

Unit 7. Chatham Channel [click here for a detailed map](#)

Marine Area	953ha	Shoreline	36.1 km
Substrate	sand	Slope	flat
Exposure	low	Depth	photic
Current	low	Benthic Summer Temp	warm
Roughness	low		

Management Emphasis – Recreation

Description

The area is characterized by sheltered, low current waters. The unit supports high levels of recreation use.

Unit Attributes

Chatham Channel is a significant area for migratory waterfowl (diving ducks, Cormorants, Scoters, , Western Grebes, Great Blue Herons) and is a CWS area of interest.

4 kelp beds (60 ha)

Moderate to high invertebrate values

Intertidal Clams (2 beaches – 9 ha)

Salmonid Stream: 1 observed

Known salmon holding area for Cutter Creek stocks (local knowledge)

Herring spawning (3 spawns recorded)

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.

Finfish aquaculture potential: OA 1 (northern half only, excluding Cutter Cove)

Moderate off bottom oyster capability

Tlowitsis traditional territory

Private upland at Hadley Bay

Current Uses & Activities

First Nations: Extensive fishing and shellfish harvest areas throughout channel including the Blow Hole, Cutter Cove; numerous sensitive cultural sites

Marina (3) – Minstrel Island

Year round Commercial tenures (2)

Public wharf

Private moorage (2) – Minstrel Island

Remote campsites

Boat Haven in Cutter Cove

Towboat reserve at entrance to Cutter Cove

Primary boating route; important commercial navigation route

Navigation aid (1)

Remote residential (1)

Log dump (1)

Log transport tie-up area

Sport salmon fishery

Commercial prawn, shrimp, crab fisheries

Acceptable Uses & Activities

Tenured Uses

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

Aquaculture:

- X Finfish
- X Marine Plant
- X Shellfish Beach
- X 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 maintain existing commercial recreational and public uses, including recreational boating routes, while minimizing conflicts between floating structures and prawn and crab fisheries.

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

Establish *Land Act* Notation of Interest over Cutter Cove boat haven.

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

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

New tenures should not alienate recorded commercial dive fishery sites.

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

Commercial and industrial use applications should be referred to CWS.

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

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