

ORIGINAL PURPOSE To protect nesting seabirds

OVERVIEW

Date established:	4 May 1971	Location:	Off N tip of Reid Island, Trincomali Channel, 11 km NE of Chemainus
ORC #:	3018		
Map number:	92 G/4	Latitude:	49°01'N
Marine chart number:	3443	Longitude:	123°39'W

Total Area:	1 ha	Elevation:	0-4 m
Land:	1 ha		

Access: Closed to the public by Order-in-Council no. 1920, on 16 June 1977 to protect nesting seabirds, which are extremely vulnerable to disturbance at this location. A permit is required to land on the islets, and they are accessibly by boat.

Biogeoclimatic Zones:	Coastal Douglas-Fir (CDF)
Biogeoclimatic Variant:	CDF mm; Moist Maritime
Ecosection:	Strait of Georgia
Region:	Vancouver Island
Management Area:	Saanich/ Southern Gulf Islands

COMPOSITION

Physical: The reserve includes a chain of five low rocky islets oriented in a northwest-southeast direction. These are made up of glaciated and wave-worn sedimentary bedrock of the Nanaimo Group, and located between Thetis and Valdes islands in northern Trincomali Channel. The three largest islets have small areas of shallow soil sufficient for vascular plant establishment. Intertidal shorelines are predominantly bedrock. Surrounding waters in Trincomali Channel are mostly 20 to 30 m in depth. Currents are minor, and wave action is tempered by the sheltered location among the Gulf Islands.

Biological: Approximately 40 species of plants, including vascular species, bryophytes and lichens, are present on the three largest islets and are uniquely adapted for the extreme environment. These are species typical of shallow soil and rocky crevice habitats subjected to summer drought associated with the cool-summer Mediterranean climate. Herbs, grasses and a few shrubs are present, but no trees. Vegetation patterns appear to be greatly influenced by soil depth, exposure and possibly by nesting cormorants.

About 180 pairs of Double-crested Cormorants nested here in 1968, but the number declined to 80 by 1975, 33 in 1981 and 12 in 1983. At least 20 pairs of Glaucous-winged Gulls nest on the islets. A few Pigeon Guillemots and Black Oystercatchers occur, and may nest. Several other species of seabirds utilize surrounding waters, especially in winter and spring.

Algae in adjacent intertidal-subtidal habitats include sea lettuce (*Ulva* sp.), five species of brown algae and 23 of red algae.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES	BC LIST STATUS	COSEWIC STATUS	CF PRIORITY
Double-crested Cormorant	Blue listed	Not At Risk (1978)	2
Glaucous-winged Gull			5
Pelagic Cormorant			5
Pigeon Guillemot			2
Black Oystercatcher			5

THREATS

- Climate Change:** Inundation of the reserve area and habitat loss could result from raised sea levels, considering the extremely low elevation of the islets (0-3m).
- Recreation:** Marine vessels (motorized and not) disrupt wildlife in reserve.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Nesting sea-bird counts are available. The reserve would benefit from an intensive biodiversity survey. Research opportunities range from for sea-bird to islet ecology studies. Warden activities could include monitoring human use, sea level raise and bird populations

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE ROSE ISLETS ER ACCOUNT

Fauna

- Cormorant, Double-crested (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)
 Cormorant, Pelagic (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus*)
 Guillemot, Pigeon (*Cephus columba*)
 Gull, Glaucous-winged (*Larus glaucescens*)
 Oystercatcher, Black (*Haematopus bachmani*)