

UNIT 4: SAN ALBERTO BAY

MANAGEMENT INTENT

State tidelands and submerged lands be managed for fish and wildlife habitat and harvest and recreation uses. San Christoval Channel is rated as prime fish and wildlife habitat. It supports waterfowl, seabirds, otters, abalone, crab and kelp, and is a rearing and schooling area for finfish and shellfish. Herring spawning areas have been identified throughout the unit. Craig and Klawock residents intensively use this unit for subsistence harvesting, commercial fishing, and guiding.

Timber harvested from Prince of Wales Island will be transferred by road to either Klawock (Unit 3) or to a proposed log transfer facility at Blanquizal Point (Unit 5). Timber harvested from San Fernando Island will be transferred by road to the proposed log transfer facility on the northwest shore of San Fernando Island (Unit 10).

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY USES

Refer to land use designation map for primary and secondary uses and fish and wildlife ratings.

PROHIBITED USES

- Filling state tidelands and submerged lands for residential purposes.
- Mineral location in mapped crucial fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas.
- Floathomes in mapped crucial fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Refer to Chapter 2 for guidelines common to this and all management units. The following guidelines apply to this specific unit.

- **Anchorage.** Use of anchorages depicted on the land use designation map will not be precluded.
- **Developed Recreation Facilities in Crucial Habitat and Harvest Areas.** Based on available information, developed recreation facilities are initially determined incompatible within mapped crucial fish and wildlife areas. A specific proposal for a developed recreation facility may be considered for compatibility based on its design or on new habitat information.

NOTES

FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION

Eight anadromous fish stream outlets are in this unit. San Christoval Channel is an important rearing and schooling area for finfish and shellfish. Herring spawn along the eastern shore of San Fernando Islands from south Cruz Pass to Pt. Cuerdo, from the eastern boundary of Unit 4 on Shinaku Inlet west to USGS monument "See," and around the island west of Sombrero Island. San Christoval Channel supports very high densities of waterfowl and seabirds that concentrate seasonally on the extensive tideflats. Other important resources in San Christoval Channel include abalone, crab, and kelp.

San Christoval Channel also provides habitat for sea otters, a species low in numbers that has been reintroduced into Southeast Alaska after being exterminated.

Craig and Klawock residents use the area for subsistence harvest of abalone. Commercial fishermen and outfitter-guides based in Craig and Klawock use the area for day trips for fishing and wildlife viewing.