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LETTER OF INTENT  
TO ACCOMPANY SB 128

Although access to mineral deposits is not expected to require construction of facilities within marine parks, we acknowledge that such construction may be required in park units adjacent to mineral development which could not otherwise take place. In such cases, it is the intent of the Legislature that the access language within the Act be interpreted to allow development of docking facilities under terms prescribed by the Commissioner of Natural Resources.

Two units of the original marine park proposal - Decision Point and Entry Cove - have been removed from designation at this time, in order to allow a more vigorous analysis of other possible higher and better uses for these areas. Such possible alternative uses could include exchange with private or corporate ownerships for State acquisition of other lands, conveyance to the local municipality, and disposal through the State programs. If an in-depth study does not identify some alternative as being more suitable, these two sites may be legislatively included in the Alaska state park system at a later time.

  
John Ringstad, Co Chairman

  
Dick Shultz, Co Chairman

*units original proposal*  
Two of the marine park ~~units~~ - Decision Point and Entry Cove - have been removed from ~~proposed~~ designation at this time, in order to allow a more vigorous analysis of other possible higher and better uses for these areas. Such possible alternative uses could include exchange with private or corporate ownerships for State acquisition of other ~~recreational~~ lands, conveyance to the local municipality, and disposal through the State ~~home site~~ programs. If an in-depth study does not identify some alternative as being more suitable, these two sites <sup>may</sup> ~~can~~ be included in the Alaska state park system at a later time.

*legislatively*

By Schultz

Proposed amendment to HCS CS SB 128 (Resources)

Page 1, line 20:

following the phrase "wildlife resources",

insert:

and valid existing uses of these resources

*adopted unanimously*

By Shultz

Proposed amendment to HCS CS SB 128 (Resources)

Page 8, line 21:

Following "AS 41.20.534",

Insert:

except as provided in AS 41.20.532(d)

*adopted unanimously*

By Shultz

Proposed amendment to ECS CS SB 128 (Resources)

Page 9, line 7:

Add a new subsection to read:

(f) The commissioner of natural resources may not prohibit the continuation of customary, traditional, or pre-established uses within the state-owned land and water described in AS 41.20.534.

failed 4-4

- yea - shultz, Cowdery, Liska & Vaska  
nay - Larson, Rinstad, Vehling, Goll  
not present - Bussell

# STATE OF ALASKA

BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

619 WAREHOUSE AVE., SUITE 210  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501  
PHONE: (907) 276-2653

April 25, 1983

DIVISION OF PARKS

The Honorable Richard Shultz  
Alaska State House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Pouch V,  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Mr. Shultz:

You may soon have the opportunity to vote on the bill (S.B. 128) creating State Marine Parks. A considerable effort has gone into making this legislation acceptable to a wide range of Alaskan interests. This bill is different from past measures. Some facts and figures:

- \* of the 400,000 National Forest acres selectable under the Statehood Act, only about ten percent is planned for public recreational use. The fourteen marine parks authorized in the the bill now in the House contains but three percent of the 400,000 acres.
- \* The communities of Whittier, Valdez and Cordova and the Chugach Native Corporation are on record supporting the creation of marine parks.
- \* These recreation sites are open to:
  1. hunting
  2. trapping
  3. commercial and sport fishing
  4. aquaculture
  5. fisheries enhancement
  6. access to adjacent lands and mineral claims
- \* The Alaska marine parks provide a coordinated linkage with Washington State's 57 marine parks and British Columbia's 23 marine parks.
- \* The bill creates nine public recreation sites in Prince William Sound and five units in Southeast; careful planning and selection procedures will provide for additinal marine parks in the future. Again, only about ten percent of land selected from the National Forests is involved.
- \* Over half of all Alaskans participate in boating; recreation and tourism is our second largest industry, worth half a billion dollars a year and employs almost 11,000 Alaskans. This commitment to recreation provides an important linkage to the tourism industry: boat rentals and charters, boat moorage, boat and aircraft sales, maintenance and repairs, air taxi and guide operations and other visitor service related industries.

The Honorable M. Richard Shultz

April 25, 1983

Page 2

The proposed marine park system is designed to guarantee everyone's use of the most scenic small coves, bays, bights and accessible beaches along the Southeast and Southcentral coast of Alaska. The plan has gathered bipartisan support, is carefully thought out and clearly shows that Alaskan's desire to provide for their, as well as their children's, recreational needs.

I ask your support for this Legislation.

Sincerely,



Neil C. Johannsen  
Director

NCJ:ces

# opinion

## Anchorage Daily News

Winner, 1976 Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal for Public Service

Katherine Fanning  
Editor and Publisher

Howard Weaver  
Managing Editor



Gerald E. Grilly  
General Manager

Steve Lindbeck  
Editorial Page Editor

Lawrence Fanning, Editor and Publisher 1967 to 1971  
Alaska's Only Morning Newspaper • Founded in 1946 by Norman C. Brown

## Beauty of our coasts

Fourteen of Alaska's most scenic coastal areas would gain state park status — and thus protection against land disposal and timber development — under legislation approved by the Senate Resources Committee this week. Last year the same idea passed the Senate and got stalled in the House; this year it deserves approval from the entire legislature.

Ten of the coastal areas involved are located in Prince William Sound; the other four in Southeast Alaska. Those who've spent time along the water in either region might well divide in partisan debate over which commands more scenic grandeur. But there would be no disagreement that both regions — each blessed with deep fjords, towering mountains, white-water falls, tidewater glaciers and unmatched marine life — are worth protecting.

The proposed legislation would not prevent access across parklands to private land or mineral claims, nor would it exclude hunting, fishing or trapping except by specific regulation from the commissioner of natural resources. What the legislation would do is prevent land disposal or timber development from encroaching on what backers say are the state's "best and most beautiful little coves and bays."

There are places in both regions — perhaps too many places — where private disposal and timber development on public lands will proceed apace in coming years. These 14 coastal parks would set aside small enclaves where the splendor they contain might be reserved for the appreciation of all — not dissipated in the grasp and potential exploitation of a few.

# Editorials

## A better waterway

IT WOULD be understandable if Alaskans were wary of the state's proposal to create 14 marine parks. They are accustomed to the federal government coming in and locking up their acres.

The state plan, however, appears to be quite a different breed of cat. Management of the parks would be right here at home and not at the whim of back-East bureaucrats and politicians. It also could open to visitors some gorgeous areas of Alaska that heretofore have been out of their reach.

The Senate has approved the bill and sent it to the House, where public hearings are scheduled at the end of the week.

THE MARINE units would be part of the state park system, which, if the law passes, would have to maintain the natural, cultural and scenic values of the sites as well as their existing fish and wildlife resources. The bill guarantees a continuation of public hunting, fishing, trapping, commercial fishing and aquaculture activities as well as access to any nearby privately owned land, including mining claims.

Five of the sites are in Southeastern. Nine are in Prince William Sound.

The state parks division feels these areas should be set aside while they are still available. Most of them are small parcels — a total of 13,000 acres — beside and in the water.

ONE OF THE necessities to future enjoyment of the magnificent scenery in Prince William Sound is that there will be preserved in the area some coves and bays and natural harbors that will be open to the public — places where boaters in future years can be assured of a place to anchor overnight and where those aboard can go ashore. The bill would remedy this.

The marine parks would be something new for Alaska, but there are a number of them along the coasts of Washington and British Columbia, where they have had wide use.

The marine parks would be a tremendous boost for tourism, which is the state's second largest industry. A spin-off would be economic benefits to nearby communities.

It would be hoped the House will give favorable attention to this bill.

STATE OF ALASKA  
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date                     , 1983

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 128  
 Title: Marine Parks  
 Sponsor: V. Fischer  
 Requestor: House Resources Committee

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: DNR  
 Program Category Affected:                       
 BRU, Program of Subprogram(s) Affected:                     

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88
GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Source)						
	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88
FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						
	0	0	0	0	0	0

III. SOURCE OF FUNDS TO OFFSET FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL:

.None affected

IV. ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page for any Analysis *(see attached memo)*

Prepared By: Ned Farquhar *NF* Phone: 465-2400  
 Division: Commissioner's Office Date: May 11, 1983  
 Approved by Commissioner: *Mrs. D. Smith, Deputy* Date: May 11, 1983  
 Department: Natural Resources

Distribution:

- Original to Legislative Finance
- Copy to Office of Management and Budget (for Legislature introduced bills)
- Copy to Department (for Governor introduced bills)
- Copy to Sponsor
- Copy to Requestor (if different from Sponsor)

# MEMORANDUM

## State of Alaska

TO: Dave Stancliff  
House Resources Committee

DATE: May 11, 1983

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO:

FROM: Ned Farquhar **NF**  
Special Assistant  
Department of Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Marine Parks

For the foreseeable future, the marine parks system will be among passively managed state parklands, although the Division of Parks expects to arrange with the U. S. Forest Service for the cooperative management of some units. The Forest Service has been interested in designating and managing marine parks on federal land. Some private concessions may be arranged, probably returning general fund revenue.

Although no funding will be dedicated to the marine parks system in the next few years, creation of the system is important at this time for several reasons. Primarily, park designation will occur without land acquisition costs. Also, the State can indicate its commitment to recreation management on these lands, which is significant to the U. S. Forest Service as it reviews and conveys state land selections in the National Forests. Last, the designation will clarify the State's management priorities for the affected areas, thereby reducing interagency and interdivisional staff work on management.

cc: Neil Johannsen, Director  
Division of Parks

REMARKS OF DNR DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ROBERT D. ARNOLD BEFORE  
THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON SB 128 (Marine Parks)  
29 April 1983

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for hearing the Administration's position on the proposed marine parks system. Commissioner Wunnicke had hoped to be here today but has instead been called to Anchorage.

When the marine parks proposal came before the Senate Resources Committee earlier during this session, Governor Sheffield supported it. He remains strongly supportive of the proposal, especially because of the important amendments that have been included in this year's proposal.

Governor Sheffield said today, "I see a need for a marine parks system serving Alaskans who enjoy the excellent recreational opportunities of our oceans and islands, and we have sought to meet this need without infringing on the rights and needs of other Alaskans. That is why this year the marine parks bill includes special consideration for access to privately held lands and mineral claims and for continued hunting and fishing in these areas."

Within the Department, our divisions have worked closely together to balance the various needs -- recreation, development, and settlement -- in the marine parks issue. The result is a balanced bill that the Governor supports and that deserves the full support of the House.

Please allow me to introduce Parks Director Neil Johannsen, who can provide further detail on the proposed legislation and answer your questions. Thank you for your attention.

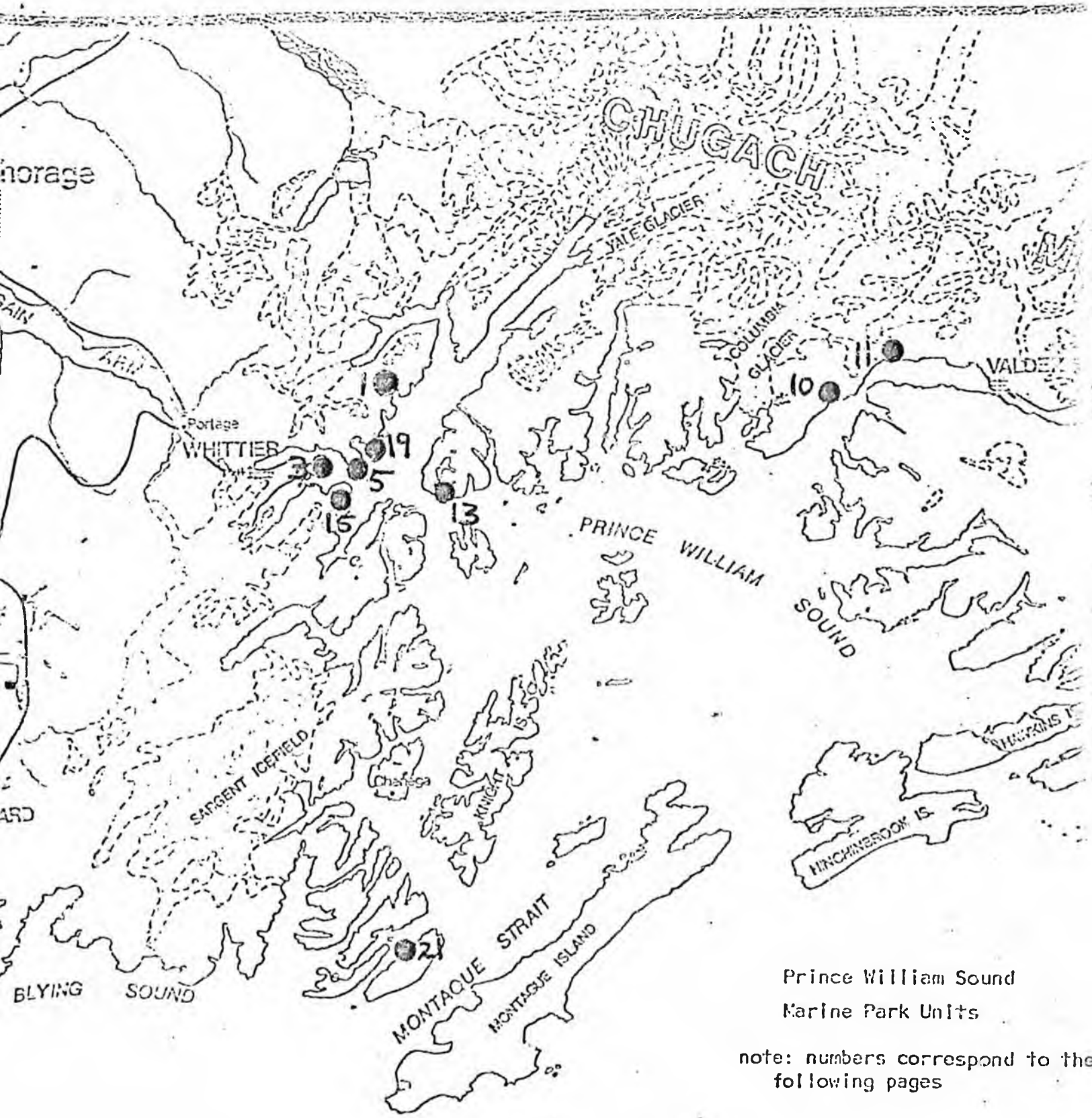
# Information on Marine Parks

## Proposed for Designation in SB 128

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prepared by

Alaska Division of Parks  
March 1983



Prince William Sound  
Marine Park Units

note: numbers correspond to the  
following pages

of Alaska

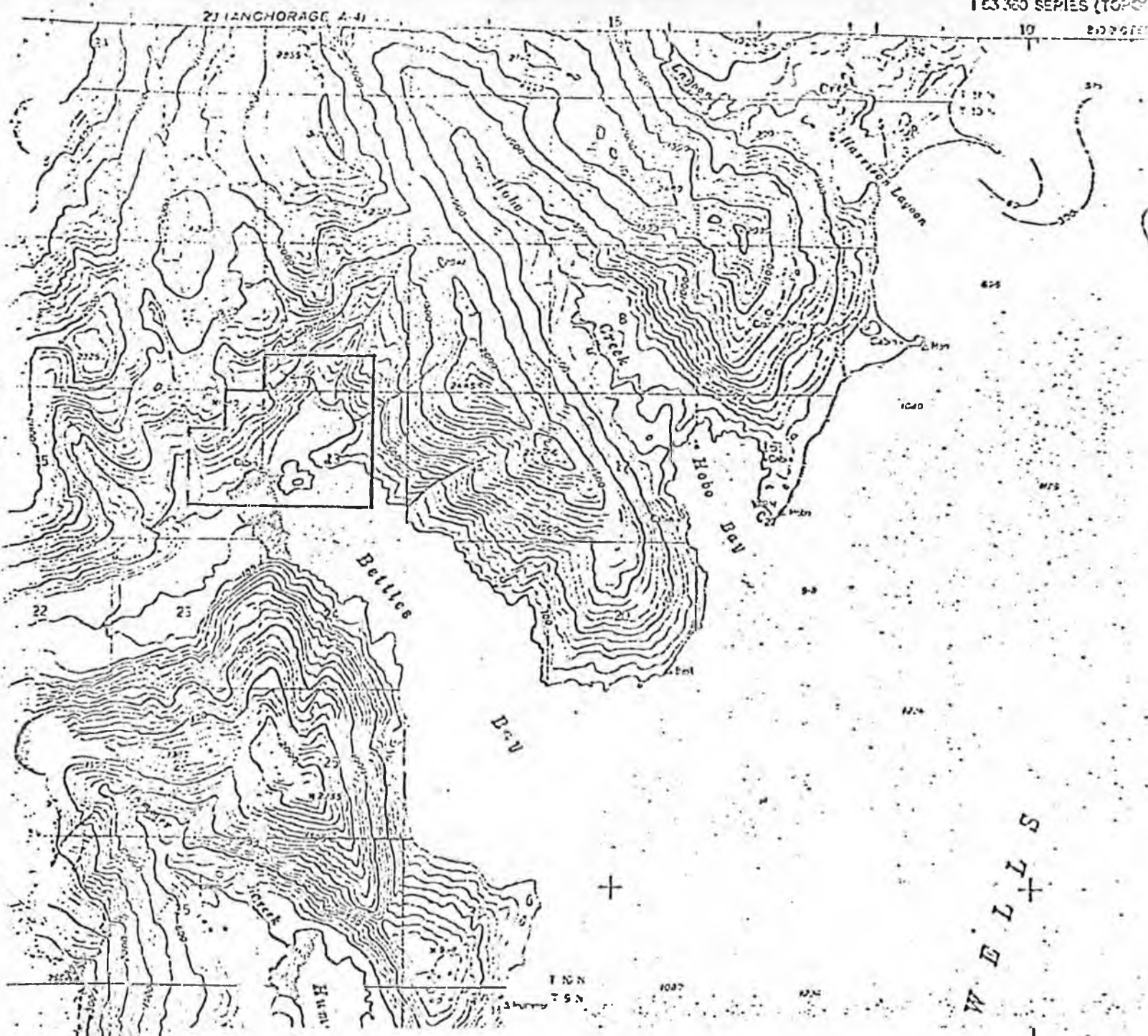
301f



Southeast Alaska  
Marine Park Units

note: numbers correspond to the  
following pages

21 ANCHORAGE 4-41



Bettles Bay

Township 10 North, Range 6 East, Seward Meridian

- Section 12: S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , SW $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$
- Section 13: NW $\frac{1}{2}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , NW $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$
- Section 14: N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$ , NE $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$



# Alaska Marine Park System

Name	Size	
Bettles Bay	land	555
	water	125
	total	680

## General Location

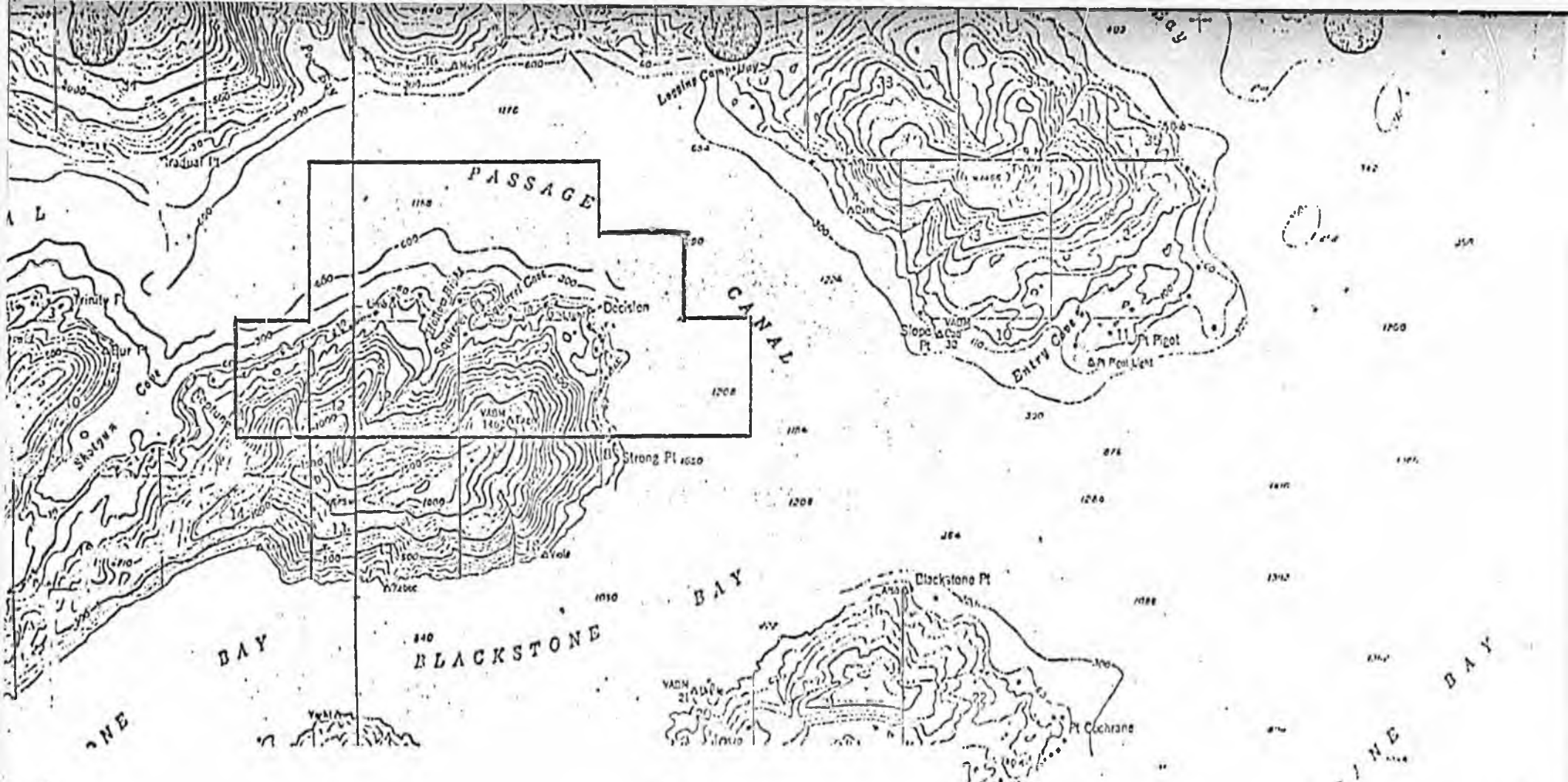
Bettles Bay is located approximately 20 miles from the city of Whittier by small boat. It is located in the central portion of the western shoreline of Port Wells.

## Description of the area

Large and well protected, Bettles Bay is a favorite of boaters exploring the Port Wells area, as it is thought to be one of the most scenic bays of the west shore of this major waterway. A number of wildlife species, including the black bear, sea lions, geese, whales, waterfowl, seals, dungeness crab, halibut, pink and chum salmon are reported in the area. An abandoned mine is located outside of the proposed marine parks and is approximately one-half mile southwest of the park boundary.

## Reason for Marine Park Status

Bettles Bay has long been a traditional overnight destination anchorage for Whittier-based boaters. Because of this and a well protected anchorage, it is proposed as a unit of the Alaska Marine Park System.



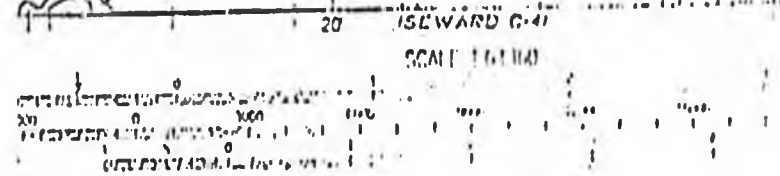
Decision Point

Township 8 North, Range 5 East, Seward Meridian

- Section 1: All
- Section 11: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$
- Section 12: N $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$

Township 8 North, Range 6 East, Seward Meridian

- Section 5: SW $\frac{1}{4}$
- Section 6: All
- Section 7: N $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$
- Section 8: N $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$



CONTOUR INTERVAL 100 FEET  
 DATUM, MEAN SEA LEVEL  
 DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL  
 SHORELINE SHOWS POSITION OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
 THE APPROXIMATE POSITION OF THE TIDE GAUGE

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
 FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C.  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SECTIONS IS AVAILABLE

# Alaska Marine Park System

Name	Size	
	land	1,090
Decision Point	water	2,030
	total	3,120

## General Location

This area is located approximately seven miles east of the City of Whittier. Decision Point forms the southern shoreline of the entrance to Passage Canal. Shotgun Cove, the site of a proposed boat harbor with road access from Whittier, is located one quarter mile to the west of the proposed park boundary.

## Description of the area

The Decision Point area has a generally rugged shoreline with several large coves suitable for the use as a pleasure craft anchorage during periods of good weather. Numerous beaches found within the area offer kayakers and persons using inflatable boats with excellent opportunities for beach camping. Several runs of pink salmon occur. The area's topography is generally steep with several relatively flat areas located near Squirrel Point and Decision Point. Black bears frequent the area. Eagles nest near Decision Point and whales and seals frequent the nearshore waters.

## Reason for Marine Park Status

Because of plans for a road from Whittier to Shotgun Cove, this area offers the potential to be developed with automobile access. This area will insure that persons visiting Whittier who do not have a boat, or access to one, can at least experience Prince William Sound by visiting this park.

It is anticipated that the Division of Parks will develop this area with hiking trails, beach campsites, roads and campgrounds for those persons arriving with automobiles. This area, if developed for public use, will be the only public campground where people in Southcentral Alaska can experience the Sitka spruce forested marine coastline which is so commonly found in Southeastern Alaska. Thus, on a regional basis, this area will provide a unique recreational tourist attraction. The area will compliment the development of the small boat harbor and private enterprise offering visitor services. Native corporation lands, state lands and city lands are scheduled for development in nearby Shotgun Cove.



# Alaska Marine Park System

Name	Size	
Entry Cove	land	525
	water	675
	total	1,200

## General Location

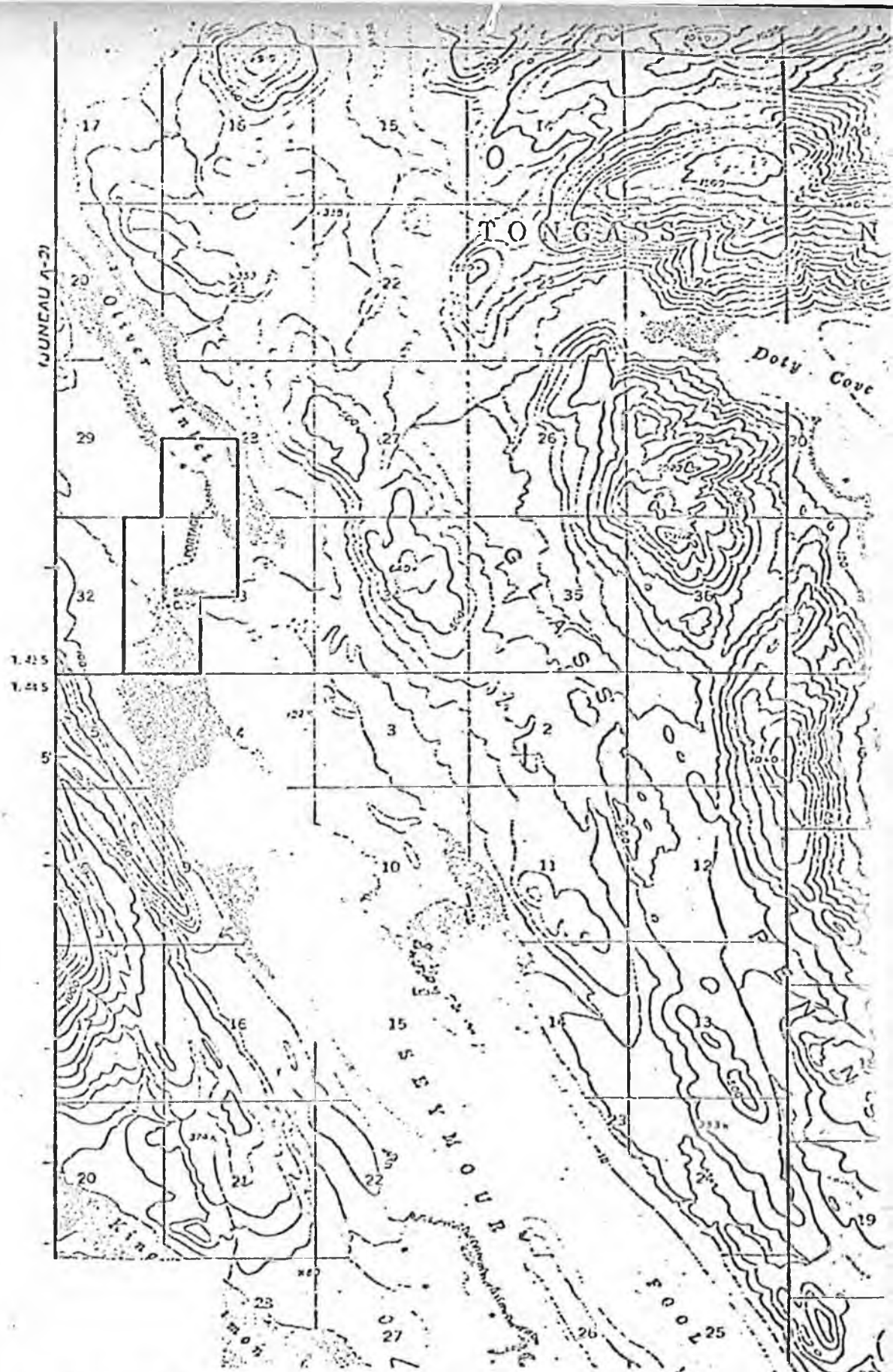
Entry Cove is located 12 miles due east of Whittier by boat. The cove is strategically located at the confluence of Port Wells, Passage Canal, Blackstone Bay and Cochrane Bay.

## Description of the area

Entry Cove is a small well protected bay with a shallow entrance. Anchorage for pleasure boats can be found both inside the cove itself and in the outer cove which is protected from all but southeasterly winds. A large gravel beach is located near the Point Pigot light and is heavily used by recreational kayakers. Point Pigot and Entry Cove are located on a low lying area which is forested with Sitka spruce interspersed by large open muskegs. Black bear may be found in the area and an eagle's nest is located near Point Pigot. Point Pigot was named by Captain Vancouver in 1794 for one of his midshipmen. Between October and June, king salmon may be caught near Point Pigot. Fur seals and killer whales are frequently observed in the nearby offshore waters.

## Reason for Marine Park Status

Entry Cove has been proposed as a marine park because of its strategic location at the intersection of several commonly used pleasure boat routes and the excellent protection it affords to boaters. The area commands outstanding views of Prince William Sound and is used frequently by both kayakers and larger pleasure boats.



Oliver Inlet  
Juneau (A-1)

T43S, R62E Copper River Meridian, Alaska

276

Sec. 28	SW $\frac{1}{4}$
Sec. 32	ENE $\frac{1}{2}$
Sec. 33	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

# Alaska Marine Park System

Name	Size	
Oliver Inlet	land	425
	water	135
	total	560

## General Location

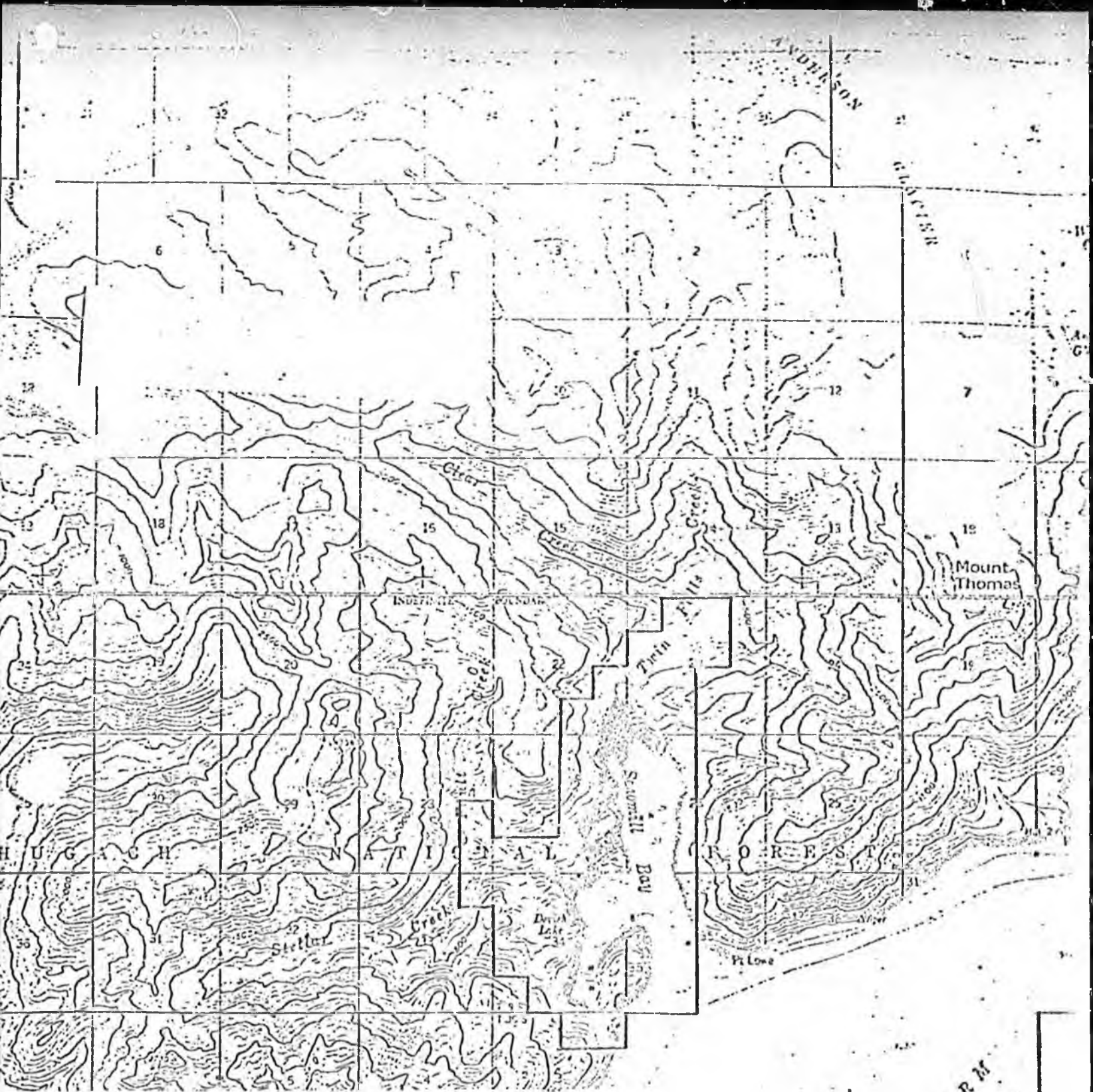
By boat, Oliver Inlet is located 12 miles south of Juneau between Seymour Canal and Stephens Passage on Admiralty Island.

## Description of the area

The area is comprised of old growth Sitka spruce and hemlock forests with numerous gravel beaches. A recreation cabin and a five-mile narrow gauge tramway, and a registration/information station (unmanned) for the Admiralty Island National Monument are all existing facilities at this site. Oliver Inlet is a strategically located overland portage route for boaters entering Seymour Canal from Juneau. Hunting, fishing, boating, kayaking, beachcombing and wildlife viewing and photography are all frequent activities in this area. Located fully within the Admiralty Island National Monument and Federal Wilderness Area, Oliver Inlet provides access to not only Seymour Canal, but other portions of the national monument as well. Hump back and killer whales, seals, sea lions, porpoise, salmon, halibut, rock fish, Sitka deer, and brown bear are found within this area. Alaska Department of Fish and Game has identified Oliver Inlet as an important wildlife area. Good protected boat anchorages are found in both the Seymour Canal and Oliver Inlet.

## Reason for Marine Park Status

This area is proposed for marine park status to assure both the continued public use of the area as well as the protection of its natural and scenic values. It is the only area within the wilderness portion of the Admiralty Island National Monument where public recreational facilities can be built for purposes other than public safety. As such, it serves as a "threshold" park for Admiralty Island.



Sawmill Bay

Township 9 South, Range 9 West, Copper River Meridian

- Section 22: E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
- Section 23: SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$ , NE $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$
- Section 26: W $\frac{1}{2}$
- Section 27: E $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$
- Section 28: E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
- Section 33: NE $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
- Section 34: N $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$
- Section 35: W $\frac{1}{2}$

# Alaska Marine Park System

Name	Size	
Sawmill Bay	land	1,430
	water	890
	total	2,320

## General Location

Sawmill Bay is located approximately 14 miles west and south of the city of Valdez. It is located on the northern shoreline of Port Valdez.

## Description of the area

Sawmill Bay is a large well protected bay offering several good anchorages for pleasure boaters. Recreation opportunities in the area include sport fishing for silver salmon, crab, clams and halibut. A public use cabin has been constructed by the U.S. Forest Service in the southernmost branch of Sawmill Bay. Sawmill Bay receives considerable use by boaters originating from Valdez. Opportunities for hiking exist along Twin Falls Creek and near Devish Lake.

## Reason for Marine Park Status

Sawmill Bay has been proposed as a state marine park because of its traditional use by boaters from Valdez and boaters in transit to and from Valdez and other parts of Prince William Sound.

Shoup Bay

CRM

Township 8 South, Range 7 West,

Section 30:  $W\frac{1}{2}W\frac{1}{2}$

Section 31:  $W\frac{1}{2}W\frac{1}{2}$

CRM

Township 8 South, Range 8 West,

Section 25: All

Section 26: All

Section 27:  $E\frac{1}{2}$

Section 34:  $E\frac{1}{2}$

Section 35: All

Section 36: All

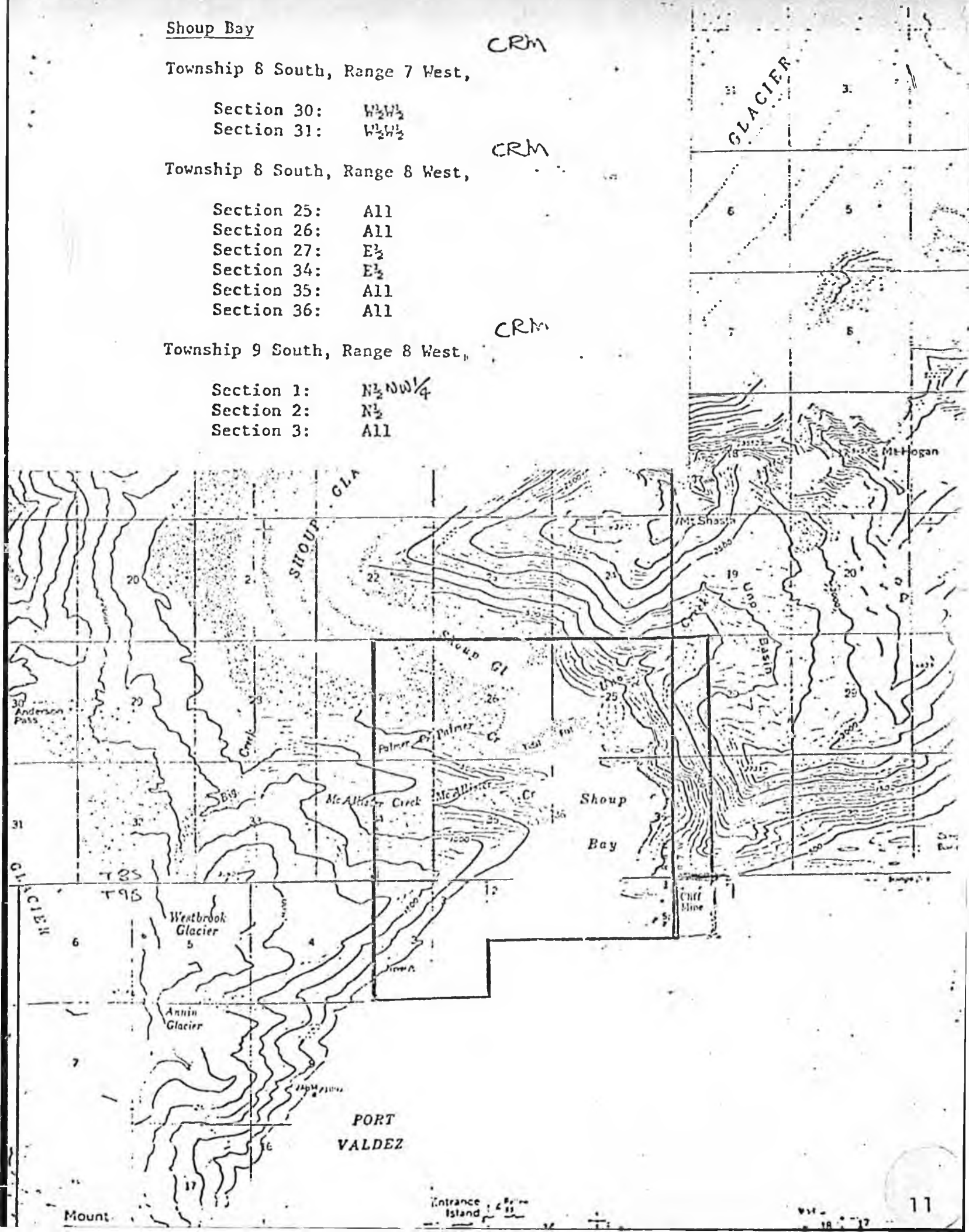
CRM

Township 9 South, Range 8 West,

Section 1:  $N\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}$

Section 2:  $N\frac{1}{2}$

Section 3: All



# Alaska Marine Park System

Name	Size	
Shoup Bay	land	2,925
	water	1,635
	total	4,560

## General Location

Shoup Bay is located 7.5 miles west of the city of Valdez by boat on the north shore of Port Valdez.

## Description of the area

Shoup Bay is very scenic with Shoup Glacier extending almost to the bay from the northwest and a large sand pit extending across the mouth of the bay. Fishing, wildlife viewing, and visiting the glacier are the most common reasons for use of the area by the public. Mountain goats can be observed on the slopes above the bay while ducks can be seen feeding on the tidal flats. Shoup Glacier is the main tributary to the huge glacier that carved Valdez Arm. Shoup Bay is also listed in the Guinness Book of World Records for the height of the waves in the bay during the 1964 earthquake. It is said that the bay emptied and filled three times. A well protected anchorage does not exist in the bay. Short-term or fair-weather anchorages can be found in several areas depending on wind direction.

## Reason for Marine Park Status

This area has been proposed for marine park status because of its unique natural features and its close proximity to Valdez. Shoup Bay could, in the future, also become an important destination for tour boats operating out of Valdez.



# Alaska Marine Park System

Name	Size	
	land	2,285
South Esther Island	water	1,075
	total	3,360

## General Location

South Esther Island is located approximately 20 miles due east of Whittier. The island is located at the confluence of Wells Passage and Port Wells in upper Prince William Sound.

## Description of the area

The area is comprised of Sitka spruce forest interspersed with rolling muskeg and numerous small lakes. Anchorages can be found in both Lake and Quillian bays with the latter being preferred. Esther Island is highly scenic with a number of 2,000' peaks of granite. Boaters frequently can observe whales in Port Wells to the west and sea lions are frequently hauled out on nearby islands and rocks. Sea birds nest in the area and seals and otters are also known to be present. This area is located along a heavily used cross sound pleasure boat route between Valdez and Whittier. The state ferry Bartlett also passes near this area on a daily basis as well as commercial tour boats operating between Whittier and Valdez. The area has been identified by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for the development of a fish hatchery in the lake bay. The fish hatchery will apparently be developed by the Prince William Sound Acquaculture Corporation in the near future.

## Reason for Marine Park Status

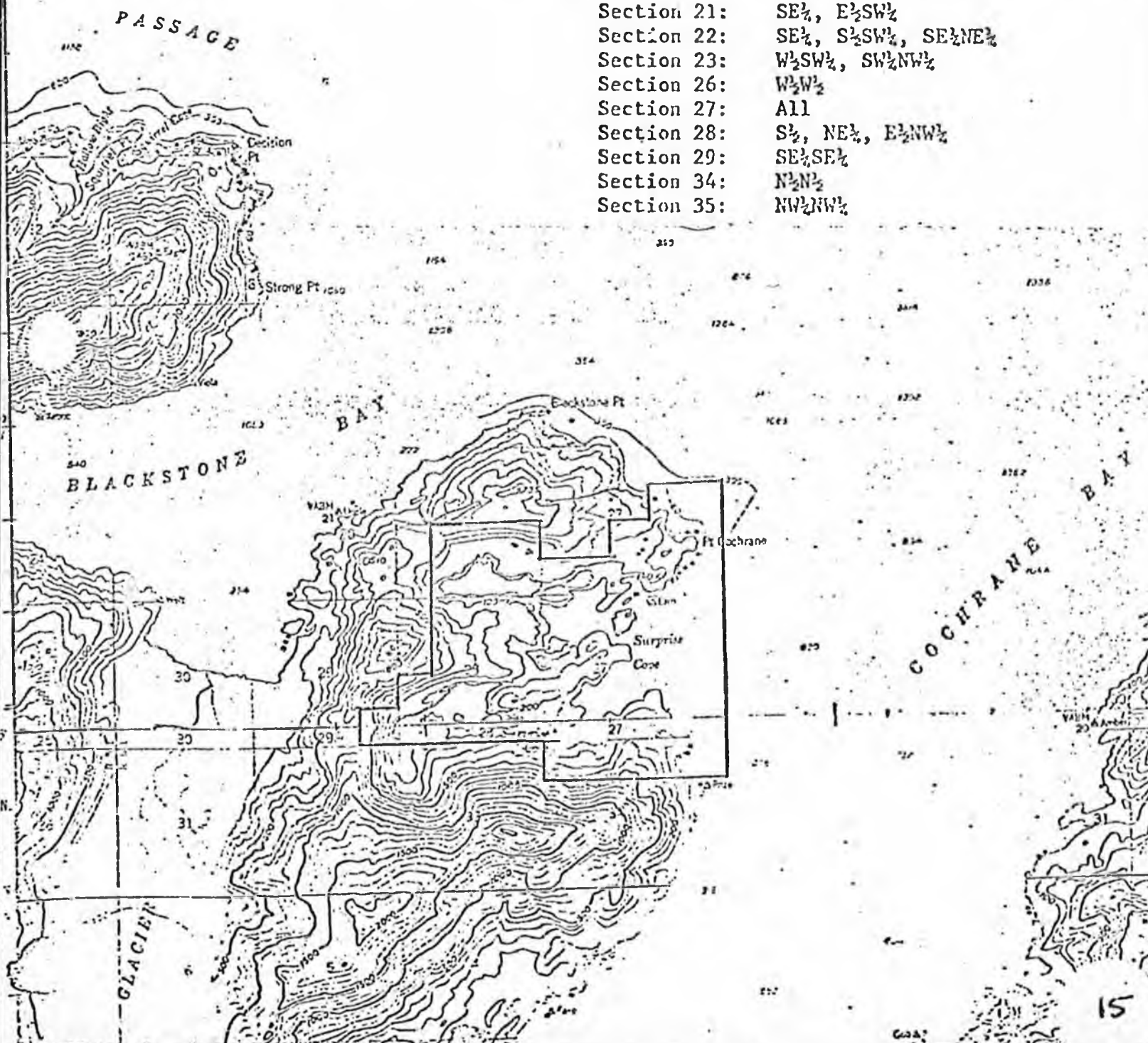
South Esther Island is both a destination for Whittier-based pleasure boaters as well as a convenient overnight anchorage for vessels in transit. Quillian Bay has long been used by the commercial fishing fleet as an anchorage during commercial salmon openings. Park status for this area will not only provide for public and recreational needs, but will also help insure that these lands will be managed in a manner compatible with the goals of the proposed fish hatchery and commercial fishing industry. South Esther Island represents an important base of operations for excursions in the Port Wells area, Port Nellie Juan area and Culross Passage.



Suprise Cove

Township 8 North, Range 6 East, Seward Meridian

- Section 21: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$
- Section 22: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
- Section 23: W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$
- Section 26: W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$
- Section 27: All
- Section 28: S $\frac{1}{2}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$
- Section 29: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
- Section 34: N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$
- Section 35: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$



# Alaska Marine Park System

Name	Size	
	land	1,425
Surprise Cove	water	855
	total	2,280

## General Location

Approximately 15 air miles east of the city of Whittier by boat, Surprise Cove is conveniently located along a major route of pleasure boats between Whittier and western Prince William Sound and is at the entrance to Cochrane Bay.

## Description of the area

Surprise Cove contains two small embayments off of Cochrane Bay. Two fresh-water lakes are also contained within the unit. Surprise Cove offers a well protected anchorage for pleasure boats. Mountain goats are found on the peaks near the cove. Porpoise are often observed at Point Cochrane. A small beach near the entrance to the cove is suitable for a beach campsite for kayakers.

## Reason for Marine Park Status

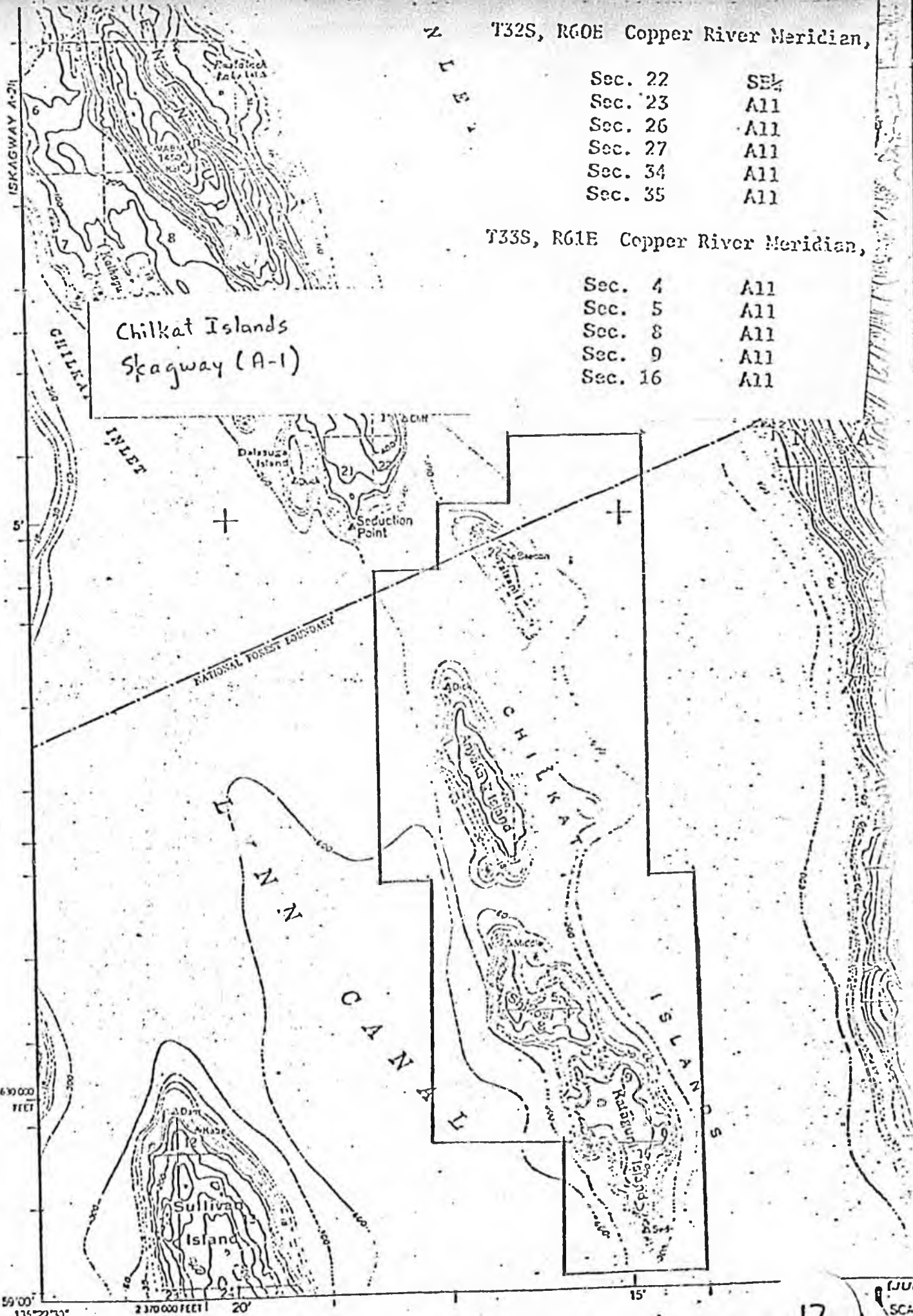
The strategic location of Surprise Cove along a heavily travelled pleasure boat route, as well as its unique scenic values and recreational opportunities make this area a prime candidate for status as a state marine park. The cove receives heavy weekend overnight use by boaters originating from Whittier. On occasion, up to seven or eight boats may be observed in the cove at one time.

T32S, R60E Copper River Meridian,

Sec. 22	SE 1/4
Sec. 23	A11
Sec. 26	A11
Sec. 27	A11
Sec. 34	A11
Sec. 35	A11

T33S, R61E Copper River Meridian,

Sec. 4	A11
Sec. 5	A11
Sec. 8	A11
Sec. 9	A11
Sec. 16	A11



263000  
FEET

59°00'  
135°22'30"

237000 FEET 20'

15'

# Alaska Marine Park System

Name	Size	
	land	503
Chilkat Islands	water	6,057
	total	6,560

## General Location

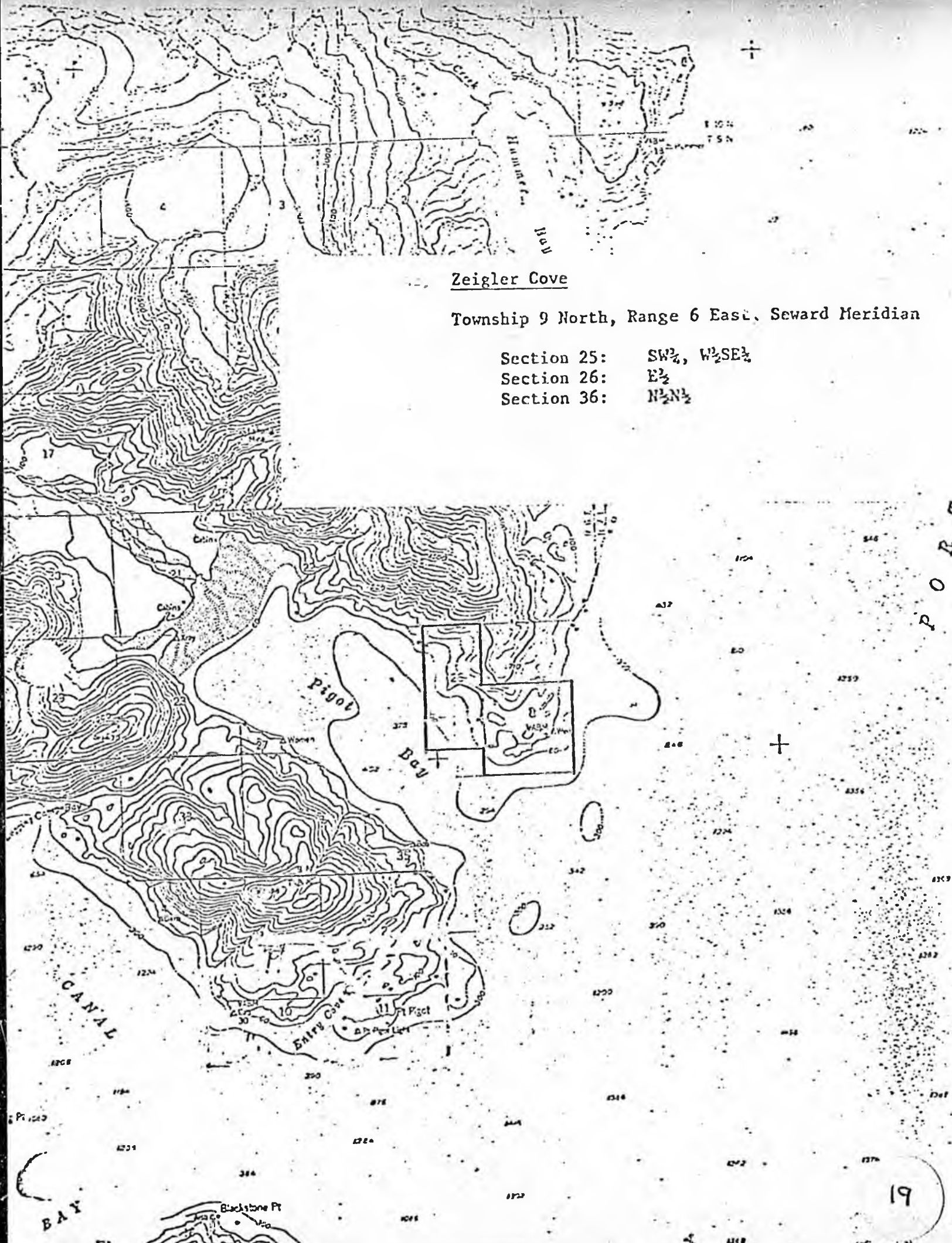
The Chilkat Islands are located 13 miles south of Haines by boat. The islands are located directly off the tip of the Chilkat Peninsula which is an existing state park (Chilkat State Park).

## Description of the area

Four small islands comprising 503 acres in total are included within the proposed park. The islands are forested with Sitka spruce and hemlock. These islands are accessible during a day or afternoon of boating from the boat launch located in Chilkat State Park. Reasonably well protected anchorages occur in several locations and could possibly be enhanced with mooring buoys.

## Reason for Marine Park Status

The designation of these islands as a state marine park will compliment the existing recreational opportunities found in Chilkat State Park. This designation would also assure continued public use of these islands while maintaining their natural setting. The islands are close to Chilkat State Park and the community of Haines. With the existence of state park facilities and staff on the Chilkat Peninsula, it is expected that these islands can be managed as a state park unit with minimal additional operating expense. The islands offer an excellent opportunity for kayaking, boating, fishing, beachcombing and camping.



Zeigler Cove

Township 9 North, Range 6 East, Seward Meridian

- Section 25: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
- Section 26: E $\frac{1}{2}$
- Section 36: N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$

# Alaska Marine Park System

Name	Size	
Zeigler Cove	land	305
	water	415
	total	720

## General Location

Zeigler Cove is located approximately 14 miles east (by boat) from the city of Whittier. It is located on the northern shore of the entrance to Pigot Bay, a bay on the west side of Port Wells.

## Description of the area

Zeigler Cove offers a small but very well protected anchorage for pleasure boaters. The cove is located on a forested and low-lying point extending into both Pigot Bay and Port Wells. Waters near Zeigler Cove offer numerous attraction to sport anglers. Red Snapper, Halibut, Pink, Chum and King salmon, as well as Dungeness Crab are found in Pigot Bay.

## Reason for Marine Park Status

Zeigler Cove is a traditionally used anchorage for pleasure boaters originating out of Whittier. The cove provides an excellent protected anchorage as well as opportunities for hiking in the uplands.



# Alaska Marine Park System

Name	Size	
Horseshoe Bay		286
	land	684
	water	970
	total	

## General Location

Horseshoe Bay is located in southwestern Prince William Sound. It is approximately half way between Seward and Whittier by boat.

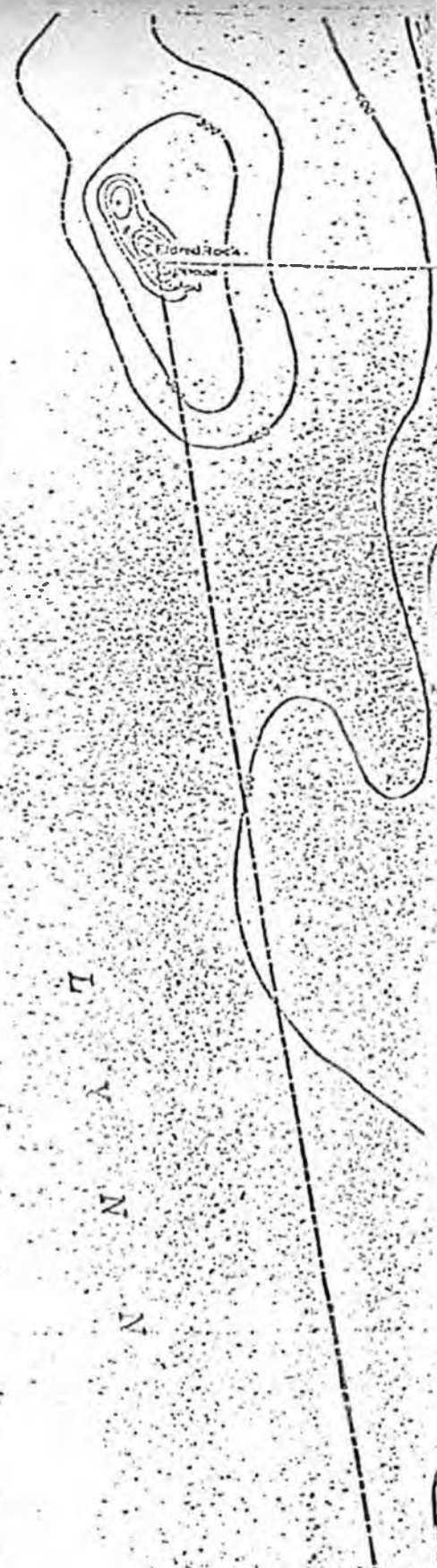
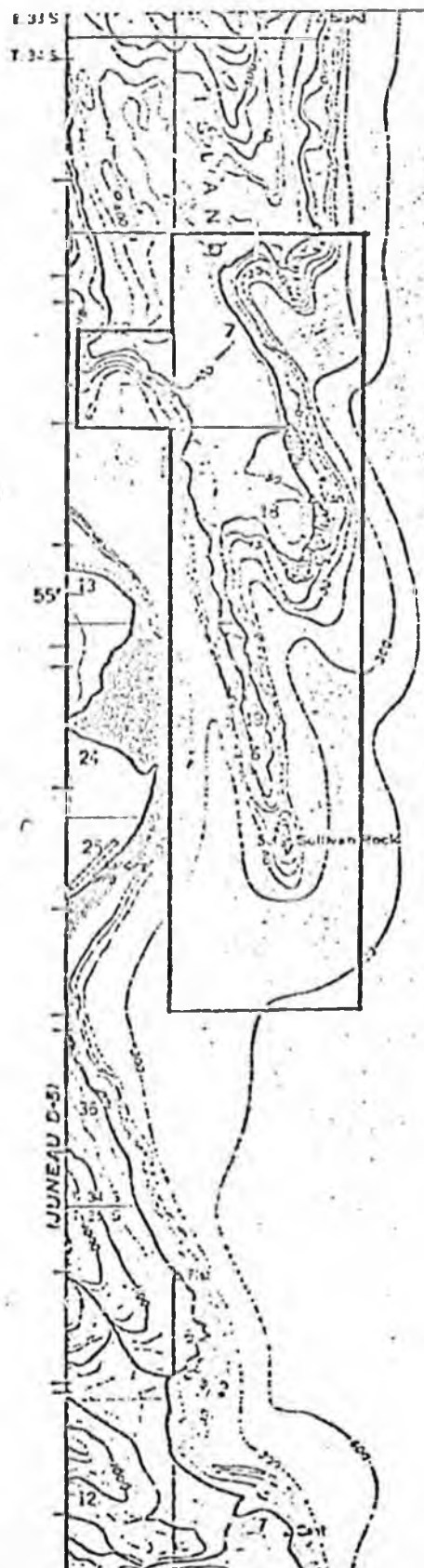
## Description of the area

Although somewhat exposed to southwesterly winds, Horseshoe Bay offers the most protected anchorage along the Latouche Island shoreline. Horseshoe Bay and Latouche Island area are quite scenic with nearby peaks rising up to 2,000 feet. The old gold mining town of Latouche, located two miles to the northeast, has been subdivided for recreational homesites. The Alaska legislature has appropriated funds to develop a public boat harbor at Latouche. Private lands to the south of the proposed park are expected to be subdivided and offered for sale in 1983. All other lands on Latouche Island, except for a forty acre parcel at the southwest tip of the island, are or will soon be privately owned. Chugach Natives, Incorporated recently received the bulk of the island as part of its land entitlement under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. The area has excellent opportunities for hiking and climbing the nearby Broon Buttes. Whales, seals, and sea lions frequent Latouche Passage.

## Reason for Marine Park Status

This area is proposed for marine park status because it is the best anchorage on Latouche Island and one of the last two remaining parcels of public property on the island. The bay offers the opportunity to provide not only public park lands for future residents of the island, but also for visitors to the island.

Sullivan Island  
Petersburg (D-4)



T34S, R60E Copper River Meridian, Alaska

Sec. 12 SE 1/4

T34S, R61E Copper River Meridian, Alaska

Sec. 7 A11  
 Sec. 18 A11  
 Sec. 19 A11

# Alaska Marine Park System

Name	Size	
Sullivan Island	land	618
	water	2,102
	total	2,720

## General Location

Sullivan Island is located in Lynn Canal approximately 19 miles south of Haines. The area proposed for park status is located six miles south of the Chilkat Islands.

## Description of the area

The southern tip of Sullivan Island which is proposed for marine park status is a three-mile long peninsula extending due south in Lynn Canal. This area is comprised of old growth of Sitka spruce and hemlock forests and a number of gravel beaches. Protected moorage can be found within the area. Sullivan Island provides a link for pleasure boaters traveling between Juneau and Haines. Salmon and halibut fishing are an established use of this area. fishing, boating, picnicking, beachcombing and camping are all possible uses of this area. The area is popular for deer hunting.

## Reason for Marine Park Status

This area is proposed for marine park status because of its strategic location along the Haines-Juneau boating route, its existing use for recreation and opportunities for enhancing this use.



T39S, R64E Copper River Meridian,

- Sec. 29 All
- Sec. 31 All
- Sec. 32 All
- Sec. 33 All

Juneau - Shelter Is.  
Juneau (B-3)

And excluding USS 356, containing 5.97 acres, more or less, lying within Sec. 32, T39S, R64E Copper River Meridian; and those portions of USS 355, containing 3.29 acres, more or less, lying within Sec. 29, Sec. 31, Sec. 32, T39S, R64E CRM.

Said exclusions containing a total of 9.26 acres, more or less.

# Alaska Marine Park System

Name	Size
Shelter Island	land 298
	water 2,262
	total 2,560

## General Location

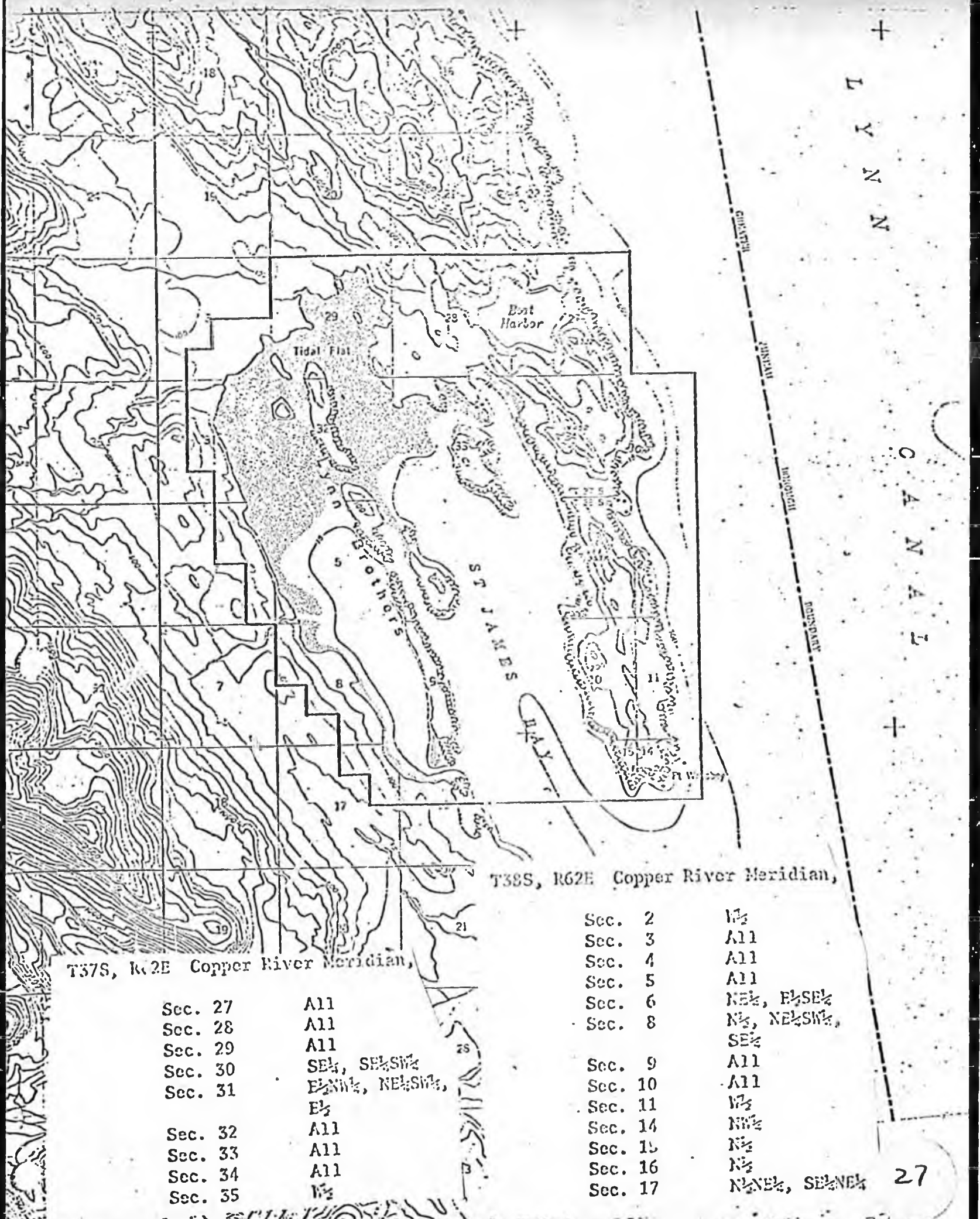
Shelter Island is located six miles west of Tee Harbor (Juneau). The island is located approximately 20 miles to the northwest by small boat from downtown Juneau.

## Description of the area

The area proposed for a state marine park is located in the north central portion of Shelter Island. The area includes Hand Troller Cove (also called Shelter Cove) on the western side of Shelter Island and Halibut Cove on the eastern or Tee Harbor side of the island. A nine-unit picnic facility has been developed within the area proposed for park status. This area is used by Juneau residents for both evening and daytime trips. The area offers opportunities for kayaking, boating, fishing, diving, beachcombing, picnicking and hiking. In the fall this area offers opportunities to hunt for Sitka blacktail deer. The area is forested with old growth Sitka spruce and hemlock.

## Reason for Marine Park Status

This area has been recommended as marine park in the Juneau Area Recreation Plan which was completed in June of 1982 as a cooperative interagency planning effort. Marine Park status for this area would both assure continued public use as well as the ability of the state to develop and manage it for public recreation opportunities.



T37S, R2E Copper River Meridian,

- Sec. 27 A11
- Sec. 28 A11
- Sec. 29 A11
- Sec. 30 SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 31 E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$
- Sec. 32 A11
- Sec. 33 A11
- Sec. 34 A11
- Sec. 35 W $\frac{1}{2}$

T38S, R62E Copper River Meridian,

- Sec. 2 W $\frac{1}{2}$
- Sec. 3 A11
- Sec. 4 A11
- Sec. 5 A11
- Sec. 6 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 8 N $\frac{1}{2}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 9 A11
- Sec. 10 A11
- Sec. 11 W $\frac{1}{2}$
- Sec. 14 NW $\frac{1}{4}$
- Sec. 15 N $\frac{1}{2}$
- Sec. 16 N $\frac{1}{2}$
- Sec. 17 N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

# Alaska Marine Park System

Name	Size
St. James Bay	land 3,385
	water 6,835
	total 10,220

## General Location

St. James Bay is located on the west side of Lynn Canal 12 miles northwest of Tee Harbor (Juneau) and approximately 42 miles south of Haines.

## Description of the area

The area possesses numerous protected beaches, tidal flats, and is forested with old growth, Sitka spruce. St. James Bay is both a destination recreational area as well as an overnight stop for boaters enroute between Haines and Juneau. Kayaking, boating, fishing, beachcombing, hiking, camping and picnicking are all existing uses of this area. It is within an easy day travel by boat from Juneau. Alaska Department of Fish and Game has identified Saint James Bay as the best waterfowl habitat and hunting area on Lynn Canal. Populations of black and brown bear and mountain goats exist within the area and to the west in the Chilkat mountain range.

## Reason for Marine Park Status

This area is proposed as a unit of the marine park system because of the existing use by pleasure boats and high natural and scenic resource values. This area has been proposed for marine park status in the Juneau Area Recreation Plan (an interagency planning effort completed in June of 1982).

# MEMORANDUM

# State of Alaska

Division of Geological and  
Geophysical Surveys

DATE: November 19, 1982

TO: Scott Christy

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO: 274-9681

FROM: G.H. Pesse  
Geologist VI  
CP

SUBJECT: Evaluation of Marine Park  
Proposals in Prince William  
Sound

The following is a very quick and preliminary summary of the proposed marine parks in the Prince William Sound area with respect to possible conflicts with mineral resources

**BETTLES BAY:** At least two small mines and possibly three exist within the proposal, and the largest lode gold mine in the area, Granite Mine, is located within two miles. These gold occurrences are not particularly important in an economic sense, but conflicts could exist if the owners of the claims were to decide to resume activity. The ultimate potential of this type of mine is not probably not very great (USGS), but the mines do exist.

**DECISION POINT-** no conflicts

**ENTRY COVE-** no conflicts

**SAWMILL BAY-** Some small scale lode gold mining activity took place in this area between 1910 and 1940. The economic potential is probably not very great, but status on the claims has not been checked out.

**SHOUP BAY-** same comments as apply to Sawmill Bay.

**ESTHER ISLAND-** no conflict

**SURPRISE COVE-** no conflict

**ZIEGLER-** some low-grade potential for lode gold exists in the area. The USGS reference maps show this as being within an area with some gold potential.

**HORSESHOE BAY-** This proposal has the greatest potential conflict. The area is located on Latouche Island, near the area where a large amount of mining took place prior to World War II. The mines were producing massive sulphides, mostly copper, and considerable amounts of accessory gold. The potential within this particular block of land is not known, and without considerable research into the literature and perhaps some field work, the mineral resources of the area cannot be ascertained with any certainty. However, it does lie within a region where the USGS thinks that at least two more major discoveries could be made. The claim status in the area should also be checked out.

# MEMORANDUM

# State of Alaska

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL & GEOPHYSICAL  
DATE: November 19, 1982 SURVEYS

TO Scott Christy  
Special Assistant to the Director

FILE NO.

TELEPHONE NO: 474-7147

FROM Tom Bundtzen, Geologist  
Fairbanks

SUBJECT: Evaluation of Marine  
Park Proposals in  
Southeast Alaska

The following is a brief summary of mineral appraisal in five marine parks, Southeast Alaska.

Oliver Inlet: No conflicts.

Comment: Strataform massive sulfide belt on west side of Seymour Canal; host lithologies are nearby.

Shelter Island: No conflicts.

Comment: In Juneau Cold Belt, but so far no claim filing on Shelter Island and no known mineral occurrences.

Chilkat Island: No conflicts.

Comment: Part of a mineralized silurian clastic sequence in southeast Alaska.

Sullivan Island: No conflicts.

Comment: Only fair mineral potential.

St. James Bay: A major gold deposit is being developed by St. Joe American Corporation on the south side of William Henry Bay. The deposit is considered to have a good chance for production and several million dollars have been expended since 1978. The southern limit of their claim blocks is only about 2 miles from the northern boundary of the marine park. Past production in gold exceeded 20 M.P. in 1982 at prices wh 13. St. James Bay is one of the only sheltered bays on Lynn Canal. If resource development was to occur St. James Bay could possibly be utilized in such a short time frame, I haven't been able to check this out with company officials.

TB/plc

note: A phone conversation with a representative for the new owners of these properties (Canal Land Co, Fred Eastough Esq.) has determined that William Henry Bay will be where access would be developed, not Saint James Bay.

- Linda Everett, Div. of Parks  
3/21/83

## Initial Analysis

CSSB 128 (Res) am "An Act establishing certain areas as marine park units of the Alaska State park system; and providing for an effective date."

Section 1 amends AS 41.20 (AS 41 = Public Resources; Chapter 20 = Parks and Recreational Facilities) by adding a new article creating a marine park program in the Department of Natural Resources.

Sec. 530 declares the purpose as maintenance of natural, cultural and scenic values; maintenance of fish and wildlife resources; and promotion and support of recreation and tourism. It further dedicates in subsection (b) the marine parks as special purpose sites under the constitution (Article 8, sec. 7). The existing state parks do not have this constitutional tie stated in their declaration of purpose.

Sec. 532(a) assigns the parks to DNR for control, maintenance and development.

Subsection (b) assigns to ADF&G management of fish and game resources in the marine parks, and requires ADF&F to consult with DNR before making regulations.

Subsection (c) requires DNR to develop a management plan for each unit, determining each unit's specific purpose and use, and requires DNR to notify all local governing bodies, ADF&G, private parties and others interested in participating in the formulation of the management plan.

Subsection (d) requires that DNR may not restrict fishing, hunting or trapping rights permitted under law within the parks.

Subsection (e) requires DNR to allow aquaculture facilities within the parks if compatible with this article.

Subsection (f) allows DNR to enter into cooperative agreements for management of State marine parklands with proximately located federal, municipal or private lands, and with those landowners.

Subsection (g) requires DNR to consult and cooperate with a Native corporation that owns an historical or cultural site that is proximately located to the parks; to address potential conflicts regarding historical or cultural values; and to provide for protection of these values.

Subsection (h) guarantees continued use of and access to private lands, mineral claims and leases; requires adequate and feasible access across park land to private land within or beyond; but allows DNR to adopt reasonable regulations to protect the values of the park.

Sec. 534 specifies the State land (or land and water to be acquired by the State) at 12 locations to be included in the marine park system.

Sec. 536(a) allows DNR to prohibit or restrict incompatible uses within State land and water described by Sec. 534.

Subsection (b) allows discharge of firearms unless specifically closed by DNR regulations for public safety.

Subsection (c) ensures that work of the FRED division of ADF&G can take place in the parks.

Subsection (d) assures reasonable access to and across marine parks for lawful hunting, fishing, trapping and recreational purposes.

Subsection (e) allows reasonable access to ADF&G and Public Safety for fish and game management, research and enforcement.

Sec. 2 provides an immediate effective date.

*Adopted*

Proposed amendment to HCS CS SB 128 (Resources)

Page 1, line 20.

following the phrase "wildlife resources",

insert:

and valid existing uses of these resources

*Adopted*

Proposed amendment to HCS CS SB 128 (Resources)

Page 8, line 21:

Following "AS 41.20.534",

Insert:

except as provided in AS 41.20.532(d)

# Floor Statement

SENATOR FAHRENKAMP  
APRIL 8, 1983

## CS SB 128, MARINE PARKS

YOU SHOULD PROBABLY MOVE AND ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT THAT THE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SB 128 BE ADOPTED.

SEN. FISCHER WILL BE PREPARED TO SPEAK TO THE OVERALL PURPOSES AND GOALS OF THE BILL.

YOU MIGHT MENTION THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS INCLUDED IN THE CS WHICH ADDRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERNS RAISED BY YOU AND THE COMMITTEE:

- THIS YEAR'S BILL INCLUDES ONLY SITES IN STATE OWNERSHIP, VIRTUALLY ALL WITHIN DAY'S TRAVEL OF MAJOR COMMUNITIES OF WHITTIER, VALDEZ, AND JUNEAU.
- HUNTING, FISHING, AND TRAPPING WOULD BE FULLY PERMITTED AND REMAIN UNDER CONTROL OF FISH AND GAME BOARDS AND DEPARTMENT.
- AQUACULTURE FACILITIES WOULD BE ALLOWED IN PARK UNITS.
- ACCESS ACROSS PARK UNITS TO REACH PRIVATE LANDS, AND FOR HUNTING, FISHING AND OTHER USES IN ADJACENT AREAS FULLY PERMITTED.
- BOUNDARIES HAVE BEEN DRAWN TO EXCLUDE KNOWN MINERAL AREAS, AND GENERALLY INCLUDE ONLY RELATIVELY SMALL LAND AREAS AROUND SMALL BAYS AND COVES.

### AMENDMENT

MOVE AND ASK FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO ADOPT THE AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD ADD THE WORDS "AND MINERAL CLAIMS AND LEASES" AFTER THE WORDS "PRIVATELY OWNED LAND" IN THE PROVISION TO ASSURE ACCESS ACROSS PARK UNITS. THIS LANGUAGE WAS IN THE CS PASSED OUT OF COMMITTEE BUT WAS INADVERTENTLY DELETED IN LEGAL. APPEARS ON PAGE 3, LINE 20 OF THE BILL.

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SENATOR VIC FISCHER, CHAIRMAN

POUCH V, JUNEAU 99811

(907) 465-4954



February 16, 1983

TO: Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp, Chair  
Senate Resources Committee

FROM: Senator Vic Fischer, Chair  
Senate resources Subcommittee on  
Parks and Recreation

RE: Prince William Sound Recreation Interim report

Enclosed is an interim report by the Senate Resources Subcommittee, Parks and Recreation, on Prince William Sound recreation. The report is based on testimony offered during a statewide teleconference held in Anchorage on October 15, 1982.

Testimony received during the teleconference centered around several issues affecting recreation development in the Sound. Following are suggestions and recommendations made during the public hearing:

1. Establish the Alaska Marine Park System through an act of the Alaska State legislature. As you know, legislation establishing the marine park system, SB 794, passed the Senate unanimously last year, but failed to pass the House before adjournment. It has been re-introduced as SB 128 and is currently before you in the Senate Resources Committee.
2. Improve and increase access to Whittier. There is a bill before the Senate Transportation Committee, SB 30, to upgrade and improve Whittier access. The fiscal restraint currently facing the legislature, however, makes passage unlikely this session. A step we could now take is to fund an updated study to improve Whittier access which considers other alternatives and recent technological advances in road and tunnel building.
3. Provide sufficient funding to Southcentral Emergency Medical Services to form a voluntary search and rescue coordinating group in the Sound. In addition, funds will be needed for equipment and radios and for contracting emergency search and rescue helicopter service in the Sound during the fishing and tourist season.
4. Continue the state's commitment to aquaculture development in the Sound with sufficient funds to maintain existing facilities and those scheduled for development within the next decade.
5. Establish a Prince William Sound Recreation Advisory Committee capable of addressing a wide range of issues. The committee should be

comprised of local residents, user groups, landowner/managers, and other interested parties to assure adequate representation, and should work closely with state and federal joint management efforts. The group should submit a yearly report reflecting overall planning for recreation development in the Sound as well as needs identified through public hearings.

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SENATOR VIC FISCHER, CHAIRMAN

POUCH V, JUNEAU 99811

(907) 465-4954



## PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND RECREATION

Report and summary of public meeting/teleconference  
PARKS AND RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE  
SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
October 15, 1982  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

The potential of Prince William Sound to help meet recreation needs of Anchorage and the Railbelt area was the subject of a public meeting and statewide teleconference held in Anchorage on October 15, 1982

The hearing, chaired by Senator Vic Fischer before the Senate Resources Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation was a follow up to a similar public hearing held in December 1981. Testimony during the 1981 meeting centered around pending settlement of land ownership and management issues in the Sound, private recreation plans, and transportation problems. Major developments have occurred in those areas since 1981. They include:

1. Transfer of federal land in Chugach national Forest to private native corporations.
2. Final U.S. Forest Service recommendations on land management in Chugach National Forest.
3. State legislation introduced establishing the Alaska Marine Park System.
4. Increased pressure on search and rescue ability in the Sound.
5. Recommendations of sites within the Sound for inclusion in the U.S. Marine Sanctuary Program.
6. Policy and schedule changes in the Alaska Marine Highway system servicing Prince William Sound.
7. State plans for land disposals in the Sound.
8. Private, state and federal recreation development plans.

"During last years teleconference I made a commitment to follow-up our discussions, principally because we found that key elements were currently undecided", Senator Fischer said. " At that time we had a lot of excellent presentations and very good testimony, all of it reinforcing what we knew was the tremendous potential of Prince William Sound to serve the recreational needs of the railbelt as well as it's value for tours and other purposes."

In opening remarks he explained that the proposed Marine Sanctuary program had been tabled by the Forest Service until extensive public hearings, both in Anchorage and Prince William Sound Communities, were conducted.

"For the purposes to this meeting," he said, " I mainly want to make sure that no one confuses Marine parks with Marine Sanctuaries. Marine parks is an Alaska based idea designed to serve recreational needs of Alaskans as well as visitors to the state. The basic concept behind marine Sanctuaries is to set those resources aside for scientific and other preservation purposes."

#### PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND RECREATION POTENTIAL

The significance of the Sound to Anchorage and other population centers can be seen by a glance at the map. The vast majority of recreational users in Alaska, both resident and tourist, are in close proximity to the Sound.

Don Dickey, Director of the Division of Tourism, said, " In just a couple of years, in 1985, to be exact, we expect a million visitors to Alaska. That is going to be quite a visitation for a state with a population of 400,000. It shows the need for developing new and having balanced recreational opportunities. We think Prince William Sound has that potential."

"Everyone recognizes", he said, " that the Sound actually plays a dual role. It not only provides services and attraction to out of state visitors, but it's also the recreational play ground for our largest city, Anchorage."



Dickey said, " The Sound has a great value in a program of promoting travel and tourism to our state. I think two things are our needs, one is diversification of attractions, the second is increased accessibility to those attractions so the people can reach them with ease."

"We want to make sure that the growing number of Americans stop, stay, spend, and hopefully enjoy their vacation in Alaska. I can think of no better partnership between government and the private sector, than teaming up to make certain that the recreational facilities available in Prince William Sound meet the growing demands," Dickey said.

### ACCESS

A central theme to testimony received in both teleconferences was the need for increased accessibility to Prince William Sound, specifically through Whittier.

Dickey said, "I think to insure Prince William Sound meets its recreation potential, the government, speaking of both state and federal, has a responsibility to see that access and infrastructure are provided. That's the highways, the harbors, and certainly the small boat harbors, railroad, and the transportation links that are needed."

The state Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF) discussed the alternatives presented in the 1980 Whittier Transportation Options study. This study looked at transportation alternatives into Prince William Sound through Whittier. It listed six alternatives ranging in cost from \$25 to \$50 million, and ranging in service from upgrading the present tunnels to building the Portage Pass Highway.

Stan McCalister of DOTPF testified that the original purpose of the study was fivefold: 1) to analyze the surface transportation needs of Whittier and Prince William Sound with primary attention given to the Portage Whittier link, 2) ascertain the deficiencies in the system that would occur in the future when future land use and economic development activities, including recreation and tourism occurred, 3) develop alternative transportation strategies to accommodate travel demand which was projected to increase, 4) analyze and evaluate available transportation options, and, 5) to recommend a course of action.

After considering each alternative, DOTPF made a recommendation to pursue option one - improvement of the existing Portage-Whittier Shuttle with a Bear Valley/Whittier auto/passenger shuttle.

Senator Fischer introduced legislation in 1982, SB 793, making an appropriation to DOTPF to complete option one. The bill did not pass the Senate.\*

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\*SB 793 was re-introduced in 1983 as SB 30, updated to FY83 dollars. SB 30 is currently in the Senate Transportation Committee, Chaired by Senator Pappy Moss.

Option one would, 1) improve the existing Portage/Whittier shuttle, by upgrading existing terminals with passenger amenities, station improvements, parking facilities, staging areas and rail and switch work and, 2) require improvements to existing tunnels and new rail passenger cars. In addition, DOTPF recommended construction of a road into Bear Valley with a terminal located there and relocating the base of the train operation to Whittier.

"Since last years teleconference", McCalister said, " we are at the point of lining the road into Bear Valley. That project is underway and should be completed by fall of 1983. By then the design will be ready for construction but, as it stands now, we have no construction funding, only enough to complete the design", he said.

As a complement to that project DOTPF is currently designing a road from Whittier to Shotgun Cove. "Again", McCalister said, " that project is in design and is slightly further along than the Whittier access or the Bear Valley Road and it too will be completed next year.

Senator Fischer asked when we could expect DOTPF to request funds to complete the recommended projects after the design stage is complete. McCalister answered, " The bear Valley Road is in competition with all the other projects in the region. It's not fared very well in that competiion with major Seward and Sterling highway projects and others. So, in our program for funding of the Bear Valley Road, we will be requesting the money two or three years down the line rather than this year."

"So in other words, if the schedule is to be speeded up it would essentially take legislative action to appropriate funds sooner?" Fischer asked. "Thats correct", McCalister said.

Bill Coghill, from the Alaska Railroad, spoke about recent improvements in Whittier access. "One was some \$8 million dollars to put new portals on the tunnels which was completed a couple of years ago on the four tunnel doors. The other \$4.2 million dollars went into the Whittier dock and transit facility. We have got just a little bit of work to do in that area and that will probably be delayed until next summer."

"This summer we upgraded the passenger cars, took out some of the older ones because we had put the upgraded electric cars into service. We built new ramps so that cars and passengers at Portage can load at the same time. We will complete the same ramps in Whittier this spring." Coghill said.

In addition, Coghill said, " We had a 5.2% ridership increase over the same two months (July and August) last year. We would certainly support Don Dickey's comments with regard to state assistance for support facilities and we back the study that Stan has addressed here."

Senator Fischer asked to what extent state funds are utilized in the projects mentioned. "We contract the shuttle to the state," Coghill said. It is contracted on a basis of an agreed cost per day. For the

last two quarters it has been a profitable operation and they're in the black or at least have a credit to apply to the winter months to hopefully balance out. The prior couple of years the net has been right around \$200,000. I see a drop this year, in the capital cost to the state."

Mary Brown, Whittier's City Manager, testified that increased transportation and access to the Sound was a high priority and considering Whittier in all development plans was crucial.

"If you are going to bring the people in here and out, we need to be able to get in and out and to handle the people that come in and out. And I think that one of the things that we are looking at the closest is the development of the present harbor we have. We have approximately 331 slips now with about 314 people currently on the waiting list", she said.

"If this recreation use is increased, we know there is going to be many many more people needing harbor slips than we have slips for. We would like to stress to all agencies that we would like to get the development of our current harbor taken care of. Look at the access road to Shotgun Cove and the harbor, so we can handle this influx of traffic when it comes," Evanoff said.

#### CURRENT LANDOWNERS/MANAGERS

There are five major landowner/managers in Prince William Sound. They are: 1) federal government through Chugach National Forest and National Park Service, 2) state government, primarily through the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks; 3) Chugach Natives Inc. and village corporations within it; 4) other private landowners, including commercial developers; and 5) municipal governments.

1. Federal landowner/managers - Jim Tallerico, recreational planner for Chugach National Forest, spoke about the recent settlement of major land ownership questions.

The Chugach Regional Study, mandated by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980, was completed in 1982. It will result in the conveyance of approximately 378 thousand acres of land to the Chugach Regional Native Corporation. This brings total private land holdings in the Sound to approximately 450 thousand acres including lands that have been or will be conveyed to the villages of Chenega, Tatitlek, and Eyak.

"In addition, approximately 20 thousand acres will go to the state from selections made for community expansion, community recreation, and new communities," Tallerico said. "Additional changes in land ownership patterns may be forthcoming with the possibility of additional state selections. We plan on releasing the final plan before mid-1983."

Tallerico also testified that wilderness, recreation and fisheries enhancement in the Sound were prime considerations in the forest management plan. "The recreation management of forests includes a naturalist program aboard the state ferries in Prince William Sound," Tallerico said. "We have 14 recreation cabins in the Sound and the potential to add others. We are presently working on a project to install five anchor buoys in the vicinity of Whittier and are working on marine related trails in the Sound."

"We are currently working with the state division of parks to develop a system of marine parks and recreation sites throughout the Sound," Tallerico said. "We are working with the State DOTPF and their planning effort to improve access to Whittier. In addition, we are continuing plans for a new visitor center at Portage."

Tallerico explained the necessity of recreation management of the Sound based on a variety of recreation opportunities. "We feel that there exists a spectrum of need for the most primitive to the more modern or developed end of the scale. Providing this spectrum recognizes that visitors have different expectations and needs."

"Prince William Sound can provide for the vast majority of present and future visitors but planning in cooperation between federal, state and private land owners and other interested groups will be the key to meeting the total public recreations needs," Tallerico said.

Senator Fischer asked about timber cutting quotas and to what extent that is liable to affect scenic and recreation values in the Sound. Tallerico answered that, "The Forest Service recognizes the importance of this resource and will continue to manage it on a sustained yield basis. There is a recognized timber resource in Prince William Sound and the best way I think to answer your question is the Forest Service will establish an annual allowable harvest. We will use our Visual Management System, our Cultural Resource Management System in the interest of the state to design any timber activities and to mitigate impacts to the extent we can."

2. Native Landowner/managers - The committee heard testimony from Gail Evanoff, President of the Chenega Village Council and John Allen, President of Tatitlek Corporation. Representatives of Chugach Inc. were unable to attend the teleconference but spoke to Senator Fischer prior to it.

Chugach natives, Inc. (CNI), is the second smallest regional corporation created under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. In 1981 they had not received entitlement to land awarded them under provisions of the act. Final negotiations with the state and federal government were completed in 1982 and CNI will receive entitlement to 378,000 acres, most of it in Prince William Sound, nearly eleven years after ANCSA became law.

Completion of the CNI negotiations was the single most significant event in Prince William Sound in recent years. Major land ownership and

management questions were finally answered and recreation development can be pursued as a more over-all and long-range effort.

Carl Propes, of Chugach Inc. said Chugach plans to move ahead very quickly with recreational related development in Prince William Sound. Some of the proposed development will provide general public and non-shareholders service facilities for recreational users. The corporation intends to aggressively develop recreation facilities, along with other projects, in the Sound.

"The Tatitlek Corporation probably is the largest private land owner in the sound with somewhere in the neighborhood of 87,000 acres, Allen said. " We are a large timber holder in this town. (Cordova) I think we have around 300 million board feet that we plan to harvest somewhere in the future when the market starts to look a little better."

Allen said Tatitlek has some of the most valuable pieces of real estate in the Sound as far as tourism goes and plans to build either a day lodge or facilities for overnight accommodations in the area within the year (1983).

"I think that since native corporations are the largest private land owners in the area, our actions will impact what happens as far as tourism and recreation development more than anything else," Allen said. "I know that all three corporations have plans for recreation development."

Evanoff testified that Chenega had identified some land use plans that speak to developing land lease programs and putting in recreation cabins and a mini resort in the area. "But as I say, it is still pretty much in a study. Our priority is settling New Chenega but I think by 1984 we will have something that we are able to public v come forth with", she said.

3. State landowner/managers - in 1977 the state, through the Division of parks, began a program to select statehood entitlements from the Chugach National Forest in Prince William Sound. Of the 36 sites proposed in 1977, only 18 had been approved by the Forest Service by 1981. The Chugach settlement has assured conveyance of state land on all but a few areas. Those areas are subject to on-going negotiations by the state and Forest Service, with recreation use being the primary aim on both sides.

The state faces major policy decisions about what to do with their holdings in Prince William Sound. Selected primarily for recreation purposes, state land is scattered over nearly 40 sites within the Sound.

There are many uses for the state held land within the Sound. Among them are: recreation, tourism, municipal development, mining, timber, commercial fishing, aquaculture and land disposals. While state agency representatives testified that they want to pursue each of these ends, public testimony tended to disagree that these uses were compatible. Specifically, the public believed that state owned land within the sound

should remain public land and not be sold to private owners through land disposals.

#### PUBLIC/PRIVATE LAND OWNERSHIP AND RECREATION DEVELOPMENT

In 1981 less than 5% of Prince William Sound was in private ownership, other than Native corporation entitlements. The Chugach land settlement in 1982 changed those figures dramatically.

Bix Willis, from the state Division of Lands (DNR), testified in favor of land disposals. "All indications that we have are that there is a very strong demand for individual ownership of both residential and recreational properties in the Prince William Sound area," he said. In addition, he said that demand assessment information was gathered prior to the Chugach land settlement.

Senator Fischer replied that he believed if land were available, the state could probably sell hundreds of thousands of acres in the Sound to both Alaskans and non-residents. He asked whether we could dispose of the land without sacrificing scenic and recreation values.

Al Meiners, from the state Division of Parks, testified that, "It's true that the development of private recreational cabins out there would not mean that you couldn't go out there and recreate anymore. "But," he said, "it would mean that a visitor to the area would have a rather significantly different kind of experience. That is potentially alright as long as it's well planned for and limited and concentrated in specific areas".

Wayne Mundy, of the Division of Lands, said, "We attempted to place disposals in a very discrete manner so as not to effect the recreation and tourism uses of the Sound. Our selections were quite often kept in back bays out of main passages and tourist boats. So as not to impact the harbor areas themselves, we chose only portions of those areas."

Chuck Evans, a private citizen and boat owner, disagreed. "I would certainly resist any further transfer of lands to private ownership for residences or whatever. I am convinced that the implications of such private ownership on the other values of the land are too great."

"As one person pointed out, you put a dwelling on a bay, for all practical purposes the whole bay is reserved for their use. I felt this myself, we have felt it in places where these buildings were unoccupied, this is somebody else's land and so you stay away from it," he said.

Richard Gruff, a private citizen, testified from Cordova. "Because of ANILCA, we now have a lot of private land in the Sound. Private lands probably will be developed and will provide the kind of services that the recreationists would need and desire," he said.

"My firm opinion is that remaining public lands should be left basically as it is to be used for the multiple use purposes such as the Forest Service plan," Gruff said. "One of the reasons I say this is because

we have the extreme possibility of destroying the very thing that makes Prince William Sound unique."

Testimony from Nancy Decker, a sound resident, landowner, and tourboat operator, supported Gruff's ideas about public versus private land. She spoke in favor of the proposed marine parks system, whether federal or state. She further suggested that, should state land disposals be unavoidable, they at least should be concentrated in one place within the Sound.

Rodger Burggraf of Fairbanks said, " I believe in private enterprise developing private lands for camping and docking and other facilities that people can enjoy. However, with the transfer of large blocks of land to private corporations, access may be denied to the public to enjoy the scenic beauty of these areas. I think one way of insuring that the public is able to get into some of these areas is possibly to set up marine Parks in these areas where access may be denied.

#### ALASKA MARINE PARK SYSTEM

During the 1982 legislature Senate Bill 794 - an act establishing the Alaska Marine Park System was introduced by Senator Fishcer. It passed the Senate unanimously but failed to pass the House before adjournment. It has been re-introduced as Senate Bill

The marine park system, modeled after similar ones in British Columbia and Washington state would, establish 14 marine park sites, five in Southeastern Alaska and nine in Prince William Sound.

The primary management goal for the Marine Park System is to protect natural, scenic, and cultural resources and to make those resources available for long-term public use and enjoyment. In addition, marine parks would help maintain fish and wildlife resources while promoting and supporting recreation and tourism in the state.

State park officials see neither the need nor desirability for commercial developments within any of the potential marine park sites in the Sound and hold that basic services should be provided by the private sector.

Judy Marquez, Director of the Alaska Division of Parks, and Al Meiners, a park planner within the Division, spoke about recreation development in the Sound and the proposed Marine Park System.

"The establishment of the marine park system has been proposed as a means of protecting the sites within the Sound with particularly high recreation values for long term public use", Marquez said. " We believe that establishment of this system will help ensure that residents of and visitors to Southcentral Alaska will be able to enjoy the scenic beauty and opportunities of the Sound for years to come."

Meiners testified that the kind of development the division plans in marine park units varies from site to site. "Currently the Forest

Service is placing some mooring buoys in areas along Passage Channel and around Port Wells. As far as the development of the additional sites, this would be addressed through a cooperative management and development plan prepared by the Division of Parks and the Forest Service," Meiners said.

"We really envision some sites being very minimally developed, possibly a mooring buoy or trail, some beach camp sites. Others a little more intensively developed with possibly a dock or float."

"In comparison with highway accessible park sites, marine park units are considerably cheaper for the Division to manage," Meiners said.

The Division is developing a cooperative management plan with the Forest Service for recreation sites in the Sound. Jim Tallerico, park planner for the Forest Service said, "We are currently working with the state division of parks to develop a system of marine parks and recreation sites throughout the Sound. This cooperative effort may resolve some of the present litigation regarding disapproved state selections."

Perry Lovett, Mayor of Cordova, testified in strong support of the marine park system. "We would like to see some reasonable development of the park system," Lovet said. "We would not like to see private land disposals, but keep the land in public ownership. The best way to do that would be marine parks."

Chuck Evans spoke in support of marine parks. "I have viewed this marine parks thing with considerable trepidation and it has become clear that it is more or less an either/or proposition, it is either a marine park or it's private ownership. That being so, let's do the best we can and get on with establishing marine parks," he said.

The marine park system was endorsed by virtually every person testifying during the teleconference. Municipal Mayors, native corporation presidents, and private citizens expressed the belief that a marine park system was the highest and best use of state owned land in the Sound.

#### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

1. Search and Rescue - Recreation development in Prince William Sound presents many problems to the state. Regardless of state action or inaction, visitors to the Sound are increasing dramatically. The resulting pressure on already inadequate search and rescue facilities creates a dangerous and potentially tragic situation.

Tom Scott, Southcentral Emergency Medical Services coordinator testified during the hearing that "EMS services in the Sound are currently provided by volunteers in the communities of Cordova, Valdez and Whittier. Those services are organized primarily to serve the needs of the immediate community."

"Search and rescue in the Sound is statutorily the responsibility of the United States Coast Guard and the Alaska State Troopers, both of which

do not have the resources, manpower, or equipment, or finances to really adequately meet the needs of search and rescue in the Sound," Scott said.

While Sound communities believe they are adequately covered, search and rescue operations for the rest of the area are woefully inadequate and, in fact, non-existent in most places. The nearest Coast Guard helicopter is permanently stationed 200 miles away, in Kodiak. The city of Cordova contracted with a private company to provide emergency helicopter rescue service during the fishing and tourist season in 1982.

While such a program is costly for a municipality to manage, Cordova felt it was necessary in view of a series of fatal accidents in the Sound in the Spring of 1982. At least one of the deaths could have been avoided had there been adequate search and rescue response.

"Primarily it's lack of coordination between communities and agencies having responsibility in the Sound," Scott said. Attempts are being made to form a volunteer coordinating group for search and rescue operations but lack of funding has prevented people from getting together to form a core.

Adequate funding for state emergency medical services would help. "I think there is a need for funding. I feel the acuteness right now is to have the funds to develop a plan, to do an analysis and find out what we really need down there. And set up an organization so people are talking to each other and then possibly fund any additional resources," Scott said.

2. Whittier - The increase in visitors to the Sound present special problems to the city of Whittier. A small community of people who greatly value their privacy, Whittier occupies the only suitable land for buildings in the area of one of Alaska's best deep water ports. The entire usable land in the area is less than 100 acres.

Slips in the Whittier boat harbor have been filled to capacity for years with an extensive waiting list. Any state plans to increase access through Whittier must consider the lack of suitable land. There simply isn't enough space for the people visiting the area, let alone their cars, boats and equipment.

Mary Lee Brown of Whittier testified, "Increased transportation and access is of course a real high priority with us. One of the things we are looking at the closest is the development of the present harbor we have. Look at the access road to Shotgun Cove and the harbor, so we can handle this influx of traffic when it comes."

Whittier residents resent the rest of Alaska viewing them as a "bus-stop" on their way to the Sound. Since Whittier represents such a small population base when considering funding priorities for the district, they cannot effectively compete. This situation is greatly exacerbated when the capital facilities considered will primarily benefit Anchorage recreation users. Anchorage is understandably hesitant

to invest a considerable share of their dollars in capital improvements located in another city.

3. Ferry Service - Ferry service to Prince William Sound communities and scenic areas was the subject of written testimony submitted to the Committee. Residents expressed fear that, since ferry service was limited, having a stop in one place would preclude a scheduled stop in another. Passengers complained that policy changes regarding the amount of carry on luggage they were allowed, prevented many from transporting kayaks into remote recreation areas.

Considerable complaint was registered about the state's decision to stop ferry runs to the face of the Columbia glacier. Since many visitors and resident Alaskans can't afford a private tour boat ride to the glacier, Commissioner Ward's decision has prevented them from enjoying one of Alaska's greatest scenic attractions.

4. Commercial/Recreational fishing - Development of any kind in the Sound must address the real concerns of the commercial fishing industry. Prince William Sound is one of Alaska's greatest fishing resources and provides thousands of Alaskans with a living.

Jeff Stonehill of Cordova testified that, "I feel commercial fishermen have been major users of Prince William Sound in the past and this is definitely changing and will continue to change and I don't think we can resist that. As far as sport fish use and commercial fish use is concerned," he said, "the Sound is big enough that we can all use it."

Fishermen expressed support for the Marine Parks System, aquaculture development, and over-all planning for recreation use that identifies and protects spawning grounds and critical areas. "Mining and logging development will hurt the commercial fisherman more than sport use," Stonehill said, "I would certainly rather see the Sound developed towards more important use and feel the development plan should balance user groups and separate them as much as possible to alleviate potential conflict."

Fishermen fear increased recreational use could endanger fish stocks and compete with commercial fishing interests. Stan Moberly, of the state aquaculture division, testified that, by channeling some segments of the recreating public into certain places, we could lessen that impact considerably. He also felt pressure on Cook Inlet fishing, particularly sportsfishing, would be reduced by providing access into the Sound.

Moberly gave a comprehensive review of current aquaculture development in the Sound and projected costs for maintaining current facilities. Everyone, from fishermen to mayors, supported continuing aquaculture development as crucial to the future of the Sound.

5. Timber harvest - Initially Senator Fischer requested the state division of Forestry to testify because of plans to harvest timber on state land within the Sound. Although the Division said they had no current plans, timber harvesting will be considered in certain areas at a future date.

Considerable testimony in opposition to any timber harvesting in the Sound was expressed during the hearing. This included harvesting on state, private, or federal land. The general feeling was that timber harvesting presents a serious and unacceptable threat to fish stocks, scenic and recreation values, and public and private multiple use of the Sound. Further, the depressed world timber market made harvesting at this time fiscally irresponsible as well as ecologically unsound.

Senator Vic Fischer

ALASKA MARINE PARK SYSTEM  
CS SB 128 (Resources)

April 8, 1983  
(FLOOR VOTE BRIEFING)

- The beauty of Alaska's inside passage and the purity and recreation value of Prince William Sound is nationally and internationally known.
- value to Alaska for tourism, public recreation and enjoyment is tremendous
- Land designated as marine parks under this bill were originally selected under the statehood act for superior scenic and public recreation value.
- State is in court with the U.S. Forest Service over disapproval of selections.
- Alaska's case rests on having selected these lands for public recreation purposes.
- designating them as marine parks assures the feds of our good intentions and strengthens our case.
- SB 128 designates 14 marine park units, 9 in PWS, and 5 in SE.
- any further additions to the system can only be done by an act of the Legislature.
- Marine parks are designed to increase public access and use of state owned land high in recreation and scenic value.
- park management under this system will become a standard for an Alaskan park managed for the enjoyment and use of residents and visitors alike.
- a chance to create a state-of-the-art park using the best Alaska, and Alaskans have to offer.
- provisions in SB 128 protect public access to and through marine park units, protects hunting, fishing, and trapping rights along with other traditional uses.
- marine park units will be serviced almost exclusively by small, local, private businesses.

- lodging, fuel docks, food service, and recreation equipment will be provided by private businesses adjacent to the units.
- private landowners adjacent to proposed marine park units already have developed plans and facilities to service public recreation users.
- During 1982 election polls - 65% of respondents supported increased funding for parks and recreation.
- Resident recreation pressure on Kenai-Cook Inlet area has reached critical proportions.
- Opening PWS to public recreation will relieve some of this pressure.
- Sportsfishing pressure on Cook Inlet will be relieved by channeling sportsfishers into the Sound.
- and not by regulating them or restricting them, but by providing increased recreation and sportsfishing opportunities.
- Within the sound, marine park units can help channel recreation users into specific areas and away from major commercial fishing grounds.
- SB 128 contains language encouraging development of aquaculture facilities.
- Establishing a marine park system has received tremendous statewide support.
- Most communities in PWS have endorsed the system including Chugach Inc, and the village corporations within it.
- endorsed by the AVA, ACVA, the Ak. Environmental Lobby, and Dale Bonderant of the Izzak Walton League.

Walter J. Hickel

BOX 1700  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510  
907-276-7400

April 12, 1983

Honorable John Ringstad  
House of Representatives  
Pouch V  
Juneau, AK 99811

APR 14 1983

Dear John:

Re: Alaska Marine Park System - Prince William Sound

Legislation recently passed the Senate to establish an Alaska Marine Park System. I hope you will support it when it comes before the House. In fact, I hope you'll agree with me the State should do more.

About one-third of the shoreline of the Sound is in private hands already. Most of the bays used by boaters could, at the decision of one or two owners, be closed to all with a "no trespassing" sign. And these are areas with virtually no commercial value.

You know them as I do. Within a few hours from Whittier one can anchor in Eshamy Bay and hike up to Eshamy Lake. But Eshamy is now private. Granite Bay, Paddy Bay, Jackpot Bay, Ewan Bay, and all the areas off Dangerous Passage, are in private hands.

I am sure you are aware that Eshamy Lake and Lagoon is the source of one of the prime fisheries in Prince William Sound for both the commercial and recreational user. In fact the State currently maintains a cabin and fish weir on land that is now in private hands. It's a tragic mistake to not allow public access to Eshamy or any of the several other areas in the Sound that have had active and historical public access.

A review of the land-ownership map in Prince William Sound indicates that not only are the aforementioned prime recreation areas now in private hands but in my opinion virtually the entire useable east coast of Prince William Sound is in private hands, placing access to that land virtually off-limits to the public.

Clearly, the private landowners knew exactly what they wanted in the Sound and from all appearances they got it. Many of the safest harbors and access to some of the most scenic areas are now private.

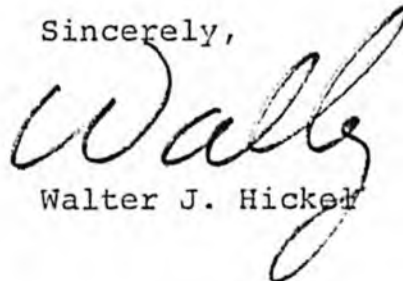
The State should actively attempt a trade with the private landowners to get some of these lands--with no value but recreation--back into public hands.

The question is not whether the few places listed in the bill pending before you are too many. They may be all that we have. We should do more. Decision Point, Bettles Bay, South Esther Island, and other areas should be reserved for the next generation of Alaskans to enjoy in common.

John, no one who fought the D-2 battle with us or against us can say we're against letting people go out and put a cabin in the wilds. But we're also for some public land, both for the people who don't have cabins and those who want to enjoy the areas from a boat or a kayak. The decision in Washington already was a bad one. Let's make a good decision here, where we care and are in control.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wally".

Walter J. Hicker



## Marine parks for Alaska

By Walter J. Hickel

REPRINTED FROM A GUEST  
EDITORIAL IN THE ANCHORAGE  
TIMES, April 28, 1983

FOR NEARLY 25 years I've enjoyed one of Alaska's most valuable resources: the scenic beauty of Prince William Sound. On our boat The Ermalee, I've boated its waters through calms and storms, savored the area's rugged mountains, delighted in the sound's abundant wildlife, hiked the shoreline.

Around the world I've told people to come to Alaska to see the world's greatest waterpark. But let's not kid ourselves. Prince William Sound is not a park. During the past five years I've watched one-third of the sound become private property through native claims. I do not challenge that and I don't apologize for my commitment to private ownership. Private land, not public land, is the foundation of the success and prosperity of our great country.

BUT LET US not ignore another concept instilled in our land by Teddy Roosevelt. I call it the Public Trust. Public Trust is the concept that some areas are so outstanding in their very nature as to properly belong to all of the people for all time. Properly, we don't allow the homesteading of our Yellowstone and Yosemite.

There is now a Public Trust question involving a scattering of small state-selected lands along our beautiful Alaska coast. Some of the more scenic, protected coves, bays and beaches in Southeast Alaska and in Prince William Sound are included. Places being acquired under the auspices of the Statehood Act, which allows up to 400,000 acres to be selected out of the Chugach and Tongass national forests, are proposed as marine parks. I think we should move ahead.

A MARINE PARK lets you do what you do now in these areas: anchor a boat, go ashore to fish, hike or camp. Picked for protection from the weather, these are places where a kayaker can seek adventure, where a pilot can land his amphibious or float plane and go ashore and not confront a "no trespassing" sign. People do that now all over Prince William Sound.

The only problem is recent land selections in the area have brought that possibility of a "no trespassing" sign much closer. Near Cordova, all of the east side of the sound, down to the coastline, is now in private hands. On the west side, the bays and inlets of Dangerous Passage are potentially closed to the public. These areas on the route between Whittier and Seward are commonly

used by boaters and fishermen from Anchorage.

The question is not whether we should make marine parks; it's whether we are doing enough. Washington State and British Columbia have been creating and managing marine parks for years. Washington has 57 such places; British Columbia has now set up 23 including one a scant five miles south of the Alaska border. By allocating a small percentage of our national forest selections to marine parks, we build what our state parks director, Neil Johannsen, calls the "International Connection."

THERE'S A BILL now pending in the Legislature to establish the first 14 of what should be a recreation system stretching up the Southeast coast to Prince William Sound. The measure was co-sponsored by nearly half the Senate, which passed the measure to the House where it now awaits action.

Last year the House killed a similar bill, desiring some changes. The bill has now been redrafted to protect and provide for a wide range of activities, including hunting, trapping, commercial and sport fishing, aquaculture and access to adjacent lands. The proposed state parks would be managed by Alaskans, not, as a recent editorial pointed out, by "back-East bureaucrats." They average less than 1,000 acres each — this is not a D-2 rip-off. The legislation sitting in the House involves but 3 percent of state-selected national forest lands.

Starting here, the next step for the state is to offer a land trade, and encourage native owners to allow more of the lands now used by all to return to the public trust.

Most Alaskans live on or near our beautiful coast. We enjoy the coast — boating, fishing, flying, digging a bucket of clams. We can afford to save these special places for recreation. We mustn't assume that what we see and enjoy today is what our children will have tomorrow. Alaska is changing fast.

I am committed to seeing these coastal parks created. I urge your support. The time is now for the Alaska Legislature to make this land investment for us all.

*Walter Hickel, the author of this guest column is a former governor of Alaska and former secretary of the Interior.*

TO: Scott Christy

State of Alaska  
Division of Geological and  
Geophysical Surveys  
DATE: November 19, 1982

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO: 274-9681

FROM: G.H. Pessel  
Geologist VI  
4

SUBJECT: Evaluation of Marine Park  
Proposals in Prince William  
Sound

The following is a very quick and preliminary summary of the proposed marine parks in the Prince William Sound area with respect to possible conflicts with mineral resources

BETTLES BAY: At least two small mines and possibly three exist within the proposal, and the largest lode gold mine in the area, Granite Mine, is located within two miles. These gold occurrences are not particularly important in an economic sense, but conflicts could exist if the owners of the claims were to decide to resume activity. The ultimate potential of this type of mine is not probably not very great (USGS), but the mines do exist.

DECISION POINT- no conflicts

ENTRY COVE- no conflicts

SAWMILL BAY- Some small scale lode gold mining activity took place in this area between 1910 and 1940. The economic potential is probably not very great, but status on the claims has not been checked out.

SHOUB BAY- same comments as apply to Sawmill Bay.

ESTHER ISLAND- no conflict

SURPRISE COVE- no conflict

ZIEGLER- some low-grade potential for lode gold exists in the area. The USGS reference maps show this as being within an area with some gold potential.

HORSESHOE BAY- This proposal has the greatest potential conflict. The area is located on Latouche Island, near the area where a large amount of mining took place prior to World War II. The mines were producing massive sulphides, mostly copper, and considerable amounts of accessory gold. The potential within this particular block of land is not known, and without considerable research into the literature and perhaps some field work, the mineral resources of the area cannot be ascertained with any certainty. However, it does lie within a region where the USGS thinks that at least two more major discoveries could be made. The claim status in the area should also be checked out.

# MEMORANDUM

# State of Alaska

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL & GEOPHYSICAL  
DATE: November 19, 1982 SURVEYS

TO: Scott Christy  
Special Assistant to the Director

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO: 474-7147

FROM: Tom Bundtzen, Geologist  
Fairbanks

SUBJECT: Evaluation of Marine  
Park Proposals in  
Southeast Alaska

The following is a brief summary of mineral appraisal in five marine parks, Southeast Alaska.

Oliver Inlet: No conflicts.

Comment: Strataform massive sulfide belt on west side of Seymour Canal; host lithologies are nearby.

Shelter Island: No conflicts.

Comment: In Juneau Gold Belt, but so far no claim filing on Shelter Island and no known mineral occurrences.

Chilkat Island: No conflicts.

Comment: Part of a mineralized silurian clastic sequence in southeast Alaska.

Sullivan Island: No conflicts.

Comment: Only fair mineral potential.

St. James Bay: A major gold deposit is being developed by St. Joe American Corporation on the south side of William Henry Bay. The deposit is considered to have a good chance for production and several million dollars have been expended since 1978. The southern limit of their claim blocks is only about 2 miles from the northern boundary of the marine park. Past production in gold exceeded 20 M.P. in 1982 at prices wh 13. St. James Bay is one of the only sheltered bays on Lynn Canal. If resource development was to occur St. James Bay could possibly be utilized in such a short time frame, I haven't been able to check this out with company officials.

TB/plc

Fred Eastough, (ATT. FOR CANAL LAND CO.) SAID THEY WILL DEVELOP ACCESS IN WILLIAM HENRY BAY, NOT HERE. CANAL CO. JUST PURCHASED THE CLAIMS FROM ST. JOE.

2/21/83

## PROPOSED ALASKA STATE MARINE PARK SYSTEM

### HISTORY

- \* Linkage with Puget Sound--Washington State and British Columbia marine park systems.
- \* Washington State has 57 marine park areas and Canada has designated 23 marine park areas.
- \* Section 6(a) of the Alaska Statehood Act provides for 400,000 acres to be selected by the state from the National Forests for community expansion and recreation purposes.
- \* Portions of state land selections filed in 1977 in Prince William Sound and Southeast identified areas of special interest for marine park purposes.
- \* Extensive public hearings in the land selection process refined final selection areas and support for marine park system.
- \* The State selected 280,000 acres in 1977, 65,000 acres in 1982, and the remaining of the 400,000 entitlement will be selected in 1983.
- \* 80 areas or 69,000 acres were initially identified for the state marine park system. In all likelihood the number will be reduced.
- \* The U.S. Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service) disapproved 55 areas of the 80 total areas selected in 1977.
- \* 25 proposed marine park areas were approved and lands were conveyed to the state.
- \* The state has filed suit in Anchorage District Court challenging the federal disapproval of other lands selected as a violation of the state's rights to select lands from the National Forest.

### MARINE PARK BILL (SB 128)

- \* Identifies 9 areas in Prince William Sound and 5 acres in Southeast (See map and listing).
- \* The total land acreage of marine park sites in SB 128 is 13,000 acres or only three percent of the state's 400,000 acre entitlement. Ultimately the marine park system would comprise 40,000 acres or about 10 percent of the state's entitlement based upon a probable out-of-court settlement of the State/Forest Service lawsuit.
- \* SB 128 guarantees a continuation of public:
  - hunting
  - fishing
  - trapping
  - commercial fishing
  - aquaculture activities
  - fisheries enhancement
  - access to adjacent lands
  - including mining claims

- \* Marine park areas identified represent some of the best protected boat anchorages and scenic areas used by the public forming a linkage or system of sites.
- \* Economic benefits to communities through the marine park system include tourism development opportunities, rentals and services, boat moorage, maintenance and repair services, air taxi and guide operations, and other visitor services.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF A MARINE PARK SYSTEM FOR ALASKA: THE FORESIGHT AND RESPONSE TO CHANGE

- \* The marine park system is considered a positive link to the tourism potential of Prince William Sound and will compliment the development of tourism in other areas of private land.
- \* Management of the marine park sites would include such public opportunities as public use cabins, tent platforms and open shelters, sanitary facilities, mooring buoys, and trails.
- \* Recreation user surveys show that 54% of Alaskan residents engage in boating activities.
- \* Waiting lists for boat moorage slips in the coastal communities often exceed 1,000 applicants.
- \* Tourism marketing surveys show the marine coastal environment as a major draw for its spectacular scenery, tidewater glaciers, wildlife displays, wilderness character and sense of adventure.
- \* The marine park system represents a unique opportunity for the state to display a sense of foresight and pride in its protecting its natural wonders.
- \* Land use changes in Prince William Sound and Southeast have been dramatic. Nearly 300,000 acres or approximately one-third of the shoreline in Prince William Sound is now in private ownership.
- \* The marine park sites are not located in areas of high mineral or resource development interest. The reservation of marine park sites represents a good balance between commercial timber clear-cutting areas and recreation.
- \* Communities are supportive of the marine park system with resolutions or letters of support received from Whittier, Seward, Cordova, Valdez, and Chugach Native Corp.

Neil C. Johannsen  
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Alaska State Parks

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# MARINE PARKS FOR ALASKA

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## The International Connection

*By Neil C. Johannsen, Chief of Planning, Alaska State Parks*

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# MARINE PARKS FOR ALASKA

## The International Connection

By Neil C. Johansen, Chief of Planning, Alaska State Parks



An international system of marine parks and recreation areas, stretching from near Olympia, Washington, along southern Puget Sound northward to the Central Alaska coastline, is taking shape. The marine parks, being established in Washington State and British Columbia and planned in Alaska, are usually small in acreage and are located in protected bays and coves; some are situated on tiny islands and others are on the mainland. Planned for boaters and fly-in recreationists will be 163 marine parks —

most an easy 1-day boat trip from one to another — spread over 1,600 miles of mostly protected waterways.

The legendary beauty of the Northwest Coast, coupled with the area's high per-capita ownership of boats and floatplanes, has resulted in increasing interest in efforts to create marine parks. Few governments in the world have a similar opportunity to leave open key portions of their ocean shoreline properties for public use. In Alaska, 54% of all residents participate in boating, a rate far higher than the



Top — Half a dozen units of the proposed marine park system, some to be managed to accommodate large numbers of recreational boaters, are located within an easy day's sail of this vista of the mountainous east side of Port Wells in northwestern Prince William Sound. (Neil and Betty Johansen)

Above — The sloop Nellie Juan inches through the narrow entrance of Disk Island lagoon, near the north end of Knight Island in Prince William Sound. As part of the proposed marine park system, the tiny anchorage will remain as near a natural condition as possible. (Neil and Betty Johansen)



Sundum Glacier marks the site of a proposed unit of the marine park system on the south shore of Endicott Arm, off Stephens Passage south of Juneau. Remains of the 1880 gold mining camp of Sundum can be found near the base of the glacier. (Nancy Simmerman)

national average. Boat ownership in the Seattle area is the highest of any large city in the nation. Demand for boat slips in the Vancouver and Victoria areas is many times higher than the supply. A result has been that the state of Washington and the province of British Columbia are working hard to establish 99 marine parks stretching up the coast north from Olympia to a

scant 5 miles south of the Alaska-Canada border.

And now Alaska has drawn plans to continue such marine parks up the coast to the northern Gulf of Alaska. Alaska's opportunity to tie into this international system had its genesis when the Statehood Act, drafted in 1958, included Section 6(a), which allows Alaska to select up to 400,000 acres of

national forest land, which in Alaska covers most of the convoluted shorelines of Southeastern and Prince William Sound. State selections from the U.S. Forest Service domain must be for purposes of community expansion and for recreational purposes. Alaska Governor Hammond and Attorney General Avrum Gross saw the legal opportunities afforded by the Statehood Act and agreed that the state use a portion of its land entitlement to build the last link in an international marine park system. With 85% of Alaskans residing near the coastline, public reception to the plan was enthusiastic.

Through 2 years of research and meetings with residents of coastal communities, the plans slowly took shape. The result was a decision to allocate 70,000 acres of Forest Service land to a comprehensive plan for the proposed marine parks. Selections for the system were filed with the Forest Service on December 19, 1977.

Overall strategy focused on the idea that numerous small parks would allow for a wider variety of accessible coastal environments than selection of just a few large areas. In addition, the theme used in British Columbia and Washington could be followed. Thus, within Alaska's marine parks, facilities such as docks, mooring floats, beach campsites, trails and toilets could be developed. The vast majority of these proposed Alaska parks are near well-



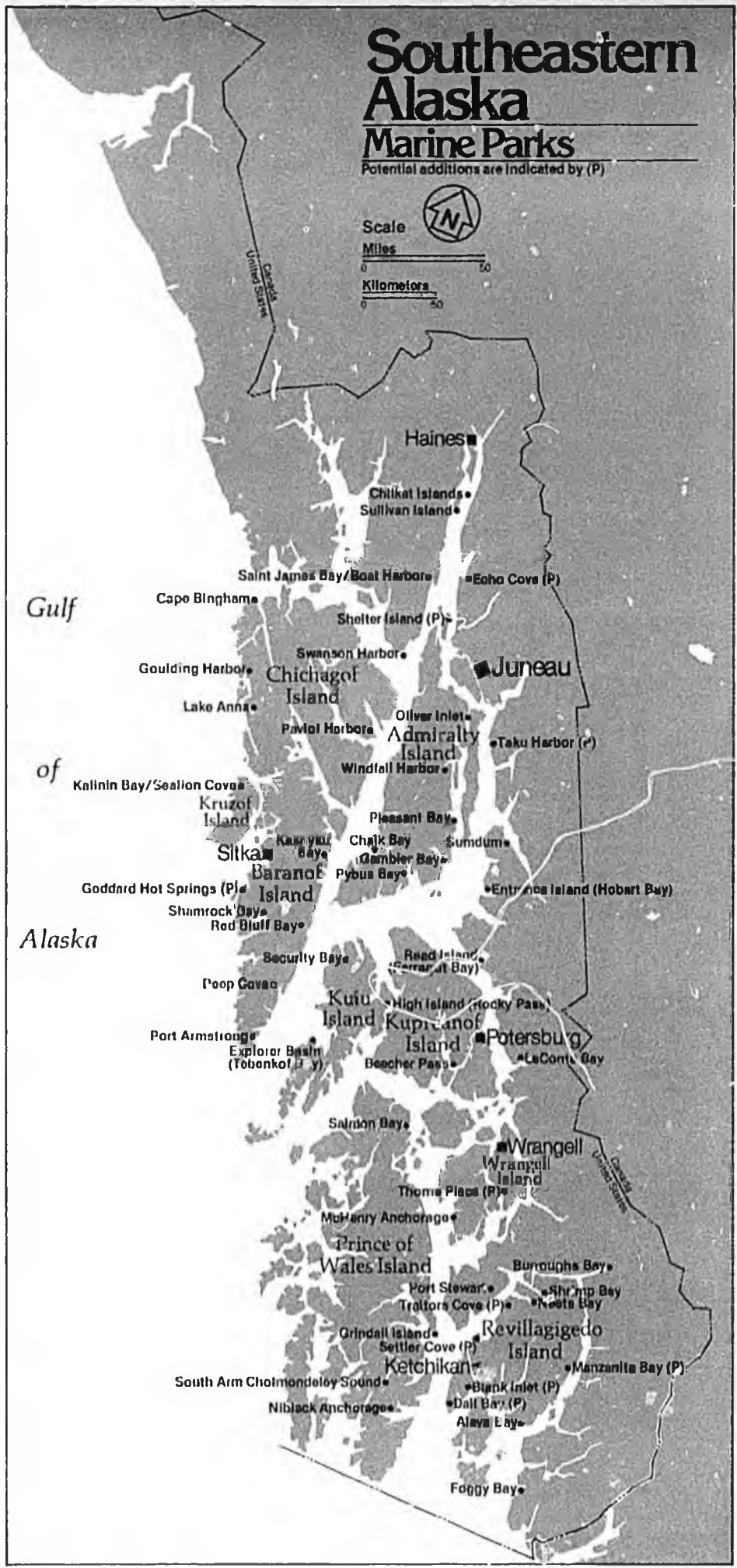
established pleasure boat routes and floatplane landing sites. Some parks are close to communities, while others are in remote wilderness. Areas were carefully selected for scenic quality, productive sport fishing and protection from prevailing winds. Recreational opportunities include beachcombing, crabbing, shrimping, hunting, camping, scuba diving, observing wildlife or visiting historical areas.

Only 15% of Alaska's selections from forest lands is necessary to provide this park system. In total, 25 areas were selected in Prince William Sound and 39 areas were identified for marine park status in Southeastern Alaska. Terry McWilliams, director of Alaska's state park system, recently pointed out that with "growing interest in coastal logging and other extractive industries along Alaska's ocean shores, an unparalleled opportunity is provided to create the system, with only 70,000 acres being reserved for existing plans for wilderness and industrial development."

Though development and management plans for the proposed marine park system haven't yet been drawn up, the primary goal will be to maintain the natural appearance of the sites, providing only basic facilities for the safety and enjoyment of visitors, whether they arrive by powerboat, sailboat, floatplane, kayak or even passenger ferry.

The Alaska Visitors Association, a group dedicated to creating a healthy environment in Alaska for the tourism and hospitality industry, supports the marine park system. The AVA has urged the Forest Service to take favorable action on the state's selection of Forest Service domain. The Forest Service has so far resisted, approving only 3 of the proposed 64 parks. A court battle could result between the state and federal bureaucracies if their resistance persists.

But the vision of an international marine park system remains strong in Alaska. The plans, if implemented, will offer boaters a chance to explore the Northwest Coast from Puget Sound to Prince William Sound, with daily stops in parks managed for scenic protection and recreational opportunity. Washington and British Columbia's 99 marine parks, coupled with Alaska's planned 64 units, will provide accessible, usable recreation gems that will be the envy of the world □



# Editorial

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## A better waterway

IT WOULD be understandable if Alaskans were wary of the state's proposal to create 14 marine parks. They are accustomed to the federal government coming in and locking up their acres.

The state plan, however, appears to be quite a different breed of cat. Management of the parks would be right here at home and not at the whim of back-East bureaucrats and politicians. It also could open to visitors some gorgeous areas of Alaska that heretofore have been out of their reach.

The Senate has approved the bill and sent it to the House, where public hearings are scheduled at the end of the week.

**THE MARINE** units would be part of the state park system, which, if the law passes, would have to maintain the natural, cultural and scenic values of the sites as well as their existing fish and wildlife resources. The bill guarantees a continuation of public hunting, fishing, trapping, commercial fishing and aquaculture activities as well as access to any nearby privately owned land, including mining claims.

Five of the sites are in Southeastern. Nine are in Prince William Sound.

The state parks division feels these areas should to be set aside while they are still available. Most of them are small parcels — a total of 13,000 acres — beside and in the water.

**ONE OF THE** necessities to future enjoyment of the magnificent scenery in Prince William Sound is that there will be preserved in the area some coves and bays and natural harbors that will be open to the public — places where boaters in future years can be assured of a place to anchor overnight and where those aboard can go ashore. The bill would remedy this.

The marine parks would be something new for Alaska, but there are a number of them along the coasts of Washington and British Columbia, where they have had wide use.

The marine parks would be a tremendous boost for tourism, which is the state's second largest industry. A spin-off would be economic benefits to nearby communities.

It would be hoped the House will give favorable attention to this bill.