

3044

Newin G. G. Hearn
National Park Res. No.
(44) East Copper
Jeffrey Rankin

APPLICATION FOR ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

1. Legal description of the area (or general "Metes and bounds" description)

2. Geographical location (relate to nearest settlement, mountain, river, etc.)

Skincuttle Inlet, Moresby Island, especially Bolkus Islands and Copper Islands
(see Report No. 30)

3. Indicate the biogeoclimatic zone of which the reserve is representative.

The coastal western hemlock zone (CWH)

4. Approximate total acreage.

ca. 250 acres of land

5. Purpose of the reserve.

Exceptionally rich sea bird life which might be easily destroyed if not protected.

 - (a) Primary (state acreage)

ca. 250 acres of land

 - (b) Others if any (state acreage)

2.7 sq. mi. (second choice) (with part of ocean inlet)

 - (c) Buffer areas (state acreage)

ca. 10 sq. miles (first choice) (mainly ocean inlet)

6. Attach a map and indicate: (a) the perimeters and acreage of the areas detailed in 5 above, and (b) indicate the species and total timber volumes in these areas.

total timber volume is completely negligible.

Signature J.B. Foster and V.J. Krajina
I.B.P. Surveyor

INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGICAL PROGRAMME

SECTION CT: CONSERVATION OF TERRESTRIAL BIOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

CHECK SHEET (Mark VII) FOR SURVEY OF IBP AREAS*

To be completed with reference to the GUIDE TO THE CHECK SHEET

Serial Number

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For Data Centre Use only.

1. 1. Name of surveyor J.B. Foster and V.J. Krajina
2. Address of surveyor ... B.C. Provincial Museum Dept. of Botany, U.B.C.
 Victoria, B.C. Vancouver, B.C.

3. Check Sheet completed (a) on site (b) from records X
4. Date Check Sheet completed July 1969, revised August 1972

2. 1. Name of IBP Area Skincuttle Inlet (Moresby Island), especially
 Bolkus Islands and Copper Islands
2. Name of IBP Subdivision (or serial letter)
3. Map of IBP Area* showing boundaries attached? Yes X No
4. Sketch map of IBP Area*. Please mark direction of north, the scale and grid numbers where applicable.

1:50,000 map is attached with the scale:
 1.25 inches = 1 mile (approximately)

* For "IBP Area", read IBP Area and/or IBP Subdivision.

3. Location of IBP Area*

1. Latitude..... 52° 20' N Longitude..... 131° 10-17' W

2. Country Canada

State or Province British Columbia County Queen Charlotte Islands

(State or Province County)

4. Administration

National 1. Official category Crown Lands

2. Address of administration British Columbia Department of Lands, Forests...
and Water Resources

Parliament Buildings

Victoria, B.C. Canada

International Class

3.

Included in U.N. List	Rejected from U.N. List	Area with formal conservation status	No formal cons. status
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D) X

5. Characteristics of IBP Area*

1. Surface area (state units of measurement) ca. 250 acres

2. Altitude (state units of measurement) Maximum 200' (60.m)

Minimum 0

6. Climate

Nearest climatological station :

1. Name Cape St. James

2. Climatological station on IBP Area*? Yes No X (probably formerly)

3. If (2) not, distance from edge of IBP Area* (state units) 32 miles

4. Direction from IBP Area* SSE

5. Additional data sheet attached? Yes No X

7. Vegetation and Soil

1

Vegetation

Community Reference Number	Vegetation Code					Plant communities (give usual name using full Latin names of a species where applicable)	Area (state units)
	Primary Structural Group	Class	Group	Formation	Sub-Formation		
1						Sitka spruce (with ocean spray)	
2						Sitka spruce - western redcedar (moderate ocean spray)	
3						Western hemlock (very little) (no ocean spray)	
4						Rhacomitrium canescens community	
5						Several intertidal biocoenoses,	
6						not yet studied	
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							

7.
(cont.)

2

Soil

Community Reference Number	Soil type	Other notes
1	A (B) C F ₄	Most of the soils are rather shallow
2	A B C F ₅	and highly influenced by ocean spray.
3	A B C F ₅	(Only under western hemlock forest there is Podzol)
4	A C F ₃	Ranker
5	C ?	Intertidal substrata are mostly rocks
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		

9. Landscape

1. General Landscape (give brief description) Low, mostly under 100 feet elevation but few flat areas except on Bolkus Island; some sea caves and some small cliffs.

2. Relief Type	Flat	Undulating (0)-200 m.	Hilly 200-1000 m.	Mountainous > 1000 m.	%
Sharply dissected		5			5
Gently dissected		90			90
Incised					
Skeletonised		5 (coastal)			5
%		100			100%

3. Special landscape features (list) small sea caves

..... (see pictures)

10. Coastline of IBP Area*

1. Protected bays and/or inlets Many Few None

2. Substratum. % of coast

Rock	Boulder Beach	Shingle Beach	Sand Beach	Shell Beach	Mud	Coral	Ice
95	3		2				

3. Physiography. % of coast

Cliffed	Sloping	Flat
8	90	2

4. Special Coastal Features (list) Indian shell midden on N.W. corner of Bolkus Island

5. Tide. Maximum range (state units of measurement) 10 feet

6. Total length of coastline :

Less than 1 km. 1-10 km. Above 10 km.

11. Freshwater within IBP Area*

1.

	Permanent	Intermittent
General		
Standing		X
Running		

2. Standing Water

	Permanent	Intermittent	Unproductive	Productive
Swamps				
Ponds		X	X	
Lakes				

3. Running Water

	Permanent	Intermittent
Springs, cold		
Springs, hot		
Streams		
Rivers		

4. Special freshwater featuresAvailability of fresh water on these islands.....
.....is a severe problem, particularly in summer......

12. Salt and Brackish Water within IBP Area*

Salt Lakes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lagoon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Estuaries	<input type="checkbox"/>	Salt pools	?	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. Adjacent Water Bodies (not within IBP Area*)

1. Fresh Lake River Stream

2. Salt and Brackish

Estuary	Salt lake	Salt pool	Lagoon	Ocean		
				X		

14.

Outstanding Floral and Faunal Features

- 1. None
- 2. Fauna

	Species diversity	Abundance of individuals	Superabundance of individuals	Rare species	Threatened/Relict species	Spp. of biogeographical interest	Exceptional Associations	Breeding or Nesting Populations	Migrating Populations	Wintering Populations		
Mammalia					X	X						
Aves					X	X	X	X				
Reptilia												
Amphibia												
Pisces	X	X										
Insecta	X											

3. Names of main threatened, endemic, relict and rare species

Birds: ancient murrelet, cassin anklet, Peale's and fork-tailed
 petrel, peregrine falcon (at least one eyrie in area).
 Mammals: Peromyscus maniculatus prevostensis

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4. Flora

	Species diversity	Abundance of particular species	Rare species	Threatened/relict species	Spp. of biogeographical interest	Exceptional associations	Outstanding specimens				
Angiospermae :											
trees		X									
shrubs	X										
herbs		X	X								
grass		X									
Gymnospermae		X									
Pteridophyta											
Bryophyta		X									
Lichens and Algae		X									

5. Names of main threatened, endemic, relict and rare species

.....
 Several plant communities (especially along the coast)

 are unique.

15. Exceptional Interest of IEP Area*

.....

16.

Significant Human Impact

1. General : None in entire IBP Area*
 None in part of IBP Area* lighthouse on east end of E. Copper Island.
 Impact on entire IBP Area*

2. Particular

	Past impact	Present impact	Trend			
			Increasing	Decreasing	No change	No information
Cultivation					X	
Drainage						
Other soil disturbance					X	
Grazing					X	
Selective flora disturbance					X	
Logging	-	?	X		X	
Plantation					X	
Hunting						X
Removal of predators					X	
Pesticides					X	
Introductions — plants					X	
Introductions — animals					X	
Fire					X	
Permanent habitation			X ^{x)}			
Recreation and tourism					X	
Research			X			
Mining (copper)	X				X	

x) lighthouse

3. Additional details on each type of impact attached?

Yes No X

17. Conservation Status

	Protection required			Utilisation			Conservation Management			Permitted Research required		
	none	partial	total	none	controlled	uncontrolled	none	to alter status	to maintain status	experimental	observational	prohibited
Flora			X	X							X	
Fauna			X	X							X	
Non-living			X	X							X	

18. References

1. List major biological/geographical references for the IBP Area.

Sheet attached? Yes No

2. List main maps available for the IBP Area.

List attached? Yes ...X..... No

3. Aerial photographs for the IBP Area available?

For whole areaX..... For part of area None

19. Other Relevant Information

Main reason for setting aside area is the exceptionally rich sea bird life, particularly the ground nesting cassin's anklet, ancient murrelet and petrels (2 species). Adjacent sea life is also very rich.

See the attached information (p. 12, 13)

SignedJ.B. Foster and V.J. Krajina.....
(Surveyor)

PROPOSALS FOR
SKINCUTTLE INLET ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

Applications No. 30 and 98

October 16, 1972

PRIMARY PURPOSE

Large nesting colonies of seabirds, in particular Cassin's auklet, ancient murrelet, fork-tailed petrel, and Leach's petrel.

SECONDARY PURPOSES

Extremely rich subtidal and intertidal life in unpolluted waters.

Substantial sitka spruce forest on the larger islands, particularly Bolkus Island.

Beautifully weathered rocks encrusted with sealife.

At least one falcon eyrie and three active bald eagle nests.

DETAILED BIOLOGICAL EXPLANATION

In the Ecological Reserve Program so far Cleland, Solander, and some Scott Islands have been set aside as Reserves but not only is each unique in its own way, each is vulnerable to disturbance by man. As a result of the latter it would be worthwhile to set aside more than one of a given type in order to insure perpetuation in the case of an accident occurring in one Reserve.

The Queen Charlotte Islands are famous for their seabird life, yet no islands have been set aside on this Archipelago to date. The Copper Islands are unique in the Ecological Reserve Program so far in that they possess large colonies of ancient murrelets and Cassin's auklets.

It is very difficult to measure their numbers but it would be safe to say that thousands of each species nest on the larger more easterly islands in the chain, particularly Jeffery Island and East Copper Island, but also George Island.

A Peale's peregrine falcon nests on the north side of East Copper Island.

Both species of petrel nest in the hundreds on the Skincuttle Islands, particularly the more southerly island of the two, and on the rock islets.

Moving westerly there is much otter sign and -- and of their predation on ancient murrelets on Bolkus Island.

All the islands in the group make a natural unit, with richness of the pelagic avifauna increasing as one proceeds towards the open sea (easterly).

Intertidal life is very rich, with rock scallops particularly numerous on some islets.

HUMAN IMPLICATIONS

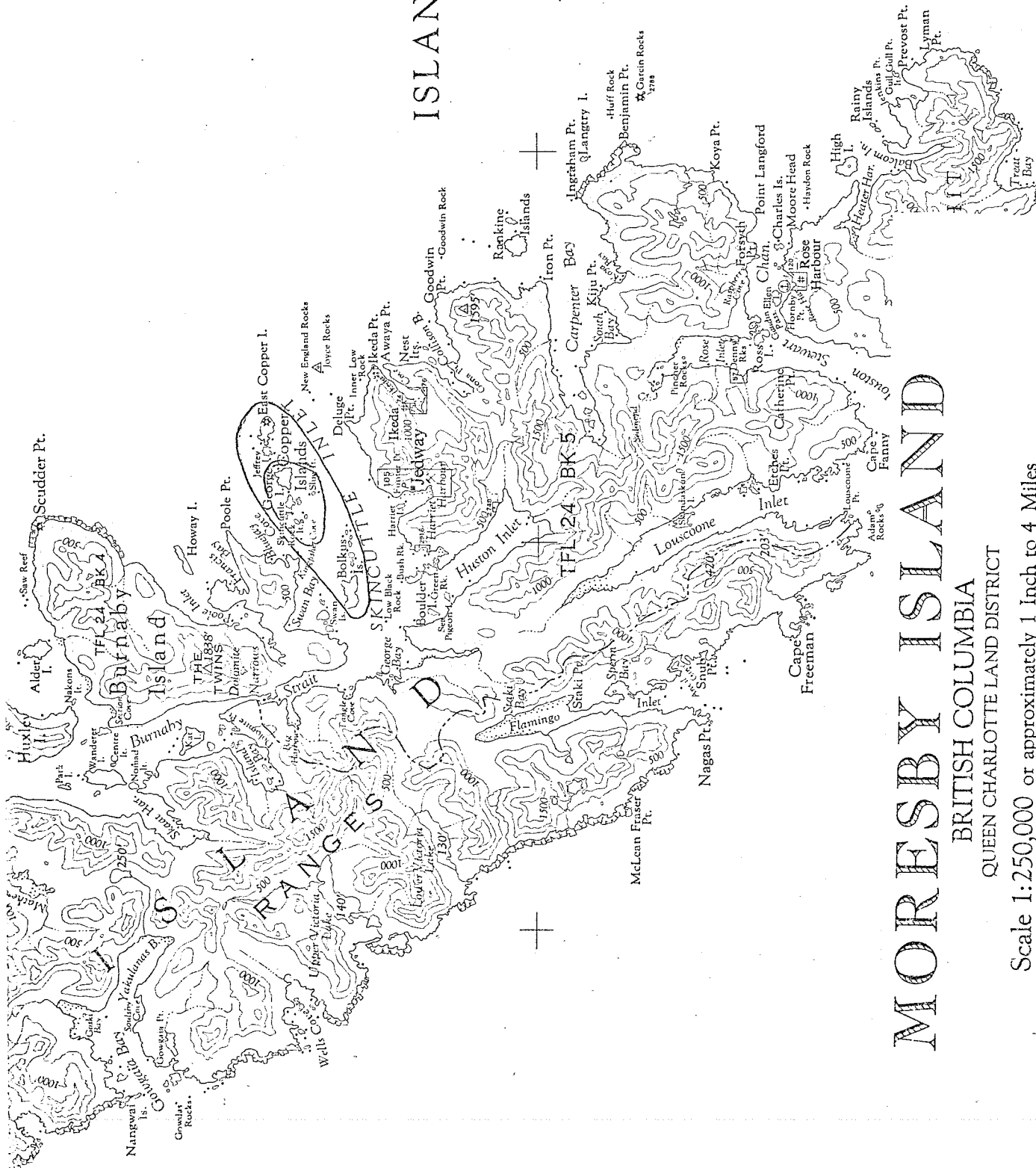
Logging of the minimal timber on the islands would destroy both the beauty and the ecology of the area.

Mining claims in the richest seabird area: Jeffrey and East Copper Island might pose a problem for Ecological Reserve status, if they are still valid. However, since forestry has given up valuable forested areas for Reserves, it might also be possible to gain similar cooperation from the mining community. Should this prove impossible it would be worthwhile to save the central group of islands for the Reserve and leave out the mining claims, as shown in the accompanying map.

*J. B. Foster
Provincial Museum
Victoria, B.C.*

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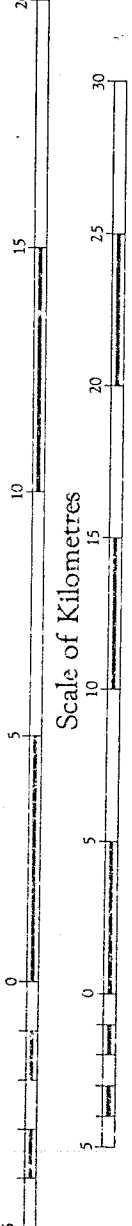
ISLANDS



MORESBY ISLAND

BRITISH COLUMBIA
QUEEN CHARLOTTE LAND DISTRICT

Scale 1:250,000 or approximately 1 Inch to 4 Miles



Magnetic Declination approximately 26°04' East at center of map 1963.
Decreasing approximately 2'55" annually.

