LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

BOATER’S BRIEFING

CAMPING

IN AN EMERGENCY CONTACT:
• Call 911
• PARKS CANADA DISPATCH – call 1-877-852-3100
• COAST GUARD – Marine VHF Radio – Channel 16
• RESCUE COORDINATION CENTRE – call 1-800-567-5111 cell *311
Contact Parks Canada for more information or to share comments, concerns or suggestions:
250-726-3500 or pacrim.info@pc.gc.ca

All vessels are required to carry safety equipment in accordance with Transport Canada Vessel Regulations.

Safety at Anchor
• Predominantly sandy bottom. Brisk westerly winds prevail.
• Use your anchor light at night.
Safety While Travelling
• 5,000 kayakers paddle here each summer. Kayakers are not visible on radar. Be alert!
• Reduce speed when in narrow passages, near paddlers or if vessels are anchored.
Low Impact at Anchor
• Keep bilges clean; don’t pump oily water overboard.
• Use bilge sorbents in place of detergents.
• Store grey-water and human waste; no dumping or pumping.
• Use environmentally safe cleaners like baking soda, vinegar, olive oil or hydrogen peroxide.
• Carefully manage fuel; even small spills are toxic to marine life.
• Avoid use of generators, compressors and sound systems.
Low Impact Travelling
• No dumping only pumping. Don’t litter.
• Reduce your vessel speed and wake in respect for wildlife, shorelines and other users.

The islands contain many sites of spiritual and cultural significance for the Toquaht, Tseshaht and Hupacasath First Nations. Disturbing, destroying or removing natural and cultural artifacts such as shells, plants and bones is strictly prohibited.

To visit the Tseshaht First Nation reserves on Nettie and Effingham Islands, you are required to have a valid letter of permission from Parks Canada.

Entering sea or land caves and the collection of natural and cultural heritage objects requires prior written permission from Parks Canada.

Domestic animals are not permitted ashore in the Broken Group Islands; exercise pets outside the park boundary.

Bring all drinking water with you. Surface water is subject to coliform contamination.
We, the Tseshah First Nation, whose traditional territory centres around the Broken Group Islands, welcome you to respectfully explore our territory.

At the core of Tseshah is our chronicle of creation, our spiritual origin. We were created at Ts’ishaa, an ancient village site on Benson Island. Nas, our creator, gave our first ancestors (Tseshah man and woman) the highest spiritual responsibility and stewardship of this area. Today, we still work with pride as a community to preserve our traditional values and teachings of land, water, and stories. There are many sites of spiritual and cultural significance to us here.

Enrich your trip; visit Benson and Keith Islands to learn more about our history and continuing connection to this place.

Prepare
- Assess your group’s skills, in relation to the environmental hazards; weigh the risk wisely.
- Listen to the marine weather and sea state forecasts on the marine VHF radio weather channel.
- Study tide tables and charts; plan a sheltered travel route.
- Wear safety gear and dress for warmth and changeable weather.
- Even on a day trip, pack for an emergency overnight stay. Carry water and a phone/VHF radio, flares and a flashlight.
- Islands are deceptively difficult to hike around due to cliffs, surge channels, impassable undergrowth, and rising tides.

Weather
- Warm summer days often produce thick fog, reducing visibility to metres; watch the horizon & note your chart position frequently.
- If lost, beach on a safe shore and wait for the fog to clear.
- Keep the group together in open water; paddlers do not position frequently.
- Keep the group together in open water; paddlers do not appear on radar.
- Southeast winds bring storms with heavy rainfall even in summer.
- Strong northwest winds often peak in the afternoon in good weather.
- Plan channel crossings (e.g. Coaster, Sechart, Peacock, Imperial Eagle and Loudoun) for early morning, before the winds pick up.

Ocean Conditions
- The average water temperature is 8 degrees Celsius! Submersion can quickly result in hypothermia.
- Reefs, shallows and floating logs abound; always read the chart and the water.
- Ocean swell can make travel and landings difficult. The exposed southern shores of Benson, Batley, Wouwer and Howell Islands, and open waters of Imperial Eagle and Loudoun Channels can be challenging in big swell.

The Broken Group Islands are always beautiful but not always tranquil...

A few things you should know...
- Fishing and harvesting requires a Tidal Water’s Sport Fishing Licence. A voluntary ‘No Angling, No Harvesting Policy’ is in effect. A large portion of the Broken Group Islands is a Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA); fishing is not permitted in the RCA.
- Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) makes shellfish toxic to humans; eating PSP contaminated shellfish may result in illness or death. Consult notices or call the PSP Hotline: 604-666-2828 for Area 23 sub 8 warnings and closures.

When in doubt, don’t go out!