

Unit 50. Polkinghorne [click here for a detailed map](#)

Marine Area	4736 ha	Shoreline	84.1 km
Substrate	sand	Slope	flat (0-5% slope)
Exposure	moderate	Depth	photic (20-50 m) to mid-depth (50-200m)
Current	low (<3 Kn)	Benthic Summer Temp	warm (9-15C)
Roughness	low		

Management Emphasis - Recreation**Description**

This unit consists of shoreline entrances to Wells Passage and includes numerous island groups. Islands in the unit are popular for kayaking and recreational boating.

Unit Attributes

Kelp beds throughout (2 identified – 10 ha total area)

Eelgrass throughout Dickson & Percy Islands area (local knowledge)

Intertidal Clams (17 beaches – 27 ha)

Salmonid Streams: 4 observed, 3 assumed

Adult salmon migration route, adult holding area

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

Winter Humpback Whale resident area: provincially blue listed species

Minke Whales in area (local knowledge)

Moderate prawn values

High rockfish values

High to moderate invertebrate values

Harbour Porpoise area: provincially blue-listed species

Sea lion colony around Dickson & Percy Islands (local knowledge)

Polkinghorne Islands and adjacent nearshore were proposed as Polkinghorne Goal 2 protection area by CCGAT in CCLRMP process; only upland now in CCLRMP terms of reference

Finfish aquaculture potential: OA 1 (northern third)

Good off bottom scallop capability (east of Dickson Island)

Good beach clam and oyster aquaculture capability (Aimee Bay)

Traditional territory of Tsawataineuk and Gwawaenuk

Adjacent Indian Reserve - Kadis

Current Uses & Activities

First Nations: Significant culturally sensitive areas around Dickson & Percy Islands. Extensive food fishery & shellfish beds areas throughout, including abalone. Concerned about overfishing in the area, whose food fishery is considered essential to cultural viability of Gwawaenuk.

Remote campsites, popular kayak destination

Boat haven at Dickson Island

Sport salmon fishery

Commercial hook & line ground fishery

Local transport and navigation route through Wells Pass and mainland coast portion (CCG)

Acceptable Uses & Activities

Tenured Uses

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

Aquaculture:

- X Finfish
- ✓ Marine Plant
- ✓ Shellfish Beach
- ✓ 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.
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 recreational opportunities while accommodating compatible development. The Polkinghorne component should be further assessed as a marine protection candidate.

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

Establish *Land Act* notation of interest over Dickson Island boat haven.

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

Tenure applicants are encouraged to develop working relationships with Gwawaenuk and Tsawataineuk First Nations, especially commercial recreation.

New tenures should not alienate recorded commercial dive fishery sites.

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

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

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

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