

INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGICAL PROGRAMME
SECTION C1: 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

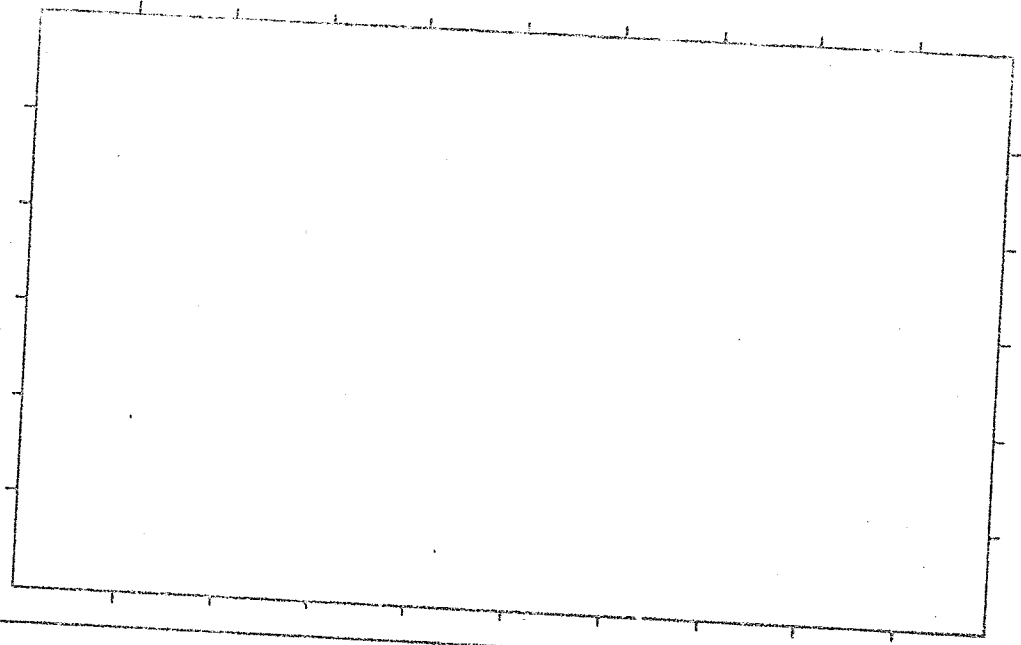
Serial Number

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For Data Centre Use only

1. Name of surveyor *J. B. Foster and V. J. Krajina*
2. Address of surveyor *B.C. Provincial Museum,
Victoria, B.C., and
Department of Botany, U.B.C.*
3. Check Sheet completed (a) on site (b) from records
4. Date Check Sheet completed *July 1969*

2. 1. Name of IBP Area *COPPER ISLANDS IN SKINNETTLE INLET*
2. Name of IBP Subdivision (or serial letter) *QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS*
3. Map of IBP Area* showing boundaries attached? Yes No
4. Sketch map of IBP Area*. Please mark direction of north, the scale and grid numbers where applicable



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

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3. Location of IBP Area*

1. Latitude 52°20' N/W Longitude 130°10' E/W

2. Country CANADA
 State or Province BRITISH COLUMBIA County QUEEN CHARLOTTE IS.
 (State or Province County)

4. Administration

National 1. Official category

2. Address of administration

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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)

5. Characteristics of IBP Area*

1. Surface area (state units of measurement)

2. Altitude (state units of measurement) Maximum

Minimum

6. Climate

Nearest climatological station:

1. Name Cape St. James

2. Climatological station on IBP Area*? Yes No X

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

17.

Conservation Status

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

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 No

3. Aerial photographs for the IBP Area available?

For whole area For part of area None

19.

Other Relevant Information

These islands are important for sea life. Therefore they should be covered by a ^{an} Ecological Reserve. SURROUNDING MARINE WATERS SHOULD NOT BE POLLUTED.

Signed Wadiah P. Rajina
(Surveyor)

SKINCUTTLE INLET ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

Application No. 30

October 16, 1972

PRIMARY PURPOSE

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

SECONDARY PURPOSES

Extremely rich subtidal and intertidal life in unpolluted waters.

Substantial sitka spruce forest on the larger islands, particularly Bulkus 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.