

UNIT 5: GULF OF ESQUIBEL

MANAGEMENT INTENT

State lands will be managed for fish and wildlife habitat and harvest including: commercial fishing, many anadromous fish streams, extensive kelp beds, sea otter habitat, very high densities of waterfowl and seabirds, and subsistence harvest of abalone. This unit will also be managed for dispersed recreation activities.

Habitat is designated a secondary use in some important fish and wildlife habitat or harvest areas (Hc). This will be considered in siting and managing all activities directly related to shore-attached facilities where there are primary designations for forestry and mining. Appropriate siting or operating stipulations (which may include timing restrictions) will be considered to mitigate negative impacts on the habitat resources and to meet the management intent for this unit. Even where habitat is designated a secondary use in important fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas (Hc), it will be managed as a primary use when reviewing proposals for uses that are not directly related to or necessary for the operation of a shore-attached facility where there is a primary designation of forestry or mining.

Important habitat resources include areas supporting subsistence harvest of abalone, salmon harvest areas near St. Philip Island, and waterfowl and seabird concentration areas near Blanquizal Point. Managers should check the fish and wildlife habitat maps for specific locations of these areas.

Resource development support facilities will be accommodated in areas outside crucial habitats along the Prince of Wales Island coast from Blanquizal Point to the northern boundary of the unit and along the east coast of St. Philip Island. Development activities should avoid the commercial seine hookoff points on the west side of St. Philip Island in Section 10, and near Pt. San Pasqual on the north end of San Fernando Island. Development activities also should avoid conflicts with intensive seine and troll fishing around the peninsula east of the Culebra Islands on the north boundary of the unit. Conflicts with trolling activities along the northwest side of St. Philip Island and south of the Blanquizal Islands also should be avoided.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY USES

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

PROHIBITED USES

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

- **Conflicts between Boating and Resource Development Support Facilities.** Resource development support facilities should be sited and designed to ensure passage for boats behind St. Philip Island and to avoid precluding use of the anchorages behind the Island.
- **Limiting Number of Resource Transfer Sites.** No more than one permanent resource transfer site on St. Philip Island and one site on Prince of Wales Island within the areas designated for forestry uses will be allowed.
- **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.
- **Consolidation of Resource Transfer Sites.** If minerals are developed on the uplands, existing log transfer sites will be evaluated to decide if use of the same site for mineral transfer is a feasible and prudent alternative considering overall impacts to fish and wildlife habitat.
- **Anchorages.** Use of anchorages depicted on the land use designation map will not be precluded.
- **Conflicts Between Commercial Fishing and Resource Development Support Facilities near St. Philip Island.** Where feasible and prudent, managers will use siting and timing restrictions to avoid conflicts between resource transfer facilities or activities and purse seine hookoff points. Managers will also use siting and timing restrictions to avoid conflicts with other commercial fishing activities in the area near St. Philip Island.
- **Minimize Use of Tidelands and Submerged Lands East of St. Philip Island.** To the extent feasible and prudent, the amount of tidelands and submerged land used to support timber harvest operations will be minimized to lessen conflicts with the commercial fishing fleet. Upland log sorting and storage will be evaluated and must be rejected as not feasible and prudent before the Department of Natural Resources authorizes use of tidelands and submerged lands for these activities.

NOTES

- Two heritage sites are within this unit:

AHRS CRG-9	St. Philip Island Village (locally known as Bob's Place)
AHRS CRG-135	St. Philip Island Burial Site

FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION

Nine anadromous fish stream outlets are in this unit.

Klawock residents use this area extensively for subsistence harvest activities. Commercial fishing activities take place in the unit and are particularly intensive near Palisade Island and St. Philip Island.

The passage between St. Philip Island and Prince of Wales Island is an important protected route for commercial fishermen and recreational boaters. The passage has extensive kelp beds that provide habitat for finfish and shellfish.

The western part of San Christoval Channel that is within this unit provides habitat for sea otters, very high densities of waterfowl and seabirds, and supports subsistence harvests of abalone. Abalone harvests also occur along the coast of Prince of Wales and St. Philip Islands.

