photographed. Biomass in all cases is total standing crop biomass. Parentheses indicate percent of 1976 values.

N.S. - Not Surveyed						
<u>NEREOCYSTIS</u>						
Geographic Location	Surface Area (ha)		Biomass (tonnes)		Density (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	
	1967	1973	1976	1967	1973	1976
Inskip Point - Cape Edensaw (Blks. 116-123)	311.0 (250)	119.7 (96)	124.2	9,443 (154)	20,005 (327)	6,117.9
					3.0 (61)	16.7 (340)
Cape Edensaw - Wiah Point (Blks. 124-131)	153.4 (151)	148.7 (147)	101.4	9,080 (232)	4,472 (114)	3,921.5
					5.9 (148)	3.2 (80)
Entry Point - Skonun Point (Blks. 145-158)	152.2	40.2	N.P.	2,452	363	N.P.
					1.6	0.9
						N.P.
<u>MACROCYSTIS</u>						
Geographic Location	Surface Area (ha)		Biomass (tonnes)		Density (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	
	1967	1973	1976	1967	1973	1976
Inskip Point - Cape Edensaw (Blks. 116-123)	199.7 (203)	126.3 (128.6)	98.2	9,716 (684)	21,075 (1,483)	1,421
					4.9 (350)	16.7 (1,193)
Cape Edensaw - Wiah Point (Blks. 124-131)	18.6 (101)	N.S.	18.4	908 (404)	N.S.	225
					4.9 (408)	N.S.
Entry Point - Skonun Point (Blks. 145-158)	645.6 (114)	964.7 (81.9)	567.3	33,476 (485)	28,250 (409)	6,901
					5.2 (433)	6.1 (508)
						1.2

to 44,100 and 49,325 tonnes in 1967 and 1973). Estimated bed areas were reasonably comparable. It would therefore appear that the great differences in standing crop were related to differing estimates of biomass density, which for 1967 and 1973 were 350 and 1,193% of those estimated in 1976. In 1973 *Macrocystis* frond density estimates from Entry Point to Skonun Point were  $5.0 \text{ fronds/m}^2$  compared to a range of  $0.26 - 1.19/\text{m}^2$  in 1976. The mean weights per frond were similar ( $1.18 \text{ kg/frond}$  in 1973 and  $1.73 \text{ kg/m}^2$  in 1976), indicating that *Macrocystis* was more abundant in 1973 and/or that errors occurred when estimating density.

The two surveys determined densities quite differently. The 1973 survey counted and weighed all *Nereocystis* plants and *Macrocystis* fronds in randomly selected  $7.3 \text{ m}^2$  sample plots spaced at 0.5 - 1.0 mile (0.3 - 0.6 km) intervals along the coast. Average density ( $\text{kg/m}^2$ ) values were derived for each geographical subdivision; total standing crop biomass for each subdivision was calculated by multiplying average density by bed area. Using standard KIM-1 methods, we determined the total biomass for each statistical block on the basis of block-specific bed area and plant/frond density measurements and a more generally applied estimate of mean biomass per plant/frond. Plant/frond density for each block was measured directly from the aerial photographs. Where bed size permitted we enumerated density in a minimum of 10 microscope fields, each sampling  $2,500 \text{ m}^2$  of sea surface, for each of the six possible bed types present. Thus the KIM-1 technique produced a greater number of density measurements. While both techniques have a known level of precision, they are difficult to compare because the accuracy of each in estimating the actual standing crop present is not known.

Individual *Nereocystis* plants are easily discernable in the aerial photographs employed in the KIM-1 method under most circumstances, but individual *Macrocystis* fronds are not readily identified due to twisting together and layering of the fronds. Foreman (1975) determined the relationship between the number of fronds counted on an aerial



photograph and the number actually present. This relationship is the truly novel aspect of KIM-1 because it permits density estimation (with a known level of precision) for large areas of kelp and the delimitation of beds on the basis of density. For such low density *Macrocystis* beds as those between Entry Point and Skonun Point, the frond density estimates produced with the KIM-1 technique can vary as much as  $\pm 58\%$  from the actual; thus even the greatest estimated biomass within this error range for this region would still be far below the 1967 and 1973 estimates. Possibly the density relationships generated by Foreman (1975) for kelp in the Port Hardy/Malcolm Island area in the months of July and August are not strictly applicable to kelp in other areas and at other times of the year. Nevertheless we doubt that the large differences in *Macrocystis* standing crop estimates produced by the 1973 and 1976 inventories is solely related to natural changes in bed density, but is more significantly an artifact of the different density estimation techniques.

Our estimate of  $1.2 \text{ kg/m}^2$  for *Macrocystis* between Entry Point and Skonun Point (Table 13) appears more realistic than Blakely and Chalmers' mean value of  $6.1 \text{ kg/m}^2$  for plants growing in 2 - 4 m of water below 0 tide level. The densest *M. integrifolia* ever observed in our kelp inventory program was located in Nootka Sound in 1975 (Coon *et al.*, 1977). The canopy in this bed provided over 90% cover of the sea surface. Yet, maximal frond density estimates provided by KIM-1 were  $3.3 \text{ fronds/m}^2$  and maximal biomass density equaled  $3.95 \text{ kg/m}^2$ . Average standing crop biomass/ $\text{m}^2$  of *M. pyrifera* in California, where the sea bed is up to 25 meters below 0 tide level is only  $6 \text{ kg/m}^2$  (Clendenning, 1960). We believe that the KIM-1 technique is more accurate than that employed in 1973 and would recommend that any decision involving allocation of *Macrocystis* resources along the north coast of Graham Island be based on the KIM-1 estimates.



## Summary

1) The Kelp Inventory Method (KIM-1) developed by Dr. R.E. Foreman was used to estimate standing crop biomass of two alginophyte species along the north coast of Graham Island, in the Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia. Results indicated that 53,185 tonnes of pure *Nereocystis leutkeana*, 8,034 tonnes of *Macrocystis integrifolia* in pure beds and 300 tonnes of mixed kelp were available at mean water level in the major beds in this region. Total bed surface area was estimated to be 2,375 hectares.

2) Nine charts were drafted showing the position, extent, species, and density classification of every discernible kelp bed for each of four geographic subdivisions: Frederick Island to Cape Knox, Cape Knox to Klashwun Point, Klashwun Point to Masset Harbour, and Entry Point to Yakan Point. For management purposes, all inventoried coastlines were divided into permanent, numbered, kilometer-wide blocks.

3) The 1976 estimates of standing crop biomass were substantially lower for both *Nereocystis* and *Macrocystis* than determined by surveys performed in 1967 by a private firm, and by a team funded by the Federal and Provincial governments in 1973. Differing techniques of estimating density of kelp were felt to be the major factor creating these differences. Because of the greater replication inherent in the KIM-1 method, the 1976 estimates were felt to be more accurate than the 1967 and 1973 estimates.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to extend our gratitude to field crew members John Boome and Z. (Spino) Pakula for their assistance in cutting and weighing the hundreds of kelp plants needed to produce representative mean biomass data. Our thanks to Mrs. Nancy Sanborn for her careful typing of the final draft.

REFERENCES CITED

- Anon. 1948. Marine plants of economic importance in British Columbia coastal waters, Part II. B.C. Research Council Tech. Bull. No. 10.
- Blakely, B.B. & W.T. Chalmers. 1973. Masset Kelp Inventory. Final Report to Dept. Environment, Fisheries Operations, Vancouver, B.C.
- Cameron, A.T. 1916. The commercial value of the kelp beds of the Canadian Pacific coast - a preliminary report and survey of the beds. Contrib. Canadian Biol. 1914 - 1915, Sessional Paper No. 38a: 24-39.
- Clendenning, K.A. 1960. Organic productivity of giant kelp areas. Quart. Prog. Rep., 1 July-Sept. 1959. Kelp Inv. Prog., Univ. Calif. Inst. Mar. Res., IMR Ref. 60(6): 1-11.
- Coon, L.M. 1977. Marine plant management program in British Columbia. A paper presented at the IXth International Seaweed Symposium at Santa Barbara, California, U.S.A. in August, 1977. (Mimeo)
- Coon, L.M., E.J. Field and Canadian Benthic Ltd. 1977. Nootka Sound kelp inventory, 1975. British Columbia Marine Resources Branch, Fish. Management Rep. No. 2.
- Coon, L.M. and W.G. Roland. 1979. A preliminary study of the impact of harvesting on growth of the giant kelp *Macrocystis integrifolia* Bory in the Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia. British Columbia Marine Resources Branch, Fish. Development Rep. 12: (in press).
- Field, E.J. and E.A.C. Clark. 1978. Kelp inventory, 1976, Part 2. The Dundas Group. Marine Resources Branch, Victoria British Columbia. 22 pp.
- Field, E.J., L.M. Coon, W.E.L. Clayton and E.A.C. Clark. 1977. Kelp Inventory 1976, Part I: The Estevan Group and Campania Island. British Columbia Marine Resources Branch, Fish. Management Rep. No. 9.
- Foreman, R.E. 1975. KIM-1. A method for inventory of floating kelps and its application to selected areas of Kelp Licence Area 12. Benthic Ecological Research Program Report 75-1. Report to Federal Fisheries and Marine Service and Provincial Marine Resources Branch.



REFERENCES CITED (CONT'D)

- Norpac. 1967. Survey of the kelp resource within 18 miles of Masset.  
North Pacific Marine Products Ltd.
- Whyte, J.N.C. and J.R. Englar. 1974. Commercial kelp drying operation  
at Masset, 1973. Fish. Res. Bd. Canada, Tech. Rep. 453: 30 pp.