SMALL INLET MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

August 2003

Approved by:

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Date: Jan. 21/04

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Primary Role

The **primary** role of Small Inlet Marine Park is to provide a marine recreation experience for boaters traveling the Inside Passage. The Inside Passage is a popular route for long distance boaters traveling the North Coast towards Alaska. Safe anchorages with a natural setting have been established for this purpose. Small Inlet is a well-protected anchorage where boaters can wait for slack water to pass through the tidal rapids of Discovery Passage, Okisollo Channel and Hole in the Wall.

Located on the northwest side of Quadra Island, this 710-hectare park protects Small Inlet and the upland area surrounding the inlet and Newton Lake. Recreational opportunities include hiking, fishing, kayaking, boating, and nature appreciation. Wilderness (unregulated) camping is allowed but no facilities are provided. A portage trail outside of the park boundary leads to Waiatt Bay (Octopus Islands Provincial Park) on the east side of Quadra Island. From the south shore of the inlet, a hiking trail leads to Newton Lake, a popular swimming lake. Access to Small Inlet Park is by boat or trail via Newton Lake.

Secondary Role

The **secondary** role is to protect representative upland and marine ecosystems. Small Inlet Park contributes to the representation of the under-represented Coastal Western Hemlock xm2 biogeoclimatic variant and Outer Fiordland Ecosection (OUF), which have only 4.1% and 3.3% respectively protected in the Protected Areas system. These ecosystems have been highly modified and not much remains intact, therefore Small Inlet Park has a high remnant value. Acquisition of private land between Small Inlet and Octopus Islands provincial parks would add to the conservation and representative value of the upland area of both parks, while protecting a portage route between the two.

Through protection of foreshore, Small Inlet Park also makes a contribution of 1.3% to the overall representation of the Johnstone Strait *Marine* Ecosection (JS), which is poorly represented in the Protected Areas system. The inlet itself serves as habitat for salmon, herring spawn, groundfish, Dungeness crabs, clams, cockles, coonstripe shrimp, and many other marine species and seabirds. It is a holding area where massive numbers of jellyfish consistently concentrate, and is considered highly important for local jellyfish populations. The park also contains a salmon bearing creek that is rated moderate for chum escapement and low for coho escapement.

Tertiary Role

The **tertiary** role is to protect cultural values, both First Nations and European. The park protects significant First Nations values that offer glimpses to the past and demonstrate their tie to the land. Traces of logging, mining and farming activities around the turn of the century are also still visible.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Lack of knowledge of natural values	➢ Undertake inventory and research to identify and assess marine and upland values.

Impact of adjacent activities (logging, log booming, aquaculture, private land development) on natural, cultural and visual values	➢ Work with adjacent land owners, Ministry of Forests and industry to ensure park values are taken into consideration during forest and other types of development. ➢ Encourage Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and aquaculture farm owners to relocate at least 0.5 kilometre from the park.
Commercial and recreational fishing pressures on marine species (high levels of use)	➢ Work with DFO to enforce crab closures for dioxin pollution and to inform recreational harvesters not to exceed hepatopancreas consumption rates. ➢ Liaise with DFO and sport fishing groups to minimize impacts from commercial harvesting and sport fishing.
Impacts on water quality in anchorage by boat sewage	➢ Continue to work with DFO to establish a no dumping regulation (Kanish Bay nominated but not designated as no-dump zone in 2000). ➢ Develop and implement a water quality monitoring program. ➢ Increase public awareness through signage and website about impacts of dumping. ➢ Monitor levels of use and develop sanitation facilities when deemed necessary.
Impacts on upland ecosystems as a result of increasing unregulated camping use, and impacts on cultural values from recreational use	➢ Monitor impacts by implementing Backcountry Recreation Impact Monitoring (BRIM). ➢ Monitor levels of recreational use and develop camping site when impacts reach unacceptable levels. ➢ In conjunction with First Nations, develop interpretative information on the importance and sensitivity of the parks' natural and cultural values.
Potential development of private land and impacts on park values including portage route	➢ Pursue acquisition of private land between Waiatt Bay and Small Inlet to complete and protect the portage route and the spring, and to increase the representative value of the two parks.
Building relationships with community and First Nations	➢ Continue to develop a good working relationship with First Nations to protect cultural sites and to gain an understanding of park values and management issues. ➢ Work with community regarding park stewardship. ➢ Continue to work with community in the acquisition of key parcels of private land.

Zoning

Natural Environment Zone – covers the entire park (710 hectares). The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment. This zoning allows for a range of compatible recreational activities, while providing the Environmental Stewardship Branch with the ability to manage potential impacts on known natural and cultural values.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☒	Small Inlet Marine Park contributes 5.1%, making it the 4th largest contributor out of 16 protected areas, to the representation of the Outer Fiordland Ecosection (OUF), which is under represented provincially at 3.3%. East Redonda Island Ecological Reserve is the largest contributor with 42.8% and Main Lakes Park is the 2nd largest contributor with 24.5%. As part of the park is adjacent to Octopus Islands Park, it is part of a larger protected area that contributes more significantly to the upland ecosystem representation. It also makes a contribution of 1.3% to the representation of the Johnstone Strait *Marine* Ecosection (JS), which is under protected at 3.7%. Small Inlet Marine Park is one of 16 protected areas that contribute to its representation.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☒	Small Inlet Marine Park is the 6th largest contributor out of 30 protected areas to the overall representation of CWHxm2, which is under represented provincially at 4.1%. Small Inlet Park contributes 3.7% to the representation of CWHxm2. Representation of this ecosystem is important due to its fragmented nature and the limited opportunities available for protection. Strathcona Park is the largest contributor with 50.6% and Main Lakes Park is the 2nd largest contributor with 24.5%. As part of the park is adjacent to Octopus Islands Park, it is part of a larger protected area that contributes more significantly to the upland ecosystem representation.
Special Features	☒	Two small lakes, salmon-bearing creek, marine habitat and landforms, artesian spring near the portage route (this is outside the park)
Rare/Endangered Values	☐	None known at this time
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☐	None known at this time

Recreation

Representation		
backcountry	☐	Not Applicable
destination	☒	Good anchorage, kayaking destination

travel corridor	☒	Part of Inside Passage route, Discovery Pass nearby is a high traffic marine route
local recreation	☒	High community interest in park; hiking, swimming, fishing, kayaking
Special Opportunities	☐	None known at this time
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☒	Cultural history

Cultural Heritage

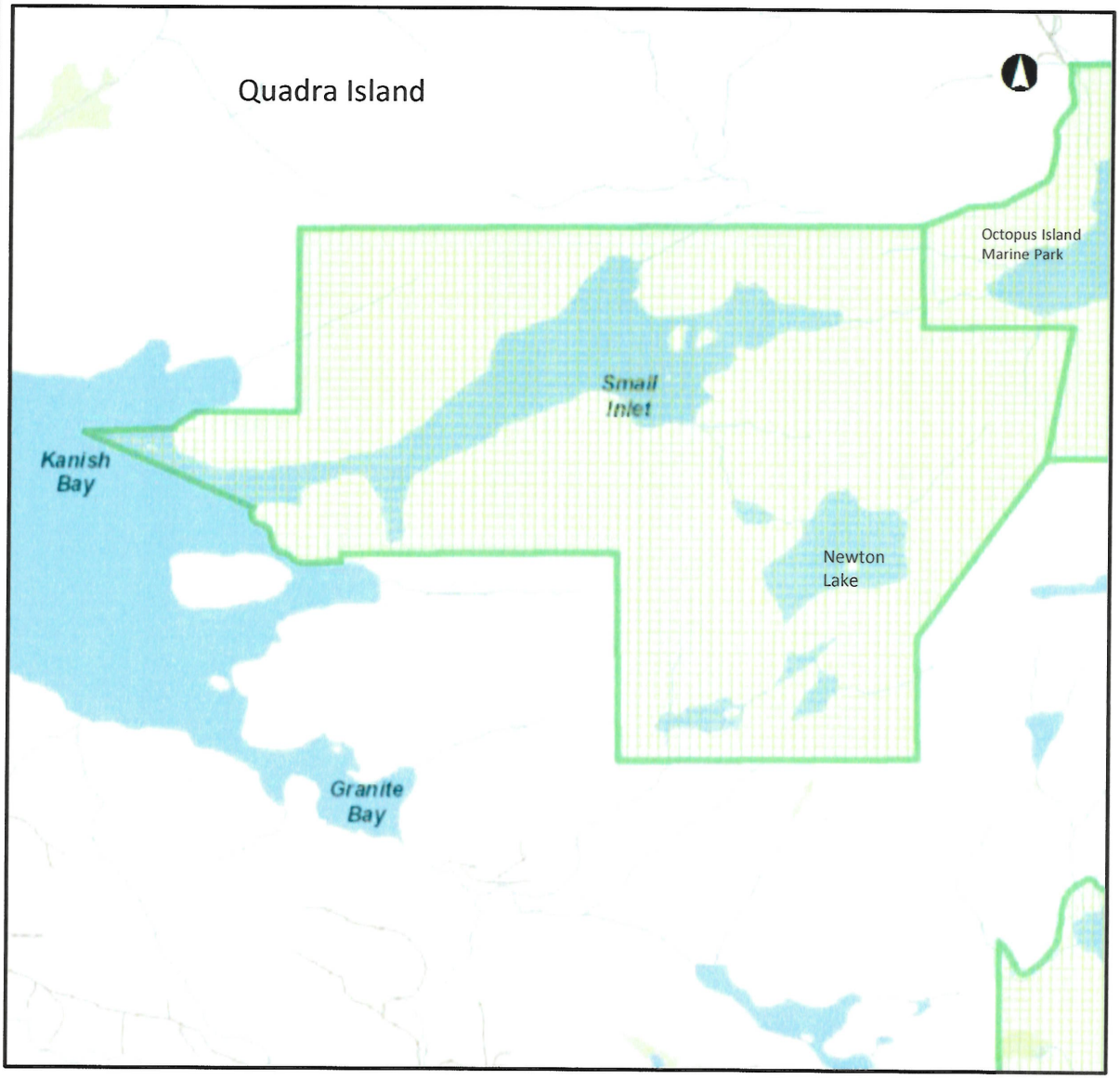
Representation	☒	First Nations sites; early European economic activities.
Special Feature	☒	More than 10 archaeological sites between Kanish Bay and Waiatt Bay, significant native portage trail (outside the park) between Small Inlet and Waiatt Bay (Octopus Islands Provincial Park) (outside of park boundary). Evidence of logging, mining and farming activities from the turn of the century.

Other Management Considerations

Other Designations	☐	Not Applicable
Relationship to other PAs	☒	Part of a system of protected areas and anchorages along the Inside Passage and on Quadra Island. Small Inlet Park is adjacent, but not contiguous with Octopus Islands Park.
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☒	Commercial fishery closure specific to the park: Pacific oyster is closed under the *Park Act*; and commercial harvest of crabs is prohibited because of industrial pollution
Partnerships	☒	Quadra Island Committee
Vulnerability	☒	Natural values are at risk from adjacent uses (logging, log dump, aquaculture) and industrial pollution (dioxin). Cultural values are vulnerable to recreational use and adjacent uses.
Relationship to other Strategies	☒	Designated as a result of recommendations made in the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan Goal 2 process. Marine Protected Areas Strategy.

Area: 710 hectares (542 ha upland, 168 ha foreshore)
Date of establishment: April 30, 1996

Zoning Map – Small Inlet Marine Park



BRITISH COLUMBIA

iMapBC Mapping

0 0.5 1.0km

Legend	
	Natural Environment Zone
	Protected Area Boundary

May 25, 2015
P. Burfield