

Unit 32. Wells Passage [click here for a detailed map](#)

Marine Area	2551 ha	Shoreline	70.4 km
Substrate	mud	Slope	sloping
Exposure	low	Depth	mid-depth
Current	low	Benthic Summer Temp	warm
Roughness	low		

Management Emphasis - General Marine

Description

This unit is a wide, well-flushed passage with a variety of developments and transportation activities. Seasonal float homes in Sullivan Bay are approaching year-round community status. The area contains many important First Nations clam beds.

Unit Attributes

The entrance to Drury Inlet is significant for migratory birds (Marbled Murrelets, Common Mergansers, Scoters, scaup, cormorants, loons, grebes, Rhinoceros Auklets, gulls), and is a CWS area of interest.

Kelp beds (14 identified – 204 ha total area)

Eelgrass in area (local knowledge)

Intertidal Clams (13 beaches – 22 ha)

Adult salmon holding area, migration route, Coho spawning at Providence Point (local knowledge)

Salmonid Streams: 9 observed, 2 assumed, including one in Carter Pass (local knowledge)

Moderate invertebrate values at Carter Pass

High prawn value (local knowledge)

Herring spawning (4 spawns recorded)

Sea lion colony at Surgeon Islets, west of Atkinson Island (local knowledge)

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

Harbour Porpoise area: provincially blue-listed species

Dolphin pods congregate at Sullivan Bay during winter (local knowledge)

Finfish aquaculture potential: OA 1

Good to moderate off bottom scallop and oyster capability from Sullivan Bay to Dunsany Passage

Traditional territory of Tsawataineuk and Gwawaenuk First Nations

Current Uses & Activities

First Nations: Extensive fishing and cultural areas throughout passage; extensive shellfish harvest areas, including areas along southwest & southeast shorelines. Concerned about impact of existing salmon farms on shellfish beds, salmon runs.

Salmon farms (2)

Log handling and storage (5); upland logging camp

Light industrial-oil tanks (1)

Marina at Sullivan Bay

Private wharf (1)

Year round commercial tenures (2)

Submerged pipeline transects Napier Bay

Boat Haven at Tracey Harbour (under *Land Act* Notation of Interest).

Marine transportation route through Wells Pass (CCG)

Sport salmon fishery

Commercial prawn fishery

Acceptable Uses & Activities

Tenured Uses

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

Aquaculture:

- ✓ Finfish
- ✓ Marine Plant
- ✗ Shellfish Beach
- ✓ 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.
○	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.
✗	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 development while maintaining marine transportation routes.

Tenure applicants are encouraged to develop working relationships with Gwawaenuk and Tsawataineuk First Nations.

New tenures should be located and managed to avoid conflict with existing development.

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

Maintain *Land Act* notation of interest over Tracey Harbour boat haven.

Shellfish and finfish aquaculture should not be located in Tracey Harbour or Napier Bay due to possible conflict with existing uses, including First Nations uses.

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

Commercial and industrial use applications within 1km of the entrance to Drury Inlet should be referred to CWS.