

Unit 59. Queen Charlotte Strait [click here for a detailed map](#)

Marine Area	81934 Ha	Shoreline	52.3 km
Substrate	sand	Slope	flat (0-5%)
Exposure	moderate	Depth	mid-depth (50-200m)
Current	low (<3 Kn)	Benthic Summer Temp	cool (<9C) to warm (9-15C)
Roughness	low		

Management Emphasis - General Marine

Description

This unit comprises marine waters of Queen Charlotte Strait. The area is moderately exposed and currents are generally low. Its eastern edge lies adjacent to the existing Broughton Archipelago provincial park.

Unit Attributes

Important area for Orcas: Resident and West Coast transient populations are listed as threatened nationally (T), and imperiled provincially (S2). They are provincially red-listed.

Minke summer feeding area (eastern extent of unit and south of Broughton Island)

Kelp beds (28 identified – 71 ha)

Moderate invertebrate values along mainland coast

Intertidal clams (1 beach – 8 ha)

Major salmon migration route along north mainland coast (especially Coho) (local knowledge)

Moderate prawn values

High rockfish values

Upland areas in adjacent unit were proposed as Broughton Extension Goal 1 protection area by CCGAT in CCLRMP process; only upland now in CCLRMP terms of reference

Adjacent upland areas recently established as temporary OIC protection areas until June 30, 2003

Finfish aquaculture potential: OA 1 (within 1 km of north shore)

No shellfish aquaculture capability information available

Traditional territory of Gwa'sala'Nakwaxda'xw, Tsawataineuk, Namgis, and Kwakiutl First Nations

Current Uses & Activities

First Nations: scattered shellfish harvesting. Fishing areas in Strait between Numas and Foster Islands as well as some areas North towards the Deserters Group. Several culturally sensitive areas along Foster and Holford Islands

Commercial salmon troll, gillnet, seine, hook & line; urchin fishery; crab fishery; longline ground fishery

Sport salmon, crab and ground fisheries

Scuba diving

Remote campsite

Year-round recreational tenure

Salmon farm

Miscellaneous land use tenure

Remote recreational residential tenure

Major transport and navigation routes through unit, including principal north-south coast route, Vancouver Island west coast route and secondary routes (CCG)

Acceptable Uses & Activities

Tenured Uses

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

Aquaculture:

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

Commercial Recreation:

- ✓ 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.
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 current uses and activities.

New tenures for finfish aquaculture should be limited to the north shore of the unit.

New tenures near Swanson Island should not interfere with seine fishery tie-ups along the shore.

New tenures should be located and designed to minimize visual and aural effect on identified campsites.

Conditional shellfish and marine plant aquaculture uses require submission of supporting biophysical information with license or lease application.

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