

## Unit 42. Cormorant Channel [click here for a detailed map](#)

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<b>Marine Area</b>	14034 ha	<b>Shoreline</b>	124.3 km
<b>Substrate</b>	sand	<b>Slope</b>	flat
<b>Exposure</b>	low	<b>Depth</b>	photic
<b>Current</b>	low - high	<b>Benthic Summer Temp</b>	cold
<b>Roughness</b>	low		

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### Management Emphasis - Community

#### Description

The shorelines of Port McNeill, Alert Bay and Sointula are within this unit. The unit is characterized by concentrated coastal uses and activities associated with these settlements.

#### Unit Attributes

CWS area of interest: most of the Vancouver Island nearshore and shoreline, including Port McNeill and the Nimpkish bank is significant for aquatic birds (Common Murre, Pacific Loon, gulls, Trumpeter Swans, Canada geese, Bufflehead, Mergansers, Surf Scoters, Mallards, Green-winged Teal, Goldeneye, scaup, grebes, dabbling ducks; Plumper Island and Stephenson Islet contain important breeding colonies of Pigeon Guillemot, Black Oystercatcher, Glaucous-winged Gull.

The marine bottom areas of this unit are habitat of the 20-Tentacled Thyonidium Sea Cucumber, rated provincially as critically imperiled (S1) and classified as a red listed species

Kelp Beds (9 identified - 139 ha)

Moderate to high invertebrate values

Intertidal Clams (1 beach identified – 9 ha)

Holding areas for adult salmon

Salmonid Streams: 26 observed, 5 assumed

Significant estuary: Nimpkish River

Important orca habitat (eastern portion of unit): Resident and West Coast transient populations are listed as threatened nationally (T), and imperiled provincially (S2). They are provincially red-listed.

Cormorant Channel Marine Park in unit is known to host red listed Pomegranate Aeolids and Raspberry Hydroids (marine benthic organisms)

Finfish aquaculture potential: OA 1 (middle half of unit)

Good to moderate beach clam and oyster capability (Mitchell Bay and Meynett Pt.)

Good to moderate off bottom scallop and oyster capability (north end of Broughton Strait between Malcolm Island and Port McNeill)

Douglas Treaty area, Traditional territory of Namgis and Kwakiutl First Nations

Indian Reserves – Alert Bay, Cheslakes, Ksildas, Kuldekuma, Klickseewy, Malcolm Island

Extensive private upland parcels

#### Current Uses & Activities

First Nations: Extensive fishing, shellfish, and culturally significant areas throughout

Light industrial uses (3)-storage tanks

Log handling and storage (5)

Boat haven – Dickson Island

Marinas (3)

Commercial wharfs (3)

Public wharfs (5)

Ferry terminal  
 Private moorage (2)  
 Utility lines (15)  
 Transportation activities  
 Marine based wildlife viewing  
 Kayak staging areas  
 Scuba diving sites (5); swimming, beachcombing  
 Secondary north-south navigation route through unit (CCG)  
 Year round commercial tenures (15)  
 Seasonal commercial tenures (2)  
 Road-accessible campsites (2)  
 Local/regional parks (3)  
 Sport crab, salmon, ground fisheries  
 Commercial salmon troll, gillnet, seine fisheries; hook & line, longline ground fishery; urchin fishery  
 Seine fishery for hatchery brood stock

### Acceptable Uses & Activities

#### Tenured Uses

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ✓ Community & Public Institutional      | ✓ Conservation                           |
| ✓ Light Industrial                      | ✓ Log Handling, Storage & Infrastructure |
| ✓ Marine Telecommunications & Utilities | ✓ Private Moorage                        |
| X Rural Development                     | ✓ General Commercial                     |

#### Aquaculture:

- X Finfish
- ✓ Marine Plant
- ✓ Shellfish Beach
- ✓ Shellfish Deep Water Aquaculture

#### Commercial Recreation:

- X Lodges and Base Camps
- O Guiding Operations

#### Ongoing Non Tenured Activities

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| ✓ Commercial Fisheries  | ✓ First Nations     |
| ✓ Marine Transportation | ✓ Public Recreation |

#### Code

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ✓ | The use or activity is considered acceptable and appropriate. Applications for tenure of this use should be accepted for processing and evaluation.  |
| o | The use is considered conditionally acceptable. Applications for tenure for use require more specific information on capability and potential to accompany a tenure application before it is accepted for processing.  |
| • | The use is acceptable at existing levels of tenure, subject to limited modifications as required by government. Applications for new tenures should not be accepted. Abandoned or unutilized sites should not subsequently be made available for the same use. |
| X | The use is considered inappropriate. Applications for tenure of this use should not be accepted for processing and evaluation.   |

### Management Provisions

This unit should be managed to accommodate a variety of existing uses and activities while protecting the Nimpkish River estuary.

Foreshore and nearshore uses on Malcolm Island must be consistent with the Malcolm Island Official Community Plan.

Commercial and industrial development should be concentrated in existing settlement areas.

Shellfish beach culture should be sited to avoid impact from upland residential development.

Licences or permits for commercial recreation guiding use of this unit are conditional on operating practices that follow established guidelines and / or performance based standards for minimizing impacts on bird colonies and migratory bird habitat.

New tenures should not alienate recorded commercial dive fishery sites

Shellfish deepwater aquaculture tenures should not infringe on existing recreational, commercial and First Nations fisheries.

New tenures should be sited and managed to minimize impact on the Nimpkish mud flats.

Opportunities should be maintained for beach use for commercial and public recreation.

All applications for use within 1km of estuaries and bird colonies should be referred to CWS.