



# PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARK RESERVE BROKEN GROUP ISLANDS 2016 PADDLER'S PREPARATION GUIDE



*As one of 46 national parks and national park reserves across the country, Pacific Rim National Park Reserve protects for all time a significant example of Canada's natural and cultural heritage to encourage public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment for present and future generations.*

**B**acked by the Insular Mountain Range of Vancouver Island and facing the open Pacific Ocean, Pacific Rim National Park Reserve (PRNPR) represents and protects both the near-shore waters and the coastal lowland forests of Canada's west coast. PRNPR is composed of three units: Long Beach, the West Coast Trail, and the Broken Group Islands (BGI).

The BGI in Barkley Sound is an outstanding example of a marine archipelago comprising a stunning maze of channels, sheltered bays, shell beaches, densely forested islands, exposed reefs and bare, wind-swept rocks. The islands are only accessible by boat.

Balancing protection, education and recreational use of our national parks is a responsibility not only of Parks Canada and our partners, but also of park visitors.

This preparation guide is intended to help you prepare for a safe and enjoyable visit while supporting the sustainability of our special heritage places for future generations.



## FIRST NATIONS

The traditional territories of the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations encompass the Broken Group Islands. The islands contain many sites of spiritual and cultural significance for the Tseshaht and Hupacasath First Nations. Disturbing, destroying or

removing natural and cultural artifacts is strictly prohibited without prior written permission or licences. This regulation is strictly enforced: carry all licences with you.

There are First Nation reserve lands on Effingham, Nettle, and Keith Islands. Day visitors are welcome at Keith Island. Written permission from the appropriate First Nation is required prior to landing on Effingham and Nettle reserve lands. Boaters are asked to refrain from tying up to the reserve wharf on the south-east side of Nettle Island.

## CLIMATIC INFLUENCE

The BGI enjoys a moderate maritime climate of cool foggy summers and mild wet winters with an average annual precipitation of 330 centimeters (130 inches). This climate encourages an abundance of life both in the water and on the land. No other temperate region on earth has a more bountiful, diverse, intertidal zone than North America's nutrient-rich Pacific coast. The mild climate also encourages the lush growth of temperate rainforest dominated by coniferous tree species such as Sitka spruce, western hemlock and western redcedar.

## PREPARATION INFORMATION

Is your party ready for a trip to the BGI? Long known as the "Graveyard of the Pacific", this area abounds with potential hazards. Though marine navigation techniques and tools have improved

since the title was bestowed, the area's hazards remain. Trip preparation is a crucial element of any visit to the BGI. Your ability to recognize and evaluate hazards is key to determining the risk you and your group are taking. To have a safe experience, your party's knowledge, skills and equipment must meet or exceed the challenges of this environment.

### You and your group should be able to:

- plot a course by chart and compass;
- pilot your vessel(s) safely in fog;
- read weather patterns and signs, obtain and interpret up-to-date marine weather forecast;
- assess water hazards that vary with tide, sea state and weather;
- interpret tide tables;
- competently handle your boat if caught in adverse conditions (some crossings may take 3 or more hours);
- perform a group rescue and self-rescue;
- camp in prolonged windy and rainy conditions;
- call for help; and
- administer first aid.

## CUSTODIAL GROUPS

Groups that are affiliated with an institution, and have at least one person below the age of majority who is not accompanied by his/her parent or guardian, have special considerations when kayaking and/or canoeing in Pacific Rim's marine waters. These groups are required to obtain in advance, and carry with them, an activity permit issued by Pacific Rim National Park Reserve.

Please contact the park reserve staff prior to arrival for information and appropriate permits.

## PARKS CANADA PRESENCE

The BGI is patrolled by the Tseshaht Beachkeepers throughout the summer months to maintain camping areas, provide information and interpretation services, check permits, and assist Parks Canada staff in a variety of ways.







## LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

Viewing wildlife while in the BGI is exciting. Please remember that you have responsibilities as well as opportunities when you encounter wildlife.

**Bare Campsite Program: leave no food items or other attractants, such as food packaging, toothpaste, soap, dish rags/scrubbers and pots/pans unattended.** Scavenging animals such as crows, deer, rodents, raccoons and even wolves are efficient and creative scavengers. **Secure food and other attractants in tightly closed containers when not in immediate use.**

**Black bears, wolves and cougars are in the BGI.** To avoid a dangerous encounter with wildlife **stay alert and watch for signs of recent activity.** Keep these points in mind:

- Keep children close to you.
- If you encounter a predator, face the animal and retreat slowly, giving them an avenue of escape.
- Do not run or play dead.
- If the animal does not leave or approaches, try to scare it away by appearing big and aggressive: shout, wave a stick/paddle or throw rocks.
- In the unlikely event of an attack fight back; target the eyes and nose.

**Sea lions, seals and whales are frequently sighted.** There are established guidelines for viewing marine wildlife, these guidelines require boaters, including kayakers, to keep a minimum distance from all marine wildlife. For federal guidelines referring to marine mammal viewing, contact the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) (see contact section).

*Note: sea lions are known to carry a disease called leptospirosis that can be transferred to humans. Accordingly, never touch a marine mammal, dead or alive.*

## MARINE HARVESTING IN PRNPR

Are you thinking of catching or harvesting finfish, shellfish or other marine creatures? **Please note that the national park reserve is a voluntary no-harvest zone.** The national park reserve was established to protect the diversity of life in this area for present and future generations. With your help, Parks Canada can protect both the marine and the terrestrial environment.

Harvest limits are reduced within PRNPR. If you are harvesting you must carry the appropriate licenses (Tidal Waters Sports Fishing Licence) and follow the DFO regulations and closures.

As of August 14th, 2002, DFO permanently closed a large section of the BGI to fin-fishing. This area is now a Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA). Consult DFO for details of this closure.

**Naturally occurring toxins** such as Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) - or “red tide” - have been found in the shellfish in Barkley Sound (e.g. clams, oysters and scallops). When humans consume contaminated shellfish, symptoms can vary from a mild tingling of the lips and tongue, to paralysis and death. Shellfish harvest openings and closures are based on rigorous monitoring procedures by DFO (see contact section).

**Boating near caves and cliffs** impacts nesting seabirds and is hazardous. Stay well away from these features. Regulations prohibit entry into caves.





## TRIP PLAN

File a trip plan before you leave for the backcountry, with a reliable person and upon completion of your trip, inform your contact that you are out of the backcountry.

### A trip plan should be in writing and include:

- The number of people in your group;
- Trip length in days;
- Arrival and departure times and dates;
- Specific route plans;
- Camping plans;
- Tent: number, make/model/colour of tent;
- If applicable, vehicle licence #, make/model/colour and location;
- If applicable, the make and colour of each vessel.

## EQUIPMENT

### Regulated equipment:

See Canada Coast Guard *Safe Boating Guide* or contact *Office of Boating Safety* for equipment that must be carried on board your vessel.

### Recommended equipment:

- Hydrographic (nautical) charts #3670 and #3671 and a waterproof chart bag
- Canadian Tide and Current Tables (refer to Tofino tables)
- GPS with chart plotter and tide table
- Watch
- Licenced marine VHF Radio
- Compass
- Cellular phone (check with your carrier for coverage)
- First aid kit
- Survival kit (e.g. waterproof matches, knife, emergency food, flares and blanket)
- Equipment repair kit
- Personal Flotation Device (PFD) and whistle
- Self-rescue aids, paddle floats, towlines
- Paddling gloves, hat
- Wetsuit
- Potable water
- Stove, fuel and cooking kit
- Food
- Knife
- Rope, shock cords
- Tent with waterproof fly and floor
- Sleeping bag and insulation pad
- Waterproof bags
- Flashlight
- Toiletries (hand sanitizer, sun- and lip-screens)
- Sunglasses
- Airtight container for garbage
- Toilet paper
- Camera
- Spare paddle
- Air horn (for scaring wildlife away)
- Pepper spray
- Clothing; choose materials that maintain warmth when wet, dry quickly, can be layered (wool or polypropylene)
- Durable rain gear (test it beforehand)
- Warm hat and gloves
- Footwear
- Towels

## CONTACT PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

Pacific Rim National Park Reserve Administration Office	2040 Pacific Rim Highway P.O. Box 280, Ucluelet, BC VoR 3A0 250-726-3500 (year-round)
Pacific Rim National Park Reserve Resource Conservation & Park Warden Office	(24 hours) 1-877-852-3100 (toll-free) or 1-250-726-3604
Parks Canada Information Pacific Rim Visitor Centre	2791 Pacific Rim Highway 250-726-4212 Open daily May to September
Email:	pacrim.info@pc.gc.ca
Website:	www.pc.gc.ca/pacificrim

## OTHER SERVICES (subject to change)

Beachkeepers, Tseshah First Nation	1-250-266-0620
Secret Beach Campground and Kayak Launch - Toquaht Nation	250-726-8349 www.secretbeach.ca secretbeach@toquaht.ca
Lady Rose Marine Services (Passenger Ferry)	250-723-8313 or 1-800-663-7192 (April 1 - Sept 30) www.ladyrosemarine.com (Port Alberni to Bamfield/Ucluelet)
Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce, Pacific Rim Visitor Centre	2791 Pacific Rim Highway 250-726-4600 pacificrimvisitorcentre@telus.net www.pacificrimvisitor.ca
Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce	2533 Redford Street Port Alberni, BC V9Y 7L6 250-724-6535 office@albernichamber.ca
Bamfield Chamber of Commerce Bamfield Centennial Park & Campground and Information Center	250-728-3006 info@bamfieldchamber.com www.bamfieldchamber.com
BC Ferries	1-888-223-3779 or 250-386-3431 (international) *BCF on cell www.bcferrries.bc.ca (Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo)
Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pacific Region Port Alberni Office	250-720-4440 Fishing and Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning Information 24 hour line [sub area23 (8)] 604-666-2828 or 1-866-431-3474 www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations Tribal Council	1-877-677-1131 or 250-724-5757 www.nuuchahnulth.org
Transport Canada Office of Boating Safety	1-866-995-9737 www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-menu-1362.htm