



Photo by Gabrielle LaRoche

City and Borough
of Sitka

coastal

Management Plan

Final Plan Amendment, December 2006

Effective April 8, 2007

Prepared By:



LaRoche+Associates

Sitka Coastal Management Plan

Final Plan Amendment

December 2006

Effective: April 8, 2007

Prepared by LaRoche + Associates

Gabrielle LaRoche, Principal Planner
Julie C. Hammonds, AICP, Project Lead
Lisa Delaney, Cartographer
Sydney Mitchell, Website & Graphic Design
Lisa A. Weissler, Legal Analysis

With the assistance of:

Marlene Campbell, Sitka District Program Coordinator

And thanks to:

Sitka Coastal Management Plan Task Force
John C. Stein, Administrator
Sitka Planning Director Wells Williams and his staff
April Jensen, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Doug Redburn, Redburn Environmental & Regulatory Services
Mark B. Sherman, P.E., Summit Consulting Services, Inc.
Staff of the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Staff of the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Office of Project Management and Permitting



"This report is funded by the Alaska Coastal Management Program, Department of Natural Resources, Office of Project Management and Permitting, Pursuant to National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration Award No. NA17OZ2058. The preparation of this report is funded by a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and administered by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Office of Project Management and Permitting (OPMP), and the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED), Division of Community Advocacy. The views expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NOAA or any of its sub-agencies."

Sitka Coastal Management Plan Final Plan Amendment

2006 City and Borough of Sitka Assembly

Marko Dapceovich, MAYOR
John Holst
John Sherrod
Georgia Scannes
Jay Stelzenmuller III
Doris Bailey
Al Duncan, Sr.

2006 Sitka Planning Commission

Tom Rogers
Bob Goss
Patrick Hughes
Robert Alexander
Brian McNitt

2004-2005 Sitka Coastal Management Plan Task Force

Hugh Bevan, City and Borough of Sitka Administrator
Lawrence Blood, Sitka Chamber of Commerce
Marlene Campbell, City and Borough of Sitka Government Relations Director
Bob Chadwick, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
David Cohen, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Lands
Doug Dobyns, Sitka Tribe of Alaska
Kenyon Fields, Sitka Conservation Society
Carol Goularte, U.S. Forest Service
Don Kluting, Sitka Sportsman's Association
Annemarie LaPalme, U.S. Forest Service
Lynne McGowan, City and Borough of Sitka Parks and Recreation Department
Peter McKay, Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Jessica Perkins, Sitka Tribe of Alaska
John Sherrod, City and Borough of Sitka Long-Range Planning Committee
Gina Shirey-Potts, Office of Project Management and Permitting
Graham Storey, Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Hans vonRekowski, City and Borough of Sitka Parks and Recreation Committee
Wells Williams, City and Borough of Sitka Planning Director

Sitka Coastal Management Plan Final Plan Amendment

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTERS

I. INTRODUCTION	
A. Overview.....	1
B. History of Coastal Management.....	1
C. Development of Sitka’s Coastal Management Plan	2
D. Boundaries	4
II. SITKA POPULATION AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS	
A. Overview.....	9
B. Population	10
C. Employment	11
D. The Future.....	12
III. ISSUES, GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND JUSTIFICATION	
A. Introduction.....	15
B. Uses and Activities.....	18
1. Coastal Development.....	18
2. Natural Hazard Areas.....	37
3. Recreation and Coastal Access	41
4. Energy Facilities	53
5. Transportation and Utilities Routes and Facilities.....	60
6. Commercial Fishing and Seafood Processing Facilities	65
7. Timber Harvest and Processing	71
8. Sand and Gravel Extraction	73
9. Subsistence Use	76
10. Habitats	80
11. Air, Land and Water Quality	85
12. Historic, Prehistoric and Archaeological Resources.....	89
IV. AREA MERITING SPECIAL ATTENTION	
A. Introduction and Designations of Swan Lake as an AMSA and Recreational Use Area	93
B. Resource Inventory and Resource Analysis.....	94
C. Development of the Swan Lake AMSA and Historic Management Actions.....	94
1. Swan Lake Watershed Recovery and Restoration	95
2. Future Efforts.....	97
D. Swan Lake AMSA Physical Description, Goals and Objectives	97
E. Subject Uses	98
F. Proper and Improper Uses	99
G. Enforceable Policies.....	99

H. Matter of Local Concern	100
V. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS	
A. Mission Statement, Product, Purpose, and Criteria for Selecting Specific Areas	103
B. Issues	104
C. Goals.....	105
D. Public Process Used to Develop Public Use Management Plan.....	109
E. Revisions to the Sitka Public Use Management Plan	111
F. Special Management Area Land and Water Ownerships and Regulatory Authorities.....	112
1. Federal Ownership – USDA Forest Service.....	112
2. State of Alaska – Dept. of Natural Resources	114
G. Boundaries and Enforceable Policies	120
1. Introduction	120
2. Boundaries.....	120
3. Enforceable Policies	129
4. Management Guidance.....	131
5. Matter of Local Concern	131
H. Special Management Areas	133
1. Introduction to Special Management Areas	133
Kruzof Island Vicinity	136
West Chichagof Island Vicinity	158
East Chichagof Island Vicinity.....	180
North Baranof Island Vicinity	200
South Baranof Island Vicinity	230
VI. IMPLEMENTATION	
A. Introduction	267
1. Organization	267
2. Subject Uses	267
3. Proper and Improper Uses	267
4. Designated Areas.....	268
5. Implementation Authorities.....	268
B. CMP Participants’ Duties and Responsibilities	269
1. Assembly and Planning Commission.....	269
2. Coastal Coordinator.....	269
C. General Consistency Review Information	269
1. Two Types of Consistency Reviews	270
2. Determination of Consistency in Connection with Other Permits and Approvals	270
3. Federal Authority and Consistency Determination	271
D. Participation in State-coordinated Consistency Review	271
1. Procedure.....	271
2. Timeframe for Consistency Reviews	272
3. Due Deference	273
E. Coordination of Local Consistency Review	274
1. Uses Subject to Local Consistency Review	274
2. Application Procedure and Timeline.....	274

F. Elevation Process / Appeals	274
1. Elevation of State Consistency Determination	274
2. Appeal of Local Consistency Determination	274
G. Planning for Major Projects	274
H. Monitoring and Enforcement	275
I. Public Education and Outreach	275

TABLES

TABLE 1: PROFILE OF SITKA POPULATION, 2000	11
TABLE 2: AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT, TOTAL PAYROLL, AND AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS IN SITKA, 2002	12
TABLE 3: POLICY APPLICABILITY	17
TABLE 4: MAJOR PROCEDURES UNDER THE 30-DAY AND 50-DAY CONSISTENCY REVIEW SCHEDULES.....	273

MAPS

FIGURE 1a: SITKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN BOUNDARY MAP NORTH.....	6
FIGURE 1b: SITKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN BOUNDARY MAP SOUTH	7
FIGURE 2: WILDERNESS AREAS WITHIN CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA	24
FIGURE 3: INDEX TO FLOATHOUSE PERMITTED SITES WITHIN SITKA SOUND	29
FIGURE 3a: DETAIL OF FLOATHOUSE PERMITTED SITES JAMESTOWN BAY	30
FIGURE 3b: DETAIL OF FLOATHOUSE PERMITTED SITES CAMP COOGAN BAY.....	31
FIGURE 3c: DETAIL OF FLOATHOUSE PERMITTED SITES EASTERN BAY	32
FIGURE 3d: DETAIL OF FLOATHOUSE PERMITTED SITES PICNIC COVE	33
FIGURE 4: INDEX TO DESIGNATED RECREATION AREAS ALONG THE SITKA ROAD SYSTEM.....	48
FIGURE 4a: DESIGNATED RECREATION AREAS ALONG THE SITKA ROAD SYSTEM, NORTH.....	49
FIGURE 4b: DESIGNATED RECREATION AREAS ALONG THE SITKA ROAD SYSTEM, CENTER	50
FIGURE 4c: DESIGNATED RECREATION AREAS ALONG THE SITKA ROAD SYSTEM, SOUTH	51
FIGURE 5: INDIAN RIVER DESIGNATED RECREATIONAL USE AREAS	52
FIGURE 6: DESIGNATED AREA SUITABLE FOR MAJOR ENERGY FACILITY DEVELOPMENT, TAKATZ LAKE WATERSHED	56
FIGURE 7: SWAN LAKE AREA MERITING SPECIAL ATTENTION AND DESIGNATED RECREATIONAL USE AREA	101

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS AND DESIGNATED RECREATIONAL USE AREAS

Index to Vicinity Maps	121
Index to Kruzof Island Vicinity	137
Brent's Beach and Kamenoi Beach (Map K-1)	139
Fred's Creek; Mt. Edgecumbe Beach (Map K-2)	141
Head of Krestof Sound through Dry Pass; Head of Gilmer Bay; Unnamed Lakes (Map K-3)	143

Iris Meadows; Shelikof Bay; North Beach Shelikof; Mud Bay (Map K-4)	145
Kalinin Bay (Map K-5)	149
Magoun Islands/Port Krestof State Marine Park (Map K-6)	151
Sealion Cove and Trail (Map K-7)	153
Sinitsin Island (Map K-8)	155
St. Lazaria Island (Map K-9).....	157
 Index to West Chichagof Island Vicinity	 159
Didrickson Lake, Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-1)	161
Ford Arm Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-2)	163
Goulding Lake System and Harbor (Map WC-3)	165
Klag Bay Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-4)	167
Lake Anna Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-5)	169
Leo Anchorage Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-6)	171
Myriad Islands and White Sisters Islands (Map WC-7)	173
Suloia Lake, Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-8)	175
White Sulphur Hot Springs Lake, Mirror Harbor; Sea Level Slough; Dry Pass Harbor (Map WC-9)	177
 East Chichagof Island Vicinity	 181
Fick Cove (Map EC-1)	183
Kadashan Bay (Map EC-2)	185
Kook Lake System and Sockeye Stream; Basket Bay (Map EC-3)	187
Lisianski Lake and River; North Arm Hoonah Sound Tideflats (Map EC-4)	189
Long Bay Beach (Map EC-5).....	191
Moser Island Spit; Adjacent Seal Rookery (Map EC-6)	193
Sitkoh Lake System and Sockeye Stream; Upper Sitkoh Bay and Tideflats (Map EC-7)	195
Ushk Bay (Map EC-8)	197
Vixen Islands Seal Haulouts (Map EC-9)	199
 North Baranof Island Vicinity	 201
Appleton Cove (Map NB-1)	203
Baranof Warm Springs Lake and Bay; Sadie Lake (Map NB-2)	205
Big Bear/Baby Bear Bays State Marine Park (Map NB-3)	207
Chaichei islands; Unnamed Islands (Map NB-4)	209
Fish Bay Tidelands (Map NB-5)	211
Hanus Bay; Portage; Dead Tree Islands (Map NB-6)	213
Kakul Narrows (Map NB-7)	215
Kelp Bay Basin and Pond Island (Map NB-8)	217
Lake Eva Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (Map NB-9)	219
Nakwasina Passage to Head of Nakwasina Sound (Map NB-10)	221
Neva Strait Beach (Map NB-11)	223
Otstoia Island (Map NB-12)	225
Piper Island (Map NB-7)	215
Siginaka Islands (Map NB-13)	227
Sitka Public Recreational Facilities Tidelands (Map NB-14)	229

South Baranof Island Vicinity	231
Avoss Lake (Map SB-1)	233
Goddard Hot Springs; Kolosh Island and Tom Young Memorial Cabin; Kliuchevoi Bay; Trail to Redoubt Lake (Map SB-2)	235
Kanga Bay Beach (Map SB-3)	237
Leesoffskaia Bay (Map SB-4)	239
Pirate's Cove; Samsing Cove; Three Entrance Bay (Map SB-5)	241
Plotnikof and Davidof Lakes (Map SB-6)	243
Port Banks (Map SB-7).....	245
Red Bluff Bay; Falls Lake System and Sockeye Stream (Map SB-8)	247
Redfish Bay Lake System and Sockeye Stream (Map SB-9)	249
Redoubt Lake System and Sockeye Stream (Map SB-10)	251
Salmon Lake; Silver Bay Tidelands (Map SB-11)	253
Sashin and Round Lakes; Little Port Walter Tidelands (Map SB-12)	255
Secluded Bay; Benzeman Lake System and Sockeye Stream (Map SB-13)	257
Sevenfathom Bay (Map SB-14)	259
Taigud Islands (Map SB-15).....	261
West Redoubt Bay Islets (Map SB-16)	263
Yamani Cove and Islets; Slate Islets; Guibert Islets (Map SB-17)	265

APPENDICES

A-1	POLICIES AND DEFINITIONS
A-2	GUIDANCE POLICIES
A-3	REFERENCES
A-4	PUBLIC PROCESS
A-5	MINING
A-6	SITKA COASTAL HABITAT EVALUATION FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY WITH MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS
A-7	UPDATED RESOURCE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS FOR THE SWAN LAKE WATERSHED AND AMSA
A-8	SITKA PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN, 1991 WITH ADDENDUM, DECEMBER 2006
A-9	INDIAN RIVER CORRIDOR AND WATERSHED MASTER PLAN (CD-ROM ONLY)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. OVERVIEW

Sitka's past, present and future are closely associated with its coastal location and resources. Sitka encompasses some 4,710 square miles within its political jurisdiction, with over 1,300 miles of coastline. Coastal resources therefore contribute greatly to the quality of life for some 8,800 residents.

A community whose subsistence, recreation and economic base are partially dependent on coastal resources must be concerned about and wish to plan wisely for the use, development, protection and conservation of those resources. Sitka's District Coastal Management Plan provides specific policies to assist in the long-term management of those resources.

B. HISTORY OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT

The United States government enacted the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act in 1972. This law calls on coastal states to use coastal resources in ways that protect natural systems and cultural values. The Act offers and directs funds and planning programs to states on an individual basis to carry out this mission. The Act does not create new federal authorities or conflict with or diminish existing authorities. In fact, a mechanism in the law is specifically designed to minimize any contradictions or conflicts through a coordination process during plan development and specific project review. To entice states to participate, the federal government offered substantial funding for the preparation and implementation of coastal plans, and promised federal consistency for states that completed approved plans.

The State of Alaska passed the Alaska Coastal Management Act in 1977. As with other coastal states, Alaska's program attempts to develop an approach that fits its own unique location, political situation, and socioeconomic and natural resources. The Alaska program focuses on the balancing of human use of coastal resources with the maintenance of existing natural ecosystems. Recognizing the diversity of its people and the geographical differences within the state, the Legislature initially placed added responsibilities on the local government level to develop coastal policy, in fact, more responsibility than exists anywhere else in the nation. As the program has changed over time, these responsibilities have changed.

To encourage local coastal communities or regions to participate, the Alaska Coastal Management Program offers funding and a voice in federal and state decision making about permits for development of coastal resources.

C. DEVELOPMENT OF SITKA'S COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The City and Borough of Sitka is a Unified Home Rule Municipality incorporated in December, 1971. It combined the two original political entities of the City of Sitka and the Greater Sitka Borough into one functioning unit. The legislative body consists of the Mayor and a six-member Assembly. An appointed Administrator is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the City/Borough government and for implementing policies adopted by the Assembly. In accordance with state law, Title 29, the municipality has adopted a Comprehensive Plan, a Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Regulations and a Building Code. A full-time planner administers the planning and zoning regulations, and a building official issues permits and inspects for compliance with adopted codes.

In 1979, the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka authorized the original participation in the Alaska Coastal Management Program. The Assembly also established the Sitka Coastal Management Citizens Committee, composed of representatives of various community interest groups, and appointed its members.

In November of 1979, the Phase I Inventory Report was published. This report set out the background of coastal planning, detailing the physical, social, economic and environmental factors to be addressed in the overall plan. It also reported the results of two community surveys developed during the Phase I Report and set preliminary goals and objectives based on those surveys. An evaluation of coastal habitats, researched and written by the Habitat Section of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, was included.

Aided by public participation, federal, state, and local agency input and the guidance of a coastal citizens committee, the Planning Department and the consultant, R.W. Pavitt of Juneau, developed a Sitka Coastal Plan that was approved in 1981. This plan was reprinted in 1983. In 1985, a small amendment was taken through the process and approved by the state to update and clarify the increasing importance of economic policies to Sitka.

In 1985, a grant from the Department of Community and Regional Affairs was accepted in an attempt to strengthen the "specificity and enforceability" of the Policies and Implementation sections. When this draft began a public hearing process in 1986, members of the public felt the re-write should include the re-establishment of a coastal citizens committee. On October 14, 1986, the Assembly appointed a new citizens committee made up of representation from the following interest groups in Sitka: Alaska Pulp Corporation, Alaska Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood, Chamber of Commerce, Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, Parks and Recreation Committee, Planning Commission, Sitka Conservation Society, Sitka Sportsmen's Association, U.S. Forest Service, and Fisheries in general. An additional small grant from the state allowed for a temporary consultant position to assist the completion of the document and specific research into floathouses, mariculture and subsistence.

With the assistance of the newly appointed Coastal Committee, the Planning staff and Marlene Campbell, consultant, completed the September, 1987 edition of the Sitka Coastal Management District Plan. The draft plan was disseminated for 60-day review. In response to written comments from individuals and groups and state and federal agencies, as well as two state interagency meetings, this public hearing draft was extensively revised and presented for a 30-day review on February 26,

1988, culminating in a public hearing March 30, 1988. The Sitka Assembly gave concept approval to the further revised draft after another public hearing April 26, 1988. The Alaska State Coastal Policy Council approved the amended plan on December 1, 1988. After receiving federal and local approval, it was filed with the Alaska Lieutenant Governor and became effective May 31, 1989.

Beginning in 1988, the citizens of Sitka began a further planning process to develop a more complete recreation element for the Sitka CMP. The purpose of this planning process was to identify the most outstanding recreation and/or subsistence use areas within the Sitka Coastal District outside the Sitka road system and to provide management guidelines and enforceable policies for those areas. The plan that resulted, the Sitka Public Use Management Plan (Sitka PUMP), explains the complete planning process through which it was developed. The PUMP was approved and adopted as a significant amendment to the Sitka CMP in 1993. Minor revisions were made to the PUMP in 1997. Though it is an integral component of the Sitka CMP, because the PUMP contains a large number of maps and special management area descriptions, it is included as a separate chapter (see Chapter V).

In 2003, statutory changes were made to the Alaska Coastal Management Program that substantially changed requirements for the content of district plans. Regulations implementing the new statutes were approved in 2004. All district plans were required to be changed to meet the new requirements no later than July 1, 2005. Later recognizing that the original timeline was too short, the 2005 Alaska Legislature granted an extension to March, 2006. District plans that did not meet this deadline would “sunset,” losing all force and effect by July 1, 2006.

Sitka undertook the required plan revision in the summer of 2004, evaluating its plan to better understand what changes the new laws would require. In the fall of 2004, the consulting firm of LaRoche + Associates was retained to assist the district with its plan amendment. A task force was formed to review early drafts of the plan and provide expert oversight and advice. The task force met several times to review early drafts of the plan. As a transition amendment, the draft plan was required to undergo a 21-day public review process, which it did in the spring of 2005. The Sitka Assembly then reviewed the draft plan at a public meeting and approved a resolution supporting its submission to the State of Alaska for review. Once the Department of Natural Resources had approved the plan, the City and Borough of Sitka Assembly adopted an ordinance to enact it. The plan was filed with the Alaska Lieutenant Governor’s Office, and went into effect. Details of the public process used to develop this plan are given in Appendix A-4.

The changes to Sitka’s coastal management plan meet the new state requirements so that the plan can continue to be a valuable planning and management tool. The plan is intended to meet the district’s original coastal management goal, first articulated in its original plan:

IT IS THE GOAL OF THE SITKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PROGRAM TO ACHIEVE WISE USE OF THE LAND AND WATER RESOURCES OF THE COASTAL AREA AND TO BALANCE ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH ECOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL VALUES, SO AS TO MAINTAIN AND PROTECT SITKA’S COASTAL RESOURCES FOR THE BENEFICIAL USE AND ENJOYMENT OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

D. SITKA'S COASTAL BOUNDARIES

Any definition of a boundary can be somewhat confusing in a broad spectrum program like Coastal Management. The confusion comes from the fact that while political limitations or area are used, the actual management authority for decision making lies with many different agencies or levels of government.

In April 1978, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game produced a series of maps titled "Biophysical Boundaries for Alaska's Coastal Zone." A new atlas titled "Coastal Zone Boundaries of Alaska" was distributed in 1988, depicting the coastal zone boundary established for the Alaska Coastal Management Program. The maps showing Sitka's coastal zone boundary in the most recent version of this atlas (produced in 2004) are considered the definitive version of Sitka's coastal zone and are incorporated herein by reference. These maps are available in JPG or PDF format at <http://www.alaskacoast.state.ak.us/GIS/boundary.htm>. They are included at reduced scale as Figures 1a and 1b.

In practical terms, Sitka's coastal zone boundary includes all of the coastal area of the entire 4,710-square-mile City and Borough of Sitka, including the spruce/hemlock coastal forest to the timberline (generally between 2,000 and 2,500 feet), all freshwater systems where fish spawning and overwintering occurs, and the bulk of the habitat used by terrestrial birds and mammals. According to the aforementioned study, out of the total of 2,894 square miles of land area in the Borough, some 2,083 square miles, or 72 percent, falls within the coastal zone.

For the sake of clarity, regardless of which management agency or level of government has authority, the boundary of the Sitka Coastal Management District Plan shall be the total boundaries of the City and Borough of Sitka located within the coastal zone. The City and Borough of Sitka therefore retains the "interim coastal boundaries," including the zones of "direct interaction" and "direct influence," depicted in Coastal Zone Boundaries of Alaska, and has not modified this boundary from its original plan.

The above boundary includes all of Baranof Island excluding Port Alexander, that portion of Chichagof Island south of Tenakee Inlet and Lisianski Inlet as shown on the boundary map, as well as smaller neighboring islands.

Federal lands are specifically excluded from the Alaska Coastal Management Program (Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, 15 CFR 923.33). The exclusion of federal lands from the coastal zone does not remove Federal agencies from the obligation of complying with the consistency requirements of Section 307 of the Act when Federal actions on these excluded lands have spillover impacts that significantly affect coastal zone areas, uses or resources within the purview of the State's Coastal Management Plan, including the District's enforceable policies. These activities must be undertaken in a manner consistent with the Alaska Coastal Management Program to the maximum extent practicable. "Consistent to the maximum extent practicable" means that the agency must adhere to the requirements of the Alaska Coastal Management Program, including district enforceable policies, wherever legally permissible, subject to applicable approved agreements and memoranda of understanding. Non-Federal activities requiring a Federal license or permit that affect any land or

water use or coastal resource in the coastal zone must be conducted in a manner consistent with the Alaska Coastal Management Program and the Coastal District's enforceable policies.



Barrett, J. L. 1996. *Phylogenetic Analysis of Molecular Data*. Sinauer Associates, Inc., Sunderland, Massachusetts.

July 2004



Coastal Zone Boundary

Seaward boundary

Inland Boundary

 Coastal District Boundary

ACM's Social Management Plan

Generalized Federal Land Status

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Est. Not Returned

Forest Service

National Park Service

REGULATING THE AIRPORTS

Federal Lands. Excluded from Alaska's coastal zone boundaries are "those lands owned, leased, held in trust or otherwise controlled by the Federal Government, the State of Alaska, or any political subdivision of the State of Alaska, and which are administered by law subject solely to the discretion of the Federal Government, its officers or agents." (15 CFR 92.2(b)(2)(3)). Activities on Federal lands are subject to the consistency provisions of Section 309 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended. Reference to (BLM) in this Plan may be necessary to determine if these

Southeast Boundary: The southeast coastal river boundary at the "outer limit of the United States territory" (18 CFR 672-32), which is the "free gift of the sea" (42 CFR 6501-1). The southeast boundary depends on the map used extracted from the Outer Continental Shelf Official Publication Survey map series (Bureau of Management, January 1961 and April 1964).

Zones of Pelican and Angoon. The island coastal zone boundary includes all lands and waters within the extent of Pelican and Angoon.

[illegible]

The A2000 special management plan areas within the City and Borough of Sitka are part of the Sitka Public Use Management

Coastal Zone Boundaries of Alaska

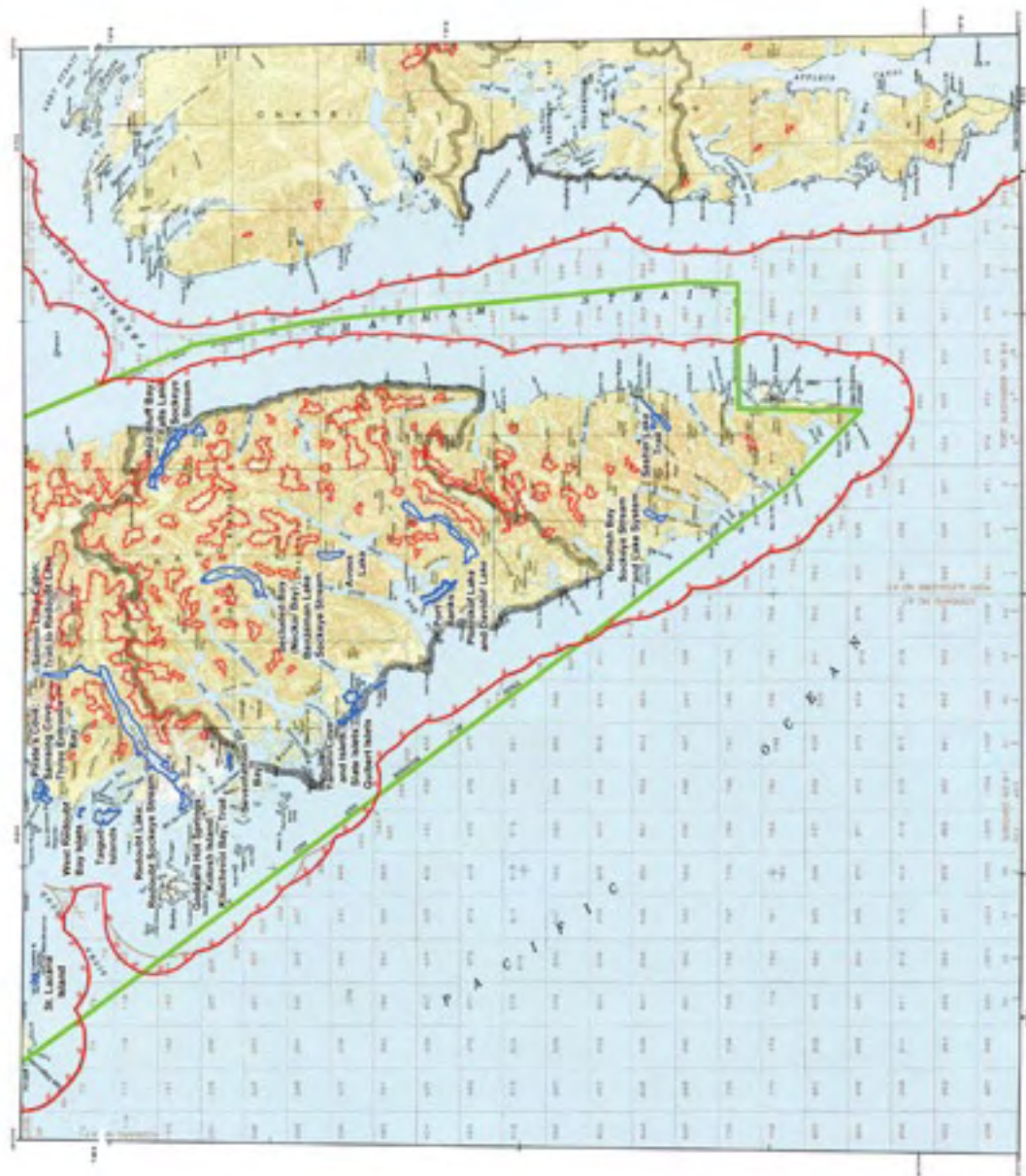


Fig. 1b: Sitka Coastal Management Plan Boundary Map, South

Port Alexander #114



Coastal Zone Boundary

- Seaward Boundary
- Inland Boundary

Coastal District Boundary

- ACMP Special Management Plan

Generalized Federal Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- BLM Managed
- Forest Service

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Federal Lands: Excluded from Alaska's coastal zone boundaries are "those lands owned, leased, held in trust or otherwise controlled by the federal government which are subject to the jurisdiction of the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 16 U.S.C. 502-503. Activities on these lands are subject to the consistency provisions of Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended. Reference to BLM Master Title Plans may be necessary to determine if these criteria apply.

Seaward Boundary: The seaward coastal zone boundary is the "outer limit of the United States territorial sea" (15 CFR 302.32), which is the "three geographical mile line" (43 CFR 320.1.1). The seaward boundary line is shown on the map as a red line. The seaward boundary line is shown on the map as a red line. The seaward boundary line is shown on the map as a red line.

City and Borough of Sitka and Other Areas: The inland boundary of the coastal zone is shown on the map as a green line. The inland boundary of the coastal zone is shown on the map as a green line. The inland boundary of the coastal zone is shown on the map as a green line.



Based on USGS Map
Universal Transverse Mercator Projection

December 2013



II. SITKA POPULATION AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

A. OVERVIEW

After a period of relatively slow growth in the 1950s following World War II, Sitka, in 1959 and 1960, became the location of one of the two large pulp mills erected in Southeast Alaska as the result of a federally sponsored fifty-year timber sale within the Tongass National Forest. The intent of the sale was to propagate a continuing long-term renewable economy for the Southeast Panhandle area. The early 1960's saw rapid population growth, with the area north of the City of Sitka known as Halibut Point Road accommodating several quickly constructed trailer courts to absorb the short-term construction workers as well as initial employees when the mill opened. The growth rate was some 2.5 percent per year.

Beginning in 1974, Sitka experienced another large growth increase when the U.S. Forest Service created a Chatham regional area and moved employees to this community. In 1976, the large U.S. Coast Guard Air Station was transferred from Annette Island (near Ketchikan) to Sitka, bringing another large infusion of people. Over 400 families were involved, which contributed to expansion of the road system and to a "boom" construction market for housing. Also in the mid 1970s, the State of Alaska as a whole began to experience the mass infusion of capital projects construction due to the tax revenues from the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline project. The community embarked on a very aggressive area-wide sewer construction project, including a sewer treatment plant. Because of the increased electrical demands, a \$46,000,000 hydroelectric project and new transmission line were also completed.

Beginning in 1979-80, the world pulp market took a steep downturn caused by declining oil prices, making petrochemical products more competitive over wood-based rayon and cellulose and increasing competition in the marketplace from foreign pulp mills with much reduced labor and environmental protection costs. To date, the pulp market has not rebounded to former price/cost ratios. The local Alaska Pulp Corporation mill, Sitka's largest employer with over 400 high-paid employees, was permanently shut down in 1993.

After unsuccessfully attempting to sell the facility, Alaska Pulp Corporation arranged with the City and Borough of Sitka to take ownership of the former mill site. Alaska Pulp Corporation was responsible for removing the mill-related infrastructure. The City and Borough of Sitka, with federal and State cooperation, took responsibility for renovating the site, installing new infrastructure and utilities, and monitoring and environmental compliance.

Sitka has worked with private sector businesses to develop the Sawmill Cove Industrial Park at the former mill site. As of 2005, there are several paying tenants in place, generating revenues and providing family wage jobs for increasing numbers of employees. The City and Borough of Sitka is focusing on developing the waterfront, reclaiming deteriorated bulkheads, and developing new deep water dock facilities in cooperation with the private sector. Sitka is also pursuing the sale of raw bulk water from Blue Lake, Sitka's primary potable water supply.

Fortunately for the community, the job losses in the wood products industry have in part been compensated for by increases in the visitor industry and to some extent in the fisheries sectors of the

economy. The fisheries industry employs a large number of Sitkans, but is subject to the fluctuations of the resources, prices, and regulations in this volatile industry.

Sitka has a diverse economy, with a significant number of government jobs, but these have been steadily decreasing. This is especially apparent in the U.S. Forest Service, but is also apparent in a number of State jobs that are no longer in Sitka.

Sitka is fortunate to have the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) based in Sitka. Funded in part by a three percent raw fish tax on the salmon fishery, NSRAA's hatcheries serve all of Southeast Alaska and have become the most successful in the State. NSRAA has developed an aggressive and active enhancement and rehabilitation program, increasing the desirability of Sitka as a major fisheries destination for subsistence, sport, guided sport charter, and commercial anglers.

The Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) is a non-profit tribal health consortium of 18 Native communities that serves the health interests of the Native people of Southeast Alaska. Among other facilities, SEARHC operates Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital, Sitka's largest single employer with about 500 jobs (Sitka Economic Development Association, 2004). Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital ranks among the top ten percent of hospitals nationwide in the score it received in its most recent review by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

B. POPULATION

The State demographer estimates 8,891 people in 2003. In 2000, the official U.S. Census listed 8,835 residents in the City and Borough of Sitka. This was an increase of 247 residents over the population listed in 1990: 8,588 residents. The population change during that decade reflects a continued general slowing of the population growth experienced in previous decades, a slowdown partially attributed to closure of the pulp mill. In 1980, the official U.S. Census listed 7,803 residents in Sitka, for a decade increase of 785 or 79 per year. In 1970, the population had been 6,109, for a decade increase of 1,694 or 169 per year. This closely aligned with the 2-2.5 percent per year average maintained in Southeast Alaska for the previous 30 years.

Table 1 indicates the distribution of Sitka population, by age and sex. According to the 2000 federal census data on Sitka's age distribution, the mean age was 35.2 years, skewed upward by the presence of the Pioneer's Home. In 2000, Alaskan Natives comprised 19 percent of the population, compared with about 50 percent at the beginning of World War II. There were 3,650 households in Sitka in 2000, with a median size of 2.61 persons.

TABLE 1: PROFILE OF SITKA POPULATION, 2000		
SUBJECT	NUMBER	PERCENT
TOTAL POPULATION	8,835	100.0
SEX AND AGE		
Male	4,505	51.0
Female	4,330	49.0
AGE GROUPS		
Under 5 years	565	6.4
5 to 9 years	669	7.6
10 to 14 years	730	8.3
15 to 19 years	689	7.8
20 to 24 years	573	6.5
25 to 34 years	1159	13.1
35 to 44 years	1573	17.8
45 to 54 years	1366	15.5
55 to 59 years	415	4.7
60 to 64 years	352	4.0
65 to 74 years	455	5.1
75 to 84 years	211	2.4
85 years and over	78	0.9
BY GENDER AND AGE		
18 years and over	6,436	72.8
Male	3,293	37.3
Female	3,143	35.6
65 years and over	744	8.4
Male	338	3.8
Female	406	4.6
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000		

C. EMPLOYMENT

The Sitka economy and population have remained fairly constant due to Sitka's comparatively broad economic base. Sitka enjoys a healthy mix of employment not totally dependent on any one sector. Sitka Sound Seafood and the Seafood Producers Co-op employ a number of residents. Regional health care services, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Coast Guard are major employers. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the largest employment sector is educational, health and social services (33 percent of the employed population), followed by retail trade and resource extraction (about 10 percent each). Table 2 provides a basic overview of Sitka employment, with the exception of fisheries, which does not show in the Department of Labor Statistics as they are not within the

unemployment or workman's compensation programs. The employment data for fisheries is usually obtained from such sources as registered numbers of fishing vessels in the public harbors and employment at the two cold storage plants.

TABLE 2: AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT, TOTAL PAYROLL, AND AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS IN SITKA, 2002			
INDUSTRY	AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT	TOTAL PAYROLL (\$ MILLIONS)	AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS (\$)
PRIVATE SECTOR			
Manufacturing	306	8.1	26,436
Transportation and Utilities	282	8.5	24,880
Wholesale Trade	38	1.2	31,907
Retail Trade	524	11.3	21,512
Financial Activities	126	3.7	29,485
Professional and Business Services	146	4.1	28,344
Education and Health Services	906	32.05	35,373
Leisure and Hospitality	398	5.6	14,085
Other Services	133	1.9	14,670
All Other Industry	266	9.75	36,654
Total Private Sector Employment*	3,125	86.2	27,576
PUBLIC SECTOR			
Federal Govt.	190	9.9	52,073
State Govt.	368	11.9	32,395
Local Govt.	619	21.2	34,227
Total Public Sector Employment	1,177	42.99	36,538
TOTAL	4,302	\$129.17	\$30,027
Source: Alaska Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development, 2003			
*Does not include self-employed seafood harvesters.			

D. THE FUTURE

Sitka's economic growth appears focused in areas that take advantage of its rich coastal location. Its diverse economy, based on seafood, tourism, government, health care, education, and national interest (U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service), continues to be healthy.

According to the most recent economic report commissioned by the Sitka Economic Development Association from the McDowell Group:

"Sitka has a number of assets that could contribute to economic improvement should the community utilize them. These include:

- A history of municipal commitment to support infrastructure (harbors, cold storage, waterfront utilization)

- A community willing to consider development that is consistent with the lifestyles, scale, society and culture of the community.
- A proactive economic development organization supported by both the municipality and the community's private sector
- A dedicated industrial development site with waterfront
- Strategic location for growth in the seafood industry
- Strong attraction base for both cruise and independent markets
- Diversified economy
- Strong Alaska Native economic sector.” (McDowell Group, Inc., 2004)

As part of this report, McDowell Group interviewed executives of businesses with regional and/or statewide interests. Some did business in Sitka as well as in other regional communities, while others did not do business in Sitka. Executives were asked what they thought of Sitka from a businessperson's standpoint, what it would take to attract them to Sitka or to expand their investment in Sitka, and what advice they might give Sitka for encouraging more business growth.

The executives reported that some significant challenges faced Sitka in luring economic growth, including the high cost of living, small labor pool, and lack of affordable housing. However, the executives identified many positive factors for future growth in Sitka, including community leadership seen as supportive of business, the active advocacy of the Sitka Economic Development Association, and Sitka's unique environment and setting.

Fisheries enhancement and tourism are two sectors of the economy that appear to offer growth opportunities.

Fisheries Enhancement: Sitka continues to expand its role as a major fisheries port. This is due in part to the aggressive marketing actions by the two local processors, the development of private aquaculture in Sitka by both Sheldon Jackson College and the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, and expansion of marine facilities.

Both Sitka Sound Seafood and Seafood Producers Co-op have been active in enlarging their separate facilities to better handle increasing demands. The NSRAA hatchery at Silver Bay is increasing production of salmon and actively expanding into the higher value species of Chinook (King) and Coho (Silver) salmon production. This is a major development, as those two species require maintenance in a freshwater system for some time prior to release, which increases the costs of production.

Recognizing the increasing demand for harbor facilities, the municipality has completed a new harbor at Sealing Cove for 350 vessels and a new harbor with stalls for commercial fishing boats from 40 to 80 feet in length next to Old Thomsen Harbor. In addition, a fisherman's work float project, located between the U.S. Coast Guard dock and west bridge abutment, was completed in 1988. Upgrades to all harbors are continuing.

Tourism: Tourism is a growth industry throughout Alaska. Sitka has actively pursued improvements to better facilitate visitors to the community. As Sitka does not have a docking facility like those in Ketchikan or Juneau, the City has depended on the lightering of small boats to and from large vessels that anchor in the Eastern Channel. Increasing the length of the tourism dock, plus the addition of a 5,000 square foot shelter, have both improved visitor enjoyment during inclement weather. Other proposals, such as a cruise ship dock at Sawmill Cove, have also been considered.

Sitka's rich Tlingit Native cultural heritage and Russian era structures and history provide many tourism opportunities. The Sitka National Historical Park, one of only 340 National Park System units nationwide, preserves and makes available to the public a major Southeast Alaska totem pole collection and other cultural resources.

In addition to the tourist-oriented facilities at the Sitka National Historic Park, the Native community has created a large Native cultural center called Sheetka Kwaan Naa Kahidi Community House, combining storage and display, space for artisans to work on their crafts and additional meeting and educational space for cultural programs. This facility provides a tourist attraction offering another reason for longer-term visitations.

Access is a crucial issue that has faced Sitka throughout its history, and that significantly affects tourism today. Sitka is located on the western side of Alexander Archipelago facing the Gulf Alaska. Thirteen miles to the west of Sitka is the open Pacific Ocean. To transit by boat to the "Inside Passage" requires a vessel to travel more than 60 miles to reach Chatham Strait. Other than large tour ships in summer, and oil tankers and other large ships crossing the ocean, most water traffic reaches Sitka by traveling from Chatham Strait to Peril Strait to Sergius and Kakul Narrows to Salisbury Sound to Neva and Olga Straits and into Sitka. This is a considerable detour off the "main" Alaska Marine Highway route, and results in extremely limited ferry service to Sitka.

Air service is extremely important to Sitka, with a 24-hour airport accommodating Alaska Airlines and other jet traffic, freighters, emergency medical evacuations, and considerable private and commercial traffic. The airport is in the process of a major upgrade that will increase safety and provide more space for lease lots and aircraft use. A large airport terminal renovation project completed in 1988, and another major upgrade in 2004 have provided added space for an expanding air tour industry. Sitka does not have a seaplane facility capable of handling commercial and significant general aviation traffic, but one is in the planning stage and may be constructed in Sitka Harbor in the future.

III. ISSUES, GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND JUSTIFICATION

A. INTRODUCTION

In the Statewide Standards of the Alaska Coastal Management Program, Article 2 (Uses and Activities) and Article 3 (Resources and Habitats) provide standards for the use of agencies and coastal districts in carrying out their responsibilities under the Alaska Coastal Management Act. Uses and activities in the coastal area must be consistent with the applicable enforceable policies in this chapter. District enforceable policies may address only uses, activities and resources contained in the Statewide Standards and district coastal management plan requirements.

Enforceable policies are legally binding components of the Alaska Coastal Management Program and are applicable to public and private activities. Both State statutes and regulations provide very specific condition for developing enforceable policies.

Under State statutes, the enforceable policies of the district coastal management plan must

- (1) be clear and concise as to the activities and persons affected by the policies, and the requirements of the policies;
- (2) use precise, prescriptive, and enforceable language; and
- (3) not address a matter regulated or authorized by state or federal law unless the enforceable policies relate specifically to a matter of local concern.

A matter of local concern is a specific coastal use or resource within a defined portion of the district's coastal zone that is

- (1) demonstrated as sensitive to development;
- (2) not adequately addressed by state or federal law; and
- (3) of unique concern to the coastal resource district as demonstrated by local usage or scientific evidence.

Under state regulations, district enforceable policies that address matters included in the statewide standards must be a matter of local concern in order to be approved.

District enforceable policies are limited to the following topics: Coastal development, designated natural hazard areas, coastal access, designated sites for major energy facilities, utility routes and facilities, sand and gravel extraction, designated subsistence use areas, transportation routes and facilities, designated areas of recreational use and tourism, designated areas for facilities related to commercial fishing and seafood processing, designated important habitats, or designated historic, cultural or archeological areas.

Under each of the Uses, Activities and Resources sections that follow, policies are set forth to meet the Sitka District Plan's intentions to reflect community needs and desires as well as Alaska Coastal Management Program requirements. This District Plan supplements federal and state land and water management regulations affecting the coastal area. It also provides guidance for all development in the coastal area. The policies provide for the development and operation of industrial, commercial,

residential, recreational, and other uses of the coastal area in a manner that protects the environment and the quality of life in the City and Borough of Sitka.

11 AAC 114.270. District enforceable policies. (a)District enforceable policies must
(1) address only uses and activities identified in 11 AAC 112.200 - 11 AAC 112.240 and 11 AAC 112.260 - 11 AAC 112.280 and areas designated under 11 AAC 114.250(b) - (i);
(d) Unless a district can demonstrate that a matter is of local concern, a district may not adopt, and the commissioner will not approve, an enforceable policy that addresses matters included in the statewide standards contained in 11 AAC 112.200 – 11 AAC 112.240 and 11 AAC 112.260 – 11 AAC 112.280.
(e) A district enforceable policy must
(1) be clear and concise as to the activities and persons affected by the policy and the requirements of the policy;
(2) use precise, prescriptive, and enforceable language;
(3) not address a matter regulated or authorized by state or federal law unless the enforceable policy relates to a matter of local concern as defined in AS 46.40.070(a)(2)(C); and
(4) not arbitrarily or unreasonably restrict or exclude uses of state concern.
(f) In accordance with AS 46.40.040(b), a district may not address a matter regulated by the Department of Environmental Conservation under to AS 46.03, AS 46.04, AS 46.09, and AS 46.14 and the regulations adopted under those statutes.
(h) In reviewing and approving a district enforceable policy developed under this chapter that addresses a matter of local concern, the commissioner must find that
(1) the coastal use or resource
(A) is within a defined portion of the district’s coastal zone that has been mapped or described under 11 AAC 114.230(c)(1);
(B) has been demonstrated as sensitive to development in the resource analysis developed under 11 AAC 114.240(a);
(C) is not adequately addressed by state or federal law, including consideration of comments by the appropriate state or federal agency in comments on the public hearing draft under 11 AAC.114.315 or during consultation under 11 AAC 114.340(c)(5); and
(D) is of unique concern to the coastal resource district as demonstrated by local usage or scientific evidence that has been documented in a resource analysis under 11 AAC 114.240(c); (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)

Each Use, Activity or Resource discussion in this chapter follows a consistent format, providing a framework for discussion of the Use, Activity or Resource and establishing that the matter addressed by enforceable policies is of local concern. Every discussion that includes one or more enforceable policies contains the following subsections. Discussions that do not contain enforceable policies generally omit the subsections related to establishing a justification for policies (application, resource inventory and analysis, adequacy of existing laws):

- 1) Application of Policies - The defined portion of the district’s coastal zone to which an enforceable policy will be applied. Table 3 below supplements the applicability discussion for all enforceable policies in this chapter where a map is needed to determine the portion of the district’s coastal zone to which an enforceable policy will be applied.

TABLE 3: ENFORCEABLE POLICY APPLICABILITY										
MAP FIGURES	ENFORCEABLE POLICIES									
		1.3	1.4	1.7	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	4.1
	2	✓								
	3		✓							
	4	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	5	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	6									✓
	7				✓	✓				
	Ch.5	✓			✓	✓		✓		

- 2) Issues of Local Concern - Information about how the Use, Activity or Resource is a matter of unique concern to the coastal resource district.
- 3) Resource Inventory and Analysis – Information demonstrating that the Use, Activity or Resource is sensitive to development. This information may consist of a summary of and reference to other published information available during the public review period from the City and Borough of Sitka.
- 4) Current Regulations - A list of the various regulatory agencies and, where appropriate, their specific enforceable rules and/or regulations relating to the Use, Activity or Resource. The relevant Statewide Standards and District Coastal Management Plan Requirements are included in this subsection.
- 5) Adequacy of Existing Laws - A brief discussion of why a coastal use or resource is not adequately addressed by state or federal law. This occurs when (1) the laws are broad in scope and general in their application and more specificity is needed to address local issues; or (2) a local issue or management goal related to the categories of uses, activities or areas identified in the statewide standards and designations is not addressed by state or federal law.
- 6) Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goals - The City and Borough of Sitka's general statement of a desirable outcome relating to the Use, Activity or Resource that gives the municipality's philosophical position in relation to said Use, Activity or Resource.

Objectives - The objective(s) that establishes direction toward the goal and articulates the municipality's achievable statement of intent in relation to said Use, Activity or Resource.

Guidance Policies are the City and Borough of Sitka's statements of direction, intention, and recommendation. These policies are commitments the City and Borough is making to itself and the public at large, and are directions or actions that are appropriate at the municipal level. They also provide an alternate means to achieve the district's goals and objectives.

Under AS 46.40.210(7), a district coastal management plan is a plan that sets out policies and

standards “to guide public and private uses of land and water within that district ...”. Guidance policies are policies that may not meet one or more tests of enforceability contained in state statute but that can help guide coastal uses within the district. Guidance policies are not enforceable and cannot be used to require conditions or stipulations on projects during the project consistency review process. The guidance policies are located in Appendix-2 as required by the State.

Enforceable Policies of the City and Borough of Sitka relate to the development and use of specific coastal resources. They are binding on the City and Borough, the public, state agencies, and federal agencies to the extent they are consistent with other applicable local, state and federal regulations. These are the “enforceable policies” discussed in the requirements of 11 AAC 114.270. These enforceable policies are listed again in a stand-alone section with definitions and map references (see Appendix -1). In many cases, enforceable policies only apply to certain geographic areas. Please refer to Table 3 for policy applicability.

B. USES AND ACTIVITIES

1. COASTAL DEVELOPMENT

a. INTRODUCTION

The State coastal development standard applies only to development in or adjacent to coastal waters. (See definitions of “adjacent” and “coastal waters” in Appendix -1.) District enforceable policies may be district wide or area specific.

The standard does two things. First, it sets forth a requirement that the districts prioritize the uses and activities in the coastal area based upon whether the uses are water-dependent, water-related, or neither but without an inland alternative. It is simply a requirement that the more water-dependent the use or activity, the higher priority it shall receive. Second, the statewide standard provides a basis for district enforceable policies that address the placement of structures and the discharge of dredged or fill material into coastal waters. But authority under this standard is limited to those parameters: structures or discharge being placed in coastal waters (i.e., not on land).

In order to provide necessary specificity and enforceability to the wide spectrum of uses and activities covered under this Coastal Development title, the two parts of the standard are considered separately in this chapter. A discussion of each use is located with the policies that are intended to be applied to that use.

b. FLOATING FACILITIES

1) Application of Enforceable Policies

Enforceable policies apply to development in or adjacent to coastal waters throughout the entire coastal resource district unless otherwise noted in the policy. Refer to Table 3 for policy applicability.

2) Floating Facilities Issues of Local Concern

Floating facilities located in the public domain provide exclusive private use of a public resource, and therefore usurp public use of such utilized tidelands and adjacent submerged lands. The 1983 Sitka Coastal Management Program provided general regulatory guidelines and a General Permit authority received from the Corps of Engineers to address floating facility concerns. However, increasing use of public tidelands and submerged lands by floating facilities, and decreasing availability of public access to uplands and tidelands within the City and Borough of Sitka, have generated increasing competition and conflicts with other resource groups. A more specific process to regulate the uses and placement of floating facilities is necessary to protect public use.

Some of the major potential problems associated with floating facilities are as follows:

- Exclusive use of public tidelands and submerged lands/ displacing or causing conflicts with other users of forest and water resources;
- Lack of proper sewerage and litter disposal;
- Interference with navigation;
- Siting near areas of habitat concern, causing damage to the habitat;
- Placement of support buildings or ties on public lands;
- Lack of a tidelands permit granting such exclusive use following a public process;
- Lack of safe building construction causing short life and increased potential for debris accumulation on the public domain;
- Exclusive use causing a socioeconomic loss to other users including charter boats, visitors, subsistence users, or local recreation users who seek an alternate location to provide a wilderness or remote experience;
- A lack of mobility and difficulty in transporting the facility to another location; and
- The lack of any real enforcement action to remove floating facilities or remains from areas where not approved.

With so much of the City and Borough of Sitka's socioeconomic base dependent upon water-related activities, floating facilities which support major industries within the City and Borough, particularly commercial fisheries, timber and tourism, are important to the economy. The City and Borough recognizes the economic necessity for floating facilities directly involved in these industries and supports permitting those facilities that meet the District Plan requirements, in consideration of the compelling public benefits accruing from these contributions to a healthy economy.

In its significant amendment approved in 1989, the Sitka Coastal Management Program severely restricted the placement of "floathouses" (including floating homes, barges, vessels, or any other floating facility used for private residential use) within Sitka Sound to a few locations where such uses could receive appropriate permits. In all other locations, the placement of private, personal use floathouses in Sitka Sound for more than 14 days was not permitted. The reason for this restrictive policy was that there was very strong public sentiment that private, personal use of public tidelands should not restrict the public's right to also use those tidelands. The long-term moorage of a floathouse in a sheltered anchorage effectively preempts that area from being used by the public. Policy 1.4 was therefore developed to severely restrict the locations where private, personal use of tidelands could limit the public's access to those tidelands and by default, the adjacent uplands. It was agreed that areas that already had floathouse use at the time would be "grandfathered" to permit existing facilities to remain, but no new sites have been added within Sitka Sound. Outside of Sitka Sound, floathouse applications are considered on a case-

by-case basis, but the public generally mounts strong opposition to private, personal use of any areas providing good anchorage and recreational and subsistence opportunities for the public.

3) Floating Facilities Resource Inventory and Analysis

Appendix-6, with Management Recommendations, which reprints in its entirety the approved Resource Inventory and Analysis for the Sitka CMP first adopted in 1981 and re-approved in 1989, contains specific information about the resource values, suitability and sensitivity of coastal shorelands and tidelands, and the anticipated effects of development on these resource values. In mandating statewide revisions of district coastal plans within one year, OPMP represented to districts that thorough revision of currently approved Resource Inventory and Analysis documents would not be required. Appendix-6 read in conjunction with the Issues of Local concern articulated in the preceding section “2” comprise the need and justification for enforceable policies 1.1 – 1.5.

For Policy 1.3: The U.S. Forest Service manages much of the area within the City and Borough of Sitka’s coastal zone boundary through the Tongass Land Management Plan. This plan maps and describes designated wilderness areas (See Figure 2). The plan is available on request. *Note: See Appendix-3 References for information.*

The Sitka Public Use Management Plan (Sitka PUMP, 1993) identified the most outstanding recreation use areas within the Sitka Coastal District outside the Sitka road system and provided management guidelines and enforceable policies for those areas. When this plan was revised in 2006, the Sitka PUMP was included as Chapter V: Special Management Areas.

4) Current Floating Facilities Regulations

The State of Alaska owns nearly all of the tidelands and submerged lands from the line of mean high water out to the three mile limit. When a private party seeks to use this public resource (whether for a dock, floathouse, or other use), the party requesting use of the tidelands is expected to seek approval for this use through a public process. An uplands owner has, in some instances, first preference to the use of the tidelands adjacent to the owner’s property, if criteria pursuant to AS 38.05.075(c) are met. The following is a general summary of the regulations and requirements of the various local, state and federal agencies that may have jurisdictional authority over floating facilities:

Alaska Department of Natural Resources: For the mooring of any floating facility for any period exceeding fourteen (14) days, a tidelands use authorization from the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water shall be required. An uplands owner adjacent to the tidelands has, in some instances, first preference to the use of the tidelands adjacent to the owner’s property.

In addition, siting of a floating facility must be found to be consistent with the approved Sitka Coastal Management Program and the Alaska Coastal Management Program before a permit may be issued.

11 AAC 112.200. Coastal development. (a) *In planning for and approving development in or adjacent to coastal waters, districts and state agencies shall manage coastal land and water uses in such a manner that those uses that are economically or physically dependent on a coastal location are given higher priority when compared to uses that do not economically or physically require a coastal location.*
(b) *Districts and state agencies shall give, in the following order, priority to*
(1) *water-dependent uses and activities;*
(2) *water-related uses and activities; and*
(3) *uses and activities that are neither water-dependent nor water-related for which there is no practicable inland alternative to meet the public need for the use or activity.*
(Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170)

The Office of Habitat Management and Permitting (OHMP) is responsible for activities affecting fish streams. A Title 41 Fish Habitat Permit is required for activities impeding the efficient passage of fish. Culvert installation; stream realignment or diversions; dams; low-water crossings; and construction, placement, deposition, or removal of any material or structure below ordinary high water are among the activities requiring approval. OHMP is the lead office for reviewing projects for consistency with the ACMP Statewide Habitat Standard. Certain subsections of the Habitat Standard are particularly relevant when considering coastal development. OHMP and ADFG would collaborate on projects determined to have a significant net adverse effect on the quality or quantity of fish and wildlife resources, and which could significantly affect public uses of these resources or the long-term public interest. OHMP would submit the combined consistency recommendations for those projects.

11 AAC 112.300. Habitats. (b) (2) *estuaries must be managed to avoid, minimize, or mitigate significant adverse impacts to*
(A) *adequate water flow and natural water circulation patterns; and*
(B) *competing uses such as commercial, recreational, or subsistence fishing, to the extent that those uses are determined to be in competition with the proposed use;*
(3) *wetlands must be managed to avoid, minimize, or mitigate significant adverse impacts to water flow and natural drainage patterns;*
(4) *tideflats must be managed to avoid, minimize, or mitigate significant adverse impacts to*
(A) *water flow and natural drainage patterns; and*
(B) *competing uses such as commercial, recreational, or subsistence uses, to the extent that those uses are determined to be in competition with the proposed use; (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)*

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation: The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) is involved in the permitting of floating facilities through its review of either engineered plans submitted for a small domestic wastewater system (<500 gpd discharge) or an application submitted for authorization under a State wastewater discharge permit for a larger domestic wastewater system (up to 10,000 gpd discharge). The department focuses on sewage and graywater treatment and disposal to ensure that the wastewater discharge will not violate the State's Water Quality Standards. ADEC requires floating facilities to have an installed and properly functioning wastewater treatment and disposal system.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) comments on potential effects on maintenance of fish and wildlife values, subsistence, recreational or commercial uses, etc., and may make recommendations regarding the consistency of projects with the Alaska Coastal Management Program standards. ADFG provides consistency recommendations on activities regulated under Title 16, including those in special areas (or those that would significantly affect a special area), mariculture and aquaculture. OHMP and ADFG would collaborate on projects determined to have a significant net adverse effect on the quality or quantity of fish and wildlife resources, and which could significantly affect public uses of these resources or the long-term public interest. ADFG comments are also provided to state and federal agencies under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act on habitat and human use effects of projects.

U.S. Forest Service: Floating facilities often use adjacent uplands for water supplies, shore ties, and access. The Forest Service, a major upland owner, has developed policies for issuing permits for use of its lands to support floating facilities.

For the use of water lines, shore lines or any other attachments or improvements above mean high tide, a U.S. Forest Service Special Use Permit shall be required, if applicable.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: The Army Corps of Engineers requires permits for floating facilities under the River and Harbors Act. General Permit 89-4N applies to floating houses.

U.S. Coast Guard: A floating facility is not a “vessel” for inspection purposes by the Coast Guard if it is permanently moored and effectively “taken out of navigation.” A floating facility is then “substantially a land structure” and not subject to Coast Guard laws applicable to vessels. It may still be subject to regulations under the Ports and Waterways Safety Act.

City and Borough of Sitka: Section 22.12.050 F – Sitka General Code - Zoning Ordinance states the following:

“All areas within the city and borough limits which are underwater or tidelands and are not shown as included within any district are subject to all regulations of the district immediately adjacent to the tideland or underwater area.”

The above section is taken from state Title 29 enabling authority and is a standard zoning ordinance practice throughout the United States.

5) Adequacy of Existing Floating Facilities Laws

Prioritization of Uses. The statewide coastal development standard directs coastal districts to prioritize uses and activities in the coastal area based on whether the uses are water-dependent, water-related, or neither but without an inland alternative. These terms are broad in scope and an enforceable policy that defines which uses or activities in the district fall into each of the three categories is making the broad standard more specific.

Floating Facilities. Though state and federal agencies require permits prior to approving floating facilities, the laws are broad in scope and general in their application. For example, the laws do not address restrictions based on the location of the facilities. In some cases, there may be a tradition or unwritten policy of denying or conditioning permits adjacent to areas such as wilderness areas or anadromous fish streams, but a tradition or unwritten policy does not carry the force of law. In addition,

there is a COE general permit (89-4N) for floating houses, but the permit conditions are not law and cannot be relied upon to always be there. Consequently, additional specificity in district enforceable policies for floating facilities ensures that local issues are addressed.

6) Floating Facilities Goals, Objectives, and Enforceable Policies

Goal: To retain the public management, use, and values of publicly owned Sitka area tidelands and adjacent uplands.

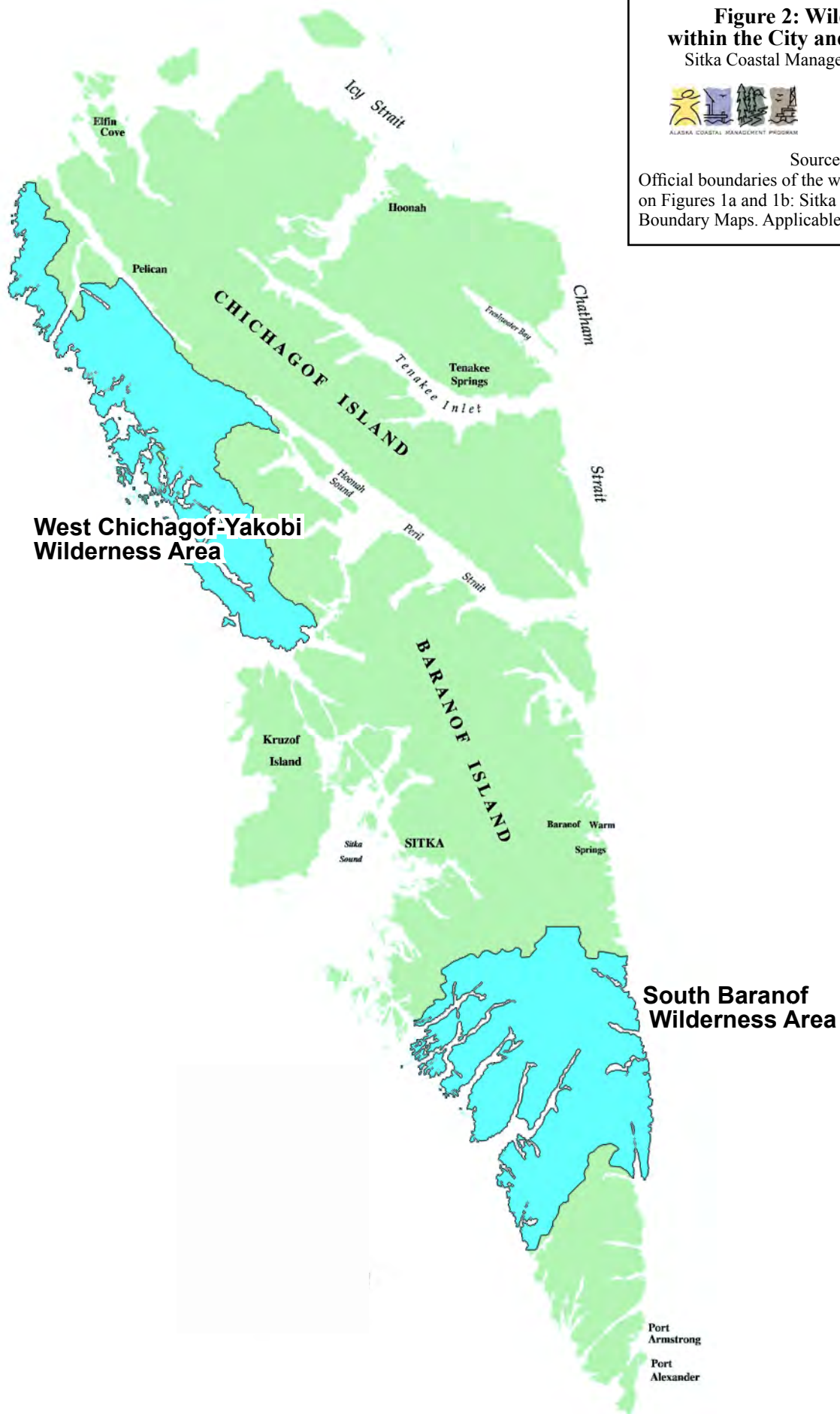
Objective: To regulate the use, location, and management of floating facilities to consider permitting a floating facility only where definite benefits to the public outweigh the loss of the public domain, the use is necessary for a specific water-dependent or water-related activity, and/or the site is specifically identified in the District Plan as acceptable for private use of the public resource.

**Figure 2: Wilderness Areas
within the City and Borough of Sitka**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006



Source: USFS

Official boundaries of the wilderness areas are depicted on Figures 1a and 1b: Sitka Coastal Management Plan Boundary Maps. Applicable enforceable policies: 1.3



Enforceable Policies: The following definitions of potentially unclear words and phrases contained in the enforceable policies of this section are included in the enforceable language to assist in clarifying the intent of said policies, and are not intended to represent the sole meaning of the defined words.

DEFINITION: For purposes of this section, a “floating facility” is defined as a boat, houseboat, barge, or any structure located on a raft that is moored or anchored in one location for a period of 14 days or more, during which time it is not primarily used for transportation. Floating facilities may be powered or not. Floating facilities located in harbors and marinas are excluded from this definition. Floating facilities can generally be separated into the following use categories, including:

- Fishing related - processors, buying scows;
- Mariculture/aquaculture related - operations facilities and bunkhouses, research or educational stations, net pens;
- Transportation and/or Tourism related - seaplane, tour boat or other water-based operations;
- Timber related - floating logging camps, reconnaissance or other short term projects, thinning contract camps;
- Mining related - floating mining camps, dredges, support claim development;
- Wild Resource Use - trapping camps, sport fishing lodges, birdwatching stands, base camps for recreational activities;
- Floathouses - primarily designed, intended, or fitted out as a residence or place of habitation and not an integral component of another use category.

DEFINITION: For purposes of this section, “public benefit” is defined as: The broad-based socioeconomic gains accruing to the public from a use or activity which creates jobs, maintains the Sitka District’s renewable resources, stabilizes or enhances resource development and economic base, or in other ways serves the public good to a greater extent than the use or activity adversely impacts the general public and/or environment.

1.1 Policy: In determining whether to allow or prohibit any floating facility at a specific site, the following priorities shall be considered:

- 1) Highest priority shall be given to those uses and activities that are water-dependent or water-related. Examples of such uses and activities include fish processors, fish buying scows, water-based transportation facilities, aquaculture or mariculture facilities.
- 2) Higher priority consideration shall be given to those uses and activities that are neither water-dependent nor water-related, for which there are no practicable upland alternatives. Examples of such uses and activities include camps supporting logging, thinning contracts, reconnaissance or other short-term projects, mining, or other related activities; research stations; floating log transfer or storage facilities; dredges.
- 3) Lower priority consideration shall be given to those uses and activities that benefit only an individual or limited group, are neither water-dependent nor water-related, and for which there are no upland alternatives. The intent of this policy is to severely restrict placement of those facilities seeking to locate on publicly owned waters that do not generate a public benefit.

Examples of uses and activities under this category include sport-fishing or other floating lodges, trapping camps, base camps for recreational activities.

- 4) Lowest priority consideration shall be given to those uses and activities that benefit only an individual or limited group, are neither water-dependent nor water-related, and for which there are upland alternatives. The intent of this policy is to severely restrict placement of those facilities seeking to locate on publicly owned waters that do not generate a public benefit.

Examples of uses and activities in this category include residential float houses, sport fishing or other floating lodges, trapping camps, or base camps for recreational activities.

1.2 Policy: The following important physical and economic criteria shall be considered in determining whether or not to permit a floating facility at a specific site:

- 1) The size and configuration of the site and surrounding area.
- 2) The public benefits or adverse impacts the facility will have on the area itself, as well as on other users of the area considering the number of persons impacted physically and economically both positively and negatively by the facility (from a few individuals to the entire community) and the degree of those impacts on both upland owners and users.
- 3) The length of time the facility will be in place at the site, with seasonal or short-term uses given higher priority consideration than long-term use.
- 4) The complexity of the facility, with greater scrutiny being directed toward a facility taking up a large area and/or having broader or more impacts than a small facility would generate.
- 5) The appropriateness of the site to accommodate a floating facility in terms of its physical characteristics, including anchorage, hazards to navigation, proximity to other floating facilities or upland users, site specificity (the need for the facility to be located at a specific site)."

1.3 Policy: Floating facilities shall be prohibited in the following areas, unless a significant public benefit results from the proposed use, and there is no practicable upland alternative for the proposed use:

- 1) Designated Recreational Use Areas as shown on map Figures 4- 5 and all Special Management Area Figures in Chapter V.
- 2) State Tidelands adjacent to Wilderness Areas as shown on Figure 2, unless the facility is considered a high-priority use under Policy 1.1, and a public benefit results from the proposed use. Both short-term and long-term benefits will be evaluated.

1.4 Policy: Within the Sitka Sound area, as shown on Figure 3, private floathouses for residential use that are not an integral component of another use category may be permitted on public tidelands only within the following areas:

- 1) Within Jamestown Bay, as shown on Figure 3a, in the area by Guertin and Dove Island currently occupied by floathouses;

- 2) Within Camp Coogan Bay, as shown on Figure 3b, including the immediately adjacent bight currently occupied by floathouses;
- 3) Within the northern bight of Eastern Bay, as shown on Figure 3c;
- 4) Within Picnic Cove, as shown on Figure 3d, so long as boat anchorage use is not obstructed.

1.5 Policy: The following requirements shall apply to all floating facilities permitted within the District:

- 1) **Grounding:** Floating facilities shall be sited to avoid shallow areas where they could settle on or abrade the substrate during low tides. To the extent practicable, floating facilities shall be moored in a minimum of 12 feet of water present during mean lower low water or 0.0 tide stage.
- 2) **Proper Anchoring:** Floating facilities shall use anchoring methods similar to a marine vessel and shall not use shore ties or other means which restrict passage around their location unless specifically approved by the appropriate agency or agencies as meeting regulatory requirements. Anchors shall be of sufficient weight and holding capability to keep the facility in its permitted location without being washed up or damaged on the beach.
- 3) **Removal:** An owner or operator shall be responsible for promptly removing and disposing of floats, docks, rafts, boats, and floathouses or other related materials when the lease or permit fees lapse. Abandonment, casting loose, or disposal on a beach are prohibited as disposal methods.
- 4) **Exception to Above Requirements:** The above requirements apply to floating facilities on publicly-owned tidelands rather than those tied with the permission of the dock owner to a private dock on privately owned tidelands.

c. WATERFRONT AND TIDELANDS DEVELOPMENT

1) Application of Enforceable Policies

Enforceable policies apply to development in or adjacent to coastal waters throughout the entire coastal resource district unless otherwise noted in the policy. Refer to Table 3 for policy applicability.

2) Waterfront and Tidelands Development Issues of Local Concern

The Sitka Comprehensive Plan (City and Borough of Sitka, 1999) includes the following policies for waterfront development:

- 2.4.13. To consider revising the Coastal Zone Management Program and zoning ordinances to restrict development in sheltered waterfront property to water dependent uses only.

- 2.6.1. To facilitate the availability of adequate land zoned for residential, commercial, industrial and waterfront development.

The issues surrounding waterfront or tidelands development adjacent to the Sitka road system are centralized around issues of dredging or filling of coastal areas and/or the placement of piling-supported structures such as docks and wharfs.

3) Waterfront and Tidelands Development Resource Inventory and Analysis

Appendix-6, Sitka Coastal Habitat Evaluation Final Project Summary with Management Recommendations, which reprints the summary of the approved Resource Inventory and Analysis for the Sitka CMP first adopted in 1981 and re-approved in 1989, contains specific information about the relative importance and habitat values of the coastline along the roaded system of the community.

The Sitka Parks and Recreation Plan, 1991 (See Appendix-8) describes the Starrigavan Valley Recreation Area, the Old Sitka State Historic Site, Halibut Point, and the Sitka National Historic Park Fort Site Unit (which contains the Indian River Estuarine Flats) and makes recommendations for the management of these areas. Tidelands adjacent to these designated recreational use areas are generally not suitable for development that involves dredging or filling due to the sensitivity of tidelands and the incompatibility with recreational uses and activities.

Indian River Corridor and Watershed Final Master Plan, City and Borough of Sitka (Appendix-9; Summit Consulting Services, Inc.; Keta Engineering; Aquatic Science, Inc., October 2004) describes property ownership, hydrology and water resources, recreation, wetlands, utilities, solid waste issues, existing permits and planning documents, proposed and potential development, and fish habitat and the river environment of the Indian River watershed. Potential improvement projects are described. Watershed protection best management practices, current management tools, and recommendations for future management guidelines are also provided.

Appendix-6, Appendix-8 and Appendix-9 read in conjunction with the Issues of Local concern articulated in the preceding section “2” comprise the need and justification for enforceable policies 1.6 – 1.7.

4) Current Waterfront and Tidelands Development Regulations

Dredging, filling, and the construction of docks and wharfs are subject to a permit from the U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or under Section 10, Rivers and Harbors Act. In addition, applicants are reminded that any tidelands use involving permanent improvements or where an exclusive use is desired is also subject to the State of Alaska tidelands lease and compliance with all applicable regulations. Use of City and Borough of Sitka tidelands may require a local authorization.

11 AAC 112.200. Coastal development. (c) *The placement of structures and the discharge of dredged or fill material into coastal water must, at a minimum, comply with the standards contained in 33 C.F.R. Parts 320 - 323, revised as of July 1, 2003. (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170)*

Fig. 3: Index to Floathouse Permitted Sites Within Sitka Sound

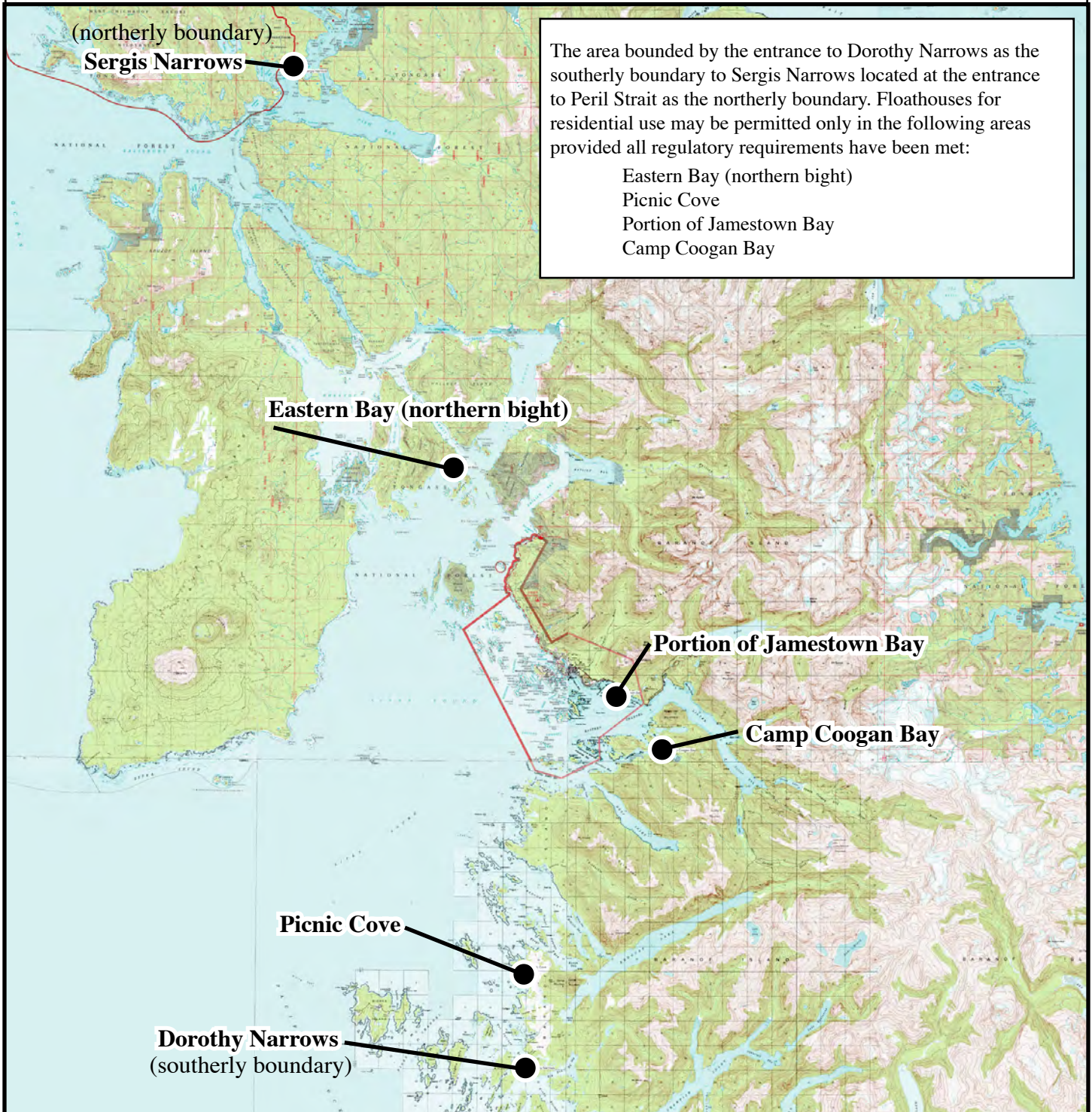


Source: City & Borough of Sitka Planning Department

U.S.G.S. Sitka A4, A5 1:63,360

Federal lands are excluded.

Applicable enforceable policies: 1.3, 1.5, 1.7, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4



**Fig. 3a: Detail of Floathouse Permitted Sites
Jamestown Bay**

Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

— Description —

Portion of Jamestown Bay adjacent to the northwest shore of Guertin Island. Federal lands are excluded. Applicable enforceable policies: 1.3, 1.5, 1.7, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4



Source: USGS 1:25,000 Sitka Quad A4



**Fig. 3b: Detail of Floathouse Permitted Sites
Camp Coogan Bay**

Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

— Description —

Camp Coogan Bay, including immediately adjacent bight. Federal lands are excluded. Applicable enforceable policies: 1.3, 1.5, 1.7, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4



Source: USGS 1:25,000 Sitka Quad A4



Fig. 3c: Detail of Floathouse Permitted Sites Eastern Bay

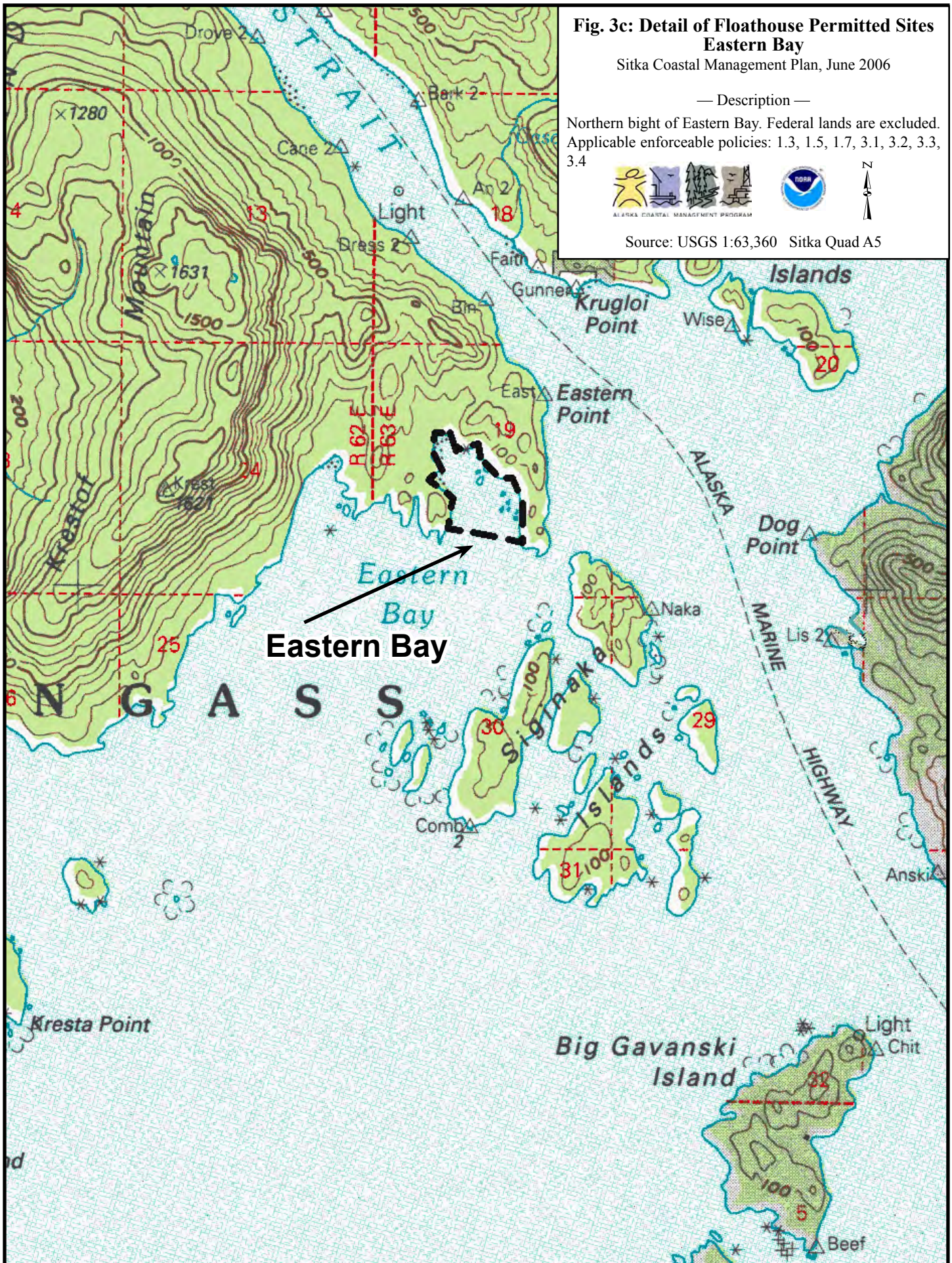
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

— Description —

Northern bight of Eastern Bay. Federal lands are excluded.
Applicable enforceable policies: 1.3, 1.5, 1.7, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4



Source: USGS 1:63,360 Sitka Quad A5



**Fig. 3d: Detail of Floathouse Permitted Sites
Picnic Cove**

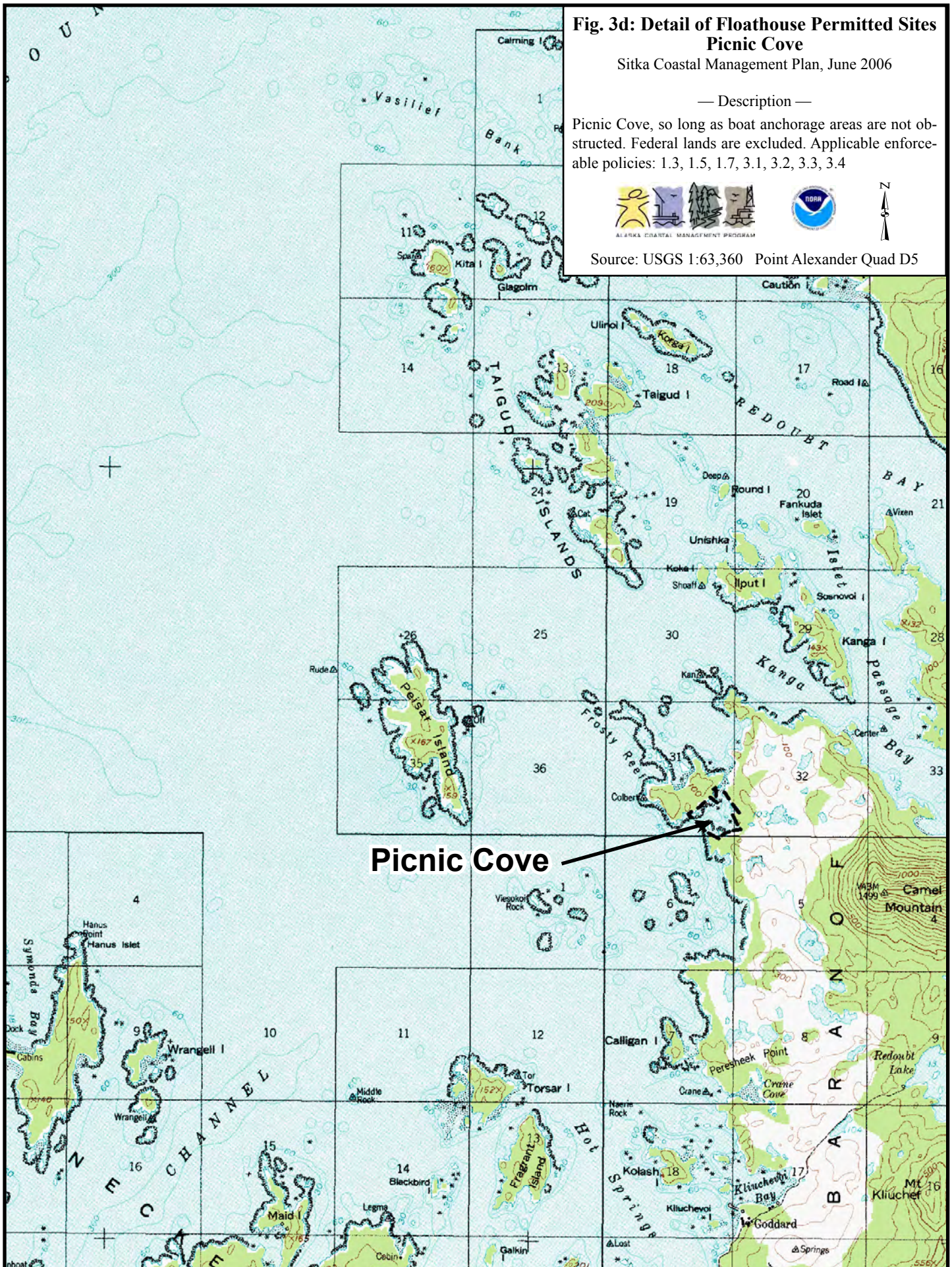
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

— Description —

Picnic Cove, so long as boat anchorage areas are not obstructed. Federal lands are excluded. Applicable enforceable policies: 1.3, 1.5, 1.7, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4



Source: USGS 1:63,360 Point Alexander Quad D5



5) Adequacy of Existing Waterfront and Tidelands Development Laws

Prioritization of Uses. The statewide coastal development standard directs coastal districts to prioritize uses and activities in the coastal area based on whether the uses are water-dependent, water-related, or neither but without an inland alternative. These terms are broad in scope and an enforceable policy that defines which uses or activities in the district fall into each of the three categories is making the broad standard more specific.

Placement of Structures and Discharge of Dredged or Fill Material. The coastal development standard requires compliance “at a minimum” with COE regulations, 33 C.F.R. Parts 320-323. These regulations provide the COE with general permitting authority over the placement of structures and discharge of dredged or fill material into navigable waters; the laws are broad in scope and general in their application. The enforceable policies that relate to this standard provide more specificity to ensure that local issues are addressed.

6) Waterfront and Tidelands Development Goals, Objectives, and Enforceable Policies

Goal: To allow waterfront and tidelands development within the Sitka roaded area while minimizing adverse impact to the coastal zone.

Objective: To cooperate with appropriate permitting agencies, where applicable, to regulate waterfront and tidelands development.

Enforceable Policies

1.6 Policy: Priority for coastal development adjacent to the Sitka road system shall be given in the following order:

- 1) Highest priority is given to water-dependent uses and activities. Examples of water-dependent uses and activities include fish hatcheries, aquaculture or mariculture activities, fish processing plants; boat harbors; freight, fuel, or other docks; seaplane, tour boat staging, or other water-based transportation facilities; marine ways (haul out areas).
- 2) Second-highest priority shall be given to water-related uses and activities. Examples of water-related uses and activities include marine gear stores, waterborne commerce activities, water-based recreational sites.
- 3) A low priority shall be given to non-water-dependent or non-water-related uses and activities for which there are no practicable upland alternatives. These shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to ensure that a future significant potential water-dependent or water-related use for that site is not preempted.
- 4) A lower priority shall be given to non-water-dependent or non-water-related uses and activities for which there are upland alternatives, but which would derive benefit from being on or near the waterfront. Examples of uses and activities under this category include hotels, restaurants, shops and activities for visitors, and residences.

These shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to ensure that a future significant potential water-dependent or water-related use for that site is not preempted. The

evaluation shall consider the suitability of the site for water-dependent or water-related use due to size and depth of water frontage, topography, other physical factors, and feasibility of upland alternatives. Greater weight shall be given to a business that derives a major economic benefit from being on or near the waterfront.

- 5) The lowest priority shall be given to large land uses and activities that are neither water-dependent nor water-related and for which there are practicable upland alternatives. Examples of uses and activities under this category include office buildings, public schools or similar uses.

1.7 Policy: Dredging or filling on tidelands within the designated recreational use areas listed below is allowable only as required for protection of the resource from storm or other damage, or for enhancement of recreational, historic or other cultural values *Note: See Appendix A-6 for information on specific sites, and figures 4 and 5 for locations:*

- 1) Starrigavan Bay, Estuary and Creek;
- 2) “Old Sitka” Historic Site;
- 3) Granite Creek at Halibut Point Recreation Area and Tidelands;
- 4) Indian River Estuarine Flats;
- 5) Lower Indian River Corridor.

d. COASTAL RESIDENTIAL USE

1) Application of Enforceable Policies

Enforceable policies apply to development in or adjacent to coastal waters throughout the entire coastal resource district unless otherwise noted in the policy. Refer to table 3 for policy applicability.

2) Coastal Residential Use Issues of Local Concern

The Sitka Comprehensive Plan (City and Borough of Sitka, 1999) includes the following policy for waterfront residential development:

- 2.5.10. To acknowledge that single-family residential use is acceptable as a waterfront land use, and to assure that single-family residential use along the waterfront will be discouraged only in those zones where prohibited.

Sitka is a narrow, “striplike” community with limited residential opportunities inland, both from a standpoint of a lack of large suitable building areas like other communities, and as a community plagued by steep topography. Additionally, a waterfront home location is considered the most highly desirable homesite by many Sitkans seeking to live “the Southeast Alaska lifestyle.” People enjoy the ocean and often combine shorefront living with private docks or water access. All waterfront properties are not equally suited for actual commercial use due to a lack of deep water frontage/ size, topography, or other such factors examined in determining water dependency or because of local zoning restrictions. For all of the above reasons, the City and Borough of Sitka has long believed that residential development has a viable place along some parts of the Sitka waterfront. The siting of such non-water-dependent or water-related uses will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to ensure that a future significant potential water-dependent or water-related use for that site is not preempted.

3) Coastal Residential Use Resource Inventory and Analysis

There are 3,650 residences in the community, according to the 2005 Community Profile (Sitka Economic Development Association, 2004). Sitka's "striplike" development pattern has resulted from its setting of steep topography adjacent to the shoreline. The community has limited suitable inland residential building areas. Not all waterfront properties are suited for actual commercial use due to a lack of deep water frontage/ size, topography, or other such factors examined in determining water dependency or because of local zoning restrictions.

Appendix-6, Sitka Coastal Habitat Evaluation Final Project Summary with Management Recommendations, which reprints in its entirety the approved Resource Inventory and Analysis for the Sitka CMP first adopted in 1981 and re-approved in 1989, contains specific information about the suitability and sensitivity of certain areas for residential development. In mandating statewide revisions of district coastal plans within one year, OPMP represented to districts that thorough revision of currently approved Resource Inventory and Analysis documents would not be required. Appendix-6 read in conjunction with the Issues of Local concern articulated in the preceding section "2" comprise the need and justification for enforceable policies 1.8.

4) Current Coastal Residential Use Regulations

Residential construction along the Sitka road system, as with any other form of building activity, is subject to issuance of a City and Borough Building Permit and mandatory inspections, and is limited to appropriately zoned lands.

All upland construction seaward of the main Sitka highway system, is subject to the elevation and location requirements of the National Floodplain Insurance Program. All fill or bank stabilization activities may be subject to Municipal or Army Corps of Engineers permits. In addition to obtaining approvals from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Borough, the State must authorize any fill or bank stabilization below the line of mean high water. Because fill and bank stabilization materials become a permanent improvement, the cost to the homeowner can be high.

5) Adequacy of Existing Coastal Residential Use Laws

Prioritization of Uses. The statewide coastal development standard directs coastal districts to prioritize uses and activities in the coastal area based on whether the uses are water-dependent, water-related, or neither but without an inland alternative. These terms are broad in scope and an enforceable policy that defines which uses or activities in the district fall into each of the three categories is making the broad standard more specific.

6) Coastal Residential Use Goals, Objectives, and Enforceable Policies

Goal: To permit private residences on private property along the seaward side of the Sitka road system.

Objective: To provide for residential development along the coastal area where water-dependent/water-related upland uses and activities are not feasible.

Enforceable Policies

1.8 Policy: Waterfront residential uses have the lowest priority and are allowable adjacent to coastal waters where water-dependent or water-related activities are not suitable.

2. NATURAL HAZARD AREAS

1) Application of Enforceable Policies

Enforceable policies would apply to natural hazard areas designated by the district under 11 AAC 114.250(b) or by a state agency under 11 AAC 112.210(b). Because the district is not proposing enforceable policies or designating natural hazard areas at this time, the application of enforceable policies is not addressed.

2) Natural Hazard Areas Issues of Local Concern

The Sitka Comprehensive Plan (City and Borough of Sitka, 1999) has as one of its general goals and policies:

2.1.19. Safety from fire, flood, and other disasters...

Located in a tectonically active area along the margin of the Pacific Ocean, Sitka is subject to hazards from earthquakes and related effects. The nearby volcanoes on Kruzof Island pose some threat to Sitka, and the ash from previous eruptions has created soils with problems for construction. Landslides and snow avalanches are common in steeper sections of the City and Borough. The potential for earthquakes and related hazards in the Sitka area is very high. A number of other natural hazards exist, some of which can be lessened by employing sound engineering design and construction practices.

a) **Soils** - Reworked soils may be unsuitable for construction purposes because they may contain ash. Muskeg bogs are generally unsuitable for road or building construction unless they are shallow enough to be excavated.

b) **Earthquakes** - The effects of a nearby major earthquake on Sitka could be extremely serious. Surface rupture is uncommon in Southeast Alaska because most fault movements occur at considerable depth. Ground shaking causes most of the damage sustained in large earthquakes. Firm, thin surficial deposits are far less prone to the effects of shaking than loose/ thick deposits. In Sitka, the strongest shaking will occur in muskeg, man-made fills, modern alluvial and delta deposits, and volcanic ash deposits. Less shaking is expected in beach deposits, glacial drift and bedrock.

Ground shaking can cause liquefaction of thixotropic materials. In the Sitka area, saturated muskeg and reworked volcanic ash would be most subject to possible liquefaction during severe earthquake-caused ground shaking, and are thus unreliable as stable foundation materials.

c) **Destructive Waves** - Tsunami waves originating anywhere in the Pacific Ocean are potentially hazardous to Sitka. The maximum recorded tsunami runoff at Sitka was 7.8 feet, generated by the 1964 Prince William Sound earthquake, (where maximum wave height was 14.3 feet). Dames and Moore (1971) predicted a 65 percent chance of a maximum wave height of at least 32 feet each 100 years at the Sitka airport. The probable damage from a wave of this size is dependent upon the tide level at the time of impact. At low tide, little damage is likely, whereas at high tide, the shore area will be inundated, causing

substantial damage to boats, mobile homes, and other structures along the shoreline. Many Pacific Ocean tsunamis have been recorded as being 40 feet high.

The probability of large local waves generated by landslides inundating the roaded area of Sitka is low, as landslide-prone slopes do not reach the water. The potential for a landslide-generated wave is greater along Katlian Bay, Silver Bay and Blue Lake where steep slopes extend to the water.

d) **Volcanoes** - The volcanoes are now considered dormant, as opposed to extinct. A reawakening could be very hazardous to Sitka, with widespread ash fall accompanied by gas and/or tsunami generated by earthquake or by volcanic materials entering the ocean being the most likely consequences of an eruption.

e) **Slope Instability** - Road construction that oversteepened adjacent slopes was responsible for a sizeable landslide just west of the former pulp mill site. In the roaded area of Sitka, slopes are not overly steep but development at the base of and on hillsides could be hazardous.

Conceivably a snow avalanche could reach the road to the Sawmill Cove Industrial Park using the previously-mentioned landslide area as a continuation of tracks higher up the mountainside. Both snowslides and landslides could be triggered by ground shaking during an earthquake.

f) **Flooding** - Storm-related flooding has been reported in Cascade Creek and Indian River.

3) Natural Hazard Areas Resource Inventory and Analysis

Located in a tectonically active area along the margin of the Pacific Ocean, Sitka is subject to hazards from earthquakes and related effects. The nearby volcanoes on Kruzof Island pose some threat to Sitka, and the ash from previous eruptions has created soils with problems for construction. Landslides and snow avalanches are common in steeper sections of the City and Borough. The potential for earthquakes and related hazards in the Sitka area is very high. A number of other geophysical hazards exist, some of which can be lessened by employing sound engineering design and construction practices.

a) **Soils** - The soils of the Sitka area differ from those of the remainder of Southeast Alaska in that they contain considerable volcanic ash from an eruption of the Kruzof Island volcanoes about 10,000 years ago. The ash soils are highly thixotropic (stable when undisturbed, but changing to a fluid or jelly when shaken or agitated).

Alluvium is present in the stream valleys where the ash has been washed away. Although subject to flooding, these soils are well drained and suitable for road fill. Low, wet muskeg areas occur in parts of the Sitka area. These muskeg bogs are generally unsuitable for road or building construction unless they are shallow enough to be excavated.

b) **Earthquakes** - A large fault zone, the Fairweather fault, trends through the continental shelf/slope area just west of Sitka. This extensive fault zone extends from south of the Queen Charlotte Islands to the vicinity of Cordova. Movement on the fault is right-lateral, on the order of 2.25 inches per year, which is similar to displacement along the San Andreas fault in California. Both faults are believed to have the same cause; namely, movement of the Pacific Plate northward with respect to the North American Plate. Earthquakes occurred along the Fairweather fault in 1927, 1949, and 1958; and a major quake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale was recorded less than 30 miles southwest of Sitka along the fault in 1972. A U.S. Geological Survey Study, (Reconnaissance Engineering Geology of Sitka and Vicinity, Alaska with Emphasis on Earthquake and other Geologic Hazards, Yehle, 1974) predicts that a Richter magnitude 8 or

greater earthquake will occur in the vicinity of Sitka in the future. Numerous other faults in the Sitka area parallel the Fairweather fault and may be potentially activated by displacements along the major fault.

Ground shaking can cause liquefaction of thixotropic materials. In the Sitka area, saturated muskeg and reworked volcanic ash would be most subject to possible liquefaction during severe earthquake-caused ground shaking, and are thus unreliable as stable foundation materials.

c) **Destructive Waves** - The coast of Alaska has a history of inundation by large waves. In Southeast Alaska, these waves include tsunamis and local waves caused by subaerial or subaqueous landslides resulting from earthquakes and/or volcanoes. The maximum recorded tsunami runup at Sitka was 7.8 feet, generated by the 1964 Prince William Sound earthquake, (where maximum wave height was 14.3 feet). Many Pacific Ocean tsunamis have been recorded as being 40 feet high.

d) **Volcanoes** - The ash which forms the bulk of the Sitka soils was erupted from the Kruzof Island volcanoes about 10,000 years ago. There is also some evidence of a small ash eruption about 3,000 years ago. Indian legends of the area imply eruptions during historic time. The volcanoes are now considered dormant, as opposed to extinct.

e) **Slope Instability** - Numerous landslides have occurred in the Sitka area. The volcanic ash covering much of the area is prone to sliding and flowing, both naturally and when artificially disturbed. Landslides do not currently affect developed areas. Many snow avalanches occur within the Borough area, but as with landslides, they do not impact presently inhabited areas.

f) **Flooding** - Future stream-flooding hazard can be reduced by floodplain management practices. There is some potential for damage by local flooding, should an earthquake dislodge a snow or landslide that could dam a creek and later give way, sending a wall of water downstream.

The Sitka Flood Insurance Study, Flood Insurance Rate Maps and the Indian River Floodway Map (1982) provide specific mapped and delineated flood hazard areas that are currently regulated by the City and Borough of Sitka. Indian River Floodway prohibits all development unless an engineer demonstrates no encroachment (zero rise in water surface elevation). The flood elevations for coastal flooding (flood having 1% chance of occurrence in any given year or “100-year-flood” in Sitka Sound in feet) are as follows:

At Dove Island	14.8 ft
At Marina	14.8 ft
At Sitka Harbor	17.0 ft
At Harbor Point	14.8 ft
At Alice & Charcoal Islands	15.7 ft
At Galankin Island	14.8 ft

4) Current Natural Hazard Areas Regulations

The City and Borough of Sitka is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program and, as such, completed a Flood Hazard Study in 1982 that defines specific areas and heights of the “100-year flood.” The City and Borough of Sitka is responsible for administering this program and will review all developments within the boundaries of the published Flood Hazard Study for compliance.

Under the Alaska Coastal Management Program areas likely to be affected by the occurrence of a natural

hazard may be designated as natural hazard areas by a state agency during a consistency review or by the City and Borough of Sitka within this coastal management plan. Without specific designation and mapping by the City and Borough of Sitka, the State Standard will be applied by the state agencies on a case-by-case basis.

11 AAC 112.210. Natural hazard areas. (c) *Development in a natural hazard area may not be found consistent unless the applicant has taken appropriate measures in the siting, design, construction, and operation of the proposed activity to protect public safety, services, and the environment from potential damage caused by known natural hazards.*

(d) *For purposes of (c) of this section, “appropriate measures in the siting, design, construction, and operation of the proposed activity” means those measures that, in the judgment of the coordinating agency, in consultation with the department’s division of geological and geophysical surveys, the Department of Community and Economic Development as state coordinating agency for the National Flood Insurance Program under 44 C.F.R. 60.25, and other local and state agencies with expertise,*

(1) satisfy relevant codes and safety standards; or

(2) in the absence of such codes and standards;

(A) the project plans are approved by an engineer who is registered in the state and has engineering experience concerning the specific natural hazard; or

(B) the level of risk presented by the design of the project is low and appropriately addressed by the project plans. (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170)

5) Adequacy of Existing Natural Hazard Areas Laws

Because the district is not proposing enforceable policies under the Natural Hazard Areas standard at this time, the adequacy of existing laws is not addressed.

6) Natural Hazard Areas Goals, Objectives, and Enforceable Policies

Goal: To protect the lives and property of the people of the City and Borough of Sitka from natural hazards.

Objective: To monitor construction of buildings or other facilities to ensure that the construction will acceptably deal with the hazards of plastic or liquid soils, seismic activity, high water tables, stump fills, steep slopes, and other developmental hazards within the Sitka area.

Enforceable Policies: No enforceable policies at this time. Goals and objectives will be implemented through the statewide standard, guidance policies and other means of local implementation.

3. RECREATION AND COASTAL ACCESS

1) Application of Enforceable Policies

Enforceable policies apply to areas of recreational use designated by the district under 11 AAC 114.250(c). These include non-federal lands, state waters and state tidelands (to OHW or MHW) associated with the following parks: Indian River Estuarine Flats within the Sitka National Historical Park (Fig. 5); Lower Indian River Corridor (Fig. 5); Pioneer Park (App. 8); Moller Park (App. 8); Crescent Park (App. 8); Totem Square (App. 8); Granite Creek at Halibut Point Recreation Area and Tidelands (App. 8); Sandy Beach (App. 8 addendum); Starrigavan Bay, Estuary and Creek (App. 8 addendum); “Old Sitka” Historic Site (App. 8); Swan Lake AMSA (Fig. 7); John Brown’s Beach (App. 8 addendum); Whale Park (App. 8 addendum); Goddard Hot Springs (Ch.5, Map SB-2); White Sulphur Springs (Ch.5, Map WC-9); Baranof Warm Springs (Ch.5, Map NB-2); Mt. Edgecumbe Beach (Ch.5, Map K-2); and Mahknati Island Causeway (App. 8 addendum) and the Special Management Areas in Chapters IV and V. Refer to table 3 for policy applicability.

Note: Designated areas along the Sitka road system are generally shown on Figures 4. Detailed depiction and descriptions of the designated areas are shown on Figures 5, 7, all Figures in Chapter V and Appendix 8.

Various designated recreational use areas carry different levels of protection as indicated in the enforceable policies in this section. See also the special management areas in Chapter V for additional designations and enforceable policies for areas of the Borough not accessible by the road system.

Policies relating to coastal access apply to, from and along coastal waters throughout the entire coastal district unless otherwise noted in the policy. Refer to table 3 for policy applicability.

2) Recreation and Coastal Access Issues of Local Concern

The Sitka Comprehensive Plan (City and Borough of Sitka, 1999) includes the following general goals and policies relevant to recreation and coastal access:

- 2.1.5. Close and easy access to wildlands and wilderness;
- 2.4.10. To protect crucial subsistence resources from loss and damage, to minimize loss and damage to all subsistence resources, and to carry out the following policies and objectives:...B. Recreation and subsistence use of public land shall be taken into account in all land use decisions.
- 2.4.12. To maintain public access to the waterfront wherever feasible in all zones.
- 2.4.14. To protect and facilitate outdoor recreation for residents and visitors through protection and enhancement of suitable areas ranging from neighborhood parks to National Wilderness through appropriate zoning...
- 2.6.2. To encourage commercial and industrial developments of a quality that does not adversely impact any adjacent recreational and residential areas, and to...
 - K. Encourage the development of facilities to accommodate visitors.
- 2.8.1. To maintain the superlative visual character of Sitka Sound and the City and Borough of Sitka as an overriding goal, including:
 - A. Encouragement of sightseeing and non-consumptive tourism.
- 2.13.40. To enhance the visitor experience in Sitka by providing conveniences and information and by improving the scenic qualities of the townscape.

- 2.13.42. To implement the specific recommendations made in the Sitka Parks and Recreation Plan wherever possible. These recreation sites include:
Castle Hill State Historic Park, Fort Ray Site Unit, Goddard Hot Springs, Halibut Point Recreation Area, Hames P.E. Complex (Sheldon Jackson College), Harbor Mountain Recreation Area, Japonski Island Ballfield, Landfill Ballfields, Moller Park, Old Sitka State Historic Site, Pioneer Park State Recreation Area, Russian Bishop's House Unit, Sandy Beach, Sawmill Creek Recreation Area, Sitka National Historical Park, Spruce Park, Starrigavan Campground, Swan Lake Park, Thimbleberry Lake Recreation Area, Totem Square, Turnaround Site.

The Sitka Parks and Recreation Plan and the Sitka Public Use Management Plan recognize that the majority of outdoor recreational opportunities in the 4,710 square mile municipality are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service and come under the guidelines of the Tongass Land Management Plan. Both plans encourage and rely on cooperation among governmental agencies to protect areas for dispersed and wilderness recreation, and to develop facilities such as cabins, mooring buoys and marine parks.

With the continuing increase in population and tourism in the Sitka roaded area, it will be particularly important to maintain adequate public access to beach and water areas, and to satisfy the need for additional boat harbor facilities.

At the request of the City and Borough of Sitka, the Division of Land and Water Management, Alaska Department of Natural Resources designated a number of islands in Sitka Sound as Public Recreation Lands. These islands therefore remain in public ownership and will constitute a recreational resource that will continue to be available to the people of Sitka.

A study by R.J. Motyka and M.A. Moorman in 1987 entitled Geothermal Resources of Southeastern Alaska, Professional Report 93, provided information on thermal-spring areas within the District (see Energy Facilities section). The report commented most thermal-spring sites in Southeastern Alaska have had little or no development because of their remoteness from major population centers, but several hot-spring areas within the District have been used as recreational sites. The U.S. Forest Service maintains public cabins near White Sulphur Springs, and the Sitka City and Borough constructed bathhouses and walkways at historic Goddard Hot Springs. During the early part of this century, a hotel and 40-room sanitarium were heated by Goddard thermal-spring waters. Several of the Baranof Hot Springs supply hot water for a public-use bathhouse and several local cabins. Signs of earlier development at Fish Bay hot springs have nearly vanished. There is potential for future recreational development of all thermal-spring areas in the District, but those in the more remote locations, such as Fish Bay, North Peril Strait, and Nylen, are likely to remain in a natural state.

3) Recreation and Coastal Access Resource Inventory and Analysis

Recreation

There are few indoor recreational opportunities available to Sitkans. Therefore, outdoor recreation plays an extremely important role in the lives of the people of the City and Borough of Sitka. Sitka's location on the outside of Baranof Island, adjacent to a high, generally inaccessible mountain range, isolates it from the Inside Passage and from other communities and provides limited recreational opportunities within the Sitka road system. A vast majority of citizens participate in some form of outdoor recreation within the coastal area in the many sheltered bays, inlets, and other areas. Many Sitkans participate in

activities such as fishing, abalone and crab gathering, clam digging, and deer hunting which are both recreational and subsistence (or food gathering for personal consumption) in nature.

In the surveys conducted during Phase I of the Sitka Coastal Management Program development, beach and water oriented recreational activities (fishing, beachcombing, picnicking, hunting, camping, etc.) proved to be extremely popular pursuits. Proximity to scenic and pristine areas where these forms of recreation can be enjoyed was reported as one of the principal assets of living in Sitka, and 90 percent of respondents stated that they use the coastal area between Katlian Bay to the north and Goddard to the south, as well as the entire Sitka Sound area, for recreational purposes.

The Sitka Parks and Recreation Committee, with assistance from the U.S. Forest Service, Community Schools, Conservation Society, Chamber of Commerce and Historical Society, completed a Parks and Recreation Plan that was approved by the City and Borough Assembly in March, 1981 (Resolution 81-170). The plan discusses “local” (i.e., adjacent to the road system) recreational sites in detail, listing them and describing their capabilities and limitations. The plan makes recommendations for future development and management of these sites. The plan further discusses existing recreational opportunities both on and off the road system, discusses critical issues for plan implementation, and offers recommendations for the management of tourism. This plan was updated most recently in 1991.

For areas away from the Sitka road system, the City and Borough worked with partners to develop a Public Use Management Plan. The plan was approved as a significant amendment to the Sitka Coastal Management Program in 1993 and printed as a separate document. It was most recently amended in 1997 but was not reprinted at that time. The PUMP describes public recreational use areas in the unroaded portion of the City and Borough of Sitka, provides enforceable policies for their management, and discusses how the plan will be implemented. The special management areas in the PUMP have now been incorporated into Chapter V of the Sitka Coastal Management Plan. Area boundary descriptions and maps are at a level sufficient for plan implementation.

Use of local trails is a recreational activity enjoyed by Sitka residents and tourists alike. The Sitka Trail Plan 2003 (Sitka Trail Works, Inc., in association with the City and Borough of Sitka, the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, and state and federal agencies) sets out a direction for managing, maintaining and promoting Sitka trails. Partners to the plan intend to combine resources to establish a cost-effective and diversified trail system. The plan describes area trails, discusses challenges to plan implementation, presents goals and action strategies, and proposes trail construction and reconstruction projects. The plan is implemented through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by trail planning partners.

Tourism

According to recent data, regional cruise growth continues, but the Sitka cruise market in 2004 was down 9 percent as compared to 2003. However, the market for independent visitors is healthy and repeat visits are increasing. (McDowell, 2004)

Indian River Corridor and Estuary

The lower Indian River Corridor is being designated as a recreational use area as shown on Figure 5. The Indian River Corridor and Watershed Master Plan (Appendix-8) is discussed here to provide documentation for the recreational use designation.

The Indian River Watershed in Sitka is currently used as a scenic, educational, historical, cultural, recreational, industrial, water supply and bird and fish habitat resource. Existing development includes Sheldon Jackson College, the Alaska Raptor Center, the Public Safety Academy, residential subdivisions, a rock quarry, a backup municipal water supply, the Sitka National Historical Park, recreational hiking trails, cemeteries and other facilities.

Sitka is a growing community, and the City and Borough of Sitka recognized the potential for additional development within the watershed, and also acknowledged the need to conserve and protect the existing resources that help define the community. The Indian River Corridor and Watershed Master Plan project grew out of the awareness that a proactive role was needed to ensure that future development in the watershed was consistent with the Sitka community's needs and interests.

The mission of the Indian River Corridor and Watershed Master Plan (Summit Consulting Services, Inc. and partners, October 2004) "is to inventory the resources, existing conditions and potential development within the Primary Study Area of the Indian River Watershed and to develop a plan that protects the watershed resources while encouraging responsible residential, commercial, industrial, cultural and recreational development that is consistent with community needs and governmental regulations. The Master Plan is intended to promote community understanding of the assets and issues in the watershed and will be used as a guideline for future conservation, recreation and municipal development." The plan describes property ownership, hydrology and water resources, recreation, wetlands, utilities, solid waste issues, existing permits and planning documents, proposed and potential development, and fish habitat and the river environment. Potential improvement projects are described. Watershed protection best management practices, current management tools, and recommendations for future management guidelines are also provided. Maps in this plan show riparian areas at a scale sufficient for implementation of Policy 3.5. This plan is available for review as noted in Appendix-3 References.

The Master Plan accurately describes current conditions in the watershed, identifies critical and valuable community assets, and provides alternatives to development that protect and enhance the resources of the Indian River Watershed. Master plans are guidelines for development of a resource that is valued by the community. The Master Plan will be used to guide future development of the Indian River Watershed in accordance with needs and desires of the local community and within the limitations imposed by available funding, local, state and federal government regulations and development requirements. There are diverse needs, values and viewpoints within the Sitka community; a good master plan takes all these considerations into account when planning resource development. Sitka residents value the scenic, cultural and recreational aspects of the Indian River, yet also recognize that it is vital to the economic health of the area to permit and encourage the responsible development of the land and resources. The Indian River Corridor and Watershed Master Plan will be a key tool in ensuring that necessary development is accomplished in an environmentally and culturally sensitive and acceptable manner.

In the Master Plan, the watershed was divided into two sections; the Primary Study Area, from Sawmill Creek Road north to the northern edge of Sheldon Jackson College property, and the Secondary Study Area, south of Sawmill Creek Road to the mouth of the river, including the Sheldon Jackson College campus and the Sitka National Historical park, and north of the SJC property line into the Tongass National Forest. The majority of the inventory and planning effort is focused on the Primary Study Area. The Secondary Study Area is included in general discussions of the watershed to the extent that they impact the watershed with development plans.

4) Current Recreation and Coastal Access Regulations

There is no statewide standard for recreation. However, the District Coastal Management Plan requirements provide the opportunity to designate areas for recreation and then develop policies that may be applied within these designated areas. If for example, an area is designated as a recreation area due to the presence of biological features, then a recreation policy could be written that addresses those features provided there are no competing regulatory or statutory conflicts (i.e. hunting limits). However, the biological attributes need to be identified in the Resource Inventory and Analysis.

11 AAC 114.250. Subject uses, activities, and designations. (c) A district shall consider and may designate areas of recreational use. Criteria for designation of areas of recreational use are (1) the area receives significant use by persons engaging in recreational pursuits; or (2) the area has potential for recreational use because of physical, biological, or cultural features. (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)

In addition, the statewide standards address coastal access, specifically access to, from and along marine coastal waters. Because many of the recreational areas in Sitka are adjacent to coastal waters, it is included here as a relevant regulation and authority upon which enforceable policies may rely.

11 AAC 112.220. Coastal access. Districts and state agencies shall ensure that projects maintain and, where appropriate, increase public access to, from, and along coastal water. (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170)

5) Adequacy of Existing Recreation and Coastal Access Laws

Recreation. To have enforceable policies related to recreation, a district must designate an area for that use. For a designated recreational use area, the “matter of local concern” test does not apply unless a proposed enforceable policy addresses a matter regulated or authorized by some other state or federal law not enumerated in the statewide standards. State and federal laws that deal with recreation are broad in scope and general in application; or are specific to land ownership. No state or federal law provides management measures that address Sitka’s issues, regardless of the underlying land ownership and/or management authority. District enforceable policies enacted for a designated area provide specific management measures for addressing uses or activities within the area.

Coastal Access. The statewide coastal access standard is a very broad standard. The enforceable policies related to this standard provide more specific direction for providing appropriate public access to, from, and along coastal water. Except for State-owned tidelands, no state or federal laws deal specifically with providing coastal public access. On State-owned tidelands, the following laws apply:

Access To and Along Public Water (AS 38.05.127, 11 AAC 51.035, 11 AAC 51.045): For the purposes of reserving access easements under 11 AAC 51.045, Easements To and Along Navigable and Public Water, a continuous easement extending at least 50 feet upland from the ordinary high water mark will be reserved along water bodies determined to be navigable and/or public. An alternate upland access route may be reserved if topography or obstructions prevents or makes a continuous easement difficult.

6) Recreation and Coastal Access Goals, Objectives, and Enforceable Policies

Goal: To permit present and future generations of citizens to have access to a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities in varied coastal areas throughout the City and Borough of Sitka.

Objective: To protect and maintain existing outdoor recreational opportunities within the City and Borough of Sitka, and, where appropriate, to enhance and increase recreational opportunities which benefit the public through orderly development of recreational sites.

Enforceable Policies

3.1 Policy: A project within designated recreational use areas as shown on Figures 4-5 and 7 and the Special Management Area Figures in Chapter V must avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts to the physical features upon which the recreation depends. Physical features include ocean view, water access, bird foraging, forested uplands, trees and vegetation, and fish and shellfish.

3.2 Policy: Within designated recreational use areas as shown on Figures 4-5 and 7 and the Special Management Area Figures in Chapter V, water access to, from and along lakeshores, streams, shorelines, tidelands, estuaries and saltwater wetlands for recreational use shall be enforced to the maximum extent practicable, through easements, dedications, or other means, except where human health or safety would be at risk.

3.3 Policy: Recreation shall be considered the primary use of the following designated recreational use areas as shown on Figures 4- 5. These areas shall be protected and developed for the enhancement of recreational uses (such as picnicking, family play, recreational sports, swimming, walking, hiking, clam digging, beachcombing, photography, and observations of animals and birds in the natural world). For specific recreational uses for each designated area, see the 1991 Sitka Parks and Recreation Plan in Appendix-8.

- 1) Indian River Estuarine Flats adjacent to the Sitka National Historical Park (State);
- 2) Pioneer Park (Municipal);
- 3) Moller Park (Municipal);
- 4) Crescent Park (Municipal);
- 5) Totem Square (State);
- 6) Halibut Point Recreation Area and Tidelands (State);
- 7) Sandy Beach Tidelands (State);
- 8) Starrigavan Bay, Estuary and Creek (State);
- 9) "Old Sitka" Historic Site (State);
- 10) Swan Lake AMSA (Municipal);
- 11) John Brown's Beach (State); and
- 12) Whale Park (Municipal).

3.4 Policy: Recreation shall be a high priority use of the following designated recreational use areas as shown on Figures 4, 5 and the Special Management Area Figures in Chapter V. To the extent practicable, these areas shall be protected and maintained for recreational uses. For specific recreational uses for each designated area, see Chapter V and the 1991 Sitka Parks and Recreation Plan in Appendix-8.

- 1) Goddard Hot Springs (Municipal)
- 2) Non-federal publicly-owned portion of Baranof Warm Springs north of the river

- (State)
- 3) Lower Indian River Corridor (State/Municipal/private); and
- 4) Mahknati Island (Japonski) Causeway (State).

3.5 Policy: Within Indian River Corridor Designated Recreational Use Area, new construction, alteration of natural vegetation, excavation, placement of fill, or land clearing are not allowed within 25 feet along either side of the 100-year floodplain. Uses and activities necessary for the maintenance and enhancement of recreation are allowed.

Note: For dredging and filling in designated recreational use areas, see also policy 1.7. Additional recreational use designations and enforceable policies applicable to those designations are found in Chapter IV: Swan Lake AMSA and Chapter V: Special Management Areas.

Fig. 4 Index to Designated Recreational Use Areas along the Sitka Road System

Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

1. Starrigavan Bay, Creek, Estuary, & Trail System
2. Old Sitka Historic Site
3. Halibut Point Recreation Area
4. Sandy Beach
5. Pioneer Park
6. Moller Park
7. John Brown's Beach
8. Swan Lake AMSA
9. Makhnati Island Causeway
10. Totem Square
11. Crescent Park
12. Indian River Corridor
13. Indian River Estuarine Flats
14. Whale Park



Source: City & Borough of Sitka Planning Department
U.S.G.S. Sitka A4, A5 1:63,360 1 inch=1 Mile
Description is official boundary.

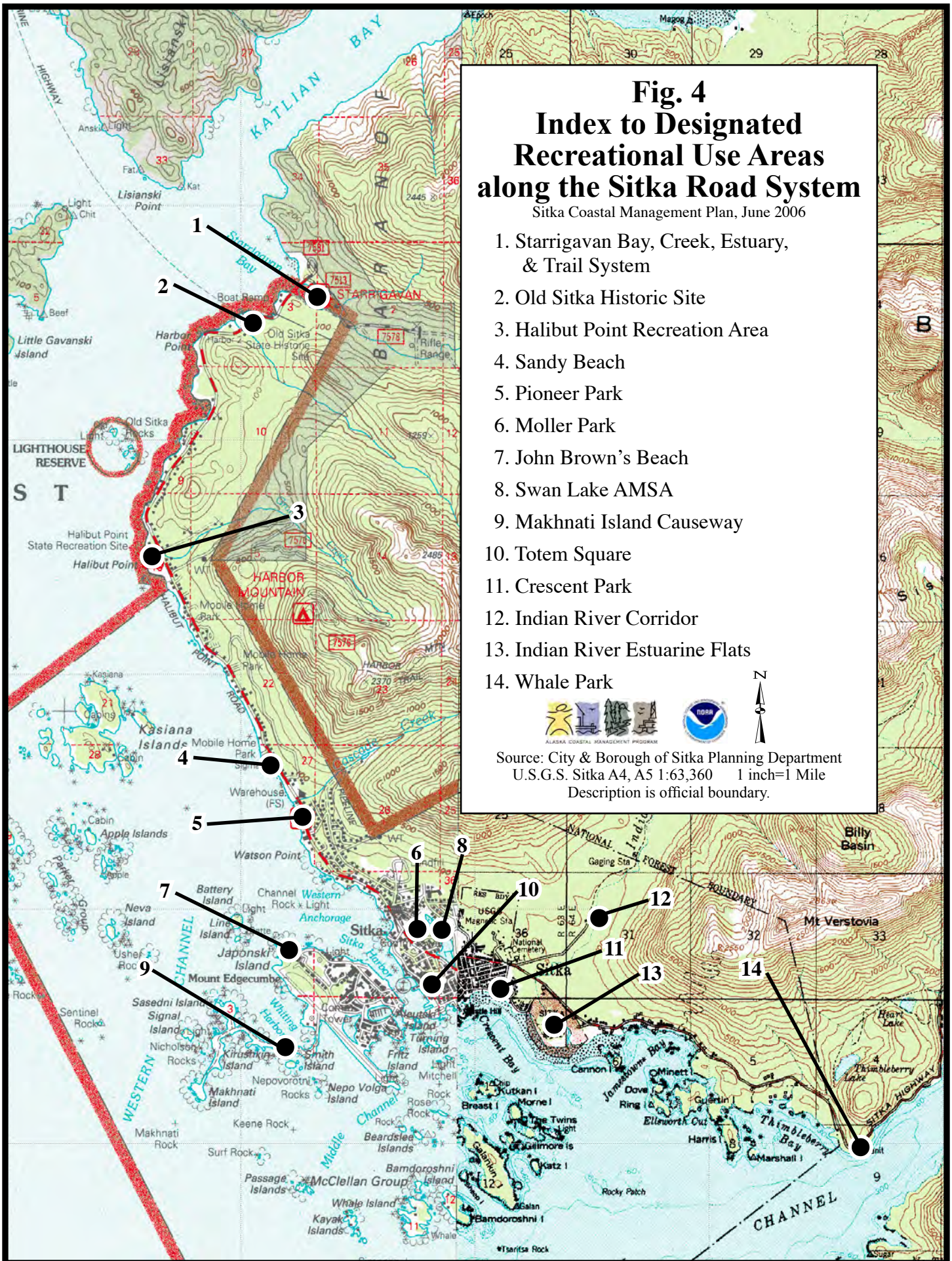
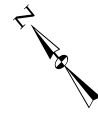


Fig. 4a: Designated Recreational Use Areas along the Sitka Road System, North

Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006



Source: City & Borough of Sitka Planning Department 1 inch=2,500 feet
Applicable enforceable policies: 1.3, 1.5, 1.7, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4

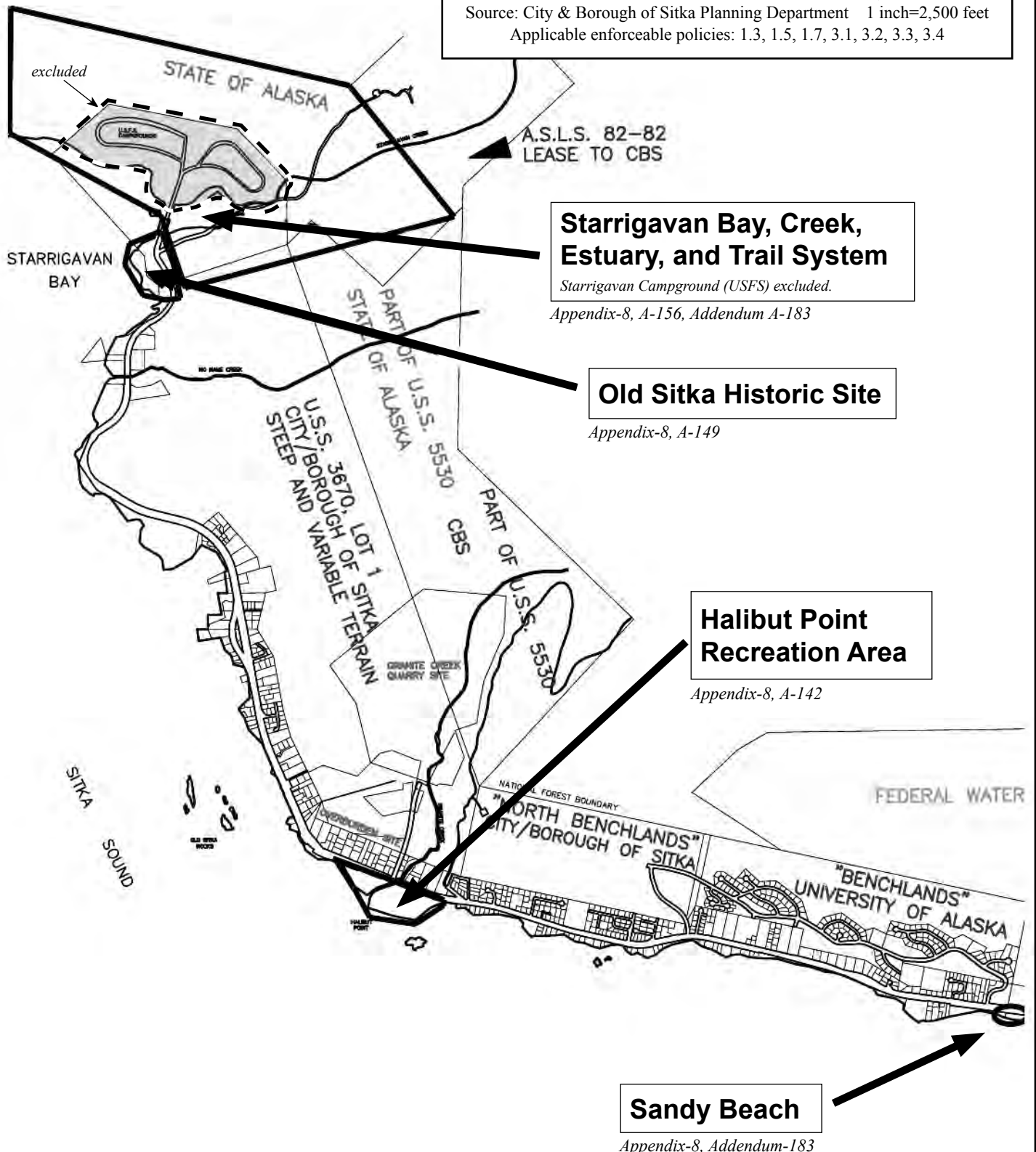


Fig. 4b: Designated Recreational Use Areas along the Sitka Road System, Center

Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006



Source: City & Borough of Sitka Planning Department 1 inch=2,500 feet
Applicable enforceable policies: 1.3, 1.5, 1.7, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4

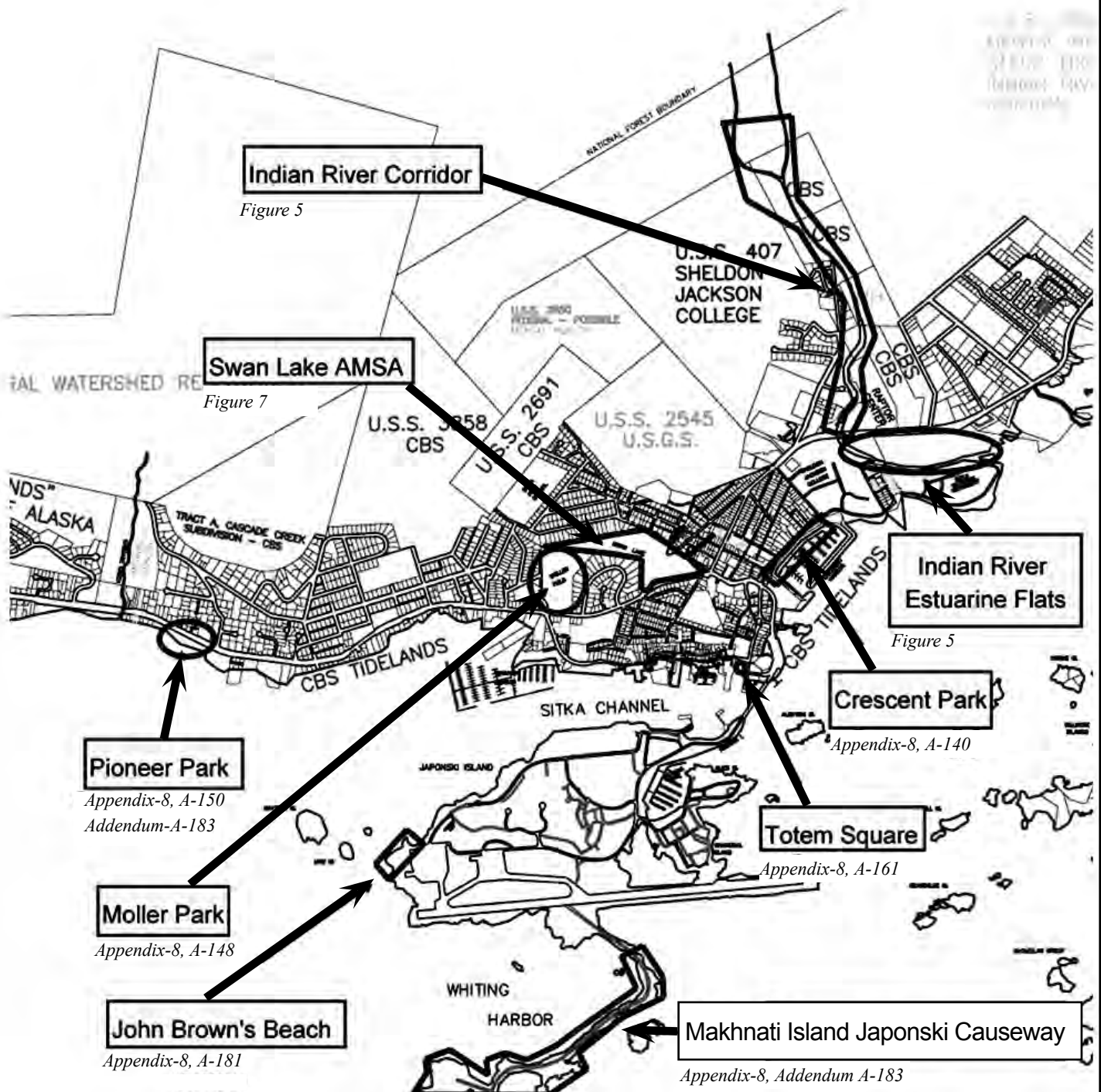
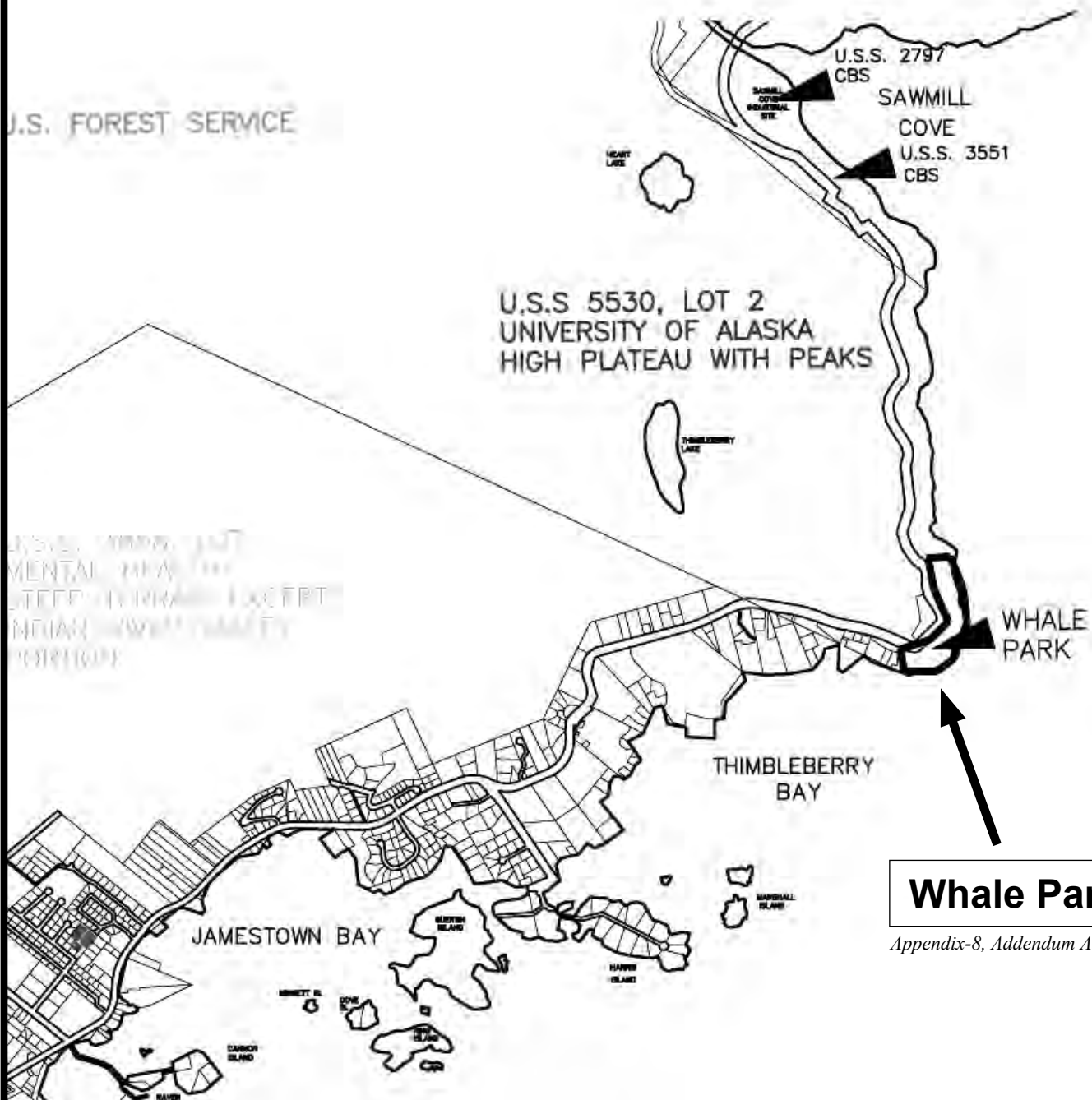


Fig. 4c:
Designated Recreational Use Areas
along the Sitka Road System, South
 Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006



Source: City & Borough of Sitka Planning Department 1 inch=1,800 feet
 Applicable enforceable policies: 1.3, 1.5, 1.7, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4



Whale Park

Appendix-8, Addendum A-180

**Fig. 5: Indian River
Designated Recreational Use Areas**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

Descriptions:

Lower Indian River Corridor Recreation Use Area:
natural vegetation zone within 25 feet along either
side of the 100-year floodplain.

Indian River Estuarine Flats Recreation Use Area:
State waters and Estuarine Flats to Ordinary High
Water as depicted on FIRM maps. Federal Lands are
excluded.

Applicable enforceable policies: 1.3, 1.7, 3.1, 3.2,
3.3, 3.4, 3.5



Source: City & Borough of Sitka,
& FIRM map panel 914, 1982
Scale: 1:10,000 1 inch = 833 feet
DRUA boundary not to scale.

Lower Indian River Corridor
Recreational Use Designation

Indian River Estuarine Flats
Recreational Use Designation

Sawmill Creek Road

4. ENERGY FACILITIES

1) Application of Enforceable Policies

Policies apply to areas designated by the district under 11 AAC 114.250(e) as suitable for the development of major energy facilities. The Takatz Lake watershed is designated as suitable for the development of a major hydroelectric facility (see Figure 6 and Table 3). All land in the designated area is owned by the City and Borough of Sitka. The designation is consistent with the Northern Southeast Area Plan (DNR, 2002). Consultation occurred during the Area Plan development.

2) Energy Facilities Issues of Local Concern

The Sitka Comprehensive Plan (City and Borough of Sitka, 1999) lists among its general goals and policies:

- 2.1.16. Reliable and affordable electric power and other utilities;

The plan also includes the following policies for electrical infrastructure:

- 2.3.5. To participate in the Southeast Intertie Project as the best means to substantially expand the supply of electrical energy both locally and for the region but otherwise to select system improvement projects as follows:
 - A. The highest priority will be accorded to those projects, which are deemed most essential to system safety and security;
 - B. The next highest priority will be accorded to those projects which provide the highest return on investment; and,
 - C. When selecting among projects of comparable return on investment to give priority to projects which make conservation and efficiency improvements to the existing system over new generation projects requiring large capital expenditures.
- 2.3.6. Conduct on-going planning that includes researching alternatives and monitoring changes in electrical system usage, costs and available technologies, including investigation of the following:
 - A. Set up rate structure or incentive for both residential and commercial electrical users that encourage conservation.
 - B. When it appears that demand will outstrip hydro capacity within a foreseeable period of time, consider, as a last resort, giving incentives to those who switch from all electric to another form of heat.
 - C. Seek information regarding convertible heating systems and technological improvements in appliances, etc. and make this information available to consumers.

Electrical

The major energy issues in Sitka center around the maintenance of Sitka's Green Lake and Blue Lake hydroelectric facilities.

In 1981, Sitka completed the Green Lake Dam. It has an installed capacity of 18,540 kilowatts and consists of a double curvature concrete arch dam with a crest elevation of 395 feet above sea level. A 1,644 linear foot power tunnel provides water to the powerhouse containing the turbines and generators. A 69 kilovolt transmission line then runs 8.3 miles to Blue Lake, where it interties into the Blue Lake transmission line.

The municipality has chosen Takatz Lake, in the Tongass National Forest on the eastern side of Baranof Island, as the potential site of Sitka's next major hydroelectric project. As the lake is located across the island, a major engineering aspect to be considered is the transmission line or method to provide power to Sitka. One alternate measure presently being studied by the State of Alaska is a Southeast intertie linking communities together. Excess capacity from one or all the power generation facilities could then be retransmitted to whatever location required additional power.

To date, Sitka has chosen to develop its own energy needs, with the assistance of a state loan through the Alaska Power Authority to provide additional financial assistance for the Green Lake Hydroelectric Facility. Sitka is not participating in the Energy Program for Alaska, which is authorized by Alaska Statutes 44.83.380-425. The Energy Program for Alaska requires state ownership of facilities, which would allow the pooling of certain debt service, operation, and insurance costs by contract. One of the reasons for Sitka's decision not to participate is that, to some degree, there may be some uncertainty over exact rates in the future.

Fueling Facilities

Both of Sitka's two fueling tank farms (30 tanks combined) are presently located directly adjacent to the coast or on a hillside where a major spill could affect coastal waters. The issue is to provide reasonable levels of protection for coastal resources that might be impacted by a major oil spill. The potential for an oil spill near Sitka Sound has been studied and contingency plans prepared. The Southeast Subarea Contingency Plan for Oil and Hazardous Substance Spills and Releases (July 1997) was prepared by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. It contains chapters on Response, Resources, Hazmat (hazardous materials), Sensitive Areas, Background information, and Scenarios.

Geothermal Resources

Most of the more remote thermal-spring sites in Southeastern Alaska are likely to remain in a natural state. Thermal-spring sites closer to population centers, however, could be used for a variety of small-scale direct-heating applications (space heating, greenhouses, possible wood and fish processing). Thermal springs with low concentrations of dissolved solids (Fish Bay and Baranof) have a potential for aquaculture. The Sitka City and Borough has expressed interest in developing the Goddard Hot Springs. Reservoir temperatures for Southeastern Alaska hot springs are too low to be practical for generation of electricity. The only site with potential for large-scale power development is the Edgumbe volcanic field. Extensive geological and geophysical exploration is needed to confirm the existence of a developable high-temperature resource.

3) Energy Facilities Resource Inventory and Analysis

Electrical

The City & Borough of Sitka provides Sitka's electrical generation and service. Two hydroelectric plants with peaking power supplied by diesel generation generate electricity. The City generates 27.2 MW of hydroelectricity and 7.5 MW of diesel-fueled electricity. Peak load is 20 megawatts with reserve capacity of 14+ megawatts. (Sitka Economic Development Agency, 2004).

The Takatz Lake watershed is designated as suitable for the development of a major hydroelectric facility (see Figure 6). The City and Borough of Sitka owns all land in the designated area. The designation is consistent with the Northern Southeast Area Plan (DNR, 2002). Consultation occurred during the Area Plan development.



ALASKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



Applicable enforceable policies: 4.1

Fueling Facilities

In Sitka, all fuel arrives by waterborne transportation, and the tank farms serve considerable numbers of marine vessels such as the fishing fleet. There are two fueling tank farms in Sitka.

Geothermal Resources

The following information is excerpted from a study by R.J. Motyka and M.A. Moorman in 1987 titled *Geothermal Resources of Southeastern Alaska* (Motyka and Moorman, 1987). The presently known geothermal resource base for Southeastern Alaska consists of the young igneous system at Mt. Edgecumbe and 18 hot-spring sites along the length of the Alaska panhandle. Thermal springs are the surface manifestations of subsurface hydrothermal systems. The Edgecumbe volcanic field is dominated by Mt. Edgecumbe volcano, capped by a crater 1.6 km in diameter and 240 m deep, with a volcanic field covering 260 km².

Most thermal springs occur in remote areas, commonly near tidewater or along major rivers. Six sites within the District are located on Chichagof Island (White Sulphur Springs, North Peril, and Nylen), and Baranof Island (Fish Bay, Goddard, and Baranof). The recent discovery of the Nylen site during timber evaluation and logging operations suggests the presence of other hot springs in remote, inaccessible sites. Although no hot springs occur at the Mt. Edgecumbe volcanic field, overlying permeable volcanic flows could easily mask a hydrothermal system, and a much greater geothermal resource base may reside beneath the Edgecumbe volcanic field.

4) Current Energy Facilities Regulations

11 AAC 114.250. Subject uses, activities, and designations. (e) A district shall consider and may designate, in cooperation with the state, sites suitable for the development of major energy facilities. (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)

11 AAC 112.230. Energy facilities. (a) *The siting and approval of major energy facilities by districts and state agencies must be based, to the extent practicable, on the following standards:*

- (1) site facilities so as to minimize adverse environmental and social effects while satisfying industrial requirements;*
- (2) site facilities so as to be compatible with existing and subsequent adjacent uses and projected community needs;*
- (3) consolidate facilities;*
- (4) consider the concurrent use of facilities for public or economic reasons;*
- (5) cooperate with landowners, developers, and federal agencies in the development of facilities;*
- (6) select sites with sufficient acreage to allow for reasonable expansion of facilities;*
- (7) site facilities where existing infrastructure, including roads, docks, and airstrips, is capable of satisfying industrial requirements;*
- (8) select harbors and shipping routes with least exposure to reefs, shoals, drift ice, and other obstructions;*
- (9) encourage the use of vessel traffic control and collision avoidance systems;*
- (10) select sites where development will require minimal site clearing, dredging, and construction;*
- (11) site facilities so as to minimize the probability, along shipping routes, of spills or other forms of contamination that would affect fishing grounds, spawning grounds, and other biologically productive or vulnerable habitats, including marine mammal rookeries and hauling out grounds and waterfowl nesting areas;*
- (12) site facilities so that design and construction of those facilities and support infrastructures in coastal areas will allow for the free passage and movement of fish and wildlife with due consideration for historic migratory patterns;*
- (13) site facilities so that areas of particular scenic, recreational, environmental, or cultural value, identified in district plans, will be protected;*
- (14) site facilities in areas of least biological productivity, diversity, and vulnerability and where effluents and spills can be controlled or contained;*
- (15) site facilities where winds and air currents disperse airborne emissions that cannot be captured before escape into the atmosphere;*
- (16) site facilities so that associated vessel operations or activities will not result in overcrowded harbors or interfere with fishing operations and equipment.*

(b) *The uses authorized by the issuance of state and federal leases, easements, contracts, rights-of-way, or permits for mineral and petroleum resource extraction are uses of state concern. (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170)*

Electrical Facilities

While the federal government, through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), determines the construction aspects, the facility is licensed and operated from a “Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity” issued by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. A certificate of public convenience and necessity describes the authorized service area and scope of operations of the utility. A certificate may be issued only if the Commission finds the applicant to be fit, willing, and able to provide the utility service requested. In Sitka, the power utility is owned and operated by the municipality itself, under its own Assembly-approved electrical policies and regulations.

Fueling Facilities

Construction of tank farms or other fueling facilities is regulated in the Uniform Building Code and Uniform Fire Code, as well as by various regulatory agencies. Both the State of Alaska and the City and Borough of Sitka have adopted these technical codes that are used to review and evaluate construction, siting and protective requirements to prevent fire, explosion, or spill.

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regulates secondary containment for above ground oil storage and surge tanks. In addition, spill contingency plans are required by DEC for fueling facilities and associated storage and transshipment.

5) Adequacy of Existing Energy Facilities Laws

The statewide energy facilities standard provides the planning criteria on which the siting of major energy facilities must be based. The standards provide general guidance that address the siting of facilities to minimize adverse impacts. Most of the state standards are adequate to address local issues; however, there may be instances, particularly in designated areas, where the general directives need additional specificity to minimize local impacts. Other state or federal laws that deal with the approval of energy facilities are broad in scope and general in their application.

6) Energy Facilities Goals, Objectives, and Enforceable Policies

Goals and objectives not addressed by enforceable policies in this section will be implemented through guidance policies and other means of local implementation.

Goal: To provide for continued electrical generation capacity required for the community of Sitka, and to provide for coastal locations for needed energy facilities while assuring the protection of coastal resources.

Electrical Objective: To seek land selection of the Takatz Lake watershed by the State of Alaska to facilitate municipal selection as a major hydroelectric site.

Electrical Objective: To begin the engineering and preliminary design toward construction of a major hydroelectric energy facility and the transmission line or other method to provide power to the community of Sitka.

Electrical Objective: To retain, if possible, continued independence from the Alaska Power Authority.

Fueling Facilities Objective: Where possible, to provide locations for or assistance in the proper construction of fueling facilities to minimize potential loss to coastal resources.

Enforceable Policies

- 4.1 Policy:** Hydroelectric power shall be the highest priority use for the Takatz Lake watershed as shown on Figure 6. Conflicting uses of the Takatz Lake watershed shall be prohibited. Interim, short-term non-conflicting uses for Takatz Lake may be permitted on a case-by-case basis.

5. TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES ROUTES AND FACILITIES

1) Application of Enforceable Policies

Policies would apply throughout the entire coastal resource district. However there are no enforceable policies at this time.

2) Transportation and Utilities Issues of Local Concern

Air Transportation

The Sitka Comprehensive Plan (City and Borough of Sitka, 1999) includes the following policy related to air transportation:

- 2.3.16. To develop, in partnership with the State of Alaska, the airport to serve the anticipated growth and/or changes in aviation activity to include aircraft maintenance, passenger and freight operations, and support services.
- 2.6.3. To develop the airport to serve as a regional center for southeast Alaska to include aircraft maintenance, passenger and freight operations and support services in partnership with the State of Alaska and private businesses.

According to the Sitka Rocky Gutierrez Airport Master Plan (Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; Ushk, Inc.; and Mead & Hunt, Inc.; April 1999), "The safety, reliability and capacity of Sitka Airport could be improved by removal of known airspace obstructions, expansion of safety areas, and expansion of facilities. However, scarce land limits opportunities for airport improvements." The master plan proposes apron and taxiway rehabilitation and expansion, construction of a runway safety area and improvement of the seawall. Because the airport is located on Japonski Island in Sitka Sound, potential coastal management issues related to these improvements include dredging, filling, and destruction of natural nearshore habitat.

Sea Transportation

The Sitka Comprehensive Plan (City and Borough of Sitka, 1999) includes the following policies related to sea transport:

- 2.3.12. To plan for and maintain quality harbor facilities and services that will enhance marine commerce and accommodate the needs of residents, transient boats, the charter fleet, and cruise ship tenders.
- 2.3.14. To develop and support a structured means for the Borough to be consistently involved in the ferry scheduling and funding process to ensure that Sitka receives its fair share of the Alaska Marine Highway System service.
- 2.3.18. To seek improved regional transportation and access to Sitka from the outside by encouraging the State of Alaska to vigorously develop a detailed study and implement one or more of the following access scenarios for passenger and vehicular transportation to the east side of Baranof Island; examination of the Rodman Bay Road idea, the Baranof Warm Springs Road idea and the fast shuttle ferry idea with a transfer facility on the east side of Baranof Island and any other idea which might emerge in a full scale examination of surface transportation possibilities.

Currently, access to Sitka is limited to Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) mainline service and fast vehicle ferry service and commercial freight and air services. Strong tidal currents through Sergius Narrows in Peril Strait constrain marine services. These scheduling issues affect Sitka and other Northern Panhandle communities.

According to the Southeast Area Transportation Plan (Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, August 2004), a highway from Sitka across Baranof Island is planned, to improve the level of ferry service to Sitka and reduce cost to the traveler and the state. This planning process must undergo environmental impact evaluation before construction can begin. As of January, 2005 this evaluation process had just begun, and was anticipated to take several years to complete.

The 1980 State Legislature commissioned a \$250,000 study in Sitka to site a large vessel dock with the capacity of handling ships 800 feet in length with a draft of greater than 35 feet. There should also be sufficient land for support facilities and warehousing. The legislative intent was “to provide a major port facility for Southeast Alaska capable of handling all cargo ships as well as a bottomfish industry operating at maximum capacity.” That study was accomplished by the consultant firms of Kramer, Chin & Mayo and Peratrovich and Nottingham. After review of all relevant sites, the Starrigavan area north of the Ferry Terminal and within the area presently encompassed by Allen Marine Ways and the Sitka Sportsmen’s Association was selected. A preliminary design was also accomplished. Immediately, it was pointed out that the Sportsmen’s property was held through a restricted federal deed for “recreational” purposes. The study was somewhat criticized as it did not provide a large economic analysis of the practicality or need for such a port and whether Sitka could provide such a facility. The firm of Dames and Moore was then hired and, as a result of an extensive economic analysis came to the conclusion that the costs far outweighed the benefits at this time.

Land Transportation

The Sitka Comprehensive Plan (City and Borough of Sitka, 1999) includes the following policies related to land transport:

- 2.3.15. To alleviate vehicle congestion in the downtown area and on main thoroughfares.

Poorly planned construction of roads along beaches or shorelines can destroy vegetative cover, block coastal access, reduce slope stability and negatively affect shoreline processes.

Utilities

The Sitka Comprehensive Plan (City and Borough of Sitka, 1999) includes policies for the provision of city utilities, including:

- 2.1.17. Reliable, safe, and affordable public water supply, sanitary sewerage, and storm sewerage;
- 2.3.9. To give high priority to the provision of clean drinking water for the public, including:
 - A. Protection of water supplies and watersheds from the adverse effects of development;...
- 2.3.10. To evaluate comprehensively and make improvements to the storm run-off and sanitary sewer systems.
- 2.3.10(a) To consider providing, in the near to intermediate future, development of a program of

direct management of sanitary sewer and private sewerage problems by the Borough...

Poorly planned construction of utility routes and facilities along beaches or shorelines can destroy vegetative cover, block coastal access, reduce slope stability and negatively affect shoreline processes.

3) Transportation and Utilities Resource Inventory and Analysis

Appendix-6, Sitka Coastal Habitat Evaluation Final Project Summary with Management Recommendations, which reprints in its entirety the approved Resource Inventory and Analysis for the Sitka CMP first adopted in 1981 and re-approved in 1989, contains specific information about the suitability and sensitivity of beach and intertidal areas for development.

Air Transportation

Sitka is served by the Sitka Rocky Gutierrez Airport. According to the Sitka Rocky Gutierrez Airport Master Plan (Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; USKH, Inc.; and Mead & Hunt, Inc.; April 1999), this airport is classified as a District Airport designed to accommodate large airplanes. The airport currently serves Alaska Airlines for state and interstate flights, and Harris Air for flights to small nearby communities. The airport also serves carriers providing air transport of mail and fresh fish. Air Sitka provides charter floatplane services.

Sea Transportation

Marine access to Sitka is provided by the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) mainline service and fast vehicle ferry service. Sitka is also served by Alaska Marine Lines and Samson Tug and Barge.

Land Transportation

Urban Sitka is served by a system of roads. Rural and island Sitka is served by water-based transportation.

Water Utilities

Sitka's drinking water comes from the Blue Lake Reservoir, located about ten miles east of Sitka. A backup water supply is provided by an infiltration gallery beneath the Indian River. The water is chlorinated and piped 5.3 miles through 24" and 30" transmission pipes. It reaches the main part of Sitka by following Sawmill Creek Road. Water is stored in two tanks within the distribution system that have a total capacity of about two million gallons. This water supply replaced the area's previous dependence on the Indian River Dam, improving water quality and virtually eliminating the water discolorations experienced from the Indian River system.

Sewer Utilities

Sitka provides city sewer service throughout most of the urbanized road system area. A Waste Water Treatment Plant on Charcoal Island provides primary treatment, with one treated outfall line extending around the southern end of the municipal airport.

4) Current Transportation and Utilities Regulations

Transportation

Whether air, sea or land transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration, State Division of Aviation, State Department of Transportation, U.S. Coast Guard and several other agencies all have a variety of rules, laws and regulations that regulate the operation of any transportation network and are too numerous to mention. The Sitka District Plan defers to the State Coastal Management regulations.

11 AAC 112.280. Transportation routes and facilities. *Transportation routes and facilities must avoid, minimize, or mitigate*

- (1) alterations in surface and ground water drainage patterns;*
- (2) disruption in known or reasonably foreseeable wildlife transit; and*
- (3) blockage of existing or traditional access. (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170)*

Utilities

For the State of Alaska, major authority or licensing of a utility system is controlled by the Alaska Public Utility Commission. Other major participants or agencies that regulate how a utility is operated are the Environmental Protection Agency and State Department of Environmental Conservation. In addition, the municipality provides its own internal regulations and requirements intended to meet or exceed federal/state law.

11 AAC 112.240. Utility routes and facilities. *(a) Utility routes and facilities must be sited inland from beaches and shorelines unless*

- (1) the route or facility is water-dependent or water related; or*
- (2) no practicable inland alternative exists to meet the public need for the route or facility.*
- (b) Utility routes and facilities along the coast must avoid, minimize, or mitigate*
 - (1) alterations in surface and ground water drainage patterns;*
 - (2) disruption in known or reasonably foreseeable wildlife transit;*
 - (3) blockage of existing or traditional access. (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170)*

5) Adequacy of Existing Transportation and Utilities Laws

The statewide transportation and utility routes and facilities standards are limited to addressing impacts to surface and groundwater drainage patterns, wildlife transit and traditional access. Enforceable policies that relate to these standards provide more specific measures to address route and facilities concerns not included in the statewide standards. Other state and federal laws that deal with the permitting of transportation and utility routes and facilities are broad in scope and general in their application.

6) Transportation and Utilities Goals, Objectives, and Enforceable Policies

Transportation Goal: To enhance and develop a coordinated transportation element meeting increasing development requirements.

Transportation Objective: To continue to pursue funding for needed and identified improvements in Sitka's transportation networks.

Utilities Goal: To enhance and extend utilities to all citizens on the Sitka road system.

Utilities Objective: To seek funding for the continued expansion and completion of coverage of utilities to all sections of the roaded municipality.

Enforceable Policies: No enforceable policies at this time. Goals and objectives will be implemented through guidance policies and other means of local implementation.

6. COMMERCIAL FISHING AND SEAFOOD PROCESSING FACILITIES

a. FISHING AND SEAFOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY

1) Application of Enforceable Policies

Policies would apply to areas of the coast designated by the district under 11 AAC 114.250(f) as suitable for the location or development of facilities related to commercial fishing and seafood processing. Because the district is not proposing enforceable policies or designating areas of the coast suitable for the location or development of facilities related to commercial fishing and seafood processing at this time, the application of enforceable policies is not addressed.

2) Commercial Fishing and Seafood Processing Facilities Issues of Local Concern

Sitka is a major seafood port in the region, with a diverse seafood industry including hatcheries and commercial, personal use, subsistence and sport fisheries. Continued growth and health in Sitka's fisheries are vital to Sitka's economic health and quality of life.

By the end of 2004, the U.S. will likely be the world's largest salmon market, surpassing Japan. The current market for sockeye, king and coho is good, as consumers begin to assert a strong preference for wild salmon. Sitka processors are adapting to the U.S. market preference for salmon fillets. The recovery of the high-value salmon market has been a major economic story in the early part of the 21st century.

Sitka landings of troll fish increased significantly in 2004 over 2003. In addition, Sitka regained significant IFQ poundage and is now Alaska's #3 port in sablefish landings and #6 port in halibut landings. Total Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) poundage landed in Sitka increased by a significant 32 percent to over 8 million pounds in 2004. (McDowell Group, Inc., 2004).

3) Commercial Fishing and Seafood Processing Facilities Resource Inventory and Analysis

"The commercial fishing fleet in Sitka harvest thousands of tons of a variety of seafoods likes salmon, halibut, black cod, lingcod, crab, shrimp, herring, sea cucumbers and more. Fish processing industry in Sitka has been and continues to be a major component of Sitka's economic base. These plants take the raw seafoods of the bountiful Alaska waters and process it into consumer-sized portions for both the frozen and fresh seafood markets."

~"State of Sitka's Economy 2004" (McDowell, 2003)

Sitka's fishing and seafood processing industry has long been a significant part of the local economy. According to the "State of Sitka's Economy 2004," seafood harvesting represented 29 percent of Sitka's base economy employment. Two seafood processing plants provide seasonal employment. One of these, Sitka Sound Seafoods, is the second largest employer in Sitka. The City and Borough has filled waterfront land along the Sitka Channel within its Port Development Area and kept it available to accommodate additions to the seafood processing industry. A substantial number of fishermen make Sitka their home port, and during the summer months, there is also a transient fleet that uses Sitka as a supply and service base.

Regional trends in 2004 included an increase in wholesale prices, a shift by processors to value-added product forms produced in the region, increased fillet production, more seafood product shipping by air, plans to increase cold storage capacity, and freight consolidation planning. (McDowell, 2004)

In 2002 in Sitka, salmon landings alone totaled 22 million pounds, but due to lower prices per pound for salmon, the landings were valued at \$9.4 million. Federal, state, and private salmon enhancement programs are producing and releasing significant quantities of various salmon species, including the highest value species, for the benefit of the common property fishery. The U.S. Forest Service also has fisheries enhancement projects and cooperative programs with Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association and Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Additionally, new markets have been created through air shipment of fresh frozen restaurant-quality salmon and other fish.

Bottomfish. Sitka's bottomfish fishery has been slowly but steadily developing. Its growth has been enhanced by increasing prices for bottomfish and new markets emerging for this resource. In 2002, 5.7 million pounds of bottomfish were landed for an estimated value of \$14.3 million (Table 4).

TABLE 4. 2004 SITKA BOTTOMFISH LANDINGS

Species Code	Whole Pounds	Amount
Sablefish	5,643,894	\$11,548,731
Rockfish	928,718	\$954,033
Pacific Cod	211,936	\$81,065
Lingcod	243,545	\$158,117
Miscellaneous	12	\$6
Total	7,028,106	\$12,741,952

Source: Kamala Carroll, Alaska Fish and Game Department, February 2005

4) Current Commercial Fishing and Seafood Processing Regulations

The Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Environmental Health Seafood Section, has regulatory responsibilities relating to all phases of Alaska fisheries including seafood product processing, shellfish processing, cold storage and ice plants. The program includes a permit system to annually review and approve both shore-based and floating processors. This section also monitors the state's participation in the National Shellfish Program, which sets standards for paralytic shellfish toxin levels and bacteriological water standards before certifying beaches for commercial shellfish production.

There are no Statewide standards that specifically address fish and seafood processing. However, districts may identify areas suitable for such facilities.

11 AAC 114.250. Subject uses, activities, and designations. (f) A district shall consider and may designate areas of the coast suitable for the location or development of facilities related to commercial fishing and seafood processing. (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)

5) Adequacy of Existing Commercial Fishing and Seafood Processing Laws

Because the district is not proposing enforceable policies or designating areas of the coast suitable for the location or development of facilities related to commercial fishing and seafood processing at this time, the adequacy of existing laws is not addressed.

6) Commercial Fishing and Seafood Goals, Objectives, and Enforceable Policies

Commercial Fishing and Seafood Goal: To support and enhance the fish and seafood resources of the City and Borough of Sitka for the benefit of all users.

Commercial Fishing and Seafood Objective: To encourage the development of the fish and seafood industries within the City and Borough of Sitka.

Enforceable Policies: No enforceable policies at this time. Goals and objectives will be implemented through guidance policies and other means of local implementation.

b. MARICULTURE AND AQUACULTURE

1) Application of Enforceable Policies

Policies would apply to areas of the coast designated by the district under 11 AAC 114.250(f) as suitable for the location or development of facilities related to commercial fishing and seafood processing. Because the district is not proposing enforceable policies or designating areas of the coast suitable for mariculture and aquaculture at this time, the application of enforceable policies is not addressed.

2) Mariculture and Aquaculture Issues of Local Concern

Mariculture, or the captive cultivation (“farming”) and/or release to the sea (“ocean ranching”) of finfish, shellfish, or other aquatic creature or plant in the marine environment, holds promise as a relatively new industry in Southeast Alaska. A more encompassing term is aquaculture, which includes the cultivation of finfish, shellfish, and other aquatic organisms in freshwater and/or saltwater. Due to its outside location on the Pacific Ocean, water quality, and excellent transportation links, the Sitka area is viewed as an excellent location for major mariculture activity.

The citizens of the City and Borough of Sitka have traditionally supported fish hatchery production by both public agencies and private, not-for-profit groups to augment natural stocks. The basis for this support is that fish produced through public and non-profit salmon enhancement programs become a common-property resource, available to all users, including large numbers of commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen, and subsistence users. A large percentage of the economy is based on the fisheries, fish and seafood processing, and sport fishing-related tourism on charter boats. These salmon enhancement programs have proven highly successful, generating substantial contributions to the salmon harvest within the District, and considerable expansion of this effort is continuing.

For-profit rearing of finfish is far more controversial, and is generally not supported by the citizens of Sitka at the present time. Finfish farming is not legal in Alaska. Major concerns include the potential for adverse economic impact on a healthy existing common-property commercial fisheries industry involving a large percentage of the District’s population, as well as the private use of public lands and waters.

A shellfish and/or sea vegetable mariculture industry is emerging in Southeast Alaska. The year-round farming of aquatic plants and animals is beginning to provide new small business opportunities and boost seafood processing, air transportation and other support activities during off-fishing months. As of 2002, there were 27 aquatic farms operating in Southeast Alaska, according to the 2002 Annual Mariculture Report (Alaska Department of Fish and Game, June 2003).

Some of the potential problems associated with it, including importation of oyster spat, proper health testing (especially for shellfish eaten raw and paralytic shellfish poisoning toxicity), and good site selection all appear to be technical or scientific concerns that can be overcome. The technology and regulatory and enforcement vehicles are already in place to effectively manage spat importation and provide for proper health testing. However, use of public lands and/or waters for these purposes could potentially conflict with other uses. Sitkans have major concerns and interests in the development of mariculture within the City and Borough.

Sea culturing operations are growing throughout the world, and considerable data exists on problems that may occur. Various studies, including “Mariculture in Alaska,” December, 1986; “Recommended Interim Guidelines for the Management of Salmon Net-Pen Culture in Puget Sound,” December, 1986; and “An Inquiry into Finfish Aquaculture in British Columbia—Report and Recommendations,” December, 1986, point out some of the potential problems associated with mariculture. The Sitka Coastal Management Citizens Committee identified some of these potential concerns regarding mariculture or aquaculture development within the City and Borough of Sitka in general:

- Potential for contamination of wild stocks, disease, predator problems, and other biological problems;
- Water quality issues related to sediments, algae growth, excess food and waste disposal, etc.;
- Use of toxicants and pharmaceuticals;
- Elimination of, or impacts on, alternate uses of the site and surrounding area, including recreation, tourism, commercial uses, and subsistence;
- Damage caused by inadequate skills and knowledge by the developer to adequately develop a mariculture operation;
- Difficulties in siting a mariculture facility so that good tidal flushing, sufficient depth to minimize sedimentation, “Floating Facilities” requirements, no blockage of navigation or access, no major adverse impacts on significant wild stocks or anadromous streams, alternate locations, permission of the upland owner, sufficient space to assure no impact from adjacent users, and other factors are all met.

In addition to the above, some potential concerns specific to for-profit mariculture or aquaculture within the District include:

- Private “for profit” single ownership rather than generating a “public benefit.”
- Potential for large-scale investment inviting speculation, and the potential for abandonment if the project fails;

- Potential foreign control;
- Inadequate preparation by governing agencies to permit and regulate mariculture uses;
- Inadequate laboratory facilities available to provide needed testing of product prior to sale for “human consumption.”

In summary, the for-profit mariculture/aquaculture industry is growing in Alaska. Potentially, new forms of mariculture/aquaculture, or forms already in operation elsewhere, could prove to be a valuable addition to the Sitka economy, but care must be exercised to insure that it will not cause major adverse impacts to existing resources and uses and activities.

3) Current Mariculture and Aquaculture Regulations

The Department of Environmental Conservation, Environmental Health, has an interest in Mariculture operations. The Division of Environmental Health is directly responsible for the Classification of Commercial Shellfish Growing and Harvest Areas. In general the types of permits applicable to Shellfish growing and harvest areas which the Division of Environmental Health would review include: potential contaminants and testing the growing water. If the aquatic farm facility has an “outhouse” and graywater system associated with it, a plan review of the sewage and graywater systems is required. If the quantity of discharge from the sewage system is above 500 gallons per day, a wastewater discharge permit is also required.

The Classification of Commercial Shellfish Growing and Harvest Area is listed on the following website. <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/docs/fss/shellfishclass.pdf> which provides up- to- date information on DEC’s approval of shellfish growing and harvest areas. The website lists DEC aquatic farm approvals as Water Quality Classification, possibly Harvester’s and Shellstock Shippers Permits from the Division of Health.

In 1988, the Alaska Legislature changed the state’s aquatic farming laws to allow shellfish and sea plant farming on all state land, except parkland. State resource agencies approved a joint Aquatic Farm application packet for processing of permits routinely needed to site and construct shellfish mariculture projects. This consolidated permit process is used to apply for the DNR Aquatic Farmsite Lease, the DFG Aquatic Farm Operation Permit, and the Coastal Zone Consistency Certification from OPMP (formerly DGC).

Aquatic Farm permits are authorized by DFG. Among other considerations, the following criteria are evaluated:

- (1) the physical and biological characteristics of the proposed farm or hatchery location must be suitable for the farming or the shellfish or aquatic plant proposed;
- (2) the proposed farm or hatchery may not require significant alterations in traditional fisheries or other existing uses of fish and wildlife resources;
- (3) the proposed farm or hatchery may not significantly affect fisheries, wildlife, or their habitats in an adverse manner; and
- (4) the proposed farm or hatchery plans and staffing plans must demonstrate technical and operational feasibility.

There are no statewide standards that specifically address mariculture activities; however, districts may

designate areas for fish and seafood processing facilities, including aquatic farms.

11 AAC 114.250. Subject uses, activities, and designations. (f) A district shall consider and may designate areas of the coast suitable for the location or development of facilities related to commercial fishing and seafood processing. (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)

4) Adequacy of Existing Mariculture and Aquaculture Laws

Because the district is not proposing enforceable policies or designating areas of the coast suitable for mariculture or aquaculture at this time, the adequacy of existing laws is not addressed.

5) Mariculture and Aquaculture Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Mariculture and Aquaculture Goal: To support the development of mariculture and aquaculture activities while minimizing adverse impacts to existing fish and seafood resources.

Mariculture and Aquaculture Objective: To provide for and regulate the orderly development of aquaculture and mariculture activities and industries in order to encourage new economic development while protecting and enhancing the public resource.

Enforceable Policies: No enforceable policies at this time. Goals and objectives will be implemented through guidance policies and other means of local implementation.

7. TIMBER HARVEST & PROCESSING

1) Timber Harvest and Processing Issues of Local Concern

The timber industry has been an economic mainstay in Sitka since the Alaska Pulp Corporation mill opened in the late 1950s. During the 1970s, employment averaged between 900 and 1,000 jobs when combining both log camp and mill employment. At the time, the Allowable Sale Quantity of timber from the Chatham area was 430 million board feet. However, with changes to the worldwide market for pulp and other factors, the mill was closed in 1993. However, logging on federal, state and privately owned lands continues. Now the Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) in the Chatham area is 267 million board feet, though the currently harvest of approximately 50 million board feet is far below this maximum.

Additional timber supply within Southeast Alaska was added with the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Nearly 600,000 acres, containing an estimated 11.6 billion board feet (MMMBF) of commercial timber (inventory volume) is now under Native management. The timber harvested by the Native corporations from private Native land holdings is not required to have “primary manufacture,” a restriction placed on the harvesting of timber from public lands. Further supply may be generated from the state’s logging of its state forest lands.

The presence of beach logs in the Sitka area and on the islands within Sitka Sound once generated controversy in the community with respect to aesthetics, impact on habitat, ownership of logs, and the danger of floating logs to marine traffic. If a log is unbranded but above Mean High High Water, it belongs to the upland owner. Below Mean High High Water, it is on State tidelands. If a log is branded, personal use is not allowed, and the log is the responsibility of the owner. There has been a tacit unwritten agreement between agencies that commercial log salvage permits would not be authorized within a fifteen mile radius of the Sitka community. The major reason for this decision is the widespread practice of local private personal use of beach logs for firewood by Sitka residents.

With the closure of the Alaska Pulp Corporation mill, the transport of log rafts has ceased, and so therefore has the occasional loss of logs from the rafts that end up on beaches. Therefore, the issue of beach logs in the Sitka area has become minimal. A commercial permit is possible if personal use needs are still met, but it is highly unlikely commercial log salvage could be productively undertaken on Sitka Sound area beaches at present. In fact, it has become difficult to find beach logs for personal use firewood. The City and Borough of Sitka supports the continuation of personal use of beach logs within a fifteen mile radius of the community, unless an economically viable commercial operation were developed that would not adversely impact access to beach logs by local residents for personal use.

Another issue is the practice of clear-cutting of zoned parcels of private property within the roaded area of Sitka when no development of the property materializes. The Assembly has received numerous concerns expressed by residents of the loss of scenic quality when no actual housing or enlargement to community services was forthcoming.

Old growth timber ranging from muskeg to large trees is important for wildlife and other habitats. The U.S. Forest Service manages most of the old growth timber in the Sitka coastal district through the Tongass Land Management Plan and has land management practices designed in recognition of the importance of these varied habitats.

2) Current Timber Harvest and Processing Regulations

For the purposes of the Sitka Coastal Management District Plan, the major regulatory agencies consist of the U.S. Forest Service and the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of Fish and Game, and Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry.

11 AAC 112.250. Timber harvest and processing. *AS 41.17 (Forest Resources and Practices Act) and the regulations adopted under that chapter with respect to the harvest and processing of timber are incorporated into the program and constitute the components of the program with respect to those purposes. (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170)*

The Forest Resources and Practices Act is incorporated into the ACMP. A district may not write enforceable policies under this standard. Timber harvest and processing is not included within the subject uses that provide the basis for enforceable policies.

8. SAND AND GRAVEL EXTRACTION

1) Application of Enforceable Policies

Policies apply throughout the entire coastal resource district. See Table 3.

2) Sand and Gravel Extraction Issues of Local Concern

Good quality sand and gravel is an important resource in any community. Economical or close-in resources in Sitka have either been exhausted or, in the case of beach deposits, have been shut down for environmental considerations. The Sitka Coastal Habitat Evaluation Study indicated locations where the sensitivity to dredging and gravel extraction was low (see Appendix-6).

The existing old gravel pit at Granite Creek had been developed over the years with only minimum regulations intended to protect water quality in the creek. No long-range development plan or knowledge of how or for what the land would be used following completion of extraction was known. Through the Coastal Management Program, funds were obtained to complete a roaded area comprehensive sand and gravel study. The firm of Woodward-Clyde Consultants of Anchorage was selected to prepare the sand and gravel study. Following extensive investigation, a three part result was submitted to the municipality. The three documents produced consisted of: Potential Material Sites Investigation; Granite Creek Operation and Reclamation Plan; and a Draft Sand and Gravel Ordinance.

The Potential Material Sites Investigation reviewed possible or probable locations, examined the existing Granite Creek site and came to the conclusion that Sitka had sufficient reserves at Granite Creek for the foreseeable future. The Granite Creek Operation and Reclamation document completely reviewed the existing pit area. A full set of topographic maps were developed using the services of Davis and Associates, Registered Surveyors, in order to begin to piece a reclamation plan together. A series of overlays or timed sequence drawings was completed which would indicate areas and reclamation measures that should be accomplished. As an update the City and Borough of Sitka has revised its Granite Creek leases and has made the reclamation plan a required part of obtaining a lease, and has the authority and ability to cancel a lease for non-compliance. As part of the plan, there is a required level of contour elevations to be conformed to and a yearly set of engineers cross sections to be submitted. This will assist in assuring compliance on the amount of excavation activity. Each leaseholder was additionally requested to accomplish a boundary survey of the leasehold and monument it clearly, in the field, for quick identification. In this manner, staff can easily monitor unacceptable activity and know which leaseholder is responsible.

Another issue involves gravel operations on private property where no reclamation requirements exist. A part of this issue is clearing and major rock removal under the guise of “property development” when no plans or project are forthcoming. This was discussed in the third document, Draft Sand and Gravel Ordinance. The Sitka Comprehensive Plan (City and Borough of Sitka, 1999) addresses this issue with the following policy:

- 2.6.2.J. Consider amending the zoning ordinance to clarify the quantity of rock or gravel that can be removed from a parcel through the process of developing a lot and the percentage of the parcel that can be excavated for permitted or conditional uses or structures.

Uses of industrial minerals within the Sitka Borough have been limited to road construction, rip/rap armor applications along shorelines, bridges, or harbor reinforcement. Prior to 1930, high grade deposits of

gypsum were mined and shipped to Pacific Northwest markets from deposits at Iyoukeen Cove just north of the Borough boundary on eastern Chichagof Island. The same geologic units hosting the gypsum extend into the northeastern area of the Borough. Most of the anticipated sand and gravel and quarry stone production will probably be confined to public works construction or support activities of existing private industry. The locations of these deposits vary widely, and exploitable reserves are generally delineated with onsite inspection, sampling, and subsequent laboratory investigations. We do not have a good database concerning the distribution of industrial minerals in the Borough although Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and the U.S. Forest Service have developed some information to meet their own specific requirements.

3) Sand and Gravel Extraction Resource Inventory and Analysis

Appendix-6, Sitka Coastal Habitat Evaluation Final Project Summary with Management Recommendations, which reprints in its entirety the approved Resource Inventory and Analysis for the Sitka CMP first adopted in 1981 and re-approved in 1989, contains specific information about the suitability and sensitivity of certain areas for sand and gravel mining. In mandating statewide revisions of district coastal plans within one year, OPMP represented to districts that thorough revision of currently approved Resource Inventory and Analysis documents would not be required.

4) Current Sand and Gravel Extraction Regulations

Under federal law, Corps of Engineers Department of the Army permits are required for any coastal water activity, including sand and gravel extraction. In addition, Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act regulates any activity that affects the course, condition or capacity of navigable waters, which includes but is not limited to marine or tidal waters and is administered by the Corps of Engineers. The State of Alaska regulations permit the extraction of sand and gravel only when there is no practicable alternative to coastal extraction which will meet the public need for sand and gravel. Other federal agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the Environmental Protection Agency may also have authorities for regulating sand and gravel extraction.

In addition, state regulations from the Departments of Natural Resources, Environmental Conservation and Fish and Game may apply. The exact regulatory requirements vary depending on the location of the resource.

11 AAC 112.260. Sand and gravel extraction. Sand and gravel may be extracted from coastal waters, intertidal areas, barrier islands, and spits if there is no practicable alternative to coastal extraction that will meet the public need for the sand or gravel. (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170)

5) Adequacy of Existing Sand and Gravel Extraction Laws

The statewide sand and gravel extraction standard is a very broad standard. Enforceable policies related to this standard provide specificity for extraction activities. Other state or federal laws that deal with permitting of sand and gravel extraction are broad in scope and general in their application.

6) Sand and Gravel Extraction Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal: To provide for the orderly development of property while protecting the environmental quality and other uses of the resources of the City and Borough of Sitka.

Objective: To provide reasonable guidelines to address concerns associated with incidental removal of sand and gravel resources within the municipality.

Enforceable Policies

- 8.1 Policy:** The incidental removal of coastal sand and gravel that is integral to an allowable project shall minimize adverse changes to littoral processes of sediment erosion, deposition and transport.

9. **SUBSISTENCE USE AREAS**

1) Application of Enforceable Policies

Policies would apply to subsistence use areas if such areas are designated by the district under 11 AAC 114.250(g). Because the district is not proposing enforceable policies or designating subsistence use areas at this time, the application of enforceable policies is not addressed.

2) Subsistence Use Areas Issues of Local Concern

The Sitka Comprehensive Plan (City and Borough of Sitka, 1999) lists the opportunity to participate in a subsistence lifestyle as one of its general goals and policies (Policy 2.1.7). In its economic policies, the plan says: “The City and Borough of Sitka will conduct its affairs and will use its resources, powers, and programs to seek, facilitate, maintain, and improve economic activities which:

- 2.2.8. Minimize impacts on subsistence opportunities and activities of local residents;...
- 2.2.16. Maintains Sitka’s legal subsistence status and continued opportunities for and safety of subsistence users;...”.
- 2.4.10. To protect crucial subsistence resources from loss and damage, to minimize loss and damage to all subsistence resources, and to carry out the following policies and objectives:
 - A. Specific land use designations shall be evaluated that protect subsistence resources.
 - B. Recreation and subsistence use of public land shall be taken into account in all land use decisions.

In a baseline study of the use of wild, renewable resources by the inhabitants of Sitka (a 1985 Alaska Department of Fish and Game study entitled “Resource Use in a Small Alaskan City — Sitka”) half to over three-quarters of the survey households participated in each type of harvesting activity examined (fishing, hunting, plant and intertidal gathering). Harvesting wild foods is a fundamental part of life in Sitka. The study found that many residents have chosen to live in Sitka because of the abundant and diverse resources available and the rewards they find in harvesting them.

For most Sitkans, fishing, hunting, and gathering are major outdoor recreational activities. Sitka is a community of diverse origins but a large majority of Sitkans share a deep interest in the natural environment and its bounty and measure the passing of the year not only through the changing seasons but also through the seasonal availability of resources (e.g., spawning of herring in early spring, salmon runs in late summer).

The animal and plant species harvested by Sitkans are important for protein and a vitamin rich source of food that is free of the chemical additives of commercially processed food. The high nutritional value and the pleasure of eating fresh, savory wild food adds to the quality of life in Sitka.

Native Tlingit culture has developed in a rich and close relationship to the environment. The survival of Tlingit traditions depends on the sea and land continuing to provide resources, and ensuring continued access to and use of those wild resources. Sitkans regularly share wild foods with other residents as well as friends and relatives both inside and outside the community. The giving and exchange of food in many cultures is a major way of reaffirming social relationships.

Subsistence is a crucial element in the adaptation many residents have made to life in Alaska. If the

opportunity to fish, hunt and gather wild foods were removed or diminished, many Sitkans would no longer wish to live here. When policy decisions concerning the use of wild resources are being made, the integral role of harvesting activities in the lives of a large majority of residents should be a key consideration.

Although few Sitkans are totally dependent upon harvesting their food from sea or land, participation in hunting, fishing, and other food gathering as a supplement to the family food supply is high. Of the Sitkans surveyed by random sample in the “Resource Use in a Small Alaskan City - Sitka” study at least one member in over 80 percent of the households surveyed had fished in the past year, 56 percent had hunted, 60 percent had gathered beach foods, and 77 percent had gathered plants or berries. The long-term effect of continued population growth and increasing pressure on subsistence resources has already diminished the opportunity to fish and harvest these resources near the populated areas of the City and Borough.

Conflicts with other users, especially those competing directly for limited food resources, have been addressed through regulations in some instances.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in the Sitka Coastal Habitat Evaluation project, identified areas where major deer hunting, duck hunting, clam digging, and other gathering activities occur. The Boards of Fish and Game have the regulatory authority for subsistence allocations of fish and game resources in Alaska and provide subsistence information for project reviews. The City and Borough wishes to maintain a close relationship with the Department of Fish and Game to assure that the subsistence resources of the City and Borough are sustained. For further information about subsistence in Sitka, see Technical Paper 90, a Division of Subsistence Publication from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 1985, titled “Resource Use in a Small Alaskan City — Sitka.”

3) Subsistence Use Areas Resource Inventory and Analysis

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence, provides information on subsistence fish and wildlife harvests and socioeconomic data for Alaska communities. In 1996, considered the “most representative year,” 97 percent of households reported using subsistence resources. Of the households reporting 95 percent used fish subsistence resources, 64 percent used land mammals, 17 percent used marine mammals, 72 percent used marine invertebrates (such as crab), and 70 percent used vegetation. Because sharing subsistence resources within the community is such an integral part of this traditional lifestyle, it is not surprising that 92 percent reported receiving some type of subsistence resource, while 74 percent reported giving such resources to others.

Appendix-6, Sitka Coastal Habitat Evaluation Final Project Summary with Management Recommendations, which reprints in its entirety the approved Resource Inventory and Analysis for the Sitka CMP first adopted in 1981 and re-approved in 1989, contains specific information about subsistence resource values and the suitability and sensitivity of coastal habitats, and the anticipated effects of development on these resource values.

Kamenoi Beach is recognized as an area in which subsistence use of razor clams is an important use of coastal resources. Note: Kamenoi Beach is closed to all harvest due to the population of razor Clams. The population has been monitored since 1988 and is stable. Should the population increase to a sufficient level, subsistence harvest would be the highest priority (personal communication: Bob Chadwick, Sitka Sportfish Biologist, March 2005).

4) Current Subsistence Use Areas Regulations

The federal government defines and regulates subsistence activities under Public Law 96-487, December 2, 1980 — the “Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.” Under Title VIII—SUBSISTENCE MANAGEMENT AND USE, the Congress states “the continuation of the opportunity for subsistence uses by rural residents of Alaska, including both Natives and non-Natives, on the public lands and by Alaska Natives on Native lands is essential to Native physical, economic, traditional, and cultural existence and to non-Native physical, economic, traditional, and social existence.” — Section 801.(1). ANILCA, as this act has come to be known, defined “subsistence uses”—Section 803, and gave priority to non-wasteful subsistence uses of fish and wildlife over the taking on such lands of fish and wildlife for other purposes—Section 804.

The Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game are responsible, with federal oversight, for allocating fish and game resources in Alaska for subsistence and other uses. Alaska Statutes provides the framework for defining and implementing subsistence regulations. The Alaska Subsistence Statute (Chapter 52, State Laws of Alaska, 1986) states: “LEGISLATIVE INTENT. The legislature finds that there is a need to develop a statewide policy on the utilization, development and conservation of fish and game resources, and to recognize that those resources are not inexhaustible and that preferences must be established among beneficial users of the resources. The legislature further determines that it is in the public interest to clearly establish subsistence use as a priority use of Alaska’s fish and game resources and to recognize the needs, customs and traditions of Alaskan residents. The legislature further finds that the beneficial use of those resources by all state residents should be carefully monitored and regulated, with as much input as possible from the affected users, so that the viability of fish and game resources is not threatened and so that resources are conserved in a manner consistent with the sustained yield principle.”

The State Boards of Fish and Game have designated Sitka as a rural community (as opposed to non-rural). This means Sitkans and other rural residents of Alaska may maintain their customary and traditional use under the subsistence priority when the opportunity to take certain scarce wild resources which have been designated “subsistence resources” is restricted by the Boards. To date, there have been no priority allocations made for subsistence in the City and Borough of Sitka by the joint Boards. Under Section 810 of ANILCA, in determining whether to withdraw, reserve, leave, or otherwise permit the use, occupancy, or disposition” on federal lands, the applicable federal agency must evaluate the effects of the development on subsistence and attempt to avoid conflicts which would significantly restrict subsistence uses.

The U.S. Forest Service, following the guidelines of the Alaska Land Use Council, is required to prepare a subsistence evaluation and finding for U.S. Forest Service activities that may affect subsistence users.

AS 16.05.940, Definitions: (23) *subsistence uses means the noncommercial, customary traditional uses of wild, renewable resources by a resident domiciled in a rural area of the state for direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, or transportation, for the making and selling of handicraft articles out of nonedible by-products of fish and wildlife resources taken for personal or family consumption, and for the customary trade, barter, or sharing for personal or family consumption; in this paragraph, family means persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption, and a person living in the household on a permanent basis.”*

11 AAC 112.270. Subsistence. (a) A project within a subsistence use area designated under 11 AAC 114.250(g) must avoid or minimize impacts to subsistence uses of coastal resources.
(b) For a project within a subsistence use area designated under 11 AAC 114.250(g), the applicant shall submit an analysis or evaluation of reasonably foreseeable adverse impacts of the project on subsistence use as part of
(1) a consistency review packet submitted under 11 AAC 110.215; and
(2) a consistency evaluation under 15 C.F.R. 930.39, 15 C.F.R. 930.58, or 15 C.F.R. 930.76.
(c) Repealed ____/____/2004. (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)

Criteria for designation is provided in the District Coastal Plan Requirements.

11 AAC 114.250. Subject uses, activities, and designations. (g) Except in nonsubsistence areas as identified under AS 16.05.258, a district may, after consultation with appropriate state agencies, federally recognized Indian tribes, Native corporations, and other appropriate persons or groups, designate areas in which a subsistence use is an important use of coastal resources and designate such areas. (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)

5) Adequacy of Existing Subsistence Use Areas Laws

Because the district is not proposing enforceable policies or designating subsistence use areas at this time, the adequacy of existing laws is not addressed.

6) Subsistence Use Areas Goals, Objectives, and Enforceable Policies

Goal: The use of renewable wild resources for personal consumption, sharing, trade, or barter is an important priority and long-standing part of the Sitka area economy, traditional culture, and rural lifestyle. The goal is to maintain and, where practicable, enhance subsistence opportunities for all citizens within the City and Borough of Sitka.

Objective: The present distribution of, abundance of, and access to renewable wild resources valued by Sitkans for customary and traditional personal use shall be maintained through designation of key habitat areas within the City and Borough given priority for subsistence uses, and through close cooperation with agencies allocating subsistence resources.

Enforceable Policies: No enforceable policies at this time. Goals and objectives will be implemented through guidance policies and other means of local implementation.

10. HABITATS

1) Application of Enforceable Policies

Policies would apply to important habitat areas designated by the district under 11 AAC 114.250(h). Because the district is not proposing enforceable policies or designating important habitat at this time, the application of enforceable policies is not addressed.

2) Habitats Issues of Local Concern

The Sitka Comprehensive Plan (City and Borough of Sitka, 1999) emphasizes the importance of a healthy natural community to the quality of life in Sitka by placing three policies related to this issue in its list of general goals and policies:

- 2.1.3. A natural and civic environment that is clean and healthy and, which will foster quality family life; ...
- 2.1.5. Close and easy access to wildlands and wilderness;...
- 2.1.14. Access to natural resources necessary for community growth and well-being;....

The rich variety and abundance of natural resources and the high quality of life found in Sitka is due in large measure to the diverse and productive fish and wildlife habitats present in the coastal zone. Local fish and wildlife resources have been shown to be of considerable socioeconomic value to the community and will continue to provide both tangible and intangible benefits with wise use and management.

The Habitat Protection Section of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, under a Memorandum of Understanding with the City and Borough of Sitka, completed field research activities designed to detail the resource evaluation done in the Phase I Report, and to develop recommendations with respect to the management of streams, wetlands, and the marine environment in the study area. The Conclusions and Recommendations of the Habitat Study Program are included in the Sitka Coastal Management Program as Appendix-6.

Major issues impacting habitats in the City and Borough of Sitka are discussed in the above documents, as well as in specific sections elsewhere in this chapter.

3) Habitats Resource Inventory and Analysis

Appendix-6, Sitka Coastal Habitat Evaluation Final Project Summary with Management Recommendations, contains specific information about the resource values, suitability and sensitivity of coastal habitats, and the anticipated effects of development on these resource values. In mandating statewide revisions of district coastal plans within one year, OPMP represented to districts that thorough revision of currently approved Resource Inventory and Analysis documents would not be required.

4) Current Habitats Regulations

State and federal land management agencies have primary responsibility for habitat preservation and regulation on public lands in Alaska.

11 AAC 112.300. Habitats. (b) *The following standards apply to the management of the habitats identified in (a) of this section:*

(1) *offshore areas must be managed to avoid, minimize, or mitigate significant adverse impacts to competing uses such as commercial, recreational, or subsistence fishing, to the extent that those uses are determined to be in competition with the proposed use;*

(2) *estuaries must be managed to avoid, minimize, or mitigate significant adverse impacts to*

(A) *adequate water flow and natural water circulation patterns; and*

(B) *competing uses such as commercial, recreational, or subsistence fishing, to the extent that those uses are determined to be in competition with the proposed use;*

(3) *wetlands must be managed to avoid, minimize, or mitigate significant adverse impacts to water flow and natural drainage patterns;*

(4) *tideflats must be managed to avoid, minimize, or mitigate significant adverse impacts to*

(A) *water flow and natural drainage patterns; and*

(B) *competing uses such as commercial, recreational, or subsistence uses, to the extent that those uses are determined to be in competition with the proposed use;*

(5) *rocky islands and sea cliffs must be managed to*

(A) *avoid, minimize, or mitigate significant adverse impacts to habitat used by coastal species; and*

(B) *avoid the introduction of competing or destructive species and predators;*

(6) *barrier islands and lagoons must be managed to avoid, minimize, or mitigate significant adverse impacts*

(A) *to flows of sediments and water;*

(B) *from the alteration or redirection of wave energy or marine currents that would lead to the filling in of lagoons or the erosion of barrier islands; and*

(C) *from activities that would decrease the use of barrier islands by coastal species, including polar bears and nesting birds;*

(7) *exposed high-energy coasts must be managed to avoid, minimize, or mitigate significant adverse impacts*

(A) *to the mix and transport of sediments; and*

(B) *from redirection of transport processes and wave energy;*

(8) *rivers, streams, and lakes must be managed to avoid, minimize, or mitigate significant adverse impacts to*

(A) *natural water flow;*

(B) *active floodplains; and*

(C) *natural vegetation within riparian management areas; and*

(9) *important habitat*

(A) *designated under 11 AAC 114.250(h) must be managed for the special productivity of the habitat in accordance with district enforceable policies adopted under 11 AAC 114.270(g); or*

(B) *identified under (c)(1)(B) or (C) of this section must be managed to avoid, minimize, or mitigate significant adverse impacts to the special productivity of the habitat. (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172; am 6/25/2005, Register 174)*

(c) For purposes of this section,
 (1) “important habitat” means habitats listed in (a)(1) – (8) of this section and other habitats in the coastal area that are
 (A) designated under 11 AAC 114.250(h);
 (B) identified by the department as a habitat
 (i) the use of which has a direct and significant impact on coastal water; and
 (ii) that is shown by written scientific evidence to be significantly more productive than adjacent habitat; or
 (C) identified as state game refuges, state game sanctuaries, state range areas, or fish and game critical habitat areas under AS 16.20;
 (2) “riparian management area” means the area along or around a waterbody within the following distances, measured from the outermost extent of the ordinary high water mark of the waterbody:
 (A) for the braided portions of a river or stream, 500 feet on either side of the waterbody; (B) for split channel portions of a river or stream, 200 feet on either side of the waterbody;
 (C) for single channel portions of a river or stream, 100 feet on either side of the waterbody;
 (D) for a lake, 100 feet of the waterbody. (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 1722; am 6/25/2005, Register 174)

The Office of Habitat Management and Permitting (OHMP) is responsible for activities affecting fish streams. A Title 41 Fish Habitat Permit is required for activities impeding the efficient passage of fish. Culvert installation; stream realignment or diversions; dams; low-water crossings; and construction, placement, deposition, or removal of any material or structure below ordinary high water are among the activities requiring approval. Approval must be obtained from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Office of Habitat Management and Permitting for work affecting streams catalogued under the provisions of the Anadromous Fish Act (AS 41.14.870). Approval must also be obtained for activities that would disrupt fish movement in uncatalogued fish streams.

To prevent unnecessary encroachment upon stream channels, banks, and associated floodplains, the City and Borough has adopted into the Sitka General Code under Major Subdivision easements (21.24.140) that there shall be at least a ten-foot wide easement as a buffer on either side of any creek or stream. A wider natural riparian zone of 25 to 50 feet is encouraged to provide filtering for runoff and bank protection. If the stream is anadromous, the platting board may require wider easements after consultation with the State.

5) Adequacy of Existing Habitats Laws

The statewide standard for important habitat applies to important habitat designated under 11 AAC 114.250(h). An area that is designated as important habitat must be managed for the special productivity of the habitat in accordance with enforceable policies that are developed to determine whether a specific land or water use or activity will be allowed. No enforceable policies are proposed at this time, so the adequacy of existing laws is not addressed.

6) Habitats Goals, Objectives, and Enforceable Policies

Goal: To protect and maintain the habitat values and biological productivity of important habitat areas throughout the City and Borough of Sitka.

Objective: To provide policies, and/or support the regulations of other agencies, to insure that habitat preservation will be given due consideration in development of the coastal area, and that those areas identified as important habitat areas will be maintained and protected.

Enforceable Policies: No enforceable policies at this time. Goals and objectives will be implemented through guidance policies and other means of local implementation.

SPECIAL TOPIC: BALD EAGLE MANAGEMENT

1) Bald Eagle Management Issues of Local Concern

The bald eagle is an important and valued resource to the people of Sitka. Not only is it our national bird, but it is also a highly visible symbol of wild and pristine Alaska and an economic asset to a tourist-oriented community such as Sitka. Additionally, the bald eagle is an integral part of the environment and of the culture of the Native community. While the bald eagle is protected under federal law, issues center around the need for protection against the loss of suitable habitat, including nest and perch trees, required by the bald eagle. Shoreline areas and old growth forest habitat are prime nesting and perching areas. The continuing loss of perch trees in the downtown area of Sitka has resulted in fewer eagles in this area, a loss to citizens and tourists alike who enjoy viewing them.

2) Current Bald Eagle Management Regulations

The Federal Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940, as amended (16 USC 668-668d), states in part that no person “shall take...any bald eagle... alive or dead, or any part, nest, or egg thereof...”. It further defines “take” to include “wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb...”. An eagle nest tree cannot be cut down, nor can the nest or birds be disturbed. Violation of the Act can result in a fine of up to \$10,000 and imprisonment for up to two years. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has management and enforcement responsibility for bald eagles. Bald eagles are also subject to the Federal Endangered Species Act, although Alaskan bald eagles are not an endangered species.

On Forest Service lands in Alaska, eagle management is accomplished by means of a memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the USFWS and the U.S. Forest Service. The current MOU requires that no land development or timber harvest activities shall be permitted within 330 feet of an eagle nest tree, and that suitable windfirm trees for perching, hunting, and feeding shall be retained in each 100 yards of shoreline.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game exercises some authority over the possession and transportation of bald eagles for scientific and educational purposes. In general, ADFG defers to the USFWS for policies and guidelines to maintain or enhance bald eagle populations and habitats in Alaska because of preemptive federal laws and regulations.

3) Bald Eagle Management Goals, Objectives and Enforceable Policies

Goal: It is the goal of the Sitka Coastal Management Program to provide for the continuation of eagle habitat and nesting opportunities within the road system of the City and Borough of Sitka.

Objectives: a) To determine the locations of existing eagle nesting trees and provide for protection of those needed resources. b) To provide for eagle protection where either public or private land holdings are involved.

Enforceable Policies: No enforceable policies are allowable under the provisions of the Alaska Coastal Management Program. Bald Eagle Management goals and objectives will be implemented through guidance policies and other means of local implementation.

11. AIR, LAND, & WATER QUALITY

1) Air, Land, And Water Quality Issues of Local Concern

Air Quality

Sitka's air quality is generally good, meeting federal air pollution standards for pollutants such as carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulate matter and sulfur dioxide. Wood smoke emissions from individual wood-fired stoves that emit particulates and creosote are the primary human sources of air pollutants in Sitka.

The Sitka Comprehensive Plan (City and Borough of Sitka, 1999) does not discuss diminished air quality as a significant factor affecting quality of life in the Sitka area. There is only one policy regarding this issue in the plan:

- 2.4.10. To protect crucial subsistence resources from loss and damage, to minimize loss and damage to all subsistence resources, and to carry out the following policies and objectives:...C. The Borough will work with the Alaska Department of Conservation to ensure that air and water quality will be protected in all areas.

Land Quality

In the original 1981 Sitka Coastal Management Program document, the issues raised under "Land Quality" stressed the landfill and solid waste concerns. The adverse impacts of the Sitka landfill have been resolved with its closure. Discussion of the solid waste disposal issue has been relocated to the Transportation and Utilities section.

Sitka's aesthetic and visual environments are extremely important to both residents and visitors. The natural beauty of Sitka, both as viewed from the community looking outward and from the waters or mountains surrounding Sitka looking back to the community, contributes greatly to the quality of life of the residents and encourages visitation by tourists.

Fresh Water Quality

The Sitka Comprehensive Plan (City and Borough of Sitka, 1999) includes policies for the provision of clean drinking water and the protection of fresh water sources, including:

- 2.3.9. To give high priority to the provision of clean drinking water for the public, including: A. Protection of water supplies and watersheds from the adverse effects of development;...

Activities with potential for impacting fresh water quality within the City and Borough include logging, road-building, road maintenance, gravel quarry operation, seafood processing facilities, and community sanitary landfill sites. Considerable progress has been made within the roaded area of Sitka to alleviate some of these concerns.

For example, Sitka completed a sand and gravel study and implemented its recommendations, including completely revising its Granite Creek leases, to require compliance with appropriate standards to ensure

water quality in adjacent streams is maintained. See Section 8, Sand and Gravel Extraction for further information concerning sand and gravel.

Sitka has also completed a major sewer project and Sewer Treatment Plant and is shipping its solid waste off-island, permitting the sanitary landfill to be closed, and former garbage cell areas reclaimed for softball fields.

The U.S. Forest Service manages most of the timber harvest and related road-building and maintenance activities in the District (excluding state and native timberlands), and its management is generally outside the purview of this District Program.

A major issue concerning fresh water revolves around potable or drinking water and the importance of health standards for human consumption. Historically, Sitka depended upon Cascade Creek and Indian River for some 80 percent of its drinking water. In 1985, the City and Borough installed a lake tap into Blue Lake. A feeder line travels along the Sawmill Creek Highway and ties into the original distribution system at Indian River.

Salt Water Quality

There are three major issues relating to salt water environmental quality in Sitka: 1) the former pulp mill and its residual impacts to Silver Bay and Sitka Sound, 2) the potential for oil spills in or near Sitka Sound, and 3) waste solids treatment, including fish processing wastes.

According to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, "List of Impaired Waterbodies 2002/2003" (Section 303(d) list), Silver Bay was on the Section 303(d) list from 1994 to 2003 for non-attainment of the Residues, Toxic & Other Deleterious Organic and Inorganic Substances, and Dissolved Gas standards for sludge (residues), toxic substances, and dissolved gas (low DO).

A contaminated site Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study for Silver Bay was contracted by Alaska Pulp Company from July 1996 to February 1999. A Record of Decision by DEC was issued in 1999. The remedial action objective identified by the ROD was: natural recovery, with long-term monitoring. A Total Maximum Daily Load has been developed for Silver Bay, addressing residues, sediment toxicity, and dissolved oxygen. Wasteload allocations have been developed for residues and sediment toxicity. Monitoring data show that Silver Bay is no longer impaired for dissolved oxygen (DO) for surface waters or in the water column. Although DO levels below the limits of the WQS have been observed in deep water between Sawmill Cove and Herring Cove, there appears to be no correlation between these levels and the presence of wood waste, and no current source of DO depression is known. Therefore, it is determined that Silver Bay is no longer impaired for dissolved oxygen and the DO pollutant parameter is removed from the Silver Bay listing. On September 27, 1999 a TMDL was completed for residues for the Herring Cove segment of Silver Bay. In 2003 a TMDL has been completed for Silver Bay for residues and sediment toxicity. Since TMDLs have been completed for all of the listed area of Silver Bay and pollutant parameters it is removed from the Section 303(d) and moved to Category 4a.

Category 4 implies that the waterbody is impaired for one or more designated uses but doesn't need a TMDL to correct the problem and therefore is not 303(d) listed (Category 5 waters). The 4a classification indicates that a TMDL was completed (Jeff Hock, Dept. of Environmental Conservation, e-mail communication, January 2005).

The potential for an oil spill near Sitka Sound has been studied and contingency plans prepared. The Southeast Subarea Contingency Plan for Oil and Hazardous Substance Spills and Releases (July 1997) was prepared by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. It contains chapters on Response, Resources, Hazmat (hazardous materials), Sensitive Areas, Background information, and Scenarios.

The sewage treatment plant and sewer development are discussed in Section 5, Transportation and Utilities.

2) Current Air, Land and Water Quality Regulations

Regulatory authority for Air, Land and Water Quality rests in the hands of the State Department of Environmental Conservation, under agreement with the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Coastal district plans cannot include any enforceable policies that address air, land or water quality. One of the major reforms of HB 191 was to effectuate the direct state implementation of DEC's air, land and water quality standards. HB 191 specifically provides that DEC's air, land and water quality standards are the exclusive standards of the ACMP for those purposes.

11 AAC 112.310. Air, land, and water quality. *Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the statutes and regulations of the Department of Environmental Conservation with respect to the protection of air, land, and water quality identified in AS 46.40.040(b) are incorporated into the program and, as administered by that department, constitute the exclusive components of the program with respect to those purposes. (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170)*

The U.S. Forest Service manages most of the timber harvest and related road-building and maintenance activities in the Sitka coastal district. All of these operations in the coastal area should conform with AS 41.17, the Alaska Forest Practices Regulations, with respect to logging, road building, and maintenance. The City and Borough of Sitka assumes responsibility for monitoring bacterial quality of Sitka's municipal water supplies and submitting sample results to the State Department of Environmental Conservation, which also monitors the quality of water supplies for domestic use developed for logging or mining camps operating under use permits. Salmon hatcheries require high water quality with suitable water temperature characteristics. Identification of adequate hatchery water sources and maintenance of water quality are the responsibilities of the hatchery owner/operator so as to meet effluent standards. The Department of Environmental Conservation monitors and enforces these standards.

State and federal agencies are responsible for insuring compliance with extensive air, land, and water quality standards. The City and Borough of Sitka defers to these existing standards for maintenance of air, land, and water quality within the City and Borough of Sitka.

3) Air, Land and Water Quality Goals, Objectives, and Enforceable Policies

Goal: To maintain air, land and water quality in Sitka.

Objective: To maintain liaison with the State of Alaska regarding testing and sampling programs and other protective measures to assure air, land and water quality.

Objective: To protect and maintain Sitka's outstanding scenic views, both from the Sitka road system and from the forests and waters surrounding the community, through a visual resources management plan.

Enforceable Policies: No enforceable policies are allowable under the provisions of the Alaska Coastal Management Program. Air, land and water quality goals and objectives will be implemented through guidance policies and other means of local implementation.

12. HISTORIC, PREHISTORIC, & ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

1) Application of Enforceable Policies

Policies would apply to areas designated by the district under 11 AAC 114.250(i) as important to the study, understanding, or illustration of national, state, or local history or prehistory. Sites listed on the Alaska Heritage Resource Survey are designated as important to the study, understanding, or illustration of national, state, or local history or prehistory. Because the district is not proposing enforceable policies or designating areas of the coast important to the study, understanding, or illustration of national, state, or local history or prehistory at this time, the application of enforceable policies is not addressed.

2) Historic, Prehistoric, and Archaeological Resources Issues of Local Concern

Sitka has a rich and exciting history of human habitation that is still much in evidence in the community today. Tlingit Indians still live in the same area where their 18th century village stood, and St. Michael's Russian orthodox Cathedral, destroyed by fire in 1966, has been rebuilt exactly as it was in 1848.

Archeological research has indicated that humans inhabited Baranof Island and southeast Alaska from approximately 10,000 years ago. A very important archeological site, known as Hidden Falls, was first discovered by the U.S. Forest Service. Geological interpretations and carbon-14 dating indicate people were living at Hidden Falls located south of Kelp Bay almost 10,000 years ago. This oldest culture-bearing deposit has produced a stone tool industry assumed to be associated with a marine-oriented society dependent upon the ocean for its subsistence and transportation.

The very coastal resources that attracted the Russians to establish their original trading post at Old Sitka have sustained the Sitka Kwaan of the Tlingits for centuries, and the bloody confrontations that followed the coming of the Russian traders continued until the superior Russian force was able to prevail. Alexander Baranov, manager of the powerful Russian-American Company, went on to make Sitka the headquarters of the vast Alaskan fur trading business. The Russian settlement, Ozerskoi Redoubt, was well established at the head of the Redoubt Bay by 1818.

The purchase of Alaska was consummated in Sitka on October 18, 1867 when the Russian flag was replaced at a simple military ceremony with the stars and stripes of the United States. Sitka was named in 1884 as the seat of District government and regained some of its earlier vitality as the Pribilof seal harvest once again stimulated shipping through the community. Other major developments in the Borough included the Baranof Packing Company in Redoubt Bay and the Port Armstrong Whaling Station near the southeast tip of Baranof Island, and several gold mines. These developments, as well as the community's position as a point of supply, all contributed to the economy.

The Sitka Comprehensive Plan (City and Borough of Sitka, 1999) lists several policies emphasizing the importance of protection of historic and cultural resources to the residents of Sitka:

- 2.4.16. To publicly encourage community awareness of the value of protecting historic and cultural resources and to recognize organizations that improve the historic character of buildings and sites.
- 2.4.18. To encourage the preservation and/or renovation of historical buildings and sites on public lands. The Native community shall be especially encouraged to participate. This goal incorporates the following objectives:

- A. Local historical organizations shall be asked for recommendations when naming public streets and facilities.
- B. The Borough shall encourage the preservation and renovation of historic buildings and sites related to WWII activities on the Causeway, Biorka and Kruzof Islands.
- C. The Borough shall actively encourage preservation and maintenance of cemeteries throughout the Borough by local groups and individuals.
- 2.5.4. To enhance the historic character of older neighborhoods, including the Native Village.
- 2.6.4. To encourage preservation/restoration of historic architecture and landmarks for commercial and industrial use.
- 2.12.3. To continue support of the Arts in the following ways:...C. Assure protection and enhancement of historic places including, but not limited to, cemeteries, historic buildings, landmarks, and public art.
- 2.12.4. To follow all relevant laws pertaining to:...B. Cultural resources and archaeological surveys in response to federal and state provisions.
- 2.13.30. To preserve and appreciate Sitka's heritage. Sites or structures having significant historic or cultural value should be preserved.
- 2.13.32. To produce a long-range and coordinated plan for development of the historic downtown area of Sitka.

3) Historic, Prehistoric, and Archaeological Resources Resource Inventory and Analysis

In addition to Hidden Falls, described above, some other known cultural sites within the City and Borough of Sitka include:

Crab Bay – Reported hunting and fishing camps, village site; burial site; pitch cut and stripped trees; petroglyphs.

Kadashan – Prehistoric lithic material and suspected village site; petroglyphs.

Lake Eva – The first prehistoric village site located on an inland lake shore in the Southeast Alaska dating from between 4,000 and 8,000 years ago.

Kelp Bay – Pitch cut and stripped trees; reported hunting and fishing camps; village site, petroglyphs.

Sitkoh Bay, Middle Island, Kalinen Bay – Petroglyphs.

The National Register of Historic Places is the Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. As of 2005, 22 sites in Sitka were listed on the National Register. The Register can be accessed at <http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com>.

The Alaska Heritage Resource Survey is an inventory of all reported historic and prehistoric sites within the State of Alaska. Maintained by the Office of History and Archaeology in the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, this survey lists more than 100 entries within the Sitka Quadrangle, ranging from ancient petroglyphs, Indian village remains and shaman burials sites, through buildings and sites significant to the Russian period, to a World War II vintage military base. Access to the listing is restricted, to protect these irreplaceable resources.

Through the Coastal Program, in 1982 the City and Borough completed a structural survey of historic buildings in downtown Sitka. This data is used to assist in identification and protection of historic and archeological sites along the road system.

The Sitka Parks and Recreation Plan (City and Borough of Sitka, Parks and Recreation Committee, 1991) contains a list of historic and cultural sites on p. 23. Some of the sites listed are further described elsewhere in the plan, in separate listings that show their ownership, location, size, facilities and uses, and recommendations for their management. One objective of the plan is “the preservation and appreciation of Sitka’s heritage.” The plan says: “Sites or structures having significant historic or cultural value should be preserved.” (p. 23)

Historic and cultural resources are precious for the same reason that diamonds are valuable: because of their rarity, with their beauty as a secondary value. The alteration or modernization of a historic or cultural site can reduce much of its rarity and value. Some historic or cultural resources are highly sensitive to development due to their age, fragility, or the importance of their visual setting in providing context. Others can tolerate some degree of development or modernization without losing their essential value. With historic or cultural resources it is important to manage conservatively and with an eye toward the changing values of future generations.

4) Current Historic, Prehistoric, and Archaeological Resources Regulations

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Department of Natural Resources, also houses the Office of History and Archeology. The State of Alaska Historic Preservation Officer is also identified by federal agreement as the preservation agent for Alaska. For both federal and state funded projects, a history and archeological clearance is a routine part of any application processed to minimize the possibility of loss of an important site or artifact. Outside of the road system area, all areas, with the exception of native and state land selections and a few private parcels, are managed by the Department of Agriculture - U.S. Forest Service, which maintains an archeological staff. It is assumed that the U.S. Forest Service would coordinate log sale contracts or other activities with the State of Alaska for archeological and historic evaluation, as mandated under the Federal Antiquities and Cultural Resources Acts and other federal laws.

The statewide standard provides for protection of designated areas that are important to the study, understanding, or illustration of national, state, or local history or prehistory, including natural processes.

11 AAC 112.320. Historic, prehistoric, and archeological resources. (a) *The department will designate areas of the coastal zone that are important to the study, understanding, or illustration of national, state, or local history or prehistory, including natural processes.*
(b) *A project within an area designated under (a) of this section shall comply with the applicable requirements of AS 41.35.010 – 41.35.240 and 11 AAC 16.010 – 11 AAC 16.900.*
(Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170)

In order to develop and apply enforceable policies to protect historic, prehistoric, and archeological resources a district must designate also designate such areas.

11 AAC 114.250. Subject uses, activities, and designations. (i) *A district shall consider and may designate areas of the coast that are important to the study, understanding, or illustration of national, state, or local history or prehistory.* (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)

5) Adequacy of Existing Historic, Prehistoric, and Archaeological Resources Laws

Because the district is not proposing enforceable policies for historic, prehistoric and archaeological areas or designating areas of the coast important to the study, understanding, or illustration of national, state, or local history or prehistory at this time, the adequacy of existing laws is not addressed.

6) Historic, Prehistoric, and Archaeological Resources Goals, Objectives and Enforceable Policies

Goal: To preserve and protect the rich historic and archeological resources within the City and Borough of Sitka.

Objective: To increase awareness of the historic and archeological opportunities in Sitka, and encourage the preservation, protection and interpretation of Sitka's historical heritage.

Enforceable Policies: No enforceable policies at this time. Goals and objectives contained in this chapter will be implemented through guidance policies and other means of local implementation.

IV. AREA MERITING SPECIAL ATTENTION

A. Introduction and Designation of Swan Lake as an AMSA and Recreational Use Area

The Alaska Coastal Management Act and the Guidelines and Standards that implement a local program permit the establishment of “area which merits special attention” (AMSA). AMSAs may be used in local coastal management plans as a management tool to recognize and protect “areas of unique, scarce, fragile or vulnerable natural habitat, cultural value, historical significance or scenic importance” and “substantial recreational value or opportunity.” Accordingly, the Swan Lake AMSA was established in 1981.

The Swan Lake AMSA boundaries are depicted on Figure 7 and legally described as follows. All of that tract of land that lies less than 30.00' above mean lower low water as depicted on the survey by M.V. Schmidt titled “Swan Lake” dated Dec 16 1977. This land is within or contiguous to the portion of USS 1763 defined as:

Beginning at Meander Corner 3 of USS 1474, said corner also being the southwesterly corner of USS 226 and corner 1 and the true point of beginning of this description, thence following record meanders of USS 1474 in a clockwise direction S 36° 29' E 140.41' to corner 2; thence S 08° 15' E 42.41' to corner 3; thence S 17° 54' W 81.57' to corner 4; thence S 06° 52' W 229.68' to corner 5; thence S 12° 10' E 84.18' to corner 6; thence S 63° 02' W 54.18' to corner 7; thence N 57° 29' W 314.31' to corner 8; thence N 41° 45' W 60.00' to corner 9; thence N 48° 40' W 324.96' to corner 10; thence N 75° 29' W 209.06' to corner 11; thence N 47° 21' W 132.20' to Meander Corner 4 of USS 1474 said corner also being Corner 9 of USS 6-1/2 and corner 12 of this description; thence following meander 8 of said USS 6-1/2 N 39° 00' E 495' to Corner 8 of said USS 6-1/2 and corner 13 of this description; thence following meander 7 of said USS 6-1/2 N 25° 30' W 462' to Corner 7 of said USS 6-1/2 and corner 14 of this description; thence following meander 6 of said USS 6-1/2 N 38° 30' W 739.86' to Corner 6 of said USS 6-1/2, this corner also being Corner 8 of USS 225 and corner 15 of this description; thence N 10° 30' W 433.62' along the boundary of said USS 225 to Corner 7 of said USS 225 this corner also being Corner 1 of USS 226 and corner 16 of this description; thence along the boundary of said USS 226 S 46° 45' E approximately 1575' to the mouth of Arrowhead Creek; thence continuing S 46° 45' E approximately 191.82' to Corner 6 of said USS 226 and corner 17 of this description; thence S 02° 00' W approximately 543' to the mouth of Wrinklneck Creek; thence, continuing S 02° 00' W approximately 38.46' to Corner 5 of said USS 226, this corner also being the True Point of Beginning of this description

In addition, the entire Swan Lake AMSA is designated a recreational use area because the area receives significant use by persons engaging in recreation. Note that although there is land under federal ownership within the study area, those lands are excluded from the coastal zone and thus the designation as depicted on Figure 7.

While the lands and waters of the Sitka District are rich in coastal resources and many areas in the District might technically qualify for AMSA designation, an adequate level of protection for their environmental and economic values is already provided through existing governmental regulation and the implementation of the coastal district plan.

Swan Lake, however, is truly unique and contains fragile and vulnerable habitat of sufficient cultural value and historical significance to be credibly identified as an AMSA and to warrant detailed planning studies as the Coastal Program is implemented. It also contains unique recreational attributes and is often referred to as Sitka's "Central Park."

B. Resource Inventory and Resource Analysis

The Resource Inventory and Resource Analysis for the Swan Lake AMSA are located in Appendix A-7. The references are listed in that appendix and in Appendix A-3 References.

C. Swan Lake AMSA Issues and Historic Management Actions

Swan Lake is located in the virtual center of the Sitka roaded area and is a prime recreational area for local residents. The watershed has historical values that trace back to the Russian occupation. Boating, picnicking, sport fishing, ice skating and bird watching are among the activities which make the lake popular with Sitkans.

Swan Lake, including its tributaries and the adjacent shorelands, comprises an important freshwater ecosystem in Sitka. Development around the lake and its feeder streams poses a threat to water quality, which could lead to loss of habitat and recreational values and acceleration of the natural lake aging process. Special management practices are warranted to ensure that this valuable lake will continue to support healthy fish and wildlife populations, as well as to provide aesthetic and recreational enjoyment for the people of Sitka. Slowing the natural lake aging process is key to fully restoring and enhancing these recreational and habitat values.

The AMSA Study of Swan Lake was developed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in a report titled "Swan Lake Recreational Area," completed in January, 1981. It provided a biological analysis of the area and explained why AMSA classification was requested. It was adopted by the District and approved as part of Sitka's Coastal Management Program in 1981.

When the original 1981 coastal document was completed, Swan Lake possessed the second highest priority in Alaska for federal funding under the "Clean Lakes" program. This program was specifically designed to assist in the cleanup of lakes suffering from major eutrophication (lake nutrient enrichment and aging). Swan Lake is slowly filling up and being extensively choked by lily pad growth. As a part of the detailed habitat evaluation program, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game recommended additional limnology studies be accomplished to further review the lake and its biological potential. A combined limited dredging and recreational fill project was suggested. However, prior to completion of the application for "Clean Lakes" funding, the new federal administration deleted money for that program. No alternative funds were available.

In 1984, seven different combined habitat improvement and recreation proposals for the lake were examined by the municipal Parks and Recreation Committee. Following a series of public hearings, the proposal, as submitted in the 1981 AMSA, was recommended. The estimated cost was in the

neighborhood of \$1,400,000, which included the development of 60,000 square feet of recreation space, 30,000 square feet of parking area, and the reconstruction of a portion of Lake Street needed after repeated heavy hauling to and from the project site. This cost also included dredging of approximately 180,000 square feet or 4.15 acres of the lake to a maximum depth of sixteen feet below the water surface. The above figures and volumes were arrived at through a “Geotechnical Assessment and Construction Analysis” study, accomplished by Stragier Engineering and Construction Engineering Services in September, 1985.

The Moller Park/Swan Lake Ten Year Community Use Plan, proposed by the Task Force of the Sitka Parks and Recreation Committee in 1991, addresses desired recreation and transportation facilities and upgrades on public lands. The Plan also addresses environmental issues, including vegetation and forest park enhancement adjacent to Swan Lake, and reducing erosion and sediment entering Swan Lake from the ditch and hillsides near the Moller track. Lastly, the Plan acknowledges the need for it to be linked to the special needs of the Swan Lake AMSA, such as lake eutrophication problems, wetlands damage occurring around the lake, and Wrinklneck Creek and Arrowhead Creek stream cleanup and erosion.

Since the 1990s, the Sport Fish Division of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has administered the Swan Lake Rainbow Trout Enhancement program as part of the Southeast Alaska regional five-year stocking plan. The purpose of the program is to increase the availability of rainbow trout in Swan Lake to improve angler success. Swan Lake is the site of the annual Junior Trout Derby for young anglers and receives a considerable amount of fishing pressure during the open water season. Major objectives are to generate 200 angler-days of fishing effort per year for young anglers and provide for a harvest of up to 150 rainbow trout per year from Swan Lake. Annual stocking of approximately 300 rainbow trout taken from Sukoi Lake supplements the existing rainbow trout population. The annual catch statistics help give an adequate picture of the health of fish stocks in the lake.

1. Swan Lake Watershed Recovery and Restoration

The lake restoration effort received renewed attention beginning in the mid-1990s. In 1994, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)---as part of a statewide effort to identify waters not meeting water quality standards---completed an assessment of Swan Lake and its feeder creeks to document habitat and water quality concerns. Follow-up assessments confirmed Swan Lake and Lower Wrinklneck Creek as impaired waterbodies due to urban runoff and excess solid waste and debris in the watershed. Moreover, the excessive growth of lily pads and other aquatic plants in the lake impedes recreational and fisheries uses during open water periods. After these investigations, ADEC awarded a community water quality grant to Sitka in 1999 to complete a Swan Lake Watershed Recovery Strategy to guide restoration work throughout the watershed. Federal funding came from a nonpoint source pollution control grant under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

The Swan Lake Watershed Recovery Strategy. Phase 1: Debris and Solid Waste Removal and Control (January 2000) outlines a publicly endorsed action strategy to improve water quality and habitat conditions in the watershed. The purpose of the Strategy mirrors the purpose of the Swan Lake AMSA: simply, to protect and enhance the recreational, aesthetic, and fish and wildlife values of Swan Lake for the enjoyment and use of the public. The multi-year process in the Strategy addresses this purpose by taking specific actions to slow down and reverse the natural aging of Swan Lake. It also includes a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for cleaning up debris in the watershed in keeping with federal requirements. Under the Phase 1 plan, annual community trash cleanups of the

lake and creeks keep the watershed relatively free of debris and litter. Improvements in home heating oil tank management also reduce oil spillage adjacent to Wrinklneck Creek.

The Phase 1 Strategy triggered multiple follow-up actions. To identify the actions needed to slow down and reverse the eutrophication process, the City and Borough of Sitka completed the *Swan Lake Watershed Recovery Strategy. Phase 2: Eutrophication Report and Action Plan (June 2000)*. Also funded by a federal Clean Water Act grant, the Phase 2 Strategy outlined an Action Plan of over 20 tasks to help restore Swan Lake and its tributaries. A range of alternatives to address the problems was proposed and a preferred alternative was selected after public discussion. This Strategy remains the key document in guiding lake restoration priorities.

Closely following the publication of the eutrophication report and recovery strategy in 2000, *A Guide to Volunteer and Agency Water Quality Monitoring in the Swan Lake Watershed and a Quality Assurance Project Plan (June 2001)* lays out the procedures and objectives for student and agency water quality monitoring in support of lake rehabilitation. Sitka High School students and municipal staff have joined with professional monitors in collecting lake and creek water quality information. A small brochure, *A Citizen's Guide to Protecting Water Quality in the Swan Lake Watershed (June 2001)*, recognizes and emphasizes the importance that Sitkans play in protecting their AMSA. It includes a list of "Dos" and "Don'ts" that focus on simple things citizens can do to improve lake habitat and water quality. *The State of the Lake Report (July 2002)* summarizes lake restoration actions taken since 2000, presents a progress report and "report card" on the relative success of each action, and outlines restoration work that remains to be done. *The Stormwater Control Strategy and Action Plan for the Swan Lake Watershed (June 2002)* recognizes the importance of stormwater management in protecting the lake's recreational and habitat uses, identifies sources and pathways of stormwater in the Swan Lake watershed, summarizes current controls, and calls for over 20 new actions to improve stormwater management. This Strategy was soon followed by *A Contractor and Citizen Guide to Reducing Stormwater Pollution – "When it rains, it drains" (June 2004)*. This brochure outlines stormwater problems, how runoff is regulated, permit requirements, and local practices that are effective in reducing stormwater pollution.

Lastly, the City and Borough of Sitka completed *Vegetation Management Guidelines for the Swan Lake AMSA* in March 2004. The guidelines will educate and guide city and borough staff and citizens in practices for protecting habitat and water quality in the AMSA. The stated purpose is to "help keep Swan Lake aesthetically pleasing, clean and accessible for public use and enjoyment" as well as to "maintain and enhance the resident fish, waterfowl and wildlife populations with the Swan Lake watershed." Both proper and improper uses that are compatible or detrimental, respectively, to the purpose of the Swan Lake AMSA are identified.

Considerable restoration progress has been made through the combination of the above-mentioned efforts. A summary of notable lake and watershed restoration actions taken since 2000 includes the following:

- Dredged over 1,500 cubic yards of vegetation and sediments collectively from the lake outlet channel and from the Wrinklneck Creek delta, removing restrictions and improving water flow out of and into Swan Lake.
- Established an active student and professional water quality monitoring program for the lake and creeks, involving over 370 hours of student volunteer effort through April 2002.

- Routinely documented seasonal dissolved oxygen levels, pH, lake water levels, sediment loading, and turbidity at multiple stations and culverts throughout the watershed.
- Held municipally sponsored annual community watershed litter cleanups that have collected over three tons of debris, trash and metals from the lake and creeks to date.
- Mailed educational flyers and brochures to each watershed resident on best management practices to keep their lake and creeks clean and pollution-free.
- Reduced sedimentation of the lake through improved municipal maintenance practices and stormwater controls.
- Initiated culvert upgrades and other drainage improvements at problematic streets and drafted a ditch maintenance plan for improving the quality of stormwater runoff.
- Actively involved watershed residents and other volunteers in rehabilitation work.

2. Future Efforts

More work remains to be done. Remaining tasks will require further funding. Perhaps the single most visible and successful restoration task has been dredge removal of lake sediments and vegetation in critical recreational and resident fish habitat areas. Funded under a combination of federal grants (Section 319, the Alaska Clean Water Act, and Coastal Impact Assistance Program grants) and local funds, dredging has occurred in three separate phases through 2004. For efficiency, further dredging would ideally be supported by a large grant (greater than \$250,000) that would provide sufficient funding to effectively deploy equipment for several weeks and dredge several acres of sediment and vegetation.

Additional priorities are to upgrade culverts and drainage within the watershed, and continue student and professional water quality monitoring to better evaluate water quality trends over time. An ongoing task is to evaluate resident compliance with Swan Lake AMSA streamside buffer protections and the city and borough's vegetation and forest park management guidelines for streamside revegetation, reseeding and tree/brush clearing in the AMSA. Starting a dialogue with other Southeast communities on common lake problems and possible sharing of resources and equipment might bring more resources and improve management of the Swan Lake AMSA. Lastly, continuing to actively involve watershed residents in rehabilitation work is essential to fully meeting the purposes of the AMSA and Recovery Strategy.

D. Swan Lake AMSA Physical Description, Goals and Objectives

The area included in the AMSA includes Swan Lake, the contiguous marshlands, and the two feeder streams, Wrinklneck Creek and Arrowhead Creek. Wrinklneck Creek is the major tributary entering the lake. It originates in a muskeg area approximately 3,000 feet distance east of the lake and traverses muskeg bogs and spruce/hemlock forests along its upper reaches. The lower 1,000 feet winds through a residential area where houses and property encroach upon the stream channel. Arrowhead Creek also originates in a muskeg/bog area located approximately 700 feet distance from its mouth at the northeastern end of Swan Lake.

Swan Lake encompasses 22.25 acres and contains about 101 acre-feet of fresh water. Depth averages about 4-1/2 feet, with a maximum depth of almost 10 feet. A layer of organic peat material at the lake bottom ranges from 5 to 17 feet thick. The lake is characterized by excessive native aquatic plant

community growth, and is naturally evolving towards a shallow wetland bog. The two feeder streams drain muskeg bog areas that dot the alluvial fan found at the base of Gavan Hill. Both Wrinklneck and Arrowhead Creeks have been extensively altered by stream channelization, culverting and filling of adjacent wetlands for development. The outlet of the lake has also been altered from its original open channel configuration, and presently flows into Sitka Sound through a 60-inch culvert, 1,200 feet in length.

Ownership of lands within the AMSA consists of a mixture of private and municipal lands. Approximately 60 percent of the lake shoreline is inhabited. Any substantive recreation plan for the lake has been limited based on the checkerboard ownership pattern preventing a single program being developed around the entire lake.

Present management and development is subject to the Sitka Subdivision Regulations, Zoning Ordinance, and other public health and safety ordinances of the City/Borough. Development actions within the lake or its wetlands require a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers “404” permit for the placement of dredged or fill materials and a State Department of Environmental Conservation “401” water quality certification. Recreational fishing within the lake and its tributaries is governed by State of Alaska sport fish regulations. Conflict is inevitable when the pressures of urban development begin to have a noticeable affect on a formerly wild and natural waterbody.

Goal

While it is physically, biologically and politically impossible to recapture the pristine character of a freshwater ecosystem located in the heart of a populated area, it is possible to salvage from this conflict, an attractive “urban” lake that will provide pleasant visual and recreational experiences for many generations of Sitkans. It is the goal of the AMSA to preserve, protect, enhance or restore the physical, biological, and cultural features upon which the recreation values depend.

The objectives of this AMSA, therefore, are to adopt a management process that will:

- Ensure a clean, aesthetically pleasing fresh water body within the roaded area of Sitka to be enjoyed and used by the public;
- Maintain and enhance the resident fish populations and habitats within the Swan Lake watershed for the recreational enjoyment and use of the public;
- Protect and preserve habitat attractive to swans and associated waterfowl utilizing Swan Lake; and,
- Provide for recreational activities and development practices consistent with the protection, restoration and sound management of the lake’s resources and habitats as outlined in this management proposal and its companion Swan Lake Watershed Recovery Strategy.

E. Subject Uses

In general terms, all land and water uses and activities occurring within the Swan Lake AMSA, are subject to the district coastal management program. Subject uses for the AMSA are the same as for the rest of the plan and are described more specifically in Section A.2 of the Implementation Chapter of this plan.

F. Proper and Improper Uses

Proper uses within the AMSA are those uses that are compatible with the management goals, and that are permitted uses within the Sitka District Plan. Activities considered proper include, but are not limited to:

- Construction of property improvements that do not infringe on wetlands areas nor result in runoff of polluted water into the aquatic system;
- Development of small finger floats or piers for private landowners along the periphery of Swan Lake;
- Scientific research and instruction where compatible with fisheries and waterfowl management goals;
- Habitat enhancement and restoration projects for the purpose of improving fish and wildlife populations within the AMSA and surrounding areas;
- Recreational use of Swan Lake by the general public for non-motorized boating, fishing, swimming, ice skating, and other compatible recreational activities;
- Other uses of the aquatic system that do not conflict with primary management goals stated in this program.

There are no outright or absolute prohibitions within the Swan Lake AMSA. Rather there are enforceable policies “that will be used to determine whether a specific land or water use or activity will be allowed.” (11 AAC 114.270(g)).

G. Enforceable Policies

The enforceable policies of the Swan Lake AMSA supplement the enforceable policies contained in Chapter III and will be implemented in accordance with procedures described in Chapter VI. The enforceable policies are necessary to preserve, protect, enhance or restore the physical, biological, and cultural features upon which the recreation values depend. The enforceable policies will be used to determine whether the following activities will be allowed within the Swan Lake AMSA.

Applicability of policies: In addition to the policies contained in Chapter III, which apply throughout the Sitka coastal district and to designated recreational use areas, the following policies apply within the Swan Lake AMSA as depicted on Figure 7.

AMSA 13.1 Policy: Within the Swan Lake AMSA as shown in Figure 7, development of permanent structures or land clearing within the 25-feet of the stream banks measured from Ordinary High Water (OHW) of Arrowhead and Wrinklneck Creeks and within 50-feet of the lakeshore measured from OHW shall avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts to the recreational uses of Swan Lake. The recreational uses of Swan Lake can be found in Appendix A-7.

AMSA 13.2 Policy: Within the Swan Lake AMSA as shown in Figure 7, cutting or eradication of natural vegetation is not allowed if the activity would detract from recreational uses of the area. The recreational uses of Swan Lake can be found in Appendix A-7.

AMSA 13.3 Policy: Within the Swan Lake AMSA as shown on Figure 7, in order to protect the recreational uses of the area, gravel or soils extraction and dredge and fill operations

are not allowed unless consistent with Swan Lake Watershed Recovery and Restoration Plan. The recreational uses of Swan Lake can be found on p. A-85 of Appendix A-7. For information about Swan Lake Watershed Recovery and Restoration, see Appendix A-7.

AMSA 13.4 Policy: To protect the recreational uses within the Swan Lake AMSA as shown in Figure 7, operation of motorized watercraft or aircraft (not including radio-controlled model craft) on Swan Lake is not allowed except for purposes of authorized fish restocking.

H. Matter of Local Concern

Under State statutes, the enforceable policies of the district coastal management plan must not address a matter regulated or authorized by state or federal law unless the enforceable policies relate specifically to a matter of local concern. A matter of local concern is a specific coastal use or resource within a defined portion of the district's coastal zone that is

- (1) demonstrated as sensitive to development;
- (2) not adequately addressed by state or federal law; and
- (3) of unique concern to the coastal resource district as demonstrated by local usage or scientific evidence.

For a designated recreation area, the "matter of local concern" test does not apply unless a proposed enforceable policy addresses a matter regulated or authorized by some other state or federal law not enumerated in the statewide standards. In this case, there are state and federal laws that may regulate or authorize the activities identified above. However, enforceable policies for an AMSA in effect on July 1, 2004 satisfy the requirements of (1) and (3) above (11 AAC 114.270(i)). Therefore, only (2) above must be satisfied here.

In terms of adequacy, the applicable laws are broad in scope and general in their application. State laws that address recreation are not applicable due to land ownership patterns. Federal management is limited to federal lands. State regulations are inadequate to protect the resident fish habitat upon which, in part, the recreational uses depend. More specificity is needed to determine whether a specific land or water use or activity will be allowed within the AMSA/designated area and to provide the management measures necessary to address the physical, biological, and cultural features of the area and to preserve, protect, enhance and restore the recreational values (as permitted by 11 AAC 114.270(g) and required by 11 AAC 114.420(d)).

Fig. 7: Swan Lake Area Meriting Special Attention and Designated Recreational Use Area

Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

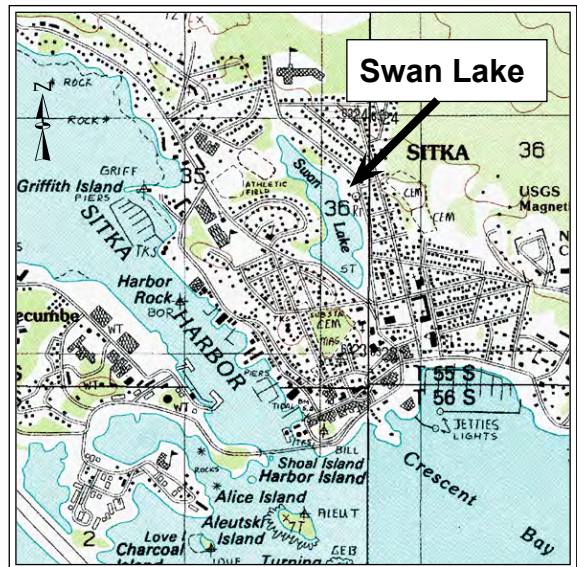
— Description —

The special management zone is 50 feet from the lakeshore and 25 feet either side of the center of the two creeks. Description is official boundary. Refer to DNR's AMSA digital file for digital representation of boundary.

Applicable enforceable policies: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4.



Source: City & Borough of Sitka Planning Department
Federal lands are excluded.



V. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

A. MISSION STATEMENT, PRODUCT, PURPOSE, AND CRITERIA FOR SELECTING SPECIFIC AREAS

COASTAL MANAGEMENT CITIZENS COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the reactivated Coastal Management Citizens Committee is to identify the MOST OUTSTANDING, SITE-SPECIFIC recreation and/or subsistence use areas within the Sitka Coastal District outside the Sitka road system, and to propose management guidelines and/or enforceable policies for these areas to maintain existing uses and limit use conflicts, consistent with the regulatory authorities of the land and water management agencies.

PRODUCT

A Public Use Management Plan for the selected recreational, subsistence and personal resource use areas designated “Special Management Areas” that will provide assistance to all management agencies in determining what uses and activities are considered appropriate for these specific locations.

PURPOSE

The Coastal Management Plan recognizes the authorities of all land and water management entities and provides a vehicle for all agencies to work together to achieve cooperative land and water management solutions for truly outstanding recreational and subsistence use areas within the Sitka Coastal District.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF OUTSTANDING, SITE-SPECIFIC RECREATION AND SUBSISTENCE AREAS WITHIN THE SITKA COASTAL DISTRICT AS SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS IN THE PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT PLAN:

1. Area receives intensive public use for recreational and/or subsistence purposes (e.g., Goddard Hot Springs, Redoubt sockeye stream).
2. Area is a developed or designated recreational facility (e.g., cabin, hot springs, trail, marine park).
3. Area has rare or uncommon physical, geological, geothermal, or cultural resources for recreation and/or subsistence uses (e.g., hot springs, popular sandy beach, waterfall or other unusual attraction, culturally significant subsistence site).
4. Area has major concentration of scarce (limited or rare) biological resource or is one of few sources of biological resource for recreation and/or subsistence uses (e.g., only known concentration of razor clams in District; only large marine bird sanctuary).

B. ISSUES

Sitka's isolated location on the seaward side of the Alexander Archipelago forms an independent and outdoors-oriented community where public lands and waters are heavily used for both recreation adjacent to the Sitka road system and for more dispersed recreation by air or water as well. In addition, traditional and customary "subsistence" and personal uses of the coastal area resources form a major social and cultural way of life for residents of the Sitka Coastal District.

These recreational and subsistence resources within the entire City and Borough are also used by other communities and individuals from within and outside the District. The data gathering phase of the Public Use Management Plan development pointed out that East Chichagof and Baranof Island areas, especially those bordering on Chatham Strait, have received long-term, traditional use by residents of Kake, Port Alexander, Petersburg, Angoon, and Tenakee Springs (and for some areas, Pelican and Hoonah) for recreation, subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering. Some of these areas, such as Sitkoh Bay and Kelp Bay, receive intense seasonal use for hunting and other activities. The community of Tenakee Springs uses the whole south shoreline of Tenakee Inlet, which is in the Sitka Coastal District, for its recreation and subsistence activities.

Visitor access to and use of the coastal area is also increasing with the addition of several large, fast tour boats to carry visitors to remote locations in addition to the growing charter boat fleet. Many visitor industry projects have been proposed, some for remote areas. For example, a floating lodge proposal for a prime anchorage and use area in Kelp Bay was strongly opposed by residents of Sitka, Angoon, and other communities. This opposition caused the Governor to overturn the Alaska Department of Natural Resources' decision to issue a permit. Other proposals, some by large operators, could bring hundreds of visitors into areas traditionally used for recreation and subsistence, causing major use conflicts and possible habitat and resource loss. The Public Use Management Plan attempts to limit these conflicts in the most special and significant of these traditional use areas and maintain continued public access and recreational and subsistence opportunities.

Pristine water quality will eventually encourage the placement of mariculture and aquaculture operations within the estuaries and protected waters of the Sitka coastal zone, as well. This and other commercial uses of the coastal zone may be appropriate in some locations but may be a major conflict with the most significant traditional recreational and subsistence use areas. Development of large commercial operations in Special Management Areas is generally discouraged, and potential developers can therefore determine in advance which areas would be likely to have major use conflicts with the development.

The lands and waters of the Sitka City and Borough fall under local, State and Federal management jurisdictions, with the potential for competing uses and activities. Government decisions in the past that affect the public lands of the Tongass National Forest may place increasing pressures on uses and activities within the remaining areas. An example is the designation of the West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness and the South Baranof Wilderness by the United States Congress under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). This designation removed 28.6 percent of the total land area of the City and Borough of Sitka for major land use activity and development. This decrease in lands available for various land uses places increased conflict potential on the remaining acreage.

Within the Sitka roaded area, the Sitka Parks and Recreation Plan, adopted in 1981 and extensively revised beginning in 1989 by the Sitka Parks and Recreation Committee, provides a comprehensive

inventory and recommendations on community-wide parks and recreational opportunities. The Plan revision was approved by the Sitka Planning Commission and Sitka Assembly in January, 1991. It serves as resource and guide for the development, management, and use of the lands and waters in the Sitka community area.

The Coastal Management Citizens Committee therefore did not consider developed recreational facilities along the Sitka road system for Special Management Area status, as these sites and other planning activities for parks and recreation along the road system are addressed by the Sitka Parks and Recreation Plan. However, the tidelands and water adjacent to the public recreational use facilities are not specifically governed by either the Sitka Parks and Recreation Plan or the Sitka Coastal Management Plan. Therefore, because of their importance, these areas have been identified as Special Management Areas. The Parks and Recreation Committee was established by ordinance as the permanent advisory committee to the Sitka Assembly on parks and recreation issues.

C. GOALS

In 1987, the Coastal Management Citizens Committee sought to develop policies relating to specific areas of the City and Borough heavily used for recreational purposes, or areas where development could result in major use conflicts with recreational or subsistence users, but there was no comprehensive, Borough-wide information base available to identify these areas or conflicts. Therefore, in conjunction with the Citizens Committee's draft revision of the Sitka District Plan, it was recommended that a database be developed using available agency resources. Information from the database would be used to assess prime recreational use areas throughout the District and highlight existing and potential conflicting uses of those areas. In addition, it was recommended that a "Recreation Management Plan" be developed as a further amendment to the Sitka District Plan. This amendment would provide management guidelines to all levels of government with jurisdiction over the lands and waters of the District to assist in land use decision making. The City and Borough began these planning efforts in 1988 based on the recommendations of the revised Sitka District Coastal Plan.

The Sitka Parks and Recreation Committee completed the update and revision of the Sitka Parks and Recreation Plan dealing with recreational uses and activities near or on the Sitka road system in January, 1991. The primary focus of this revision is to deal with recreation development on lands along the Sitka road system (with the exception of Goddard Hot Springs, which is not on the road system but is a recreation facility owned by the Municipality).

D. PUBLIC PROCESS USED TO DEVELOP PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT PLAN

With funding from the Alaska Coastal Management Program and the assistance of a consultant, a preliminary database about the coastal area of the District was developed in 1988 using available agency information, as Phase I of a three-phase project to develop a Recreation Management element to the District Plan. This data included identification of areas receiving recreational use, identification of appropriate levels of study of those areas, determination of agency involvement and roles in the project, and data compilation from agencies. Data gaps and additional research and information needs were also identified.

The preliminary data gathering phase of this project was completed in the spring of 1988, in cooperation with appropriate state and federal agencies. Due to the multipurpose scope of the project and various management authorities, the municipality sought staff liaison support from the U.S. Forest Service; National Park Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Department of Natural Resources, Divisions of Land, Water, Parks, and Forestry; the Alaska Department of Fish and Game; and other relevant agencies, to assist with the development of the Plan. The consultant collected suggestions on what rationale might be used to identify specific geographic areas to consider for special management, and compiled a listing of these areas and the reasons for the recommendations.

With the assistance of both agency staff and the public, the general geographic areas of the Borough that receive recreational use were identified, and the feasibility of various levels of study was established. The District was divided into areas closest to the Sitka road system which receive heavy recreational use, radiating outward into the more remote areas of the Borough which receive less to little recreational use. Financial realities as well as geography, open water areas, and the limited data available from agencies placed certain limitations on the complexity and completeness of the study. Existing database materials from agencies were identified, and additional information was developed where necessary on a site-specific basis.

Major recreation-related uses and activities that occur throughout the District which would be an integral part of a Public Use Management Plan were identified. This included, but was not limited to, major anchorages, recreational beaches; recreation sites; major hunting and fishing areas that relate to specific coastal locations; U.S. Forest Service cabin locations; sites that provide sole source of access to other upland locations; areas of recreation concentration due to specific subsistence, species or habitat locations; beach trailhead locations; and U.S. Forest Service trails publicized in the "Sitka Trails Recreation Opportunity Guide."

Major uses and activities that could conflict with recreational uses and activities throughout the District, as well as key conflict areas, were also identified. Some potentially conflicting uses include, but are not limited to, subsistence uses, coastal development activities, fish and seafood industry activities, timber uses, and archeological sites.

Phase II involved some on-site assessment and analysis of major recreational and subsistence use in areas in the District, completion of the database, and development of the Recreation Management Plan. During this process, it was determined that the plan would address not only recreation management but also subsistence issues and other use conflicts on public lands. Therefore, the title of the Plan, proposed as a significant amendment to the revised Sitka District Approval Coastal Management Plan, was changed to "Public Use Management Plan."

At its March 13, 1990 meeting, the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka voted unanimously to reappoint the members of the Coastal Management Citizens Committee to assist in the development of the Public Use Management Plan. Since the original Citizens Committee conceived the need for this focus and developed the entire policy base for the revised Sitka District Coastal Plan, the Sitka Assembly agreed it would be desirable to involve the same groups and as many of the dedicated individuals who previously represented them as possible. This ongoing participation insured that the goals previously set by the Committee for development of the Plan could be achieved and consistency with the District Plan assured.

Membership of the volunteer Coastal Management Citizens Committee was made up of representatives of the following broad-based community groups: Alaska Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood, Alaska Pulp Corporation, Sitka Chamber of Commerce, Sitka Conservation Society, Sitka Parks and Recreation Committee, Sitka Planning Commission, Sitka Sportsmen Association, U. S. Forest Service, and Fisheries in general. The Committee established the purpose of a comprehensive, District-wide Public Use Management Plan as an integral part of the Sitka Coastal Management Plan is to identify the most outstanding, site-specific recreation and/or subsistence use areas within the Sitka Coastal District outside the Sitka road system, and to develop management guidelines and/or enforceable policies for these areas to maintain existing uses and limit use conflicts, consistent with the regulatory authorities of the land and water management agencies. The Committee met almost weekly over the next several months to develop criteria for and make a preliminary selection of the most outstanding recreation and subsistence use areas in the Sitka District.

The Coastal Management Committee developed boundaries for these specific areas and developed enforceable policies to provide management guidelines for these “Special Management Areas.” These policies are consistent with, and comprise an addition to, the overall goals and policies of the Sitka Coastal Management Plan. The Committee approved the proposed sites, boundaries, and policies for presentation to the Planning Commission and Sitka Assembly on May 24, 1990.

These preliminary sites and policies were approved for dissemination by the Sitka Assembly at its June 26, 1990 meeting as part of the Public Hearing Draft of the Public Use Management Plan. The Public Hearing Draft was widely disseminated to communities, agencies, and the public at large for a sixty-day public review process. Included in this process were public meetings in Sitka, Pelican, Angoon, and Petersburg in fall, 1990, prior to the close of the comment period October 5, 1990. An agency meeting was also held in August, 1990, to review and comment on the Draft.

Comments in writing on the Sitka Public Use Management Plan Public Hearing Draft were received from five individuals and from the following agencies and groups:

State of Alaska Agencies

Department of Environmental Conservation
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Governmental Coordination
Division of Governmental Coordination, Alaska Coastal Management Program Working Group
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
University of Alaska Sea Grant Program

Federal Agencies

National Marine Fisheries Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S.D.A. Forest Service

Organizations

Alaska Pulp Corporation
City of Tenakee Springs
Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
Sitka State Parks Advisory Board

Public Hearings on the Public Use Management Plan Public Hearing Draft were held in the following communities:

- Angoon, September 25, 1990: Eight participants
- Petersburg, September 19, 1990: Six participants
- Pelican, October 1, 1990: Twelve participants
- Sitka, September 24, 1990: Ten participants

The Citizens Committee expressed concerns about maintaining the “viewshed” in especially scenic areas and in areas of major recreational use, such as the major transportation corridor into Sitka via Peril Strait and Sitka Sound. Both areas are extensively traveled by pleasure and commercial vessels and small planes, as well as large cruise ships. The committee was not able to develop a Visual Resources Management Plan due to the extensive amount of time it expended on site selection and policy development for the Public Use Plan.

Due to a number of delays, the Public Hearing Draft review period extended well beyond the 60-day comment period. Several agencies had concerns about the Coastal Management Plan identifying so many Special Management Areas for special management through enforceable policies. One agency thought each of the more than 50 Special Management Areas should be developed as an Area Meriting Special Attention (AMSA). The Coastal Management Committee opposed this suggestion as being far more extreme in both assessment and management than had ever been the Committee’s intent. The time and cost involved in developing more than 50 AMSAs would be enormous, and the level of management focus would far exceed the Committee’s intent to reorganize and preserve the outstanding recreation and subsistence use area in the Coastal Districts, within appropriate regulatory authorities.

A second agency meeting was held to try to resolve the concerns, and finally all agencies agreed to the concept of the Special Management Areas and the appropriateness of providing management policies and guidelines to assist all the land and water management agencies responsible for these areas, while recognizing the regulatory authorities of the land owners. Primarily landowners of Special Management Area lands are the U.S. Forest Service for most uplands and State of Alaska for the tidelands and submerged lands and waters, including under and around navigable lakes up to the ordinary high water mark and State-owned uplands and tidelands.

Phase III, the development of the final Public Use Management Plan, began with the Coastal Management Citizens Committee reconvening in December, 1991, to review all the public comments and additional site suggestions for the Public Hearing Draft verbal comments from the public meetings and letters. The Committee revised the criteria for selection as a Special Management Area to respond to the concerns raised by the Public Hearing Draft process and better reflect the Committee’s intent that only the most outstanding recreational and subsistence and/or personal use locations be selected as Special Management Areas. The Committee originally developed the criteria for selection of the “unique, site-specific recreation and subsistence areas within the Sitka Coastal District for inclusion in the “Special Management Areas” in the Public Use Management Plan.” One of the concerns was that while each area is geographically unique, many of the areas have common properties and are not unique in their uses. The Committee, therefore, further refined its criteria to select only those locations that could be shown to be the outstanding recreational and/or subsistence use areas in the entire Sitka Coastal District.

The Committee then revisited each of the proposed Special Management Areas in view of the revised Criteria and eliminated three that did not sufficiently meet the Criteria: Low Island, Kidney Cove, and Patterson Bay. It reviewed all the written comment letters received during the Public Hearing Draft comment period as well as the written notes on all public testimony received during the Public Meetings held in Angoon, Pelican, Petersburg, and Sitka. Many of the comment letters were from agencies with specific concerns or requested boundary modifications. The Committee and consultant attempted to address as many of these concerns as practicable in the Concept Draft. Most of the comments received from individuals concerned suggesting additional locations for Special Management Area status. The Committee considered each of these comments and suggestions, but often there was no rationale to support the recommendations.

The Committee only added one totally new Special Management Area: Chaichei Islands and Unnamed Islands near Middle Island in Sitka Sound. However, in response to the public comments, they modified the boundaries of several Areas to better reflect the Criteria used as a basis for selection. Kadashan Bay, which had been included provisionally, was retained. Mirror Harbor and Dry Pass Harbor were added to the While Sulphur Hot Springs, Forest Service Cabin, Lake and Trail; Sea Level Slough; Dry Pass Trail System. Lisianski River and Lake were added to the Lisianski Trail; North Arm Hoonah Sound Tidelands system. Upper Sitkoh Bay and tideflats were added to the Sitkoh Lake Forest Service Cabins, Kake and Trail; Sitkoh Lake Sockeye Stream and Lake System. The Basin was added to Kelp Bay/Pond Island. Red Bluff Bay was added to the Falls Lake Sockeye Stream and Lake System. In addition, a new policy was added to protect the tidelands adjacent to major public recreation areas along the Sitka road system. Rationale for selection of these areas is given in the narrative descriptions of the individual Special Management Areas.

Various questions were raised by both the commenters and the Committee members about the appropriateness of designating broad categories of areas as meeting the Criteria for inclusion as Special Management Areas: all Forest Service public-use cabins and trails and major subsistence resources in the Sitka Coastal District. Forest Service public use cabins and trails were included as a category for special areas, as explained in Management Recommendation A. Provision is incorporated in the Enforceable Policies to include all existing cabins and trails, and to add new cabins and trails as constructed and delete old cabins or trails when removed or taken out of service through a Coastal Plan amendment process. The Committee recognized that some cabins and trails did not generate the same level of interest as others, and not all cabins and trails were located in areas that were considered outstanding. However, because of the unique recreational opportunities provided by these cabins and trails, and the high use received by most of them, it was decided that they should be categorically included. The Committee added that Management Recommendation A would also apply to approved Wild and Scenic Rivers.

The sockeye stream and lake systems were categorically included because there are only eleven significant sockeye streams in the Coastal District which are responsible for most of the production of the subsistence sockeye salmon resource. This resource is of great value to subsistence users and is the only designated subsistence salmon fishery in the region. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has issued increasing numbers of subsistence permits for sockeye: in some years, more than 900 permits have been issued. Protection of the sockeye resources is a very high priority of subsistence users in the Coastal District, and many of the sockeye systems are small and vulnerable.

Important seal haulout areas and black seaweed collection are also included to protect these Native subsistence resources. The areas included as Special Management Areas were recommended by the Native community as areas considered important locations for Native subsistence use of seals.

Although harbor seals (also known as common seals) are widely distributed and abundant, they haul out of the water to rest, give birth, and nurse their young at various specific sites for which Special Management Area status was requested. While seals haul out in many other areas, those which were presented as the most important sites for Native subsistence use were selected as Special Management Areas. Black seaweed is collected at only a few sites, and only one was singled out for Special Management status. Harbor seal abundance has remained relatively stable in Southeastern Alaska over the past 25 years or so. However, recent work out of Kodiak has documented significant declines in the western Gulf of Alaska. Prior to development of this plan, the most recent survey in the Eastern Gulf (Southeast Alaska) was in 1988. The harbor seal inventory to be accomplished during the summer of 1993 should demonstrate whether Sitka area and Southeast stocks are stable or changing.

Sea Lions were also recognized as an important subsistence resource. The Steller (or northern) sea lion, a marine mammal, is the largest of the family of “eared seals.” Steller seal lions gather on well-defined, traditionally used rookeries to pup and breed, and there are no such areas in the District. There is a very large haulout area at White Sisters Islands, however, and this area is therefore included as a Special Management Area. This area is the largest of only a few haulout areas in the Sitka Coastal District.

The Committee added a new Enforceable Policy #7 to clarify that existing and new transportation facilities are exempted from the Enforceable Policies with certain conditions. In response to agency and public requests to protect the tidelands adjacent to major recreation al use areas along the Sitka road system through the Coastal Plan, since this authority is not available to the Sitka Parks and Recreation Committee, the Committee developed a new Policy #8 to designate these tidelands as Special Management Areas. Other policies were modified to better clarify Committee intent. Several policies were revised into Management Recommendations, since these provide recommendations to agencies to assist the agencies but not usurp their management authorities.

The Coastal Management Citizens Committee concluded its review and revisions on April 9, 1992. It gave final approval of the Special Management Area designations and policies within the Public Use Management Plan by unanimous vote, and also voted unanimously to forward the Committee’s recommendations to the Sitka Planning Commission and Sitka Assembly for Concept Approval of the Significant Amendment to the Sitka Coastal Plan. After a public hearing, the Sitka Planning Commission gave its approval to the Special Management Areas and Policies on April 20, 1992. The Sitka Assembly held a public hearing May 12 and then voted its Concept Approval of the Sitka Public Use Management Plant by unanimous vote. Resolution No. 92-503 granted Concept Approval to the Sitka Coastal Plan Public Use Management Plan Significant Amendment and recommended its acceptance by the Alaska State Coastal Policy Council.

The Alaska Division of Governmental Coordination (DGC) reviewed the Plan to determine whether or not it met the requirements of the Alaska Coastal Management Program Standards and Guidelines. The Sitka Public Use Management Plan and DGC’s preliminary findings and conclusions were distributed for public review in October, 1992. Comments were accepted through December 4, 1992.

Comments in writing on the Sitka Public Use Management Plan Preliminary Findings and Conclusions were received from the following agencies and groups:

- Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs, Municipal and Regional Assistance Division
- Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc.
- U.S.D.A. Forest Service

- City of Tenakee Springs
- Sitka State Parks Citizens Advisory Board
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Office of History and Archaeology
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources
- City of Pelican

DGC recommended changes to the Plan, and after several meetings and teleconferences between DGC and the Sitka District, as well as communications with other commenters. Final Findings and Conclusions were issued January 18, 1993. These changes have been incorporated into this final printing of the Sitka Public Use Management Plan.

The Alaska Coastal Policy Council approved the Sitka Public Use Management Plan on February 9, 1993. The Federal Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management gave its approval April 14, 1993. The City and Borough of Sitka Assembly adopted the Sitka Public Use Management Plan by Ordinance Number 93-1167 (see attachment 1) on May 25, 1993. It was filed with the Lieutenant Governor's office and became effective on June 18, 1993.

E. REVISIONS TO THE SITKA PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT PLAN

In the mid-1990s, Sitka undertook a Mariculture Siting Project. The project's purpose was to provide guidelines for siting mariculture operations in Sitka Sound. It was funded with the assistance of the Alaska Coastal Management Program. These guidelines were compiled into a Mariculture Siting Project manual. The manual was advisory in nature, and was not adopted into the approved program.

However, in the process of completing the Mariculture Siting Project, the Sitka Coastal Management Citizens Committee realized that some of the Sitka Public Use Management Plan policies for Special Management Areas needed to be updated or clarified. These changes were consistent with the intent of the enforceable policies and were considered minor in nature, so the coastal resource district followed the procedure then in state law for making a minor amendment to an adopted plan.

As part of the minor amendment, two areas proposed as Special Management Areas in the original Public Use Management Plan but not included at that time, Leesoffskaia Bay and Kalinin Bay, were added as Special Management Areas. These areas should have been included in the original Public Use Plan, but at the time there was insufficient documentation to justify them. During the minor amendment process, ample documentation was provided to show this non-inclusion was in error.

The minor amendment also clarified the intent of some of the enforceable policies with respect to the siting of mariculture projects, and added a definition of "mariculture."

In addition, the minor amendment added the following Forest Service cabins and shelters, which had been constructed after the Public Use Management Plan was approved: Forest Service cabins (Piper Island, Allan Point, Kanga Bay, and North Beach Shelikof) and shelters (Neva Strait, Kakul Narrows, Otstoia Island).

The coastal resource district requested comments from 10 State and Federal agencies and solicited public comment through several public notices and meetings. Recommendations were developed by the Coastal Management Citizens Committee (representatives from the Sitka Conservation Society, U.S. Forest Service, Sitka Sportsmen Association, Alaska Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood, Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association, Sitka Chamber of Commerce, fishing industry, and Sitka Planning Commission), presented to the Sitka Planning Commission, and approved by the Sitka Assembly on July 9, 1996. The State Coastal Policy Council approved the Routine Amendment on May 1, 1997, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Coastal Resource Management approved the revision June 2, 1997. The Amendment was filed with the Lieutenant Governor's Office June 10, 1997. The revision took effect on September 23, 1997, when the Sitka Assembly adopted Ordinance No. 97-1460 (see attachment 2).

In 2004, Sitka undertook the required amendments to the Coastal Management Plan. That revision process is fully described in Chapter I. At that time the PUMP was revised and became Chapter V: Special Management Areas of the Coastal Management Plan. Also with this revision, the special management areas of the PUMP were designated as recreational use (all SMAs) and subsistence use (Kamenoi Beach) areas, consistent with the original intent of the special management areas.

F. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA LAND AND WATER OWNERSHIPS AND REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

1. Federal Ownership — U.S.D.A. Forest Service

None of the Special Management Areas include federal land or waters and none of the SMA policies apply to federal lands or waters except through the federal Coastal Zone Management Act federal consistency provision. However, most of the Special Management Areas are located adjacent to National Forest System land, managed by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service. Federal lands are specifically excluded from the Alaska Coastal Management Program (Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, 15 CFR 923.33); this includes all of the Tongass National Forest. While the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act does not give the State or local Coastal District the authority to regulate Federal activities, the exclusion of federal lands from the coastal zone does not remove Federal agencies from the obligation of complying with the consistency requirements of Section 307 of the Act when Federal actions on these excluded lands will have reasonably foreseeable effects on any land or water use or natural resource of Alaska's coastal zone. Federal agency activities having these coastal effects must be undertaken in a manner consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the federally approved Alaska Coastal Management Program (federally approved enforceable policies includes applicable federally approved District enforceable policies). "Consistent to the maximum extent practicable" means that the agency must adhere to the requirements of the Alaska Coastal Management Program, including district enforceable policies, wherever legally permissible, subject to applicable approved agreements and memoranda of understanding. Non-Federal activities requiring a Federal license or permit that affect any land or water use or coastal resource of the coastal zone must be conducted in a manner consistent with the enforceable policies of the federally approved Alaska Coastal Management Program.

In addition, it is recognized that the Forest Service cannot relinquish management responsibilities on National Forest lands. However, the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act requires that the

enforceable policies in a Coastal District Plan must be followed to the maximum extent allowed by law where a federal action occurring on federal lands will have reasonably foreseeable effects on Alaska's coastal uses or resources, even if those effects occur on the federal lands. While it is not the desire of the Sitka District, nor the intent of this Plan, to direct Forest Service management of the federal lands adjacent to the Special Management Areas, the applicable policies in this Plan indicate the way the people within the District would like to see these very special and outstanding areas managed. Likewise, it is possible that Forest Service management of federal areas outside the Special Management Areas could result in adverse impacts on recreational uses within the Special Management Areas. If these activities will have reasonably foreseeable coastal effects they must also be carried out in a manner consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of Alaska's federally approved Coastal Management Program.

The 2003-2005 changes to the Alaska Coastal Management Program and compliance with NOAA's regulations, required that previously designated special management areas be revised to clearly exclude federal lands and waters. While SMAs do not include federal land or water, the common place names which are frequently associated with Forest Service cabins, shelters and trails, have been retained for ease of reference. A map notation has been included in each case to indicate that federal lands are excluded from the coastal zone. The maps also clearly differentiate between the special management area designations and the adjacent federal lands and upland recreational and/or subsistence resources.

Furthermore, in order to retain the original management intent of the special management areas, it became necessary to designate recreational use and subsistence use areas. However, because the federal lands are not within the recreational and subsistence use designations, the recreation and subsistence policies cannot apply through the DNR's federal consistency reviews under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act. The only applicable district enforceable policies are those that do not require an underlying designation. For Sitka, these are coastal development, and sand and gravel extraction. Activities conducted on Forest Service lands must be carried out in a manner consistent with these policies to the maximum extent practicable.

Many of the Special Management Areas are located on State tidelands/waters adjacent to the West Chichagof-Yakobi or South Baranof Wildernesses. Management of these Wildernesses is governed by federal law, regulation, and policies that are intended to protect the wilderness character and values of the areas. Uses that are not consistent with this direction are not permitted. This includes upland activities, such as shorelines, freshwater lines, storage, or cabins, associated with activities permitted in the tidelands or offshore waters.

While the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) allows certain activities in Wilderness contrary to the 1964 Wilderness Act, the Wilderness Act still provides the principal direction for the management of these Wildernesses. In general, all activities not consistent with the wilderness philosophy and in conflict with the wilderness experience are prohibited. These include activities such as timber cutting, construction of facilities and structures, and the use of mechanized equipment.

There are exceptions provided for the ANILCA that apply to Wilderness in Alaska. These exceptions include, but are not limited to: the construction of facilities for public use (cabins, shelters, etc.); structures for fisheries habitat improvement; structures for navigation aid, telecommunications, etc.; limited use of mechanized equipment for public access for recreation use, including hunting and fishing (generally applies to airplanes); permitting of private cabins if existing prior to the designation

of the Wilderness area; use of mechanized equipment (e.g., snow machines) for subsistence activities, if such use existed prior to Wilderness designation; and mining, where rights were existing prior to Wilderness designation. The majority of these activities are subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and require public involvement. Approval and implementation of any of these activities are subject to strict requirements to mitigate impacts to the Wilderness resource and the Wilderness user. These Wilderness policies and direction are consistent with the intent of the adjacent Special Management Areas.

In general, the Forest Service requires a special use permit for the occupancy and use of National Forest System lands. The principle exceptions are short-term temporary recreational use, subsistence, and sport hunting and fishing. Permits are required for, but not limited to, commercial uses (outfitter/guides, etc.), uses by organizations or other agencies (Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA), Alaska Department of Fish and Game, etc.), structures (cabins, tent frames, etc.), utility uses (shorelines, waterlines, etc.), and the use of resources (timber, plant collection, etc.). Permits for the use of National Forest System lands within the Sitka Coastal District may be obtained from the Forest Service's Sitka Ranger District.

2. State of Alaska — Department of Natural Resources

The State of Alaska owns most of the tide and submerged lands along its coastline. Tidelands include the land between mean (average) high and mean low tide. Submerged lands are seaward of mean low tide to three miles offshore. The tide and submerged lands include all land between the mean high tide line and three miles offshore.

The Submerged Lands Act of May 22, 1953, states that all lands permanently or periodically covered by tidal waters up to, but not above, the line of mean high tide and seaward to a line three geographical miles distant from the coast is owned by the State. The State also owns "shoreland," which under Alaska Statute 38.05.965(18) means "land belonging to the State which is covered by nontidal water which is navigable under the laws of the United States up to ordinary high water mark as modified by accretion, erosion, or reliction. "Navigable water," as defined by State Statute 38.05.965, means any water of the state forming a river, stream, lake, pond, slough, creek, bay, sound, estuary, inlet, strait, passage, canal, sea or ocean, or any other body of water or waterway within the territorial limits of the state or subject to its jurisdiction, that is navigable in fact for any useful public purpose, including but not limited to water suitable for commercial navigation, floating of logs, landing and takeoff of aircraft, and public boating, trapping, hunting waterfowl and aquatic animals, fishing, or other public recreational purposes."

The public can use state tide, submerged, and navigable shoreland, even if the uplands are not owned by the State. State land and tidelands may be occupied for non-commercial use for 14 days without a permit. Commercial occupancy requires a permit before any development can occur.

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources manages the above referenced lands and issues land use permits to authorize the temporary use of state land or resources. A tideland permit authorizes the temporary use of state tide land and submerged lands. A permit conveys no right in the land and is essentially a guarantee that so long as the activity is kept to the terms of the permit, the permit holder is not subject to trespass charges. All permits are revocable with cause, and revocable without cause upon a 30-day notice. Permits are nontransferable. Permanent structures are not allowed in a permit

area; thus, any structure placed on the site must be removable. For long-term use of an area, a lease arrangement would be more appropriate. The Alaska Constitution (Article VIII) and Alaska Statutes (38.05.127-128) are the legal basis for applying the public trust doctrine in Alaska. This doctrine guarantees the public right to engage in such things as commerce, navigation, fishing, hunting, swimming and protection of areas for ecological study.

The Alaska Constitution provides that “free access to the navigable or public waters of the State, as defined by the Legislature, shall not be denied any citizen of the United States or resident of the State, except that the Legislature may, by general law, regulate and limit such access for other beneficial uses or public purposes.” Eliminating private upland owners’ reasonable access to navigable waters may require compensation.

Because 99 percent of Alaska was in public ownership at statehood, both Federal and State laws providing for the transfer of land to private parties also provide for public access to navigable waters. Implementing the State constitutional guarantee of access to navigable waters under Article VIII requires that Department of Natural Resources must “provide for the specific easement of rights-of-way necessary to ensure free access to and along the body of water, unless the Department of Natural Resources finds that regulating or eliminating access is necessary for other beneficial uses or public purposes.”

It has never been held that any lands normally subject to the public trust doctrine in Alaska are exempt from it, including lands occupied and developed. These statutes and concepts guide Department of Natural Resources’ management of tidelands or other navigable waters. The Department of Natural Resources reserves the right to manage tidelands under its jurisdiction in compliance with this doctrine.

Alaska’s tide and submerged lands were not included in any pre-statehood federal withdrawals within Alaska, and there is no indication that Congress intended to take away the State of Alaska’s title. The state, therefore, received title to all the tide and submerged lands at statehood. Additionally, in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Congress did not take away the state’s power to regulate state-owned submerged lands within or adjacent to federal Conservation System Units in Alaska. Many provisions in ANILCA recognize and respect the state’s authority over state-owned land.

Where the uplands are within federal conservation units, the state has cooperated with federal land managers wherever possible. As a result, some special use restrictions may apply. Sometimes this cooperation is formally set out in a memorandum of understanding that discusses management issues and how they will be resolved.

The Department of Natural Resources is also responsible for allocation of water within the state through issuance of water rights. A water right is a legal right to use surface or ground water under the Alaska Water Use Act (Alaska Statute 46.15). A water right allows a specific amount of water from a specific water source to be diverted, impounded or withdrawn for a specific use. When a water right is granted, it becomes attached to the land where the water is being used for as long as the water is used. If the land is sold, the water right transfers with the land to the new owner, unless the Department of Natural Resources approves its separation from the land.

In Alaska, land owners do not have automatic rights to ground water or surface water. For example, if a farmer has a creek running through his property, he will need a water right to protect his use. Using water without a permit or certificate does not give the user a legal right to use the water.

Sponsor: ADMINISTRATOR

C I T Y A N D B O R O U G H O F S I T K A

ORDINANCE NO. 93-1167

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY & BOROUGH OF SITKA, ALASKA
ADOPTING THE SITKA COASTAL DISTRICT PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT PLAN,
A SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENT TO THE SITKA COASTAL
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

1. CLASSIFICATION. This ordinance is of a permanent nature and is intended to become a part of the Sitka General Code.

2. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this ordinance or any application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance and application thereof to any person or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

3. PURPOSE. The municipality adopted the Revised Sitka District Coastal Management Program effective February 29, 1989. This revision recommended the development of a comprehensive recreation management plan to identify the most outstanding, site-specific recreation and/or subsistence use areas in the Sitka Coastal District outside of the Sitka road system, and to develop policies for these areas to maintain existing uses and limit use conflicts. As a result of the efforts of the Coastal Management Citizens Committee, multiple public hearings, draft review periods, and revisions, this Sitka Public Use Management Plan was approved by the citizens Committee April 12, 1992 and by the Sitka Planning Commission April 20, 1992. The draft received conceptual Approval from the Assembly May 12, 1992, State approval from the Alaska Coastal Policy Council February 9, 1993, and Federal approval from the office of ocean and Coastal Resource Management on April 15, 1993.

4. ENACTMENT. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka that the Sitka Coastal District Public Use Management Plan as approved by the Alaska Coastal Policy Council is hereby adopted by the City and Borough of Sitka for incorporation into the Sitka Coastal Management Program. Staff is instructed to draft appropriate ordinances to implement and enforce the Sitka District Coastal Management Program Public use management Plan.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall become effective on the day after the date of its passage.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska this 25th day of May, 1993.

J Fager Deputy mayor

ATTEST:


R. J. Athman
Acting Municipal Clerk

163

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

ORDINANCE NO. 97-1460

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA, ALASKA ADOPTING ROUTINE PROGRAM AMENDMENT TO THE SITKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

1. CLASSIFICATION. This ordinance is of a permanent nature and is not intended to become a part of the Sitka General Code.

2. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this ordinance or any application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance and application thereof to any person or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

3. PURPOSE. The Routine Program Amendment is intended to 1) clarify the intent of some of the Enforceable Policies with respect to the siting of mariculture projects; 2) add the Forest Service cabins and shelters which were constructed since the Public Use Management Plan was approved and clarify the policy; and 3) add two Special Management Areas which should have been included in the original plan.

These amendments were completed by the Sitka Coastal Management Program and approved by the Sitka Assembly, Alaska Coastal Policy Council, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

4. ENACTMENT. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka that the following amendments to the Sitka Coastal Management Program Public Use Management Plan are adopted. Amended text is highlighted.

ROUTINE PROGRAM AMENDMENT OF SITKA DISTRICT COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

1. Add definition of Mariculture on page 16 of the *Public Use Management Plan* under "DEFINITIONS": Mariculture: The captive cultivation ("farming") and/or release to the sea ("ocean ranching") of finfish, shellfish, or other aquatic creatures or plants in the marine environment. Finfish mariculture is not permitted under Alaska law.
2. Add to Enforceable Policy 6 of the *Public Use Management Plan*: "...This policy does not preclude the development of fish enhancement projects, including remote fish release sites, when a need is shown and proper evaluation, including a formal public process, has been completed."
3. Add Enforceable Policy 9 to the *Public Use Management Plan*: 9. Any structure sited adjacent to a Special Management Area shall not inhibit anchorage or access to the Special Management Area.
4. Amend Enforceable Policy 3 of the *Public Use Management Plan*: "3....U.S. Forest Service public use cabins, shelters and trails shall be managed for recreation and


Ordinance 97-1460
Page 2

- conflicting use not permitted, within a Special Management Area boundary...."
5. The following Forest Service cabins (Piper Island, Allan Point, Kanga Bay, and North Beach Shelikof) and shelters (Neva Strait, Kakul Narrows, Otstoia Island) which were not included in the Plan are added as Special Management Areas. The Boundary of these Special Management Areas is 200 feet around the cabin/shelter, 200 feet landward of Mean High Tide and 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide along the entire contiguous beach.
 6. Two areas are to be added as Special Management Areas: Leesoffskaia Bay and Kalinin Bay. The boundary of these Special Management Areas is the entire bay to 200 feet shoreward of Mean High Tide.
5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall become effective on the day after the date of its passage.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska this 23rd day of September, 1997.


Peter S. Halgren, Mayor

ATTEST:


Kathy Hope Erickson
Municipal Clerk

G. BOUNDARIES AND ENFORCEABLE POLICIES

1. INTRODUCTION

Under 11 AAC 114.400, a “district may develop a special area management plan to manage a specific resource or activity within the district.” The Sitka Public Use Management Plan is a special area management plan to manage significant recreation and subsistence resources within the district. The plan provides for increased specificity in protecting the recreational use, including personal use, and subsistence use areas. The plan has been fully incorporated into the Sitka Coastal Management plan. Refer to Chapter VI for implementation.

2. BOUNDARIES

a. GENERAL BOUNDARIES

The boundaries of the Special Management Areas were established by the Coastal Management Citizens committee and conceptually approved by the Sitka Assembly for each specific area. All boundaries are enforceable, and the following enforceable policies apply inside these Special Management Area boundaries. The boundaries drawn on the maps are not to scale; the narrative descriptions of the boundaries should be referenced for specific measurements.

The 2006 amendment boundary adjustments to the Special Management Areas were needed to comply with federal consistency requirements. New maps were created that clearly differentiate the Special Management Areas, the recreational and subsistence use designations and the adjacent upland recreational resources. The maps also specifically note that federal lands are excluded from the designations. *Note: For an explanation of the management regime, refer to section F.1. of this chapter.*

Most of the Special Management Areas with tidelands were assigned “standard” boundaries, as summarized below. A few areas, particularly those with mixed ownership of the uplands, required “non-standard” boundaries specific to the site. *For the specific SMA/Designated Recreational Use Area boundaries refer to subsection b. of this section and the individual site descriptions and maps found in section H. of this chapter.* If the Sitka Coastal District considers it appropriate in the future, an adjustment of the boundaries can occur through an Alaska Coastal Management Program amendment process.

The following criteria were used to establish “standard” boundaries of Special Management Areas encompassing tidelands;

“Upper” boundary - Mean High Tide (officially known as mean high water) which is the tidal water level +9.1 feet above the 0.0 tidal datum.

“Lower” boundary - 200 feet seaward from the Mean Lower Low Tide (officially known as mean lower low water), which is the 0.0 feet tidal datum.

Index to Vicinity Maps

West Chichagof Vicinity

Didrickson Lake, Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-1)
 Ford Arm Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-2)
 Goulding Lakes System and Harbor (Map WC-3)
 Klag Bay Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-4)
 Lake Anna Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-5)
 Leo Anchorage Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-6)
 Myriad Island and White Sisters Islands (Map WC-7)
 Suloia Lake, Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-8)
 White Sulphur Hot Springs Lake; Mirror Harbor; Sea Level Slough;
 Dry Pass Harbor (Map WC-9)

Kruzof Island Vicinity

Brent's Beach and Kamenoi Beach (Map K-1)
 Fred's Creek; Mt. Edgecumbe Beach (Map K-2)
 Head of Krestof Sound through Dry Pass; Head of Gilmer Bay; Unnamed Lakes (Map K-3)
 Iris Meadows; Shelikof Bay; North Beach Shelikof; Mud Bay (Map K-4)
 Kalinin Bay (Map K-5)
 Magoun Islands/Port Krestof State Marine Park (Map K-6)
 Sealion Cove and Trail (Map K-7)
 Sinitisin Island (Map K-8)
 St. Lazaria Island (Map K-9)

South Baranof Vicinity

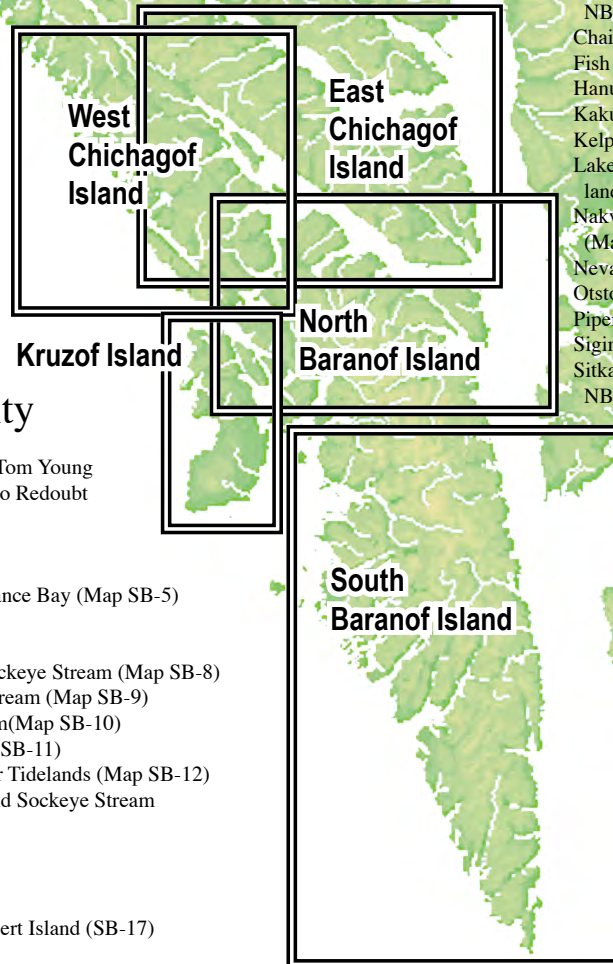
Avoss Lake (Map SB-1)
 Goddard Hot Springs; Kolosh Island and Tom Young
 Memorial Cabin; Kliuchevoi Bay; Trail to Redoubt
 Lake (Map SB-2)
 Kanga Bay Beach (Map SB-3)
 Leesoffskaia Bay (Map SB-4)
 Pirate's Cove; Samsing Cove; Three Entrance Bay (Map SB-5)
 Plotnikof and Davidof Lakes (Map SB-6)
 Port Banks (Map SB-7)
 Red Bluff Bay; Falls Lake System and Sockeye Stream (Map SB-8)
 Redfish Bay Lake System and Sockeye Stream (Map SB-9)
 Redoubt Lake System and Sockeye Stream (Map SB-10)
 Salmon Lake; Silver Bay Tidelands (Map SB-11)
 Sashin and Round Lake; Little Port Walter Tidelands (Map SB-12)
 Secluded Bay; Benzeman Lake System and Sockeye Stream
 (Map SB-13)
 Sevenfathom Bay (Map SB-14)
 Taigud Islands (Map SB-15)
 West Redoubt Bay Islets (SB-16)
 Yamani Cove and Islets; Slate Islets; Guibert Island (SB-17)

East Chichagof Vicinity

Fick Cove (Map EC-1)
 Kadashan Bay (Map EC-2)
 Kook Lake System and Sockeye Stream; Basket Bay
 (Map EC-3)
 Lisianski Lake and River; North Arm Hoonah Sound
 Tideflats (Map EC-4)
 Long Bay Beach (Map EC-5)
 Moser Island Spit; Adjacent Seal Rookery (Map EC-6)
 Sitkoh Lake System and Sockeye Stream; Upper Sit-
 koh Bay and Tideflats (Map EC-7)
 Ushk Bay (Map EC-8)
 Vixen Islands Seal Haulouts (Map EC-9)

North Baranof Vicinity

Appleton Cove (Map NB-1)
 Baranof Warm Springs Lake and Bay; Sadie Lake
 (Map NB-2)
 Big Bear/Baby Bear Bays State Marine Park (Map
 NB-3)
 Chaichei Island; Unnamed Islands (Map NB-4)
 Fish Bay Tidelands (Map NB-5)
 Hanus Bay; Portage; Dead Tree Islands (Map NB-6)
 Kakul Narrows (Map NB-7)
 Kelp Bay Basin and Pond Island (Map NB-8)
 Lake Eva Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tide-
 lands (Map NB-9)
 Nakwasina Passage to head of Nakwasina Sound
 (Map NB-10)
 Neva Strait Beach (Map NB-11)
 Otstoia Island (Map NB-12)
 Piper Island (Map NB-7)
 Siginaka Islands (Map NB-13)
 Sitka Public Recreational Facilities Tidelands (Map
 NB-14)



**Special Management Areas and
 Designated Recreational Use Areas**
 Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006



b. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS BOUNDARIES

While Special Management Areas do not include federal land or water, the common place names which are frequently associated with Forest Service cabins, shelters and trails, have been retained for ease of reference. A map notation has been included in each case to indicate that federal lands are excluded from the coastal zone and the maps clearly differentiate between the special management area, and the adjacent upland recreational resources. *Please see individual depictions of Special Management Area boundaries on USGS maps in Section H of this Chapter.*

Kruzof Island Vicinity

Brent's Beach and Kamenoi Beach (Map K-1)

Beaches from Mountain Point at the south to Point Brown at the north, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Fred's Creek; Mt. Edgecumbe Beach (Map K-2)

Entire contiguous beach from 100 feet south of trailhead north along beach to rock outcrop, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Head of Krestof Sound through Dry Pass; Head of Gilmer Bay; Unnamed Lakes (Map K-3)

All contiguous tideflats through Dry Pass from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide; entire unnamed lakes 330 and 335, lakeshores to Ordinary High Water and connecting channel to Ordinary High Water; head of Gilmer Bay 100 feet on either side of trailhead, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Iris Meadows; Shelikof Bay; North Beach Shelikof; Mud Bay (Map K-4)

From the point between Goletta and Cuvacan Coves; along the beach, tideflats and sloughs at Mean High Tide, including waterbodies of Iris Meadows to Ordinary High Water, to the small peninsula at the southern end of Port Mary; then in a direct line across Shelikof Bay back to the point between Goletta and Cuvacan Coves; Mud Bay from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide, from 100 feet to the north of the Mud Bay Logging road south to the rock outcrop.

Kalinin Bay (Map K-5)

Entire Kalinin Bay, from the rock outcrops at the mouth of the bay to Mean High Tide and from Mean High Tide to 200 feet landward on the southwest side of the bay on State lands including sections 33 and NW corner of section 6, Sitka Quad B6.

Magoun Islands/Port Krestof State Marine Park (Map K-6)

Per State Park boundaries, generally along section lines encompassing all of Port Krestof Tide Flats and all the Magoun Islands and adjacent waters.

Sealion Cove and Trail (Map K-7)

All beach areas and 200 feet landward of Mean High Tide and 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide along entire Cove, excluding privately and federally owned lands; 100 feet from each side of trail. The entire Special Management Area is State owned.

Sinitzin Island (Map K-8)

Mean High Tide to 200 feet Seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide around the entirety of Sinitzin Island.

St. Lazaria Island (Map K-9)

Mean High Tide to 200 feet Seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide around the entirety of St. Lazaria Island.

West Chichagof Island Vicinity

Didrickson Lake, Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-1)

Entire Didrickson Lake, lakeshore and stream to Ordinary High Water; 200 feet on either side of the mouth of the stream, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Ford Arm Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-2)

Entire unnamed lake #43, lakeshore, and stream to Ordinary High Water; contiguous tidelands 200 feet on either side of the mouth of the sockeye stream from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Goulding Lakes System and Harbor (Map WC-3)

Entire west three Goulding Lakes (including Otter Lake), lakeshores and connecting and outlet streams to Ordinary High Water; Goulding Harbor Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Klag Bay Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-4)

Entire lake system, lakeshores, and connecting and outlet streams to Ordinary High Water; contiguous tidelands 200 feet on either side of the mouth of the outlet stream from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Lake Anna Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-5)

Entire lake, lakeshore and stream to Ordinary High Water; contiguous tidelands 200 feet on either side of the mouth of the sockeye stream from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Leo Anchorage Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-6)

Entire Lake Leo, lakeshore and stream to Ordinary High Water; contiguous tidelands 200 feet on either side of the mouth of the sockeye stream from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Myriad Island and White Sisters Islands (Map WC-7)

Mean High Water to 200 feet Seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide, around each of the Myriad and White Sisters Islands.

Suloia Lake, Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-8)

Entire Lake Suloia, lakeshore and stream to Ordinary High Water; contiguous tidelands 200 feet on either side of stream outlet from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

White Sulphur Hot Springs Lake; Mirror Harbor; Sea Level Slough; Dry Pass Harbor (Map WC-9)

Entire White Sulphur Lake and lakeshore to Ordinary High Water; entire Sea Level Slough to Mean High Tide; Bertha Bay from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide, from Pt. Dougherty south to the point east of Post island; entirety of Mirror Harbor at Mean High Tide including shores of Fleming Island, Kinky Island and Plume Island; and Dry Pass and adjoining harbor from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

East Chichagof Island Vicinity

Fick Cove (Map EC-1)

Entire Cove, including tideflats, seaward from Mean High Tide; bordered by a line across the mouth of the Cove, from the rocky point on the north side in a southeasterly direction to the south side.

Kadashan Bay (Map EC-2)

Entire bay and tideflats, seaward from Mean High Tide; Kadashan River and Tonalite Creek to Ordinary High Water, from the mouths at the head of the bay to 100-foot contour line.

Kook Lake System and Sockeye Stream; Basket Bay (Map EC-3)

Entire Kook Lake, lakeshore and creek to Ordinary High Water; entire Basket Bay from Mean High Tide, excluding LTF if reconstructed, to a line drawn at the mouth of the bay in a north-south direction.

Lisianski Lake and River; North Arm Hoonah Sound Tideflats (Map EC-4)

Entire Hoonah Sound Tideflat area from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide; entire Lisianski Lake (#136), lakeshore Lisianski River to Ordinary High Water; to Coastal District Boundary.

Long Bay Beach (Map EC-5)

Along contiguous beach from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Water, from 200 feet northeast to 200 feet southwest of the adjacent upland cabin.

Moser Island Spit; Adjacent Seal Rookery (Map EC-6)

Along entire contiguous beach on both sides of Moser Island spit from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide; small seal rookery islands to south from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide.

Sitkoh Lake System and Sockeye Stream; Upper Sitkoh Bay and Tideflats (Map EC-7)

Entire Sitkoh Lake, lakeshore and creek to Ordinary High Water; Upper Sitkoh Bay unnamed stream to Ordinary High Water and from tidewater to 100-foot contour, Upper Sitkoh Bay and tideflats to Mean High Tide from eastern end of Sitkoh Creek tideflats across Sitkoh Bay, excluding LTF and privately owned lands.

Ushk Bay (Map EC-8)

Ushk Bay from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide along entire bay to northerly peninsula on section 34 and southerly peninsula on section 3, Sitka Quads C5 and C6; except for previously leased log storage area.

Vixen Islands Seal Haulouts (Map EC-9)

Around the entirety of the Vixen Islands Seal Haulouts from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

North Baranof Island Vicinity

Appleton Cove (Map NB-1)

Along contiguous beach from 200 feet north to 200 feet south of adjacent upland cabin; from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Water.

Baranof Warm Springs Lake and Bay; Sadie Lake (Map NB-2)

Entire Baranof Warm Springs Lake, Sadie Lake, lakeshores and outlet streams to Ordinary High Water; eastern portion of Warm Springs Bay from 200 feet landward of Mean High Tide (excluding private lands) to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide as far east as Point Salt on south shore and point west of Manleyville to the east of Sadie Creek on north shore.

Note: The State owns all land within the Special Management Area within the E ½ Sec 24, T55S, R66E, all land within the W ½ Sec 19, T55S, R67E and the shoreland in the N ½ NW ¼ Sec 30, T55S, R67E.

Big Bear/Baby Bear Bays State Marine Park (Map NB-3)

Lands and waters within State Park boundaries, generally along section lines to Yellow Point in the north, encompassing all of Bear and Baby Bear Bays, and to south of Point Siroi.

Chaichei Island; Unnamed Islands (Map NB-4)

Entire Chaichei Island Group to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide; entire unnamed island group south of Crow Island and east of Gagarin Island to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide. The Chaichei Islands group and the Unnamed Islands group are owned by the City and Borough of Sitka.

Fish Bay Tidelands (Map NB-5)

Tidelands 100 feet from either side of trailhead, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Hanus Bay; Portage; Dead Tree Islands (Map NB-6)

Entire intertidal area through Portage from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide, excluding LTF leases; Dead Tree Islands from Mean high Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide, excluding leased log storage areas.

Kakul Narrows (Map NB-7)

Along contiguous beach 200 feet to east and west of adjacent upland shelter; from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Kelp Bay Basin and Pond Island (Map NB-8)

Entire Basin area including Pond, Crow, adjacent islands and contiguous waters from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide, and from South Point to eastern point of Pond Island.

Lake Eva Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (Map NB-9)

Entire Lake Eva, lakeshore and stream to Ordinary High Water; contiguous tidelands from 200 feet south of trail outlet to point on north shore, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Nakwasina Passage to Head of Nakwasina Sound (Map NB-10)

Entire Nakwasina Passage below Mean High Tide, from the point to the west where the passage narrows to the southern contiguous beach south of Allan Point including the tidelands of the Allan Point anchorage; all tidelands and northeast contiguous beaches at head of Nakwasina Sound from mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide to the point on section w4, Sitka Quad B4, B5, C4, C5.

Neva Strait Beach (Map NB-11)

Along contiguous beach from 200 feet north to 200 feet south of adjacent upland shelter; from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Otstoia Island (Map NB-12)

Entire Otstoia Island from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Piper Island (Map NB-7)

Entire Piper Island from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Siginaka Islands (Map NB-13)

Entire Siginaka Islands group from Mean High Tide to Mean Lower Low Tide, including contiguous waters between the islands.

Sitka Public Recreational Facilities Tidelands (Map NB-14)

Tidelands and waters from Mean High Tide to 200 feet below Mean Lower Low Tide immediately seaward from the following major public recreational facilities along the Sitka road system from south to north: Whale Park, Sitka National Historical Park--Fort Site Unit, Pioneer Park, Sandy Beach, Halibut Point Recreation Area, and Starrigavan Bay Cooperative Project including Old Sitka State Historical Site. Starrigavan Project boundaries are from northern boundary of Samson Tug and Barge municipal lease tidelands on the south end to point beyond Mosquito Cove on the north.

South Baranof Island and Vicinity

Avoss Lake (Map SB-1)

Entire lake and lakeshore to Ordinary High Water.

Goddard Hot Springs; Kolosh Island and Tom Young Memorial Cabin; Kliuchevoy Bay; Trail to Redoubt Lake (Map SB-2)

200 feet around bathhouses and entire Hot Springs Hill; entire Kliuchevoy Bay, exclusive of privately owned lands, to 200 feet landward from Mean High Tide; Hot Springs Bay area between anchorage seaward from bathhouses and Kolosh Island; entire Kolosh Island to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide; 100 feet from each side of Trail to Redoubt Lake.

Kanga Bay Beach (Map SB-3)

Along contiguous beach to 200 feet on either side of adjacent upland cabin; from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Leesoffskaia Bay (Map SB-4)

Entire inner bay and northwesterly passage from west entrances to head of bay; seaward from Mean High Tide.

Pirate's Cove; Samsing Cove; Three Entrance Bay (Map SB-5)

Entirety of Pirate's Cove, Samsing Cove and Three Entrance Bays seaward from Mean High Tide.

Plotnikof and Davidof Lakes (Map SB-6)

Entire Plotnikof and Davidof lakes, lakeshores and outlet streams to Ordinary High Water.

Port Banks (Map SB-7)

Entire Bay from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide, from Finger Point to opposite headland to the south.

Red Bluff Bay; Falls Lake System and Sockeye Stream (Map SB-8)

Entire Falls Lake, lakeshore and outlet stream to Ordinary High Water; adjacent tidelands 200 feet on either side of outlet stream from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Water; entire Red Bluff Bay from Mean High Tide to mouth of bay.

Redfish Bay Lake System and Sockeye Stream (Map SB-9)

Entire Tumakof Lake, lakeshore and outlet stream to Ordinary High Water; Redfish Bay tidelands 200 feet on either side of mouth of stream, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Redoubt Lake System and Sockeye Stream (Map SB-10)

Entire Lake Redoubt, lakeshore and outlet stream to Ordinary High Water; Redoubt Bay tidelands 200 feet on either side of outlet stream, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of mean Lower Low Tide.

Salmon Lake; Silver Bay Tidelands (Map SB-11)

Entire Salmon Lake, lakeshore and outlet stream to Ordinary High Water; Silver Bay tidelands 200 feet on either side of outlet stream, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide.

Sashin and Round Lakes; Little Port Walter Tidelands (Map SB-12)

Entire Sashin and Round Lakes, lakeshores, and Sashin Creek to Ordinary High Water; Little Port Walter tidelands 200 feet on either side of mouth of stream, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Secluded Bay; Benzeman Lake System and Sockeye Stream (Map SB-13)

Entire Benzeman Lake, lakeshore and outlet stream to Ordinary High Water, Secluded Bay Tidelands 200 feet on either side of stream mouth from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Sevenfathom Bay (Map SB-14)

Sevenfathom Bay from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide to mouth at Windy Passage.

Taigud Islands (Map SB-15)

All Taiguds Islands from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide.

West Redoubt Bay Islets (SB-16)

All West Redoubt Bay Islets from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide.

Yamani Cove and Islets; Slate Islets; Guibert Islets (SB-17)

Entire Yamani Cove seaward from Mean High Tide; all Yamani, Slate, and Guibert Islets from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide.

3. ENFORCEABLE POLICIES

Application of Enforceable Policies

In addition to the policies of the Sitka CMP, which generally apply throughout the Sitka Coastal District, policies 14.1–6 apply to the appropriate Special Management Areas as indicated within each policy. These areas are described and shown on Figures (maps) in Chapter V: Special Management Areas.

None of the Special Management Areas include federal land or waters and all of the Special Management Area policies described in this plan refer only to activities occurring on State/District land within the Special Management Area; none of the SMA policies apply to federal lands or waters except through the federal Coastal Zone Management Act federal consistency provision. The applicability of all policies is subject to the exclusion of federal lands and waters from the coastal zone as described in section F.1. of this chapter.

SMA 14.1 **Policy:** Tideland uses within the designated Special Management Areas as shown in the figures in Chapter V shall be compatible with the recreation nature of the surrounding area. The recreational nature of the surrounding area is discussed in Chapter V in the narrative for each designated area.

SMA 14.2 **Policy:** Within Special Management Areas as shown in the figures in Chapter V containing lakes or streams that support sockeye salmon, a “no development” area shall be maintained on each sockeye stream to ordinary high water as well as along the entire lake to ordinary high water in order to protect recreational fishing. Activities directly related to the enhancement of the sockeye resource are exempt from this policy. Note: Special Management Areas supporting sockeye salmon are specifically named in the title of the designated area in Chapter V.

SMA 14.3 **Policy:** Special Management Areas shown in figures K5-7, NB2-4, and SB2 in Chapter V and designated recreation areas in figures 4a-4c containing non-federal uplands, shall be managed for recreation. Conflicting uses are not permitted within a Special

Management Area boundary of 200 feet around the cabin, shelter or trail. Where located on a lake, this boundary shall include the entire lake and a 200 foot buffer strip around the lakeshore.

SMA 14.4 **Policy:** Where practicable, all land- and water-based uses that conflict with the recreational use of the Special Management Areas are not allowed within the boundaries of all Special Management Areas as shown in the figures in Chapter V, except for the maintenance or enhancement of the recreation and/or subsistence resources. The recreational uses and resources of the SMAs are discussed in Chapter V in the narrative for each designated area.

This policy does not preclude the development of fish enhancement projects, including remote fish release sites, when a need is shown and proper evaluation, including a formal public process, has been completed.

Exceptions to this policy may be made only after a consistency review or other public process determines that there is greater public benefit by permitting a use (e.g. temporary moorage of a fish-buying scow or herring pound) in a Special Management Area than the public benefit accrued by protecting that Special Management Area exclusively for recreational uses.

Existing leases and special use permits within the Special Management Areas are exempted from this policy. However, if the lease or permit is renewed or the project is modified, it would then become subject to the policies in this Plan.

SMA 14.5 **Policy:** Where practicable, a “buffer strip” of 100 feet shall be maintained on each side of all trails within Special Management Areas shown in figures K5, K7, NB2, NB3 and SB2 in Chapter V and designated recreation areas in figures 4a-4c containing non-federal uplands, for the protection of the trail and the recreational experience. Significant adverse impacts to these trails shall be mitigated by relocating the affected trail to a location where the buffer can be maintained. Where practicable, all viewpoints, scenic areas, and other unique physical features of the trail upon which the recreation depends shall be protected.

SMA 14.6 **Policy:** The tidelands and waters from Mean High Tide to 200 feet below the Mean Lower Low Tide within the major designated recreational use areas listed below and as shown on Figures 4 and 5 in Chapter 3 and map NB14 in Chapter V shall be closed to all uses incompatible with the primary use of public recreation.

- a. Whale Park
- b. State Tidelands adjacent to Sitka National Historic Park
- c. Pioneer Park
- d. Sandy Beach Tidelands
- e. Halibut Point Recreation Area and Tidelands
- f. Starrigavan Bay Cooperative Project

Note: Shore boundaries for “f” above are from the northern boundary of the municipal

lease tidelands on the south end to the point beyond Mosquito Cove on the north.

Incompatible uses include: floating facilities of all types; private mooring facilities; mariculture/aquaculture facilities of all types; water-borne storage of all types; and all moorage of other than a purely short-term, transitory nature. Exceptions to this policy will be made only after a consistency review process determines that there is greater public benefit by permitting a use in a Special Management Area adjacent to the listed public recreational site than the public benefit accrued by protecting the area exclusively for recreational use.

4. MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE

Appendix A-2 provides guidance policies in addition to enforceable policies. As the Sitka District has no authority to regulate management of federal lands, the intent of the Coastal Management Citizens Committee in developing these recommendations was that managing agencies should consider the coastal resource district's preferences for management of these special areas. However, words like "recommend" are not enforceable, and agencies and applicants for federal authorizations are under no obligation to consider such policies or recommendations unless they are included as part of approved enforceable policies under the Alaska Coastal Management Program.

5. MATTER OF LOCAL CONCERN

Under State statutes, the enforceable policies of the district coastal management plan must not address a matter regulated or authorized by state or federal law unless the enforceable policies relate specifically to a matter of local concern. A matter of local concern is a specific coastal use or resource within a defined portion of the district's coastal zone that is

- (1) demonstrated as sensitive to development;
- (2) not adequately addressed by state or federal law; and
- (3) of unique concern to the coastal resource district as demonstrated by local usage or scientific evidence.

Since there are State and federal laws that may regulate or authorize the matters addressed in the management plan's enforceable policies, the local concern test is applied. Pursuant to 11 AAC 114.270(i), enforceable policies for a Special Area Management Plan in effect on July 1, 2004, satisfies the requirements of (1) and (3) above. In regard to the second prong of the three-part test, the Special Management Area enforceable policies relate to recreation, subsistence, transportation, placement of structures (floating facilities), habitat and coastal access. As previously noted, there are state and federal laws and statewide standards that address these matters; however, most are broad in scope and general in application. No State or federal laws have been specifically developed and individually tailored to the unique conditions of these Special Management Areas as have these policies. No State or federal laws have been cooperatively developed through an inter-agency process that addresses the unique management regime of these Special Management Areas as was done for these policies. In all cases, increased specificity is needed to determine whether a specific land or water use or activity will be

allowed within the special management areas and to protect significant natural resources, the recreational and subsistence uses, and to provide for coastal-development economic growth and improved predictability in governmental decision making (as permitted by 11 AAC 114.270(g) and 11 AAC 114.400).

H. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

1. INTRODUCTION TO SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

The following are descriptions for those areas identified by the 1990-1992 Coastal Management Citizens Committee as outstanding recreational and subsistence use areas. They are grouped in the following general geographic areas, radiating out from Sitka in a clockwise direction:

- Kruzof Island Vicinity
- West Chichagof-Yakobi Island Wilderness Vicinity
- East Chichagof Island Vicinity
- North Baranof Island Vicinity
- South Baranof Island Vicinity (including South Baranof Wilderness)

Note: Vicinity maps of these areas are provided in section G.2.b. of this chapter.

The Citizens Committee developed criteria to measure whether or not any recreational and/or subsistence use area within the Sitka Coastal District should be managed with special priority for recreational and subsistence uses. There are many areas throughout the District used for recreation and subsistence, but the Committee's mission statement was to identify only the most outstanding, site-specific recreational/subsistence use areas within the Sitka District outside the Sitka road system (that is managed with the assistance of the Sitka Parks and Recreation Committee), and to propose management guidelines and/or enforceable policies for these areas to maintain existing uses and limit use conflicts. Obviously, any management guidelines or policies must be consistent with the regulatory authorities of the resource management agencies.

Each area proposed for inclusion as a Special Management Area must meet one or more of the criteria, in order to keep focused on those areas that are most deserving of special management to ensure that traditional recreational and subsistence, and personal harvesting uses can continue. Any dilution of the criteria to add locations that do not meet the test of being outstanding recreation and/or subsistence use areas will be indefensible to the management agencies responsible for these public lands. Therefore, one or more of the following criteria must be met in order for an area to be included in the "Special Management Areas:"

1. Area receives intensive public use for recreational and/or subsistence purposes (e.g., Goddard Hot Springs, Redoubt sockeye stream).
2. Area is or is adjacent to a developed or designated recreational facility (e.g., cabin, hot springs, trail, marine park).
3. Area has rare or uncommon physical, geological, geothermal, or cultural resources for recreation and/or subsistence uses (e.g., hot springs, popular sandy beach, waterfall or other unusual attraction, culturally significant subsistence site).
4. Area has major concentration of scarce (limited or rare) biological resource or is one of few sources of biological resource for recreation and/or subsistence uses (e.g., only known concentration of razor clams in District; only large marine bird sanctuary).

When describing the proposed “Special Management Areas,” it should be understood that nearly all the locations have opportunities for fishing and deer hunting, so these uses are listed only when there is intensity of use, substantial concentration of a resource, or other special features contributing to recreation and/or subsistence uses of the area. Nearly all areas listed may have bears present, and this should be understood as a “given” when considering an area.

Descriptions of the Forest Service cabins and trails have been excerpted from the Forest Service brochure on Sitka area cabins and the Sitka Trails Recreation Opportunity Guide prepared by the Sitka Ranger District. Staff of the Sitka office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game have also provided substantial information about the fish and game resources of the proposed areas. Areas within federally mandated wilderness are identified by an asterisk (*). *Note: A map of the Wilderness Areas is provided in Chapter III, Section B.1.b., Figure 2.*

Kruzof Island Vicinity

Brent’s Beach and Kamenoi Beach (Map K-1)

Fred’s Creek; Mt. Edgumbe Beach (Map K-2)

Head of Krestof Sound through Dry Pass; Head of Gilmer Bay; Unnamed Lakes (Map K-3)

Iris Meadows; Shelikof Bay; North Beach Shelikof; Mud Bay (Map K-4)

Kalinin Bay (Map K-5)

Magoun Islands/Port Krestof State Marine Park (Map K-6)

Sealion Cove and Trail (Map K-7)

Sinitzin Island (Map K-8)

St. Lazaria Island (Map K-9)

West Chichagof Island Vicinity

* Didrickson Lake, Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-1)

* Ford Arm Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-2)

* Goulding Lake System and Harbor (Map WC-3)

* Klag Bay Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-4)

* Lake Anna Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-5)

* Leo Anchorage Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-6)

* Myriad Islands and White Sisters Islands (Map WC-7)

* Suloia Lake, Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-8)

* White Sulphur Hot Springs Lake, Mirror Harbor; Sea Level Slough; Dry Pass Harbor (Map WC-9)

** Located within West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness*

East Chichagof Island Vicinity

Fick Cove (Map EC-1)

Kadashan Bay (Map EC-2)

Kook Lake System and Sockeye Stream; Basket Bay (Map EC-3)

Lisianski Lake and River; North Arm Hoonah Sound Tideflats (Map EC-4)

Long Bay Beach (Map EC-5)

Moser Island Spit; Adjacent Seal Rookery (Map EC-6)

Sitkoh Lake System and Sockeye Stream; Upper Sitkoh Bay and Tideflats (Map EC-7)

Ushk Bay (Map EC-8)

Vixen Islands Seal Haulouts (Map EC-9)

North Baranof Island Vicinity

Appleton Cove (Map NB-1)
Baranof Warm Springs Lake and Bay; Sadie Lake (Map NB-2)
Big Bear/Baby Bear Bays State Marine Park (Map NB-3)
Chaichei islands; Unnamed Islands (Map NB-4)
Fish Bay Tidelands (Map NB-5)
Hanus Bay; Portage; Dead Tree Islands (Map NB-6)
Kakul Narrows (Map NB-7)
Kelp Bay Basin and Pond Island (Map NB-8)
Lake Eva Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (Map NB-9)
Nakwasina Passage to Head of Nakwasina Sound (Map NB-10)
Neva Strait Beach (Map NB-11)
Otstoia Island (Map NB-12)
Piper Island (Map NB-7)
Siginaka Islands (Map NB-13)
Sitka Public Recreational Facilities Tidelands (Map NB-14)

South Baranof Island Vicinity

** Avoss Lake (Map SB-1)
Goddard Hot Springs; Kolosh Island and Tom Young Memorial Cabin; Kliuchevoi Bay; Trail to Redoubt Lake (Map SB-2)
Kanga Bay Beach (Map SB-3)
Leesoffskaia Bay (Map SB-4)
Pirate's Cove; Samsing Cove; Three Entrance Bay (Map SB-5)
** Plotnikof and Davidof Lakes (Map SB-6)
** Port Banks (Map SB-7)
** Red Bluff Bay; Falls Lake System and Sockeye Stream (Map SB-8)
Redfish Bay Lake System and Sockeye Stream (Map SB-9)
Redoubt Lake System and Sockeye Stream (Map SB-10)
Salmon Lake; Silver Bay Tidelands (Map SB-11)
Sashin and Round Lakes; Little Port Walter Tidelands (Map SB-12)
** Secluded Bay; Benzeman Lake System and Sockeye Stream (Map SB-13)
Sevenfathom Bay (Map SB-14)
Taigud Islands (Map SB-15)
West Redoubt Bay Islets (Map SB-16)
** Yamani Cove and Islets; Slate Islets; Guibert Islets (Map SB-17)

*** Located within South Baranof Wilderness.*

Kruzof Island Vicinity

Note: A vicinity map is provided on the facing page.

Brent's Beach and Kamenoi Beach (Map K-1)

Fred's Creek; Mt. Edgecumbe Beach (Map K-2)

Head of Krestof Sound through Dry Pass; Head of Gilmer Bay; Unnamed Lakes (Map K-3)

Iris Meadows; Shelikof Bay; North Beach Shelikof; Mud Bay (Map K-4)

Kalinin Bay (Map K-5)

Magoun Islands/Port Krestof State Marine Park (K-6)

Sealion Cove and Trail (Map K-7)

Sinitsin Island (Map K-8)

St. Lazaria Island (Map K-9)

Index to Kruzof Island Vicinity

Map K-8: Sinitsin Island

Map K-5: Kalinin Bay

Map K-7: Sealion Cove & Trail

Map K-3: Head of Krestof Sound through Dry Pass;
Head of Gilmer Bay; Unnamed Lakes

Map K-6: Magoun
Islands/Port Krestof
State Marine Park

Map K-4: Iris Meadows; Shelikof Bay;
North Beach Shelikof; Mud Bay

Map K-1: Brent's Beach & Kamenoi Beach

Map K-2: Fred's Creek; Mt. Edgecumbe Beach

Mount
Edgecumbe

Map K-9: St. Lazaria Island



**Special Management Areas and
Designated Recreational Use Areas**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006



Source: USGS 1:63,360

Brent's Beach and Kamenoi Beach (Map K-1)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. The Kamenoi Beach portion, as described below, is also a designated subsistence use area. Documentation of use, potential use, consultation and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Brent's Beach Cabin is a rustic style 12 x 14 foot PanAbode cabin with a woodburning stove and sleeping space for 4 to 6 persons. Located on the eastern shore of Kruzof Island within Crab Bay, this cabin is about 15 miles northwest of Sitka. It is one of the few cabins located on salt water. Access is approximately a 35 minute boat ride from Sitka. A mooring buoy (anchored in 16 feet of water with a 50 foot chain) is available on a first-come, first-served basis for boat anchorage. There have been reports of erratic and abnormally large waves on Kruzof Island at low slack tide. Access by floatplane is very difficult or impossible. Helicopters can land on the beach in front of the cabin at lower tides. Weather permitting, this cabin is accessible year around.

Located just inside the timberline on a sandy-white beach, this oceanside cabin is popular with Sitka residents. Surrounded by an attractive spruce and hemlock stand and flat terrain, this cabin is ideal for families on a day or overnight trip. Beachcombing, sunbathing, playing in the sand and digging razor clams are but a few recreational opportunities available adjacent to the cabin. Salt-water fishing is possible from the cabin for those who arrive by their own boat. There is good access to Kamenoi Beach to the south and caves and lava domes 10 minutes north of the cabin.

Kamenoi Beach has the only large known concentration of razor clams accessible to clam diggers in the entire Sitka District. The boundary of this site has been extended north to Point Brown to include the beaches to the north, which also receive heavy recreational use for picnicking, beachcombing, and sightseeing, as well as access to good deer and brown bear hunting.

Note: Kamenoi Beach is closed to all harvest due to the population of Razor Clams. The population has been monitored since 1988 and is stable. Should the population increase to a sufficient level, subsistence harvest would be the highest priority (personal communication: Bob Chadwick, Sitka Sportfish Biologist, March 2005).

Boundaries: Beaches from Mountain Point at the south to Point Brown at the north, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.



Fred's Creek; Mt. Edgecumbe Beach (Map K-2)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Fred's Creek Cabin is a 16 x 16 foot A-Frame style cabin with a woodburning stove and sleeping space for 6 to 8 persons. It is located on the southeast shore of Kruzof Island, approximately 10 miles from Sitka and 30 minutes by boat. It is one of the few cabins located on salt water.

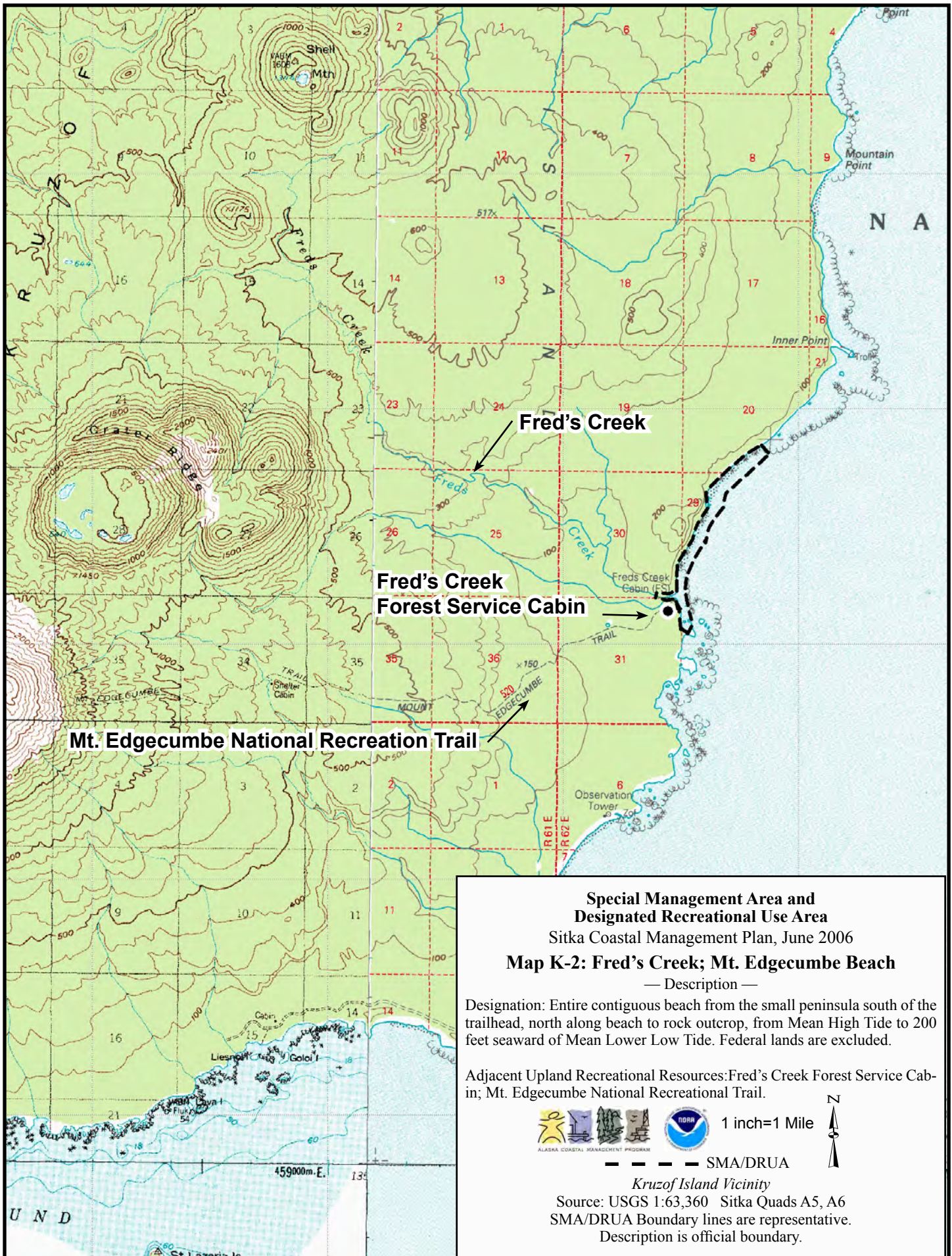
Both it and the trail are accessible by boat, but there is no protected anchorage. The surf breaks along a pumice-rock shoreline, and there have been reports of erratic and abnormally large waves on Kruzof Island at low slack tide. Because of the wave action, floatplanes are unable to land at the cabin; however, helicopter access is possible on the beach at lower tides. Weather permitting, this cabin is generally accessible the year around. Tucked away just inside the treeline, this oceanside cabin is a popular spot for Sitka residents. Surrounded by a stand of spruce and hemlock, the cabin lies on flat terrain adjacent to Fred's Creek. Beachcombing, hiking to Mt. Edgecumbe, hunting, or open ocean views and viewing the breaking surf are some of the popular activities at this cabin. Interesting pumice and volcanic rock formations are found on the beach and in Fred's Creek. The 6.7 mile Mt. Edgecumbe Trail offers a gradual hike to the cone of Mt. Edgecumbe through miles of muskeg alternating with forest. At the cone, the trail becomes very steep, but hikers are rewarded with a panoramic view on clear days. The area has many deer, and brown bear are common in the spring. Good deer hunting is possible. There is steelhead fishing in Fred's Creek in the spring.

The 6.7 mile Mt. Edgecumbe National; Forest System Trail begins at Fred's Creek Cabin in a Sitka spruce flat, heads west, and gradually rises while running through several miles of muskeg alternating with forest. About three miles up the trail at 700 foot elevation, a spur leads to a trail shelter. About a mile further, the trail steepens considerably to timberline at about 2,000 feet, where the trail ends. Above this, the ground is covered by red volcanic ash up to the summit of Mount Edgecumbe volcano. The vista from the summit is spectacular on a clear day.

A second three-sided Adirondack shelter has been built on the Mt. Edgecumbe Trail on Kruzof Island. The shelter is about 4 miles up the Mt. Edgecumbe Trail from the eastern shore of Kruzof Island, about 14 miles west of Sitka. It has a woodstove, plywood bunks and small table. There is no use fee, and it is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Boundaries: Entire contiguous beach from 100 feet south of trailhead north along beach to rock outcrop, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.



Head of Krestof Sound through Dry Pass; Head of Gilmer Bay; Unnamed Lakes (Map K-3)

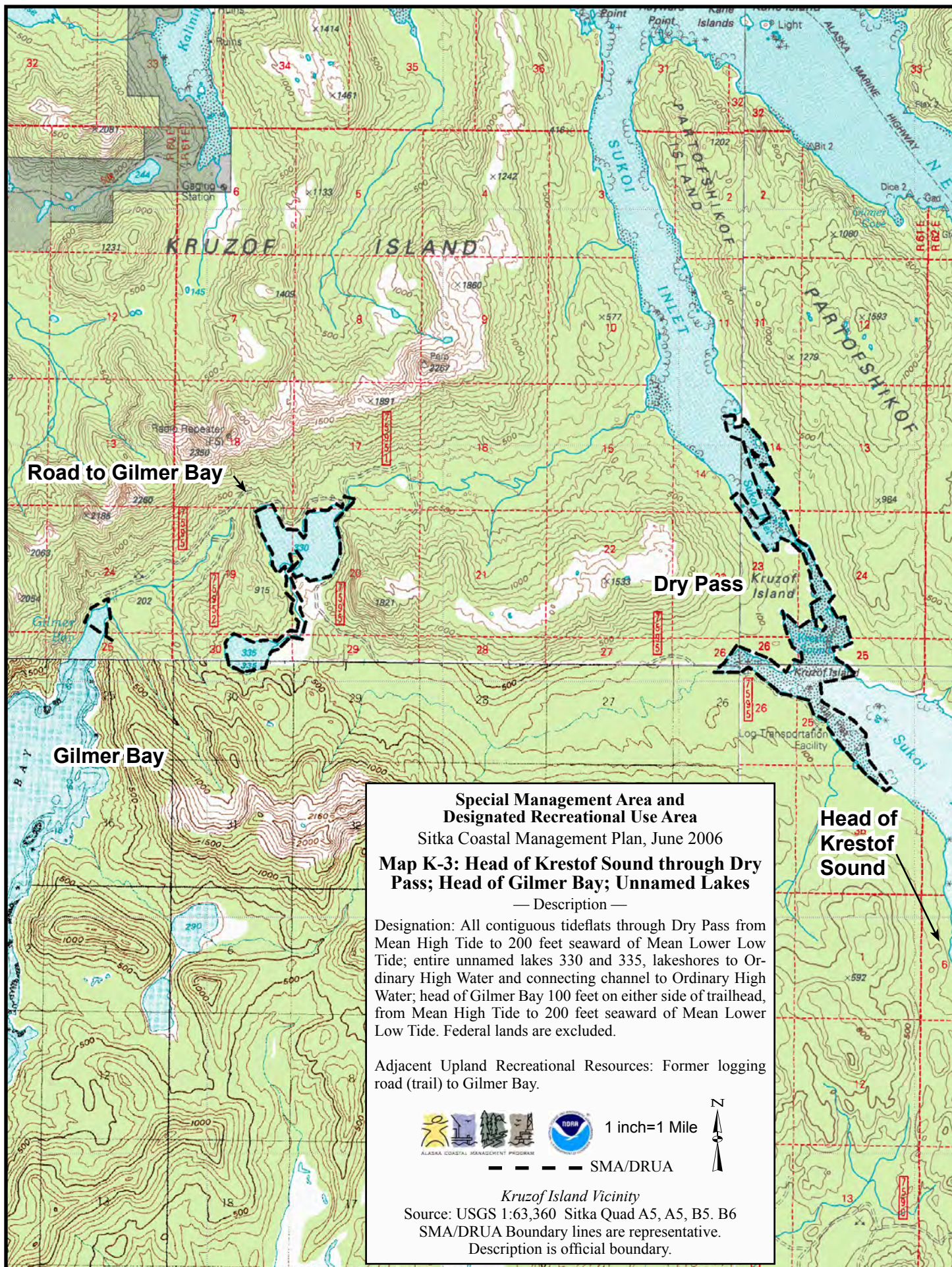
This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

This area is about 18 miles northwest of Sitka, with access by boat or float-plane. It includes very large, productive tideflats, unexcelled estuarine habitat, and narrow, very shallow Sukoi Strait between Kruzof and Partofshikof Islands. It has large concentrations of waterfowl and is heavily used by duck and deer hunters. The land is mostly level behind a wide beach, elevation 0 to 100 feet with some areas rising to 500 feet. Eagle River is favored for coho fishing and has a small run of steelhead.

The south portion of the tideflats has a former timber transfer facility which is used for road access. The former logging road (Forest Service Road # 7595) is extensively used by all terrain vehicles to cross Kruzof Island to the west. The road provides access to two unnamed lakes numbered 330 and 335, with good fishing for rainbows in 330. A channel between the two lakes proves ideal spawning and rearing for rainbows, which are small but plentiful. The areas where the road meets the lakes are very brushy, with alder, devil's club and berries.

Boundaries: All contiguous tideflats through Dry Pass from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide; entire unnamed lakes 330 and 335, lakeshores to Ordinary High Water and connecting channel to Ordinary High Water; head of Gilmer Bay 100 feet on either side of trailhead, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.



Iris Meadows; Shelikof Bay; North Beach Shelikof; Mud Bay (Map K-4)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Shelikof Cabin is a 16' x 16' A-frame cabin with a wood-burning stove and sleeping apace for 6 to 8 persons. Located on the west coast of Kruzof Island about 20 miles from Sitka, this cabin is situated just inside the forest fringe on Shelikof Bay. No anchorage is available near the cabin. The Shelikof Forest Service Cabin is the only one in the District on the outer coast with a large sandy beach fringed by small islands with fascinating tidepools accessible at low tide.

The North Beach Shelikof cabin is also as a 16' x 16' A-frame cabin with a wood-burning stove and sleeping space for 6 to 8 people. It has a table and benches, double plywood bunk, cooking counter, and outhouse toilet. A rental fee is charged. The North Beach cabin was built in 1993 by local volunteers including from the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station. The cabin was built to accommodate ATV riders who wanted an ATV accessible cabin, since Shelikof cabin to the south is not open to ATV's. The terrain is relatively flat and easy to explore. The beach next to North Beach cabin is open to ATV riding. This cabin is uniquely ATV-accessible. About 36 miles of old logging roads are available for hiking or ATV or mountain bike riding.

Access can be by a helicopter or a wheelplane landing on the beach at lower tides or a 45 minute boat ride to Mud Bay on the east coast of Kruzof Island; then hiking approximately 7 miles across the island on the Kruzof Island Road / 7590 and 1.3 mile Shelikof Trail. The main trail, the former logging road built in the 1970's, curves to the south through spruce-hemlock forest and some regeneration areas and on the clearcut bluff overlooking the beaches of Port Mary. Crossing the Shelikof River and Iris Meadows must be done at lower tides. At the ruins of the footbridge over the Shelikof River, hikers may follow the river to a gravel bar shallow enough to cross. Then parallel the river on the south side until large, diamond trailmarker is sited at the meadow/forest edge. Shelikof Trail begins at the marker just inside the timber and parallels the forest edge, crossing an occasional slough before reaching the cabin. One can easily lose sight of the trail markers at the slough crossings. Weather permitting, this cabin is accessible year around.

Spectacular sandy beaches, a magnificent ocean view and close proximity to Sitka result in these oceanside cabins being popular with Sitka residents. Iris Meadows is easily reached by following the river upstream or the Shelikof Trail for a mile and affords wonderful views of wild iris (in June and July) and wildlife. Fishing opportunities in the stream are fair for Dolly Varden, coho and pink salmon. Brown bear and deer are common in the area. Opportunities are excellent for beachcombing on the sandy beaches, hiking, and photography.

The Mud Bay Road (Kruzof Island Road #7590) is heavily used by both mountain bikes and recreational vehicles, and considerable hunting of deer and bear is done utilizing the road system. The Iris Meadows, cabin, and beach area are relatively flat and exceptionally scenic and receive intensive picnicking, hiking, camping, and other recreational uses.

Mud Bay shelter is a large three-sided Adirondack shelter situated at tidewater in Mud Bay. The shelter sleeps as many as 10 people. It is a 17 x 13 foot shelter with a wood stove. No firewood is



provided. A 16 square foot pit toilet is located nearby. The shelter is accessible to off-highway vehicles and is located adjacent to approximately 30 miles of National Forest roads, which connect with the Shelikof North Beach cabin. The shelter is available on a first-come, first-served basis with no rental fee. It is used for both survival and camping year round.

Mud Bay is the access point for a large number of ATV riders using the road system who off-load their ATV's and supplies from their boats at Mud Bay and then anchor in the Bay. Mud Bay is also the main safe anchorage for hikers using the road system to get to the Shelikof side of Kruzof Island.

Boundaries: From the point between Goletta and Cuvacan Coves; along the beach, tideflats and sloughs at Mean High Tide, including waterbodies of Iris Meadows to Ordinary High Water, to the small peninsula at the southern end of Port Mary; then in a direct line across Shelikof Bay back to the point between Goletta and Cuvacan Coves; Mud Bay from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide, from 100 feet to the north of the Mud Bay Logging road south to the rock outcrop.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

Kalinin Bay (Map K-5)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

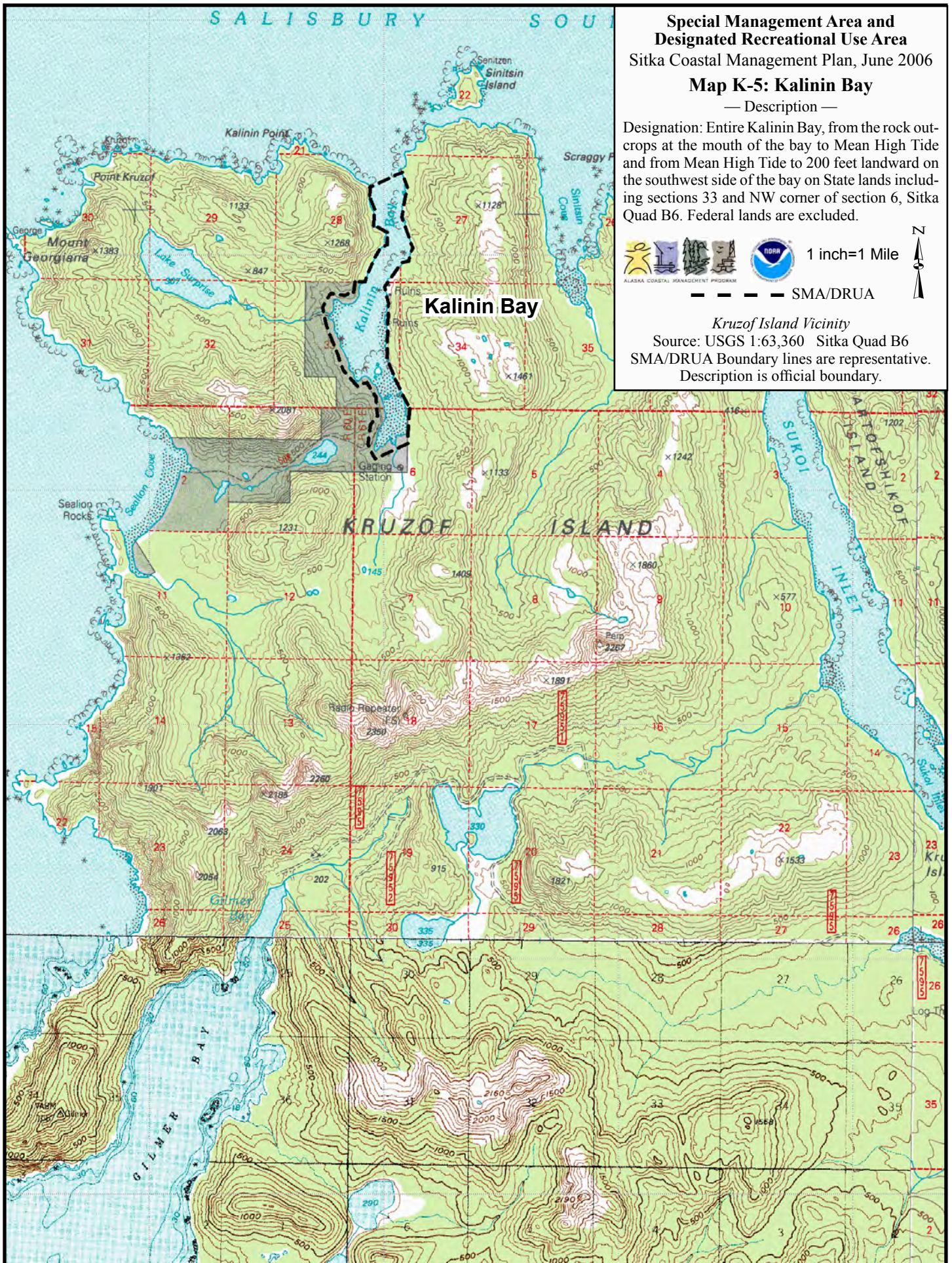
Kalinin Bay was proposed for Special Management Area designation in the original Public Use Management Plan, but there was insufficient documentation available at the time to justify the Bay's inclusion as a Special Management Area. When the 1997 Minor Amendment to the Public Use Management Plan was developed, there was a large amount of public input that this site and one other should not have been excluded, and ample justification was provided to amend the Public Use Plan to include this entire Bay as a Special Management Area.

Kalinin Bay receives a large amount of year-round use by recreation and subsistence users as well as commercial fishermen who use the bay as a safe anchorage. It has considerable historical settlement, although few ruins remain. There are petroglyphs in the upper bay. The bay is the access to the trailhead to Sea Lion Cove, which is also a Special Management Area.

There is a major fishing area, "the shark hole," just outside the bay to the northwest. Bears are frequently seen in the area especially in the estuarine grass flats and trail to Sea Lion Cove. Many users picnic along the shoreline beaches or hike into Lake Surprise.

Boundaries: Entire Kalinin Bay, from the rock outcrops at the mouth of the bay to Mean High Tide and from Mean High Tide to 200 feet landward on the southwest side of the bay on State lands including sections 33 and NW corner of section 6, Sitka Quad B6.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.3, 14.4, 14.5.



Magoun Islands/Port Krestof State Marine Park (Map K-6)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

The Magouns are an island group between Kruzof and Krestof Islands and between Sitka and Krestof Sounds, 12 miles northwest of Sitka. Access is by boat or floatplane to various anchorages. This 685-acre Marine Park consists of one larger and a dozen or so smaller islands with numerous scenic inland bays and waterways. The islands are heavily used by the residents of Sitka for clamming, crabbing, fishing, boating, sightseeing, and other recreational activities. The area is a popular overnight anchorage. The Magouns have the only anchorage in the area providing protection in all wind and sea conditions.

Port Krestof has very large, productive tideflats and is a valuable waterfowl habitat and staging area as well a favorite sport fishing and crabbing area. As a newly selected State Marine Park, the area will not be subject to timber harvest, and recreation and habitat values will be maintained.

Boundaries: Per Park boundaries, generally along section lines encompassing all of Port Krestof Tide Flats and all the Magoun Islands.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.3, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006
**Map K-6: Magoun Islands/Port Krestof
State Marine Park**

— Description —

Designation: Per State Park boundaries, generally along section lines encompassing all of Port Krestof Tide Flats and all the Magoun Islands and adjacent waters. Federal lands are excluded.



1 inch=1 Mile

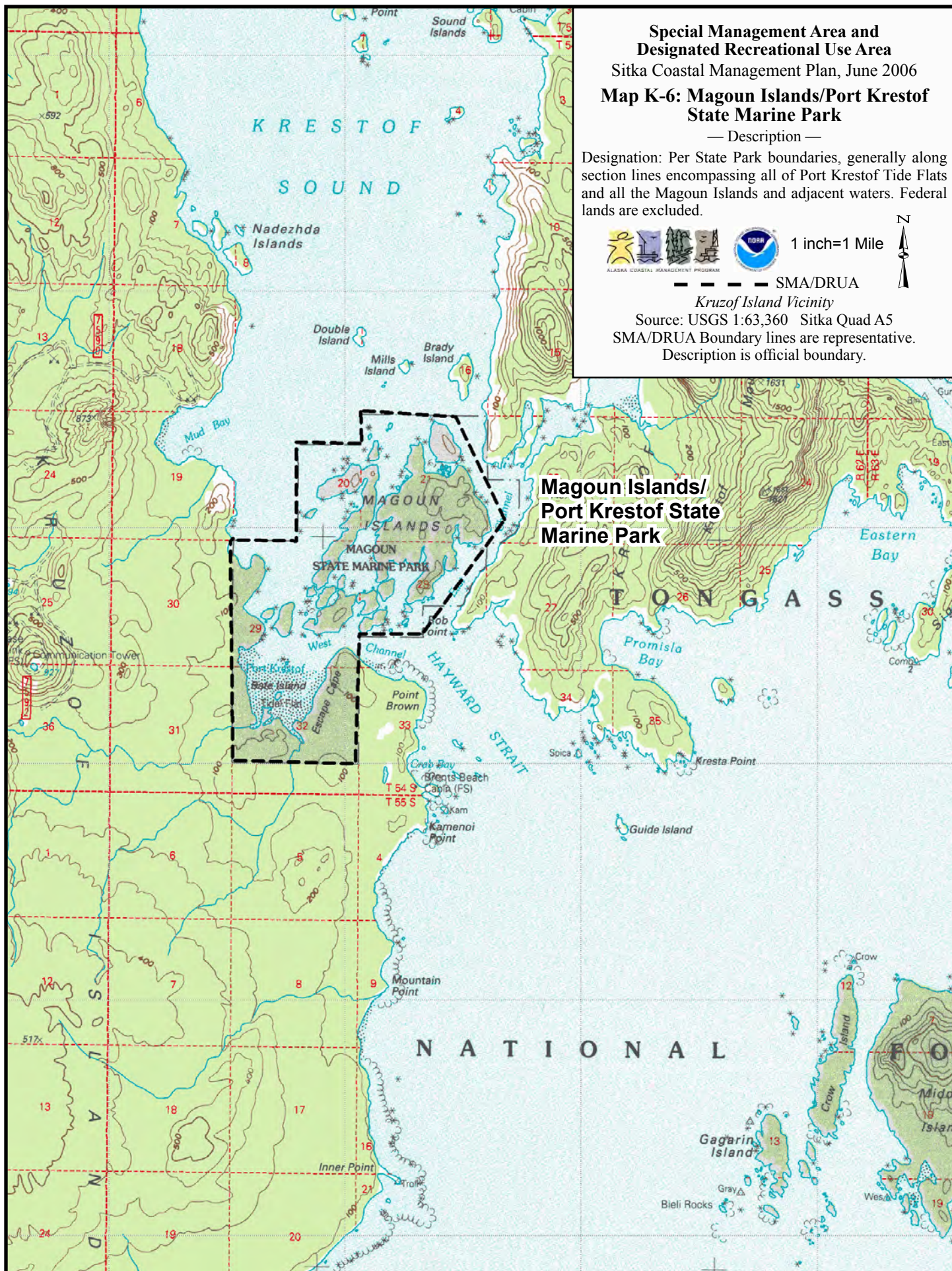


--- SMA/DRUA

Kruzof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360 Sitka Quad A5
SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.
Description is official boundary.

**Magoun Islands/
Port Krestof State
Marine Park**



Sealion Cove and Trail (Map K-7)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Sealion Cove is located on the northern outer coast of Kruzof Island. It is accessible by the Sealion Cove National Forest System Trail from Kalinin Bay, about 25 miles northwest of Sitka on the north side of Kruzof. Access to the trail is by boat or floatplane. The 2.5 mile trail begins at the southern end of Kalinin Bay and runs south along the western side of the estuary for about a half mile to a trail marker. The trail turns west up into the forest. There are several switchbacks along the steep trail, through a muskeg and along the north shore of an unnamed lake (X244), and drops into the Sealion Cove drainage. The lake has a sand bottom and is good for swimming, though very cold. A half mile from the beach, the trail skirts the northern side of a large marsh, and the last quarter mile is in old growth forest of Sitka spruce and hemlock which breaks out onto the northern end of the Cove. The trail is very scenic and fairly gradual.

There is a large beach fringe of timber and good deer hunting, as well as coho in the south stream. Sealion Cove has a mile-long white sandy beach and open surf. It is a beautiful, isolated place for beachcombing, exploring, camping, watching sea lions, and viewing the open Pacific ocean. This area has been under Federal ownership, but 830 acres has been selected by the State of Alaska for recreational purposes. A portion of the south end of the Cove is owned by Sealaska Native Corporation as a historical site.

Boundaries: All beach areas and 200 feet landward of Mean High Tide and 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide along entire Cove, excluding privately and federally owned lands; 100 feet from each side of trail. The entire Special Management Area is State owned.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.3, 14.4, 14.5.



Sinitsin Island (Map K-8)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Sinitsin Island is located just north of Kruzof Island. The intertidal area around Sinitsin Island is an important subsistence area for black seaweed.

Boundaries: Mean High Tide to 200 feet Seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide around the entirety of Sinitsin Island.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.



St. Lazaria Island (Map K-9)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

St. Lazaria Island is located about 1 mile south of Kruzof Island at the entrance to Sitka Sound. The rugged 57-acre volcanic island measures about 1,000 yards long by 100-400 yards wide. The middle portion of the island is bare volcanic rock which is frequently wave-washed during high tides and storms. This unique geologic configuration of storm-swept volcanic rock has created spectacular sea cliffs, stacks, caves, and tidepools that teem with colorful intertidal marine life. The summits and rugged cliffs at either end of the island are vegetated with old-growth Sitka spruce, grasses and dense brush thickets. Remnants of a World War II observation post, now hidden by the lush hillside vegetation on the west summit, are the only evidence of human disturbance on the island.

The island is renowned for its seabird populations, estimated at 560,000 birds, including storm-petrels, murrelets, puffins, cormorants, auklets, guillemots, oystercatchers and gulls. Bald eagles, peregrine falcons, shorebirds and several passerine bird species also nest on the island.

St. Lazaria Island is a major tourist attraction in Sitka Sound which receives scores of visitors daily, often in excess of a hundred, during the summer tourist season. The primary recreational activity associated with these visits is wildlife viewing and bird watching. Most of the visitations are part of organized commercial tours or small charter boat operations involving cruise ship and other visitors to Sitka. However, the island is also a popular destination trip for Sitka residents. St. Lazaria is a popular halibut, lingcod, rockfish, and salmon sport fishing area as well.

St. Lazaria Island is a designated Wilderness area and is managed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. Although most of the visitors to the island view the seabirds and unique volcanic features of the island from small boats, land access by individuals or small groups is permitted. However, any organized tour or other commercial activity would require a permit from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Although hiking and camping on the island are authorized, the Fish and Wildlife Service encourages visitors to remain on the lower unvegetated portions of islands to prevent damage to the thousands of fragile seabird borrows and nests which honeycomb the shallow soils of the island. There is no fresh water on the island, and access can be difficult or impossible depending on the weather and sea conditions.

Boundaries: Mean High Tide to 200 feet Seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide around the entirety of St. Lazaria Island.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

West Chichagof Island Vicinity

Note: A vicinity map is provided on the facing page.

- * Didrickson Lake, Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-1)
 - * Ford Arm Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (WC-2)
 - * Goulding Lake System and Harbor (WC-3)
 - * Klag Bay Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (WC-4)
 - * Lake Anna Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (WC-5)
 - * Leo Anchorage Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (WC-6)
 - * Myriad Islands and White Sisters Islands (WC-7)
 - * Suloia Lake, Stream and Tidelands (WC-8)
 - * White Sulphur Hot Springs Lake, Mirror Harbor; Sea Level Slough; Dry Pass Harbor (WC-9)
- * Located within West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness. Refer to Chapter III, Figure 2 for a map of the Wilderness Areas.

**Special Management Areas and
Designated Recreational Use Areas**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006



Source: USGS 1:250,000

Map WC-3: Goulding Lakes System & Harbor

Map WC-9: White Sulphur Hot Springs Lake; Mirror Harbor; Sea Level Slough; Dry Pass Harbor

Map WC-1: Didrickson Lake, Stream and Tidelands

Map WC-7: Myriad Island & White Sisters Islands

Map WC-4: Klag Bay Lake System, Sockeye Stream & Tidelands

Map WC-5: Lake Anna Lake System, Sockeye Stream & Tidelands

Map WC-2: Ford Arm Lake System, Sockeye Stream & Tidelands

Map WC-6: Leo Anchorage Lake System, Sockeye Stream & Tidelands

Map WC-8: Suloia Lake, Stream & Tidelands

**WEST
CHICHAGOF
ISLAND**

**KRUZOF
ISLAND**

**BARANOF
ISLAND**

Map Location

**Index to
West Chichagof Island Vicinity**

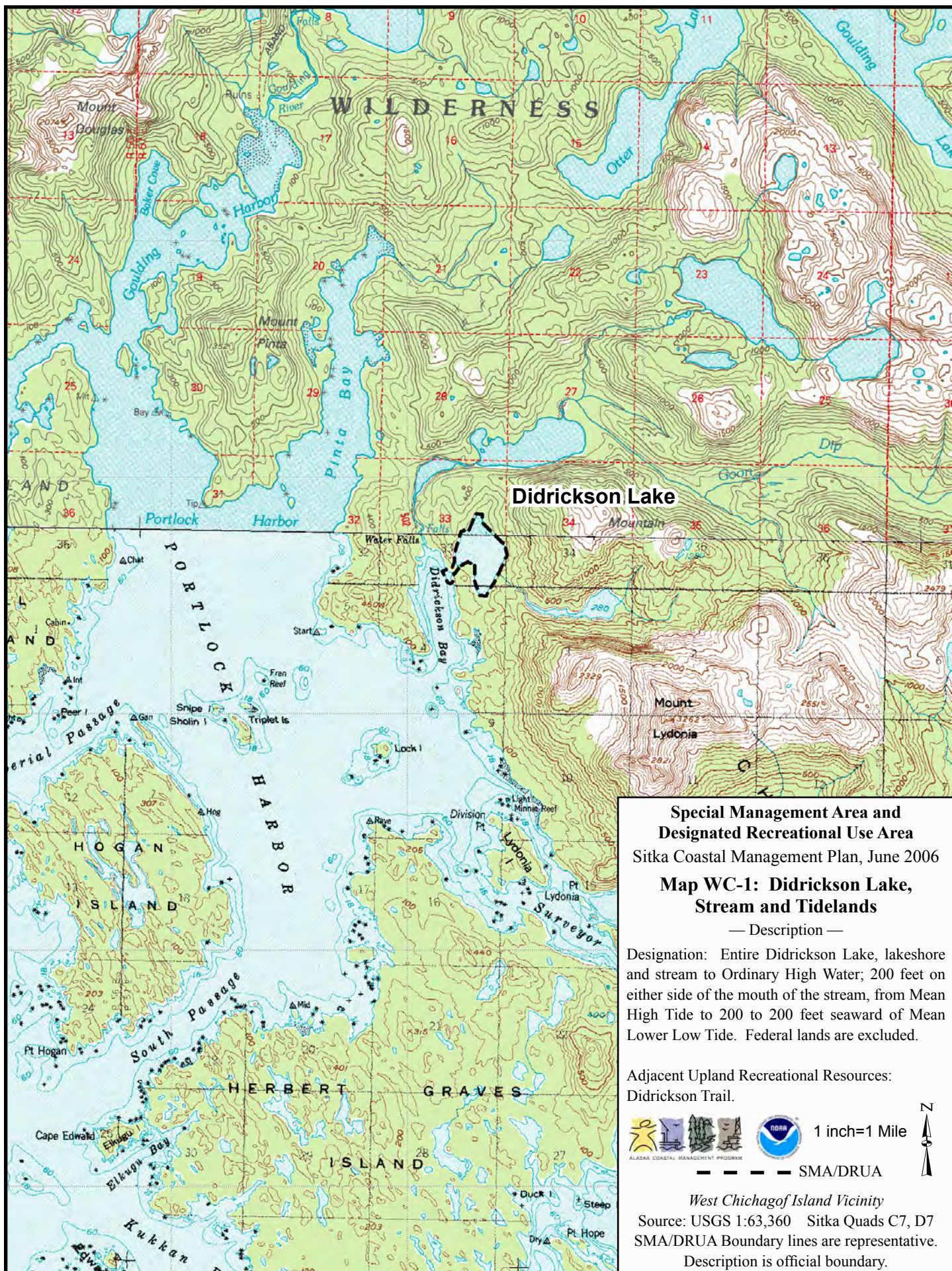
*** *Didrickson Lake, Stream and Tidelands (Map WC-1)***

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Didrickson Trail is a National Forest System Trail that runs 0.1 mile from Didrickson Bay to Didrickson Lake, directly east of Portlock Harbor. The trail is about 58 miles northwest of Sitka on Chichagof Island. Access is by boat or floatplane. The trail begins on the northeast aide of Didrickson Lake. It is a flat trail rated "Easy", but is muddy and very brushy. There is cutthroat trout fishing in Didrickson Lake.

Boundaries: Entire Didrickson Lake, lakeshore and stream to Ordinary High Water; 200 feet on either side of the mouth of the stream, from Mean High Tide to 200 to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.



*** *Ford Arm Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (WC-2)***

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

This system is located on the northeast shore of Ford Arm, with a small run of 3,000 sockeye running to unnamed lake 43. It is an early system that peaks in mid-June. There is good trout fishing in the stream, with a run of large Dolly Varden trout and steelhead.

Boundaries: Entire unnamed lake #43, lakeshore, and stream to Ordinary High Water; contiguous tidelands 200 feet on either side of the mouth of the sockeye stream from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.2, 14.4.

*** *Goulding Lakes System and Harbor (WC-3)***

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Goulding Lake Cabin is a 16 x 16 foot A-frame cabin with a wood-burning stove and Bleeping space for 6 to 8 persons. It is located at the northwest end of Otter Lake (west of Goulding Lake at 200 foot elevation) 60 miles northwest of Sitka on the western edge of Chichagof Island and within the West Chichagof- Yakobi Wilderness Area. Access is by a 50 minute floatplane flight from Sitka. Generally, this lake is ice free May through October. There is no trail access, as the trail ends at the lowest Goulding Lake.

This remote wilderness cabin rests within a flat, lightly wooded area on the northwest shore of Otter Lake. Surrounding terrain varies from open muskegs to densely forested steep slopes. A topographic map of this area is necessary for exploration of nearby lakes and high alpine meadows. There are many great photography opportunities.

Otter Lake and Lower Otter Lake are connected. The skiff provided at the cabin can maneuver between the two lakes, but there are rocks in the shallows of Otter Lake. Fishing is slow in this area until late summer; however, there is cutthroat trout fishing all year below the falls and in the lower lake. There is a steelhead and coho run from Goulding Harbor into the Goulding Lakes system.

The cabin is located in a beautiful area, and the surrounding mountains provide access into the alpine area with attendant opportunities for backcountry recreation.

Goulding Harbor is a destination-oriented anchorage for recreation visitors to Goulding Falls, commercial fishermen, and other users. Good stands of timber occupy the visually sensitive foreground enclosing Goulding Harbor. The marked trailhead of Goulding Lake National Forest System Trail is on the northwest side of the inlet stream at the head of Goulding Harbor. The trail goes through spruce-hemlock forest for about a quarter of a mile. The remains of an old railroad engine are rusting away along this portion of the trail, which generally follows the lower part of an abandoned mining tramway which ran from Goulding Harbor to Mine Mountain during active mining in the 1930's.

The trail runs across a small muskeg and enters open forest through a small saddle and skirts the northwest side of a marshy lake located about a third of a mile along the trail, then another quarter mile over muskeg and marshy area, where it enters gradually deepening forest and meets the Goulding River after another quarter mile. There is a spectacular waterfall just below the outlet of Goulding Lake, with a good viewpoint here. The trail then crosses a tributary and continues about a fifth of a mile to the outlet of the lowest Goulding Lake. It is a moderate trail with brush, mud, and slippery planking and is difficult to follow in places.

Boundaries: Entire west three Goulding Lakes (including Otter Lake), lakeshores and connecting and outlet streams to Ordinary High Water; Goulding Harbor Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

*** *Klag Bay Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (WC-4)***

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

This system is located on the eastern shore of Klag Bay. One of the more productive sockeye systems, there are escapements in excess of 5,000 fish from this very shallow chain of lakes. The run peaks around July 15-20. The creek is grassy and water relatively warm. There are also excellent runs of coho and cutthroat, Dolly Varden and rainbow trout.

Boundaries: Entire lake system, lakeshores, and connecting and outlet streams to Ordinary High Water; contiguous tidelands 200 feet on either side of the mouth of the outlet stream from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.2, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006
**Map WC-4: Klag Bay Lake System,
Sockeye Stream & Tidelands**

— Description —

Designation: Entire lake system, lakeshores, and connecting and outlet streams to Ordinary High Water; contiguous tidelands 200 feet on either side of the mouth of the outlet stream from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide. Federal lands are excluded.



1 inch=1 Mile



--- SMA/DRUA

West Chichagof Island Vicinity

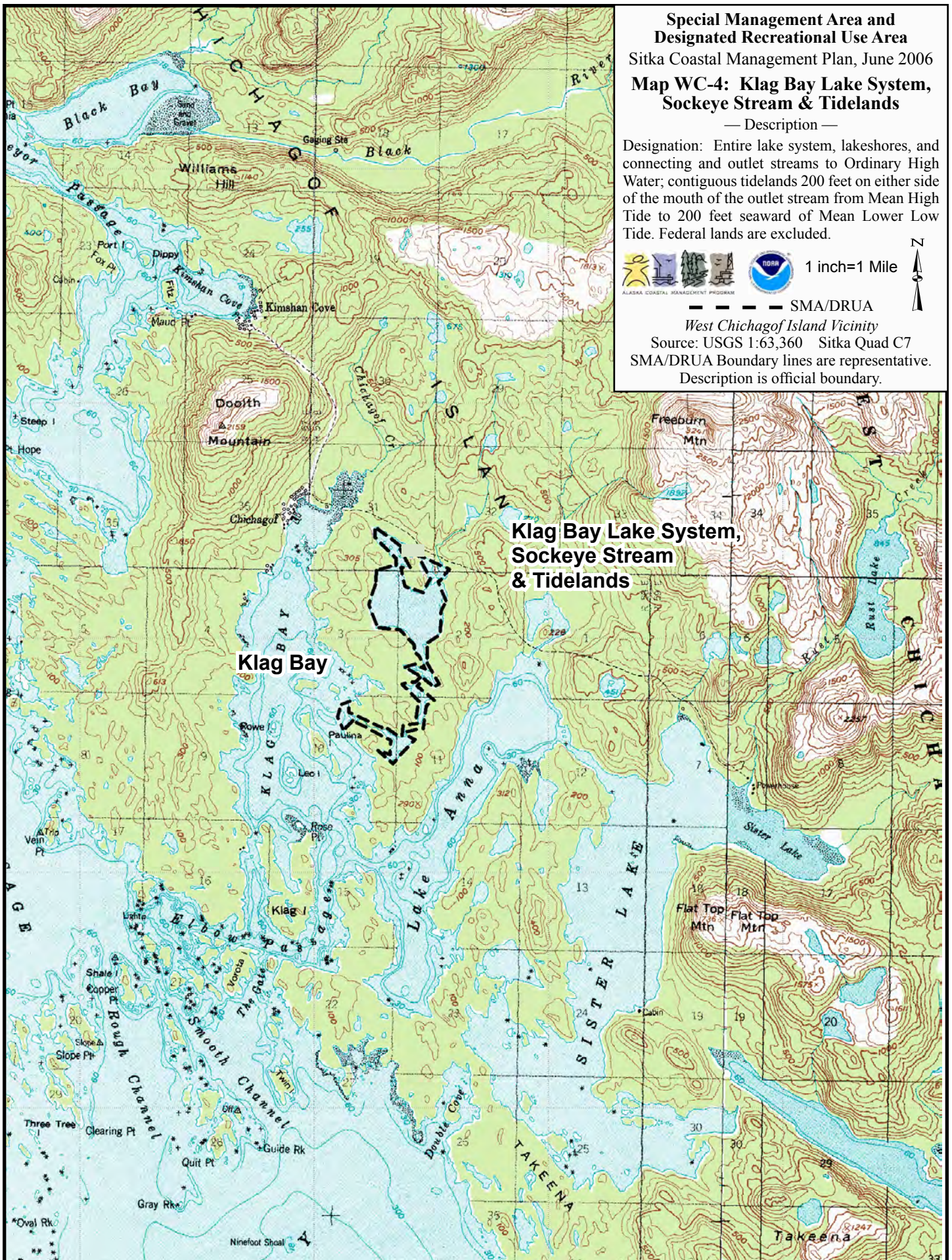
Source: USGS 1:63,360 Sitka Quad C7

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.

**Klag Bay Lake System,
Sockeye Stream
& Tidelands**

Klag Bay



*** *Lake Anna Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (WC-5)***

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

This system is located on the north end of Lake Anna, with a very small sockeye salmon run of less than 1,000 fish, running up a falls at salt water to an unnamed lake. The run peaks around July 10. The stream area is overgrown and difficult to sport fish.

Boundaries: Entire lake, lakeshore and stream to Ordinary High Water; contiguous tidelands 200 feet on either side of the mouth of the sockeye stream from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.2, 14.4.

Special Management Area and Designated Recreational Use Area

Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

Map WC-5: Lake Anna Lake System, Sockeye Stream & Tidelands

— Description —

Designation: Entire lake, lakeshore and stream to Ordinary High Water; contiguous tidelands 200 feet on either side of the mouth of the sockeye stream from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide. Federal lands are excluded.



1 inch=1 Mile



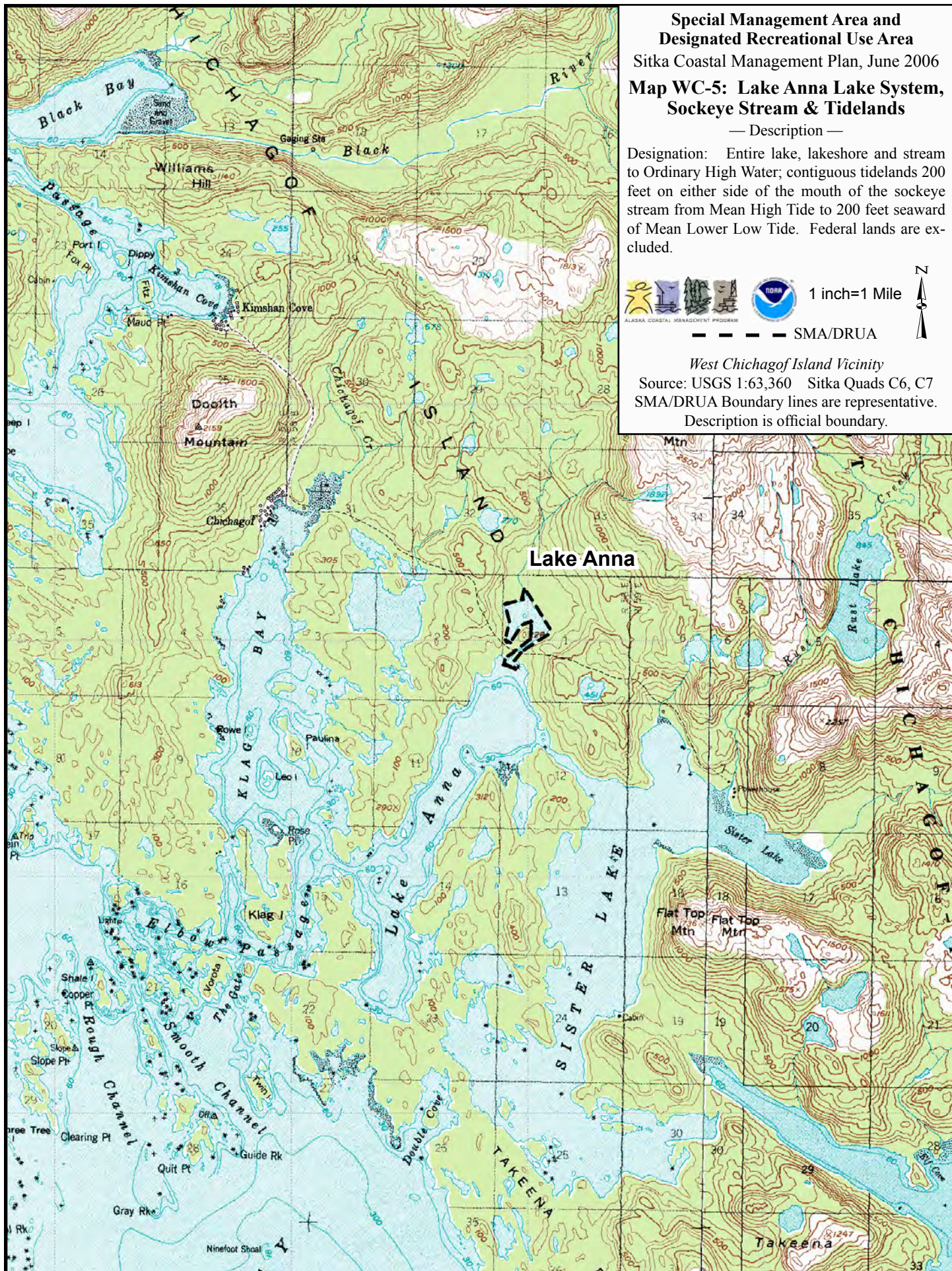
— — — — — SMA/DRUA

West Chichagof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360 Sitka Quads C6, C7

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.



*** *Leo Anchorage Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands***
(WC-6)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

This system is located on the northeast shore of Fortuna Strait northeast of Leo Anchorage. It has a very small run up the short stream into Lake Leo. The stream closes off periodically due to shifting sands, making it difficult for the sockeye to reach the lake. The run peaks around July 10.

Boundaries: Entire Lake Leo, lakeshore and stream to Ordinary High Water; contiguous tidelands 200 feet on either side of the mouth of the sockeye stream from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.2, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

**Map WC-6: Leo Anchorage Lake
System, Sockeye Stream & Tidelands**

— Description —

Designation: Entire Lake Leo, lakeshore and stream to Ordinary High Water; contiguous tide-lands 200 feet on either side of the mouth of the sockeye stream from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide. Federal lands are excluded.



1 inch=1 Mile

--- SMA/DRUA

West Chichagof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360 Sitka Quad B6

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.



*** *Myriad Islands and White Sisters Islands (WC-7)***

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

The Myriad Islands and White Sisters Islands are situated on the outer coast of Chichagof Island on the open ocean, west of Ogden, Kukkan and Tawak Passages. The Myriads have many accessible beaches and safe anchorages for small boats, providing unique opportunities for beachcombing and camping, and beautiful views of open ocean and abundant sea otter populations.

White Sisters Islands has one of only four concentrations of sea lions on the entire outer coast of the Sitka Coastal District. Although not a rookery (there are only two in Southeast Alaska, on Hazy Islands and Forrester Island, both National Wildlife Refuges), it is a very significant year-round haulout with up to 1,200 sea lions, by far the largest in the District. White Sisters is directly west of the Myriads.

Boundaries: Mean High Water to 200 feet Seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide, around each of the Myriad and White Sisters Islands.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

**Map WC-7: Myriad Island
& White Sisters Islands**

— Description —

Designation: Mean High Water to 200 feet Sea-ward of Mean Lower Low Tide, around each of the Myriad and White Sisters Islands. Federal lands are excluded.



1 inch=1 Mile



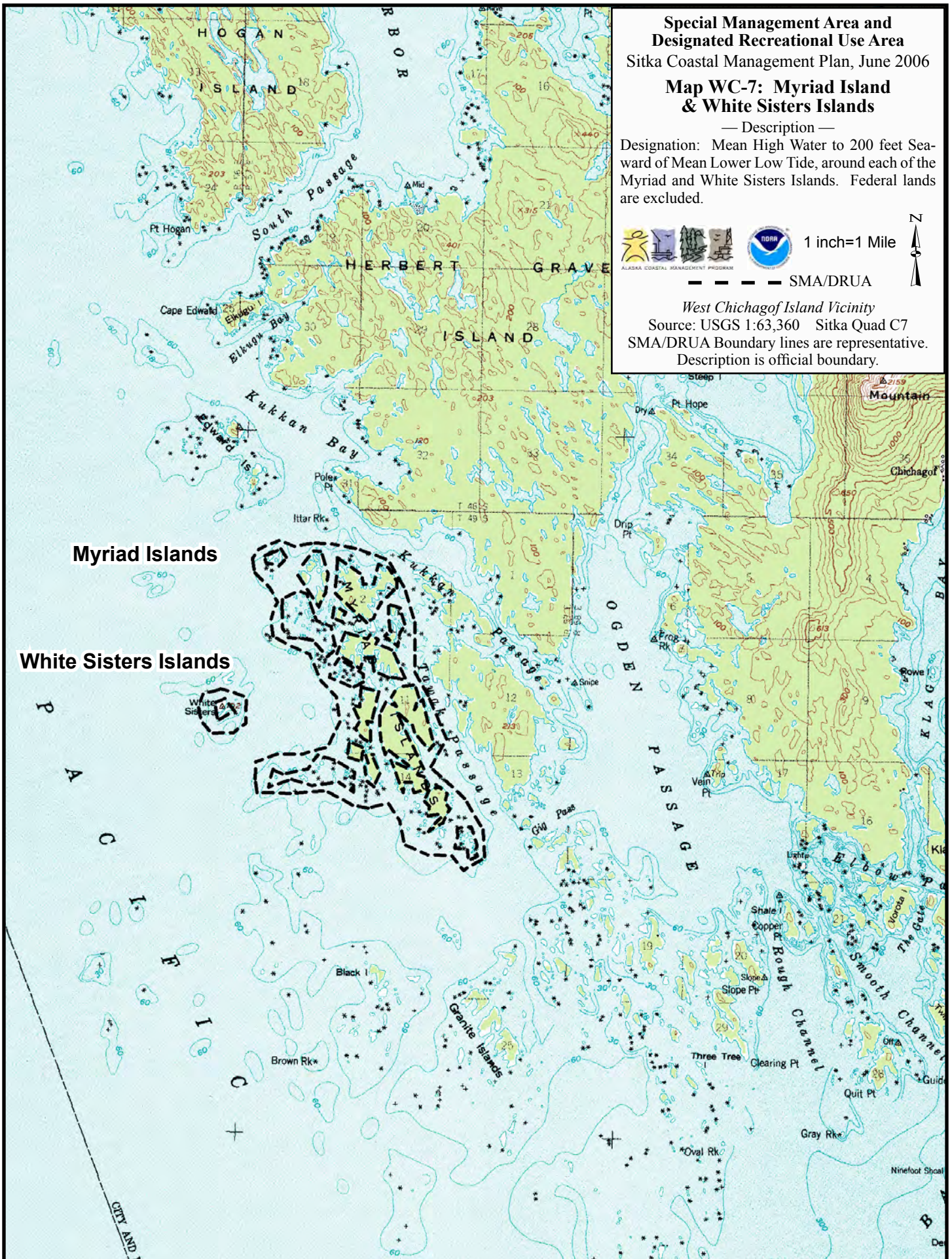
--- SMA/DRUA

West Chichagof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360 Sitka Quad C7

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.



*** *Suloia Lake, Stream and Tidelands (WC-8)***

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Suloia Lake Cabin is a rustic style 12 x 14 foot PanAbode cabin with a woodburning stove and sleeping space for 4 to 6 persons. Located near the southern tip of Chichagof-Yakobi wilderness Area, Suloia Lake (elevation 225 feet) lies approximately 30 miles northwest of Sitka. The lake is east of Suloia Bay, which is in turn west of Sergius Narrows. Access is about 20 minutes by floatplane from Sitka. Generally, this lake is ice free late April to mid-November.

There is wilderness solitude at this remote cabin. Forested mountain ridges rise up to 2,600 feet. Surrounding the cabin is a dense forest of cedar, spruce and hemlock with a small, gravel beach in front of the cabin.

Fishing is slow for rainbow and Dolly Varden trout. A skiff is provided. Deer and brown bear frequent this area. There is good access to deer hunting. The 1.1 mile unmaintained Suloia Lake National Forest System Trail begins at the head of the deep cove at the west side of Suloia Bay and runs up the north side of the stream and goes through a wet open forested area, then breaks away from the stream and goes through areas of muskeg and marsh alternating with forest. The trail ends just north of the Lake's outlet but does not continue to the cabin, which would be difficult to bushwhack due to the steep terrain and stream crossings. The area around the end of the trail is steep and wet, and not suitable for camping.

Boundaries: Entire Lake Suloia, lakeshore and stream to Ordinary High Water; contiguous tidelands 200 feet on either side of stream outlet from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

Special Management Area and Designated Recreational Use Area

Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

Map WC-8: Suloia Lake, Stream & Tidelands

— Description —

Designation: Entire Lake Suloia, lakeshore and stream to Ordinary High Water; contiguous tidelands 200 feet on either side of stream outlet from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide. Federal lands are excluded.

Adjacent Upland Recreational Resources: Suloia Forest Service Cabin and Trail.



1 inch=1 Mile



— — — — — SMA/DRUA

West Chichagof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360 Sitka Quads B5, B6

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.



*** *White Sulphur Hot Springs Lake; Mirror Harbor; Sea Level Slough; Dry Pass Harbor (WC-9)***

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

White Sulphur Springs Cabin is a rustic style 12 x 14 foot PanAbode cabin with a wood-burning stove and sleeping space for 4 to 6 persons. Located on the northern shore of Bertha Bay, this remote seaside cabin lies about 65 miles northwest of Sitka and overlooks the rugged Pacific coastline of West Chichagof Island. It also lies within the West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness Area.

Air access is 1 hour via helicopter from Sitka or 80 minutes from Juneau. Helicopters must land below the mean high tide line, outside of the wilderness boundary. In the past, floatplanes have landed on a nearby lake, but changing conditions of the lake limit its use at this time. Some float plane operators will still bring in a Beaver to land on the lake, especially in spring and late fall when lily pads are not dense on the lake surface. Boat access is possible with anchorage in Mirror Harbor where a 0.9 mile trail leads to the cabin. Anchorage is possible in Porcupine Bay; then taking a skiff to the cabin front.

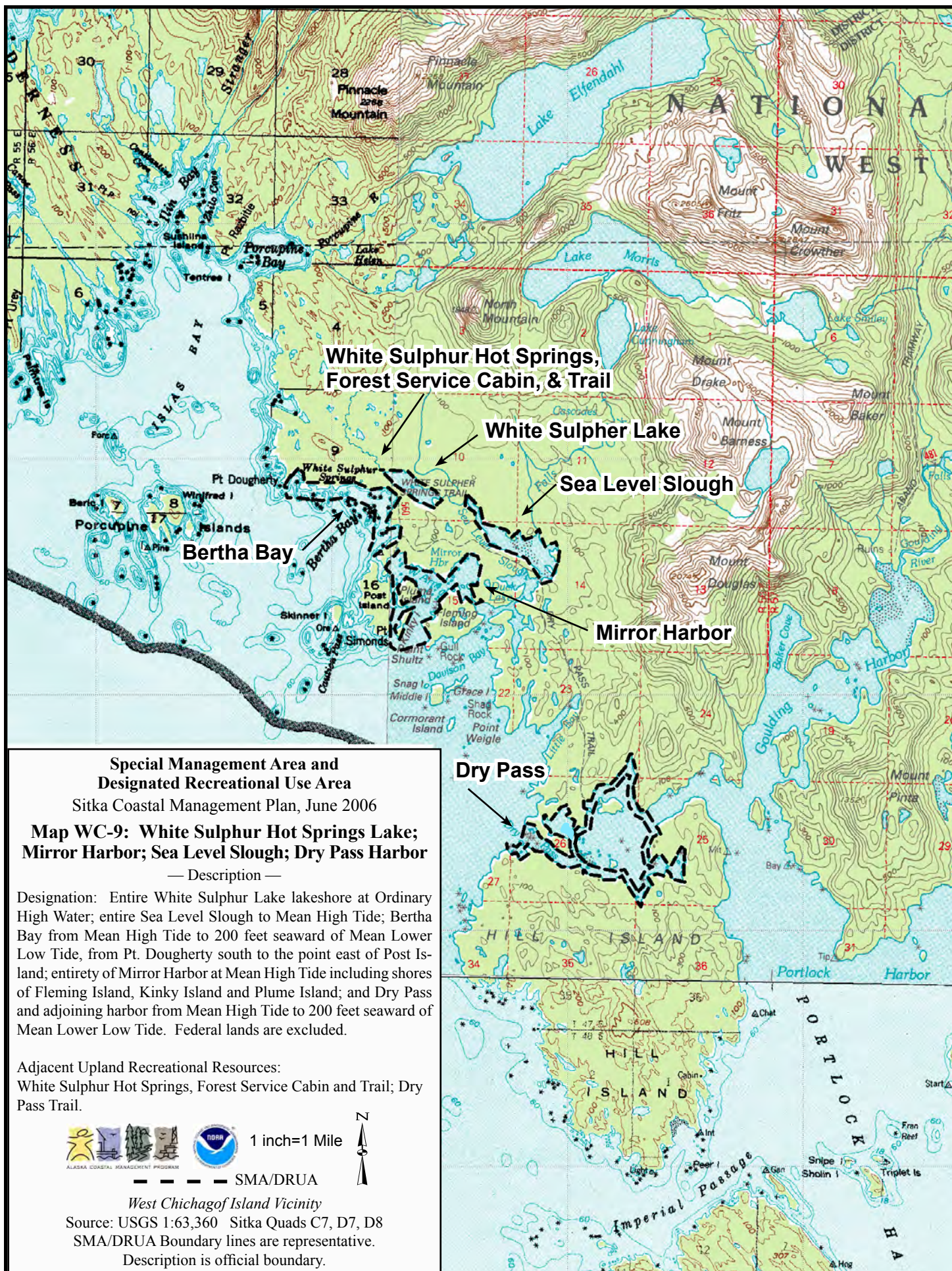
Nestled on flat wooded terrain, this cabin is the most popular in the Sitka Ranger District. The separately located hot springs mineral bathhouse is about 50 feet from the recreation cabin. The springs receive high use from commercial fishermen, kayakers, and wilderness campers, but no overnight camping is allowed in the bathhouse. There are beautiful open outer coast views, easy hikes, and beachcombing, as well as wide expanses of muskeg to explore.

Because of the easy terrain, many areas around the cabin are accessible by hikers. Lake Elfendahl and Lake Morris are only a two hour hike away. Marked trails to Sea Level Slough and Mirror Harbor are easily followed, too. Brown bear are frequently in the Slough area when the salmon are running.

Fishing around Sea Level Slough is good with large salmon runs and cutthroat April 1 to July. Streams crossing the trail to Dry Pass have midsummer runs of sockeye salmon and also Dolly Varden and cutthroat trout. There are trout in the lake near the cabin. Deer hunting is fair in the area.

Although not accessible at low tides, Mirror Harbor is an important foul-weather anchorage and a destination-oriented harbor for users of White Sulphur Springs. There is a reasonably extensive low-grade deposit of copper sulfide ore intermixed with sedimentary deposits of graywacke, and over 30 mining load claims are registered in this area.

The White Sulphur Hot Springs National Forest System Trail begins at the marked trailhead at the northwestern bite of Mirror Harbor's West Arm, where there is good anchorage once past the rocky entrance. It leads north through open forest and meadows over gently rolling terrain. About a fifth of a mile along the way the unmaintained trail to Dry Pass branches off to the right, and leads to Dry Pass, where there is somewhat sheltered anchorage and access to protected areas to the east of the open coast. A short hike overland to the east leads to Sea Level Slough, which is passable only at low tide. A quarter mile beyond the branch, the trail begins paralleling the shore of Bertha Bay through spruce-hemlock forest and winds west to White Sulphur Springs, with a short spur to the right leading to White Sulphur Lake. The trail is flat and well maintained, and much of it is on boardwalk.



Boundaries: Entire White Sulphur Lake and lakeshore to Ordinary High Water; entire Sea Level Slough to Mean High Tide; Bertha Bay from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide, from Pt. Dougherty south to the point east of Post island; entirety of Mirror Harbor at Mean High Tide including shores of Fleming Island, Kinky Island and Plume Island; and Dry Pass and adjoining harbor from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

East Chichagof Island Vicinity

Note: A vicinity map is provided on the facing page.

Fick Cove (Map EC-1)

Kadashan Bay (Map EC-2)

Kook Lake System and Sockeye Stream; Basket Bay (Map EC-3)

Lisianski Lake and River; North Arm Hoonah Sound Tideflats (Map EC-4)

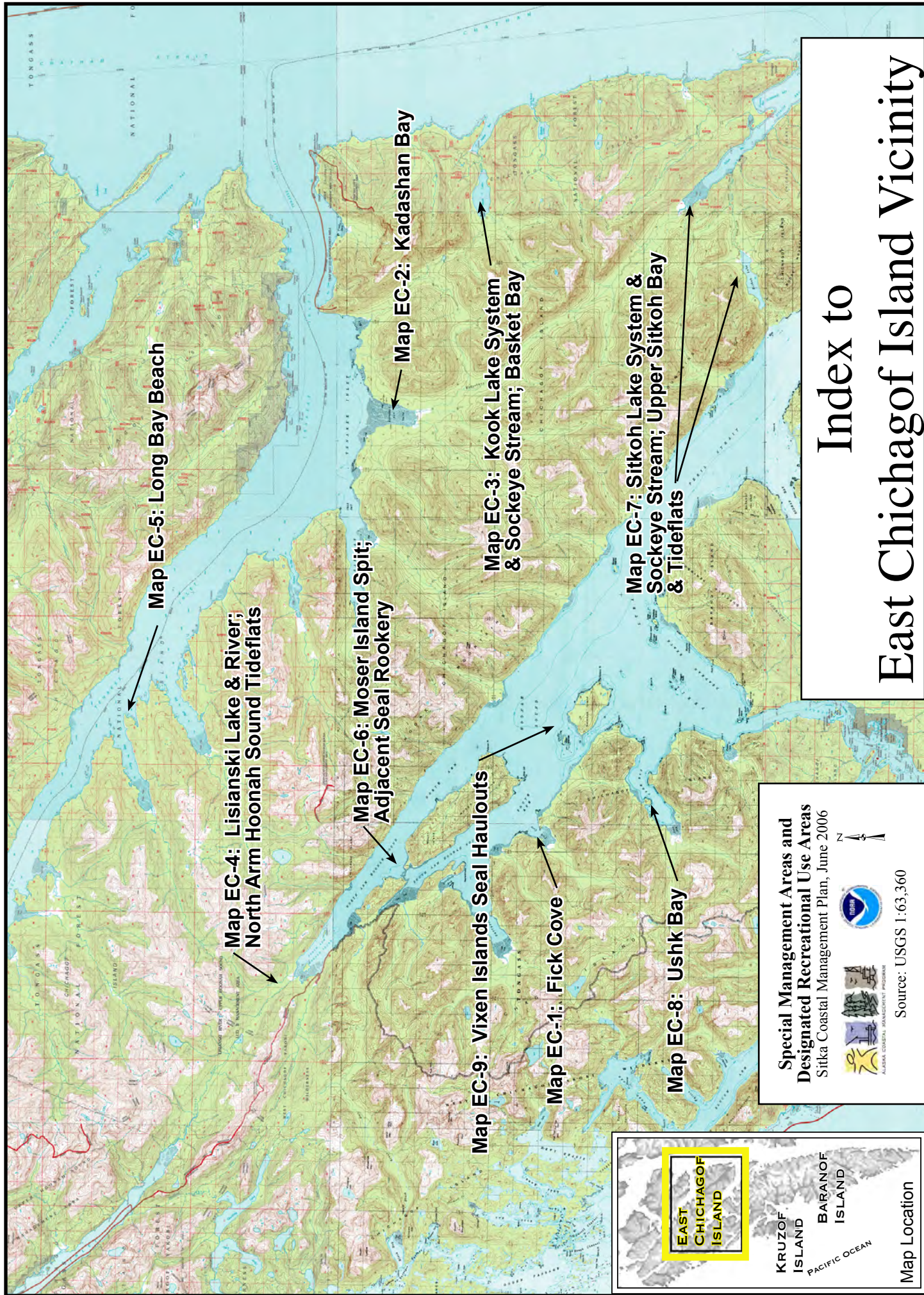
Long Bay Beach (Map EC-5)

Moser Island Spit; Adjacent Seal Rookery (Map EC-6)

Sitkoh Lake System and Sockeye Stream; Upper Sitkoh Bay and Tideflats (Map EC-7)

Ushk Bay (Map EC-8)

Vixen Islands Seal Haulouts (Map EC-9)



Index to East Chichagof Island Vicinity

**Special Management Areas and
Designated Recreational Use Areas**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

Source: USGS 1:63,360

**EAST
CHICHAGOF
ISLAND**

KRUZOF
ISLAND
BARANOF
ISLAND
PACIFIC OCEAN

Map Location

Fick Cove (Map EC-1)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Fick Cove is located in South Hoonah Sound southeast of Patterson Bay. It has one of the best protected anchorages in Hoonah Sound and is very heavily used as a year-round anchorage by users of Hoonah Sound. There are accessible beaches and good deer habitat surrounding the Cove. There is a large intertidal and estuarine area, with excellent habitat for deer, bear, and Dungeness crab. There are Dolly Varden trout in the stream. Because of its small size and good anchorage, boundary includes entire Bay.

Boundaries: Entire Cove, including tideflats, seaward from Mean High Tide; bordered by a line across the mouth of the Cove, from the rocky point on the north side in a southeasterly direction to the south side.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

Map EC-1: Fick Cove

— Description —

Designation: Entire Cove, including tideflats, seaward from Mean High Tide; bordered by a line across the mouth of the Cove, from the rocky point on the north side in a southeasterly direction to the south side. Federal lands are excluded.



1 inch=1 Mile



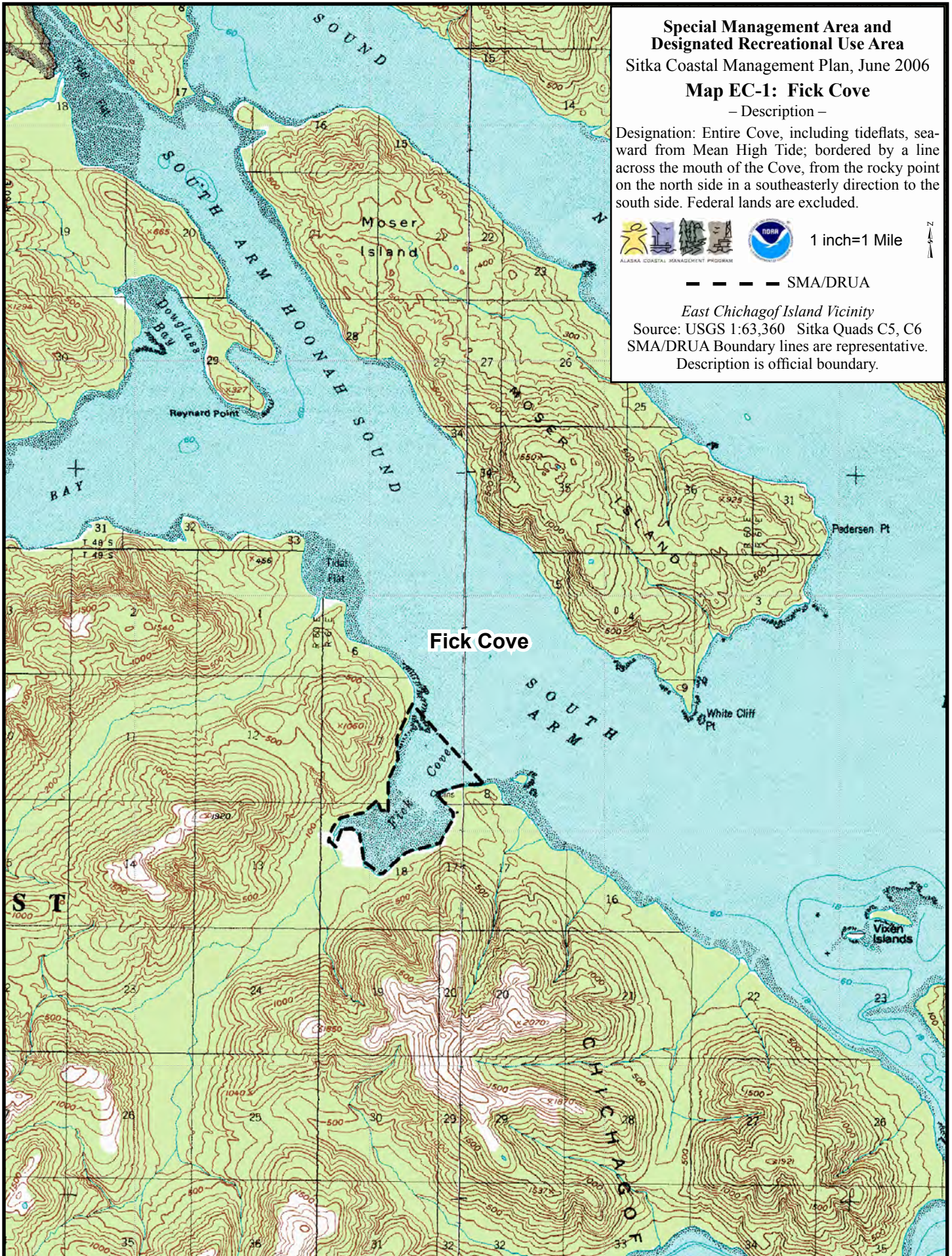
— — — — SMA/DRUA

East Chichagof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360 Sitka Quads C5, C6

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.



Kadashan Bay (Map EC-2)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Kadashan Bay is located in south Tenakee Inlet. It is a very shallow bay with huge tideflats and a very productive estuarine system. Both Kadashan River and Tonalite Creek are very big salmon producers, and have coho, pink and chum salmon; and Steelhead, Dolly Varden, and anadromous cutthroat trout. The Forest Sciences Laboratory and Department of Fish and Game have research cabins in the area. There is productive brown bear habitat. There is a large tract of privately owned land at the head of the bay.

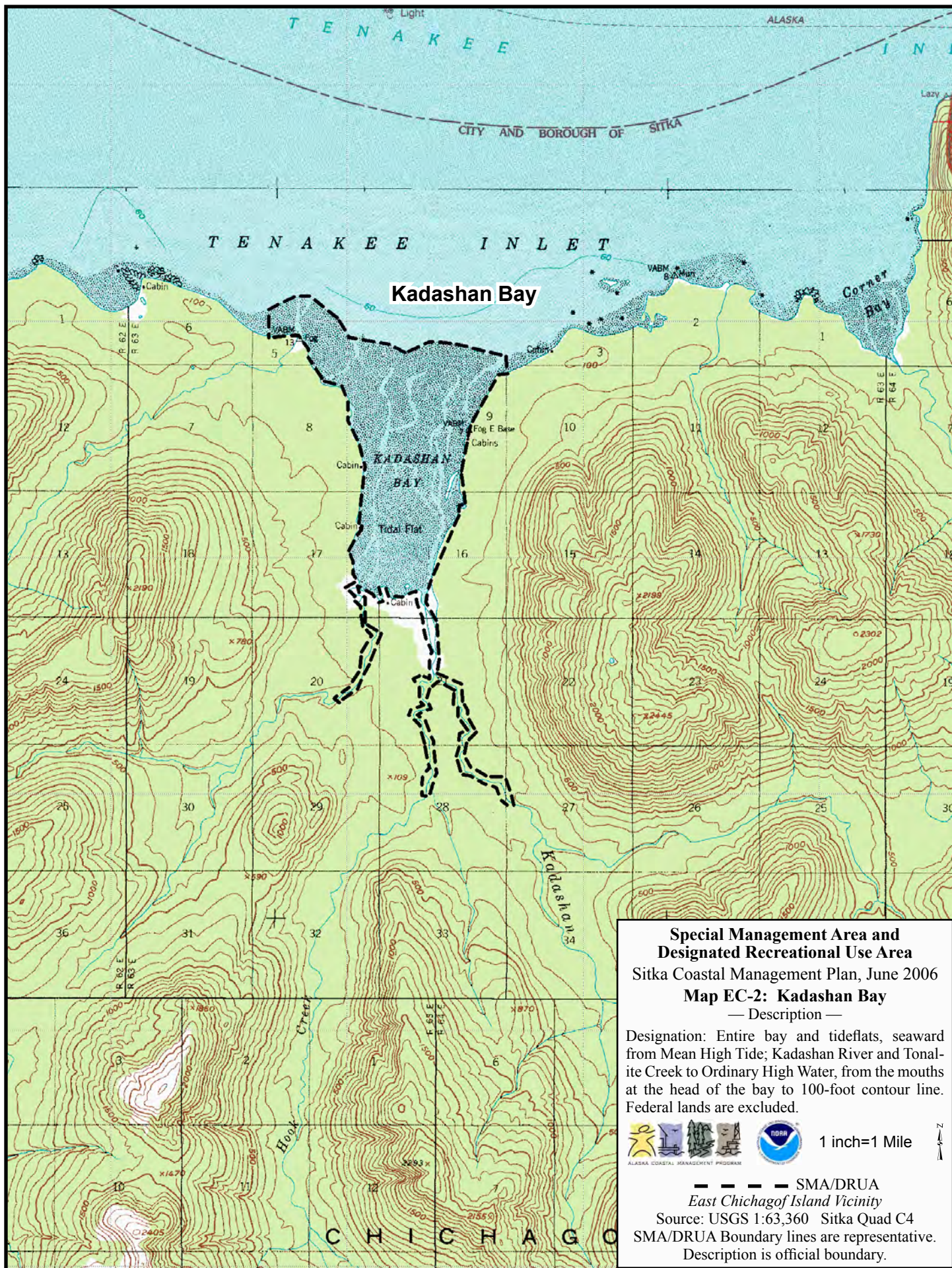
The entire Kadashan drainage has been designated as a Legislated LUD II area. The area will not be logged, and all other activities will be secondary to primitive recreation, but roads can be built through the area.

The drainage is roadless and undeveloped, but a low standard gravel road parallels the river (about 1/4 to 1/2 mile from the river) for approximately three miles upstream from the bay. The road is closed to vehicle traffic but is used for recreation and subsistence access as it connects to the logging camp at Corner Bay and is the easiest trail into the drainage. The Kadashan drain age contains large stands of old-growth trees dominated by Sitka spruce and western hemlock. Wildlife includes large populations of brown bear and deer.

The Kadashan River has been recommended for wild and Scenic River status in the Tongass Land Management Plan. The fish and wildlife values of the Kadashan River are outstanding, and the ecologic value of the large riparian old-growth spruce/hemlock stand is remarkable. Scenic values of this drainage are very important to the community of Tenakee Springs. The Kadashan River has one of the larger old growth Sitka spruce stands on Chichagof Island and is of considerable ecological interest. There are unusually large numbers of both brown bear and deer along the river, and the drainage has been identified as key deer winter range. The river is considered among the most productive pink salmon streams in Southeast Alaska. It is also extremely productive for Dolly Varden char and for chum salmon, and it includes a steelhead run. The estuary contributes to the unusually productive anadromous fisheries and is among the largest grassflats in northern Southeast Alaska. The drainage is valued as a subsistence use area because of the abundant fish and wildlife resources.

Boundaries: Entire bay and tideflats, seaward from Mean High Tide; Kadashan River and Tonalite Creek to Ordinary High Water, from the mouths at the head of the bay to 100-foot contour line.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.



Kook Lake System and Sockeye Stream; Basket Bay (Map EC-3)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Kook Lake has a 16 x 16 foot A-frame style cabin with a wood-burning stove and sleeping space for 8 to 10 persons. It is located on the western shore of Kook Lake, 13 miles southeast of Tenakee Springs on eastern Chichagof Island, just west of Chatham Strait and between the outlets of Tenakee Inlet and Peril Strait. Kook Lake (Elevation 41 feet) is about 45 miles northwest of Sitka with a 30 minute flight from either Sitka or Juneau. Generally, this lake is ice free May through November. Set amidst a beautiful stand of spruce and hemlock on the west end of the lake, this cabin is surrounded by flat terrain with a sandy beach in front for easy air access. To the north of the lake, the land gradually rises to the 1500 foot level. From this point the mountains ascend sharply to the alpine. On the south, slopes are fairly steep, rising from the lake to 2500 feet.

This is not a wilderness experience cabin. While it is a popular fishing and hunting cabin, logging has taken place near the lake and clear-cuts may be seen from the east end of the lake. No clear-cuts are visible from the cabin, but on occasion the sounds of logging equipment nearby can be heard. A newly constructed logging road parallels the north edge of the lake, but is not visible from the cabin or lake. A logging camp is about 6.5 miles to the northwest at Corner Bay. Some visitors take advantage of the surrounding road system to explore the area.

Behind the cabin is a 0.7 mile long Kook Lake Trail which leads to the Corner Bay Road system. This trail is not maintained and can be very wet and muddy in many of the muskeg locations. This cabin receives high use due to its close proximity to the logging camp and road system.

There are cutthroat and Dolly Varden trout all year in the lake with good runs of sockeye during July and August and coho salmon during late August and early September. A skiff is provided. Deer and bear are prevalent in the area.

The Kook Lake National Forest System Trail starts at the cabin and runs west through about 600 yards of old growth timber. The trail then goes into open country dominated by muskeg for the rest of its 0.7 mile length to the Forest Service Road 7440, which runs about 7 miles to Corner Bay Logging Camp, with a spur road east toward Chatham Strait above the north shore of the lake. An overland hike is required to connect with the Basket Bay trail down to tidewater. The Kook Lake stream cuts through unique and beautiful subterranean passages close to tidewater which can be explored by skiff. Basket Bay is a heavily used anchorage.

The Kook Lake sockeye run is a major subsistence resource for residents of Sitka, Angoon, Tenakee Springs, Corner Bay and Juneau, and less commonly Hoonah and is considered to have a fairly good run.

Boundaries: Entire Kook Lake, lakeshore and creek to Ordinary High Water; entire Basket Bay from Mean High Tide, excluding LTF if reconstructed, to a line drawn at the mouth of the bay in a north-south direction.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.2, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

**Map EC-3: Kook Lake System &
Sockeye Stream; Basket Bay**

— Description —

Designation: Entire Kook Lake, lakeshore and creek to Ordinary High Water; entire Basket Bay from Mean High Tide, excluding LTF if reconstructed, to a line drawn at the mouth of the bay in a north-south direction. Federal lands are excluded.

Adjacent Upland Recreational Resources:
Kook Lake Forest Service Cabin and Trail



1 inch=1 Mile



--- SMA/DRUA

East Chichagof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360 Sitka Quads C3, C4
SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.



Lisianski Lake and River; North Arm Hoonah Sound Tideflat (Map EC-4)

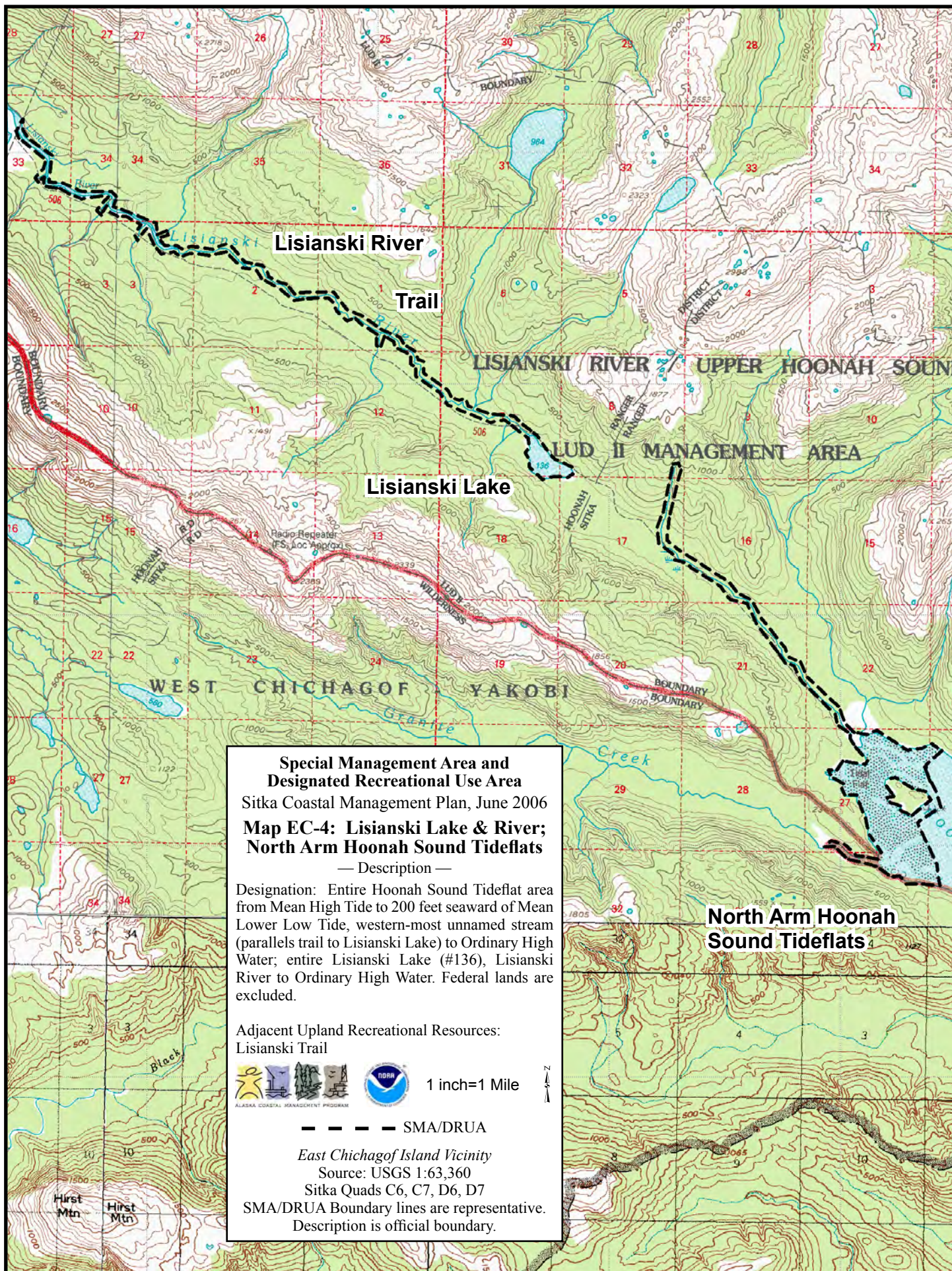
This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

The head of North Arm Hoonah Sound is heavily used for recreation and subsistence fishing and hunting. The area has major salmon streams with a large associated estuarine grass flat providing good habitat for bear, waterfowl, and crab. There is an unmaintained trail along Lisianski River to Lisianski Inlet. The Inlet lies just outside the District boundaries. The river has productive river bottom soils supporting high timber values, and smelt spawn in the river in the spring.

The Lisianski River has been recommended for Wild and Scenic River status. The river originates with a small lake at approximately 800 feet in elevation on the divide between Lisianski Strait and the Northern Arm of Hoonah Sound (VCUs 262 and 249). It flows five miles to the east before terminating in Lisianski Strait about ten miles from the community of Pelican. An old trail along the river connects Hoonah Sound to Lisianski Strait. The drainage is unroaded and undeveloped and is within a legislated LUD II area. The drainage provides habitat for brown bear and Sitka black-tailed deer among other species. The Lisianski River is outstanding for its wildlife and ecologic values. The narrow band of old-growth spruce and hemlock along the river offers important deer habitat and is a likely travel corridor for brown bears. The Lisianski River has large numbers of both brown bear and deer. There are unique quartzite formations visible in the bedrock along the river channel.

Boundaries: Entire Hoonah Sound Tideflat area from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide; entire Lisianski Lake (#136), lakeshore Lisianski River to Ordinary High Water; to Coastal District Boundary.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.



Long Bay Beach (Map EC-5)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

This Forest Service shelter is used for both survival and camping purposes. It is a three-sided Adirondack shelter nestled in a stand of tall trees along the shoreline. The shelter is on Chichagof Island on the south side of Tenakee Inlet in a small bay south of Long Bay, about 26 miles west of Chatham Strait and 14 miles west of Tenakee Springs. The shelter has a woodstove, plywood bunks and a small table. There is no rental fee, and use is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Boundaries: Along contiguous beach from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Water, from 200 feet northeast to 200 feet southwest of the adjacent upland cabin.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

Map EC-5: Long Bay Beach

— Description —

Designation: Along contiguous beach from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Water, from 200 feet northeast to 200 feet southwest of the adjacent upland shelter. Federal lands are excluded.

Adjacent Upland Recreational Resources: Long Bay Forest Service Shelter



1 inch=1 Mile



--- SMA/DRUA

East Chichagof Island Vicinity

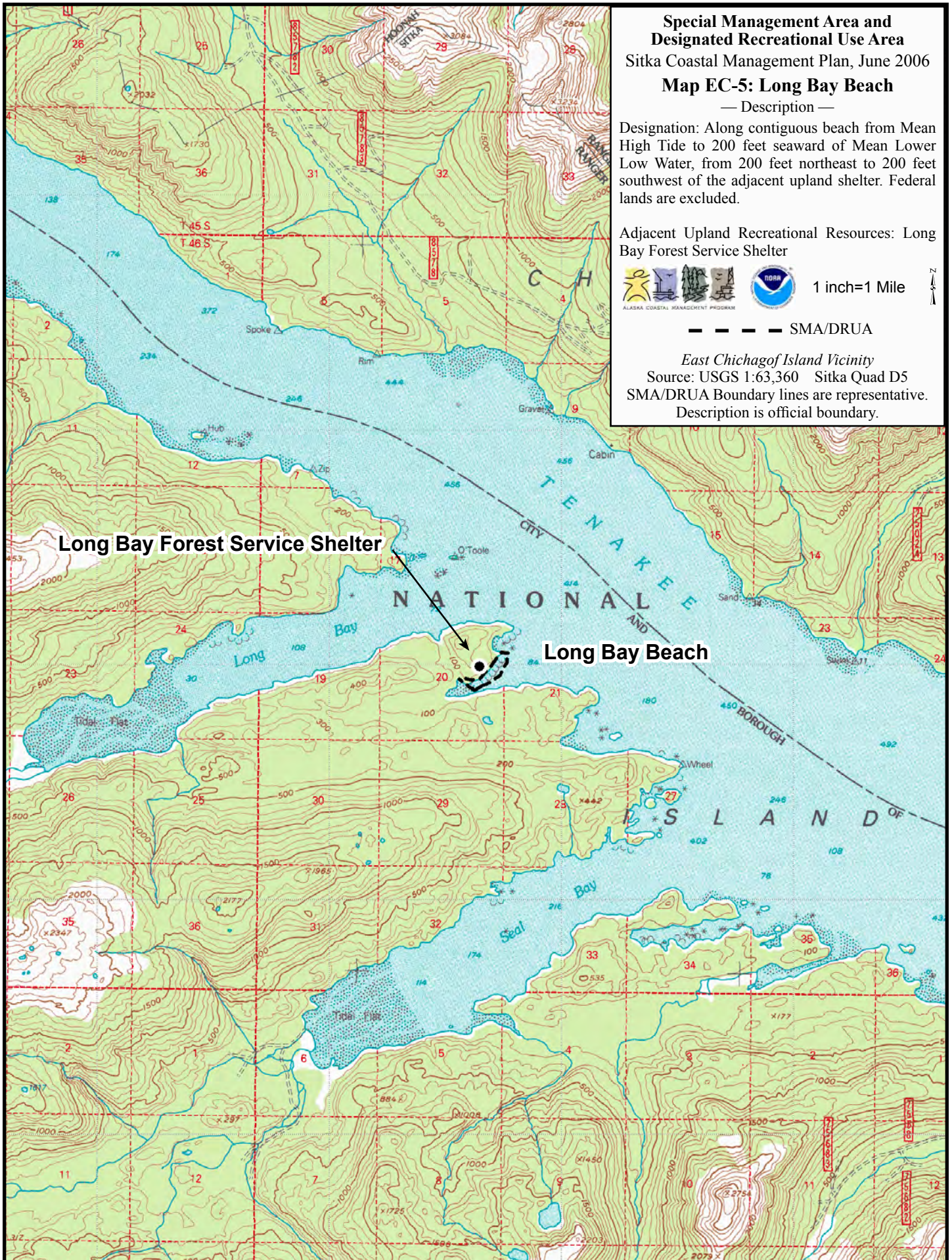
Source: USGS 1:63,360 Sitka Quad D5

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.

Long Bay Forest Service Shelter

Long Bay Beach



Moser Island Spit; Adjacent Seal Rookery (Map EC-6)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

The northwest end of Moser Island, at the north end of Hoonah Sound, is the site of a recently built Forest Service recreational cabin.

Moser Island Cabin is a rustic style 12' x 14' PanAbode cabin with a wood-burning stove and sleeping space for 4 to 6 persons. Moser Island is located within Hoonah Sound, 48 miles north of Sitka. Air access time from Sitka is about 30 minutes or a boat access time of 2 hours. Depending on weather conditions, this saltwater cabin is accessible year around. Located in Upper Hoonah Sound, this cabin offers many recreational opportunities. With low tides, the shoreline along the spit on the west side of Moser Island can be followed to access Chichagof Island where there is deer, bear, and waterfowl hunting. Local rivers provide fishing for Dolly Varden, pink and chum salmon.

There is a good small boat anchorage in the bite adjacent to the cabin, and excellent waterfowl, deer, bear and crab habitat at the northern end of both North and South Arms of Hoonah Sound, which both have large, productive tideflats. The spit to the north connects Moser Island to Chichagof Island, and can be portaged by small boats at very high tides. The whole contiguous beach area from the cabin site around the western point of Moser where an eagle tree is located and around the spit is accessible for beachcombing, hiking, picnicking, and seal watching. Hoonah Sound provides excellent bottomfish, crab and shrimping opportunities, and there is excellent big game hunting throughout the whole north Hoonah Sound area.

The two small rocks in South Hoonah Sound north of Point Reynard provide haulout and pupping area for around 50 harbor seals, a significant concentration.

Boundaries: Along entire contiguous beach on both sides of Moser Island spit from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide; small seal rookery islands to south from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

**Map EC-6: Moser Island Spit;
Adjacent Seal Rookery**

— Description —

Designation: Along entire contiguous beach on both sides of Moser Island spit from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide; small seal rookery islands to south from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide. Federal lands are excluded.

Adjacent Upland Recreational Resources: Moser Island Forest Cabin



1 inch=1 Mile



— — — SMA/DRUA

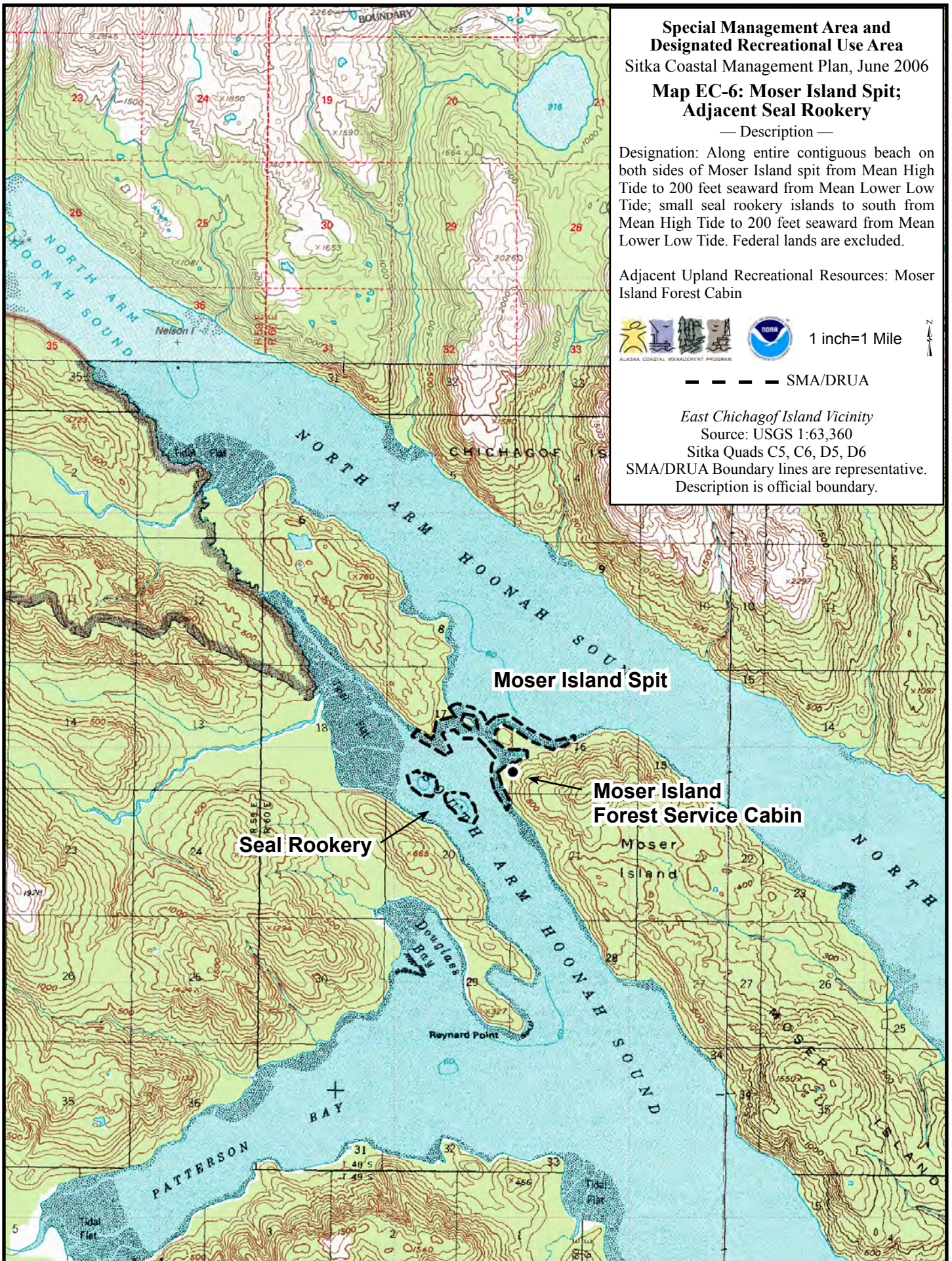
East Chichagof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360

Sitka Quads C5, C6, D5, D6

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.



Sitkoh Lake System and Sockeye Stream; Upper Sitkoh Bay and Tideflats (Map EC-7)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

West and East Sitkoh Lake Cabins are both public recreation cabins located on Sitkoh Lake. They are rustic style 12 x 14 foot PanAbode cabins with wood-burning stoves and sleeping space for 4 to 6.

Sitkoh Lake (Elevation 194 feet) located on the southeastern portion of Chichagof Island is approximately 35 miles northeast of Sitka. Air access time from Sitka is about 30 minutes. Access is also possible by boat from Sitkoh Bay and then hiking the 4.3 mile Sitkoh Lake Trail to get to the East cabin. The trail begins near the Chatham Cannery at Sitkoh Bay and closely follows Sitkoh Creek to the lake. The West cabin is accessible from Peril Strait and then hiking the road system. Generally this lake is ice free April through October.

Sitkoh Lake is surrounded by small mountains rising to near 2,500 feet. Clear-cuts and logging roads are visible on either side of the lake. To the east are muskegs and open meadows. The West cabin is nestled alongside an inlet stream surrounded by towering old-growth spruce and hemlock. This is a popular deer hunting and fishing area for Sitka residents. The brown bear population is very abundant adjacent to both cabins and the Sitkoh Lake Trail and nearby road system.

Lake fishing is good for cutthroat and Dolly Varden trout. The outlet stream, known as Sitkoh Creek, is known for runs of steelhead in early spring; pinks in July to mid-August; sockeye from mid-July to mid-August; and coho salmon in late August through September. Skiffs are provided at both cabins.

The sockeye salmon run, which peaks July 4-10, has been a major system, but runs have declined in recent years. The creek has the best spring steelhead run in the Sitka District, generally starting in late April. There is long-term historical intensive use of Sitkoh Creek and Bay by recreationalists, as well as outfitter/guides. Deer and bear hunting is good, and there are numerous former logging roads totaling 49.8 miles heavily used by all-terrain vehicles. Waterfowl hunting is possible in Sitkoh Bay.

The 4.3 mile Sitkoh Lake National Forest System Trail begins on the north side of the mouth of Sitkoh Creek, about one-half mile northwest of the former Chatham Cannery, on the western shore of Sitkoh Bay. The trail marker is just above the beach. The trail begins through a spruce-hemlock forest lined with salmonberry. Toward Sitkoh Lake, the trail crosses muskegs, and is muddy and/or underwater. At the cabin, a spur trail heads northwest about a half a mile to an old logging road.

The entire Sitkoh Bay area is a highly productive estuarine system, with large tideflats at the head of the bay providing excellent bear habitat, excellent halibut fishing in adjacent Florence Bay, and year-round whale watching near Morris Reef, just off of Sitkoh in Chatham Strait. The tideflats are important for rearing crab and juvenile salmon outmigrants. The Sitkoh Bay area has been identified by subsistence users from throughout Southeast Alaska as a major subsistence site, and there have been strong concerns expressed about maintaining subsistence uses of this area. It is a prime recreation and subsistence destination for steelhead, cutthroats, as well as trapping and bear hunting.

Boundaries: Entire Sitkoh Lake, lakeshore and creek to Ordinary High Water; Upper Sitkoh Bay unnamed stream to Ordinary High Water and from tidewater to 100-foot contour, Upper Sitkoh Bay and tideflats to Mean High Tide from eastern end of Sitkoh Creek tideflats across Sitkoh Bay, excluding LTF and privately owned lands.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.2, 14.4.



Ushk Bay (Map EC-8)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Ushk Bay has a large intertidal area with concentrations of both Dungeness and King crab and is widely used by recreational boaters. There is a sheltered anchorage behind the peninsula on the north side of the bay, and various places to go ashore for picnics and camping. There is an existing log storage lease in Ushk Bay which is excluded from the site.

Boundaries: Ushk Bay from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide along entire bay to northerly peninsula on section 34 and southerly peninsula on section 3, Sitka Quads C5 and C6; except for previously leased log storage area.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

Map EC-8: Ushk Bay

— Description —

Designation: Ushk Bay from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide along entire bay to northerly peninsula on section 34 and southerly peninsula on section 3, Sitka Quads C5 and C6. Federal lands are excluded.



1 inch=1 Mile



— — — — — SMA/DRUA

East Chichagof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360 Sitka Quads C5, C6
SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.
Description is official boundary.



Vixen Islands Seal Haulouts (Map EC-9)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

The rocks around Vixen Islands are considered a significant seal haulout and pupping area. Approximately 75 seals have been counted in this area. There is good fair weather anchorage between Vixen and Emmons Islands, and much picnic/camping activity concentrated in this area.

Boundaries: Around the entirety of the Vixen Islands Seal Haulouts from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006
Map EC-9: Vixen Islands Seal Haulouts

— Description —

Designation: Around the entirety of the Vixen Islands Seal Haulouts from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide. Federal lands are excluded.



1 inch=1 Mile



— — — — — SMA/DRUA

East Chichagof Island Vicinity
Source: USGS 1:63,360 Sitka Quad C5
SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.
Description is official boundary.



North Baranof Island Vicinity

Note: A vicinity map is provided on the facing page.

Appleton Cove (Map NB-1)
Baranof Warm Springs Lake and Bay; Sadie Lake (Map NB-2)
Big Bear/Baby Bear Bays State Marine Park (Map NB-3)
Chaichei islands; Unnamed Islands (Map NB-4)
Fish Bay Tidelands (Map NB-5)
Hanus Bay; Portage; Dead Tree Islands (Map NB-6)
Kakul Narrows/Piper Island (Map NB-7)
Kelp Bay Basin and Pond Island (Map NB-8)
Lake Eva Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (Map NB-9)
Nakwasina Passage to Head of Nakwasina Sound (Map NB-10)
Neva Strait Beach (Map NB-11)
Otstoia Island (Map NB-12)
Siginaka Islands (Map NB-13)
Sitka Public Recreational Facilities Tidelands (Map NB-14)

Index to North Baranof Island Vicinity

Special Management Areas and
Designated Recreational Use Areas
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006



Source: USGS 1:63,360

CHICHAGOF
ISLAND

**NORTH
BARANOF
ISLAND**

Map Location

**Map NB-12:
Otstoa Island**

**Map NB-3: Big Bear/
Baby Bear Bays
State Marine Park**

Map NB-1: Appleton Cove

**Map NB-9: Lake Eva
Lake System, Sockeye
Stream & Tidlands**

**Map NB-6: Hanus
Bay; Portage; Dead
Tree Islands**

Map NB-5: Fish Bay Tidlands

**Map NB-7:
Kakul Narrows;
Piper Island**

**Map NB-8: Kelp Bay
Basin & Pond Island**

**Map NB-11:
Neva Strait
Beach**

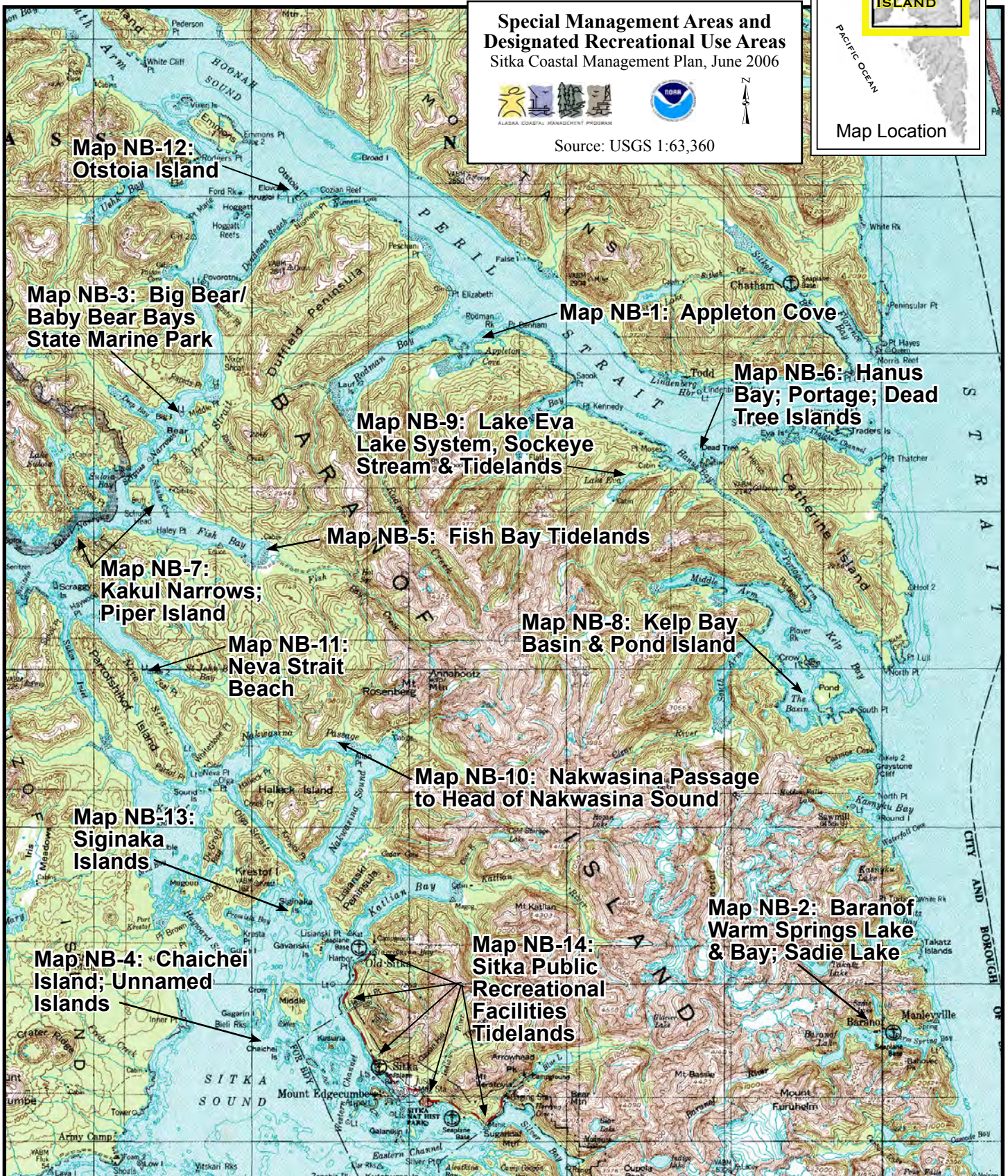
**Map NB-10: Nakwasina Passage
to Head of Nakwasina Sound**

**Map NB-13:
Siginaka
Islands**

**Map NB-4: Chaichei
Island; Unnamed
Islands**

**Map NB-14:
Sitka Public
Recreational
Facilities
Tidlands**

**Map NB-2: Baranof
Warm Springs Lake
& Bay; Sadie Lake**



Appleton Cove (Map NB-1)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

This is a 16 by 24 foot Pan Abode cabin with an oil-burning stove and sleeping space for 5 people. The cabin was built in 1992 by Forest Service timber prep and administrative crews for field housing. When logging was completed, the cabin became available for recreational purposes. The cabin is about 30 air miles or 50 boat miles north of Sitka at the mouth of Appleton Cove. The cabin is a two hour boat ride or 25-minute float plane ride from Sitka. There is a mooring buoy available for anchorage available to both cabin and general forest users.

The cabin lies along a south-facing and flat shoreline amid a tall dense hemlock-spruce forest. It has a double-wide plywood bunk, three single-wide plywood bunks, table and benches, oil stove, cooking counter, and outhouse toilet.

Recreation opportunities include deer hunting in season, wildlife and waterfowl viewing, and fishing for pink, chum and coho salmon and Dolly Varden trout. Logging roads offer hiking, mountain biking and ATV opportunities. Brown bear frequent the area. There is a rental fee.

Boundaries: Along contiguous beach from 200 feet north to 200 feet south of adjacent upland cabin; from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Water.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

Map NB-1: Appleton Cove

— Description —

Designation: Along contiguous beach from 200 feet north to 200 feet south of adjacent upland cabin; from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Water. Federal lands are excluded.

Adjacent Upland Recreational Resources:
Appleton Cove Forest Service Cabin.

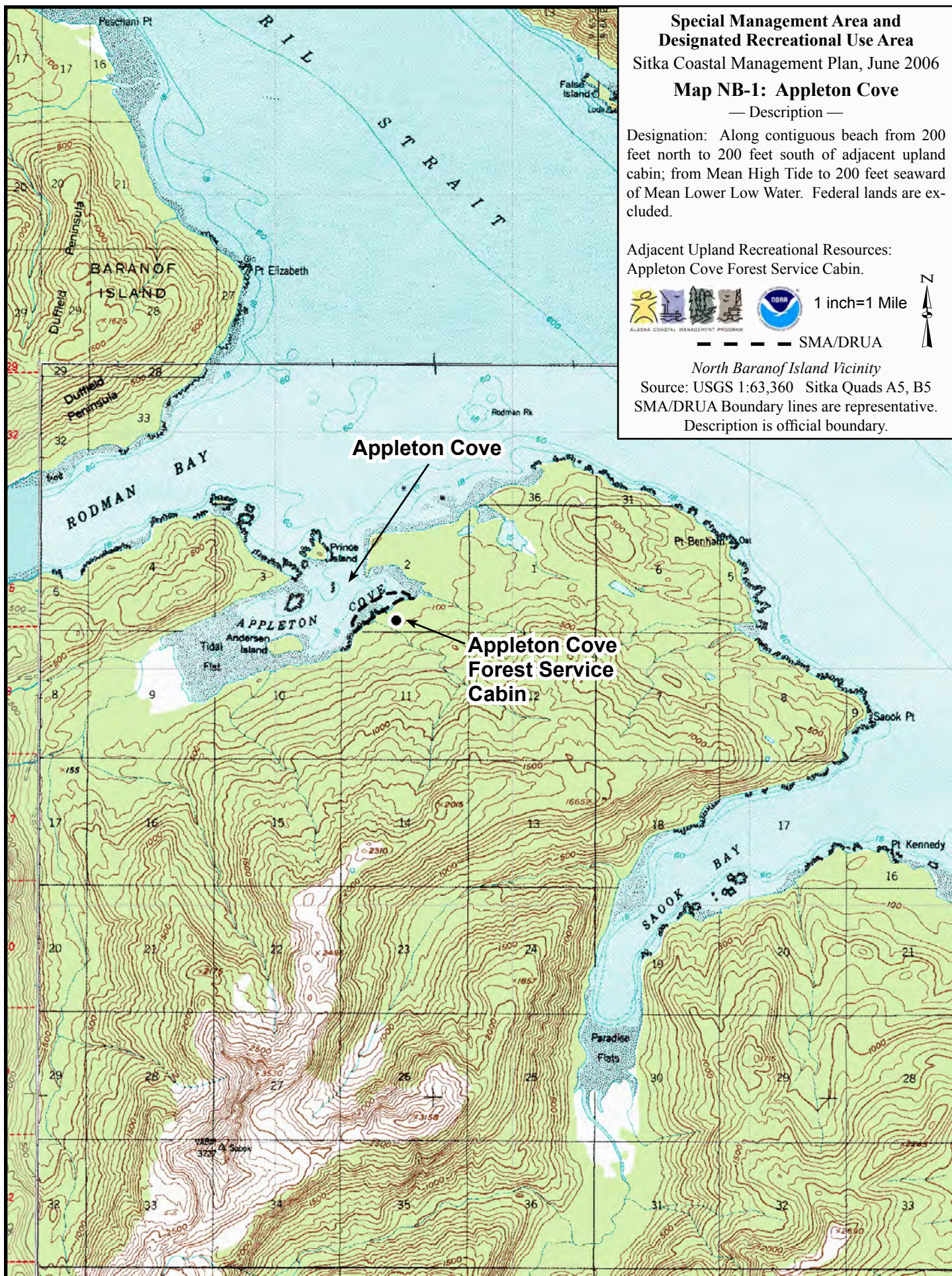


1 inch=1 Mile

--- SMA/DRUA

North Baranof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360 Sitka Quads A5, B5
SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.
Description is official boundary.



Baranof Warm Springs Lake and Bay; Sadie Lake (Map NB-2)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Baranof Lake Cabin is a 12' x 14' PanAbode cabin with a wood-burning stove and sleeping space for 4 to 6. It is 20 miles east of Sitka on the west shore of Baranof Lake accessible by floatplane. Baranof Lake is a lower-elevation mountain lake (145 feet) on the east side of Baranof Island, about 20 air miles from Sitka. Warm Springs Bay and the community of Baranof Warm Springs are just beyond the eastern shores of the lake. Access by floatplane from Sitka takes about 25 minutes. However, when low-lying clouds are present, the one-way flying time can easily double as flights must follow the northern water route around the island. Generally, this lake is ice free from July 1 to October 1.

This remote mountain cabin lies nestled within a stand of spruce at the southwestern edge of the 2.5 mile long, greenish-blue Baranof Lake. A small, sandy beach lies in front of the cabin while mountain ridges gradually rise to over 3000 feet in elevation on either side of the lake. The sound of rushing water prevails as the Baranof River enters the lake in view of the cabin and a beautiful waterfall cascades over the steep slopes across the lake. Vegetation is thick along the shoreline as well as on the mountain slopes, making fishing from and hiking along the shore impossible.

By following a 0.5 mile trail at the eastern end of the lake to saltwater at Warm Springs Bay, hot springs are visible, and the outlet stream enters saltwater in a large waterfall which can be viewed from the public dock and boardwalk. Kayaking time across the lake is about one and one-half hours each way, depending on the individual. There is beautiful scenery, including views of ice fields.

Fishing cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden, and rainbow trout is best late July to late August, near the inlet stream. A boat is provided at the cabin. The state dock in Warm Springs Bay is heavily used.

The Sadie Lake National Forest System Trail begins near the Baranof Lake end of the Warm Springs Bay Trail, turning north into a muskeg before arriving at Baranof Lake. There is no established trail, thus a considerable amount of bushwhacking is necessary to reach Sadie Lake to the north, and the trail rating is difficult. There is excellent cutthroat trout fishing in both Baranof Lake and Sadie Lake.

The area has long been considered to have world class aquaculture potential. This site was listed in the first Comprehensive Salmon Plan in 1980. In 1978 and 1986, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game filed for water rights for a hatchery. Aquaculture development proposals focus on the Salt Lagoon and adjacent bay south and east of the falls, including a potential fresh water intake above the falls. The Coastal Management Plan recognizes and supports the use of this area as an aquaculture facility planned by the State of Alaska and the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association. The hatchery would provide substantial benefit to the public. Should the hatchery site again be proposed, Sitka would support this project as the highest priority public use for this area.

Boundaries: Entire Baranof Warm Springs Lake, Sadie Lake, lakeshores and outlet streams to Ordinary High Water; eastern portion of Warm Springs Bay from 200 feet landward of Mean High Tide (excluding private lands) to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide as far east as Point Salt on south shore and point west of Manleyville to the east of Sadie Creek on north shore.

Note: The State owns all land within the Special Management Area within the E ½ Sec 24, T55S, R66E, all land within the W ½ Sec 19, T55S, R67E and the shoreland in the N ½ NW ¼ Sec 30, T55S, R67E.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 8.1, 14.1, 14.3, 14.4, 14.5.





Special Management Area and Designated Recreational Use Area
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

Map NB-2: Baranof Warm Springs Lake & Bay; Sadie Lake
— Description —

Designation: Entire Baranof Warm Springs Lake, Sadie Lake, lakeshores and outlet streams to Ordinary High Water; eastern portion of Warm Springs Bay from 200 feet landward of Mean High Tide (excluding private lands) to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide as far east as Point Salt on south shore and point west of Manleyville to the east of Sadie Creek on north shore. Federal lands are excluded.

Note: The State owns all land within the Special Management Area within the E Sec 24, T55S, R66E, all land within the W Sec 19, T55S, R67E and the shoreland in the NNW Sec 30, T55S, R67E.

Adjacent Upland Recreational Resources: Baranof Warm Springs, Forest Service Cabin and Trail; Sadie Lake Trail.



1 inch=1 Mile

— — — — SMA/DRUA

North Baranof Island Vicinity
Source: USGS 1:63,360 Sitka Quads A3
SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.
Description is official boundary.

Big Bear/Baby Bear Bays State Marine Park (Map NB-3)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Big Bear/Baby Bear Bays State Marine Park consists of 733 acres of islands and relatively flat coastal lands from elevations tidewater to 300 feet, with most of the land below 100 feet. It is located 26 miles north of Sitka to the north of Sergius Narrows at the west entrance to Peril Strait. This is one of the only safe anchorages in the area, adjacent to the only inside boat route to Sitka, and provides protection from winds and treacherous tidal currents. Sitka residents and travelers use the area for fishing, hunting, kayaking, camping, beachcombing, and wildlife viewing. There are several good anchorages and campsites, particularly in Baby Bear Bay. The large intertidal and muskeg area behind Big Bear Bay is excellent habitat for waterfowl and deer. There is also excellent hunting to the north near Range Creek. As a State Marine Park, the area is not subject to timber harvest, and recreation and habitat values will be maintained.

Boundaries: Per Park boundaries, generally along section lines to Yellow Point in the north, encompassing all of Bear and Baby Bear Bays, and to south of Point Siroi.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.3, 14.4, 14.5.

Special Management Area and Designated Recreational Use Area

Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

Map NB-3: Big Bear/Baby Bear Bays State Marine Park

— Description —

Designation: Lands and waters within State Park boundaries, generally along section lines to Yellow Point in the north, encompassing all of Bear and Baby Bear Bays, and to south of Point Siroi. Federal lands are excluded.



1 inch=1 Mile



--- SMA/DRUA

North Baranof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360 Sitka Quads A5, A6, B5, B6

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.

Big Bear/Baby Bear Bays State Marine Park



Chaichei Islands; Unnamed Islands (Map NB-4)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Additional documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

These small islands in Sitka Sound, just west of Middle Island, are very close to Sitka and show heavy signs of picnic and camping use. Chaichei Island has a nice white sand beach, protected anchorage for a small skiff, a small camping and picnic area, and scenic views. Chaichei Island (45 acres) was selected by the State of Alaska for recreational purposes and is now entirely owned by the City and Borough of Sitka. The unnamed island east of Gagarin Island has a nice, small white shell beach for picnics, one campsite, a relatively protected anchorage for a small skiff, and scenic views. Both sites are close to good fishing for both halibut and salmon, in season. With the State subdivision and sale of a small portion of adjacent Middle Island, these uses are likely to increase.

Boundaries: Entire Chaichei Island Group to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide; entire unnamed island group south of Crow Island and east of Gagarin Island to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide. The Chaichei Islands group and the Unnamed Islands group are owned by the City and Borough of Sitka.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.3, 14.4.

— Description —



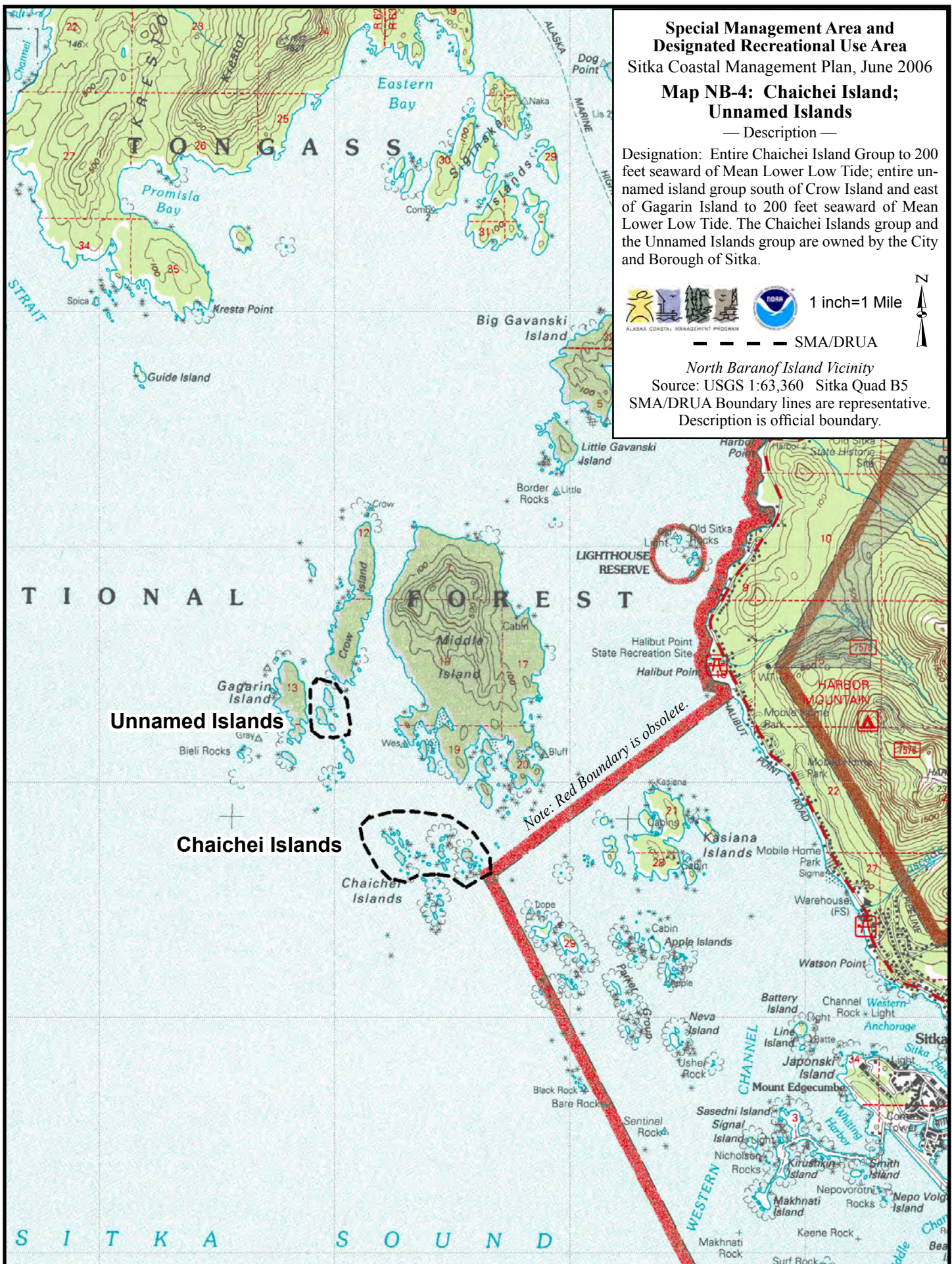
ALASKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

1 inch=1 Mile



— — — — SMA/DRUA

Description is official boundary.



Fish Bay Tidelands (Map NB-5)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Fish Bay is located northwest of Nakwasina along the main "inland passage" route to Sitka. It is included for its hot springs but also receives heavy use for crabbing in the bay, though anchorage is limited. Piper Island (45 acres) has been under federal ownership but has been selected by the State of Alaska for recreational purposes. The trail is in a poor unmaintained condition, and is difficult to follow. - It begins at the northeast end of the bay 100 feet west of the old recreational cabin site (ruins and chimney) at an old trail marker, a large diamond. It follows the tideflats along the side slope through spruce and hemlock and heads slightly southeast for approximately 3*1/2 miles to the hot springs, partially on a former logging road, and through muskeg and former clear-cuts, creeks, and some heavy brush. There are a number of springs in a semi-natural state. The head of Fish Bay is also a large intertidal and estuarine system with excellent habitat for waterfowl, deer, bear, Dungeness and King crab, coho salmon, and halibut.

Boundaries: Tidelands 100 feet from either side of trailhead, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

Map NB-5: Fish Bay Tidelands

— Description —

Designation: Tidelands 100 feet from either side of trailhead, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide. Federal lands are excluded.

Adjacent Upland Recreational Resources: Fish Bay Hot Springs and Forest Service Trail.



1 inch=1 Mile



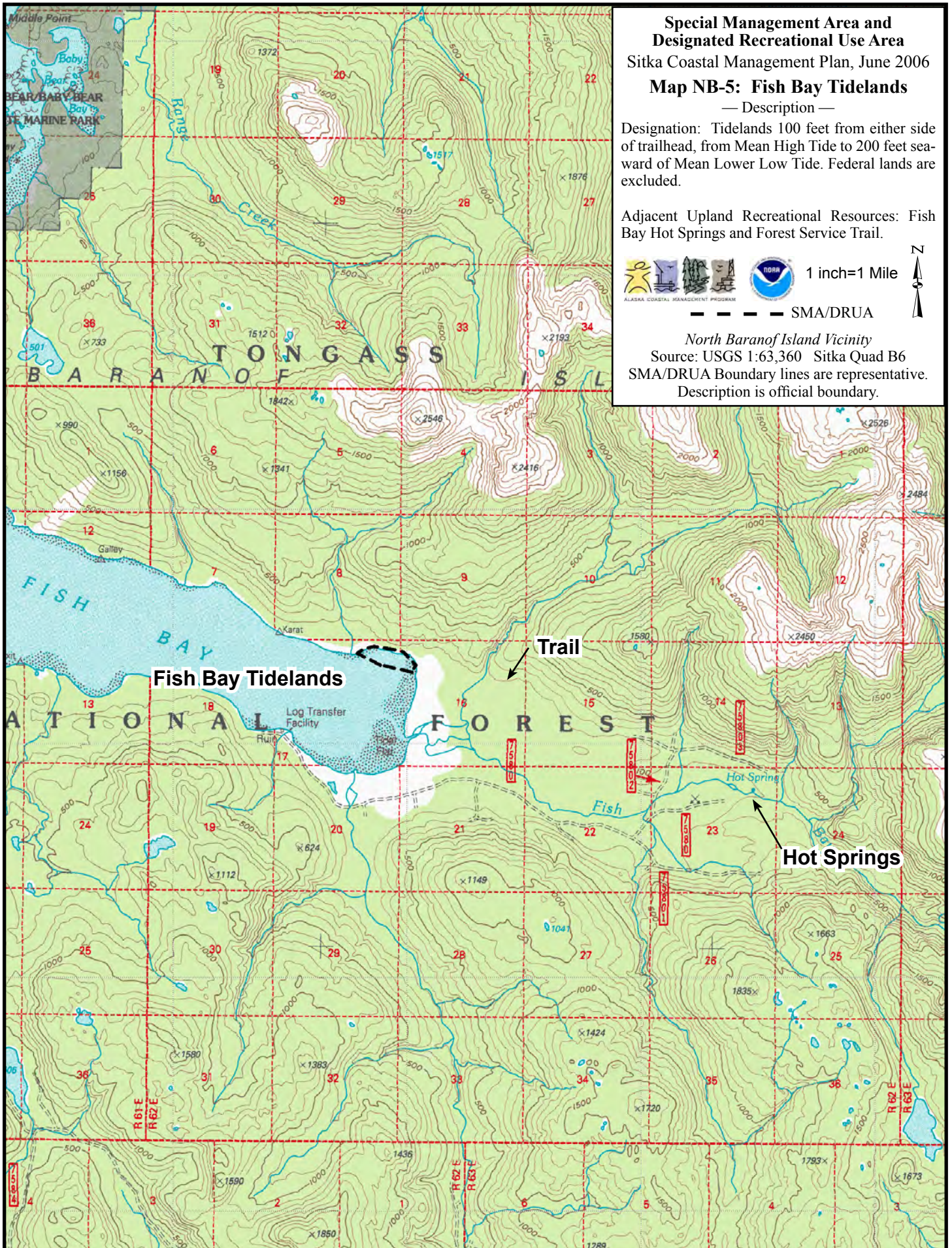
— — — SMA/DRUA

North Baranof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360 Sitka Quad B6

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.



Hanus Bay; Portage; Dead Tree Islands (Map NB-6)

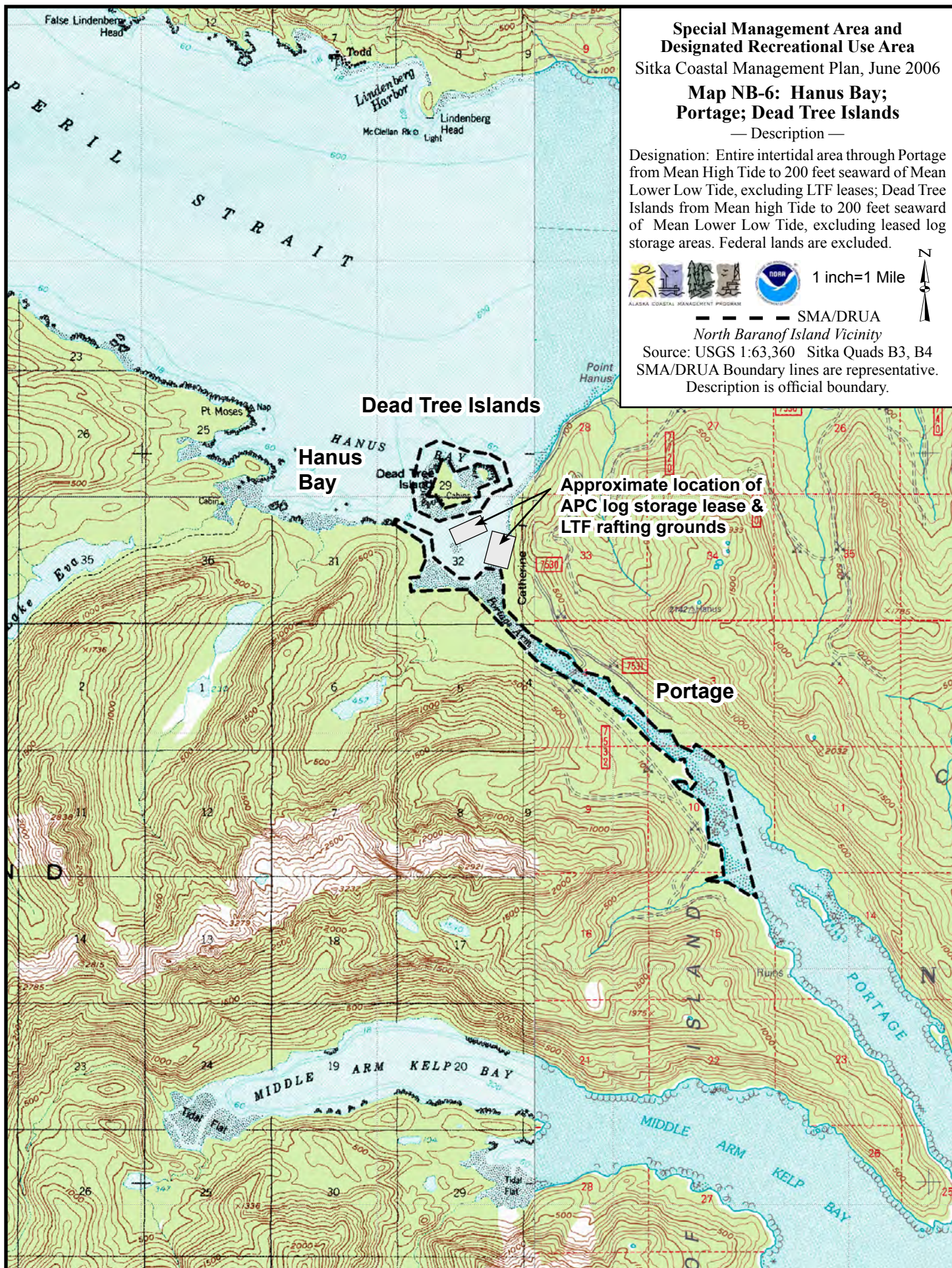
This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Hanus Bay is located just northeast of Lake Eva on the south side of Peril Strait near its junction with Chatham Strait, on the north side of Baranof and Catherine Islands. It is close to active fishing grounds on key transportation routes. The bay is a heavily used anchorage, especially behind Dead Tree Island, but it is not protected from all winds. This same area is leased for log storage, and this lease area is excluded from this site. The two islands in the bay are used for camping and picnicking.

The Portage area is a shallow, productive estuarine system at the southern end of the bay through which one can walk at low tide between Baranof and Catherine Islands to reach Portage Arm of Kelp Bay. An old timber transfer facility has been removed but will be reactivated for an upcoming timber harvest. It is the terminus of an extensive system of logging roads in the area. Hanus Bay is close to active fishing areas on key transportation routes. There are major concentrations of Dungeness crab, bear and waterfowl in this area. Much of the area is gently sloping, and the area receives high recreation and subsistence use by campers, hikers, and hunters and fishermen. There is a Forest Service cabin at Lake Eva, just west of the bay.

Boundaries: Entire intertidal area through Portage from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide, excluding LTF leases; Dead Tree Islands from Mean high Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide, excluding leased log storage areas.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.



Kakul Narrows (Map NB-7)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

This three-sided Adirondack shelter is nestled against a backdrop of tall trees along a rocky shore. It is located on Baranof Island on the east side of Kakul Narrows between Salisbury Sound and Fish Bay, about 29 miles north of Sitka, in an area very heavily transited by vessels going to and from Sitka. The shelter has a woodstove, plywood bunks and a small table. Firewood is not provided. There is no rental fee. Use is on a first-come, first-served basis. The shelter is used for both survival and camping purposes. There is a moderately protected anchorage near the shelter.

Boundaries: Along contiguous beach 200 feet to east and west of adjacent upland shelter; from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

Piper Island (Map NB-7)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Piper Island cabin is located on a very small island about 30 miles north of Sitka in Fish Bay adjacent to Baranof Island. The cabin is a 16 by 16 foot modified A-frame cabin with an oil-burning stove for heat and a large skylight over the dining area. It has an open sleeping loft with a railing, accessed by a vertical ladder, and a total sleeping space for 7 people. The cabin was built in 1994 by volunteers from the U.S. Coast Guard and a group of local Sitka residents.

The cabin is a 25-minute float plane flight or 1/12 hour boat ride from Sitka. A mooring buoy is available on first-come first-served basis for boat anchorage. The buoy is available to cabin users or general forest users. The cabin is nestled just inside the forest fringe above a sandy beach. Facilities include a double plywood bunk, a single plywood bunk, sleeping loft, oil stove, table and 2 benches, cooking counter, and outhouse toilet.

The cabin offers beautiful views of the sandy beach, wildlife viewing, saltwater fishing and crabbing, and deer hunting in season. It is close to the main channel providing protected water access to Sitka, so there is considerable marine traffic throughout the year in the area. There is a rental fee.

Boundaries: Entire Piper Island from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.



Kelp Bay Basin and Pond Island (Map NB-8)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

The Basin, Pond Island, and Crow Island are located in south Kelp Bay, to the south of Catherine Island and west of Chatham Strait. The Basin area is heavily used year-round anchorage and receives intensive recreation, subsistence, and commercial use for fish and deer, camping, kayaking, and other activities. It is an anchorage not only for the Pond Island area but other areas of Kelp Bay as well during foul weather. The cove south of Pond Island is one of the best anchorages in the Chatham Strait area.

The entire Kelp Bay area is a unique area of abundance of fish, wildlife, and waterfowl due to the excellent intertidal and estuarine as well as uplands habitats. Shrimp and Dungeness crab are available in some locations in Kelp Bay, and good halibut fishing is available in several areas. There are particularly large concentrations of deer, bear, and waterfowl in the Kelp Bay area. There is a temporary Forest Service special use permit issued to an outfitter/guide for a camp on Pond Island. Pond and Crow Islands are used for camping and deer and seal hunting. The islands around Crow Island are seal haulout and moulting areas. A major sea lion habitat area also exists near Point Lull, to the east near the southern tip of Catherine Island.

There are also two existing Log Transfer Facility (LTF) sites which are exempted from all Enforceable Policies: one at the road terminus on the south shore of the Basin southwest of Pond Island; and one west of Zobal Rock at the road terminus.

Boundaries: Entire Basin area including Pond, Crow, adjacent islands and contiguous waters from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide, and from South Point to eastern point of Pond Island.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

Special Management Area and Designated Recreational Use Area

Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

Map NB-8: Kelp Bay Basin & Pond Island

— Description —

Designation: Entire Basin area including Pond, Crow, adjacent islands and contiguous waters from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide, and from South Point to eastern point of Pond Island. Federal lands are excluded.

Adjacent Upland Recreational Resources: Pond, Crow, adjacent islands and shorelines.



1 inch=1 Mile



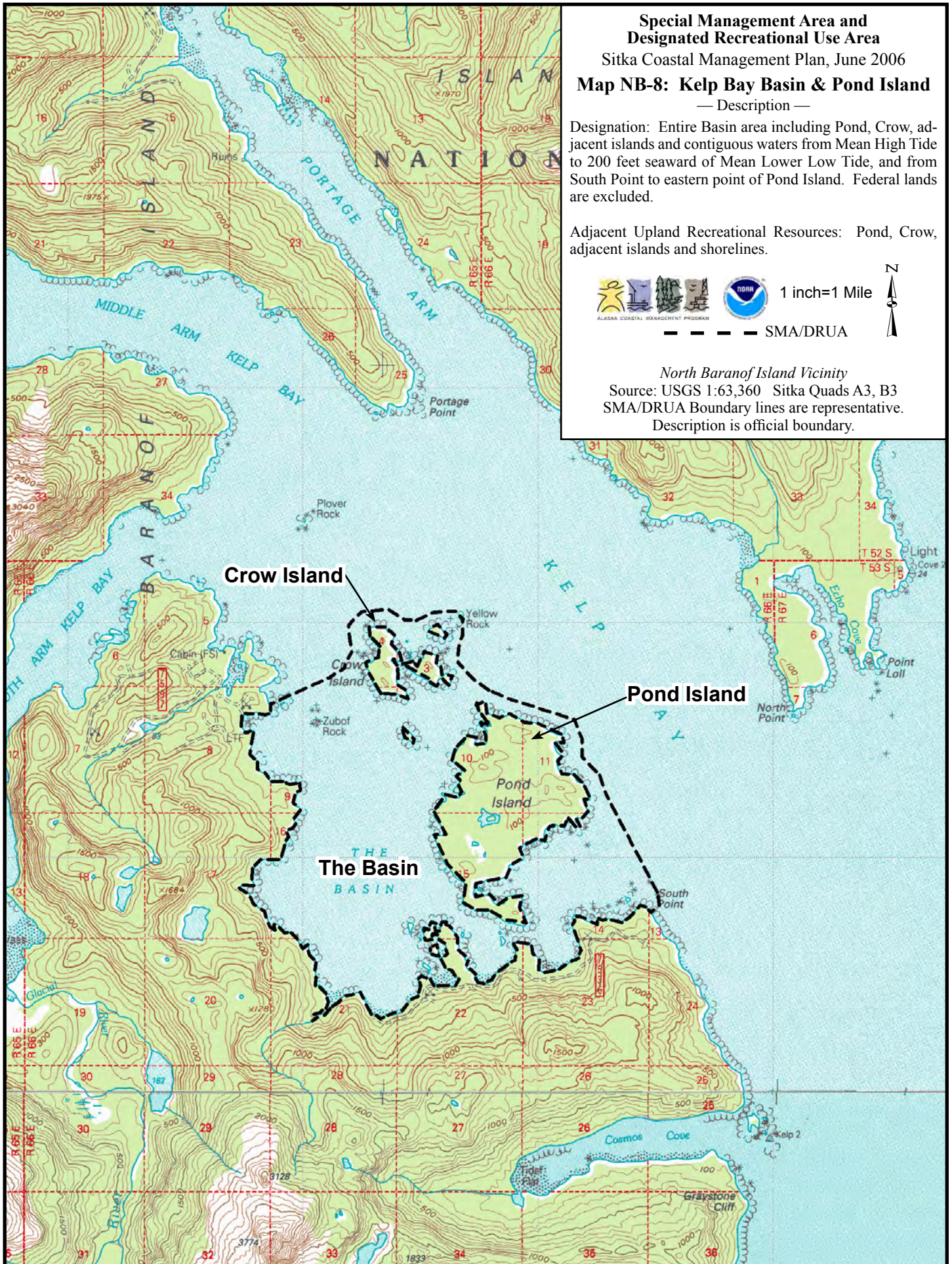
— — — — — SMA/DRUA

North Baranof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360 Sitka Quads A3, B3

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.



Lake Eva Lake System, Sockeye Stream and Tidelands (Map NB-9)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Lake Eva Disabled Access Cabin is located at nearly sea level near the east entrance to Peril Strait on Lake Eva, on the northeast side of Baranof Island about 27 miles northeast of Sitka, with an air access time of about 25 minutes. The cabin is a 12 x 14 foot PanAbode cabin with an oil-burning stove and sleeping space for 4 to 6 persons, and is the only cabin in the Sitka District with wheelchair access. Generally, this lake is ice free April to November.

With barrier-free access, this cabin provides a desirable recreation experience; and therefore, it is one of the most popular cabins in the Sitka Ranger District. A series of boardwalks with handrails, as well as a dock, allow easy access for persons in wheelchairs, for elderly visitors or families with young children. The boardwalk opens up to a deck area with an outdoor firepit, picnic table with wheelchair access, and a fishing platform with guard rail. One of the two outhouses also has a boardwalk heading to it with barrier-free access.

Intersecting a brushy shoreline, this cabin lies on the north shore of 1.7 mile Lake Eva. A spruce and hemlock forest surrounds the lake, and snow-capped mountains are visible looking to the southwest.

Lake Eva has a unique and prolific fish habitat. There are steelhead, Dolly Varden trout, one of the better cutthroat trout populations, coho salmon, pink salmon, chum salmon, and sockeye salmon in mid-July to mid-August. The lake has a major population of overwintering Dolly Varden and cutthroats from the entire Peril Strait area that run back out to sea in the spring. The stream supports a small spring run of steelhead April to June, a large fall coho salmon run September to October, in addition to year-round cutthroat and Dolly Varden fishing, though the best cutthroat fishing is April to late June. The sockeye run has always been small, with very few fish. It peaks in early July. Deer and brown bear are common in this area.

The 2.9 mile Lake Eva-Hanus Bay National Forest System Trail begins in west Hanus Bay, on the east side of the Lake Eva outlet stream at a large diamond trail marker. Best anchorage is in the cove to the north of the large tideflats at the outlet of the stream. The trail heads west along the south side of the estuary, and then winds along the south side of the Lake Eva outlet stream. This portion of the trail is in a dense Sitka spruce-hemlock forest and offers some fine vistas and good fishing. It follows the south shore of Lake Eva through beautiful old-growth forest. The last half mile of the trail is the most difficult due to windfall and landslides. The trail ends at the old Civilian Conservation Corps shelter, which is in poor condition. The trail can be accessed by boat from the cabin, and a boat is provided.

The trail rating is moderate due to wet, muddy and brushy conditions, although the terrain is flat. It does not lead to the Forest Service cabin located on the northwest side of the lake. Because of the heavy brush along the lake, bushwhacking to the recreation cabin would be difficult.

Boundaries: Entire Lake Eva, lakeshore and stream to Ordinary High Water; contiguous tidelands from 200 feet south of trail outlet to point on north shore, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.2, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006
**Map NB-9: Lake Eva Lake System,
Sockeye Stream & Tidelands**

— Description —

Designation: Entire Lake Eva, lakeshore and stream to Ordinary High Water; contiguous tidelands from 200 feet south of trail outlet to point on north shore, from Mean high Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide. Federal lands are excluded.

Adjacent Upland Recreational Resources:
Lake Eva Forest Service Cabin and Trail.



1 inch=1 Mile

--- SMA/DRUA

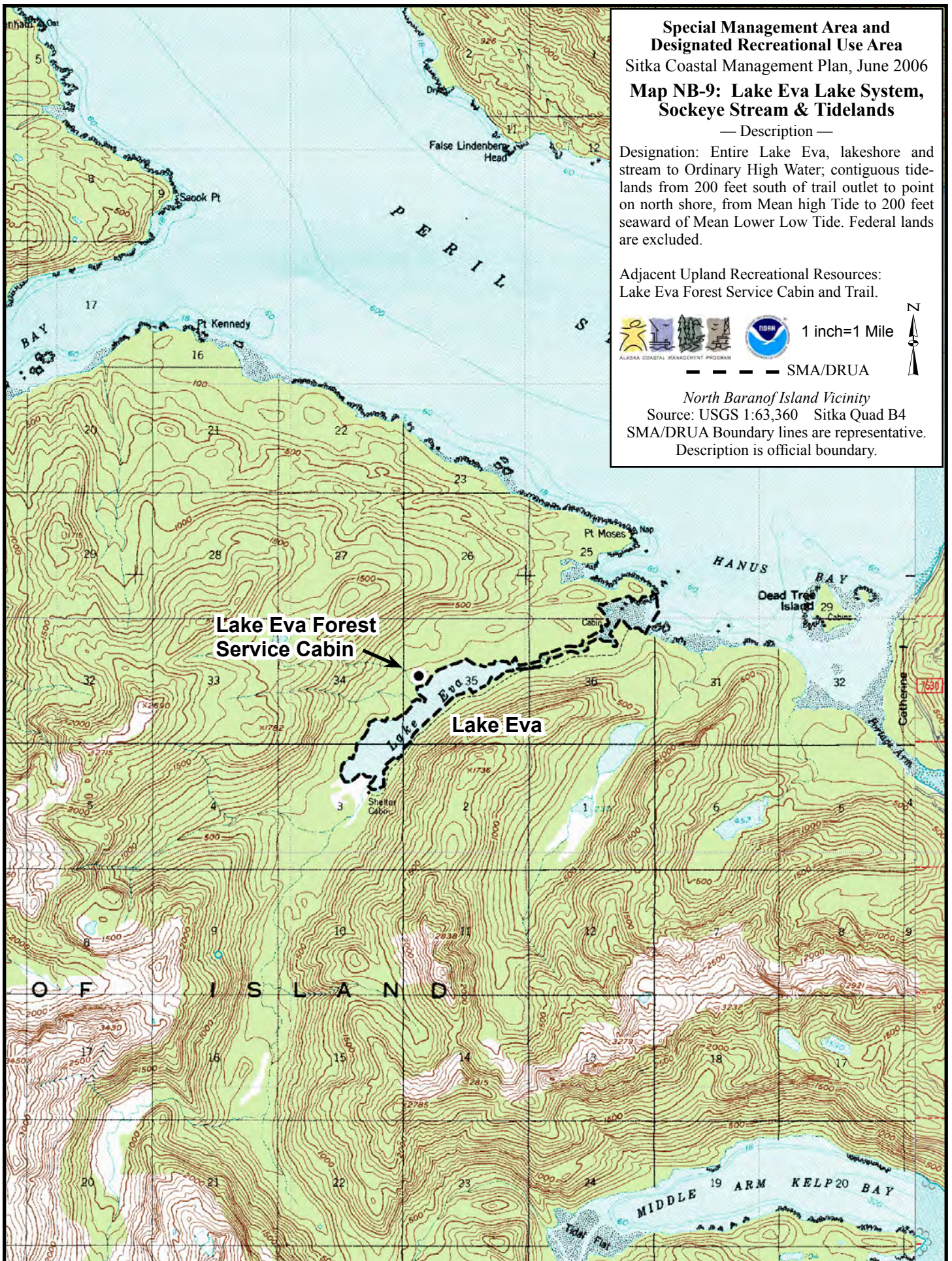


North Baranof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360 Sitka Quad B4

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.



Nakwasina Passage to Head of Nakwasina Sound (Map NB-10)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Allan Point cabin is located on Halleck Island, about 16 boat miles north of Sitka, near Allan Point, in upper Nakwasina Sound. The cabin is a 20 by 20 foot two story Pan Abode cabin with an oil stove for heat and sleeping space for 10 to 15 people. The main level includes a single-wide bunk, table with benches, cooking counter, 2 entrances, and a large front deck. A stairway accesses the second floor that is an open sleeping loft with two double-wide bunks and outside balconies to the front and back. There is an outhouse toilet and storage shed. The cabin was built in 1993 by Sitka volunteers.

Access is about 30 minutes by boat or 10 minutes by float plane from Sitka. A mooring buoy is available on a first-come, first-served basis for boat anchorage for either cabin or general forest users. The cabin is south facing along a flat cobble beach amid a tall dense hemlock-spruce forest.

Because of its close proximity to Sitka, this cabin is a popular destination for Sitkans. Views from the cabin look down and across Nakwasina Sound. In the early 1960s, several forested areas in Nakwasina Sound were harvested. During the summer, the vegetation pattern in these areas appears more dense, with an overstory of alder and understory of spruce and hemlock, and a brighter green than the darker, less dense tops of the surrounding hemlock-spruce forest.

Saltwater fishing and deer hunting are possible from this cabin. Brown bear frequent this area. There is a flat, short trail across the peninsula to north Nakwasina Passage.

The Nakwasina Passage and head of Nakwasina Sound area probably receives the most intensive recreational and subsistence hunting and fishing use of any area in the Sitka District due to its productivity and ease of access for Sitka for small "day" boats. There is excellent deer habitat, Dungeness crab, somewhat protected anchorages, some old growth timber (although the area has been logged), and various campsites. There are beautiful mountain vistas and accessible drainages to walk, fish, and hunt. There is a good coho salmon run and large numbers of pink salmon in the stream from an unnamed lake to the north, and good Dolly Varden trout fishing in the lake.

Boundaries: Entire Nakwasina Passage below Mean High Tide, from the point to the west where the passage narrows to the southern contiguous beach south of Allan Point including the tidelands of the Allan Point anchorage; all tidelands and northeast contiguous beaches at head of Nakwasina Sound from mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide to the point on section w4, Sitka Quad B4, B5, C4, C5.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

**Map NB-10: Nakwasina Passage
to Head of Nakwasina Sound**

— Description —

Designation: Entire Nakwasina Passage below Mean High Tide, from the point to the west where the passage narrows to the southern contiguous beach south of Allan Point including the tidelands of the Allan Point anchorage; all tidelands and northeast contiguous beaches at head of Nakwasina Sound from mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide to the point on section w4, Sitka Quad B4, B5, C4, C5. Federal lands are excluded.

Adjacent Upland Recreational Resources:
Allan Point Forest Service Cabin.



1 inch=1 Mile

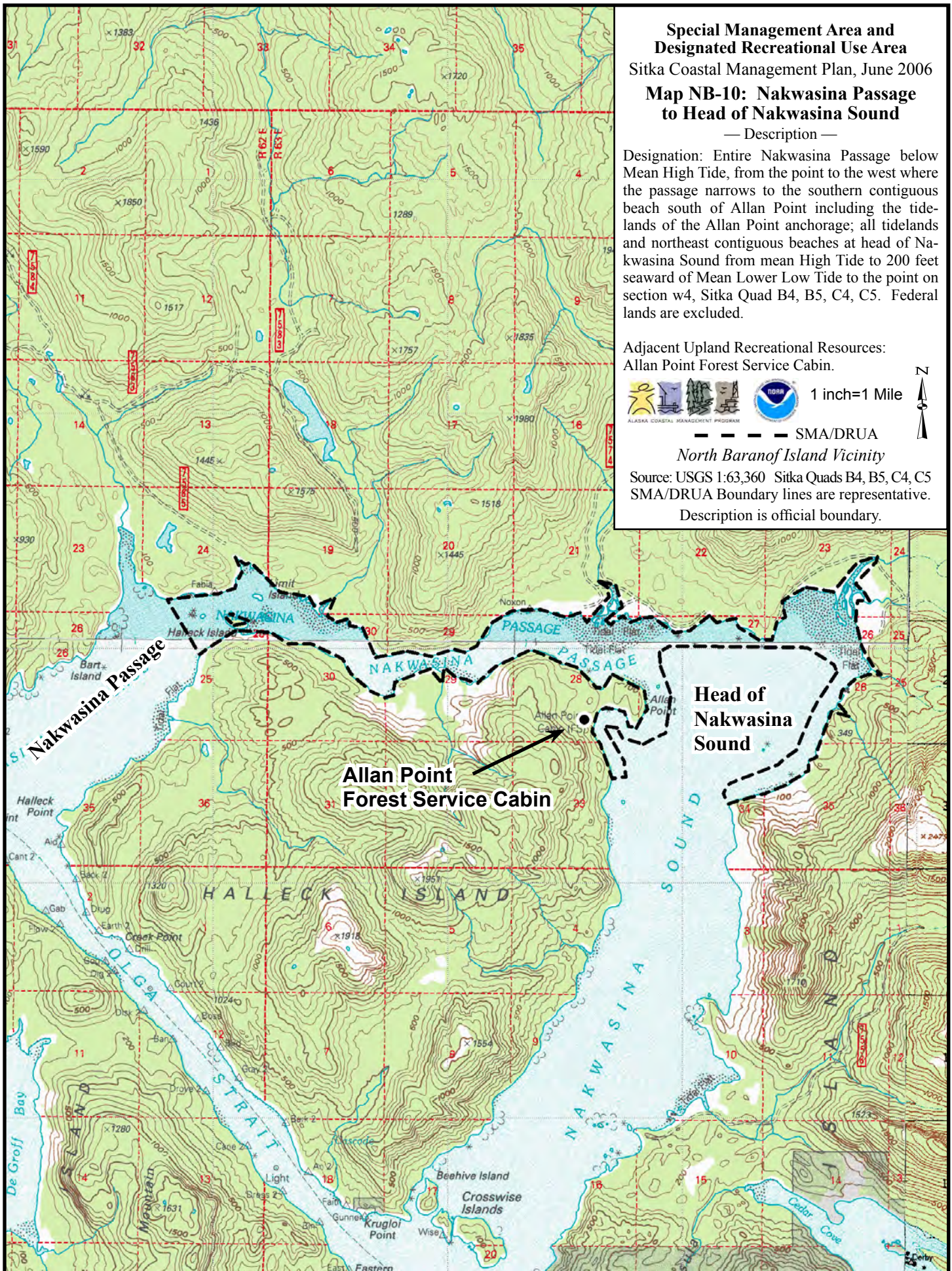


— — — — SMA/DRUA

North Baranof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360 Sitka Quads B4, B5, C4, C5
SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.



Neva Strait Beach (Map NB-11)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

The North Neva Survival Shelter, as titled by the Forest Service, is a three-sided Adirondack shelter. It is located along northern Neva Straits on the eastern shore of Partofshikof Island just before St. John Baptist Bay, about 21 miles northwest of Sitka. The shelter was built by the Sitka Search and Rescue Team and Coast Guard volunteers and serves both as a survival and camping shelter for the many boaters who transit Neva Strait.

The shelter has a woodstove, plywood bunks and a small table. It is accessible both from the small boat anchorage area directly adjacent to the shelter and, depending on the wind direction, an anchorage area immediately to the south of the peninsula. Both beach areas are rocky but relatively gently sloping. There is no rental fee, and use is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Boundaries: Along contiguous beach from 200 feet north to 200 feet south of adjacent upland shelter; from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

Otstoia Island (Map NB-12)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Otstoia Island shelter is a three-sided Adirondack shelter on the southwestern shore of Otstoia Island. It is heavily used for both camping and survival purposes by the many boaters transiting the area on the main boat channel to and from Sitka. Otstoia Island is a small island in Peril Strait just west of the Duffield Peninsula on Baranof Island, about 41 miles north of Sitka.

The shelter has a woodstove, plywood bunks and a small table. There is no rental fee. It is used on a first-come, first-served basis. It was built by volunteers of the Sitka Search and Rescue Team. Beaches in the area are rocky, and anchorage is limited. There is good crab and shrimp fishing available in the general area, as well as wildlife viewing and a sandy beach on Baranof Island at Dead Man's Reach, and a large estuarine system further south at Goose Cove.

Boundaries: Entire Otstoia Island from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.



Siginaka Islands (Map NB-13)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

The Siginaka Islands, which are located in Sitka Sound to the southwest of Lisianski Peninsula and southeast of Krestof Island, are included as a subsistence harvest area of rare and highly prized herring roe on neh, a type of seaweed. In addition, the Siginakas receive intensive use in the summer by recreational boaters for picnicking and camping, as well as tour boats under Forest Service Special Use Permit. There are several good beaches and anchorages.

Boundaries: Entire Siginaka Islands group from Mean High Tide to Mean Lower Low Tide, including contiguous waters between the islands.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

Map NB-13: Signaka Islands

— Description —

Designation: Entire Signaka Islands group from Mean High Tide to Mean Lower Low Tide, including contiguous waters between the islands. Federal lands are excluded.



1 inch=1 Mile



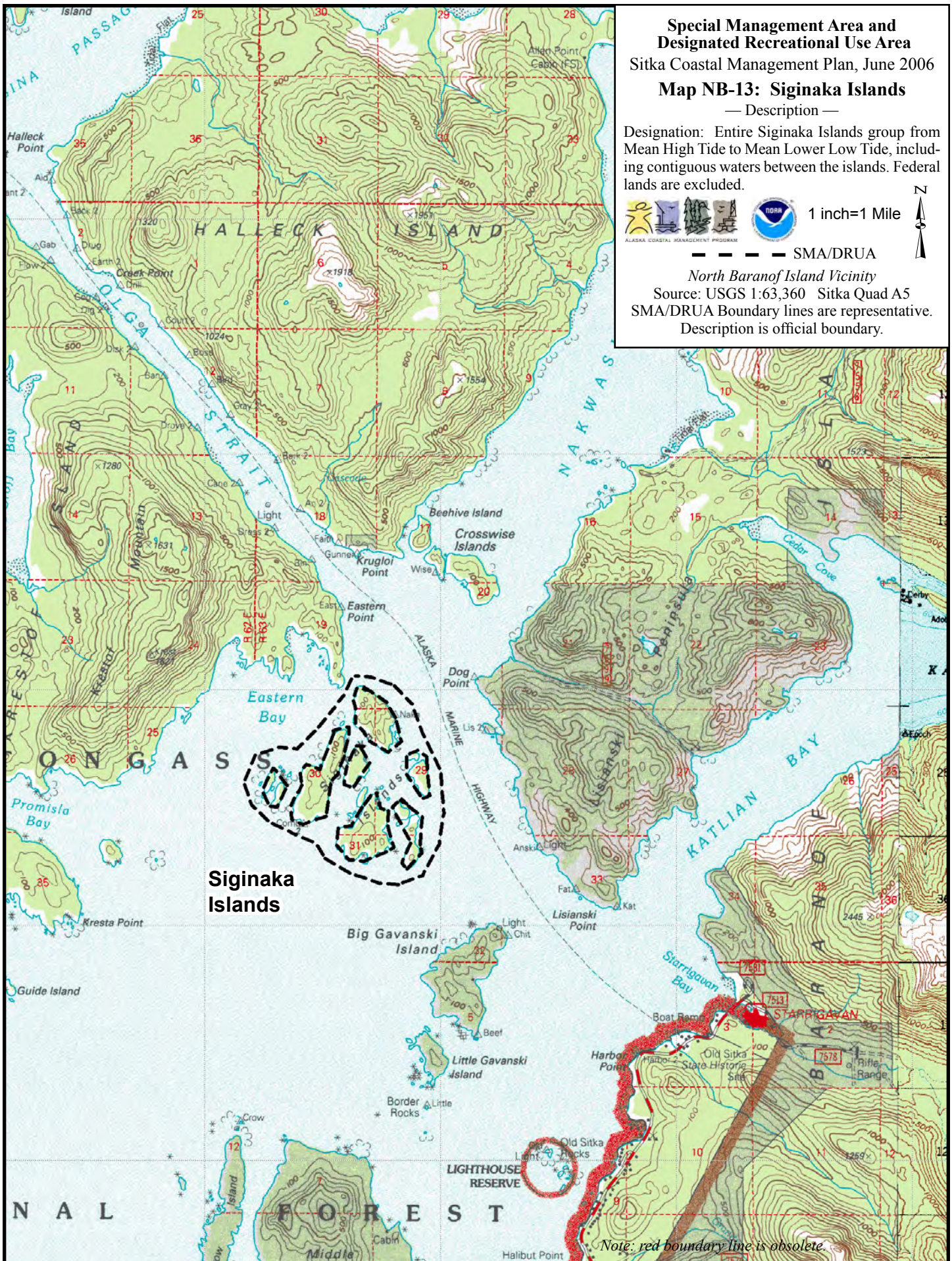
— — — SMA/DRUA

North Baranof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360 Sitka Quad A5

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.



Sitka Public Recreational Facilities Tidelands (Map NB-14)

These Special Management Areas are designated recreational use areas. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in chapter III and sections D and H of this chapter.

Sitka public recreational facilities along the road system are included in the Sitka Parks and Recreation Plan. The tidelands adjacent to these facilities are important to the facilities and outside the "jurisdiction" of the Parks and Recreation Plan; therefore, both facilities owners and the public recommended the adjacent intertidal areas to major public use facilities be given Special Management Area status to insure that these areas remain undeveloped and available to the public. Tidelands included in this designation are Whale Park, Sitka National Historical Park - Fort Site Unit, Pioneer Park, Sandy Beach, Halibut Point Recreation Area, and Starrigavan Bay. More information on these facilities is available in the Sitka Parks and Recreation Plan (Appendix-8).

Issue:

Major public recreational sites along the Sitka road system have no protection or assurance against conflicting uses of the adjacent tidelands.

Boundaries: Tidelands and waters from Mean High Tide to 200 feet below Mean Lower Low Tide immediately seaward from the following major public recreational facilities along the Sitka road system from south to north: Whale Park, Sitka National Historical Park--Fort Site Unit, Pioneer Park, Sandy Beach, Halibut Point Recreation Area, and Starrigavan Bay Cooperative Project including Old Sitka State Historical Site. Starrigavan Project boundaries are from northern boundary of Samson Tug and Barge municipal lease tidelands on the south end to point beyond Mosquito Cove on the north.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4, 14.6.

Starrigavan Bay Cooperative Pro

Halibut Point Recreation Area

Adjacent Upland Recreational Resources:
Public Recreational Facilities as described on adjacent
page and in Chapter 3.



— — — — SMA/DRUA

Description is official boundary.

Sandy Beach

Pioneer Park

Sitka National Historical Park— Fort Site Unit

Whale Park

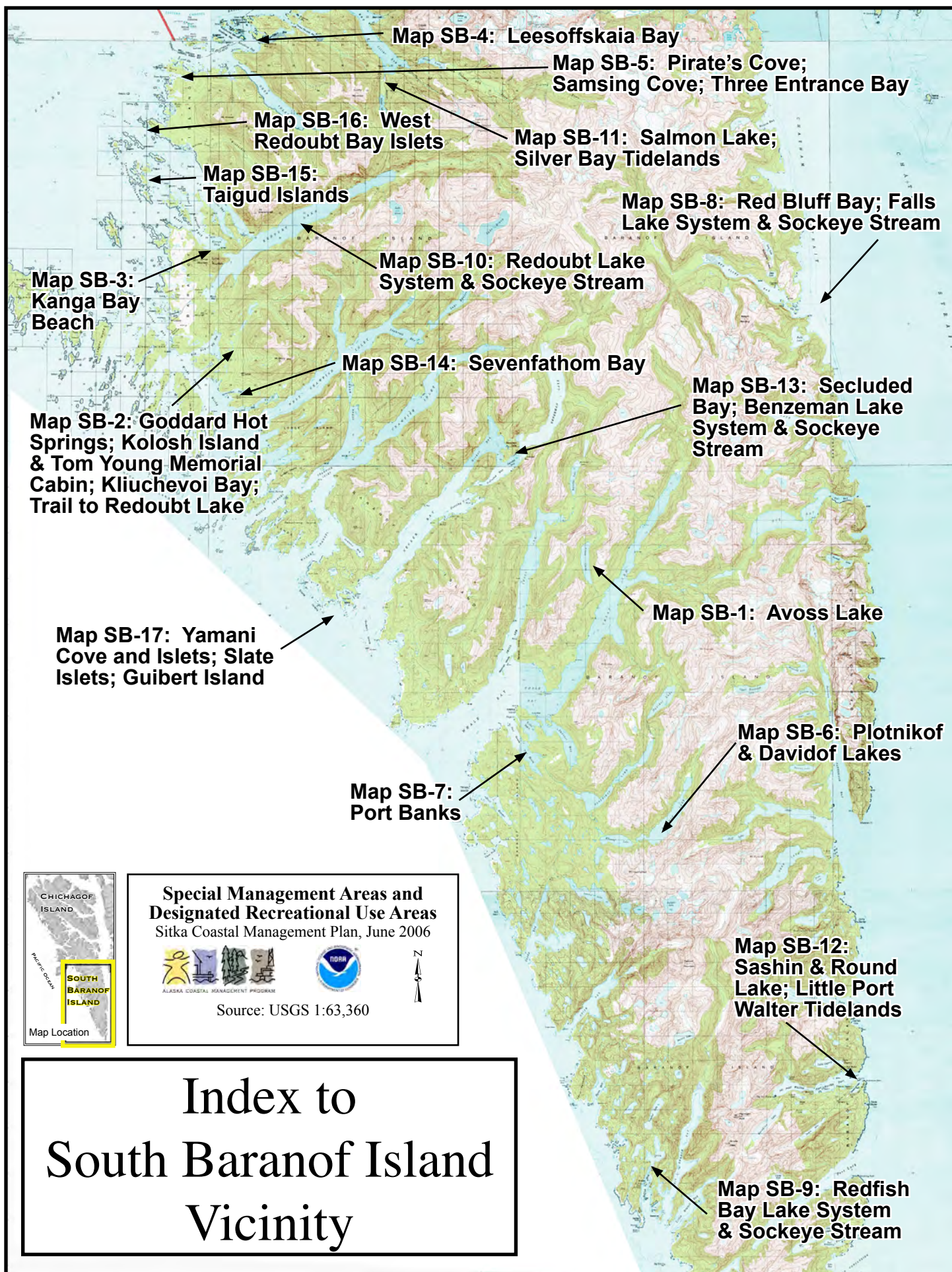
Note: red boundary line is obsolete.

South Baranof Island Vicinity

Note: A vicinity map is provided on the facing page.

- ** Avoss Lake (Map SB-1)
- Goddard Hot Springs; Kolosh Island and Tom Young Memorial Cabin; Kliuchevoi Bay; Trail to Redoubt Lake (Map SB-2)
- Kanga Bay Beach (Map SB-3)
- Leesoffskaia Bay (Map SB-4)
- Pirate's Cove; Samsing Cove; Three Entrance Bay (Map SB-5)
- ** Plotnikof and Davidof Lakes (Map SB-6)
- ** Port Banks (Map SB-7)
- ** Red Bluff Bay; Falls Lake System and Sockeye Stream (Map SB-8)
- Redfish Bay Lake System and Sockeye Stream (Map SB-9)
- Redoubt Lake System and Sockeye Stream (Map SB-10)
- Salmon Lake; Silver Bay Tidelands (Map SB-11)
- Sashin and Round Lakes; Little Port Walter Tidelands (Map SB-12)
- ** Secluded Bay; Benzeman Lake System and Sockeye Stream (Map SB-13)
- Sevenfathom Bay (Map SB-14)
- Taigud Islands (Map SB-15)
- West Redoubt Bay Islets (Map SB-16)
- ** Yamani Cove and Islets; Slate Islets; Guibert Islets (Map SB-17)

** Located within South Baranof Wilderness. Refer to Chapter III, Figure 2 for a map of the Wilderness Areas.



****Avoss Lake (Map SB-1)**

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Avoss Lake Cabin is a 16 x 16 foot A-frame cabin located 30 miles southeast of Sitka just north of Whale Bay's Great Arm. It is accessible by floatplane. It has an oil rather than wood stove, and sleeping space for 6 to 8 persons.

Avoss Lake is a small, higher elevation lake (800 feet) located on the southcentral portion of Baranof Island, about 35 miles southeast of Sitka and 5 miles northeast of Whale Bay. It lies within the South Baranof Wilderness Area. Access to the lake by floatplane takes approximately 30 minutes from Sitka. Generally, this lake is ice free from about mid-June to mid-September. Poor weather conditions can arise quickly and may delay flight arrivals and departures.

Situated near an inlet stream on the northern shore of Avoss Lake, this remote wilderness cabin lies at the edge of a muskeg area. From the lakeshore, walk about 150 feet along a narrow footpath and boardwalk which wind through a lightly wooded area to the cabin. Many streams and small channels flow through the area. A wide array of wildflowers bloom in spring and summer. There are many great photography opportunities. Fishing in Avoss Lake is fair for Dolly Varden and Rainbow trout July to September. A skiff is provided.

Wildlife includes deer, goats, and brown bear. There is good access to excellent alpine deer hunting, as well as mountain goats. Deer hunting is possible beginning in August. This area is remote, rugged, and surrounded by steep mountainous terrain.

Boundaries: Entire lake and lakeshore to Ordinary High Water.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006
Map SB-1: Avoss Lake

— Description —

Designation: Entire lake and lakeshore to Ordinary High Water. Federal lands are excluded.

Adjacent Upland Recreational Resources:
Avoss Lake Forest Service Cabin.



1 inch=1 Mile

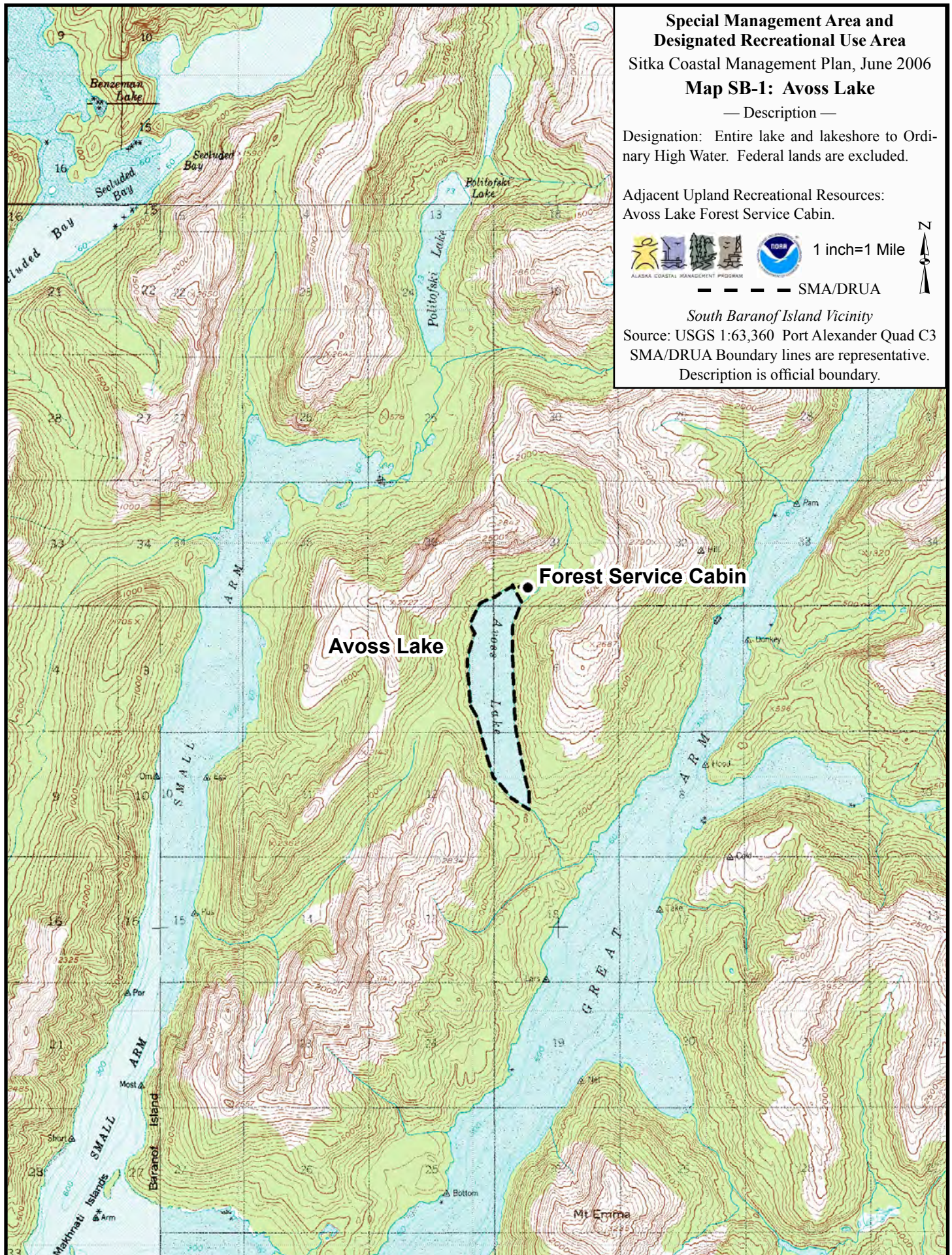


South Baranof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360 Port Alexander Quad C3

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.



Goddard Hot Springs; Kolosh Island and Tom Young Memorial Cabin; Kliuchevoi Bay; Trail to Redoubt Lake (Map SB-2)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Goddard Hot Springs is located approximately 15 miles south of Sitka, to the east of Biorka Island and Hot Springs Bay. The most sheltered anchorage for users of Goddard Hot Springs is in Kliuchevoi Bay. With the exception of two private parcels in Kliuchevoi Bay, ownership of a majority of the area is owned by the City and Borough of Sitka, with a restriction on the deed that the land is to be used for public recreation. The State of Alaska owns 1,070 acres in the vicinity of Big Bay. The municipality has built two bathhouses for public use, and these receive intensive use in the summer months. There are also other minor thermal springs located 1/2 mile east of the bathhouse area. There is a fair-weather anchorage directly in front of the tubs in Hot Springs Bay, and places to camp along the shore. There is also much evidence of prior settlement in the area.

Kolosh Island is approximately 30 acres in size and is located 1/2 mile west northwest of Goddard Hot Springs. There is a knob of 110 foot elevation on its southern end; the rest of the island is relatively flat with several camping areas in open timber and a good gravel/sand beach on the eastern shore. It receives intensive use for camping and beachcombing, often in conjunction with use of the hot springs. The Tom Young Memorial Cabin was recently constructed by volunteers on Kolosh Island and is managed for public use by the City and Borough of Sitka. It is a two-story Pan Abode with a propane stove and deck.

The 1.5 mile trail to Marsh Bay in the south end of Redoubt Lake was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930's. The trail starts at the Goddard Hot Springs baths and runs through old growth timber on deteriorated boardwalk to and along the south shore of Kliuchevoi Bay. It cuts through muskeg and scrub timber to the northeast until reaching Marsh Bay. Some signs of the 1,200 acre fire which occurred in the area in 1912 are still visible. The trail is still heavily used, since the elevation gain is only 200 feet.

Thought of as "the playground of Sitka," the Goddard Hot Springs area is one of the most popular recreation areas in central Southeast Alaska. In addition to the hot springs, scenic beauty is the main visitor attraction, but fishing, hiking, camping, and hunting are close behind. The area is reached during good weather by small "day" boats and floatplanes, as well as hundreds of fishing boats which anchor up in the area. There is good bottom fishing in the area, as well as coho, chum, and pink salmon as primary salmon species. In some years in April, herring spawn can be observed along the salt water beaches. The uplands are habitat for various bird species along with deer and an occasional brown bear. Most of the topography of the area is level to moderately undulating. Tree cover is primarily hemlock with 25 percent old growth spruce, as well as low lying bushes and muskegs.

Boundaries: 200 feet around bathhouses and entire Hot Springs Hill; entire Kliuchevoi Bay, exclusive of privately owned lands, to 200 feet landward from Mean High Tide; Hot Springs Bay area between anchorage seaward from bathhouses and Kolosh Island; entire Kolosh Island to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide; 100 feet from each side of Trail to Redoubt Lake.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 8.1, 14.1, 14.3, 14.4, 14.5.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**

Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

**Map SB-2: Goddard Hot Springs; Kolosh
Island & Tom Young Memorial Cabin;
Kliuchevoi Bay; Trail to Redoubt Lake**

— Description —

Designation: 200 feet around bathhouses and entire Hot Springs Hill; entire Kliuchevoi Bay, exclusive of privately owned lands, to 200 feet landward from Mean High Tide; Hot Springs Bay area between anchorage seaward from bathhouses and Kolosh Island; entire Kolosh Island to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide; 100 feet from each side of Trail to Redoubt Lake. Federal lands are excluded.



1 inch=1 Mile



— — — — — SMA/DRUA

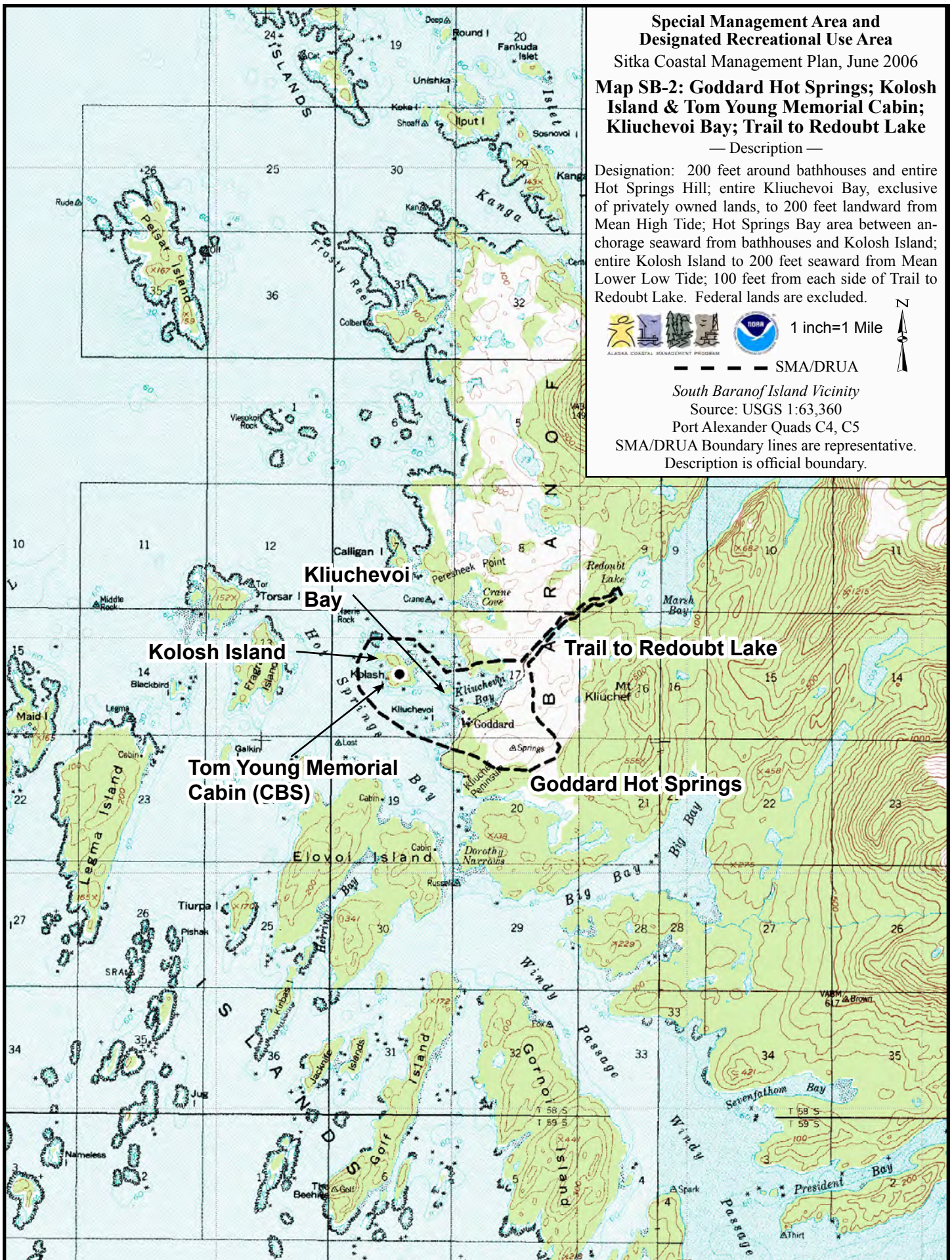
South Baranof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360

Port Alexander Quads C4, C5

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.



Kanga Bay Beach (Map SB-3)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

This 15 by 17 foot chalet-style cabin has a wood burning stove and sleeping loft, accessed by a staircase, and total sleeping space for up to six people. The cabin was built in 1998 by the Sitka Search and Rescue Team volunteers. The cabin is 12 miles south of Sitka on Baranof Island. The cabin is a 10-minute float plane ride or a 40-minute boat ride from Sitka. While the cabin location offers a safe protected boat anchorage, the area does occasionally experience high wind gusts from the southeast or from the Redoubt Lake area.

The cabin lies in a natural clearing surrounded by a dense spruce and hemlock forest. A gently sloping and pebble beach provides a walkway from the water to the cabin. The cabin contains one double plywood bunk, one single plywood bunk, a sleeping loft, table and benches, wood stove, cooking counter, and outhouse toilet.

The cabin faces southeast overlooking a peaceful cove. To the southeast are vistas of the snow-capped peaks overlooking Redoubt Bay. Fishing for sockeye and coho salmon is possible during August at Redoubt Lake, about 30 minutes away by boat. The popular Goddard Hot Springs is about 8 miles or a 20 minute boat ride to the south. Deer and brown bear frequent the area. Deer hunting is possible in season. A rental fee is charged.

Boundaries: Along contiguous beach to 200 feet on either side of adjacent upland cabin; from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

Map SB-3: Kanga Bay Beach

— Description —

Designation: Along contiguous beach to 200 feet on either side of adjacent upland cabin; from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide. Federal lands are excluded.

Adjacent Upland Recreational Resources: Kanga Bay Forest Service Cabin.



1 inch=1 Mile



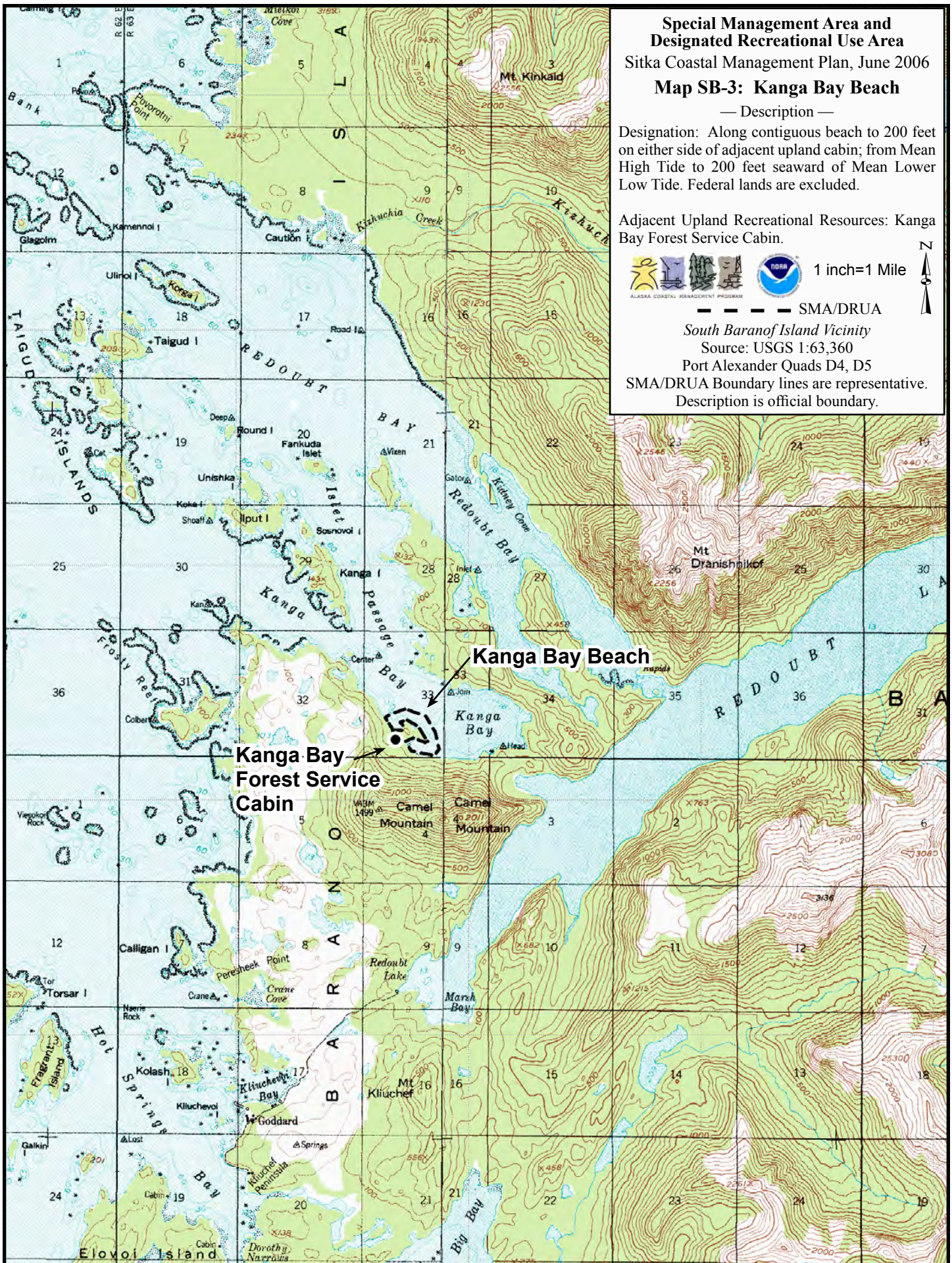
— — — — — SMA/DRUA

South Baranof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360

Port Alexander Quads D4, D5

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.
Description is official boundary.



Leesoffskaia Bay (Map SB-4)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Leesoffskaia Bay is probably the most intensely used, and certainly the most intensely revered, public use area anywhere near Sitka. There is significant year-round public use for recreation, subsistence, and commercial fishing uses of many kinds. There are very productive clam, crab and abalone harvest areas; and there are various good anchorages and excellent deer hunting in various locations. The area is used by juvenile salmon from Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association's fish hatchery to mature before venturing out in the ocean. There is excellent berry and mushroom picking; seabird and bald eagle, harbor seal, sea lion, and occasional humpback whale and otter viewing; and recreational opportunities such as kayaking, picnicking, water skiing, even meetings aboard vessels.

Hundreds of Sitkans recreate in Leesoffskaia Bay to picnic, sightsee, watch wildlife (including brown bear), harvest herring eggs and other subsistence and personal uses, and hunt in season. Letters opposing development in the bay have documented various marriages and other major family celebrations in the bay. There is good anchorage in several locations with very few underwater hazards, relatively shallow depth with a good holding bottom and protection from almost all winds, even in bad weather, although the various streams entering the south side of the bay and protected nature of the site from wind are perfect conditions for icing in the winter months. There is good hiking available in various stands of old-growth timber climbing into muskegs. There is also considerable commercial fishing in the area.

Sitka Tribe of Alaska, City and Borough of Sitka, Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee, and many individuals opposed any permit to develop mariculture operations in the area due to the potential for major use conflicts and supported this bay remaining open for remote recreation and personal use and subsistence purposes in the mid 1990s. The State subsequently withdrew its intent to permit a mariculture project in Leesoffskaia. It is unlikely any large commercial activity would be permitted in this area in the future due to the extreme importance of this area to Sitkans for traditional uses.

Boundaries: Entire inner bay and northwesterly passage from west entrances to head of bay; seaward from Mean High Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

Map SB-4: Leeseoffskaia Bay

— Description —

Designation: Entire inner bay and northwesterly
passage from west entrances to head of bay; seaward
from Mean High Tide. Federal lands are excluded.



1 inch=1 Mile



--- SMA/DRUA

South Baranof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360

Port Alexander Quads D4, D5, Sitka A4, A5
SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.



Pirate's Cove; Samsing Cove; Three Entrance Bay(Map SB-5)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Pirate's Cove, Samsing Cove, and Three Entrance Bay are all near Cape Burunof about six miles south of Sitka. They are all scenic and are very popular day-use areas for email boats as well as anchorage for numerous fishing vessels and receive especially intensive use in the summer. Three Entrance Bay, south of the Cape, has a sandy beach and an abundance of steamer clams and is widely used for picnicking, camping, and hunting.

Pirate's Cove is probably the most heavily used group picnic/camping in the entire Sitka area due to its broad sandy beach, timbered camping area, sheltered anchorage, and access by small boats from Sitka even in bad weather.

Samsing Cove, while less attractive for camping, is the site of the new Forest Service Cabin that replaces the former cabin, which was an extremely popular destination prior to its destruction by fire. Samsing Cove cabin is a 24 x 30 foot log cabin with an oil-burning stove and sleeping space for 10 or more persons. Samsing Cove lies 5.5 miles south of Sitka with a boat access time of 20 minutes.

The rustic log cabin lies nestled among trees on a short, gently rising slope. At low tides, a sandy-gravel beach is exposed providing beachcombing possibilities. Through the islands and trees to the north, the familiar mountain peaks above Sitka can be seen. With close proximity to Sitka, it is a popular recreational cabin for Sitka residents and organizations.

There is good anchorage in the Cove even for large vessels, and there are usually fishing boats anchored in Samsing Cove for the night. There is good access to muskeg and the foothills of the Pyramid Mountains for deer hunting, and there are occasionally bears in the area.

Boundaries: Entirety of Pirate's Cove, Samsing Cove and Three Entrance Bays seaward from Mean High Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006
**Map SB-5: Pirate's Cove;
Samsing Cove; Three Entrance Bay**

— Description —

Designation: Entirety of Pirate's Cove, Samsing Cove and Three Entrance Bays seaward from Mean High Tide. Federal lands are excluded.

Adjacent Upland Recreational Resources:
Samsing Cove Forest Service Cabin.



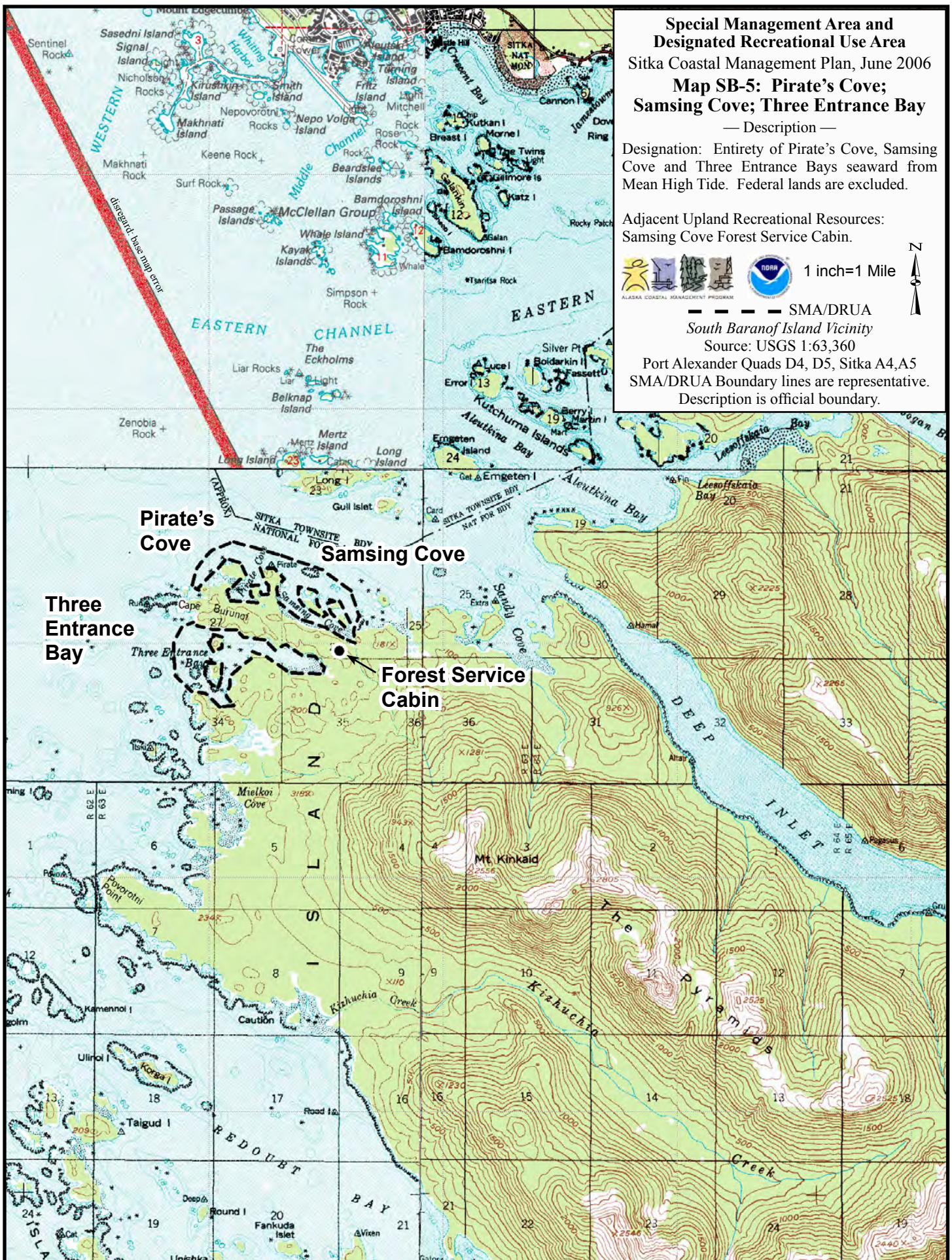
1 inch=1 Mile



— — — — — SMA/DRUA
South Baranof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360

Port Alexander Quads D4, D5, Sitka A4,A5
SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.
Description is official boundary.



*****Plotnikof and Davidof Lakes (Map SB-6)***

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

The Plotnikof Lake Cabin is a rustic style 12 x 14 foot PanAbode cabin with an oil-burning stove and sleeping space for 4 to 6 persons. It is located within the South Baranof Wilderness Area, on the north end of 4-mile long Plotnikof Lake (Elevation 275 feet) on the southcentral portion of Baranof Island, 45 miles southeast of Sitka and 4 miles east of Whale Bay. Access by floatplane is about 40 minutes from Sitka. Generally, this lake is ice free mid-June to mid-September. Poor weather conditions arise quickly and can delay arrivals and departures to the lake by air.

This cabin lies tucked away at the edge of an old-growth stand of large spruce and hemlock at the northern end of the narrow Plotnikof Lake. From the cabin, one has a significant view of steep granite slopes with abundant cascading waterfalls rising to snow-capped ridges. Access to the cabin from the lake is along a 100 foot narrow path through thickets of shoulder height shrubs and berry bushes.

Fishing is fair for trout in Plotnikof Lake and the inlet stream on the north shore. Steelhead runs occur mid-May to early June in the outlet stream on the south shore with coho salmon from late August through September.

Hunting for deer begins August 1 and is very good for hunters willing to walk some distance from the cabin. The 1.2 mile Davidof Lake Trail begins behind the cabin and leads to the southwest shore of Davidof Lake. This trail is not maintained and is difficult to locate.

The Davidof Lake Cabin is a 16 x 16 foot A-frame style cabin with a wood-burning stove and sleeping space for 8 to 10 persons. Davidof Lake is a small, higher elevation lake (650 feet) located on the southcentral portion of Baranof Island, east of Whale Bay and within the South Baranof Wilderness Area. It is approximately 40 air miles southeast of Sitka with air access time of about 35 minutes. Generally, this lake is ice free from about mid-June to mid-September. Poor weather conditions arise quickly and can delay flight arrivals and departures to the lake.

While the cabin faces west, it does not overlook the lake, but is situated about 80 feet inside the forest edge on the northern shore of the 1.2 mile Davidof Lake. Steep, forested mountains rise up to snowfields over 2,000 feet in elevation. In season, both blueberries and huckleberries abound in close proximity to the cabin. There are many great photography opportunities.

Fishing for coho salmon and Dolly Varden is possible mid-July to September 1, with rainbow trout fishing possible but slow. A small skiff is available. High mountain deer hunting is possible, August through approximately mid-September.

Boundaries: Entire Plotnikof and Davidof lakes, lakeshores and outlet streams to Ordinary High Water.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**

Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

Map SB-6: Plotnikof & Davidof Lakes

— Description —

Designation: Entire Plotnikof and Davidof lakes,
lakeshores and outlet streams to Ordinary High Water.
Federal lands are excluded.

Adjacent Upland Recreational Resources: Plotnikof
and Davidof Lakes Forest Service Cabins and Trails.



1 inch=1 Mile



--- SMA/DRUA

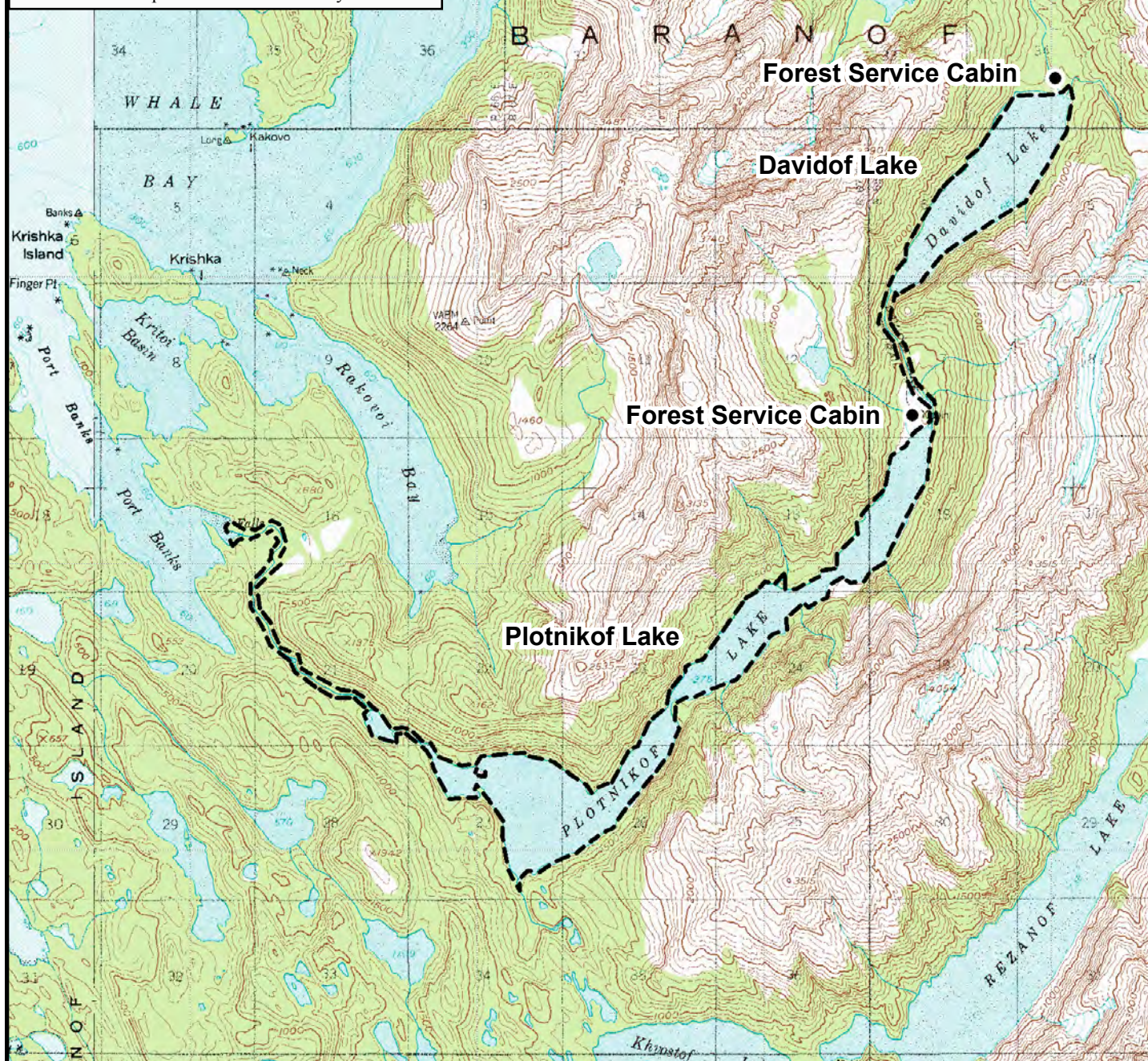
South Baranof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360

Port Alexander Quad C3

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.



*****Port Banks (Map SB-7)***

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Port Banks has good anchorage near the halibut fishing grounds at the entrance to Whale Bay. The topography around the bay is relatively flat, and there are several good camping areas. Near the head of the bay, the outlet stream from Plotnikof Lake forms a wide, scenic falls into saltwater along a meadow-like intertidal area. There is an excellent coho salmon run up the stream, and the salmon leaping up sections of the falls are very picturesque. There are also steelhead. The area is widely used for anchorage, fishing, camping, sightseeing, and hunting. There is an unmaintained trail along the stream up the valley. While there was once a good marked trail to Plotnikof Lake, bushwhacking would be required now due to slides and blowdowns.

Boundaries: Entire Bay from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide, from Finger Point to opposite headland to the south.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

Map SB-7: Port Banks

— Description —

Designation: Entire Bay from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide, from Finger Point to opposite headland to the south. Federal lands are excluded.



1 inch=1 Mile



--- SMA/DRUA

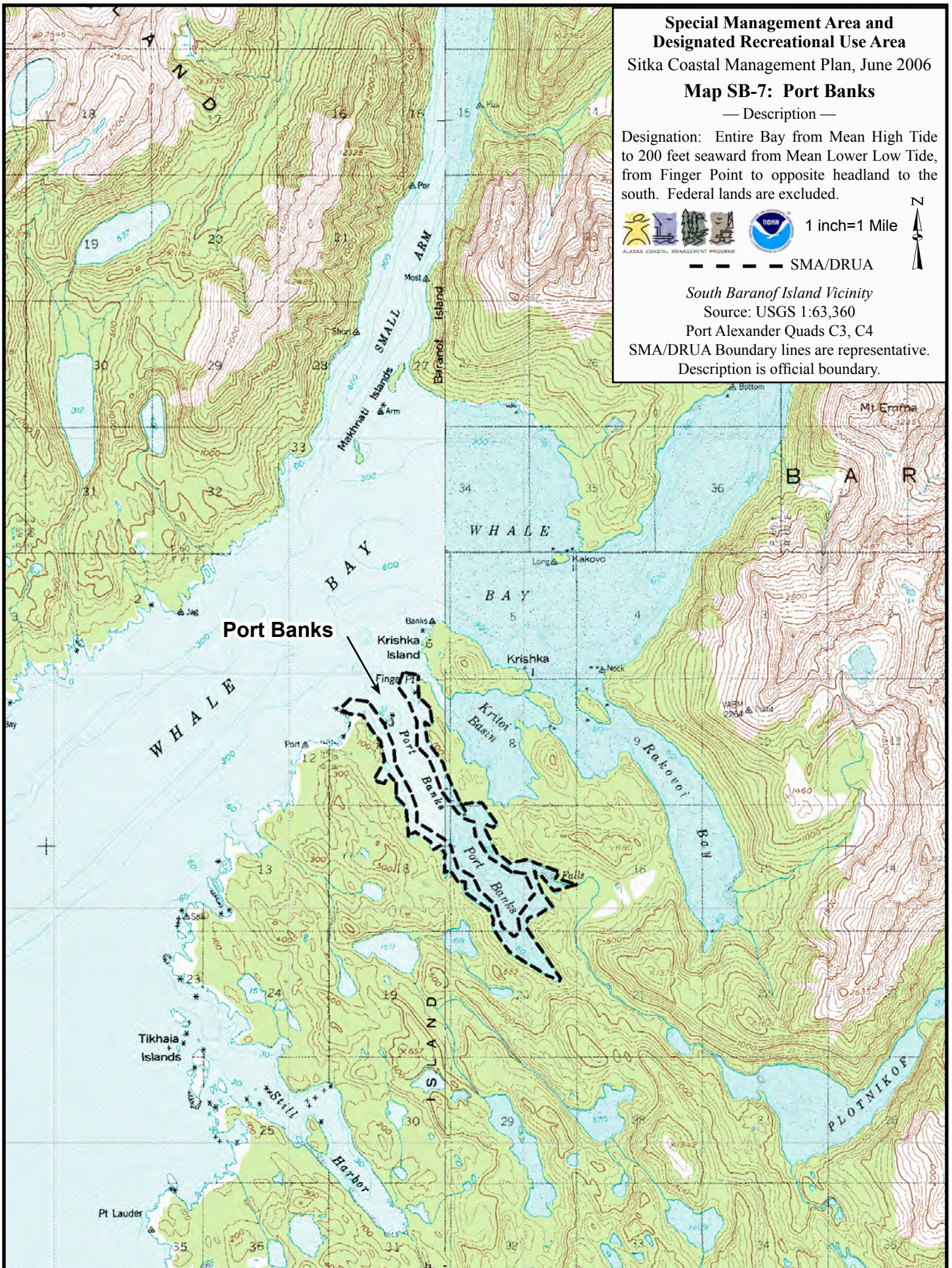
South Baranof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360

Port Alexander Quads C3, C4

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.



**** Red Bluff Bay; Falls Lake System and Sockeye Stream (Map SB-8)**

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Red Bluff Bay is a scenic bay to the north of the Falls Lake sockeye system and is the only place to safely anchor in the area. Its distinctive feature is its striking reddish bluffs at the entrance to the Bay. These distinctive red bluffs, of which this is the only known highly visible concentration in the Sitka Coastal District, is the result of chromite deposits caused by solidified magma from which the covering "crust" has been worn away. This chromite has a magnesium iron base which causes the red color. There is good anchorage in front of the old cannery, of which artifacts and equipment are still visible. There is shrimp in the Bay and good Dungeness crab fishing at the head of the Bay, where there is also a good Dolly Varden trout run. Mountain goats can be seen on the peaks to the north. The Bay receives heavy use by both recreation and commercial boaters. Many sailboats and tour vessels use the bay.

The Falls Lake System has a moderate sockeye run of 3,000 to 4,000 fish. For several years, there was an Alaska Department of Fish and Game weir to monitor the run, in conjunction with a lake fertilization program, as well as a fish pass in the stream. This is a very popular subsistence site for sockeye. There is also a coho run. Anchorage at the Falls Lake outlet is limited, and the closest foul weather anchorage is at the head of Red Bluff Bay.

Boundaries: Entire Falls Lake, lakeshore and outlet stream to Ordinary High Water; adjacent tidelands 200feet on either side of outlet stream from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Water; entire Red Bluff Bay from Mean High Tide to mouth of bay.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.2, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

**Map SB-8: Red Bluff Bay; Falls
Lake System & Sockeye Stream**

— Description —

Designation: Entire Falls Lake, lakeshore and outlet stream to Ordinary High Water; adjacent tidelands 200 feet on either side of outlet stream from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Water; entire Red Bluff Bay from Mean High Tide to mouth of bay. Federal lands are excluded.



1 inch=1 Mile



--- SMA/DRUA

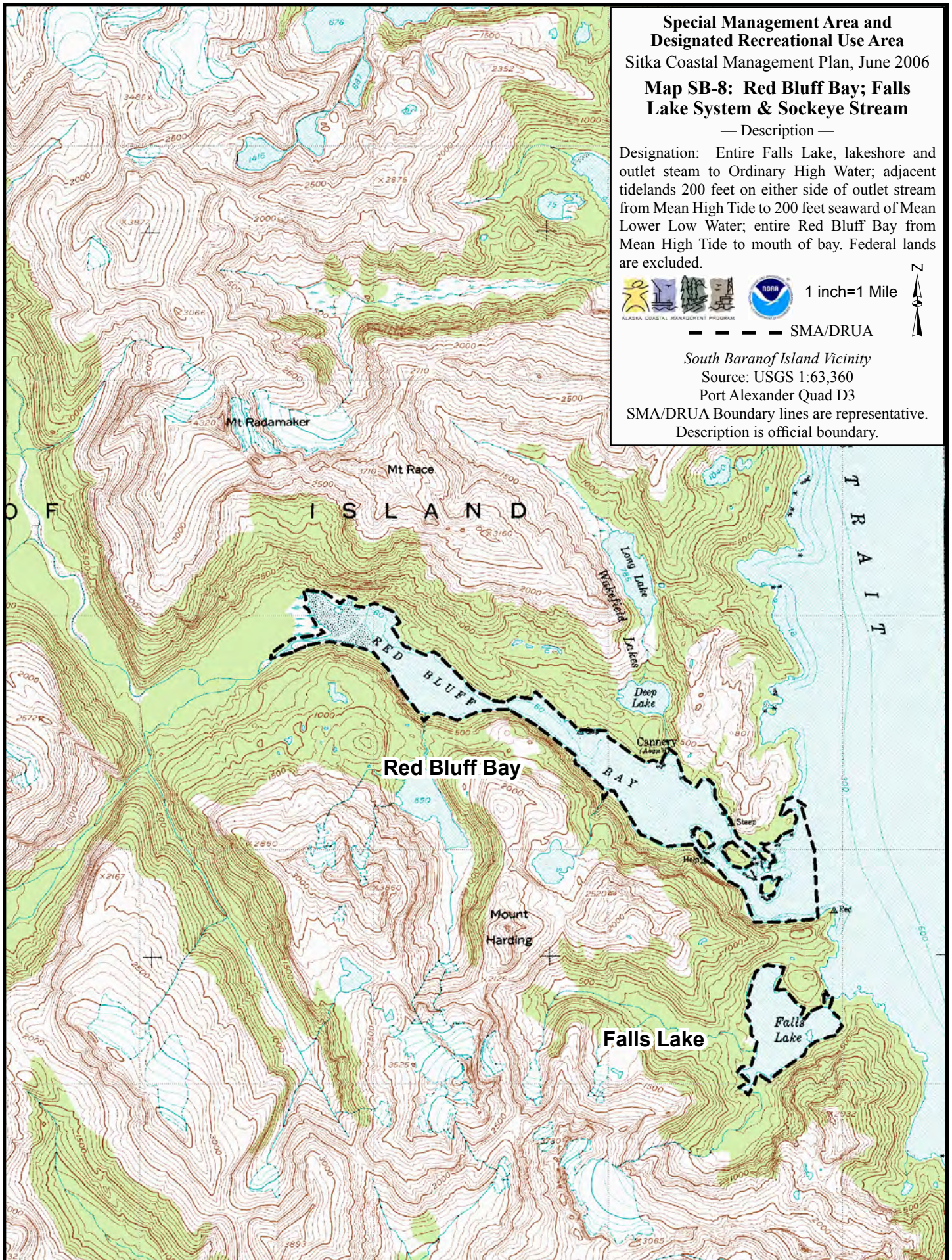
South Baranof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360

Port Alexander Quad D3

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.



Redfish Bay Lake System and Sockeye Stream (Map SB-9)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

The Redfish Bay sockeye run is one of the largest in the District. Records of escapement in the 1960s and 1970s varied between 20,000 and 60,000 fish. The run is lightly fished due to the difficulty of getting to the Bay, which is located on the southern outer coast of Baranof Island in an area of heavy seas and unprotected shores. The sockeye are large, and the run peaks in late July or early August. This is one of the more productive lake systems and is commercially fished.

Boundaries: Entire Tumakof Lake, lakeshore and outlet stream to Ordinary High Water; Redfish Bay tidelands 200 feet on either side of mouth of stream, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.2, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006
**Map SB-9: Redfish Bay Lake System
& Sockeye Stream**

— Description —

Designation: Entire Tumakof Lake, lakeshore and outlet stream to Ordinary High Water; Redfish Bay tidelands 200 feet on either side of mouth of stream, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide. Federal lands are excluded.



1 inch=1 Mile



--- SMA/DRUA

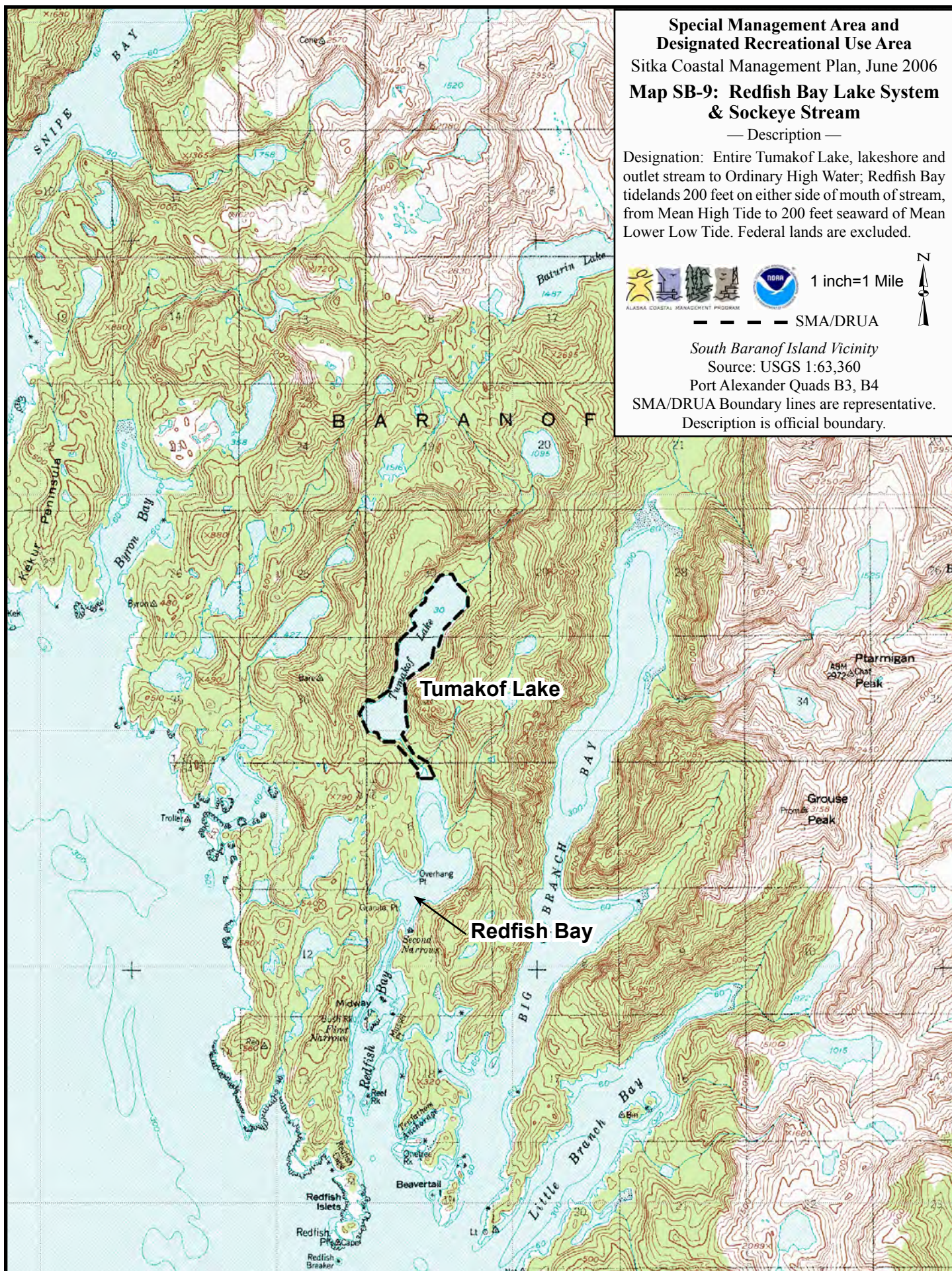
South Baranof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360

Port Alexander Quads B3, B4

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.



Redoubt Lake System and Sockeye Stream (Map SB-10)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Redoubt Lake is an 8-1/2 mile long and 1/2 mile wide lake that was once a salt water inlet, but was sealed off from the sea by slides and glacier action. Redoubt Lake Cabin is a 16 x 16 foot A-frame style cabin with a wood-burning stove and sleeping space for 4 to 5 persons. Near sea level, 9.5 miles long Redoubt Lake lies about 10 miles south of Sitka. Floatplane access from Sitka is 15 minutes. Access is also possible by boating to the head of Silver Bay and then hiking the approximately 6 mile Salmon Lake-Redoubt Lake Trail. A difficult access by a very small, lightweight skiff or kayak is also possible at the west end of the lake from Redoubt Bay (at the base of the falls) across a 100-foot portage. While the saltwater climate influences the lake area, occasional cold weather conditions of mid-winter can freeze the lake and delay air/boat arrivals and departures. Caution is necessary by planes maneuvering across the shallowly covered sandbar at the cabin approach.

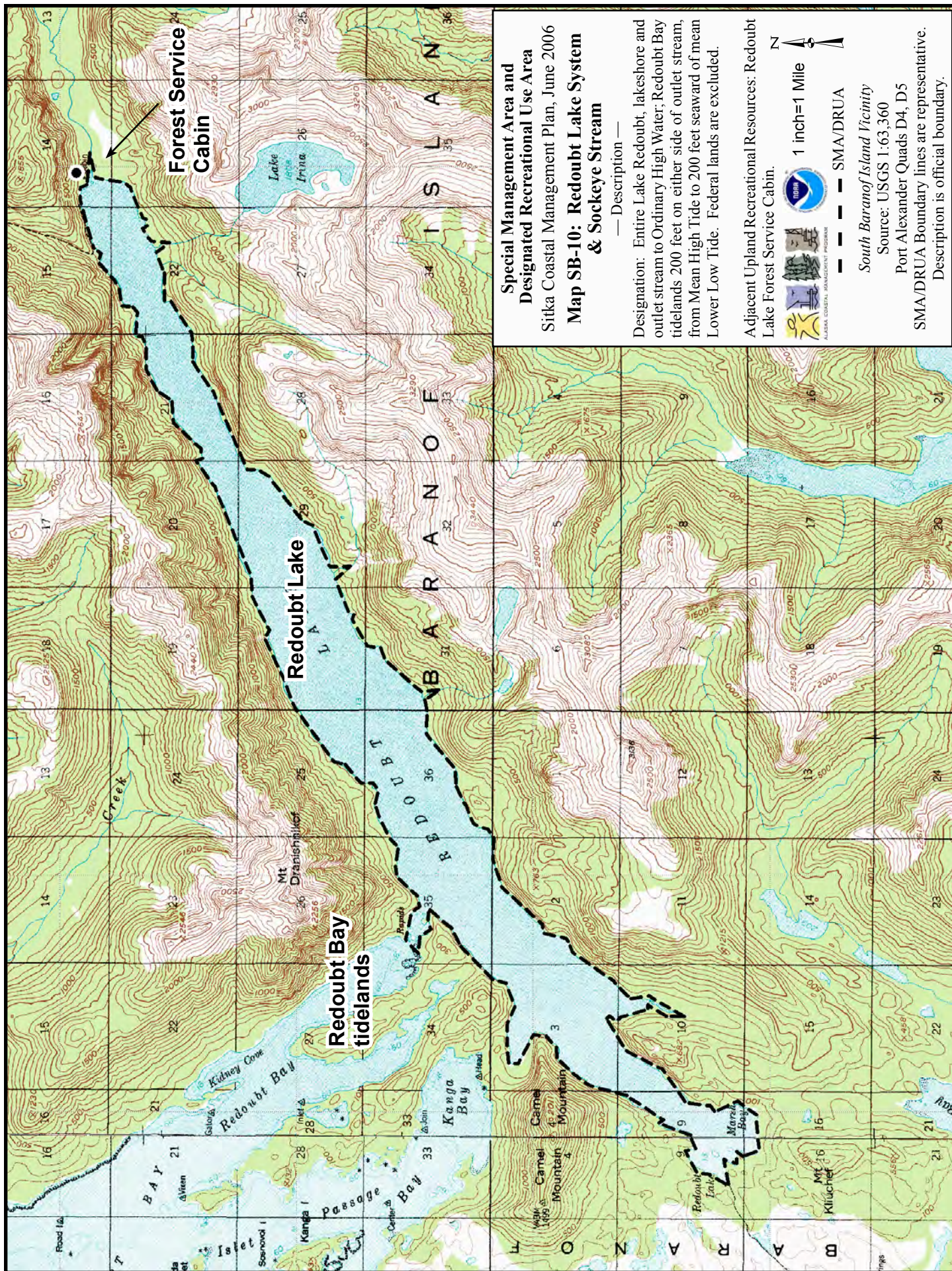
Snuggled away within a shading stand of spruce and hemlock at the east end of the lake, this cabin is a popular recreation area for Sitka. Forested mountains rise to near 3,500 feet to snowfield and dramatic granite cirques. Numerous waterfalls are visible the length of the lake. A small outboard motor is highly recommended for use with the skiff provided at this cabin. Due to its long length, Redoubt Lake can become quite windy and make rowing extremely difficult. The trailhead for the 6 mile Salmon Lake-Redoubt Lake Trail begins just beyond the woodshed.

Fishing is usually good for rainbow, cutthroat and Dolly Varden trout, especially where the silt bottom of the nearby inlet stream suddenly drops off at the head of the lake. Sockeye come into the lake mid-July to mid-August, and there is excellent coho salmon fishing from mid-July through September. Deer and brown bear are plentiful in the area.

The Redoubt sockeye salmon run has varied widely in recent years, ranging from 400 to 34,000 sockeye (a record in 1989). The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has maintained a weir to monitor the run. The lake is being fertilized by the Forest Service in cooperation with Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association and Department of Fish and Game, and it is planned to further build the sockeye run through incubation of fry. The Redoubt sockeye fishery is a major sport as well as subsistence fishery.

Boundaries: Entire Lake Redoubt, lakeshore and outlet stream to Ordinary High Water; Redoubt Bay tidelands 200 feet on either side of outlet stream, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.2, 14.4.



**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006
**Map SB-10: Redoubt Lake System
& Sockeye Stream**

— Description —

Designation: Entire Lake Redoubt, lakeshore and outlet stream to Ordinary High Water; Redoubt Bay tidelands 200 feet on either side of outlet stream, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of mean Lower Low Tide. Federal lands are excluded.

Adjacent Upland Recreational Resources: Redoubt Lake Forest Service Cabin.



1 inch=1 Mile

--- SMA/DRUA

South Baranof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360

Port Alexander Quads D4, D5

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.
Description is official boundary.

Salmon Lake; Silver Bay Tidelands (Map SB-11)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Salmon Lake Cabin is a 16 x 16 foot plywood cabin with a wood-burning stove and sleeping space for 4 to 8 persons. Salmon Lake lies about 8 miles southeast of Sitka. Floatplane access from Sitka is 15 minutes. Access is also possible by boating to the head of Silver Bay and then hiking to Salmon Lake-Redoubt Lake Trail a short way to the posted sign to the cabin. The sound of rushing water prevails at this streamside cabin. Thick vegetation surrounds the cabin with a few large spruce trees in the vicinity. Fishing is possible for cutthroat, steelhead,, coho, red salmon, Dolly Varden, pink salmon, and chum salmon. Deer and brown bear are plentiful in the area.

The approximately 6 mile Salmon Lake-Redoubt Lake National Forest System Trail begins at the head of Silver Bay, about 10 miles southeast of Sitka. It is accessible by boat or floatplane. There is fair-weather small boat anchorage at the head of Silver Bay. The trailhead is on the east side of the mouth of the Salmon Lake stream, which is the westernmost inlet stream at the head of Silver Bay.

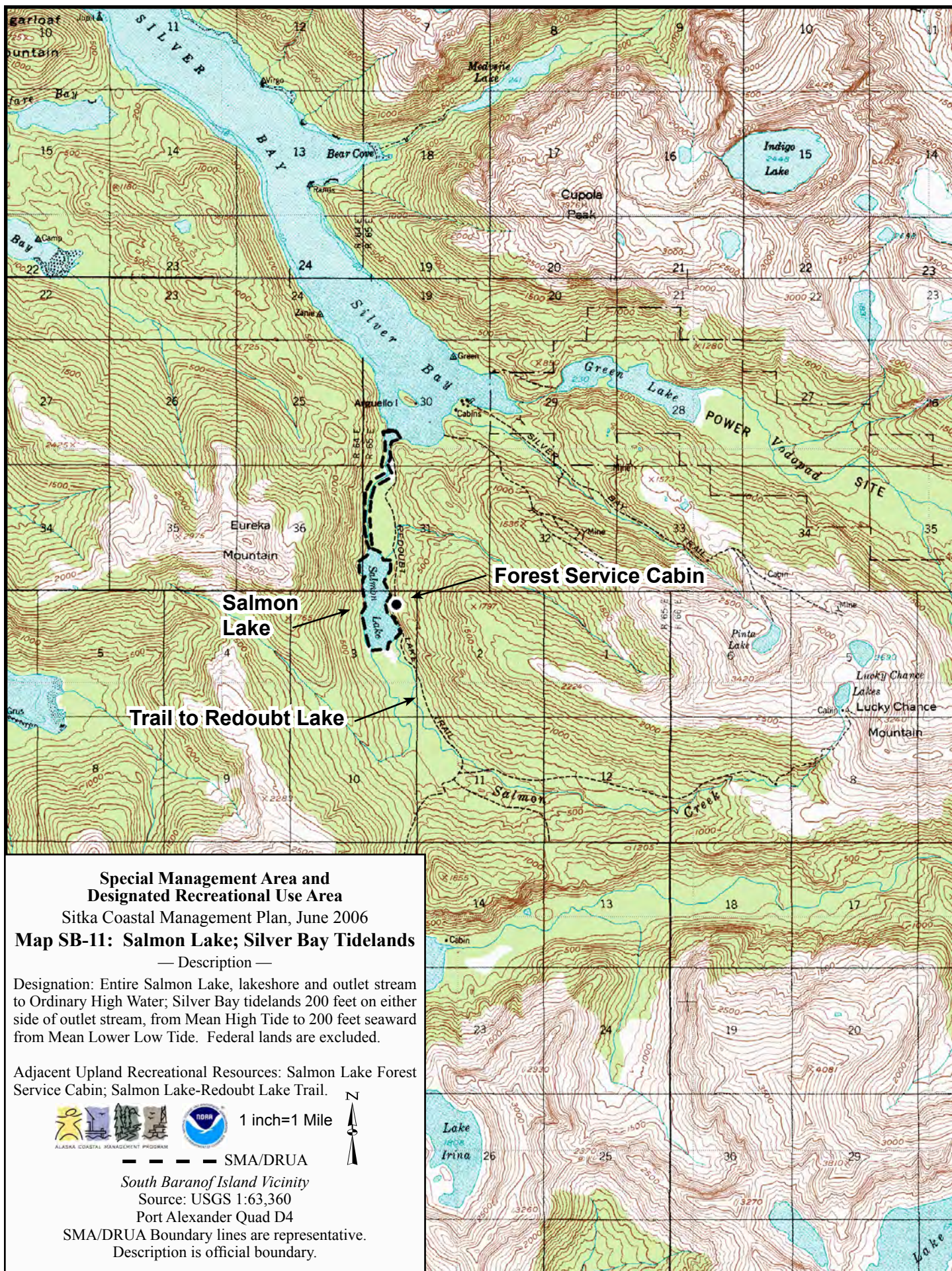
The trail goes through forests of Sitka spruce, hemlock and cedar for the first three miles. An estuary is on the west side of the trail for the first quarter mile or so. The trail hugs the east side of the valley for the first, mile then follows the eastern shore of Salmon Lake for another mile and continues south along the eastern side of the valley. It crosses several creeks and streams that must be forded. This first section of the trail is relatively flat and forested.

At about three miles the trail travels through a series of muskegs and meadows. There the unmaintained trail fork leading to the Lucky Chance Mountain mining areas. The mining areas access trail rating is "Moderate," and there is a steep climb at mile 4. The whole trail is wet and muddy. During the next half mile the main trail re-enters the forest and climbs 500 feet up a narrow saddle to the pass that separates the Salmon Lake drainage from the Redoubt Drainage. The tread is round in areas; planking is often slick; and there are muddy areas. The pass is about a mile from Redoubt Lake. Heading southwest down the saddle to the lakeshore, it turns abruptly to the east and follows about the shoreline about a half mile through a forested rocky area with lots of slides and some blowdown. The trail turns southeast onto a Sitka spruce flat for a short distance and ends at the Forest Service recreation cabin located near the lakeshore of Redoubt Lake north of the Redoubt Lake inlet stream.

There is good fishing in the Salmon Lake area. Salmon Lake has good steelhead fishing in the spring and cutthroat and rainbow trout. There are pink and chum salmon and a remnant sockeye run. It is a productive fish producer, with a large population of overwintering Dolly Varden trout — a major overwintering system. The Sitka Sportsmen Association has placed a boat in the lake for public use.

Boundaries: Entire Salmon Lake, lakeshore and outlet stream to Ordinary High Water; Silver Bay tidelands 200 feet on either side of outlet stream, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.2, 14.4.



Sashin and Round Lakes; Little Port Walter Tidelands (Map SB-12)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

The Sashin Lake National Forest System Trail is 1.7 miles in length and begins at the head of Little Port Walter, about 55 miles southeast of Sitka on the eastern side of Baranof Island. It is accessible by floatplane or boat. The trail starts at the dock in front of the fisheries research station, a large white brick house, and goes southwest along the western shore of Little Port Walter for a quarter mile, past various buildings connected with fish research. It then crosses to the south side of the creek over the fish weir and continues southwest up Sashin Creek through open forests and meadows. The trail crosses back to the north side of the creek after about a mile, and continues to Sashin Lake, ending at the old Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) shelter at the northeast end of the lake. About 1.3 miles from the trailhead is a trail branching to the north, which leads to Round Lake. Although the trail is rated "Moderate" and is easy to follow, it is wet and muddy, and both the trail and the shelter are in poor condition.

There is good rainbow trout fishing in Sashin Lake and Round Lake, which are excellent producers of rainbow trout transplanted from rearing steelhead in the stream in 1926. These rainbows have subsequently been transplanted with good success to many other lakes in the District. There is also a steelhead run in the stream, though the lake is blocked. National Marine Fisheries Service Research Station also has holding pens and has done extensive research on coho and king salmon. Sashin Lake is the water source for the research station, which has a pipeline into the lake.

Boundaries: Entire Sashin and Round Lakes, lakeshores, and Sashin Creek to Ordinary High Water; Little Port Walter tidelands 200 feet on either side of mouth of stream, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

**Map SB-12: Sashin & Round Lake;
Little Port Walter Tidelands**

— Description —

Designation: Entire Sashin and Round Lakes, lakeshores, and Sashin Creek to Ordinary High Water; Little Port Walter tidelands 200 feet on either side of mouth of stream, from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide. Federal lands are excluded.

Adjacent Upland Recreational Resources:
Sashin Lake Trail.



1 inch=1 Mile



— — — — — SMA/DRUA

South Baranof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360

Port Alexander Quads B2, B3, B4

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.



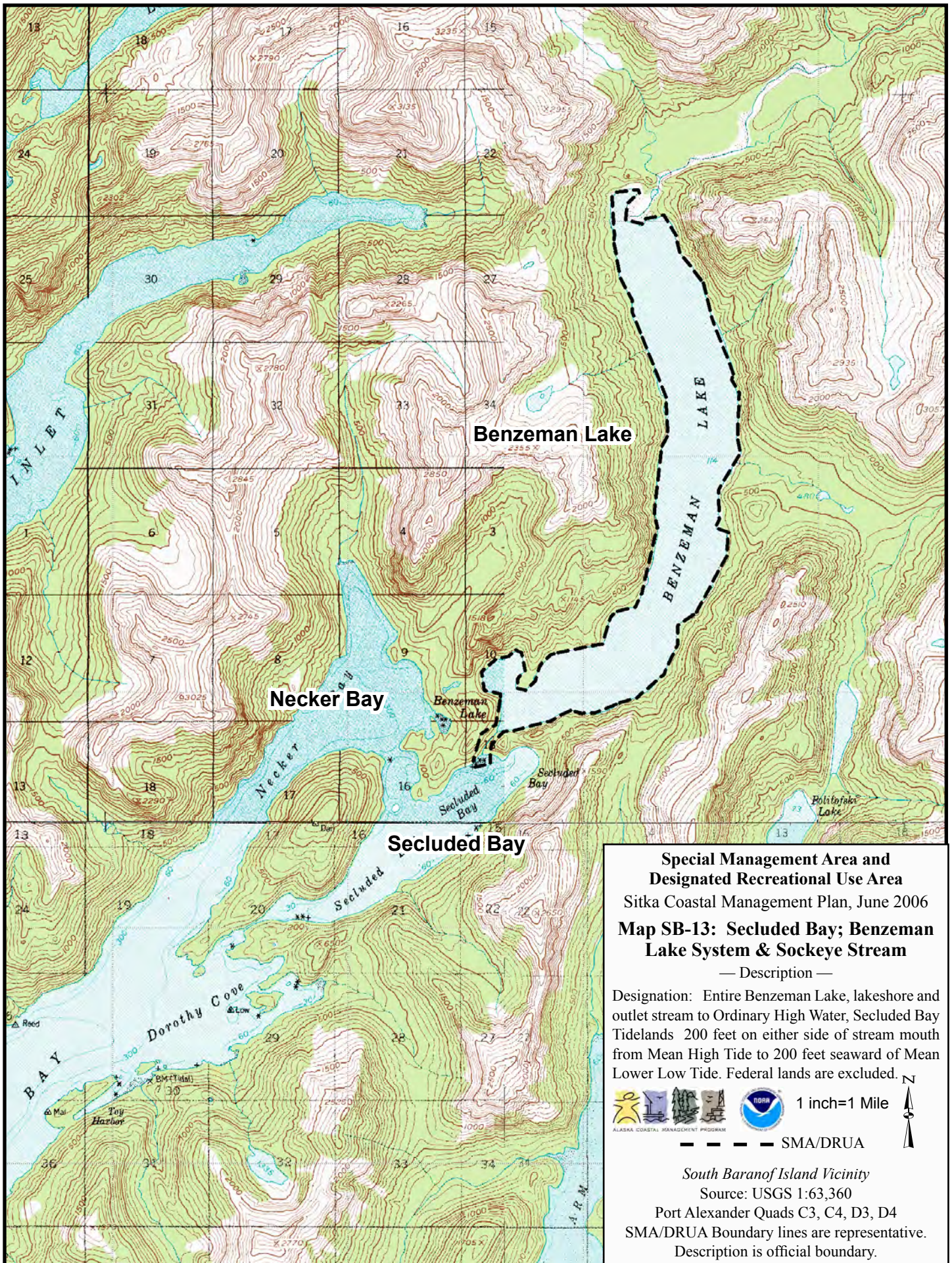
***** Secluded Bay /Benzeman Lake System and Sockeye Stream
(Map SB-13)***

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Secluded Bay is located south of Sitka at the head of Necker Bay. The stream runs only a short distance into Benzeman Lake. The Necker Bay sockeye run provides the major subsistence catch for the Sitka area. The fish are very small, averaging 2-1/2 pounds, but runs are productive, and return range from 20,000 to 40,000 fish. -The run peaks July 20-30. There is usually a commercial fishery here once per year. There is also excellent halibut fishing in Dorothy Cove, to the south.

Boundaries: Entire Benzeman Lake, lakeshore and outlet stream to Ordinary High Water, Secluded Bay Tidelands 200 feet on either side of stream mouth from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.2, 14.4.



**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006
**Map SB-13: Secluded Bay; Benzeman
Lake System & Sockeye Stream**

— Description —

Designation: Entire Benzeman Lake, lakeshore and outlet stream to Ordinary High Water, Secluded Bay Tidelands 200 feet on either side of stream mouth from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide. Federal lands are excluded.



1 inch=1 Mile

— — — — — SMA/DRUA

South Baranof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360

Port Alexander Quads C3, C4, D3, D4

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.

Sevenfathom Bay (Map SB-14)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Sevenfathom Bay Cabin is a 16 x 16 foot A-frame style cabin with a wood-burning stove and sleeping space for 8 to 10 persons. It is the only Forest Service Cabin on saltwater south of Sitka Sound. Sevenfathom Bay is located on Baranof Island, 22 miles southeast of Sitka. It lies north of West Crawfish Inlet just outside the South Baranof Wilderness Area. Boat access from Sitka is 1.5 hours. Surrounded by nearly flat terrain at the head of Sevenfathom Bay, this cabin offers many hiking opportunities even though there are no established trails. The City and Borough of Sitka provides hot tubs on a first-come, first-served basis at Goddard Hot Springs north of the cabin about 20 minutes by boat. Access to the South Baranof Wilderness Area is within 5 minutes by boat. Saltwater fishing and deer hunting are possible.

Boundaries: Sevenfathom Bay from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide to mouth at Windy Passage.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

Map SB-14: Sevenfathom Bay

— Description —

Designation: Sevenfathom Bay from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Lower Low Tide to mouth at Windy Passage. Federal lands are excluded.

Adjacent Upland Recreational Resources:
Sevenfathom Bay Forest Service Cabin.

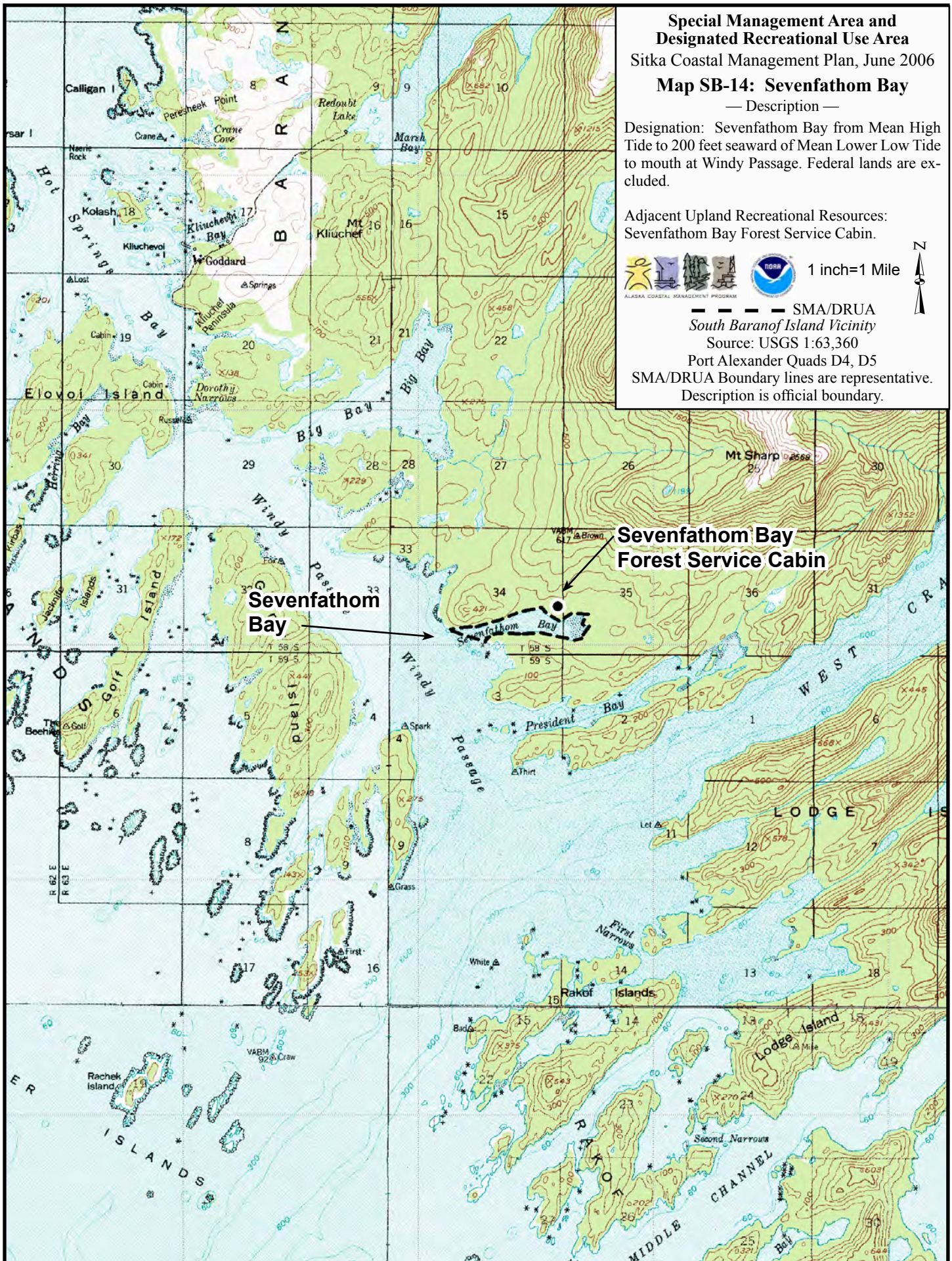


1 inch=1 Mile



--- SMA/DRUA
South Baranof Island Vicinity
Source: USGS 1:63,360

Port Alexander Quads D4, D5
SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.
Description is official boundary.



Taigud Islands (Map SB-15)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

The Taiguds are a very popular picnic and camping destination about 8 miles south of Sitka, due to their sandy beaches, old growth timber with numerous camping sites, tide pools and beachcombing on the outer coasts of the islands, and scenic location. They are sufficiently exposed and isolated from the mainland to have little likelihood of bear, and there are several reasonably good fair weather anchorages for small boats. They receive intensive use in the summer.

Boundaries: All Taiguds Islands from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

Special Management Area and Designated Recreational Use Area

Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006

Map SB-15: Taigud Islands

— Description —

Designation: All Taigud Islands from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide. Federal lands are excluded.



1 inch=1 Mile

----- SMA/DRUA

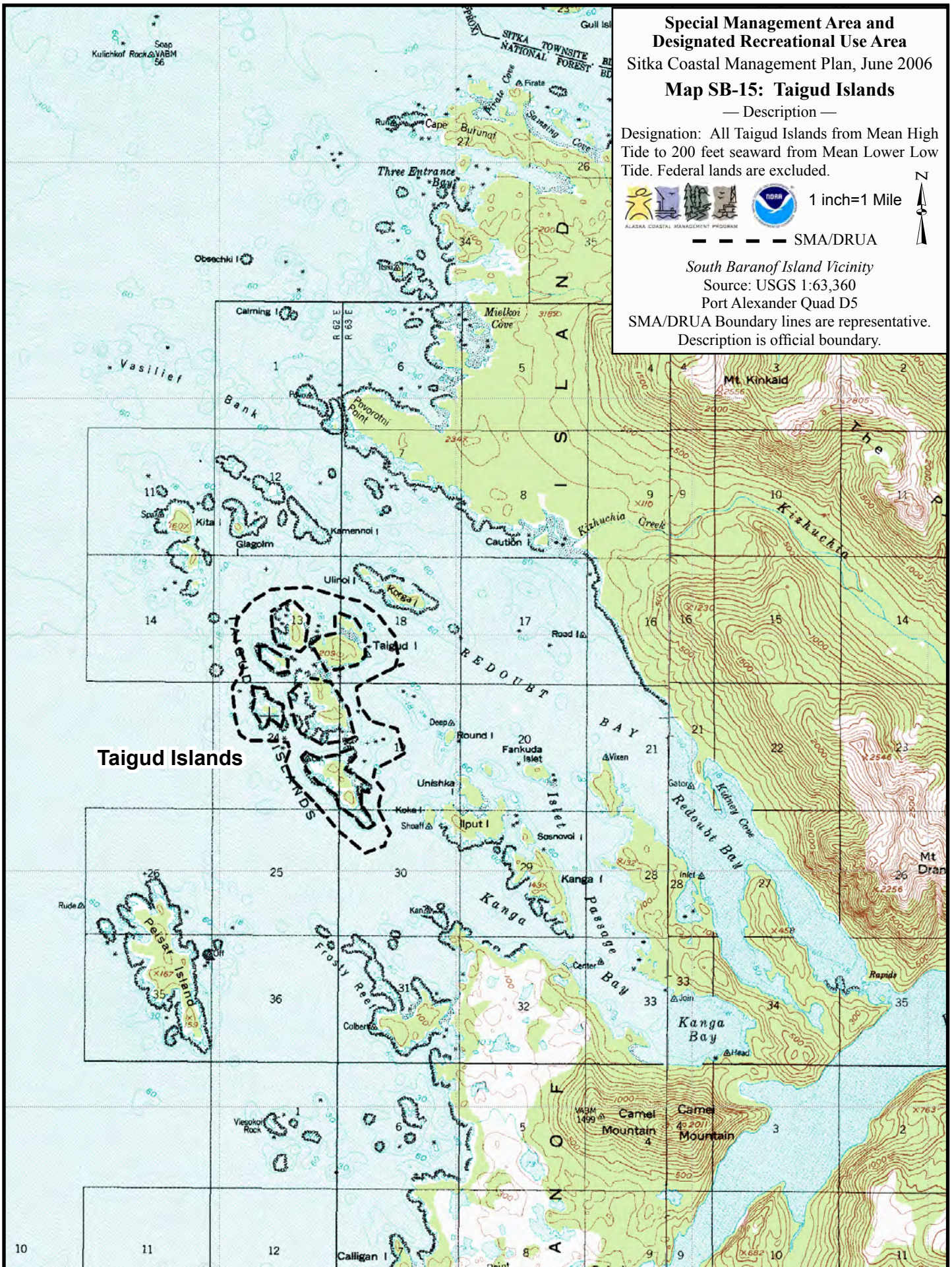
South Baranof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360

Port Alexander Quad D5

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.
Description is official boundary.

Taigud Islands



West Redoubt Bay Islets (Map SB-16)

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

These small, wave battered rocks are used by seals for haulout and pupping.

Boundaries: All West Redoubt Bay Islets from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide.

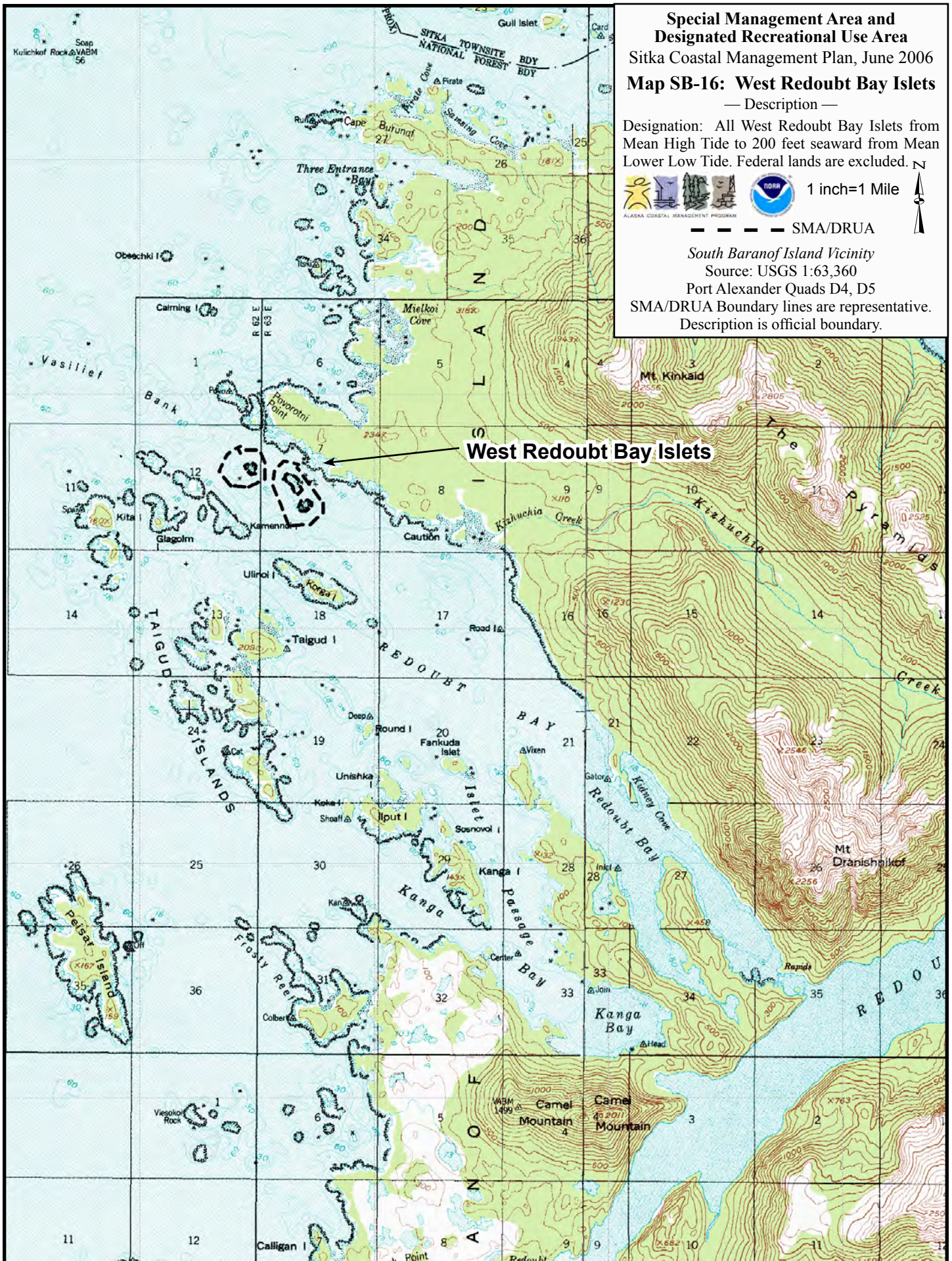
Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

Designation: All West Redoubt Bay Islets from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide. Federal lands are excluded. N



 1 inch=1 Mile

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.
Description is official boundary.



*****Yamani Cove and Islets; Slate Islets; Guibert Islets (Map SB-17)***

This Special Management Area is a designated recreational use area. Documentation of use, potential use and criterion is provided in sections D and H of this chapter.

Yamani Cove and Islets are located on the outer coast of Baranof Island in the South Baranof Wilderness at the north entrance to Necker Bay. They provide protected anchorage and camping opportunities adjacent to the open coast. It is a popular anchorage and recreational use area with numerous campsites both on the mainland and on the islets, and there are hiking, hunting and fishing opportunities in the area. The area is both rugged and scenic with accessible beaches.

The Yamani, Slate, and Guibert outer Islets are seal haulout areas.

Boundaries: Entire Yamani Cove seaward from Mean High Tide; all Yamani, Slate, and Guibert Islets from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide.

Applicable Enforceable Policies: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 8.1, 14.1, 14.4.

**Special Management Area and
Designated Recreational Use Area**
Sitka Coastal Management Plan, June 2006
**Map SB-17: Yamani Cove and Islets;
Slate Islets; Guibert Island**

— Description —

Designation: Entire Yamani Cove seaward from Mean High Tide; all Yamani, Slate, and Guibert Islets from Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward from Mean Lower Low Tide.. Federal lands are excluded.



1 inch=1 Mile



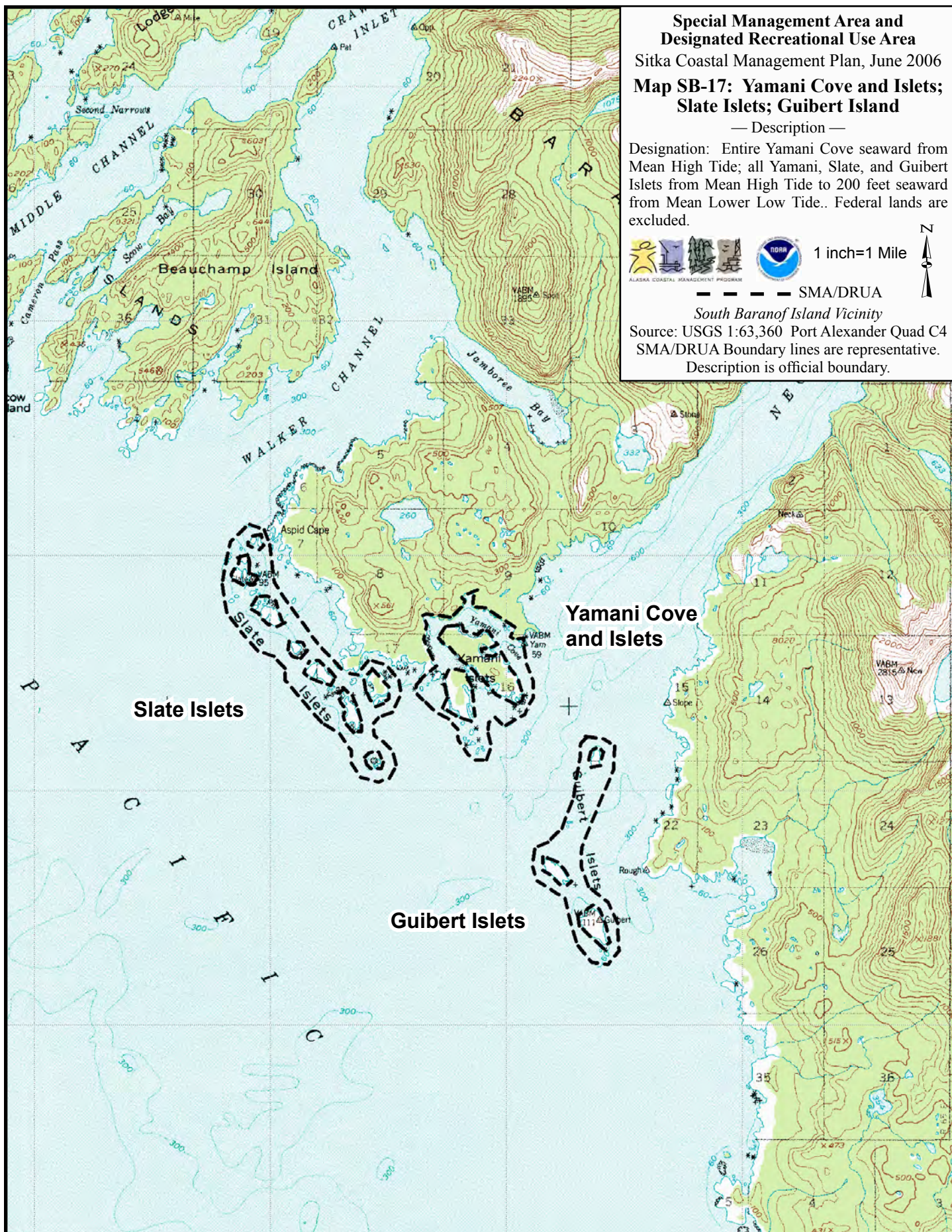
— — — — — SMA/DRUA

South Baranof Island Vicinity

Source: USGS 1:63,360 Port Alexander Quad C4

SMA/DRUA Boundary lines are representative.

Description is official boundary.



VI. IMPLEMENTATION

A. INTRODUCTION

The provisions of this chapter are applicable to the entire Sitka Coastal Management Program. This means that the enforceable policies contained in Chapter III, Issues, Goals, Objectives, Policies and Justification; Chapter IV: Swan Lake AMSA; and Chapter V: Special Management Areas are all implemented in accordance with this chapter.

1. ORGANIZATION

The City and Borough of Sitka is a unified home rule municipality. It is eligible to be a coastal district in accordance with state law at AS 46.40.210(2)(B). A federally recognized tribe is located in the community: the Sitka Tribe of Alaska.

The Coastal Coordinator for the City and Borough of Sitka, responsible for determining the consistency of proposed uses and activities with the Sitka Coastal Management Plan and for submitting comments to the state during consistency reviews, shall be the Government Relations Director or his/her designee:

City and Borough of Sitka
100 Lincoln Street
Sitka, Alaska 99835
(907) 747-1855

2. SUBJECT USES

Uses subject to a consistency review and district enforceable include the following:

- Land and water uses and activities requiring federal permits or authorizations
- Land and water uses and activities requiring state permits or authorizations
- Land and water uses and activities requiring local permits or authorizations
- Land and water uses and activities that address a matter addressed in district enforceable policies
- Land and water uses and activities not subject to the state standards that require a local permit or authorization

3. PROPER AND IMPROPER USES

Land or water uses or activities that are determined to be consistent with the Sitka Coastal Management Plan are considered to be proper uses. All other land or water uses or activities are considered to be improper. Designated areas included in this plan may also identify specific land or water uses and activities that will be allowed or not allowed.

4. DESIGNATED AREAS

Enforceable policies related to energy facilities and recreation only apply to projects within designated use areas identified in this plan.

5. IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORITIES

The implementation authorities for the Sitka Coastal Management Plan consist of the enforceable policies as stated within this document, as applied to specific land or water uses and activities within the coastal area. In addition to these implementation authorities, other local, state and federal authorities are used to meet the goals and objectives of coastal management:

Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan

With the exception of several small state and municipal selections and a few scattered private tracts, land ownership and control in the City and Borough of Sitka outside of the roaded area is exclusively federal and consists of the Tongass National Forest. This land is managed under the officially adopted Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan (TLMP). The City and Borough of Sitka monitors development proposals within TLMP and submits comments based on the use proposed and relevant data contained in TLMP. For example, a review of the Land Use Designations (LUD) is accomplished when determining the suitability for a specific land use.

State Law

Examples of state regulations that implement coastal management include the State Forest Practices Act, the statutes and regulations of the Department of Environmental Conservation, and other relevant items in the Alaska Administrative Code.

Local Title 29 Authorities

Title 29 of Alaska state law is titled “the Municipal Corporation Act.” It encompasses basic local government law, from taxation to planning and zoning. The Planning and Zoning section discusses the methods and authorities that local governments have at their disposal to implement proper planning. The Subdivision Ordinance and Zoning Ordinance are the two most common methods and authorities used.

Sitka’s Subdivision Ordinance (Title 21, Code of the City and Borough of Sitka) and local Zoning Ordinance (Title 22, Code of the City and Borough of Sitka) have been modified since Sitka first adopted coastal management in 1981. One reason for these changes was to improve their use as a coastal management implementation method. For example, the Subdivision Ordinance was revised to add a requirement for the dedication of a no-development easement along either side of a creek or stream, with provision for wider easements if the stream is anadromous.

The Zoning Ordinance was revised in June, 1986 to create a new zoning district, “Waterfront,” to clarify proper water-related and water-dependent land uses. Within the parameters of the Zoning Ordinance, tidelands and submerged lands are subject to all regulations of the Zoning District immediately adjacent to the tidelands or submerged areas. Since the tidelands carry the same zoning as adjacent uplands, tideland uses must therefore be consistent with the adjacent uplands uses (Sitka Zoning Ordinance 22.12.050.F).

Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan of the City and Borough of Sitka was first adopted in 1976 and most recently amended in 1999. This document guides the growth and development of the community.

B. CMP PARTICIPANTS' DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. ASSEMBLY AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Local ACMP decisions and actions are the responsibility of the Assembly. The Assembly has delegated ACMP implementation duties to the Coastal Management Coordinator, a duty that is one of the functions of the Government Relations Director. The Government Relations Director is authorized to make routine decisions and to participate in consistency review and other daily implementation tasks.

The Government Relations Director consults with the Assembly and Planning Commission regarding large or controversial projects to implement the Coastal Management Plan. In addition, the Assembly:

- Monitors and assesses consistency determinations.
- Reviews the CMP and pursue changes if needed.
- Submits the Sitka CMP to the State for reapproval every ten years. The submittal includes an evaluation of the plan effectiveness and implementation, a presentation of any new issues, and a recommendation for resolving any problems that have arisen.

2. COASTAL COORDINATOR

As the Coastal Coordinator, the Government Relations Director has day to day responsibilities for the administration of the Sitka CMP. He or she is required to evaluate state and federal permit application notifications and local applications for consistency determinations. He or she is also required to accurately assess the effect of applicable policies of the Sitka CMP on the application. The Coastal Coordinator must manage project information to ensure that it reaches all affected persons and organizations. The Coastal Coordinator facilitates and receives public input, and acts as an information resource concerning the Sitka CMP. He or she must be able to draft effective, concise and comprehensive consistency determinations and recommendations and to produce evidence in support of the conclusions reached. The Coastal Coordinator represents the City and Borough of Sitka at meetings, conferences, and in ongoing interactions with applicants, the general public and state and federal agency staff regarding the Sitka CMP.

C. GENERAL CONSISTENCY REVIEW INFORMATION

Because the State of Alaska has adopted the Sitka CMP as an amendment to the ACMP, the City and Borough of Sitka is one of several reviewers that concurs or objects to an applicant's consistency certification to the coordinating agency during consistency review. Based on these comments and on the policies and procedures of the ACMP, the coordinating agency issues a consistency determination.

1. TWO TYPES OF CONSISTENCY REVIEWS

The enforceable policies in this plan form the basis for a determination of consistency with the Sitka CMP. There are two types of reviews: state-coordinated consistency reviews and locally-coordinated consistency reviews. When a project is proposed, State ACMP project reviewers determine which authorizations are needed. If the project is a federal activity, or needs state or federal authorization, the State of Alaska reviews the project for consistency with the ACMP. The City and Borough of Sitka participates in the state-coordinated review (see **Section D**). If only local authorization is required (but not state or federal authorization), then the City and Borough of Sitka itself reviews the project for consistency with the ACMP, which includes both state standards and local enforceable policies (see **Section E**).

2. DETERMINATION OF CONSISTENCY IN CONNECTION WITH OTHER PERMITS AND APPROVALS

In addition to consistency, an applicant is required to obtain all other necessary permits and approvals required in connection with a proposed project. A determination of consistency does not guarantee or presume approval of any other federal, state, or local permit.

ABC List

The ABC List is a classification system of state and federal approvals that can streamline the consistency review portion of the state permitting process for a proposed project. The List is a compilation of state and federal authorization reviews found categorically consistent with the ACMP, state and federal consistency reviews, and authorizations that are subject to further consistency review by the state. The intent of the ABC List (specifically the “A” and “B” portions of the List) is to reduce the amount of time reviewers must spend on reviewing routine individual projects, allowing them to concentrate on more complex projects that require more involved ACMP consistency review. The ABC List actually breaks down into three lists:

- The “A” List represents categorically consistent determinations – approvals of activities requiring a resource agency authorization, when such activities have been determined to have minimal impact on coastal uses or resources.
- The “B” List has been broken into two sections. Section I of the “B” List represents generally consistent determinations – approvals for routine activities that require a resource agency authorization, when such activities can be made consistent with the ACMP through the application of standard measures. Section II of the “B” List includes nationwide permits and general permits that have been found to be consistent with the ACMP.
- The “C” List represents those permits that are subject to an individual consistency review.

Projects do not always fit neatly into just one of the three lists (the “A,” “B,” or “C” List). Some projects need authorizations that fall under more than one list. For these projects, OPMP will determine how much review the project requires.

3. FEDERAL AUTHORITY AND CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION

In accordance with federal law, Sitka's coastal zone excludes all federal lands and waters within its boundaries. Federal lands and waters are those lands and waters managed, owned, or held in trust by the federal government.

However, the federal government is not exempt from the ACMP or the Sitka CMP. Federal law requires "federal agencies, whenever legally permissible, to consider State management programs as supplemental requirements to be adhered to in addition to existing agency mandates." (15 CFR 930.32(a)). The federal government meets this requirement in several ways, depending upon the type of project or activity being considered.

First, federally licensed or permitted activities affecting the coastal zone must be **consistent** with the ACMP, including the Sitka CMP. (15 CFR 930.50)

Second, federal license and permit activities described in detail in Outer Continental Shelf plans and affecting the coastal zone must be **consistent** with the ACMP including the Sitka CMP. (15 CFR 930.70).

And finally, all **federally conducted or supported activities**, including **development projects** directly affecting the coastal zone, must be **consistent to the maximum extent practicable** with the ACMP, including the Sitka CMP. Federal activities are "any functions performed by or on behalf of a federal agency in the exercise of its statutory responsibilities." This term does not include the issuance of a federal license or permit. Federal development projects are those federal activities "involving the construction, modification, or removal of public works, facilities, or other structures, and the acquisition, utilization, or disposal of land or water resources." (15 CFR 931.31) The phrase "consistent to the maximum extent practicable" means that such activities and projects must be "fully consistent with such programs unless compliance is prohibited based upon the requirements of existing law applicable to the federal agency's operations." (15 CFR 930.32(a)).

D. PARTICIPATION IN STATE-COORDINATED CONSISTENCY REVIEW

1. PROCEDURE

The point of contact for state and federal consistency reviews involving the Sitka CMP is the Office of Project Management and Permitting (OPMP). The OPMP Central Office address is:

Central Office
302 Gold Street, Ste. 202
Juneau, AK 99801-0030
(907)-465-3562/ Fax#: (907)-465-3075

The state consistency review process is in state regulations at 11 AAC 110. The City and Borough of Sitka participates in that process as an affected coastal district. A brief discussion of Sitka's role in the state consistency review process is described in this section. However, applicants should obtain current information on the state consistency review process from OPMP.

Sitka strongly recommends that applicants who seek state or federal permits for a major project in the coastal zone request a pre-application meeting prior to submitting such an application. Sitka seeks to work with applicants to initiate early communication and facilitate an informed consistency review. Upon notification from the coordinating agency of a pending consistency review, the Sitka Coastal Coordinator will determine whether the project information is adequate to allow Sitka to concur or object to an applicant's consistency certification. If more information is required, Sitka will notify the coordinating agency and identify the additional information required. If requested, Sitka will participate in determining scope of review of a proposed project, based on Sitka CMP enforceable policies.

During the period allowed to review and consider the proposed use, Sitka will prepare written comments on the applicant's consistency certification. In order to be considered by the coordinating agency, Sitka's comments must be in writing and must:

- state that Sitka concurs with the applicant's consistency certification and explain why, or
- identify that Sitka objects to the applicant's consistency certification.
- If Sitka objects, it must:
- identify and explain why the proposed project is inconsistent with specific enforceable policies, and
- identify any alternative measure that, if adopted by the applicant, would achieve consistency.

If Sitka proposes alternative measures, it must explain how the alternative measure would achieve consistency with the specific enforceable policies in question.

In preparing a consistency review comment, Sitka may also comment on consistency with state standards. However, due deference may not apply.

2. TIMEFRAME FOR CONSISTENCY REVIEWS

There are two types of review periods for determining consistency: 30-day reviews or 50-day reviews. The type of permit required dictates whether it receives a 30 or 50-day review. A summary of the timeline for major steps under the 30- and 50-day consistency review process is presented in the table below.

TABLE 4: MAJOR PROCEDURES UNDER THE 30-DAY AND 50-DAY CONSISTENCY REVIEW SCHEDULES		
Procedure	Schedule (by day)	
	30-Day	50-Day
Pre-review assistance upon request.	-	-
Coordinating Agency provides public notice. (Day 1 starts on the day after the packet is determined to be complete.) 11 AAC 110.235(a)	1	1
Coordinating agency distributes notice that the review and comment period has started. The packet and a review schedule are distributed to the applicant, review participants, and any other interested party requesting project information. 11 AAC 110.235(d)	3	3
Review period. 11 AAC 110.245	1-17	1-30
Last day to request additional information necessary to concur with or object to an applicant's consistency certification. (The clock may be stopped to allow time for the applicant to provide additional information. Once requested information is provided and determined to be adequate, the clock will restart.) 11 AAC 110.240(a)	13	25
Last day for public hearing request.* 11 AAC 110.520(a)(1)(A) & (B)	17	30
Deadline for consistency comments to coordinating agency. 11 AAC 110.245	17	30
Coordinating agency distributes a proposed consistency determination to the review participants, the applicant and any other person who submitted timely ACMP comments. 11 AAC 110.255(e)	24	44
Last day for written statement requesting elevation to commissioner. 11 AAC 110.600	29	49
Issuance of the final consistency determination.** 11 AAC 110.265(c)	30	50
Consistency review must be completed after receipt of application, or the activity is presumed to be consistent.*** 11 AAC 110.265	90	90
Deadline for issuance of commissioner level consistency determination or response.**** 11 AAC 110.600(d)(2)	75	95
Source: Office of Project Management and Permitting, 2005		

TABLE NOTES:

*The coordinating agency must decide within seven days of receiving a request whether to hold hearing. If so, agency must provide 15-30 days of notice and a summary of hearing five days after. Parties also have the seven days after receipt of summary to provide additional comments.

**Agency permit decisions to be issued five days after consistency determination is received unless there are other statutory or other regulatory requirements.

***Exceptions include disposal of state interest in state land or resources, elevations, inadequate response for request for additional information, and applicant's request.

3. DUE DEFERENCE

The City and Borough of Sitka and resource agencies are provided deference in interpretation of policies and standards in their area of expertise or area of responsibility. Sitka will be provided deference in interpretation of its policies, for which it is clearly the expert.

Due deference means that if the coordinating agency rejects Sitka's comments, or any alternative measures that Sitka might seek to have imposed on the application in connection with a consistency determination, the coordinating agency must provide a brief written explanation stating the reasons for rejecting or modifying the alternative measure. *Note: this requirement only applies when the coordinating agency disagrees with Sitka on issues involving the interpretation and application of the Sitka CMP.*

E. COORDINATION OF LOCAL CONSISTENCY REVIEW

1. USES SUBJECT TO LOCAL CONSISTENCY REVIEW

If a use proposed in Sitka's coastal zone does not require federal or state authorization, but does require a permit or approval under the City and Borough of Sitka zoning ordinance, Sitka must render a determination of consistency before approving that use when appropriate.

2. APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND TIME LINE

There is no separate application for a local consistency determination under the Sitka CMP. Rather, the applicant desiring to undertake a subject use applies to the City and Borough of Sitka for the required land use permit or approval. When an application involves land within Sitka's coastal zone, the land use permit application usually provides the City and Borough of Sitka with the information required to make a CMP consistency determination. If the information provided by the applicant is incomplete or insufficient to allow a local consistency determination, the City and Borough of Sitka will ask the applicant for the missing or required information, in accordance with local authorization procedures.

The City and Borough of Sitka will issue its consistency determination in conjunction with the underlying zoning permit or approval. The underlying permit or approval process will establish the time line for a local consistency determination.

F. ELEVATION PROCESS / APPEALS

1. ELEVATION OF STATE CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION

Elevations of a consistency determination issued by a coordinating agency follow the procedures established under state statutes and regulations.

2. APPEAL OF LOCAL CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION

The applicant, or any aggrieved person, may appeal a local consistency determination to the Planning Commission or Assembly, in accordance with the procedures established for the appeal of the underlying zoning permit or approval, in the Sitka zoning ordinance. Subsequent appeals may be made to the Superior Court in accordance with the procedures established in the Sitka zoning ordinance.

G. PLANNING FOR MAJOR PROJECTS

Certain types of activities can significantly impact coastal resources and create major changes within Sitka's coastal zone. Major project planning establishes the following objectives:

- Sitka CMP policies should be considered as early as possible in planning for proposed major uses.

- Problems and potential consistency conflicts should be addressed and resolved prior to the application stage.
- Prior resolution of differences should speed the issuance of subsequent permits or approvals.

H. MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT

The responsibility for enforcing conditions carried on state and federal permits rests with the permitting agency. If a subject use requires a zoning permit or approval from the City and Borough of Sitka, Sitka will carry on its zoning permit all conditions placed on the subject use in the consistency determination.

The Sitka Coastal Coordinator will rely on community input in monitoring implementation of conditions. Individuals may report suspected violations to both the Sitka Coastal Coordinator and, if applicable, the state agency involved. The Sitka Coastal Coordinator will investigate the report and follow up with any appropriate action to ensure enforcement. The Sitka Coastal Coordinator will elicit state and federal agency support, as appropriate, in monitoring and enforcement and provide responsible agencies with copies of local reports on noncompliance. This will include adherence to permit conditions, cooperative plans and the policies of the Sitka CMP.

I. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The Coastal Coordinator provides information and makes information available to decision-making bodies and residents of Sitka, helping them to use coastal management as a way to identify areas appropriate for development, keep coastal resources healthy, and affect state and federal decision-making. The Sitka Coastal Coordinator also wants to ensure that local knowledge and public needs are heard and considered when local coastal resources and way of life might be affected by a development proposal. The Sitka Coastal Coordinator:

- Receives general ACMP publications from OPMP and makes sure these are available to local residents.
- Helps applicants fill out the coastal project questionnaire (CPQ) and educates them about the ACMP and Sitka CMP throughout the process.
- Encourages input from residents during project reviews and about general coastal issues.
- Talks to legislators about how the ACMP benefits the people, local coastal resources, and the local economy.
- Upon request, provides a presentation on the local coastal management plan and the ACMP to community organizations.
- Participates in state, federal, and tribal natural resource planning efforts.

