

Unit 53. Deserters and Walker Group [click here for a detailed map](#)

Marine Area	6602 ha	Shoreline	117.9 km
Substrate	hard	Slope	flat (0-5% slope)
Exposure	moderate	Depth	photic (20-50m) to mid-depth (50-200m)
Current	low (<3 Kn)	Benthic Summer Temp	cold (<9C) to warm (9-15C)
Roughness	high to low		

Management Emphasis - Conservation

Description

The unit comprises a series of islands and islets in Queen Charlotte Strait. It includes the Barry Islet and the Deserters and Walker island groups, both of which are proposed protection areas. The unit contains significant seal and sea lion haulouts, red and blue listed species, and provincially significant seabird habitat.

Unit Attributes

CWS areas of interest: some islets in the Deserters Group, and the Millar Group are significant for migratory birds. Significant breeding colonies of Black Oyster Catcher and Glaucous-winged Gull are found on Deserters Island, Bleach Rock, Barry Islet, and Joan Island. The unit also has high value for red-listed marbled murrelets

Millar Group is significant habitat for Northern Sea Lion (provincially red-listed)

Barry Islet foreshore includes large communities of pink and white gorgonian corals

The red listed (S1) algae *Hollenbergia Nigricans* has been identified in the Hedley Islands

Kelp beds (5 identified – 30 ha)

High rockfish values

High to moderate invertebrate values

Intertidal Clams (3 beaches identified– 15 ha)

Seal haulouts, rafting sites

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

Humpback and Grey Whale area: provincially blue listed species

Dall's & Harbour Porpoise habitat: Harbour Porpoise is blue-listed provincially

Islands in this unit and adjacent upland were proposed as Deserters-Walkers and Barry Islets Goal 2 protection areas by CCGAT in CCLRMP process; only upland now in CCLRMP terms of reference

Finfish aquaculture potential: OA 1 (within island groups)

No shellfish capability information available

Gwa'sala Nakwaxda'xw traditional territory

Private land ian Reserve– Mahpahkum

Current Useswestern half of Staples Island

Current Uses & Activities

First Nations: extensive fishing throughout. Shellfish harvesting around Deserters Group.

Culturally significant areas around Walker Group

Remote campsite

Boat haven at Walker Group (under *Land Act* notation of interest)

Salmon farm, application for a second farm under review

Sport salmon, ground fisheries

Commercial salmon troll , gillnet, seine fisheries; hook & line, longline ground fisheries
Log tow and weather route through Shelter Pass (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 | X General Commercial |

Aquaculture:

- Finfish
- O Marine Plant
- O Shellfish Beach
- O 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 maintain its conservation values, while accommodating limited additional development. The unit should be further assessed as a marine protection candidate.

Place entire marine portion of unit under *Land Act* notation of interest in favour of CWS and WLAP for marine conservation and recreation purposes.

Maintain *Land Act* notation of interest over Walker Group Boat haven.

Tenures must be compatible with protection management regime if confirmed on adjacent upland.

Tenures should be sited to minimize any negative impacts to Millar Group Sea lion haulouts.

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

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.

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

Finfish aquaculture tenure modification may be approved to accommodate anchoring requirements and/ or waste management regulation requirements, which include fallow sites.

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