

**SB**

**1990**

**SB 190  
&  
HB 292**

**Marine Park Islands**

Aaron  
Battleship  
Benjamin  
Bird  
Coghlan  
Cohen  
Gull

Indian  
Lincoln  
Little  
North  
Portland  
Ralston  
Suedla



# Marine Park Islands

## SB190 / HB292

The recreational areas in the Juneau area are heavily used. The steep mountains and the water restrict available space for land recreation. As Juneau's population grows the demand for recreational areas will also grow. The logical place to expand availability to the public is through the marine park.

According to the State of Alaska, Division of Motor Vehicles, there are 4,800 boats in the Juneau Area.

According to the US Census Bureau:

In 1980 the Juneau population was 19,528.

In 1990 the Juneau population was 26,751, an increase of 7,223 people.

In 2000 the Juneau population was 30,711, an increase of 3,960 people.

There will continue to be an increased demand for recreational areas in the Juneau area. By converting these state island lands into parklands, we can keep them open to the public and manage them for public use.

Most of these islands are currently popular with boaters. Shelter Island is usually listed in the Fish and Game weekly fish reports under 'hot spots' for kings, slivers and halibut. Shelter Island and Lincoln Island, are popular places for deer hunters. Both Shelter and Lincoln have nice beaches for landing a boat, camping and picnicking.

The North Pass between Shelter and Lincoln currently is a valuable commercial area for whale watching boats. Benjamin Island also has a high commercial value for tourism because of the sea lion haul-out area.

Kayakers use both Gull and Benjamin islands. They are popular places to kayak to and camp. Both are close to the road system and so offer even the novice an opportunity to visit the islands.

Just north of Benjamin Island is North Island. Benjamin is about half a mile from the main land off Glacier Highway and North Island is about one mile. Whales swim between the islands and the mainland. People who drive out the road will stop by the cliffs and watch for whales off the two islands.

Coghland Island has nice beaches for camping and picnicking. Suedla is near by it. Both are in sheltered waters that allow canoes, kayaks and small boats access to them.

Ralston Island is a small but beautiful island that is next to Lincoln Island. At low tide it becomes part of Lincoln. Just north of Ralston is Little Island, an island with just a few acres.

Portland has a campground and picnic site with tables and an outhouse. It has three beaches and a rustic trail.

These islands are precious jewels. By transferring them from the Division of Mining, Land & Water to the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, they be will be kept open to the public for hunting, camping, picnicking and hiking. Please support the creating of this marine park.

Gary Miller, Juneau Area State Parks Advisory Board  
907-789-3757 gmiller\_juneauak@hotmail.com

Copied from  
US Geological Survey map  
Juneau, Alaska

# Marine Park

