Region 1 – Vancouver Island

Contact Information

Fish and Wildlife Regional Office

2080A Labieux Road
Nanaimo BC V9T 6J9
(250) 751-7220

Conservation Officer Service

Call 1-877-952-7277 for recorded information or to make an appointment at any of the following Field Offices:

Victoria, Duncan, Nanaimo, Black Creek, Port Alberni, and Port McNeill

Compulsory Inspection (CI) Centres

Qualified Compulsory Inspectors will provide this service at locations listed below. See the Ministry website at **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting/compulsory-inspection** or contact the regional office for more information.

CI Locations: by appointment only.

- Nanaimo
- Campbell River

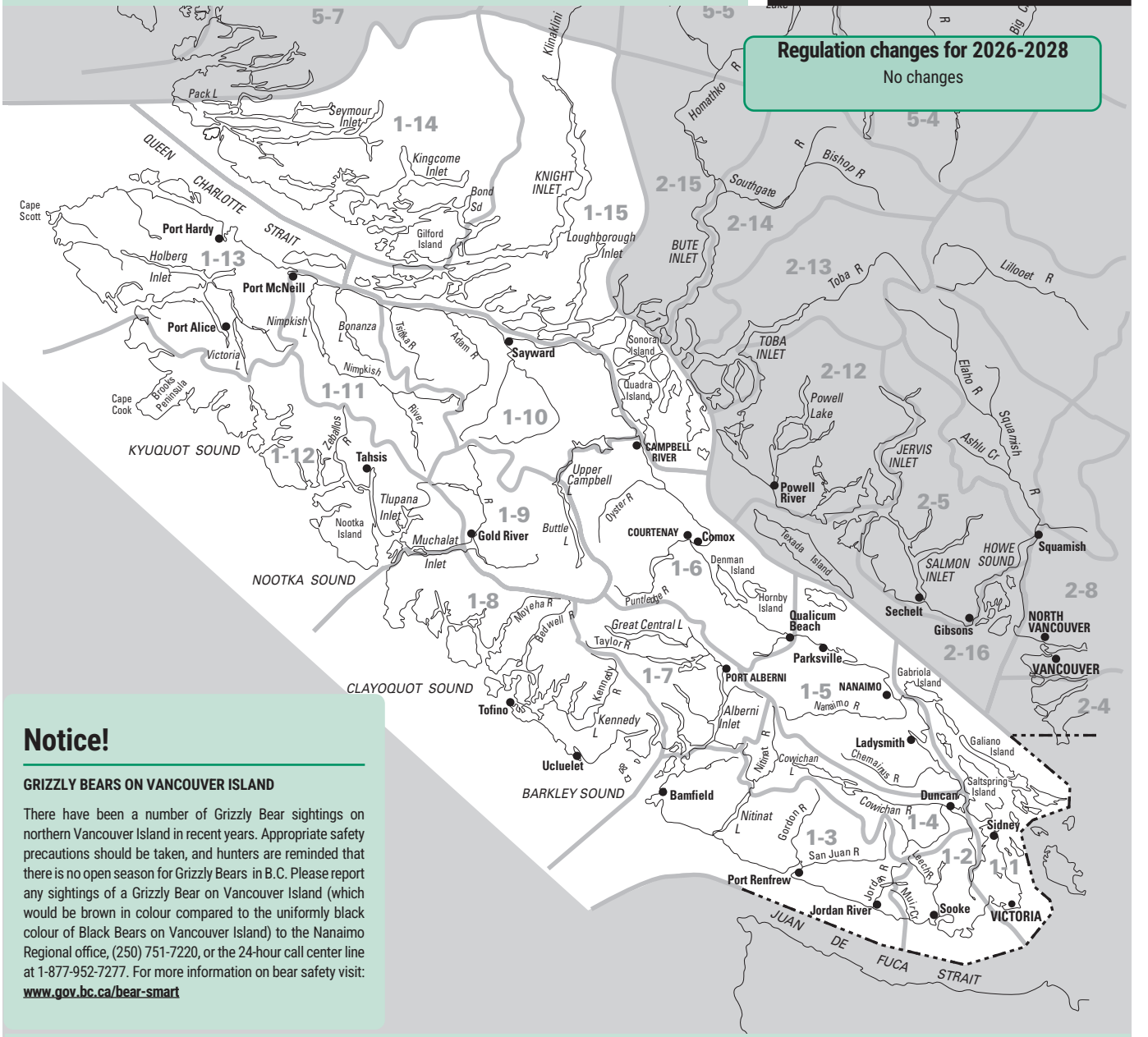
Stay up to date

Check website **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting** for in-season changes prior to your 2026-2028 hunt.

RAPP

Report All Poachers and Polluters
Conservation Officer 24 hour hotline
1-877-952-RAPP (7277)

Refer to page 2 for more information



Notice!

GRIZZLY BEARS ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

There have been a number of Grizzly Bear sightings on northern Vancouver Island in recent years. Appropriate safety precautions should be taken, and hunters are reminded that there is no open season for Grizzly Bears in B.C. Please report any sightings of a Grizzly Bear on Vancouver Island (which would be brown in colour compared to the uniformly black colour of Black Bears on Vancouver Island) to the Nanaimo Regional office, (250) 751-7220, or the 24-hour call center line at 1-877-952-7277. For more information on bear safety visit: **www.gov.bc.ca/bear-smart**

The Management Unit boundaries on the map above are approximate. For detailed maps visit **www.gov.bc.ca/WildlifeManagementUnits**.

Regional Bag Limits

Deer: The bag limit for mule (black-tailed) deer is 3, of which only two may be antlerless from Special Areas and only two may be bucks.

The bag limit for antlerless mule (black-tailed) deer taken during the youth only season or the youth bow only season in MUs 1-1, 1-2, 1-4, 1-5, and 1-6 is one.

Grouse: The daily bag limit for blue (sooty) and ruffed grouse is 5 each. See page 12 for additional information on bag limits.

Access Restrictions

» Region 1 Motor Vehicle Prohibition maps are available online at **www.gov.bc.ca/westcoastaccess.**

★ **Year-round Motor Vehicle Closed Areas:**

★ The Parksville-Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area in MU 1-5 (see Map A16)

★ Willow Creek in MU 1-6 (see Map A17)

★ Block 1392 of MU 1-5 on Green Mountain (in order to protect the habitat for Vancouver Island Marmots)

❇ **ATV and Snowmobile Closed Area** (See page 10): Nanaimo River Camp (Zone B of MU 1-5) in the watershed of the Nanaimo River from Sept 1 - Dec 31 (see Map A12).

It's Unlawful

» To use a wireless camera for the purpose of hunting in region 1.

» To intentionally bait or feed ungulates or turkey within 200m of a dwelling, school yard, or playground in region 1.

Notice to Hunters

» Hunting regulations for Mule (black-tailed) deer and Fallow deer are very different. Please ensure that you are informed and able to distinguish between the two species when hunting.

» Antlerless deer hunters please review the regulations carefully. There is no open season for antlerless Mule (black-tailed) deer in areas where rifles are permitted in region 1 except by way of Limited Entry Hunting in a portion of MU 1-15 and for youth hunters in MUs 1-1, 1-2, 1-4, 1-5, and 1-6. Please refer to special seasons in special shotgun or bow only portions of MUs 1-2, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, and 1-15: see Maps A10, A13, A14, A19, A20, and A32.

» Hunters should be aware of No Hunting and No Shooting Areas described on page 10. Hunters are also responsible for identifying and complying with community/municipal No Shooting bylaws. Municipal bylaws that affect the discharge of firearms and/or bows are not included in this synopsis. For more information, contact individual municipalities.

» No hunting of black bears within 800 m of the intersection of Beaver Cove Road and Telegraph Cove Road in MU 1-11

» Hunters are reminded that the Nanaimo River estuary is within city limits. A municipal bylaw restricts hunting to only a portion of the estuary and only during migratory bird seasons. Maps of the area open to hunting are available for viewing at the Ministry Regional Office in Nanaimo, or from the City of Nanaimo.

» The discharge of rifles is prohibited in MU 1-1 except on Valdes Island, Sidney Island and James Island (and except by permit elsewhere). Note: No Shooting or Hunting areas in MU 1-1, Maps A1, A2, A4, and A7.

» Nanoose Bay No Shooting Area (MU 1-5) - From the mean high water mark at the southeast corner of the Qualicum National Wildlife Area east to the mean high water mark on the Department of Defence property line and the shore area between these points (400 m out onto the water from the mean high water mark).

» Qualicum National Wildlife Areas (MU 1-6) - Hunting, trapping, fishing, or the possession of any firearm (*Canada Wildlife Act*) is prohibited in this area. For further details contact the Canadian Wildlife Service office in Delta (604-350-1950) Pacific Wildlife Research Centre.

» The discharge of firearms is prohibited within 25 m on either side of the midline of Westcan Terminals Road east of Indian Reserve #9 and 25 m seaward from and including the paved area of Westcan Terminals Port site (situated in MU 1-4). See Map A8.

» Cowichan River No Shooting Area (MU 1-4). The discharge of firearms is Prohibited within 100 m of the high water mark of the Cowichan River from a point starting on the river immediately north of the Holt Creek Trailhead upstream along the Cowichan River to the Municipality of Lake Cowichan.

Gulf Islands Special Hunting Area

» Gulf Islands special hunting area comprised of Denman and Hornby Islands (MU 1-6) and all islands within MU 1-1 (except Vancouver Island).

» The majority of these islands are comprised of private land and National Park. Prior to hunting on private land, hunters must obtain permission from the owner of the property they intend to hunt. There is no hunting within Gulf Islands National Park.

» Hunters must have $100,000 or more in public liability and property damage insurance while hunting unless guided by a guide outfitter or assistant guide.

» All persons 18 years of age or older hunting on the Gulf Islands Special Hunting Area **are required to purchase a Gulf Islands Special Area Licence**; available at Service BC, FrontCounter BC, participating vendors or online at **www.gov.bc.ca/hunting**.

» Persons under the age of 18 must be accompanied by someone over the age of 18 who holds a Gulf Island Special Area Licence.

» No open season for upland game birds (grouse, pheasant, quail) on Denman Island (situated in MU 1-6).

Ungulate Health

Concerns with ungulate health are rising with the recent detection of Adenovirus Hemorrhagic Disease (AHD) in B.C. and detection of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) within the southeast part of the Kootenay Region. AHD was first identified in the fall of 2020 on several Gulf Islands (Galiano, Mayne, Pender, and Salt Spring) and southern Vancouver Island as far north as Merville. AHD is a highly contagious and often fatal disease, particularly in black-tailed deer. It has caused significant losses of deer in the U.S.

The disease course is usually rapid as the virus damages small blood vessels in the lungs and intestines. Symptoms of AHD include difficulty breathing, foaming, or drooling from the mouth, diarrhea, and seizures. If an infected animal survives the acute phase, chronic signs may include ulcers and abscesses in the mouth and throat that can lead to weight loss and death. Fawns/juveniles are more susceptible to AHD and experience much higher death rates than adults. Affected animals are often found dead and in good body condition with no signs of trauma or other cause of death.

AHD can be spread through direct contact between deer or contact with fluids (saliva, feces, urine). Transmission may also occur through airborne routes, contaminated feed and water, and contaminated equipment. There is no evidence that AHD can be transmitted to humans and research supports that it is not transmitted to livestock or pets. Although there is no known risk to human health from AHD, hunters are advised not to consume meat from animals found dead, obviously ill or acting abnormally prior to death. To help prevent the spread of AHD, dispose of carcasses by deep burial, do not move infected, dead or live deer to new areas, and prevent aggregations of deer at artificial feeding or water sources.

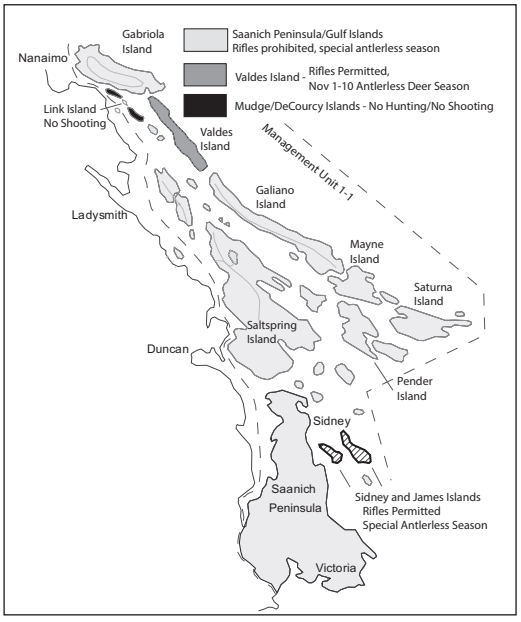
CWD has been detected in B.C. and the risk of further spread continues to increase as high-risk material is moved around the province or brought into the B.C. Natural movement of infected animals puts certain parts of B.C. at greatest risk, but the disease could be introduced anywhere, including Vancouver Island, with the transport of infected carcasses and use of CWD contaminated material (i.e., urine-based scents). Help protect B.C. ungulates by understanding these risks, helping to increase awareness, and submitting your deer, elk, moose or caribou for testing. Learn more about the BC CWD Program at **www.gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease** and AHD at **www.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth.**

Vancouver Island General Open Seasons

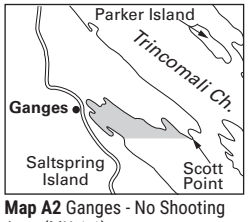
SPECIES	MANAGEMENT UNIT	CLASS	SEASON DATES	BAG LIMIT
MULE DEER (Black-tailed)	▼1-1 to 1-15	Bucks	⁎Sept 10 - Dec 10	Refer to Regional Bag Limits on p. 20 and the Deer Bag Limits article on p. 14
Special Areas	See Maps A1, A10, A13, A14, A19, A20, A32	Antlerless	★Aug 25 - Sept 9 (bow only)	
			⁎Sept 10 - Dec 10	
Youth Only**	1-1, 1-2, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6	Antlerless	Sept 10 - Dec 10	
Bow Only	▼★1-1 to 1-15	Bucks	Aug 25 - Sept 9	
Youth Bow Only**	★1-1, 1-2, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6	Antlerless	Aug 25 - Sept 9	
▼ A portion of MU 1-6 is restricted to two point or greater mule deer; keep antlers with species licence. See Map A26.				
** Season restricted to hunters under the age of 18 ⁎ On Denman and Hornby Island season the date is Oct 5 to Dec 10.				
★ There is no bow only season on the Gulf Islands in MU 1-1 (except Gabriola Island), in zone B of MU 1-5 (see Map A12) or on Denman and Hornby Islands (MU 1-6).				
FALLOW DEER	1-1 to 1-7	Either sex	No Closed Season	NBL
Species licence not required for fallow deer.				
MOUNTAIN GOAT	1-14, 1-15		Sept 10 – Nov 30	1
Compulsory Inspection required.				
BLACK BEAR	1-1 to 1-15		Sept 10 – Dec 10	2
	1-1 to 1-15		Apr 1 - June 15	
Bow Only	★1-1 to 1-15		Aug 25 - Sept 9	
★ *There is no bow only season on the Gulf Islands in MU 1-1 (except Gabriola Island) or in zone B of MU 1-5 (see Map A12) or on Denman and Hornby Islands (MU 1-6).*				
WOLF	1-1 to 1-15		Sept 10 - Mar 31	3
	1-1 to 1-15		Apr 1 - June 15	
All wolves taken in region 1 must be Compulsory Reported.				
COUGAR	1-1 to 1-15		Sept 10 - Mar 31	2
	1-1 to 1-15		Apr 1 - June 15	
Hunters may not hunt a cougar kitten or any cougar in its company. See Definitions section: cougar kitten. All cougars taken in region 1 must be Compulsory Inspected.				
RACCOON	1-1 to 1-15		No Closed Season	10
SNOWSHOE HARE	1-14, 1-15		Aug 1 - Apr 30	10 (daily)
OPOSSUM, SKUNK	1-1 to 1-15		No Closed Season	NBL
A person who kills an opossum is requested to submit the carcass to an officer of the Wildlife Program at a regional or district office and provide the following information: location of the kill, date of kill, and sex of animal.				
GROUSE: SOOTY (Blue) & RUFFED	1-1 to 1-15		Sept 1 - Dec 31	5 each (15 each)
Bow Only	★1-1 to 1-15		Aug 20 - Aug 31	
★ There is no bow only season on the Gulf Islands in MU 1-1 (except Gabriola Island) or in zone B of MU 1-5 (see Map A12) or on Denman and Hornby Islands (MU 1-6)				
PTARMIGAN	1-14, 1-15		Sept 10 - Nov 30	5 (15)
CALIFORNIA QUAIL	1-1 to 1-15		Oct 1 - Nov 30	5 (15)
No open season on mountain quail.				
PHEASANT	1-1 to 1-9		Oct 1 - Nov 30	2 (6)
TURKEY	1-1 to 1-7	Any Turkey	No Closed Season	NBL
BAND-TAILED PIGEONS	1-1 to 1-15		Sept 15 - Sept 30	5 (15)
COMMON SNIPE	1-1 to 1-15	Oct 10, 2026 - Jan 24, 2027	Oct 9, 2027 - Jan 23, 2028	10(30)
COOTS	1-1 to 1-15	Oct 10, 2026 - Jan 24, 2027	Oct 9, 2027 - Jan 23, 2028	10(30)
DUCKS	1-1 to 1-15	Oct 10, 2026 - Jan 24, 2027	Oct 9, 2027 - Jan 23, 2028	8(24)
Daily aggregate bag limit for ducks is 8: max of 4 Pintails, 4 Canvasbacks, 2 Goldeneyes (Barrow's and Common in aggregate) and 2 Harlequins - see page 12.				
GEESE: SNOW & ROSS'S	1-1 to 1-15	Oct 10, 2026 - Jan 24, 2027	Oct 9, 2027 - Jan 23, 2028	5 (15)
GEESE: WHITE-FRONTED	1-1 to 1-15	Oct 10, 2026 - Jan 24, 2027	Oct 9, 2027 - Jan 23, 2028	5 (15)
GEESE: CANADA & CACKLING	1-3, 1-8 to 1-15	Oct 10, 2026 - Jan 24, 2027	Oct 9, 2027 - Jan 23, 2028	10 (30)
	1-1, 1-2, ▲★1-4 to 1-7	Sept 5, 2026 - Sept 15, 2026	Sept 4, 2027 - Sept 14, 2027	
	1-1, 1-2, ▲1-4 to 1-7	Oct 10, 2026 - Nov 22, 2026	Oct 9, 2027 - Nov 21, 2027	
	1-1, 1-2, ▲1-4 to 1-7	Dec 19, 2026 - Jan 10, 2027	Dec 18, 2027 - Jan 9, 2028	
	1-1, 1-2, ▲1-4 to 1-7	Feb 10, 2027 - Mar 10, 2027	Feb 11, 2028 - Mar 10, 2028	
	1-4 (Ex-Dinsdale property, See Map A8)	Oct 10, 2026 - Oct 19, 2026	Oct 9, 2027 - Oct 18, 2027	
		Dec 19, 2026 - Dec 31, 2026	Dec 18, 2027 - Dec 31, 2027	
		Feb 20, 2027 - Mar 10, 2027	Feb 19, 2028 - Mar 10, 2028	
▲ Season dates do not apply for the Ex-Dinsdale property in MU 1-4; see specific Ex-Dinsdale property season dates and Map A8.				
★There is no September season for Canada and cackling geese in that portion of MU 1-4 known as the Cowichan Bay Seasonal No Shooting Area. See Map A8				

Visit **https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting.html** for further information on Migratory Game Bird regulations in B.C.

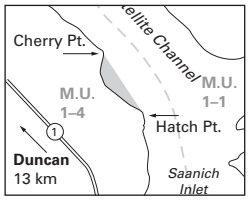
Region 1 – Vancouver Island



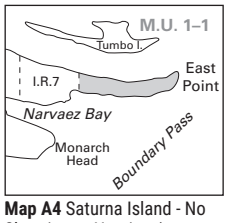
Map A1 Saanich Peninsula/Gulf Islands - Firearms/hunting restrictions and special antlerless season Sidney and James Islands.



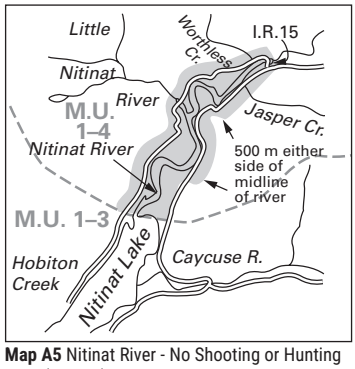
Map A2 Ganges - No Shooting Area (MU 1-1).



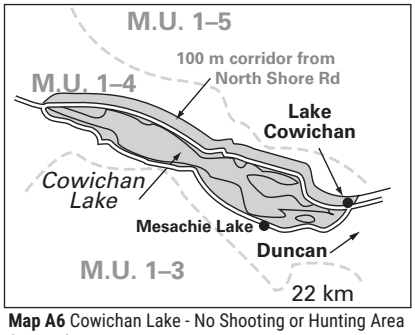
Map A3 Cherry Point No Shooting Area (MU 1-4).



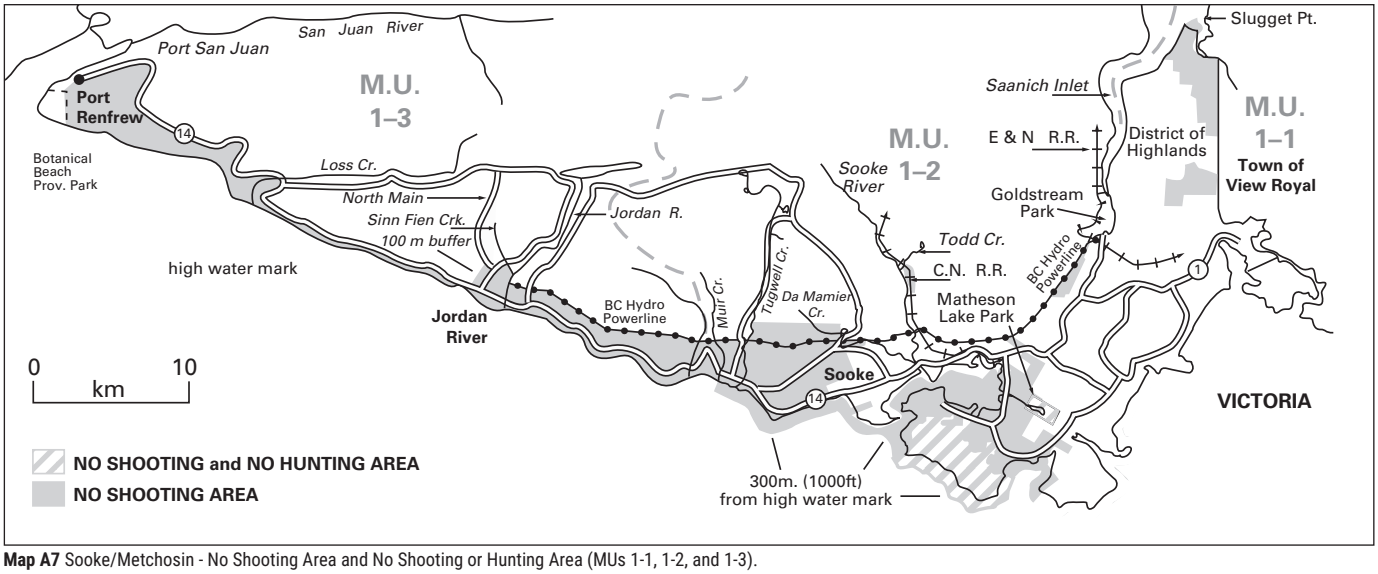
Map A4 Saturna Island - No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 1-1).



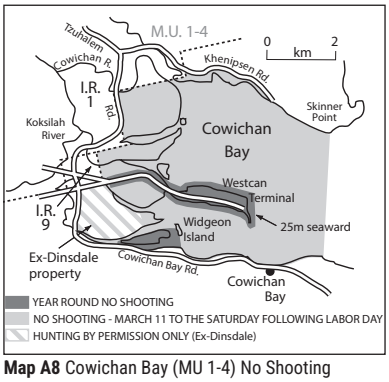
Map A5 Nitinat River - No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 1-4).



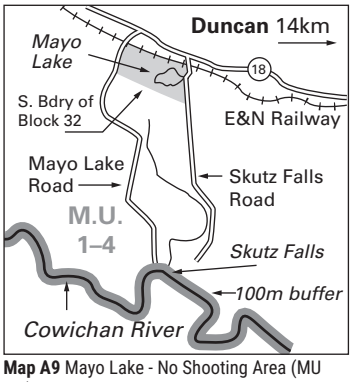
Map A6 Cowichan Lake - No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 1-4).



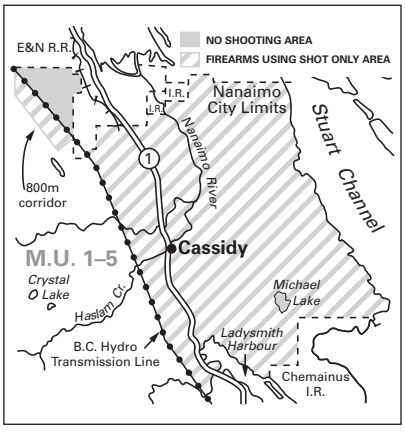
Map A7 Sooke/Metchosin - No Shooting Area and No Shooting or Hunting Area (MUs 1-1, 1-2, and 1-3).



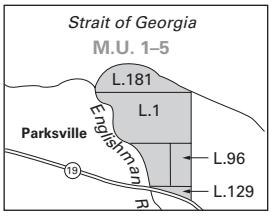
Map A8 Cowichan Bay (MU 1-4) No Shooting Area, Seasonal No Shooting Area and Ex-Dinsdale Property.



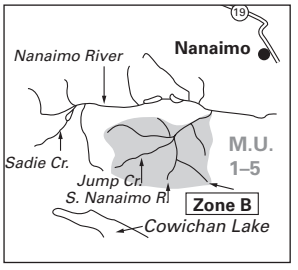
Map A9 Mayo Lake - No Shooting Area (MU 1-4). Note: Cowichan River No Shooting Area within 100 m of the river from Holt Creek Trail to the municipality of Lake Cowichan.



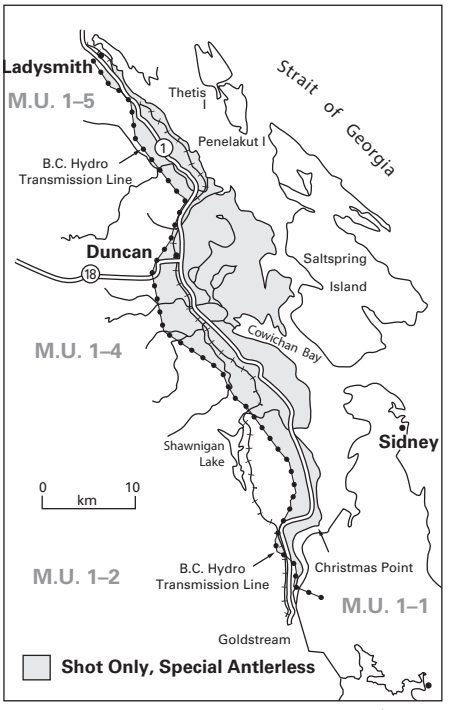
Map A10 Nanaimo/ Ladysmith - No Shooting Area and Bow or Discharge of Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MU 1-5) and special antlerless mule deer season (east of the powerline). Michael Lake No Shooting Area on Michael Lake to the high water mark.



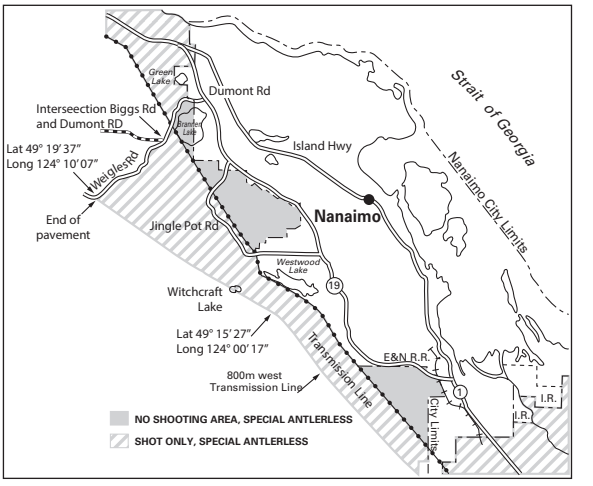
Map A11 Englishman River - No Shooting Area (MU 1-5).



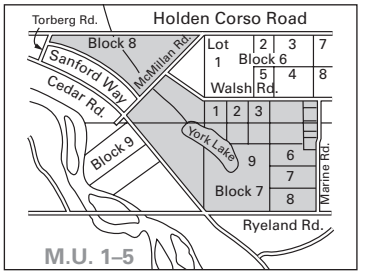
Map A12 Nanaimo River Camp Closed Area during bow only season for grouse, mule (black-tailed) deer and black bear. Use of snowmobiles, electric bicycles, and ATV's (including all motorcycles) prohibited from Sept 1 - Dec 31 (MU 1-5) in the watershed of the S. Nanaimo River.



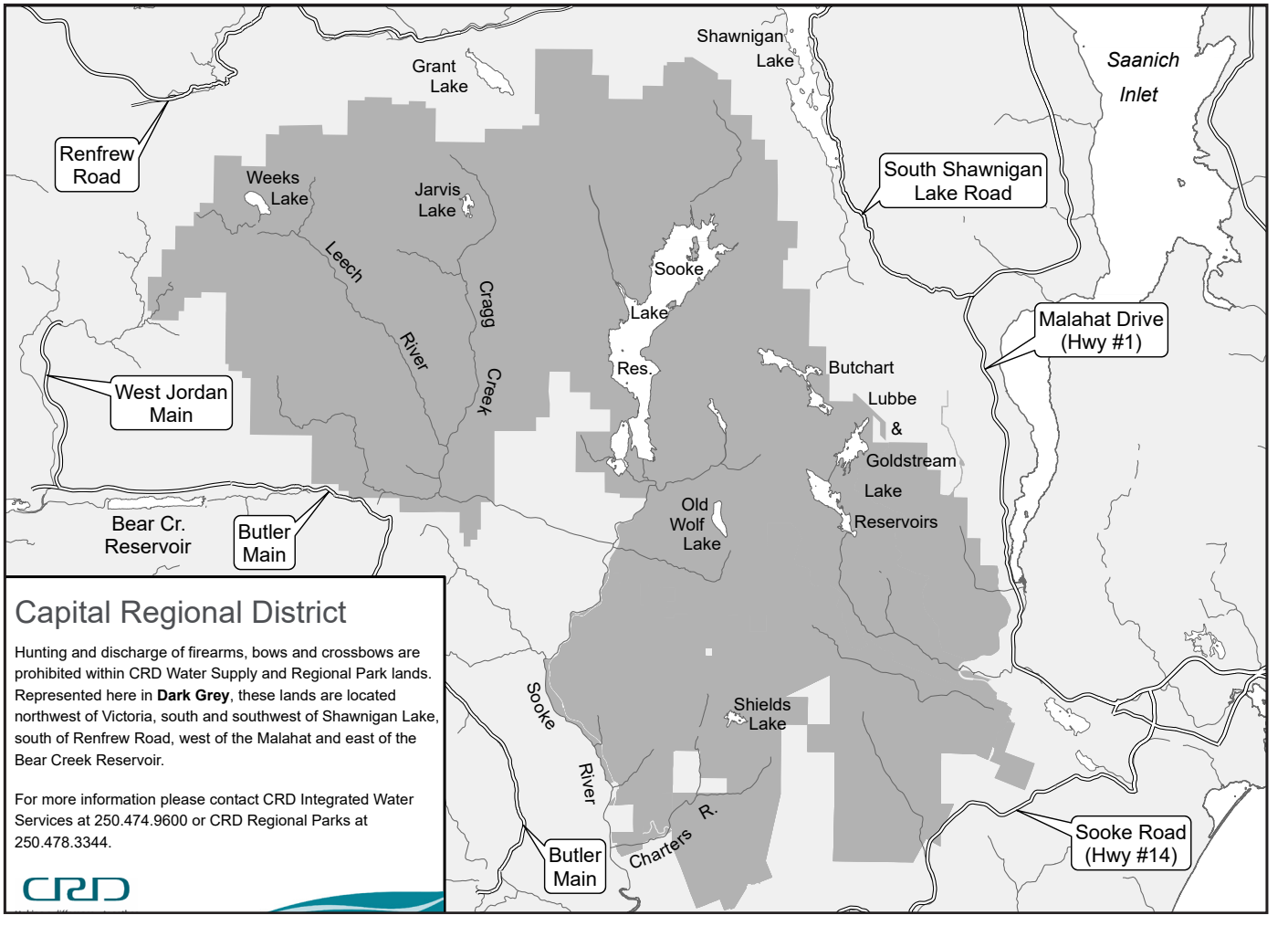
Map A13 Ladysmith/Malahat - Bow or Discharge of Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MUs 1-2, 1-4, 1-5) and special antlerless mule deer season.



Map A14 Nanaimo - No Shooting Area and Bow or Discharge of Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MU 1-5) and special antlerless mule deer season.



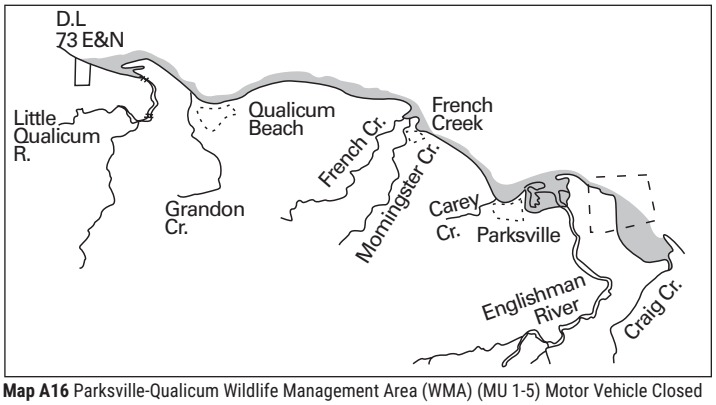
Map A15 York Lake - No Shooting Area (MU 1-5).



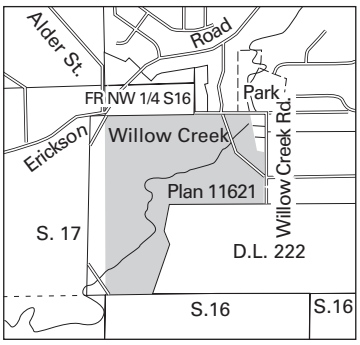
Capital Regional District

Hunting and discharge of firearms, bows and crossbows are prohibited within CRD Water Supply and Regional Park lands. Represented here in **Dark Grey**, these lands are located northwest of Victoria, south and southwest of Shawnigan Lake, south of Renfrew Road, west of the Malahat and east of the Bear Creek Reservoir.

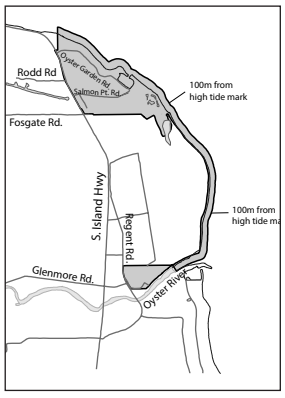
For more information please contact CRD Integrated Water Services at 250.474.9600 or CRD Regional Parks at 250.478.3344.



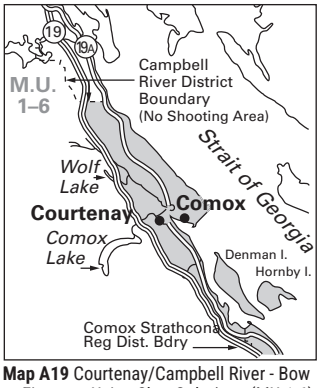
Map A16 Parksville-Qualicum Wildlife Management Area (WMA) (MU 1-5) Motor Vehicle Closed Area.



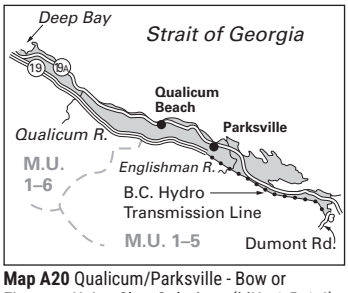
Map A17 Willow Creek Motor Vehicle Closed Area (MU 1-6).



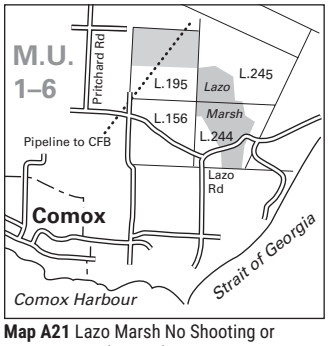
Map A18 Woodhus Slough No Hunting Area (MU 1-6).



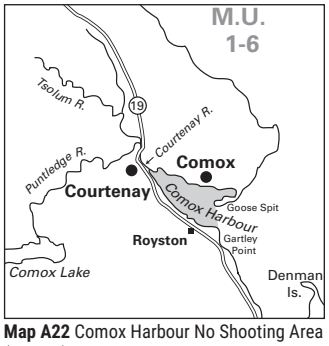
Map A19 Courtenay/Campbell River - Bow or Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MU 1-6) and special antlerless mule deer season. Gulf Island Special Licence is required on Denman and Hornby Islands - see page 20.



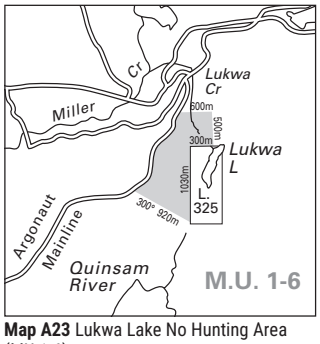
Map A20 Qualicum/Parksville - Bow or Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MUs 1-5, 1-6) and special antlerless mule deer season.



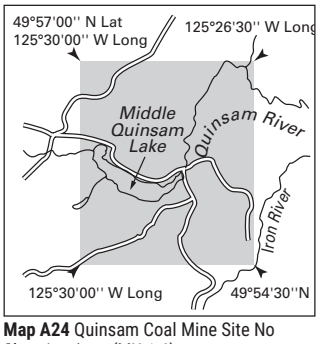
Map A21 Lazo Marsh No Shooting or Hunting Area (MU 1-6).



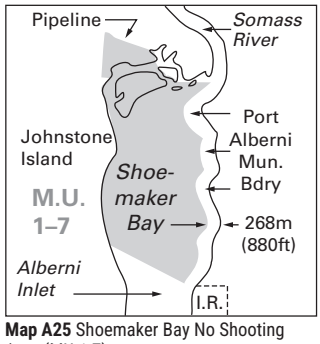
Map A22 Comox Harbour No Shooting Area (MU 1-6).



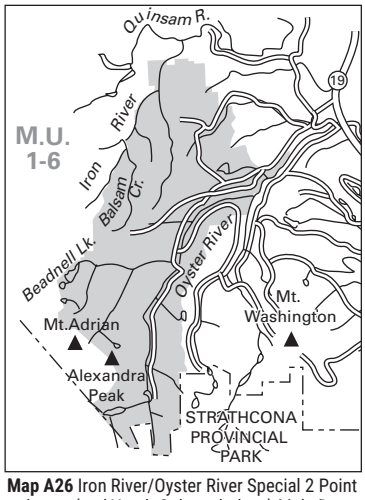
Map A23 Lukwa Lake No Hunting Area (MU 1-6).



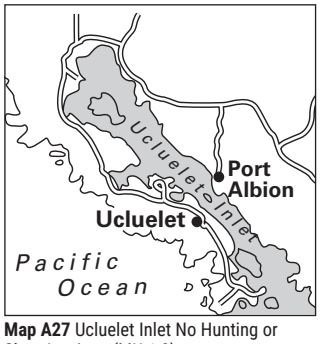
Map A24 Quinsam Coal Mine Site No Shooting Area (MU 1-6).



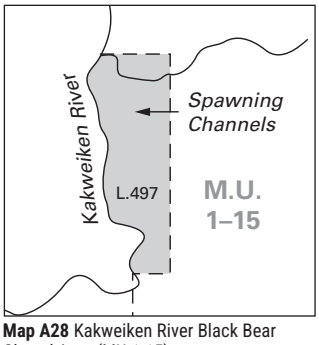
Map A25 Shoemaker Bay No Shooting Area (MU 1-7).



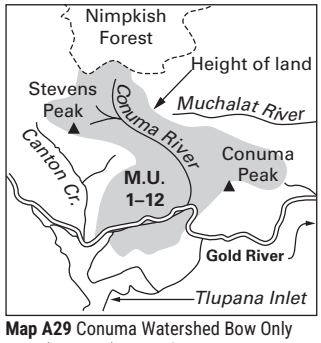
Map A26 Iron River/Oyster River Special 2 Point or better (and Youth Only antlerless) Mule Deer Hunting Area (MU 1-6).



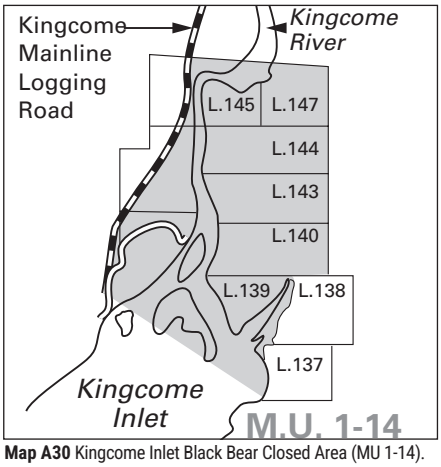
Map A27 Ucluelet Inlet No Hunting or Shooting Area (MU 1-8).



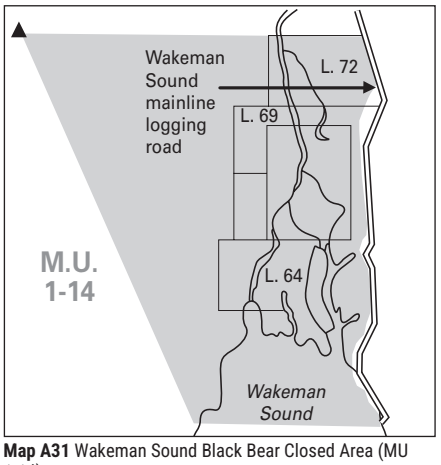
Map A28 Kakweiken River Black Bear Closed Area (MU 1-15).



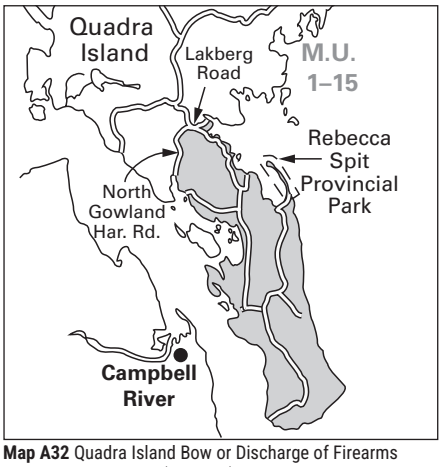
Map A29 Conuma Watershed Bow Only Area (MU 1-12). Open for Bow Only Hunting of all big game with open seasons in MU 1-12.



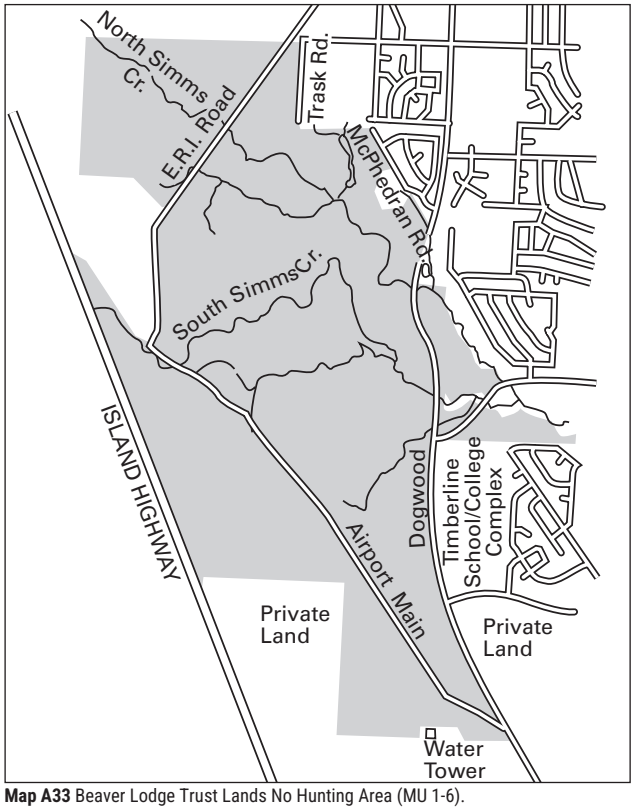
Map A30 Kingcome Inlet Black Bear Closed Area (MU 1-14).



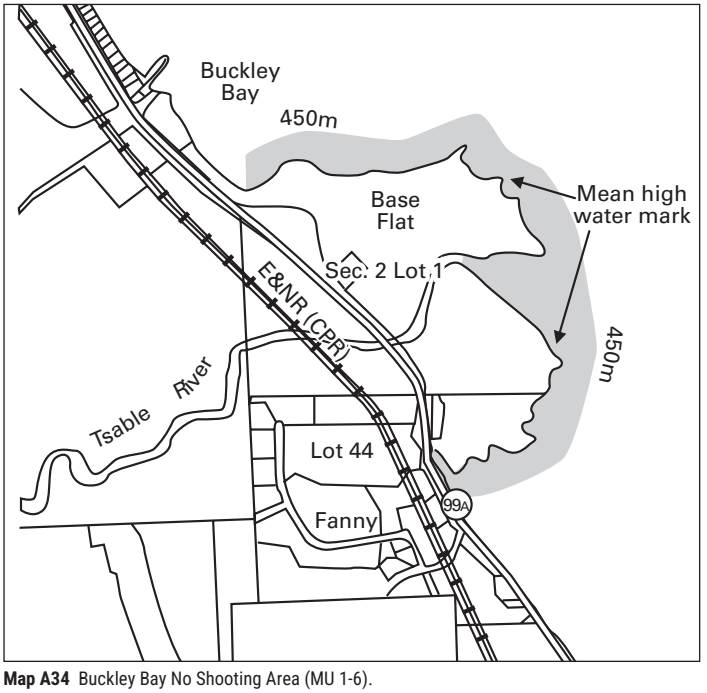
Map A31 Wakeman Sound Black Bear Closed Area (MU 1-14).



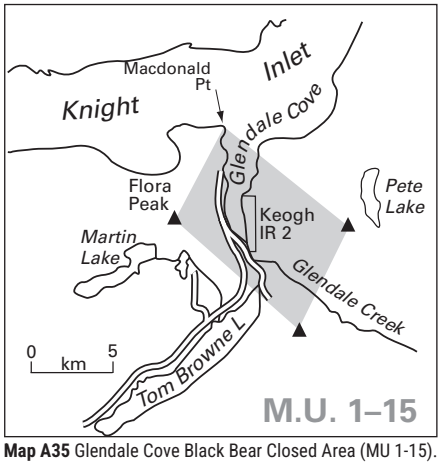
Map A32 Quadra Island Bow or Discharge of Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MU 1-15) and special antlerless mule deer season.



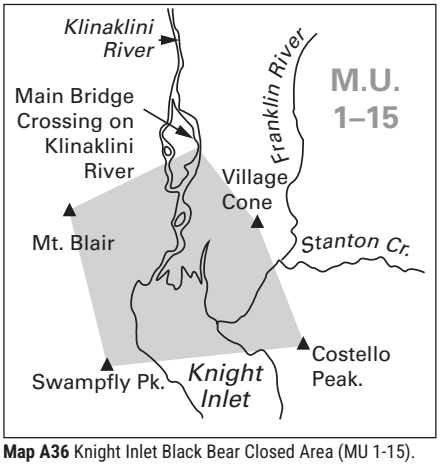
Map A33 Beaver Lodge Trust Lands No Hunting Area (MU 1-6).



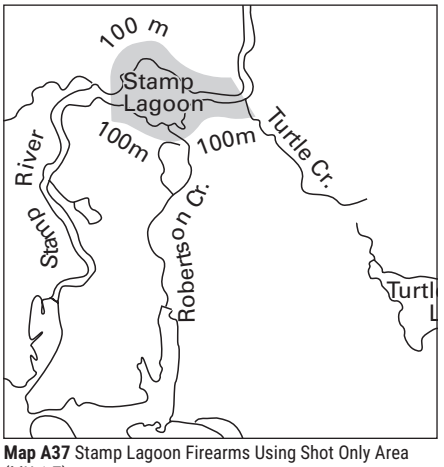
Map A34 Buckley Bay No Shooting Area (MU 1-6).



Map A35 Glendale Cove Black Bear Closed Area (MU 1-15).



Map A36 Knight Inlet Black Bear Closed Area (MU 1-15).



Map A37 Stamp Lagoon Firearms Using Shot Only Area (MU 1-7).