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PACIFIC RIM
National Park Reserve

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**PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARK
RESERVE:**

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

SPRING 1994

**PACIFIC/YUKON REGION
CANADIAN HERITAGE**

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CHAPTER 1.0

INTRODUCTION

Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, established in 1970, is Canada's first national park on the Pacific coast. It protects a diverse range of natural features and environments that characterize this meeting place of land and sea. Pacific Rim provides millions of Canadians and international visitors with an opportunity to experience Canada's rugged west coast, by walking the length of Long Beach, paddling in the Broken Group Islands or hiking the challenging West Coast Trail.

Pacific Rim is unique in the national park system in that the park reserve consists of three separate park units: Long Beach, the Broken Group Islands and the composite unit containing the West Coast Trail, Cape Beale and the Nitinat Triangle. Pacific Rim is also unique in that it was the first national park in Canada to include a major marine component.

1.1 Pacific Rim Park Management Guidelines

These Guidelines direct overall park management in the absence of a management plan. The decision not to continue with the finalization of a management plan is based on a number of evolving and dynamic considerations. These considerations include the acceleration of the treaty process involving First Nations, British Columbia and Canada, and the lengthy delays in the gazetting of the park reserve under the National Parks Act. Extensive public consultation has occurred over a number of years in the preparation of these guidelines.

Pacific Rim's management guidelines provide the framework for the protection, management and use of the park reserve.

1.2 The Native Claim of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

The proclamation of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve and approval of these management guidelines in no way affects any party involved in the treaty process agreed to by Canada, British Columbia and the First Nations.

Pacific Rim is a *national park reserve* due to the existence of a comprehensive claim submitted by the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council in October 1980. The federal government accepted the claim for negotiation in June 1983. The claim covers an area of western Vancouver Island of approximately 15,500 square kilometres. All of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve is within this claim area.

The National Parks Act guarantees that the establishment of Pacific Rim as a national park reserve (as opposed to a national park) renders it subject to the outcome of the native land claim settlement. In the interim, the National Parks Act will apply to Pacific Rim.

CHAPTER 2.0

THE PARK, ITS PURPOSE, DESCRIPTION AND USE

2.1 The Park Purpose

Pacific Rim National Park Reserve is one of 34 parks in the national parks system of Canada. Pacific Rim National Park Reserve is representative of the coastal plain portion of the Pacific Coast Mountains Natural Region. This region encompasses the west coast environment of British Columbia including most of Vancouver Island, the mainland coast and the coastal range of mountains, and all the Queen Charlotte Islands. This region is complex and contains a large diversity of landscapes and ecosystems. The addition of the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve (also designated by the Council of the Haida Nation as the Gwaii Haanas Haida Heritage Site) complements the protected representation of this natural region.

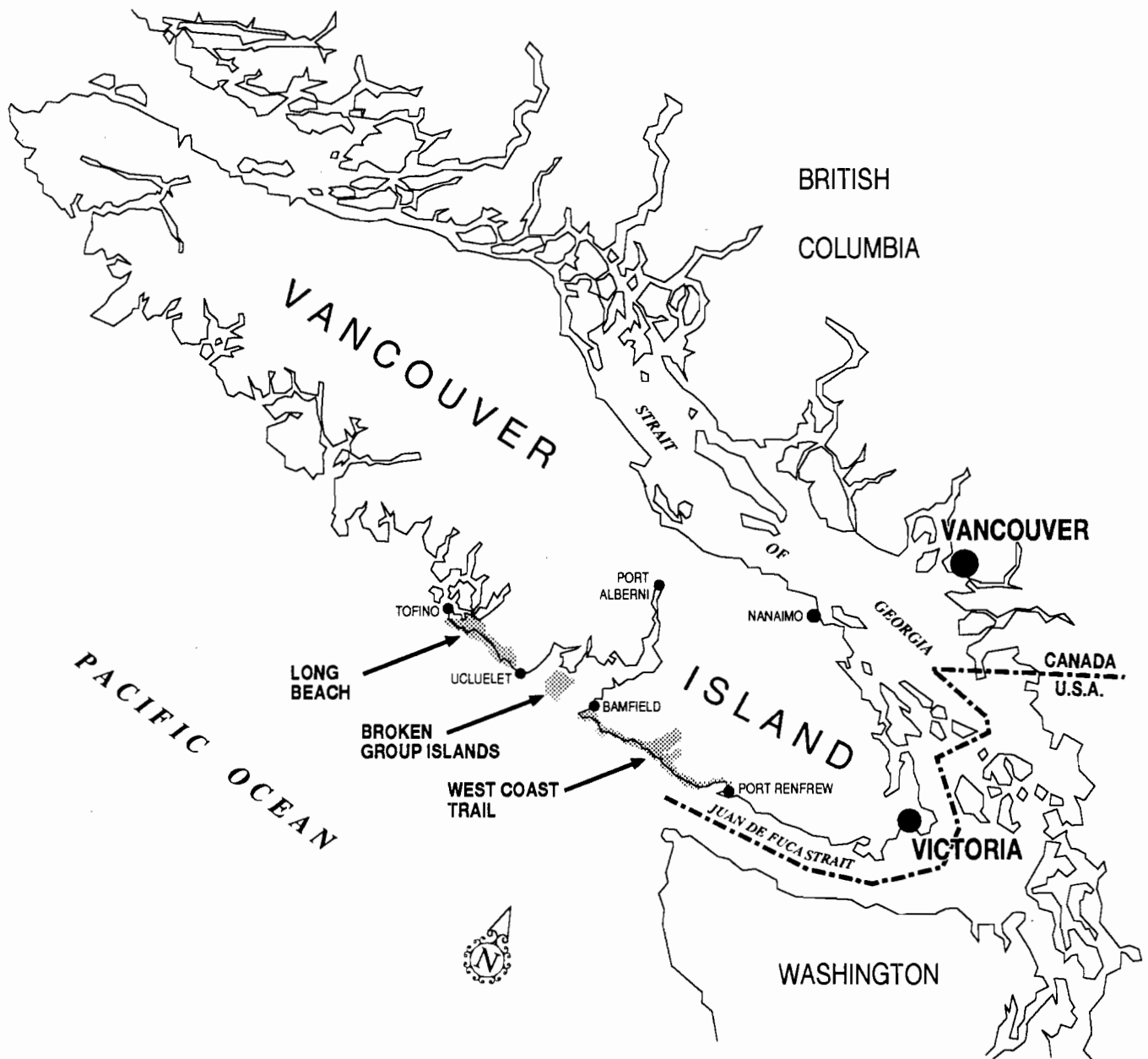
The marine components of Pacific Rim are representative of the near-shore waters of the West Vancouver Island Shelf Marine Region. This region includes all the marine waters off the west coast of Vancouver Island from Cape Scott in the north to Sooke Inlet in the south.

2.2 The Park Description and Use

Pacific Rim National Park Reserve encompasses a total area of 49,962 hectares of land and ocean on the west coast of Vancouver Island. About 43% of this area consists of marine waters and small offshore islets. The park stretches 125 km, although not continuously, from near Tofino in the north to Port Renfrew in the south (Figure 1).

The park and neighbouring communities were formerly isolated from the rest of Vancouver Island by the long spine of the Vancouver Island Mountain Range. Since the opening of the highway between Port Alberni and the coastal communities of Ucluelet and Tofino in 1959, this element of isolation has steadily declined. These communities have witnessed rapid growth and increased economic diversification as tourism has supplemented economies based on fishing and timber harvesting.

Figure 1: Regional Location of Pacific Rim National Park



The three separate geographic units of the park are:

THE LONG BEACH UNIT

The Long Beach unit is the best known and the most accessible of the three park units. The communities of Ucluelet (on Barkley Sound) and Tofino (on Clayoquot Sound) flank the boundaries of this unit. The most famous features of the region are the long, sandy beaches.

Long Beach and Schooner Cove, lying in the broad curve of Wickaninnish Bay, stretch for 16 kilometres and the beach at Florencia Bay, to the south, is an additional 6.4 kilometres long. This unit also includes a small parcel of land on the south-east shore of Kennedy Lake. The Long Beach unit encompasses an area of about 13,715 hectares, of which 7,690 hectares are land.

Long Beach is the most heavily visited unit in the national park reserve. Since 1985, the Long Beach Unit has experienced a 35% increase in visitation. In 1992, almost 700,000 people visited the Long Beach Unit to enjoy the beaches, explore the tidal pools or walk the rainforest trails. In 1989, a year-long visitor survey revealed that 75% of the visitors to the Long Beach Unit were Canadians and 11% Americans. British and German visitors comprised about 8%. Of the Canadian visitors, over half were residents of British Columbia.

THE BROKEN GROUP ISLANDS UNIT

The second unit of Pacific Rim, the Broken Group Islands, consists of about 100 islands and rocks located in the centre of Barkley Sound. This unit encompasses an area of 10,607 hectares, of which 1,350 hectares are land. The larger islands (Effingham, Turtle, Turret, Nettle, and Jaques) are each more than a hundred hectares in size and are covered by tall spruce, hemlock and cedar forests. The outermost islands are fully exposed to the force of the Pacific Ocean, but behind these islands a maze of protected waterways offer superb opportunities for visitors in kayaks and small pleasure craft.

The Broken Group Islands are accessible only by boat; access by air is prohibited. Visitor use patterns have been strongly influenced by the increasing popularity of recreational boating and, in particular, of ocean canoeing and kayaking. Canoes and kayaks account for approximately 75% of all recreational vessel traffic. About one-half of these boats access the Broken Group Islands by ferry service from Port Alberni. The increasing trend in paddling popularity is expected to continue into the mid-1990s.

There is a direct relationship between the increase in paddling popularity and the significant increases in camping that have occurred in the islands over the last decade. The 1992 levels of camping are more than double the camping pressure experienced in

the Broken Group in 1978. There is also a significant amount of visitation associated with sailboats and motorized vessels. The number of campers is about double the estimated number of people staying overnight in their moored vessels. Estimated overnight visitation in 1992 for June through September was 20,900 visitor nights (13,600 camper nights plus 7,300 visitor nights in moored vessels).

THE WEST COAST TRAIL UNIT

The third unit of the Park Reserve includes the section of coast south of Barkley Sound between the villages of Bamfield and Port Renfrew. This 25,640 hectare strip contains the 77 kilometre historic West Coast Trail, originally constructed for the rescue of shipwrecked mariners. The topography ranges from sandy beaches to rocky headlands and wide sandstone ledges. Caves, arches, tidal pools and waterfalls add to the spectacular shoreline.

The West Coast Trail Unit also includes the Cape Beale headland, located near the community of Bamfield, between Barkley Sound and Pachena Bay, and the area known as the Nitinat Triangle. The Cape Beale headland has rough trail access to its outer, sandy beaches on Keeha Bay and Tapaltos Bay, and to the Cape Beale. The Nitinat Triangle includes almost the entire drainage system of the Hobiton and Tsusiat rivers and six undisturbed freshwater lakes: Hobiton, Tsusiat, Squalicum, Little Squalicum, Hitchie, and Tsuquadra. The Nitinat area is significant because it is the most extensive watershed protected within the boundaries of Pacific Rim.

Visitor use on the West Coast Trail has increased steadily since the 1960's. In 1992, to reduce crowding and to lessen environmental impact, a reservation and quota system was introduced. It imposed a limit of 8,000 hikers on the trail over the period May through September and a daily maximum of 52 hikers.

Since 1984, there has been a significant use increase on the trail by international visitors. Visitation from Europe has grown at 22% annually and from other parts of the world at 26% per year. Trail use by British Columbians has increased by about 6% annually, where visitation from the rest of Canada and the United States has grown at 9% per year. The 1989 visitor survey indicated that the majority of visitors to the West Coast Trail were Canadians (61%) followed by West Germans (14%).

Parks Canada has not gathered use statistics for the Nitinat Lakes area. This area is the most remote in the National Park Reserve. Individual adventurers, school groups, and others do enter the Nitinat, but visitor use is relatively low. As with the Nitinat area, there are no visitor use statistics for Cape Beale, and limited information is available on visitor use levels and patterns. Use levels are low for Cape Beale and primarily consist of day use.

2.3 Environmental and Socio-economic Trends: Implications for future management

The following scan of trends and assumptions identifies factors that will influence Pacific Rim over the next 15 years.

Islandization

Pacific Rim is becoming an "ecological island" as a result of adjacent land uses. Maintaining ecological integrity will become increasingly difficult. At the same time, the role of Pacific Rim as an ecological benchmark against which to measure the effects of land use change and the health of the marine environment is enhanced. Managing the park within the context of the principles of ecosystem based management lends itself well to pursuing the multiple benefits of protecting ecological integrity within the park and contributing at the regional level to the sustainability of in-situ biological diversity and sustainable use.

Demographic Trends

The population of B.C. will grow at a rate exceeding the national average. Between 1989 and 2016, the population of Vancouver Island is projected to increase by 51% (B.C. Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations, 1992). International migration will account for 41% of the growth in B.C. The increasing ethnic diversity of the population will have implications for park program delivery. Future visitation to the park is expected to continue to rise at a rate higher than to other national parks in Canada.

In 1993, approximately three million residents of the Vancouver, Victoria and Seattle areas are within a one day's drive of Pacific Rim. With the projected population increases, the immediate market area for the park will increase substantially.

Canada's population is getting older. The median age of Canadians will rise from 31 in 1986 to 41 in the year 2000. Seniors are healthier, more active and more affluent than in the past and seek more controlled, secure and comfortable park experiences.

The need to offer appropriate access for the disabled and less mobile visitor will become more important.

Tourism

Tourism is projected to grow at a rate of approximately 4% per annum through the 1990's (World Tourism Association). Significant increases in tourism pressure are anticipated for Pacific Rim based on the attractions of the open Pacific coastline, the

limited availability of similar road accessible areas and projected population growth on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. A trend to increased tourism development as a way to diversify the regional economic base will demand a more proactive role by Pacific Rim National Park Reserve in sustainable tourism.

Adventure tourism is growing at 15 to 20% annually, four times as fast as the tourism industry as a whole. Adventure tourists look for a high quality experience in an uncrowded, undisturbed wilderness environment or scenic setting. Pacific Rim will continue to play a key role in meeting the demands of the touring population, and of the adventure tourist in particular.

Families are taking more numerous 3 or 4 day trips to destinations near their homes. Convenience in organizing these trips, such as the use of reservation systems, is important.

Environmental Awareness

Increased environmental awareness among the general public has created a demand for seeing and experiencing natural areas. Park visitors look for an educational or cultural element and wish to "experience" a place or have an adventure.

The public expects and demands to be more involved in decision making processes as part of an increased emphasis on "empowered citizenship".

It is also clear that our ability to sustain ecosystems over the long term depends on all Canadians becoming environmental citizens. A new emphasis in the offer of park programs and services needs to be directed toward fostering environmental citizenship in ways that are manifested in everyday action.

In Summary

Pacific Rim will have an enhanced societal role to play as a model of sustained ecological integrity, environmental stewardship and environmental citizenship.

The vision and strategic objectives that follow clarify in greater detail the future that is envisioned for Pacific Rim. The subsequent chapters provide direction on how to achieve this new vision.

CHAPTER 3.0

THE PARK MISSION, VISION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

3.1 Park Mission Statement

Pacific Rim National Park Reserve protects for all time:

- ☐ this natural area of Canadian significance representative of the coastal plain of the Pacific Coast Mountains Natural Region of Canada;
- ☐ the coastal forest and its natural inhabitants including examples of the old growth temperate rainforest on Vancouver Island;
- ☐ the marine life, features and processes of the intertidal and subtidal waters representative of the near-shore environment of the West Vancouver Island Shelf Marine Region; and
- ☐ native and non-native cultural heritage resources.

Pacific Rim National Park Reserve provides and presents:

- ☐ leadership in environmental stewardship;
- ☐ a focused range of high quality facilities and services to foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the park's natural and cultural heritage;
- ☐ heritage themes and environmental messages to foster increased public understanding of Canada's heritage resources and environmental issues, and that foster environmental citizenship among all Canadians and visitors.

3.2 The Park Vision Statement

It is 2010 and Pacific Rim is a leader in ensuring a sustainable future for the Alberni - Clayoquot region. Our leadership role is demonstrated through our actions in;

- *protecting ecological integrity and assisting to sustain the regional biodiversity,*

- > fostering environmental citizenship among our employees, visitors, partners and local area residents, and
- > showing that we in Parks Canada are exemplary environmental stewards.

Through an active and open partnership with other government agencies, aboriginal groups, municipalities, the private sector and the general public, an integrated network of protected areas is managed and operated on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Management objectives focus on regional sustainability with Pacific Rim, Carmanah/Pacific Provincial Park and areas of Clayoquot Sound serving as protected cores. As development and resource harvesting activities continue to expand in areas adjacent to the national park reserve boundaries, Pacific Rim is increasingly valued as an outstanding example of Canada's west coast terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

Pacific Rim's niche in this regional context is as facilitator and co-ordinator in protecting ecological integrity and fostering environmental citizenship. Through the park's involvement and support of science programs, Pacific Rim is recognized as playing an active role in contributing to Canada's biodiversity commitments and in coordinating an ecosystem-based approach to regional land use management.

As stewards of Pacific Rim's special resources, Parks Canada leads by example. In partnership with others, Pacific Rim makes a significant contribution to the protection and understanding of the coastal temperate rainforest and adjacent marine ecosystems. Resource management strategies are based on a strong scientific foundation generated through cooperative research efforts with aboriginal groups, the Department of the Environment, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, research institutions such as universities, the Bamfield Marine Station and the Vancouver Aquarium, local municipalities and the private sector. The Broken Group Islands constitute an ecological benchmark for appropriate scientific study and public understanding of marine ecology and protected marine area management.

The rich cultural heritage found in Pacific Rim is carefully protected and commemorated. Through partnerships with appropriate aboriginal groups, the aboriginal history is portrayed to visitors in a dynamic, relevant and appropriate manner. A variety of cooperative management boards have been established to ensure that resources related to aboriginal use are appropriately protected and commemorated. Since the park's cultural heritage values include not only aboriginal culture, a variety of other partnership arrangements have been established. These partnerships include the B.C. Underwater Archaeology Society, universities and local area senior citizens' groups.

As exemplary environmental stewards, we are now well positioned to manage the types, impacts and levels of visitor use to ensure that ecological integrity is not impaired. The park offers quality wilderness opportunities for hiking the famous West Coast Trail, boating and camping in the Broken Group Islands and day use opportunities to experience the shorelines of the open Pacific in the spectacular Long Beach area. Our tourism role is clearly articulated and coordinated with regional tourism strategies.

Pacific Rim National Park Reserve assumes a credible and professional role in fostering environmental citizenship among park visitors and our partners. These messages are designed to increase the public's awareness of the full scope of environmental issues and encourage the active participation of all Canadians in environmental protection. This requires creativity and sensitivity, for our environmental messages must be

communicated within the context of regional sustainable development. The focus for in-park program delivery is in the Wickininnish Interpretative Centre in the Long Beach Unit. Here we proudly showcase the efforts of Parks Canada in fulfilling our mandate of protecting ecological integrity and bolstering a sense of Canadian Identity.

3.3 Park Strategic Objectives

The management of Pacific Rim will focus on retaining the unique features and character that led to its establishment while, at the same time, taking bold new directions designed to address the challenges that now threaten the natural and cultural values of this special place. New strategic priorities to maintain the ecological integrity of park resources, to implement ecosystem management, to exercise our unique responsibilities as environmental stewards, and to foster a strong sense of environmental citizenship among the public will become the hallmarks of the strategy for Pacific Rim.

Parks Canada is committed to playing a leadership role in the field of protected areas management, and to placing Pacific Rim in the forefront of delivering a sustainable future for the Alberni-Clayoquot region.

Pacific Rim's strategic objectives are outlined under four categories: maintaining ecological integrity, managing cultural resources, fostering environmental citizenship and achieving environmental stewardship. These objective statements form the underlying principle on which all park management actions are based.

Maintaining Ecological Integrity

- ☐ to maintain the ecological integrity of Pacific Rim's terrestrial and marine natural heritage as the priority in park management;
- ☐ to provide the best possible protection for features, processes, or species which are rare, unique, sensitive or endangered;
- ☐ to allow areas in the park modified by resource extraction, to regain their natural state prior to recent human intervention;
- ☐ to apply scientific research to the management of the reserve's resources through improved resource inventory, monitoring and research programs;
- ☐ to work with others to manage the ecosystem of the park and region in ways which protect the biodiversity of the region and ensures environmental sustainability; and

- ☐ to improve the effectiveness of resource protection programs through public support and understanding.

Managing Cultural Resources

- ☐ to protect the terrestrial and underwater resources associated with the cultural heritage of Pacific Rim;
- ☐ to present this cultural heritage through interpretive programs and other media;
- ☐ to work with others to research and manage the Euro-Canadian cultural resources of the park; and
- ☐ to study, manage and present the aboriginal cultural heritage of the Nuuchahnulth People in ways that respect their traditions and values.

Fostering Environmental Citizenship

- ☐ to provide educational and recreational opportunities for the public to appreciate, understand and enjoy the heritage resources of Pacific Rim in ways that positively influence their beliefs, values and actions toward environmentally responsible citizenship;
- ☐ to integrate environmental messages with recreational opportunities;
- ☐ to provide visitor opportunities for the disabled and persons of varying ages, abilities, knowledge and interests;
- ☐ to provide visitor facilities and services that will allow the public to enjoy and appreciate Pacific Rim's natural and cultural heritage resources consistent with the protection of this heritage;
- ☐ to focus park messages and experiences on the development of an environmentally literate and responsible society;
- ☐ to provide public education programs focusing on ecosystem management, environmental stewardship and environmental citizenship;
- ☐ to provide opportunities for partners and volunteers to promote environmental citizenship;
- ☐ to seek partnerships with others to enhance the delivery of park services

Achieving Environmental Stewardship

- ☐ to demonstrate exemplary leadership in the management of natural and cultural resources, and park facilities and services, in a manner which integrates environmental concerns into all aspects of work and achieves a regional commitment to environmental stewardship amongst the park's partners;
- ☐ to achieve staff excellence and the commitment of staff to act as park stewards; and
- ☐ to work with others in the surrounding region to provide park and regional visitors with the best possible service and to generate benefits for the local communities.

The Park will achieve these objectives by means of four strategies:

1. a strategy for achieving ecological integrity;
2. a strategy for achieving cultural resource integrity;
3. a strategy for fostering environmental citizenship which includes providing high quality frontcountry and backcountry recreational opportunities; and
4. a strategy for achieving environmental stewardship.

CHAPTER 4.0

THE PARK ZONING PLAN

Parks Canada uses separate zoning systems for terrestrial and marine environments. The terrestrial zoning system is a five part zoning system that spans from total protection to intensive recreational use. Its application is based on the park purpose and objectives, as well as an analysis of the park's natural and cultural resources, and visitor use patterns. Similarly, the marine zoning system consists of five zones, and includes special provisions for the continuation of commercial fisheries and marine transportation under specified conditions.

A summary of the intent of the five zones in each of the two zoning systems is provided in Figure 2. The proposed zoning plan for Pacific Rim is described for each of the three units of the Park Reserve in chart format and is illustrated in Figures 3,5, and 7.

4.1. Environmentally Sensitive Areas

The Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) designation is an adjunct to the zoning system and is applied to areas containing significant and sensitive heritage resource features which require special protection. These areas may be too small for designation as Special Protection (Zone 1) Areas or situated in areas where visitor access cannot be judiciously controlled. Unlike zone 1 areas, an ESA can accommodate some degree of controlled visitor activity without unacceptably adverse impact. The designation signifies the need for specific guidelines and additional management actions.

The areas in the Park Reserve designated as Environmentally Sensitive Areas require the immediate development of specific guidelines to govern their management.

The National Parks Zoning System

The Terrestrial Zoning System	The Marine Zoning System
<p>Zone 1 - Special Preservation</p> <p>Includes areas which contain unique, rare or endangered resources or features. Access and use will be strictly controlled or may be prohibited. Resource harvesting will not be permitted.</p>	<p>Zone 1 - Preservation</p> <p>Same as terrestrial Zone 1</p>
<p>Zone 2 - Wilderness</p> <p>Includes extensive areas which represent a natural region to be maintained in a wilderness state. They offer significant opportunities for remoteness and solitude. Only certain activities requiring limited primitive visitor facilities appropriate to a wilderness experience will be allowed. Limits may be placed on the number of users. No motorized access will be permitted.</p>	<p>Zone 2 - Natural Environment</p> <p>Includes natural heritage areas which allow resource protection and appreciation of the marine park in a natural setting. Education and low intensity outdoor recreation activities and related facilities will be permitted. Resource harvesting will be kept to a minimum.</p>
<p>Zone 3 - Natural Environment</p> <p>Includes natural environment areas which can provide a range of opportunities for visitors to experience the park's natural and cultural heritage values through low density outdoor activities and appropriate facilities and services. Access by motorized public transport may be permitted, but non-motorized access will be preferred.</p>	<p>Zone 3 - Conservation</p> <p>Includes areas which can provide for a broad range of activities consistent with the conservation of the marine park. Education and outdoor recreation activities, related facilities and approved fisheries will be permitted.</p>
<p>Zone 4 - Outdoor Recreation</p> <p>Includes areas to accommodate a broad range of recreation and education opportunities and related facilities in ways that respect the natural landscape and the park environment. Motorized access will be permitted.</p>	<p>Zone 4 - General Use</p> <p>Includes areas which provide for reasonable use consistent with the conservation of the marine park, including approved fishing activities, navigation and the operation of vessels, and complementary educational and recreational uses.</p>
<p>Zone 5 - Park Services</p> <p>A concentration of visitor services and support facilities as well as park administration functions (e.g. townsites).</p>	<p>Zone 5 - Park Services</p> <p>Includes areas on nearshore and coastal lands and islands which will accommodate visitor services, support facilities and administration functions.</p>
<p>Environmentally Sensitive Areas - (ESA's)</p> <p>The environmentally sensitive area designation is an adjunct to the zoning system that provides for heightened protection within an existing zone. Unlike Zone 1 designated areas, an ESA can accommodate some levels of controlled visitor activity without jeopardizing resource values. Area specific guidelines for each ESA are developed to identify the appropriate level and type of visitor use permissible.</p>	<p>Environmentally Sensitive Areas - (ESA's)</p> <p>Same as ESA under terrestrial zoning system.</p>

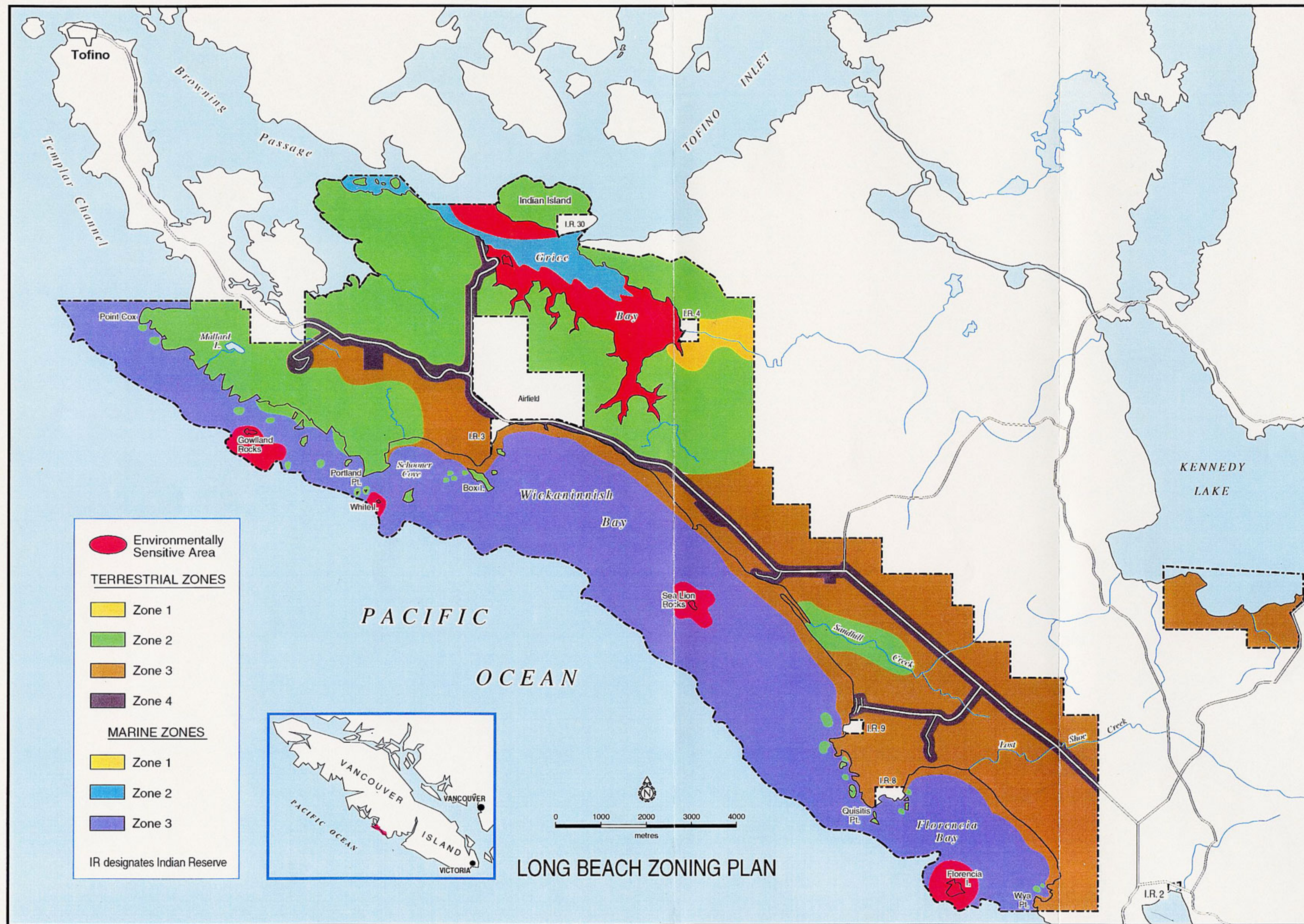
Figure 2

4.2 Long Beach Unit Zoning Plan

Zone	Terrestrial	Marine
ESA		<p>Gowlland Rocks These rocks and surrounding waters are an important harbour seal haulout and pupping site. The area also supports a breeding colony of Glaucous-winged gulls and black oyster catchers.</p>
		<p>Sea Lion Rocks This location is the main, year-round haulout site for Stellar sea lions in the Long Beach Unit. It is also used as breeding sites by Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants, Glaucous-winged gulls and Pigeon Guillemots.</p>
		<p>Florencia Islet and Surrounding Islands Florencia is one of two nesting colonies for tufted puffins in Pacific Rim. As burrow nesters, this species is particularly sensitive to disturbance. The islands of Florencia Bay also serve as breeding habitat for Pelagic Cormorants, Glaucous-winged gulls and Pigeon Guillemots.</p>
		<p>White Island This island supports nesting Pelagic Cormorants and Glaucous-winged gulls. Brandt's Cormorants also nest intermittently at this location.</p>
		<p>Grice Bay Tidal Flats and Salt Marsh The entire area of the tidal flats and salt marsh in Grice Bay are designated as an ESA to provide additional protection to this fragile marine community and to protect its habitat value for resident and migratory waterfowl.</p>

1	<p>Lower Kootowis Creek Drainage The undisturbed rainforest of the lower section of Kootowis Creek is well known for its large specimens of western hemlock. Logging activity in adjacent areas is increasing, and hence, the potential exists to alter the relatively pristine conditions of the Kootowis drainage. The Zone 1 designation acknowledges the uniqueness of this area and the need for specific guidelines to ensure continued protection of this sample of temperate rainforest.</p>	
2	<p>Five areas in the Long Beach unit are recommended for designation as Zone 2 Wilderness areas. These include: Indian Island; the peninsula between Grice Bay and the tidal flats of Browning Passage (including the McBey Islets); the entire shoreline and watershed of Grice Bay; the northwest coast of Long Beach from Schooner Cove to Cox Point and Sandhill Creek area.</p>	<p>Grice Bay The protected waters of Grice Bay have been designated Zone 2 under the marine zoning system in the Long Beach Unit. While limited resource harvesting is permitted, it will be kept to a minimum.</p>
3	<p>The majority of the Long Beach Unit will be designated Zone 3. Areas where no facilities are located are included in this Zone 3 category due to their proximity to roads or disturbed areas outside park boundaries. Included in this zone are those lands south of the Tofino airport and west of Highway #4, the Kennedy Lake parcel, the Schooner Cove area and Long Beach itself. With the exception of the road into Kennedy Lake, no motorized access will be permitted.</p>	<p>All offshore waters in the Long Beach Unit, except for Grice Bay and the waters surrounding the islands zoned as ESAs will be designated Zone 3 under the marine zoning system. This zone is intended to accommodate a broad range of activities consistent with the conservation of marine resources, including boating, whale watching, sportfishing and approved commercial fisheries.</p>
4	<p>In the Long Beach Unit, Zone 4 areas include park roads open to public traffic as well as all campgrounds, picnic sites, viewpoints, parking areas, park operation and administration facilities, and visitor and information centres.</p>	<p>No marine areas in the Long Beach Unit will be designated Zone 4.</p>
5	No terrestrial or marine areas in the Long Beach Unit will be designated Zone 6.	

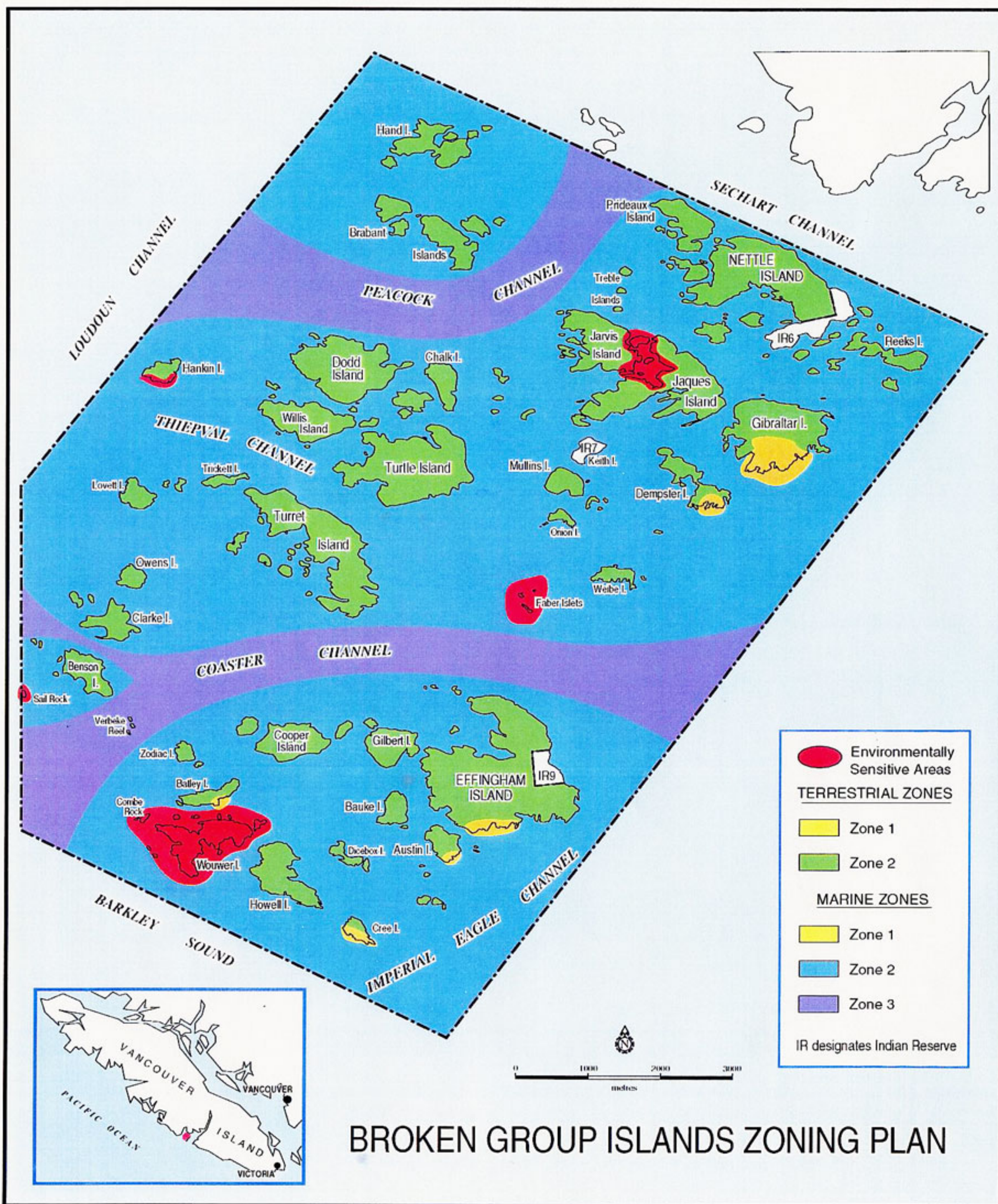
Figure 3



4.3 Broken Group Islands Unit Zoning Plan

Zone	Terrestrial	Marine
ESA	<p>The Wouwer Island Complex All of Wouwer Island and the surrounding waters will be designated as an environmentally sensitive area within the Zone 2 setting. The areas resources include sea lion haulouts, seabird nesting sites, a biologically diverse tide pool and numerous archaeological sites. Cumulatively these resources make the Wouwer Island area an exceptionally rich and significant area where resource protection will assume the highest level of importance.</p> <p>The Wouwer Island Tide Pool The geological formations on the southeast side of the island have created a large tidal pool with a modified tidal regime. This unique feature offers the opportunity to study species zonation as related to tide level on a variety of substrates ranging from a boulder bottom to sand and non-estuarine mud flats. A population of hemichordate at one end of the lagoon is one of only two known populations in British Columbia. All research in this area will require a permit.</p> <p>The Wouwer Island Sea Lion Haulouts Both Stellar and California sea lions utilize rocks on and around Wouwer Island as haulout sites used for resting. The Wouwer Island haulout is the main site in the park reserve for the California Sea Lions, and up to 800 animals have been recorded. These large marine mammals are an attraction for numerous park visitors interested in wildlife viewing.</p> <p>Seabird Colonies Pigeon Guillemots and Glaucous-winged gulls nest on the exposed shorelines of Wouwer Island. Recognizing the area as an environmentally sensitive area will allow for additional protection to locally nesting sea birds.</p>	<p>Jacques and Jarvis Island Lagoon The low wave energy occurring in the area has resulted in a mud bottom embayment and associated eelgrass beds; a habitat type poorly represented in Pacific Rim. In addition, a significant number of archaeological sites have been recorded in the area.</p> <p>Seabird Colonies Three bird nesting sites are identified as environmentally sensitive sites within Zone 2. These include Sail Rock, Hankin Island and the Faber Islets.</p>
1		<p>Seabird Colonies Six of the ten seabird colonies in the Broken Group Islands will be designated as Zone 1 areas. Included in this group are the nesting sites on Cree, Austin, Effingham, Gibraltar, Dempster and Batley Islands. Public access to these sites will not be permitted unless under research permit. This designation is necessary to protect nesting pigeon guillemots and cave nesting pelagic cormorants.</p>
2	<p>All of the islands in the Broken Group except for native reserve lands have been designated as Zone 2 wilderness. Facilities will be limited to primitive campsites, trails and toilet facilities. The warden cabin located in Nettle Bay will be the only roofed accommodation permitted in the Broken Group Islands.</p>	<p>The majority of waters in the Broken Group Islands will be placed in the marine Zone 2 category. With this designation emphasis will be placed on the protection of the natural marine environment and the pursuit of low intensity outdoor recreational activities. Some resource harvesting will be permitted.</p>
3	<p>No (terrestrial) Zone 3 designated areas are present in the Broken Group Islands.</p>	<p>The waters of Peacock, Coaster and Sechart Channels,, including the navigation route between Benson and Clarke Islands will fall into the marine Zone 3 category to provide for the navigation of fishing and other commercial vessels through the archipelago.</p>
4 and 5	<p>There are no Zone 4 or 5 designated areas in the Broken Group Islands.</p>	

Figure 5



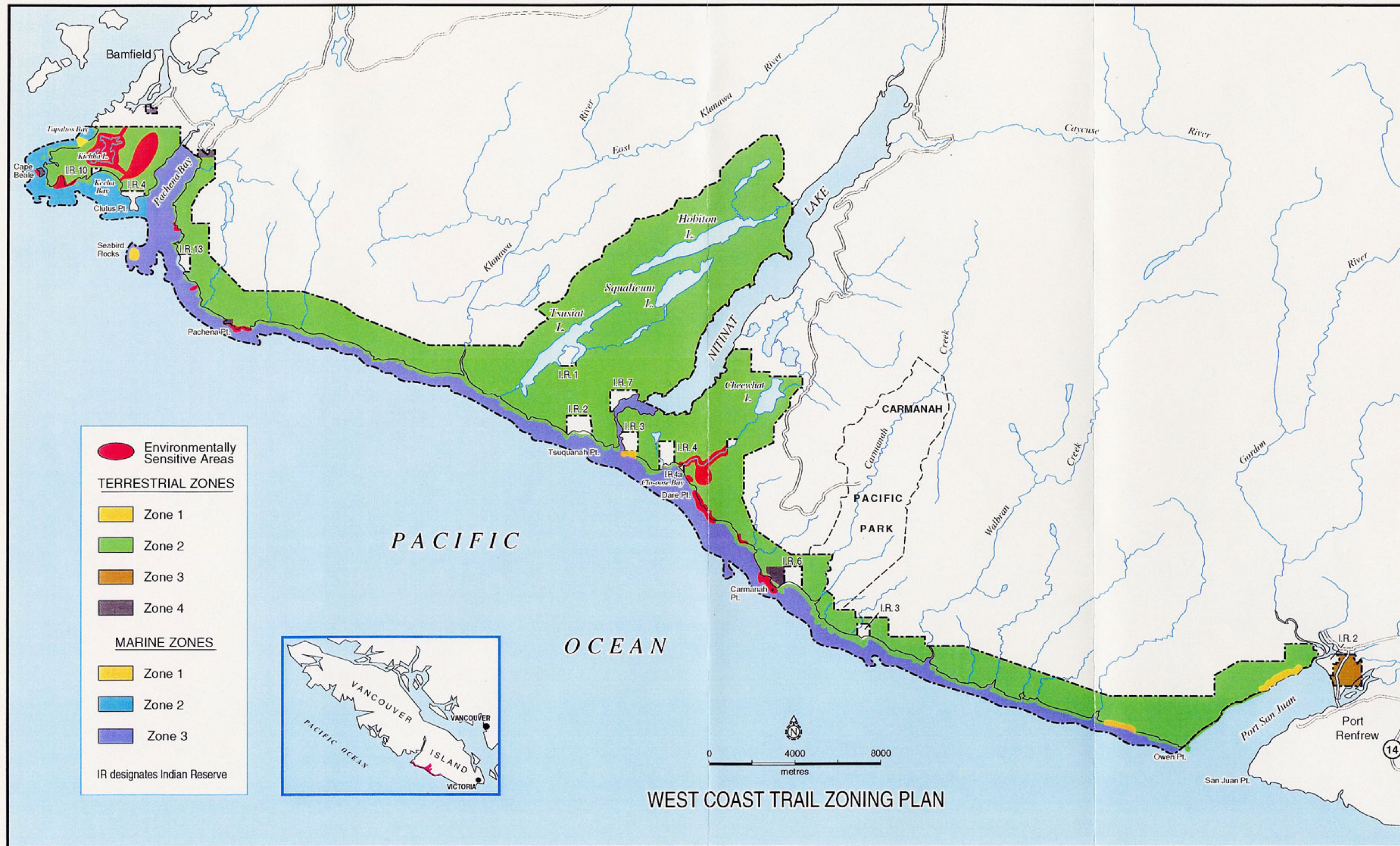
BROKEN GROUP ISLANDS ZONING PLAN

4.4

West Coast Trail Unit Zoning Plan

Zone	Terrestrial	Marine
ESA	<p>The Cheewat Sand Dunes and Saltmarsh The sand dunes and saltmarsh found at the mouth of the Cheewat River constitute a rare habitat type in Pacific Rim and contain a number of floral and faunal species not commonly found in the Park Reserve. These areas are very sensitive to human trampling and hence public access will be minimized.</p> <p>Fossil Sites at Cribbs Beach, Dare Point and Carmanah Point These sites are located in horizontal sedimentary formations along the beach route of the West Coast Trail and are susceptible to erosion by human trampling.</p> <p>Kichha Lake and Surrounding Wetlands The Cape Beale portion of this unit encompasses almost the entire watershed of Kichha Lake, much of which is wetland.</p>	<p>Seabird Colonies Four seabird nesting sites have been identified as environmentally sensitive areas, these include colonies located at: Cape Beale, Deadman Cove, Crescent Beach and Swimming Beach. Public access will be minimized.</p> <p>Sea Lion Haulouts at Pachena and Carmanah Points These haulouts are resting sites for Stellar Sea Lions, and as with the other haulouts in the Park Reserve, are not used as breeding sites. The Carmanah haulout is located on an offshore island and is used by 120-150 animals all year long, while the Pachena site is accessible by foot from the West Coast Trail and is occupied by up to 150 animals from September to May. Visitor access to these sites will be minimized.</p>
1		<p>Harbour Seal Haulout at Camper Bay Caves This haulout, located between Camper Bay and Trisle Creek, is used for breeding and rearing and hence very sensitive to disturbance. Access by foot is not possible, and boat access will no longer be permitted, unless under permit for research.</p> <p>Seabird Colonies There are eight seabird colonies in the West Coast Trail Unit, four of which have been designated as Zone 1 areas to protect nesting pigeon guillemots, tufted puffins, and pelagic cormorants. These areas include: Seabird Rocks, Lowton Point, Whyac and Gordon River.</p>
2	<p>All of the West Coast Trail Unit will be designated Zone 2, with the exception of the Pachena Bay trailhead, the two satellite parcels of land in Bamfield and Port Renfrew and the lighthouse sites along the West Coast Trail. Facilities will be limited to primitive campsites, trail structures and toilet facilities. No facilities will be provided in the Nitinat Triangle.</p>	<p>The waters surrounding Cape Beale from Tapaltos Bay to Clutus Point have been designated Marine Zone 2. As in the other units, emphasis will be placed on low-intensity recreation and the maintenance of the wilderness values of this area. Resource harvesting will be kept to a minimum.</p>
3	<p>The satellite parcel of land in the estuary of the San Juan River in Port Renfrew has been designated Zone 3. Motorized access will be prohibited, and emphasis in park management will be placed on the maintenance of ecological and aesthetic integrity.</p>	<p>All of the marine water not assigned Zone 1 or 2 status have been designated marine Zone 3 in recognition of the continued use of these waters for navigation and limited commercial fishing.</p>
4	<p>The only areas in the Zone 4 category in the West Coast Trail Unit are the trailhead facility at Pachena Bay, the satellite parcel of land in Bamfield and the lighthouse sites along the West Coast Trail.</p>	<p>No Zone 4 (marine) areas are designated in the West Coast Trail Unit.</p>
5	No Zone 5 areas have been designated in the West Coast Trail Unit.	

Figure 7



WEST COAST TRAIL ZONING PLAN

4.5 Archaeological Sites

There are over 400 inventoried archaeological sites within the park. The Broken Group Islands have the greatest density of archaeological resource sites of the three units of the park. Eighteen subtidal shipwreck sites have been identified and warrant further assessment. The location of archaeological sites will not be identified in public documents, such as these management guidelines, in order to maximize their protection. These sites will be managed as Environmentally Sensitive Areas, and some may be designated as Zone 1 Areas if restricted access is warranted and controls are feasible.

4.6 Special Preservation

Zone 1 designation was applied conservatively so as not to compromise the importance of the designation. Resource sensitivity and the ability to adequately protect resources were important criteria in proposing Zone 1 designation. Additional Zone 1 areas could be designated as a result of further study.

Terrestrial Zone 1

The Zone 1 designation of the Lower Kootowis Creek Drainage acknowledges the uniqueness of this area and the need for specific guidelines to ensure continued protection of this sample of temperate rainforest with its habitat for wild steelhead, cutthroat trout and wolf denning sites.

Marine Zone 1

The offshore islands designated Zone 1 are haulouts or nesting colonies of particular importance to marine mammals and seabirds, and habitat for a wide variety of marine life. Most are considered to have a medium to high risk of disturbance by visitors approaching the islands on foot or by boat or aircraft. The marine waters within an appropriate radius of the islands are to be included in the Zone 1 designation. Access to these areas will be by permit only for research purposes.

The marine waters of the Broken Group Islands are the most significant of the marine components of Pacific Rim, and several sites have been recognized as warranting the highest level of protection in Zone 1 areas. This designation is necessary to protect nesting pigeon guillemots and cave nesting pelagic cormorants.

Public access to these sites will not be permitted, unless under research permit. These sites include six of the ten sea bird colonies found on the following islands of the Broken Group:

- Cree
- Austin
- Effingham
- Gibraltar
- Dempster and
- Batley.

Along the West Coast Trail, the Harbour Seal haulout at Camper Bay Caves is used for breeding and rearing purposes and is very sensitive to disturbance. Access by foot is not possible, and boat access will no longer be permitted, unless under permit for research purposes.

There are eight seabird colonies in the West Coast Trail Unit, four of which have been designated Zone 1, and include the following locations:

- Lawton Point
- Whyac
- Gordon River and
- Seabird Rocks.

Public access to these sites will not be permitted.

4.7 Wilderness Designation

Long Beach Unit

While designated as Wilderness, the Zone 2 areas in the Long Beach Unit are not intended for overnight use. Man-made facilities, where provided, will be limited to primitive trails providing day use access from a parking facility. Other areas in Grice Bay will only be accessible by small boat. Due to their relatively small size, these areas will not be legally designated as Wilderness Areas by Order-in-Council under the National Parks Act.

West Coast Trail Unit

The majority of the West Coast Trail Unit will be designated as Zone 2 Wilderness, with the exception of the Pachena Bay trailhead, the two satellite parcels of land in Bamfield and Port Renfrew, the lighthouse sites along the West Coast Trail and the designated Environmentally Sensitive Areas. The Wilderness Opportunity Spectrum, as illustrated in Figure 9, will be applied to the West Coast Trail Unit, whereby the unit will be sub-zoned into wildland, primitive and semi-primitive wilderness zones.

Warden patrol cabins, used for operational purposes, may be developed in this zone. Other man-made facilities will be limited to primitive campsites, trail structures and toilet facilities along the West Coast Trail and semi-primitive facilities in Cape Beale; no facilities will be provided in the Nitinat Triangle.

It is proposed that the Minister will make a future recommendation to the Governor-in-Council for the legal designation of a Wilderness Area in the Nitinat Triangle west of Nitinat Lake. This will have the effect of defining these areas by government regulation under the National Parks Act and preventing any development beyond that required for the protection of park resources.

Broken Group Islands

With the exception of six seabird colonies designated as Zone 1 and a number of Environmentally Sensitive Areas, all of the islands in the Broken Group, excluding Native reserve lands, have been designated as Zone 2, Wilderness.

Figure 9: Wilderness Opportunity Spectrum

Management Factor	Opportunity Areas		
	Semi-Primitive	Primitive	Wildland
Access Degree of Difficulty	easy _____		_____ difficult
Site Management Facilities	many _____		_____ none
Site hardening	required _____		_____ not required
Level of Contact	high _____		_____ low
Visitor Management Regimentation	high _____		_____ low
Acceptability of Impact	some _____	_____ few _____	_____ very few

(adapted from the Banff National Park Management Plan. Environment Canada 1988)

CHAPTER 5.0

A STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

5.1 Introduction

The protection and management of all heritage resources in national parks is the primary mandate of Parks Canada. The National Parks Act directs that "the maintenance of ecological integrity through protection of natural resources shall be the first priority when considering park zoning and visitor use in management plans". Ecological integrity, as defined in the State of the Parks Report, 1990, exists "where the structure and function of an ecosystem are unimpaired by stress induced by human activity and are likely to persist."

The most significant threats to the ecological integrity in Pacific Rim originate from outside the park boundaries. The linear configuration of the park reserve leaves the park vulnerable to external impacts, including catastrophic oil spills.

Since Pacific Rim's establishment in 1970, significant changes have occurred in adjacent land and marine resource uses. As a result, Pacific Rim has experienced a continuous net loss in ecological integrity and of the resource values that initially led to its establishment two decades ago. The maintenance and restoration of ecological integrity in Pacific Rim will require an ecosystem based approach to resource management that extends beyond park boundaries and involves all parties in a cooperative partnership, including all levels of government, the private sector and aboriginal groups.

Parks Canada defines ecosystem based management as "the integrated management of natural landscapes, ecological processes, physical and biotic components, and human activities, to maintain or enhance the integrity of an ecosystem." Ecosystem management focuses on the management of human activities in, or influences on, an ecosystem, rather than attempting to manage ecosystem components and processes directly. The cooperative and integrated management of resource based activity on a regional basis would enhance the long term protection of species and ecosystem diversity at a regional level. Ecosystem management also implies the integration of terrestrial and marine, and of natural and cultural, resource elements.

The following sections outline the results and actions Parks Canada intends to achieve through the implementation of its ecological resource management strategy.

5.2 Enhancing Ecological Integrity through Ecosystem Based Management

Results:

Regional resource management programs are based on sound scientific knowledge and a thorough understanding of the ecosystem (both terrestrial and marine) within which Pacific Rim functions. Co-operative efforts among regional resource managers result in the creation of a regionally integrated resource management area encompassing the identified "Pacific Rim ecosystem". Parks Canada is recognized for its leadership role in fostering a collective spirit of stewardship and environmental citizenship among all responsible parties for ecosystem management throughout the region.

Required Actions:

Understanding Pacific Rim's Ecosystem:

- ☐ Conduct the necessary research, in conjunction with other government and non-government resource management agencies, research institutions, aboriginal groups and the private sector, to determine the boundaries of the ecosystem within which Pacific Rim functions.
- ☐ Conduct the necessary research, with the above noted partners, to gain a better understanding of this regional ecosystem in terms of its biotic and abiotic components, ecological processes and human activities.
- ☐ Complete an integrated biophysical inventory of the terrestrial and marine environments in Pacific Rim.
- ☐ Establish a scientific monitoring and research program, in cooperation with other government agencies and academic institutions, to regularly observe, record change in and assess the health of park resources and the regional ecosystem.
- ☐ Develop research programs to identify and assess the present distribution of unique, rare and endangered vegetation species or associations, and the necessary management actions to ensure their protection.
- ☐ In cooperation with other agencies, identify critical wildlife habitats and dispersal corridors needing protection and develop the management strategies required to achieve their protection.

Facilitating Integrated Resource Management

- ☐ Cooperate with regional sectoral interests to promote integrated resource management planning for the Pacific Rim Ecosystem.
- ☐ Develop a planning and management process whereby decision making is shared, where appropriate, among members of the management team and is achieved on a consensus basis.
- ☐ Undertake monitoring and research projects with adjacent resource managers in support of integrated resource management and the reduction of impacts on park resources from adjacent land and marine resource uses.

Fostering Collective Stewardship and Citizenship

- ☐ Demonstrate leadership as environmental stewards by applying environmentally sound practices for managing lands, facilities and all heritage resources, and incorporating environmental concerns into all aspects of park management.
- ☐ Work co-operatively with other resource management agencies, aboriginal groups and private sector partners to foster a greater awareness of the importance of environmental protection and of our individual and collective responsibilities as stewards of the land.
- ☐ Communicate with a broad public audience in the park and region through outreach and the Community Relations Initiative, on the importance of environmental citizenship as an essential philosophical foundation for effective ecosystem management.
- ☐ Ensure delivery of a range of quality public education programs and services focusing on the themes of ecosystem management, environmental stewardship and environmental citizenship.

5.3 Protecting Terrestrial Heritage Resources

Results:

The remnants of the temperate rainforest in Pacific Rim are protected. The park provides the habitat and necessary protection mechanisms to assist regional efforts in supporting sustainable populations of indigenous flora and fauna representative of this coastal ecosystem. Aquatic resources are managed to encourage viable populations of aquatic flora and fauna and to minimize adverse impacts to water quality and quantity.

Required Actions:

- ☐ Provide the maximum level of protection to rare, endangered, threatened or vulnerable species and habitats.
- ☐ Participate at the regional level, to ensure all indigenous species of flora and fauna are maintained at sustainable population levels.
- ☐ Attach top priority to the retention of old growth temperate rainforest and particularly the Sitka spruce forest along the coastal fringe.
- ☐ Allow previously disturbed forest lands to rejuvenate naturally with a minimum of interference; monitor selected areas previously logged to determine rates of succession.
- ☐ Develop cooperative management strategies with other levels of government for integrated wildlife management on lands adjacent to Pacific Rim, especially with respect to cougar, black bear, wolves and other highly mobile species.
- ☐ Develop a fresh water sport angling management plan to protect the limited remaining wild populations of anadromous cut-throat trout and steelhead.
- ☐ Attach special management status to intact or near intact watersheds within park reserve boundaries in order to maintain as natural an environment as possible, to present opportunities for benchmark research and for the interpretation of naturally evolving aquatic ecosystems. These include the Kichha Lake, the Nitinat Triangle, and the Cheewhat watersheds.
- ☐ Discuss the issue of the artificial fertilization in Hobiton Lake with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Ditidaht Band with the objective of considering alternatives to artificially augmenting sockeye salmon stocks so that the Nitinat Triangle can be maintained in as natural a state as possible.

- ☐ Cooperate with other government agencies and the managers of adjacent lands to ensure resource management and timber harvesting practices do not have a negative effect on water quality, quantity and the health of aquatic ecosystems.

5.4 Protecting Marine Heritage Resources

Results:

The marine resources of the Broken Group Islands Unit provide a reservoir of genetic diversity, which serves as an ecological benchmark and as a resource for pure and applied marine research. The fisheries resources of Pacific Rim are managed in partnership with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and aboriginal groups, wherein only limited sport and commercial fisheries are permitted on a sustainable basis.

Required Actions:

- ☐ Establish and manage the Broken Group Islands as a harvest refugium. Amend regulations under the Federal Fisheries Act and, if necessary, under the National Parks Act, to close the archipelago to all commercial and sport fisheries, with the possible exception of certain salmon sport fisheries.
- ☐ Negotiate a fisheries management plan with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, B.C. Fish and Wildlife staff and aboriginal groups, in consultation with affected fishers, to determine future management strategies for all permissible commercial fisheries in other park waters.
- ☐ Permit the Dungeness crab fishery to continue where appropriate, managed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Management measures such as the requirement for escape ports will be pursued to ensure a viable population of the species in park waters.
- ☐ Permit no new fisheries, including aquaculture, nor the expansion of existing fisheries in the tidal waters of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve.
- ☐ Prohibit the live capture and retention of any marine organisms from park waters, except by licence or permit for research purposes.
- ☐ Develop and implement a sport fisheries management strategy for salmon in park waters, in consultation with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, aboriginal groups and the sport fishing industry.
- ☐ Monitor fish populations and fishing effort in park marine waters, in conjunction with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Bamfield Marine Station and the sport fishing industry, to assess the extent and impacts of this industry on fish populations and habitats.

- ☐ Require all commercial sport fishing charters operating in park waters to possess a business licence issued under the National Parks Act. This licence will require the regular reporting of catch statistics and would be implemented once the Park Reserve is gazetted.
- ☐ Provide all seabird colonies and marine mammal haulouts with a high level of protection; establish minimum viewing distances for whale watching and sea lion haulouts.
- ☐ Work with the Department of Transport to designate a minimum overflight elevation of 300 metres (1000 feet) for all aircraft throughout Pacific Rim. The Department of Transport would amend the notations on aeronautical charts (NOTAMS) to reflect this new regulation.
- ☐ Prohibit aircraft take-offs and landings, including those by float planes, within the park reserve, except where required for essential operational purposes.
- ☐ Restrict entry into sea caves containing cultural resources, nesting sea birds and marine mammal haulouts.
- ☐ Seek cooperation with fishers and tourism operators, using environmental education approaches, to minimize wildlife harassment and improve the effectiveness of resource protection programs.

CHAPTER 6.0

A STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING CULTURAL RESOURCE INTEGRITY

6.1 Introduction

The protection and presentation of cultural heritage provides opportunities to demonstrate the history of human use and effects on naturally occurring ecosystems. Archaeological and ethnographic research indicates that the lands and coastal waters of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve have a long history of human occupation and use. The histories of the Nuu-chah-nulth people and the saga of Euro-Canadian settlers have left their legacy on the landscape. The imprints of this history represent a valued park resource, integral to understanding and appreciating the varied heritage resources of the park reserve and their contribution to the fabric of our Canadian identity. Cultural resources may include in-situ artifacts, modified landscapes, collections, stories and events. These cultural resources chronicle man's relationship with the landscape from the past to the present and define a facet of our Canadian heritage.

6.2 Protecting Cultural Heritage Resources

Results:

The management and protection of cultural resources is enhanced and publicly acknowledged through focused scientific research. Parks Canada works in partnership with aboriginal leaders and other recognized authorities on the protection and management of native cultural resources. The responsibility for the management and protection of historic wrecks and all underwater historic and archaeological resources within Pacific Rim presently resides with Transport Canada. This arrangement will be reviewed.

Required Actions:

- ☐ In partnership with the appropriate Band Councils and the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, study and present the aboriginal cultural heritage of the park reserve and manage cultural resources related to their history in ways that respect their traditions and contemporary values.

- ☐ Develop and initiate resource conservation, protection and management strategies in accordance with the Cultural Resource Management Policy.
- ☐ Complete the inventory and assessment of all cultural resources, including identification of their national and international significance.
- ☐ Determine and assess what options are appropriate, including direct intervention, to preserve cultural resources from natural deterioration.
- ☐ Manage cultural resources on an equal basis with natural resources and within a fully integrated heritage resource management strategy.
- ☐ Negotiate an agreement with the Department of Transport which serves to safeguard all historic wrecks within Pacific Rim waters.
- ☐ Seek cooperative ventures with dive groups, charter operators, and underwater societies to develop and present educational programs aimed at protecting underwater cultural resources.
- ☐ Seek partnerships and other cooperative ventures throughout the Pacific Rim ecosystem for the protection and presentation of cultural resources. Encourage the exchange of information and expertise with other cultural resource management agencies and institutions.

CHAPTER 7.0

A STRATEGY FOR FOSTERING ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZENSHIP

7.1 Introduction

An objective of Parks Canada and indeed, the Government of Canada, is to foster national identity through the protection and presentation of our heritage and to cultivate a society of environmental citizens committed to heritage protection.

Environmental citizenship involves individuals becoming more aware and knowledgeable about environmental issues and taking responsibility for their own actions. It is defined in the Green Plan as "...commitment to responsible action based on environmental understanding and the acceptance that humans are an integral part of the natural environment."

Parks Canada is well positioned to assume a leadership role in developing a constituency of active environmental citizens. In Pacific Rim, first hand opportunities are available for visitors to experience the spectacular natural and cultural heritage of Canada's West Coast. Such experiences positively influence visitors' values, beliefs and actions in relation to the environment and our Canadian identity. The manner in which the park is managed also influences the visitor. The environmentally sensitive attitude that governs the management of the park communicates the national significance of this protected area.

A primary strategy of the park is to achieve environmental citizenship through an offer of park experiences integrated with environmental messages in a pristine, prudently managed natural environment. A second strategy is to promote a greater awareness of the role of the park in sustainable development. A final strategy is to seek constituency support among a broad regional and provincial audience by reaching out into local communities and the B.C. Lower Mainland area. In order to implement these strategies, the park will need to work in partnership with other organizations to develop a broad base of environmentally aware and active citizens.

The park offers a range of opportunities for visitors to experience and learn about the park's heritage resources in both the frontcountry and the backcountry. A description of the opportunities and guidelines for their management are discussed in Chapters 8 and 9. Integrated with the park opportunities are communication programs which foster

environmental citizenship. It is this communications program that is outlined in this chapter.

7.2 The Role of the Park Communications Program

The park communications program serves to develop a commitment to make responsible environmental decisions in one's daily life. This program will be essential to achieving ecological and cultural resource integrity and environmental citizenship. Communication activities will involve all staff and a wide range of partners.

Steps for achieving environmental citizenship begin with an awareness and understanding of the special nature of the park, its natural and cultural heritage resources -- and the role the park plays in expressing our Canadian identity and in sustaining biological diversity. The provision of appropriate information services will help to manage the visitor's park experience and protect park resources by affecting visitor behaviour. Interpretive and educational programs will assist visitors to understand the significance of the park's resources--the role of the park as a protected area, a healthy landscape in the context of environmental sustainability. Environmental education will be an integral part of the visitors' experience in Pacific Rim.

The park communications program will also help to foster a broad constituency of environmentally literate and active citizens. A community relations program will increase the awareness of park issues and seek support in the protection of park resources. Partnerships with others will play a significant role in expanding the delivery of services and park messages, not only within the park but also within the region.

Co-operative and volunteer opportunities which demonstrate environmental action will be encouraged.

7.3 Park Themes

For many people, Canada is identified by its national parks. Parks are showcases of representative and significant landscapes which form a vision of Canada and embrace its heritage. Park themes and messages are derived from this natural and cultural landscape and form the fabric of the park's communication program. Themes will address the significance of the park as a protected area, a healthy landscape, in a regional context of sustainable development and in a national context of Canadian identity. The public must also become aware of the threats posed to the integrity of the park through visitor pressures, resource extraction and harvesting, as well as atmospheric and marine pollution such as oil spills and marine entanglement. Individuals and groups will be encouraged to support national park objectives and become more active as environmental citizens in protecting our national heritage.

These park themes and messages are divided into two sets. The first set of themes develops the Park Story which is based on the natural and cultural heritage resources of the park....our Canadian identity. The Park Story becomes the context for presenting the second and fundamental set of themes and messages which focuses on the role of the park in a sustainable environment and a global ecosystem... the bigger picture.

Park Themes:

A. The Park Story

- Pacific Rim National Park Reserve--a special place on the open Pacific Coast
 - ◆ Long Beach--a seashore playground where sandy beaches meet the pounding surf
 - ◆ The Pacific--weathermaker, sculptor and provider
 - ◆ Grice Bay--a sheltered estuary: a nursery for oceanic life
 - ◆ Broken Group Islands--a mariner's haven in wild waters --an ecological barometer and benchmark for science and research
 - ◆ West Coast Trail--Survival! A lifesaving trail along the graveyard of the Pacific
 - ◆ The Nitinat Triangle-- wilderness lakes and old growth temperate rainforest
 - ◆ The Nuu-chah-nulth---People of the Sea
 - ◆ Opportunities and Challenges--Man's relationship with land and sea

B. The Bigger Picture

- The role of Pacific Rim in the Canadian National Parks System -promoting a national identity and protecting heritage resources
- The role of Pacific Rim in regional sustainable development
 - internal and external threats to ecological integrity
 - ecosystem management and biodiversity
- The role of Parks Canada in the World Conservation Strategy
 - fostering environmental sustainability, locally, nationally, and globally
- The role of the individual as an environmental citizen.

7.4 The Park's Audiences

Visitors to the park are grouped into four broad categories:

--the *Relaxation Getaway Group* --This category includes the vast majority of visitors to the Long Beach Unit; their activities are primarily day use in nature and

many prefer access to overnight vehicle camping facilities in or near the main activity areas.

--*the Discovery and Learning Group*--This is a smaller group also located primarily in the Long Beach Unit; they enjoy participating in activities that result in an opportunity for learning, discovery and personal growth.

--*the Outdoor Adventure Group*--This group forms the second largest category of park visitors. They seek a natural and undisturbed environment with the opportunity to find solitude and isolation and a preference for a more primitive or rustic level of service and facilities.

--*the Sporting Group*--This is the smallest group of park visitors. Their primary pursuit is a particular recreational activity such as surfing and scuba diving. They can often be unaware that they are in a national park and have limited need for park facilities but a greater need for services such as search and rescue.

Park communication services will address the specific information and educational requirements of each group. Park themes and messages will be targeted to each group in order to foster an increased level of environmental understanding and commitment.

A key audience for the communications program is the park staff. This important stakeholder group offers a significant opportunity to informally expand the delivery of park messages to the visitor and to the local community.

Outside park audiences include educational institutions, youth organizations, local communities, aboriginal groups, other governments, conservation, heritage and environmental organizations, the tourism industry, park stakeholders, the general public, politicians and the media. The park's environmental education and outreach programs will target each of these groups with appropriate messages. A priority will be placed on creating partnerships with others to expand the opportunities to reach a broader constituency.

7.5 Communication Activities

Environmental citizenship and ecological integrity will be fostered through a well integrated park communications program consisting of information, heritage interpretation, environmental education, outreach and community relations activities. Communication activities will involve all staff at every level of the organization. Partnerships with others will be cultivated to enhance the delivery of information and park themes and messages. Innovative approaches involving advanced technology will be used.

The park communications program will achieve the following results for each of the program activities identified below:

7.5.1 Information

Results:

The visitor experience is managed so that park resources are protected and visitor safety is optimized. There is cooperation among regional agencies in the delivery of park information and messages.

Required Actions:

- ☐ Continue to provide timely and accurate pre-trip and enroute information to ensure visitors have realistic expectations for their park visit, are well prepared and aware of appropriate visitor conduct as well as potential hazards and safety concerns.
- ☐ Develop information packages targeted to the needs of specific visitor groups such as the backcountry users of the West Coast Trail and the Broken Group Islands.
- ☐ Use education as the preferred method for managing visitor impact and to promote environmentally appropriate behaviour.
- ☐ Provide appropriate reception and orientation to park services, facilities and opportunities at park entry points and visitor activity areas such as campgrounds, and parking lots.
- ☐ Ensure basic park information, regarding services, facilities, and emergency assistance, is available at all times.
- ☐ Integrate the roles of the visitor information centres at Long Beach, Pachena Bay and Port Renfrew with regional information requirements.

- ☐ Pursue alternative approaches for providing information reservation services through cooperative ventures, interagency agreements and innovative technology.
- ☐ Work closely with outside information agencies and the tourism industry in the region to increase their awareness of the park as a special place and to ensure the park is marketed appropriately.

7.5.2 Heritage Interpretation

Results:

Park visitors appreciate the heritage value of the park and recognize its contribution to the Canadian identity. They understand the significance of this protected area to a regionally sustainable future and how this in turn contributes to global sustainability. Visitors share in the responsibility to protect the resources and are motivated to make environmentally responsible decisions.

Required Actions:

- ☐ Ensure that park themes and messages promote an understanding of the natural and cultural resource features of the landscape of the park reserve as an expression of the Canadian Identity.
- ☐ Deliver environmental and cultural heritage protection messages to explain why Pacific Rim is special, why it requires protection status, and its contribution towards a regionally sustainable future.
- ☐ Ensure the heritage experiences offered in the park reserve are based on park themes and messages that promote an understanding of sustainability and motivate visitors to make environmentally responsible decisions in their everyday lives.
- ☐ Use the State of the Park Report as a basis for developing and delivering broad environmental messages.
- ☐ Focus the delivery of environmental messages and heritage themes at the Wickaninnish Centre and Green Point Theatre.
- ☐ Provide a range of interpretive services which are innovative and targeted to specific visitor groups to increase their level of understanding of environmental issues and of their role as environmental citizens.

7.5.3 Environmental Education

Results:

An environmentally educated constituency supports national park values and understands the park's role in environmental sustainability on a local, national and global basis. This constituency understands the interrelationship between man and his environment, past and present, and has the knowledge and skills to make sound environmental decisions in everyday life.

Required Actions:

- ☐ Integrate park messages into the school curricula through cooperative efforts with the local school board.
- ☐ Encourage the use of the park and its facilities by groups from educational institutions as a field extension of their classrooms and in ways which foster environmental citizenship and have minimal environmental impact.
- ☐ Pursue cooperative programming opportunities with conservation/ education organizations such as the Vancouver Aquarium, Royal BC Museum, the Knowledge Network and Bamfield Marine Station which will reach a broad audience on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland with environmental education messages.
- ☐ Target the education community, including adult education agencies and youth organizations with programs that promote the development of skills and knowledge to resolve environmental issues and make environmentally responsible decisions.
- ☐ Focus on science based messages which incorporate the latest park research findings.
- ☐ Work closely with educational institutions to develop environmental program initiatives.

7.5.4 Outreach and Community Relations

Results:

Local communities and residents and key stakeholder groups understand the role of Pacific Rim as a protected area and provide support and cooperation to maintain and enhance the ecological integrity of the park . Local and regional residents actively participate in the decisions made to govern the management of the park.

Required Actions:

- ☐ Develop an aggressive and focused outreach and community relations program which will foster an understanding of the park resources, the role of Pacific Rim as a protected area, external threats to the park's integrity and its significance to regional sustainable development.
- ☐ Work closely with neighbouring communities and tourism associations to foster an understanding of Pacific Rim as a special place and to ensure that the park is marketed appropriately.
- ☐ Encourage local residents, businesses and communities to accept a level of responsibility for the integrity and protection of the park and to make responsible environmental decisions.
- ☐ Encourage the local communities and tourism businesses to communicate concepts of environmental citizenship to others.
- ☐ Maintain an ongoing dialogue with local communities and stakeholders and encourage a consultative approach to resolve management issues.
- ☐ Participate in high profile regional programs including the Long Beach Model Forest Project, Clayoquot Sound Sustainable Development Strategy, the Barkley Sound Regional Planning Strategy and the proposed Biosphere Reserve to contribute scientific knowledge and foster an understanding of Pacific Rim's role in sustainability.
- ☐ Undertake cooperative programs and encourage activities which are mutually beneficial and demonstrate good will with the community such as the Whale Festival, Pacific Rim Music Festival, Environment Week, Canada Day and Parks Day.
- ☐ Develop a strong and proactive relationship with the media to assist in the delivery of environmental citizenship messages.

7.5.5 Public Involvement

Results:

Individuals, groups and other agencies are involved in achieving park goals, ecological integrity, environmental citizenship and stewardship through partnerships and volunteerism.

Required Actions:

- ☐ Ensure that consultative programs are conducted in an open and transparent manner, and that information provided is objective and scientifically based.
- ☐ Assist to establish a park co-operating association.
- ☐ Establish local community advisory committees to assist in the resolution of park issues.
- ☐ Encourage others to assist in delivering park programs in recognition of a partner's strengths and fiscal realities.
- ☐ Encourage volunteer opportunities which enable people to demonstrate environmental citizenship.
- ☐ Work closely with the aboriginal community to develop and present aboriginal cultural heritage themes.

CHAPTER 8.0

PROVIDING FRONTCOUNTRY RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

8.1 Introduction

Frontcountry recreation includes those activities which occur on a day use or overnight basis and which are directly accessible by vehicular access or short walking trails. This form of recreation accounts for the vast majority of recreational activity in Pacific Rim. Virtually all visitation to the Long Beach Unit is frontcountry in nature, and day use accounts for approximately 80-90% of the total. While much of the day use activity takes place on the beaches themselves, day use opportunities provided for in the Long Beach Unit include general relaxation and picnicking at a number of sites, trail walking, discovery and learning in the Wickaninnish Centre, boating and fishing in Grice Bay, viewing on Radar Hill and swimming and relaxation on the beach at Kennedy Lake. Vehicular camping is provided in the Green Point Campground and walk-in camping is available at Schooner Cove.

Parks Canada recognizes the importance of frontcountry recreational use as a tourism generator for the communities of Ucluelet and Tofino. The only other areas in Pacific Rim that offer a frontcountry experience other than in the Long Beach Unit, are the trailhead area and beach at Pachena Bay and the beachfront property in Port Renfrew.

The Long Beach Unit is nearing capacity during summer months. Day use capacity is limited by the availability of parking rather than by crowding on the beaches and adjacent lands. The campgrounds at Green Point and Schooner Cove are filled to capacity most days of the summer. As visitor demands continue to rise into the 1990s, the park and surrounding communities will need to consider alternative ways of managing this increased demand. Consideration will not be given to the further alienation of park lands for parking lots and roads. The local communities also face infrastructure limitations in terms of water and sewer systems to meet visitor needs. A regional solution to the common problem of overuse will be required.

It has also been recognized that frontcountry facilities in Canada's national parks must become more accessible to the disabled. As part of a much broader federal government program, the day use facilities in Pacific Rim will undergo some redevelopment to improve their accessibility to the disabled, and, by so doing, enhance their benefit for all park visitors.

8.2 The Frontcountry Experience

The overriding consideration in managing the frontcountry visitor experience in the Long Beach Unit is the maintenance of the natural and aesthetic environment of the beach and coastal forest. The ability to experience a relatively undisturbed environment along the coast and in the rainforest is crucial to meeting the expectations of the vast majority of visitors to this unit of the park reserve. With the Long Beach Unit serving as the park's focal point for delivery of the environmental citizenship message, the experience of the "Discovery and Learning market" in this unit is fundamental to the success of Pacific Rim's contribution to the citizenship initiative. This segment is supportive of national parks, and will be receptive to citizenship messages as well as wanting to learn of the natural and cultural resource values in the park. The Wickanninish Centre and the Green Point Theatre will serve as the primary venues in Pacific Rim for the delivery of the formal environmental citizenship message.

Recreational opportunities will be linked to the natural and cultural heritage themes of the frontcountry experiences available at Long Beach, Pachena Bay and Port Renfrew. This will allow for a better integration of recreational and educational experiences, and should increase the public's understanding of the role of national parks in resource protection and environmental stewardship.

For the "Sporting market" in the Long Beach Unit, the experience of surfing or surf-kayaking is primarily dependent on wave height and beach access. Low priority is attached to these activities relative to other park opportunities.

8.3 The Day Use Experience in the Long Beach Unit

Results:

Pacific Rim is recognized by the public and its visitors for providing a high standard of service and program delivery through both its own staff and partners, in those areas which clearly relate to its citizenship mandate. Parks Canada coordinates its service offer with regional tourism strategies, and, where possible, cooperates with the private sector in service delivery. The provision of frontcountry recreation opportunities is focused in the Long Beach Unit and is available for a range of skill levels and interests from the experienced outdoorsman to those who prefer or require a high level of comfort and security, including some for the disabled. Park visitors are able to find relative solitude and isolation in the various park environments of the Long Beach Unit. The type and level of visitor impacts on the resource and on the experience of other users are confined to acceptable limits.

Required Actions:

- ☐ Allow no net increase in total parking area in the Long Beach Unit in order to maximize the level of protection to the coastal forest and contain the level of facility development.
- ☐ Due to persistent erosion problems, close the day use area at Comber's Beach to vehicle traffic when necessary. The site will remain accessible to the public for day use purposes by foot or bicycle access.
- ☐ Critically review closure of the Grice Bay day use area to vehicle traffic when the present roadbed becomes unsafe. The park can not sustain the cost of redeveloping this road given the sites low use and the high cost of replacing the unstable section of road bed. If closed, Grice Bay would remain accessible by foot or bicycle. The boat launch, parking area and pavement would be removed and a trail would be developed and maintained to facilitate bicycle and pedestrian use. Parking, toilet facilities and orientation would be provided at the trailhead to be located near the golf course.
- ☐ Ensure that the architectural motif for the park is applied to all park structures when replaced or renovated.
- ☐ Prohibit beach fires in the Long Beach Unit with the exception of campgrounds at Schooner Cove and Green Point. Florencia Bay will become a designated site for small beach fires for non-campers.
- ☐ Manage Half Moon Bay, Florencia Bay, Schooner Cove to Cox Point, and Grice Bay for the retention of those qualities which enable solitude and a sense of isolation to be found.
- ☐ Work with Ucluelet and Tofino, the Province of British Columbia, the Regional District of Alberni-Clayoquot, and other tourism and recreation stakeholders to develop a sustainable regional tourism strategy, which will include a reservation system for camping and roofed accommodation throughout the region.
- ☐ Cooperate with local and regional communities and the government of B.C. to establish a regional information centre en route to Pacific Rim.
- ☐ Undertake redevelopment of the Wickaninnish Day Use Area and upgrade displays in both the Wickaninnish Centre and Long Beach Information Centre.
- ☐ Improve access for the disabled to the Wickaninnish Centre theatre and Lismer Beach. Install one wheelchair accessible washroom building and three accessible sites in Green Point Campground.

- ☐ Maintain the existing trail system to acceptable standards. Expansion of the day use trail system will only take place if there is a demonstrated need relative to environmental citizenship opportunities.
- ☐ Manage the Wilderness zones along Grice Bay and the north-west shore between Schooner Cove and Cox Point to a primitive standard. Trail access will not be developed in order to retain the wilderness character of those areas.
- ☐ Develop a strategy, in conjunction with local communities, other levels of government and the private sector, for an effective and efficient regional transportation system based on a comprehensive analysis of day use parking and other traffic statistics in the Long Beach Unit. Consider the redesign of existing parking facilities, as well as alternative methods for handling anticipated traffic volumes, such as a shuttle system between Tofino, Ucluelet and the Long Beach area.
- ☐ Implement a user fee system at all day use parking lots in the Long Beach Unit.
- ☐ Upgrade the viewing opportunity at Radar Hill by redecking the viewing platforms and by removing exotic plant species (e.g. scotch broom).
- ☐ Recognize the Kennedy Lake property as being peripheral to the interests of Parks Canada in the Long Beach Unit. The property does not contain natural or cultural values critical to the mandate of Pacific Rim. Seek opportunities to have others take over the management and operation of the Kennedy Lake property.

8.4 The Camping Experience in the Long Beach Unit

Results:

The public continues to recognize the high quality of the camping experience available in the Long Beach Unit. In the park, the vehicle access camping offer is limited to the existing capacity in the Green Point Campground. The unique experience of walk-in beach camping at Schooner Cove is retained. The management and operation of park facilities and services, including the operation of campgrounds and the provision of information, is coordinated with the municipalities and private sector operators in the surrounding region. This provides park and regional visitors with the best possible service and generates social and economic benefits for the local communities.

Required Actions:

- ☐ Ensure high standards of service excellence are offered at Green Point and Schooner Cove campgrounds.

- ☐ Actively encourage the private sector to provide additional high quality camping opportunities in the region.
- ☐ Assess the feasibility of an expansion of vehicle access camping near Kennedy Lake, in cooperation with the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, local communities and the private sector, provided that environmental impacts are acceptable and that the existing beach recreation opportunity is maintained.
- ☐ In cooperation with the Regional District, local communities, tourism agencies and associations, collectively plan the regional camping experience to address visitor and environmental needs for the next fifteen years and include a reservation system for camping and roofed accommodation.

8.5 The Day Use Experience at Pachena Bay

Results:

Day use access to the trailhead facility and lands on Pachena Bay are continued. Parks Canada works in cooperation with the community of Bamfield and the Ohiat Band to ensure a balanced supply of high quality recreational opportunities in the Pachena Bay area.

Required Actions:

- ☐ Provide limited picnic facilities and access to the beach as well as opportunities to learn of the natural and cultural resource values of the West Coast Trail Unit of Pacific Rim.
- ☐ Prohibit camping on the beach at Pachena Bay and as an alternative, provide technical and operational assistance to the Ohiat Band to help them provide a viable and high quality camping service on reserve lands.

8.6 The Day Use Experience at Port Renfrew

Results:

Public access to the beach on Port San Juan continues for day use purposes. The national park lands within the Village of Port Renfrew are considered peripheral to the interests of Parks Canada. Opportunities will be sought to have an alternate legal entity or authority assume responsibility for these lands with the provision that access and recreational opportunities will be available to local residents and visitors.

Required Actions:

- ☐ Do not provide camping opportunities on Parks Canada land in Port Renfrew but encourage the Pacheenaht Band and other private sector partners to continue to provide this service.

CHAPTER 9.0

PROVIDING BACKCOUNTRY AND WILDERNESS RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

9.1 Introduction

The Broken Group Islands and the West Coast Trail units offer backcountry and wilderness experiences for park visitors to Pacific Rim. To a limited degree, the small wilderness zones surrounding Grice Bay and along the north shore of the Long Beach Unit will offer a backcountry experience as well, but they will be managed as part of the Long Beach Unit experience.

The Broken Group Islands are utilized by thousands of boaters every year in pursuit of an experience in a relatively natural environment. Parks Canada is committed to managing the Broken Group Islands to maintain as much of the original wilderness character of these islands as possible.

Increases in the levels of visitation to the Broken Group Islands over the last decade have resulted in campsite congestion with associated problems of human waste disposal, inadequate water and firewood supply, and a reduction in the sense of isolation and solitude often sought by boaters to the islands. While Parks Canada recognizes that the Broken Group Islands do not provide a true wilderness environment, management practices similar to those used in wilderness areas are required in order to preserve as many of the wilderness qualities of the Broken Group Islands as possible.

The West Coast Trail Unit of Pacific Rim, established as the wilderness component of the park reserve, enables park visitors to experience the wild west coast and the challenge of pursuing their recreational activities under primitive conditions. In 1980, Parks Canada completed a five-year upgrading program on the West Coast Trail which included the construction of 17 kilometres of boardwalk and a series of bridges, ladders and cable car crossings. The rugged landscape of this coast has created a unique hiking experience of international stature.

In the Nitinat Triangle, the wilderness has been left virtually untouched and is still difficult to access. The Nitinat offers what is now rare on Vancouver Island, the opportunity to canoe and camp on undisturbed low level lakes and to explore large expanses of old growth rainforest.

At the northwest end of the West Coast Trail, lies a small but wild area on Cape Beale. Undeveloped except for a small system of primitive trails, Cape Beale offers a west coast experience in microcosm, within a two or three hour walk from the road end. The Cape Beale lighthouse was built in 1874, and parts of the original 6 kilometre long trail provide access to this light and its rugged rocky headlands, with side trails to the isolated beaches of Tapaltos Bay and Keeha Bay, as well as Kichha Lake in the centre of the Cape.

While no reliable statistics for visitor use on the West Coast Trail are available for the early years, use increased steadily with the publicity of the 1960's and the trail improvements in the 1970's. In 1981 there were 3,970 hikers. About 57% of these hikers, or 2,270, hiked the entire length of the trail. The pattern of visitation through the early 1980's was erratic, but regular increases in trail use have been experienced every year since 1986. Trail use between 1986 and 1989 increased by 56%, with a total of 6,693 hikers on the trail in 1989. Visitation took a dramatic leap in 1990 with an increase of 40% over 1989 levels to 9,359 hikers. Consequently, in 1992, a quota by reservation system was put in place to limit use on the trail to 8,000 hikers between May and September.

Although Parks Canada has not gathered use statistics for the Nitinat, visitor use is low. Its remoteness and poor access effectively discourage all but the hardy and adventurous from entering.

Similarly, there are few visitor use statistics available for Cape Beale, and only cursory knowledge of visitor use levels and patterns exists. Use levels, however, are low and primarily consist of day hikers.

9.2 The Backcountry and Wilderness Experience

The opportunity exists in this unit of Pacific Rim to offer three different kinds of wilderness and backcountry experiences: wildland, primitive and semi-primitive. A strategic management framework, known as the Backcountry Opportunity Spectrum, (Figure 9) has been developed in Western Region to establish definitive standards by which these three different experiences will be managed. These experiences are defined by a number of factors, such as the level of difficulty involved and the skills required, the availability of facilities and services, and the degree of solitude and isolation available.

The Nitinat Triangle will be managed as wildland, the Broken Group Islands and the West Coast Trail as primitive, and the Cape Beale area as semi-primitive.

The Broken Group Islands

Parks Canada will manage the Broken Group Islands to retain the ability of the more adventurous visitors to experience an undisturbed natural environment, to exercise their skills in self reliance and to find the solitude and privacy they seek. The opportunity to explore and discover the many interesting marine and terrestrial environments in the archipelago will be enhanced through the maintenance of the islands' aesthetics with only moderate improvements to access on some islands. A limited number of existing walking trails will be maintained to a primitive standard.

Other visitors will experience the Broken Group by charter tour vessel or private vessels, and will also seek the undisturbed natural setting of the islands. Visitor use in the islands will be managed to the extent necessary to maintain a primitive backcountry experience for all visitors. An effort will be made to alleviate problems associated with crowding and potential conflicts between user groups.

The West Coast Trail, Cape Beale and Nitinat Triangle

Within this unit of Pacific Rim, there exists the opportunity to provide a limited variety of outdoor recreational experiences for visitors of varying abilities and skill levels. Parks Canada will provide opportunities to experience "wildland" in the Nitinat Triangle for the experienced outdoor adventurer, "primitive" wilderness on the West Coast Trail for the backpacking enthusiast, and "semi-primitive" wilderness in Cape Beale oriented to the less experienced market. These experience levels have much in common, with their differences being defined by the level and type of facility development, the level of challenge and risk, the degree of self sufficiency involved, and the availability of isolation and solitude.

A wildland experience in the Nitinat Triangle will offer an opportunity to challenge the landscape on its own terms; man-made facilities will be absent. Visitors to the Nitinat will have the best opportunity available in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve to experience isolation, solitude and true wilderness. The experience will require physical fitness, well developed skills and total self reliance; the challenge will be sufficient to produce a feeling of reward and accomplishment.

Opportunities for a primitive wilderness experience on the West Coast Trail will be offered. Man made facilities will be limited to primitive trails, trail structures where required, and toilet facilities. Campsites are randomly distributed. Hiking the West Coast Trail will require an intermediate to experienced level of skill development and good physical fitness; the challenge will be sufficient to produce a feeling of reward and accomplishment, even for the experienced hiker. There will be more social encounters on the Trail than will occur in wildland areas but fewer than in semi-primitive areas. The levels of comfort and security are higher than in wildland areas due to the presence of park staff and the availability of rescue services.

The semi-primitive area at Cape Beale will offer the opportunity to experience a natural landscape in relative comfort and security on developed trails and campsites. The Cape Beale area will provide a range of day use or overnight opportunities with the most primitive experience being furthest from the road. Campsites will be developed in a low density spacing pattern with a good water supply; campers will be able to feel independent and relatively self sufficient. This experience is targeted to the "soft adventurer" and family groups at the beginner to intermediate skill level who will still be challenged by the rugged terrain of Cape Beale.

9.3 The Backcountry Experience in the Broken Group Islands

Results:

The Broken Group Islands Unit is recognized by aboriginal groups, the public and other protected area agencies as being managed as a high quality backcountry environment targeted to the outdoor adventure market, specifically to ocean paddlers and recreational boaters seeking a nautical experience in an undisturbed coastal environment. The use of specific visitor management strategies, including educational approaches, minimizes visitor impacts on, and enhances the visitor experience to, the Broken Group Islands.

Access to and circulation within the Broken Group Islands is managed so as to place priority on maintaining ecological integrity and retaining the quality of the visitor experience. The level of facility and service development in the Broken Group Islands is kept to a minimum to retain the natural character of the archipelago and facilitate a backcountry experience.

Required Actions:

- ☐ Complete and implement the Broken Group Islands Area Plan that will define strategies to minimize visitor impact and enhance the visitor experience. The Area Plan will address the following:
 - > a user fee to be charged for overnight use of the Broken Group, including a mechanism that will permit the reinvestment of revenues received back into the operation and maintenance of that area;
 - > allowing visitor opportunities in the Broken Group Islands which rely on and are consistent with the objective of maintaining the environment in as natural a state as possible;
 - > encouraging activities and behaviour that foster a sense of environmental citizenship and which promote an appreciation and understanding of the natural and cultural heritage values protected within the Broken Group Islands and the national park reserve;

- instituting a visitor quota, administered through a reservation system, to mitigate against crowding, and to increase visitor satisfaction, during high use periods;
- recommendations for a maximum group size limit, separate facilities for group camping, and maximum length-of-stay;
- a requirement for all overnight visitors to the Broken Group Islands to be in possession of a backcountry use permit for which an appropriate fee will be charged;
- an assessment and evaluation of all potential hazards to public safety and a public safety plan;
- the requirement for all charter sport fishing, SCUBA diving, sight-seeing and whale watching vessels to have a park business licence to operate in park waters;
- the possibility of providing zones for non-motorized boat traffic only;
- limiting the takeoffs and landings by aircraft within the Broken Group Islands to those required in emergency situations or authorized by the park superintendent for operational purposes;
- working with B.C. Forests Service staff regarding the Toquart Bay campsite and providing messages there to effectively prepare park visitors for a trip to the Broken Group Islands and to raise the awareness that the area is a national park;
- encouraging the Barkley Sound Service (The Lady Rose and the Francis Barkley) to deliver park messages to clients which will raise awareness of the national park values of the area and influence the behaviour of those who disembark in the islands;
- limiting the facilities to be developed in the Broken Group Islands to those necessary for primitive camping;
- encouraging charter tour boat operators to provide barrier-free access to sight-seeing tours of the Broken Group Islands for the benefit of the disabled; and
- maintaining the existing walking trails where there are no risks to the environment and where the opportunities exist to link the recreational experience to the presentation of heritage themes.

9.4 The Wilderness Experience on the West Coast Trail

Results:

The West Coast Trail is managed to perpetuate its wilderness character, and to provide a challenging multi-day backpacking experience in a rugged, natural environment. The West Coast Trail hike is recognized internationally as a premier wilderness hiking experience, one which is not impacted by overcrowding, congestion and littering and which upholds the highest standards in environmental management.

Access to the West Coast Trail is managed effectively in cooperation with adjacent landowners, aboriginal groups and other agencies to minimize the number of entry points and modes of transport that may compromise the wilderness experience. Facilities and services on the West Coast Trail are kept to a minimum, and become less obtrusive over time, except where required for environmental management purposes.

Improved information services result in greater public awareness of the challenge of the West Coast Trail, its natural and cultural history, and the importance of environmental citizenship in helping Parks Canada to manage and retain this wilderness experience.

Required Actions:

- ☐ Redevelop the trailhead facility at Pachena Bay so that it is equipped to handle the distribution of park and regional information, the sale of backcountry permits and the local administration of park regulations, such as maximum group size and the trail reservation and quota system.
- ☐ Develop a new visitor centre in Port Renfrew in cooperation with B.C. Provincial Parks and the community of Port Renfrew to provide the integrated delivery of information services about the West Coast Trail, Botanical Beach Provincial Park and the Port Renfrew area.
- ☐ Complete an Area Plan that will define strategies to minimize visitor impact and enhance the visitor experience. The Area Plan will address the following:
 - ensuring a wilderness experience on the West Coast Trail which requires hikers to exercise self sufficiency, to utilize a wide variety of wilderness skills and to be knowledgeable in wilderness survival;
 - promoting a "code of ethics" on the trail that fosters a sense of environmental citizenship and personal responsibility for maintaining the wilderness character of the West Coast Trail hike;
 - ensuring the ability to experience isolation and solitude along the trail is retained and available to all hikers;

- continuing the limitation of the number of hikers on the West Coast Trail through a quota and reservation system;
- establishing a user fee designed to offset costs to the general taxpayer and devise an arrangement that will reinvest revenue back into the West Coast Trail operation and maintenance;
- applying effective visitor management strategies and observe clearly defined limits of acceptable change in order to monitor and minimize visitor impacts on park resources;
- limiting group size to a maximum of ten people per party, including guides. The only exception to this rule would be during specific times of the year when school groups may be permitted to exceed normal maximum group size to enhance environmental education and environmental citizenship;
- restricting movement along the trail to foot traffic only, excluding other means such as trail bicycles;
- limiting access for hikers to the West Coast Trail to the two trailheads at Pachena Bay and Port Renfrew, with some restricted access from the Nitinat Narrows and through the Nitinat Triangle with the assistance and cooperation of the Ditidaht Band;
- prohibiting access to the West Coast Trail through the Carmanah and Walbran valleys;
- limiting the Port Renfrew ferry service of hikers to the Gordon River crossing only;
- limiting the development of roofed structures on the West Coast Trail to toilet buildings;
- retaining random camping along the trail; no new backcountry campsites will be developed;
- downscaling other facilities and structures on the West Coast Trail as they need replacement to reflect a more primitive trail experience while ensuring that trail standards remain suitable to hikers from the intermediate to experienced range of skill levels; and
- ensuring that trail standards emphasize aesthetics, simplicity and environmental protection. Structures will be built to the minimum standard necessary to make the trail negotiable, safe and to minimize environmental impacts.

9.5 The Wilderness Experience in the Nitinat Triangle

Results:

The Nitinat Triangle is recognized as being managed as a wildland area with travel possible by canoe and portage only. Access and use is carefully managed.

Required Actions:

- ☐ Develop an Area Plan that will define strategies to minimize visitor impact and enhance the visitor experience. The Area Plan will address the following:
 - > applying a user fee to be charged to offset costs to operate and maintain the Nitinat Triangle;
 - > limiting access to the Nitinat to the portage trail beside the Hobiton River into Hobiton Lake, and by the trail from Tsusiat Falls to Tsusiat Lake;
 - > limiting internal circulation through the chain of lakes to the existing canoe and portage route;
 - > permitting random camping throughout the Nitinat Triangle; no facilities will be provided;
 - > prohibiting the landing of aircraft on the lakes of the Nitinat Triangle except where required for essential operating purposes;
 - > limiting group size to a maximum of six people per party, including guides. Special provisions may be considered for school groups during specified periods of the visitor season; and
 - > applying a quota by reservation system for the Nitinat Triangle, limiting the maximum number of people to enter the area on any given day; use numbers will be controlled through the requirement to obtain a backcountry use permit.

9.6 The Backcountry Experience at Cape Beale

Results:

The Cape Beale area is managed to a semi-primitive standard to offer day use and multi-day hiking and backcountry camping opportunities.

Required Actions:

- Complete an Area Plan that will define strategies to minimize visitor impact and enhance the visitor experience. The Area Plan will address the following:
 - the question of implementing a user fee to offset costs to operate and maintain Cape Beale;
 - the parking requirements at the East Bamfield trailhead and the need for toilet facilities and information and orientation signs;
 - trail standards and routes within the Cape Beale trail system;
 - whether or not to offer backcountry camping to a semi-primitive standard at Tapaltos Bay; and
 - whether to retain the remainder of Cape Beale, including Keeha Bay, for day use activities with no facilities, other than toilets.

CHAPTER 10.0

A STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

10.1 Introduction

Parks Canada has made the commitment to carry out its work consistent with the principles of environmental stewardship, and, as the government agency taking the lead in this direction, will encourage its partners to do the same. This commitment extends to sharing responsibility for the health and sustainability of the environment among other government departments, interest groups, the business community and the general public.

The Green Plan describes federal environmental stewardship as a response to " ... the immediate need to demonstrate the federal government's commitment to the principle of sustainable development." First and foremost, the federal government must operate in an exemplary fashion, "...meeting and frequently exceeding all regulations and standards as well as being compatible with provincial and international environmental objectives." The Government must also lead by "doing", through legislation, programs and advocacy.

In 1992, the Government adopted a Code of Environmental Stewardship requiring all government agencies to incorporate environmental considerations into their operations and practices. Under the Code all departments and agencies are to develop their own environmental action plans and use environmental audits as management tools.

10.2 Leadership in Environmental Sustainability

Results:

Parks Canada in Pacific Rim has gained a reputation for demonstrating leadership in applying exemplary standards of environmental quality in its operations and all facets of service delivery. Parks Canada is committed to playing a leadership role in the field of protected areas management, and to placing Pacific Rim in the forefront of delivering a sustainable future for the Alberni-Clayoquot region. Parks Canada fosters the support of other resource management agencies, the general public, aboriginal groups and the neighbouring communities for the philosophy of environmental stewardship and encourages their contribution to regional sustainability.

Required Actions:

- ☐ Develop an environmental action plan and auditing procedures consistent with the principles as outlined in the Code of Environmental Stewardship.
- ☐ Integrate environmental considerations into the park's decision-making process for planning, the application of policy and day-to-day operations.
- ☐ Ensure that all park management practices are as environmentally responsible as possible and set a high standard of quality.
- ☐ Rigorously apply the Environmental Assessment and Review Process to all development proposals within the park and encourage other agencies to apply a similar process in the surrounding region.
- ☐ Monitor the State of the Park on an on-going basis, and, as required by the National Parks Act, report on the environmental quality within the park and articulate environmental concerns relative to the integrity of park resources.
- ☐ Adopt a leadership role in encouraging our partners to adopt the principles of environmental stewardship so as to minimize the impact of adjacent land use activities on park resources and to work toward achieving regional environmental sustainability.
- ☐ Actively participate on committees or other working relationships with federal, provincial, regional and municipal governments, the private sector and aboriginal groups to ensure that Pacific Rim has the most positive social, economic and environmental impact on the surrounding region as possible.
- ☐ Encourage the commitment of all staff to act as park stewards.
- ☐ Encourage and support opportunities for partnerships, cooperative ventures and the use of volunteers to achieve environmental citizenship and stewardship.

APPENDIX A

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ADVOCACY

The act or process of pleading in favour of support for one's cause.

BIODIVERSITY

The variety of different species, the genetic variability of each species, and the variety of different ecosystems that they form.

COMMEMORATE

To mark by some ceremony or observation.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

A series of communication programs including public consultation, ceremonies, special events, tourism planning, media relations and outreach, in order to encourage a greater degree of environmental citizenship and stewardship beyond the park's boundaries.

CONSERVATION

The art of taking measures for the rational use, maintenance, and rehabilitation or restoration of natural or cultural resources.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

A human work or a place that gives evidence of human activity or has spiritual significance, and has been determined to have historical value.

ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

A state implying the ecosystem structures and functions are unimpaired by human-caused stresses, that native species are present at viable population levels and that the system is likely to persist.

ECOSYSTEM

An integrated and stable association of living and non-living resources functioning within a defined physical location.

ECOSYSTEM BASED MANAGEMENT

The integrated management of natural landscapes, ecological processes, physical and biotic components, and human activities, to maintain or enhance the integrity of an ecosystem. The approach extends beyond park boundaries and involves all parties influencing the ecosystem.

ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZENSHIP

Commitment to responsible action based on environmental understanding and the acceptance that humans are an integral part of the natural environment .

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

A program of organized learning processes and activities through which the skills, knowledge, and insights necessary to accept responsibility for sound environmental citizenship and stewardship practices are obtained.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The management of lands, facilities, and natural and cultural heritage in a manner that is environmentally sound, and where environmental concerns are integrated into all aspects of work.

HARVEST REFUGIUM

An area where the harvesting of resources is prohibited.

MONITORING AND RESEARCH

Monitoring is a management act which tracks the response of the ecosystem to management actions through the measurement of previously selected criteria. Research is a program to obtain new information which will give park managers a better understanding of the park, the ecosystem and their resources.

OUTREACH

Communications programs aimed primarily at audiences beyond the park's boundaries.

PARTNERSHIP

A relationship involving close co-operation between parties having specified and joint rights and responsibilities.

STAKEHOLDER

A party or person who has any interest in undertaking an activity.

SUSTAINABILITY

The ability to sustain the flora and fauna and accompanying habitats in their natural state.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Development that ensures that the use of resources and the environment today does not damage prospects for their use by future generations.

SUSTAINABLE USE

Use of an organism, resource or ecosystem at a rate within its capacity for renewal or regeneration.

VISITOR GROUPS

Catagories of park users characterised by a similar set of wants, needs, and desires and who seek a particular type of national park experience.

ZONING

A system by which areas of a park are classified according to their need for protection and their capability to accommodate visitors.

