

### Unit 3. Johnstone [click here for a detailed map](#)

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<b>Marine Area</b>	14161 ha	<b>Shoreline</b>	73.9 km
<b>Substrate</b>	sand	<b>Slope</b>	sloping (5-20%)
<b>Exposure</b>	low	<b>Depth</b>	deep (200-1000m)
<b>Current</b>	low	<b>Benthic Summer Temp</b>	warm
<b>Roughness</b>	moderate - low		

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### Management Emphasis - General Marine

#### Description

The unit is characterized by rocky shoreline with a few pocket beaches. The Strait is heavily used for fisheries and as a major marine transportation route. It is a critical whale habitat area with high rates of sea kayak and whale watching activity due to the significant whale rubbing beaches of the adjacent Robson Bight Ecological Reserve. Unregulated access to Robson Bight via Naka Creek forestry road increases recreational pressure in this area.

#### Unit Attributes

Migration route for transient & resident orcas

Important Orca summer resting, winter feeding habitat: Resident and West Coast transient populations are listed as threatened nationally (T), and imperiled provincially (S2). They are provincially red-listed.

2 Kelp beds (11 ha)

Moderate to high invertebrate values along Cracroft Island shoreline

Significant salmon migratory route (Fraser river stock)

Salmonid streams: 14 observed, 4 assumed

Finfish aquaculture potential: OA 1 throughout

Tlowitsis traditional territory

Hanson Island upland established as temporary Order-In-Council protection area under CCLRMP process, until June 30, 2003.

#### Current Uses & Activities

First Nations: Fishing grounds throughout the area

Popular boating area; kayaking along shoreline

Marine transportation routes and log tie-ups; principal north-south coast navigation route (CCG)

Important salmon troll area west of Robson Bight

Commercial salmon fishery, prawn fishery

Sport salmon Stimson Pt to West Cracroft Island, including Forward Harbour, ground fisheries; guided fly-fishing

Whale watching; kayaking route and destination area: highest kayak user days in province, outside of Gulf Islands; over 20 sea kayak companies and several whale watching companies.

Boat launch at log dump provides recreation user access to Robson Bight via Naka Creek forestry road

Remote campsites

Boat safe anchorage at Forward Bay

Log booming sites, A-Frame logging operation, upland logging camp

## Acceptable Uses & Activities

### Tenured Uses

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

#### Aquaculture:

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

#### Commercial Recreation:

- X** Lodges and Base Camps
- ✓ 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.
<b>X</b>	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 existing uses and activities while improving management for whale watching and other recreational activities in the area.

Tenure applicants are encouraged to develop working relationships with Tlowitsis First Nation.

New tenures should be located to avoid impact on high value whale habitat.

New tenures should not impede safe anchorage at Forward Bay.

New tenures should not preclude seine fishery shore tie-ups.

New tenures should not alienate recorded commercial dive fishery sites.

The regional district should address local recreational interests in its review of tenure referrals.

MSRM & LWBC should work with affected groups, the regional district and the Tlowitsis First Nation to develop a strategy for management and allocation of campsites in this unit for both recreational and tourism uses.

Management plans for commercial recreation guiding should attempt to reflect consultation with Tlowitsis First Nation to avoid harm to sensitive cultural sites.

Forest tenure holder and WLAP encouraged to collaborate on managing recreational access to Naka Creek boat launch.

Conditional marine telecommunications/ utilities uses require submission of supporting biophysical information with license or lease application.

Uses adjacent to Hanson Island should be compatible with any future protection area planning or designation of the adjacent upland.

Tenure approvals should be deferred adjacent to Hanson Island until June 30, 2003 or sooner to accommodate completion of collaborative management discussions.