

# CATALA ISLAND MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK

## PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

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Approved by:



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# CATALA ISLAND MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK

## Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

### Primary Role

The **primary** role of Catala Island Marine Park is to protect special natural features. The park is unusual in its topographic location and its ecosystems. It encompasses numerous reefs, islets, sea caves, and marine ecosystems. The surrounding marine waters are teeming with life, with kelp beds, salmon, groundfish, herring spawn, crabs, geoducks, mussels, sea urchins, goose barnacles, ducks, shorebirds, and the threatened sea otter. Catala Island itself is forested with mature trees, twisted and stunted from the wind, and contains sandy beaches and a lake. As well, the park protects a unique spit and bog complex.

### Secondary Role

The **secondary** role is to provide a marine recreation opportunity in a wilderness setting. The park incorporates Catala Island and Twin Islands, set in Esperanza Inlet on the west coast of Vancouver Island. It is a popular destination for sea kayaking, boating, fishing, and nature appreciation with its reefs, lakes, bogs, and rugged shoreline to explore. The island has no facilities, but wilderness camping is possible with informal campsites, and there are rustic trails that lead to the lake and bog in the centre of the island. The park has an anchorage that is good in calm weather, and there is a nearby anchorage at Queen Cove on Vancouver Island that is better suited for inclement weather conditions. The recreational opportunities available in Catala Island Marine Park are complemented by nearby Nuchatlitz Park.

### Tertiary Role

The **tertiary** role is to protect and preserve significant cultural heritage features. Nootka Sound has a colourful history with First Nations heritage and European exploration and settlement. The park is rich in First Nations archaeological sites as native people have occupied Nootka Sound for at least 4,000 years, enjoying the bountiful natural resources during the summer months. Visitors can capture glimpses of the past and gain an understanding and appreciation of First Nation history and culture.

### Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Lack of knowledge of natural and cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Conduct an ecological inventory including the marine components and wetlands.</li> <li>➤ Undertake a cultural inventory and traditional use study in conjunction with First Nations.</li> </ul>
Impact of commercial harvesting and recreation use on natural and cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Work with DFO to ensure harvesting does not interfere with protection of marine species, especially sea otters.</li> <li>➤ Assess capacity of ecotourism and recreation use levels.</li> <li>➤ Increase awareness around acceptable uses in the park.</li> </ul>
Lack of awareness of the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Install interpretive sign with park map at departure points (Zeballos, Tahsis and</li> </ul>

	<p>Gold River).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ensure boundaries are on marine charts.</li> <li>➤ Develop information on the Nootka Sound area focused on cultural and natural values and appropriate behaviours.</li> </ul>
First Nation relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Develop good working relationships with First Nations to develop an understanding and appreciation of protected area status and park values.</li> </ul>

**Zoning**

**Natural Environment Zone** – covers the entire park (850.7 hectares) in recognition of the natural and recreational values. The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Representation  
- ecosection

### Conservation

Catala Island Marine Park makes a minimal contribution of 0.13% to the overall representation of the Windward Island Mountains Ecosection (WIM), which is well represented in the protected areas system at 17.4%.

With 596 hectares of foreshore, it contributes minimally (0.68%) to the representation of the Vancouver Island Shelf *Marine* Ecosection (VIS), which is under protected provincially at 5.4%.

- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

Catala Island Marine Park makes a minimal contribution of 0.29% to the representation of CWHvh1, which is well represented in the protected areas system at 19.3%.

Special Features

Diverse upland and marine ecosystems, bald eagle nests (5), freshwater lake, wetland, brackish pond, spit, bogs, reefs, sea caves, sea otter habitat

Rare/Endangered Values

Provincially red-listed and nationally threatened sea otter. COSEWIC-listed threatened northern abalone.

Scientific/Research Opportunities

None known at this time

### Recreation

Representation

backcountry  
destination  
travel corridor  
local recreation

Remote marine experience  
 Remote moorage and kayak destination  
 Sea kayaking route with guided tours  
 Low level of use

Special Opportunities

Potential as part of ecotourism focus with commercial operators

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

First Nation culture, part of regional history of Esperanza Inlet and Nootka Sound, natural values including sea otters

### Cultural Heritage

Representation

Values unknown

Special Feature

First Nation gathering place, burial caves, archaeological sites

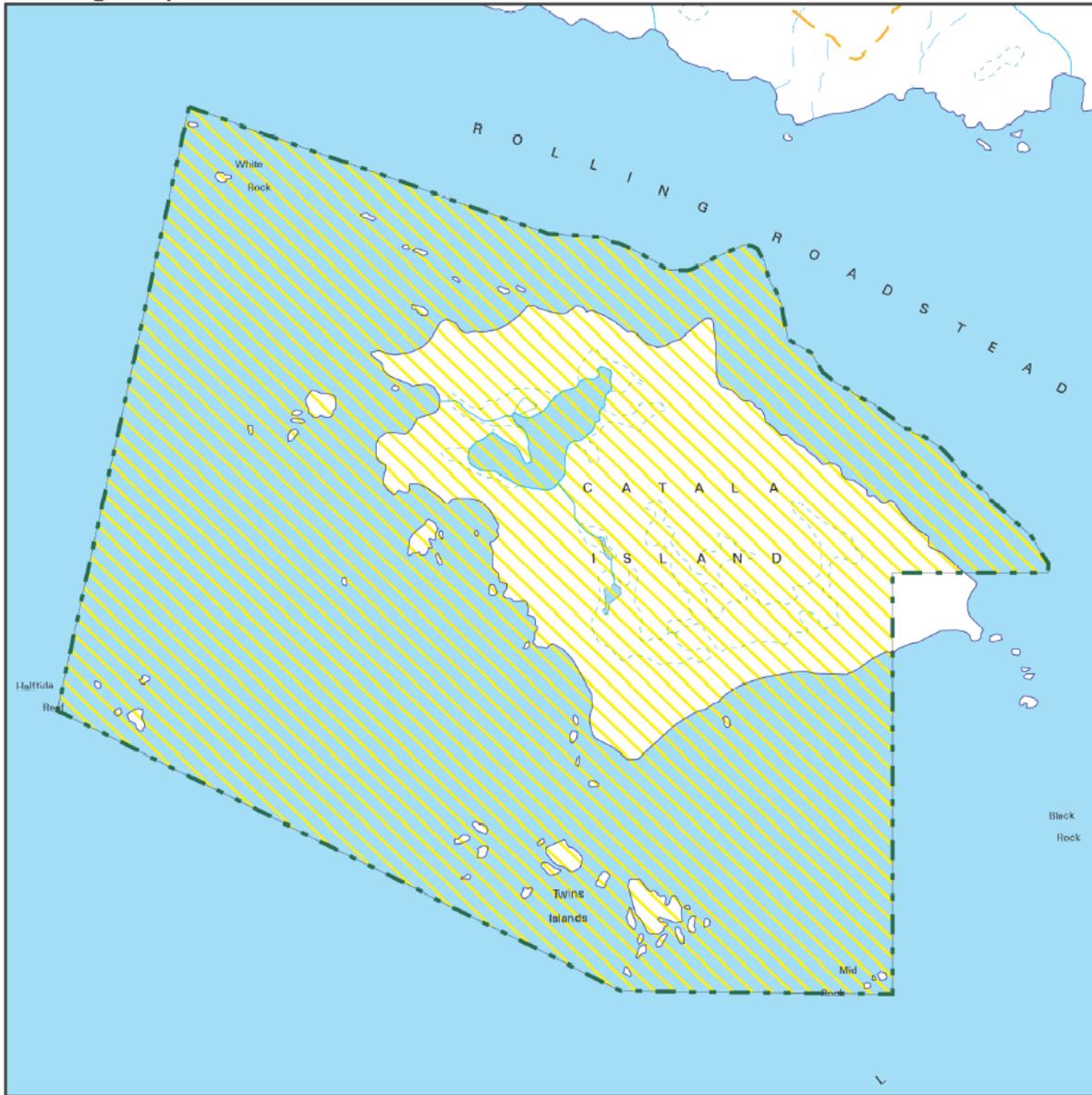
### Other Management Considerations

- |                                      |                                     |   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Other Designations                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Not Applicable  |
| Relationship to other PAs            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Part of a system of marine protected areas on the west coast of Vancouver Island  |
| Co-operative Management Arrangements | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Not applicable  |
| Partnerships                         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Not Applicable  |
| Vulnerability                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The natural and cultural values are vulnerable to recreational impacts, oil spills, and commercial harvesting                   |
| Relationship to other Strategies     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Marine Protected Areas Strategy; the park was created as a result of recommendations made in the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan |

**Area:** 850.7 hectares (254.7 ha upland; 596 ha foreshore)

**Date of establishment:** July 12, 1995

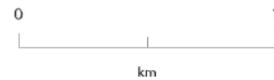
# Zoning Map - Catala Island Marine Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas  
Datum: NAD83



 Natural Environment  
 Protected Area Boundary



Produced in Mar 2003 for  
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