

# **GITDISDZU LUGYEKS (KITASU BAY) MARINE PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN**



Kitasoo Xai'xais Stewardship Authority



Version 4, June 2022 (Draft)

# Gitdisdzu Lugyek (Kitasu Bay) Marine Protected Area Management Plan

Version 4 (Draft), June 2022

Prepared by the Kitsoo Xai'xais Stewardship Authority (KXSA) under the direction of the Kitsoo Xai'xais Hereditary and Elected Chiefs.

For more information about the management plan or about Gitdisdzu Lugyek:

Kitsoo Xai'xais Stewardship Authority

PO Box 119, Klemtu, BC V0T 1L0

Telephone: 250-839-1096

Email: [admin@kxsa.ca](mailto:admin@kxsa.ca)

Front cover photo: Moonfish Media / *Gitdisdzu Lugyek* (Kitasu Bay), 2021

# FORWARD

On behalf of the Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation, we are pleased to present this management plan for the Gitdisdzu Lugyekes (Kitasu Bay) Marine Protected Area (MPA).

Kitasu Bay is an area of critical importance to the Kitasoo Xai'xais. We have used and relied on this Bay for food, cultural, and economic purposes since time immemorial. It remains a unique and special place for our community. It has a wide variety of foods that we survive on, is close to Klemtu, and is easily accessible in small boats. It is also home to one of the last abundant herring spawns along the central coast - where we harvest 95% of our herring eggs.

Our Nation has always had a sustainable way of management, including harvesting food and other resources from our lands and waters, with respect. These ways have been instilled in us through our heritage, oral history, and everyday decisions. We are taught to be careful on where, what and how we harvest, how much we harvest, never taking more than we need to ensure the resources remain abundant for current and the future generations to come. Drawing on our traditional laws and management practices, as stewards of our Territory, we are responsible for the health and well-being of *Gitdisdzu Lugyekes* and other marine areas in our Territory. With this plan, we are affirming our commitment to protecting and maintaining the ecological health and natural balance of Kitasu Bay, and the natural, cultural, and economic resources we have always relied upon within the MPA.

This management plan explains the importance of Kitasu Bay and why the Nation is protecting it. The plan sets direction for the management of the MPA in order to conserve and protect this culturally and ecologically unique area. It outlines a vision for the future, includes guiding principles based on Kitasoo Xai'xais laws, customs and values, and describes the Nation's goals, objectives and strategies for the next ten years. The plan also provides spatial zoning and identifies allowable uses/activities in the marine area and foreshore. This plan will continue to be updated as the ecology of the Bay evolves and changes, and adaptive management is implemented.

The plan also reflects the experience and knowledge the Kitasoo Xai'xais has gained through decades of research and monitoring, and builds on 20 years of modern land and marine management planning in the territory. It reinforces our laws and stewardship responsibilities for the lands and seas, and the natural and cultural resources that have been passed down orally from generations, through stories, songs, names, and practices. While developing this plan, the Kitasoo Xai'xais worked with the Federal and Provincial governments, the Klemtu community, neighboring Nations, and many stakeholder groups including the fishing, tourism, conservation, and shipping sectors. We listened and learned.

With the establishment of Kitasu Bay as a marine protected area, we are taking an important step toward advancing Indigenous-led conservation. The MPA management plan provides a blueprint for the responsible and respectful stewardship of marine areas that manages all fisheries and aquatic resources to the highest standard using an ecosystem-based management framework and incorporates traditional knowledge and laws. Further, it ensures the continuity of Kitasoo Xai'xais culture and protects the natural heritage of important places for current and future generations.

We invite other people and governments to work with us to implement this plan, but we seek no permission. Our right to implement this plan comes from our inherent and Aboriginal rights and title and from our connection to this land for thousands of years.

We will continue to govern and manage our entire Territory, and expect to set aside other marine protected areas in the future. Given the importance of *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*, we must take steps now to protect this unique place.

Sincerely,

Nies'los (Kelly Robinson)  
Hereditary Chief

Haay-maas (Ernest Mason Jr.)  
Hereditary Chief

Douglas Neasloss  
Elected Chief Councillor

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## VISION

Our vision for the management of our marine areas and resources in *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s is based on a commitment to sustainability, now and into the future. For us, this means the responsibility to act so that the wealth of the marine environment, fish, wildlife, and the complexity of all life will be here forever. It also means that we will be here forever. To remain here as the Kitasoo and Xai'xais people we need to protect, manage, and enhance the resources and our culture to protect our heritage. We also need to live in the modern world and have jobs to sustain our families and community.

Managed by the Kitasoo Xai'xais Stewardship Authority with innovation and foresight, and drawing on our inherent jurisdiction, laws and management practices, the Kitsu Bay MPA will be recognized as a leader in Indigenous-led conservation, and integrated and adaptive ecosystem-based management (EBM), ensuring the mutual protection of ecology, culture, and sustainable use opportunities, for present and future generations.

This Plan will address the steps and strategies that are necessary for environmental, community and cultural sustainability.



Herring near *Lax'cga* before the spawn (Photo: Tavish Campbell)

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background and Context

This management plan (Plan) has been developed for *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s (Kitasu Bay) and is a companion to the Declaration by the Kitasoo Xai'xais Hereditary Chiefs dated June 21, 2022, which establishes Kitasu Bay as a Kitasoo Xai'xais Marine Protected Area (MPA). The Declaration and this Plan are in accordance with our laws, customs, principles, and values, and as the holders of inherent and Aboriginal rights and title on our unceded territorial lands and seas.

Located in the heart of Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation Territory (Territory) in the Central Coast of British Columbia, *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s (commonly known as Kitasu Bay) is a spiritual place that is ecologically and physically unique. Its lands, waters, fishes, aquatic resources, and wildlife are integral to Kitasoo Xai'xais culture and way of life. Kitasu Bay represents the “breadbasket” of the Kitasoo Xai'xais community in nearby Klemtu. Its diverse habitats - from open ocean to estuaries and tidal lagoons - are home to a wide variety of plants and animals. The Bay provides critical habitat for a number of marine and intertidal wildlife including mammals, shorebirds, waterfowl, shellfish, and fish, many of which are listed under Canada's Species at Risk Act (SARA). It also contains some of the highest valued habitat and spawning areas for Pacific Herring.

*Gitdisdzu* (pr: “git-dis-ju”) means “people of Disju” in *Sgüüxs* (Kitasoo/South Tsimshian language). The more contemporary spelling or reference is Kitasu or Kitasoo. *Lugyek*s (pr: “Lew-gyek”) means “sheltered bay” in *Sgüüxs*. Kitasoo ancestors lived in villages and camps throughout Kitasu Bay and neighbouring areas. The abundance of land and marine resources in Kitasu Bay sustained families and communities for thousands of years through to the present day. This place and marine space was exclusively used and occupied by Kitasoo at the time of contact, is exclusively used and managed by the Kitasoo Xai'xais today, and is integral to the Kitasoo Xai'xais. Kitasu Bay embodies the fundamental relationship between the Kitasoo Xai'xais and the land and marine resources that define the Kitasoo Xai'xais culture and connection with the natural and supernatural worlds.

Like many Indigenous communities across Canada, we must take an important step toward advancing Indigenous-led conservation by protecting territorial lands and waters that are essential to our wellbeing. By establishing *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s as an Indigenous led MPA, we are supporting the protection of the area's ecological integrity and ensuring that the relationships between the Kitasoo Xai'xais and the marine values and resources of Kitasu Bay are maintained for present and future generations. Further, we are reinvigorating our traditional management systems and exercising our inherent and Aboriginal rights, responsibilities, and obligations to steward and manage areas and resources for this and future generations.

This management plan has been prepared by the Kitasoo Xai'xais Stewardship Authority (KXSA), and with direction and guidance from Kitasoo Xai'xais hereditary chiefs, community knowledge holders, community members, and KXSA staff, researchers, and advisors.

“Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation”, “Kitasoo Xai'xais”, and “Nation” are used interchangeably throughout the Plan. “Indigenous”, “Aboriginal”, and “First Nation” are also used interchangeably throughout the document depending on the context. The Kitasoo Xai'xais are Indigenous Peoples who rely upon the

rights confirmed in The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the constitutional protection of our Aboriginal Rights and Title within s. 35 of the Canada's *Constitution Act, 1982*.

## 1.2 Management Plan Purpose

This Plan sets strategic direction for the management and operation of the MPA. The Plan outlines a vision for the future of the MPA and describes the Nation's goals, objectives, and strategies for the next ten years, and that focus on:

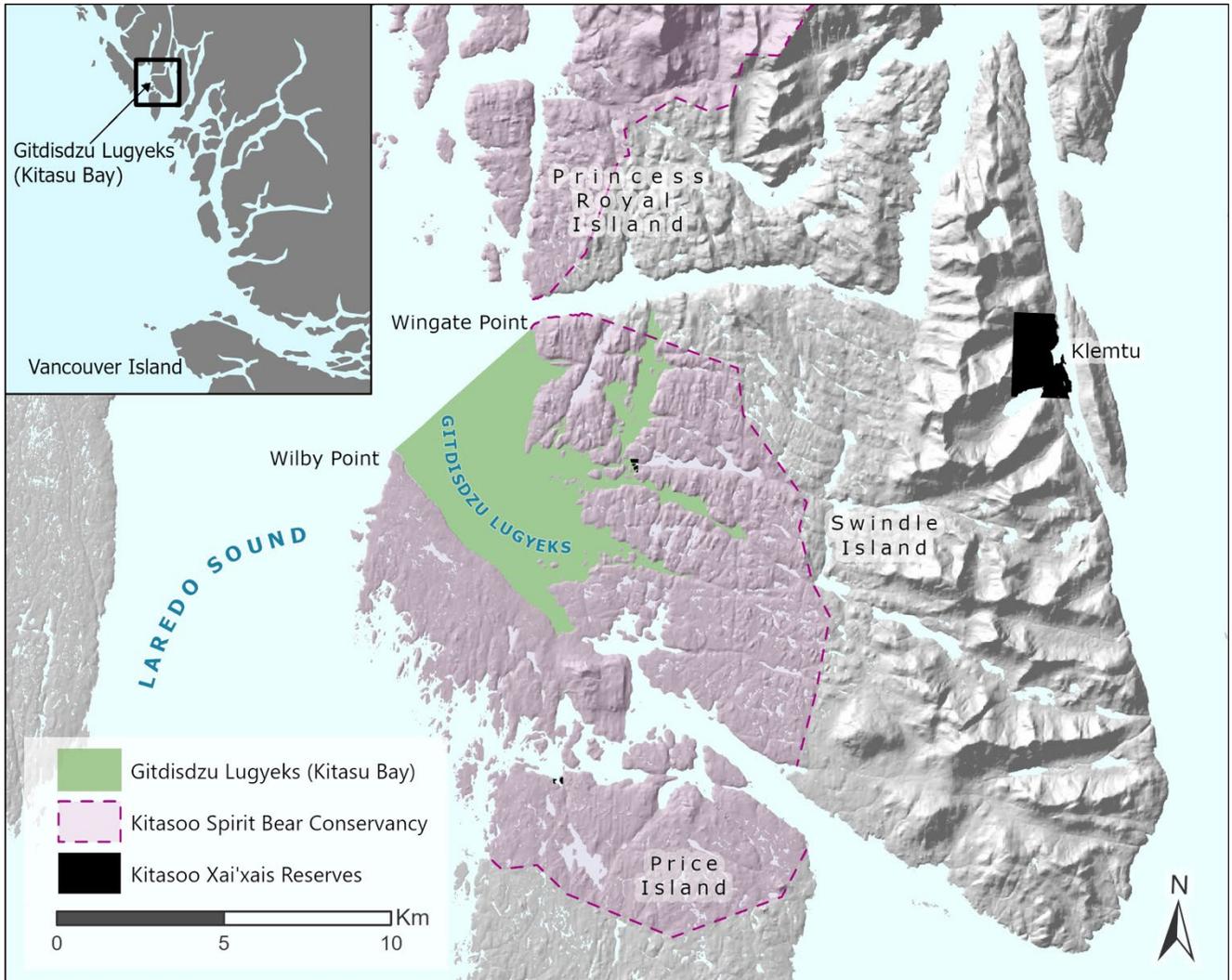
1. Maintaining and enhancing the ecological integrity of *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s;
2. Protecting at risk ecosystems, fish, and wildlife in the marine environment;
3. Protecting cultural and archaeological sites and features;
4. Protecting historical and current Kitasoo Xai'xais habitation, harvesting, and hunting areas and uses, including the communal herring roe spawn on kelp (SOK) fishery<sup>1</sup> and other sustainable community fishing activities;
5. Protecting the wilderness values that in turn support opportunities for ecotourism in Kitasu Bay; and
6. Supporting Kitasoo Xai'xais governance and management of *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s and other MPAs in the territory.

## 1.3 Location and Boundaries

Kitasu Bay is on the west side of Swindle Island on the Central BC coast (Figure 1). An area of 3350 ha (33.5km<sup>2</sup>), the MPA includes the marine areas of Kitasu Bay, the semi-tidal *Kvi'kwa* (Kwa'kwa) Lake, the large semi-tidal lagoon to the north of the *Kvi'kwa*, Cann Inlet, Osment Inlet, and *Kinmgał* (Parson's Anchorage). The western boundary line of the MPA is drawn between *Jux'wada* (Wilby Point - 52°33.500'N. and 128°48.842'W) and Wingate Point (52°35.568'N and 128°45.273'W). The MPA applies to the marine area below the height of the maximum high tide mark, including the seabed and water column, as well as wetlands, estuaries, islands, and coastal lands within the MPA boundary. The boundary conforms with the existing Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Management Area - Subarea 6-18 described as those waters of Kitasu Bay lying southeasterly of a line from Wilby Point to Wingate Point.

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<sup>1</sup> A communal fishery is a designation which allows for food fishing and communally owned commercial harvest (i.e. SOK and Geoduck).



**Figure 1.** Map of Gitdisdzu Lugyek (Kitasu Bay) Marine Protected Area (MPA) and region (Source: Kitsoo Xai'xais Stewardship Authority)

## 2.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following guiding principles are based on Kitasoo Xai'xais laws, customs, ethics, and values. Supporting what western scientists and resource planners now refer to as Ecosystem Based Management (EBM), these principles form the foundation of the Kitasoo Xai'xais legal tradition and practice that the Kitasoo Xai'xais people have abided by for thousands of years. They are the building blocks of planning and management in Kitsu Bay and the Kitasoo Xai'xais Territory.

***loomsk (Respect)***: The need for respect in interacting with the natural world and other humans is described in numerous Kitasoo Xai'xais oral stories and traditional practices. All living things have the right to be respected. We take only what we need, give thanks, and acknowledge those who behave accordingly. We respectfully steward resources and places, being inclusive and participatory in decisions and practices. In Kitsu Bay, the community will harvest only the fish and resources that it requires for cultural purposes, sustenance, and trade purposes, and the communal SOK fishery. The rights and opportunities associated with these uses must be assured and take priority over all other uses, except conservation. In general, management will be based on a precautionary approach.

***Sagayt k'üülm goot (Interconnectedness)***: Kitasoo Xai'xais have long recognized the interconnectedness of the coastal environment - everything in our Territory is inextricably connected. Changes to any species – large or small – can have cascading effects on the rest of the natural world. Balance is needed in our interactions with the natural world. Care must be taken to avoid reaching a point of no return and to restore balance where it has been lost. Management in the MPA will adopt an integrated ecosystem approach focusing on ecological linkages and connectivity. Conservation of natural and cultural resources is the highest priority. These must be sustained to maintain and safeguard our direct connection to the Territory and its resources. All uses and activities in the MPA must also be sustainable.

***Sityaaw (Reciprocity)***: Reciprocity, or giving and receiving, is an essential practice for interactions with each other and the natural and spiritual worlds. These worlds provide us with everything we need to be healthy, and in return, it is our responsibility to keep them healthy. We continually give thanks to the natural and spiritual worlds for the gifts that we receive. We have a responsibility to manage and steward the marine environment and its resources for everybody, and for the long term. Management decisions in the MPA will be equitable. We will work with all interested parties to ensure that the natural and cultural heritage of *Gitdisdzu Luyeks* is passed onto future generations.

***Gugwilx'ya'ansk (Intergenerational Knowledge)***: Intergenerational knowledge ensures that wisdom gained over countless generations of ancestors living in our Territory is passed on. Kitasoo Xai'xais elders and knowledge holders teach about traditional ways and work in harmony with the natural world in keeping with culture, values, and laws. Management decisions in the MPA should be made in light of accumulated knowledge, and the seeking of wise counsel. We will consider new ideas, traditional knowledge, and scientific information that allow us to adopt and develop effective management practices and respond and adapt to change.

## 3.0 SIGNIFICANCE OF GITDISDZU LUGYEKS

### 3.1 Ecological Characteristics and Values

Located within an area known as the Hecate Lowlands, the Kitasu Bay is in the *marine* North Coast Fiords Ecoregion<sup>2</sup>. Ocean waves and currents mix marine water with freshwater from the mountains in this shallow marine area providing support for nutrient rich ecosystems.

#### 3.1.1 Marine and Shoreline Wildlife

*Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s has a high diversity and abundance of marine habitats and species. According to the Valued Marine Environments and/or Features database<sup>3</sup>, the foreshore and marine environments in the MPA are important habitats for many marine and intertidal species including mammals, shorebirds, waterfowl, shellfish, and fish. Hundreds, if not thousands, of distinct species of plants and animals live in *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s, all of which must be respected as essential aspects of the ecosystem.

The extensive shallows in the MPA support eelgrass meadows and kelp forests which provide habitat for juvenile fish and serve as spawning grounds for herring. There are several small to medium sized salmon streams supporting Sockeye, Coho, Pink, and Chum. The open ocean and deep sandy bottom with rocky outcrops between *Jux'wada* and Wingate Point provide habitat for halibut and other culturally significant bottom dwelling fish and marine life.

The intertidal zone is rich with several species of seaweed, sea urchins, abalone, bivalves, chitons, and snails providing ready food for terrestrial and marine mammals. The shoreline of the MPA supports dabbling ducks, diving ducks, gulls, Marbled Murrelets, geese, Pelagic Cormorants, loons, and grebes. Also found are rare algae such as platinum shiny white top shell and marine mammals including Grey whale, Killer whale, Humpback whale, Dall's porpoise, Pacific White-sided dolphin, harbour porpoise, and various others.

The entire shoreline of *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s represents one of the highest valued herring spawning areas on the BC coast. During the herring spawn in March, animals come from all over to take advantage of the bounty in the water and on the shore. Humpback whales, Stellar sea lions, harbour seals, bald eagles, sea birds, wolves, and bears all gather together at *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s for the annual feast.

#### 3.1.2 Marine and Shoreline Species at Risk

Table 1 below lists the marine fish and wildlife species that are at risk and can be found in *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s.

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<sup>2</sup> BCMCA Atlas Physical Representation Ecoregions

[https://bcmca.ca/datafiles/individualfiles/bcmca\\_eco\\_physical\\_ecoregions\\_atlas.pdf](https://bcmca.ca/datafiles/individualfiles/bcmca_eco_physical_ecoregions_atlas.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> The Valued Marine Environments and/or Features Database was developed to identify key values warranting marine protection status. An overview report on the database and objectives is available at <ftp://ftp.gis.luco.gov.bc.ca/pub/coastal/rpts/overview.pdf>.

**Table 1.** Marine Species at Risk Potentially Present in Gitdisdzu Lugyek MPA<sup>4</sup>

English Name	BC Status	SARA Sch 1
Ancient Murrelet	Blue	Special Concern
Cassin's Auklet	Red	Special Concern
Common Murre	Red	No
Fin Whale	Red	Threatened
Grey Whale	Blue	Special Concern
Harbour Porpoise	Blue	Special Concern
Humpback Whale	Blue	Special Concern
Killer Whale (NE Pacific Offshore Population)	Red	Threatened
Killer Whale (NE pacific Transient Population)	Red	Threatened
Leatherback Sea Turtle	Red	Endangered
North pacific Right Whale	Red	Endangered
Northern Abalone	Red	Endangered
Northern Fur Seal	Red	Threatened
Sea Otter	Blue	Special Concern
Sei Whale	Red	Endangered
Steller Sea Lion	Blue	Special Concern
Tufted Puffin	Blue	No

Short term management policies and strategies allowing overfishing combined with changing ocean conditions have resulted in significant declines in the abundance of many species, including salmon, abalone, herring, duck, and more. *Kvi-kwa* River in particular is an important site for harvesting Sockeye and Coho salmon. According to DFO records, Sockeye returns to *Kvi-kwa* have dwindled from an average of approximately 3,000 spawners in the 1950s to less than half that today due in part to commercial fishing pressure<sup>5</sup>.

### 3.2 Cultural/Heritage Activities and Uses

Kitasu Bay is rich in Kitasoo Xai'xais cultural heritage, as well as historic and continued use and occupation. The Kitasoo Xai'xais have a special relationship with *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*. Often referred to as the Nation's "breadbasket", the Kitasoo Xai'xais have inhabited and collected food and materials from this area since time immemorial. The area is a critical source of resources that support the Nation's culture and way of life, including berry picking, fishing, bark stripping, medicinal plant harvesting, and other sustenance activities. Today, our members visit Kitasu Bay to fish, gather foods and medicine, and for other cultural, social, and ceremonial purposes including education and recreation.

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<sup>4</sup> Conservation Data Centre, BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer

<sup>5</sup> Pacific Salmon Foundation's Salmon Watersheds Program based on DFO's salmon returns data.  
<http://salmonexplorer.ca/#!/central-coast/sockeye/kwakwa-creek&pop-detail=1>



Bird's eye view of the stone fish trap at *Kvi-kwa* (Photo: Sandie Hankewich)

Community knowledge holders have indicated that archaeological values within the MPA are high and extensive, but like many other sites on the coast, this information is not well documented. There are many known features and sites including historic camp sites, shell middens, fishing traps and sites, burial sites, food gathering areas, hunting areas, culturally modified trees, and more. Many important and sacred cultural sites are visited by non-locals without permission. We have also, unfortunately, experienced burial boxes, cultural artifacts, and petroglyphs being removed, stolen, or vandalized.

### **3.2.1 Kitasoo Xai'xais Significant Places**

*Lax'cga* (Marvin Islands) has been a camping, harvesting, and food preservation site for Kitasoo families since time immemorial. Located near the main herring spawning area, the site would see up to 30 families living here for five or six weeks at a time, gathering herring eggs (roe), otter, beaver, red cod, and halibut. Today *Lax'cga* continues to be predominantly a camping site for spring halibut fishing and herring egg harvesting. During herring roe season, people harvest and process food for one to three weeks. In the summer and fall, the island is used by Kitasoo Xai'xais for recreation, cultural development, and as a base for fishing.

*Kvi-kwa* River is the outlet for the largest watershed on Swindle Island and is home to multiple salmon runs that pass through *Kvi-kwa* Lake. In particular it is an important site for harvesting Sockeye and Coho salmon, evidenced by the Kitasoo Xai'xais Indian Reserve located here (IR 7, Quckwa). A unique stone fish trap is located here, which is at least 5m high, built up from a fairly deep pool into which the *Kvi-kwa* River flows. The area is used primarily in late summer and fall for fishing, and in spring for bird hunting.

*Jux'wada* is the entry point to *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s from the outside waters. It is known for a particular type of seaweed that is used in the herring-egg harvest to produce a particularly desirable flavour. It is the site of repeated battles with the Haida. It has some of the few sandy beaches in Kitasoo Xai'xais Territory and is frequently visited for camping and harvesting at low tide.

### **3.3 Socio-Economic Uses**

#### **3.3.1 Fishing**

Commercial fishing, as currently practiced and managed by DFO, is the single biggest threat to *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s and the Kitasoo Xai'xais use and reliance on *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s. Fish resources are often opened by DFO for commercial harvest even when it is not clear that the stock is abundant enough to support a commercial harvest. DFO's management of the fisheries does not take sufficient account of our traditional ecological knowledge, or our management practices and laws. Knowledge holders in Klemtu agree that there has been a significant decline in the abundance of many, if not all, commercially targeted species in the Territory. They ascribe the decline to a poorly managed commercial fishery that prioritizes competition for quota and fails to incorporate Kitasoo Xai'xais law, intergenerational knowledge, and management practices.

Within *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s, there are at least eight species that are regularly opened by DFO for commercial harvesting: crab, prawns, sea urchin, rockfish, halibut, herring, geoduck, and lingcod<sup>6</sup>. Finfish, such as salmon, rockfish and halibut are partially protected by the Kitasoo Bay Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA), but the RCA does not protect these species throughout the Bay and herring and invertebrates like crab, prawns, and shrimp that form the bottom of the food chain are not protected by the RCA. All of these stocks are important to Kitasoo Xai'sais and are increasingly in need of protection.

#### **3.3.2 Tourism and Recreation Activities**

As an important recreation destination, *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s is primarily used for marine-based activities. No established infrastructure exists; however, there are identified boat havens and anchorages for marine cruising, and limited access to dispersed terrestrial recreation (e.g., beach activities and camping). The marine-based recreation opportunities in this MPA are enhanced because of its adjacency to the larger Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy and other protected areas. It is expected that economic activities in the conservancy will be related primarily to the use of the area for nature and cultural-based tourism.

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<sup>6</sup> 2018 Integrated Fisheries Management Plans for crab, prawns, sea urchin, rockfish, halibut, herring, geoduck, and lingcod.

Commercial tourism is an important economic driver for the community of Klemtu. The community started a small-scale tourism operation in 2001, which expanded into the current, highly successful Spirit Bear Lodge. The lodge provides substantial, reliable, and rewarding employment for the community. There are currently approximately nine boat-based commercial tour operators that use *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s. Most tour operators anchor their boats near the entrance of Cann Inlet, Osment Inlet, or *Kinm̄t* (Parsons Anchorage). One kayak tour operator uses Wilby Point as a camping location as part of multiday tours.

Members of the public also visit *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s by pleasure craft for the purposes of wildlife viewing, photography, or safe anchorage (publicized in coastal boating tour books). A few large private yachts also periodically visit the area. Temporary recreational anchoring can be a wonderful way to spend time in the MPA while enjoying protection from southeast winds. However, it can have adverse effects on habitat and cultural values. Pollution, in the form of sewage, grey water, bilge water, and garbage, is a concern year-round and must never be discharged in *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s. Our intergenerational knowledge has taught us that even a small amount of noise or pollution at the wrong time and place can cause the herring to stop spawning, or to spawn at a depth that inhibits egg hatching. Anchoring in shallow water can also damage eelgrass beds that provide an essential habitat for juvenile fish and other species. Visitors are requested to refrain from anchoring in shallow water (<60ft) to prevent such damage.

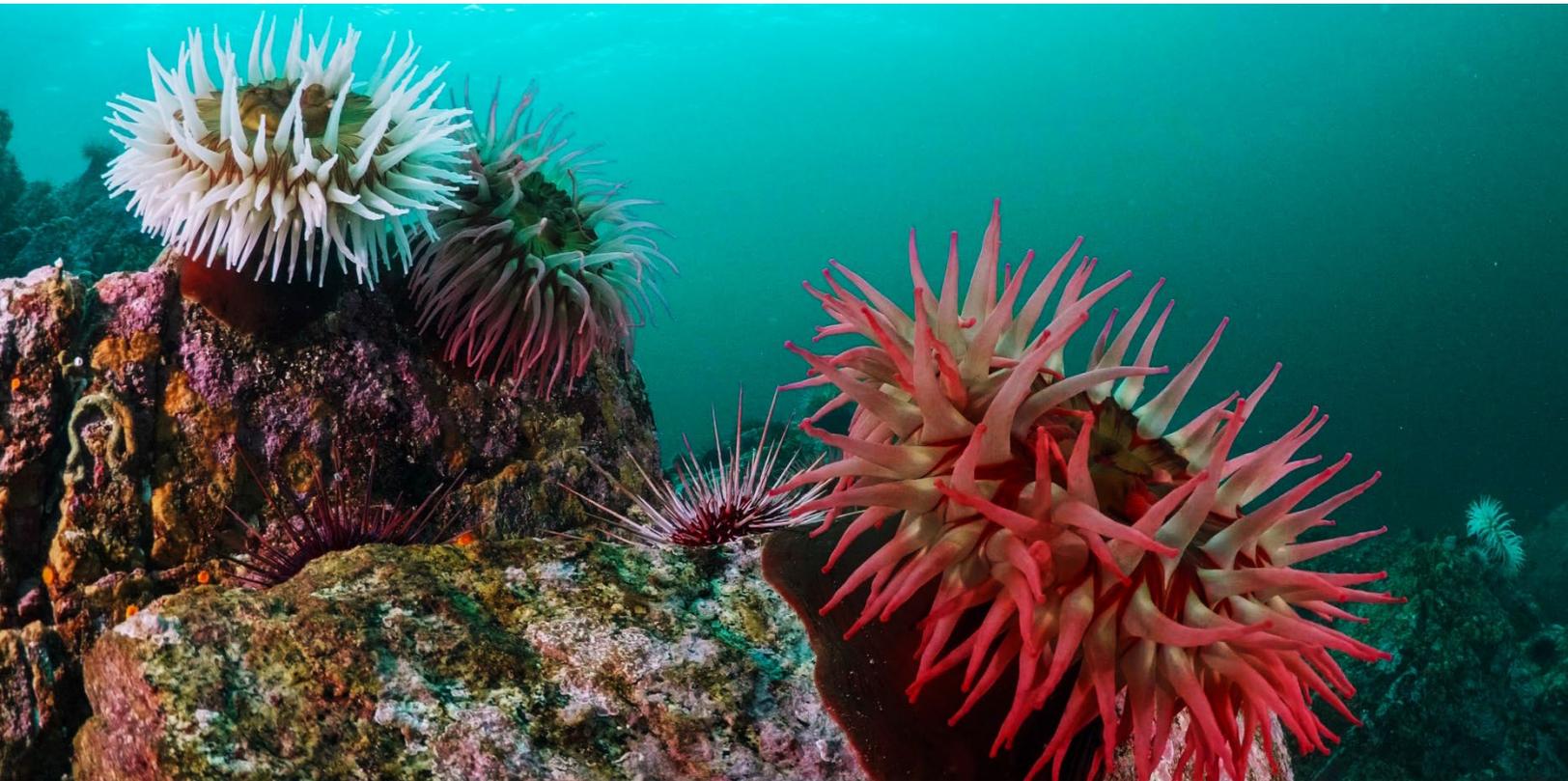
While the Nation supports tourism and recreation, we recognize that even low-impact activity can create significant effects on the marine environment, sacred sites, and animals. This Plan sets out strategies and measures for tourism and recreation in the MPA that stem from our laws and practices. Restricted zones have been created to protect important cultural sites, while others provide protection for key cultural fisheries like the herring spawn. Due to the potential impacts on cultural features and resources, camping will only be allowed at Wilby Point (Figure 5).

The Nation requires all commercial operators and “quasi” commercial groups to sign a protocol agreement with the KXSA. This agreement governs the relationship of the parties as it pertains to the activities of the organization in the Territory including in *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s. The agreement sets out the areas they can visit, when they can visit, how many people they may take, and other conditions of access and use.

### **3.4 Other Uses**

Film companies have used *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s for a variety of projects including TV production, news, documentaries, and nature films. This must be done under a protocol agreement with the KXSA and a Park Use Permit with BC Parks. Often film companies will organize with Spirit Bear Lodge or another tour company that operates in the MPA to support their activities. However, they still need a Park Use Permit.

Being near shipping routes, *Gitdisdzu Lugyeks* is often used as an anchorage and refuge for small to mid-sized ships. In particular, the bay provides good protection from Southeast weather systems. The MPA is not appropriate as a Place of Refuge for large ships due to the ecological and cultural sensitivity of the area. Currently, Kitasoo Xai'Xais are working with Canada to identify alternate Places of Refuge in the general area of *Gitdisdzu Lugyeks* and restricting the use of Kitasu Bay for this purpose. Due to the limited anchorage area and maneuvering room, the inlets are not suitable for large ships.



Subtidal sea life in *Gitdisdzu Lugyeks* (Photo: Moonfish Media)

## 4.0 PLANNING CONTEXT

### 4.1 Kitasoo Xai'xais Planning History

This Plan sets out the vision and management direction for Kitasoo Bay, an area of critical importance to the Kitasoo Xai'xais people and requiring special protection. It fulfils obligations under our broader strategic level plans (*Land Use Plan, 2000* and *Marine Use Plan, 2011*), and our inherent laws and responsibilities to steward the area for current and future generations.

The Kitasoo Xai'xais have been proactively managing, planning, and taking care of *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s and the rest of the Territory since time immemorial. Kitasoo Xai'xais laws and stewardship responsibilities that guide our management plans have been passed down orally for generations, through stories, songs, names, and practice. In 2011, Kitasoo Xai'xais completed a comprehensive, modern Marine Use Plan (MUP) for our whole Territory as a way of expressing some of these laws and responsibilities in writing so they can be more easily shared with other governments and stakeholders. This MUP was developed over eight years and informed by the Kitasoo Xai'xais marine use planning committee which included a broad cross-section of hereditary chiefs, elders, elected councillors, community knowledge holders, community members, and representatives from the various Kitasoo Xai'xais agencies and departments. The MUP was also informed by extensive community research and technical analysis that was conducted over a three-year period, including a(n):

- **Traditional ecological knowledge study**, which provided information on biodiversity hotspots, key areas for different life history stages of important marine resources (i.e., spawning/breeding, juvenile rearing, and feeding areas), and culturally important areas.
- **Community Needs Study**, which used metabolic rate and preferred diet to provide information on the volume of land and marine resources required to support sustenance and feasting now and into the future.
- **Socio-economic study**, which provided information on the current population and employment statistics, economic aspirations, and current economic opportunities in Kitasoo Xai'xais Territory; and,
- **Indigenous laws study**, which looked at Kitasoo Xai'xais indigenous laws, customs, and practices that guide resource management. These laws, customs, and practices support all aspects of Kitasoo Xai'xais planning and management.

Based on direction provided in the MUP, the Kitasoo Xai'xais leadership developed a *Management Plan for Pacific Herring* (Herring Management Plan) in response to major concerns with the way Canada is managing herring in our Territory. That plan sets out objectives, priorities, and specific management measures for herring management in the Territory. It establishes *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s as a Communal Protection Zone, which allows for food fishing and commercial herring roe spawn on kelp (SOK)<sup>7</sup>, but excludes the commercial roe herring fishery. The Kitasoo Xai'xais Herring Management

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<sup>7</sup> Spawn on kelp (SOK) is an egg on kelp harvest using either an open or closed ponding technique.

Plan complements this Plan and portions of this Plan reference specific management actions outlined in the Herring Management Plan.

The MUP, the Kitsoo Xai'xais Land Use Plan, and the Kitsoo Xai'xais Herring Management Plan have been instrumental at informing the various collaborative management/governance processes described in the next section. Those plans have also informed this Plan for the Kitsoo Bay MPA as well as other management plans and measures throughout our Territory.

## **4.2 Alignment with other Planning and Management Processes**

The Kitsoo Xai'xais hold an unwavering vision for Kitsoo Bay. This consistent vision has been integrated into multiple government to government planning and management processes, which have included extensive review with both other governments and stakeholders. The following are examples of where management direction provided in the MPA Management Plan are consistent with existing or developing government to government management plans.

### **4.2.1 Kitsoo Spirit Bear Conservancy**

Kitsoo Bay is located within and adjacent to the Kitsoo Spirit Bear Conservancy, a large terrestrial and marine conservancy, encompassing parts of Princess Royal Island, Swindle Island, Price Island, Laredo Inlet, and parts of Laredo Sound (Figure 2). This conservancy covers 102,875 ha. of upland area and 19,302 ha. of foreshore (an amendment of the legal boundary of the Kitsoo Spirit Bear conservancy is forthcoming to officially add the marine foreshore to the Conservancy). As with all conservancies and protected areas in Kitsoo Xai'xais Territory, Kitsoo Spirit Bear Conservancy is jointly managed by British Columbia and Kitsoo Xai'xais through a Collaborative Management Agreement (CMA). The CMA provides a framework for planning and decision-making for the terrestrial area, and some aspects of the foreshore area particularly when it relates to tenured activities that are under provincial jurisdiction.

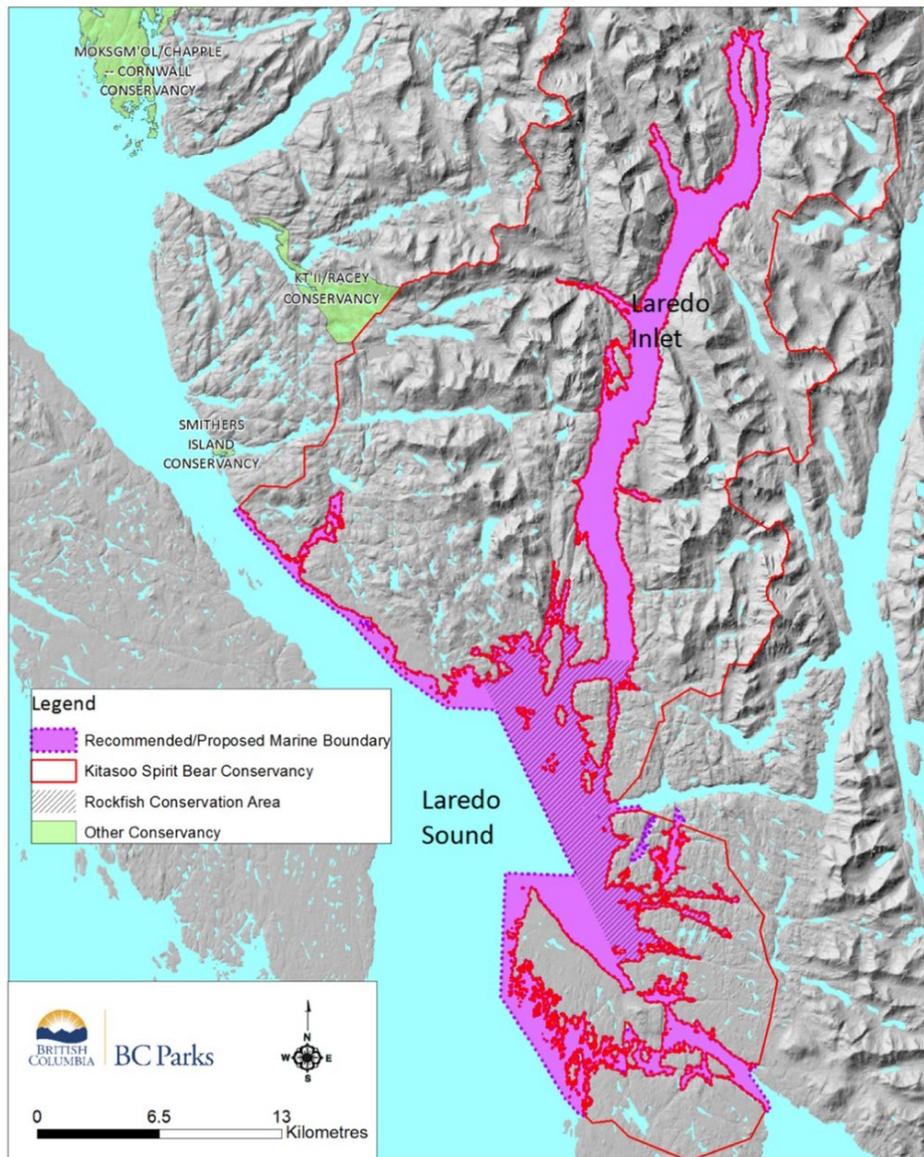


Figure 2. Map of Kitsoo Spirit Bear Conservancy (Source: BC Parks)

#### 4.2.2 Central Coast Marine Plan

Completed in 2015, the *Central Coast Marine Plan*, was developed over many years under the British Columbia-First Nations Marine Planning Partnership (MaPP). The purpose of this plan is to identify acceptable marine uses that support sustainable communities while protecting, and where necessary restoring, marine ecosystems. This plan provides detailed management direction through spatial zoning. The MPA falls within Protection Management Zone (PMZ) 5 and is listed as an International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Zone IV, which does allow for limited economic activities as long as they do not impact the conservation values and objectives of the area. In particular, the Central Coast Marine Plan recognizes that ecological and species values may be impacted by commercial fisheries, recreational fishing activity, transportation, and temporary port vessel anchorage.

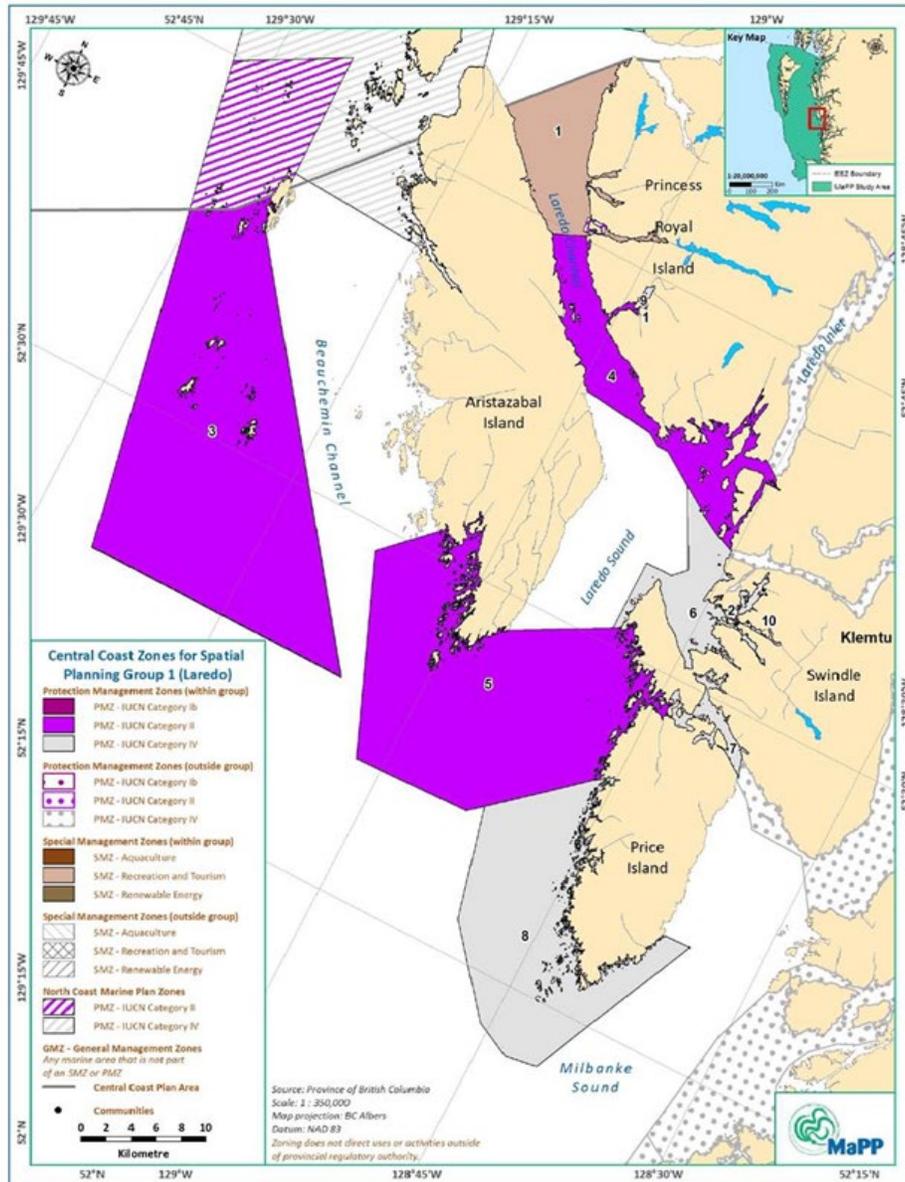
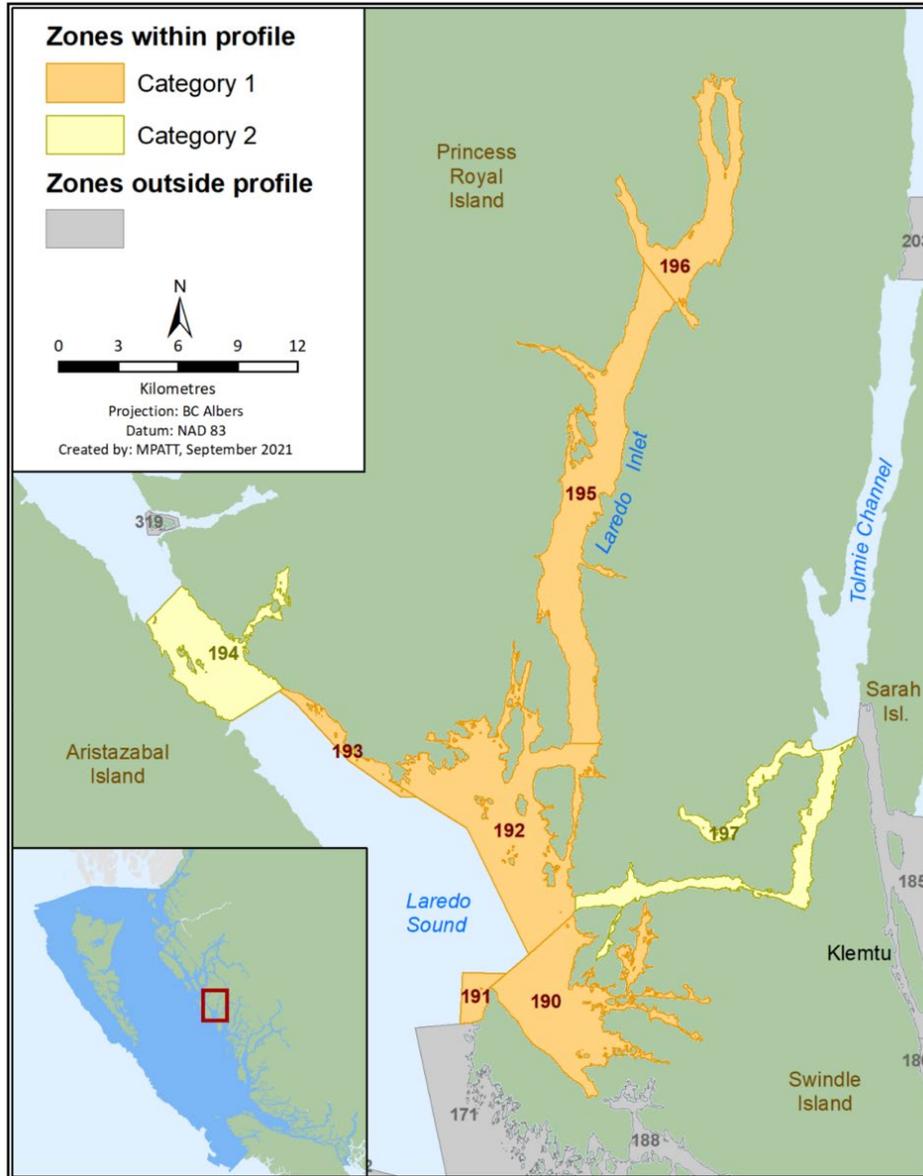


Figure 3. Map of Protection Management Zones (Source: Central Coast Marine Plan)

#### 4.2.3 Marine Protected Area Network (draft) Action Plan

The draft MPA Network Action Plan (NAP) is the culmination of many years of planning by the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia, and numerous coastal First Nations, who are working with experts and stakeholders to design a network of MPAs in Canada's Northern Shelf Bioregion (NSB). This MPA Network is intended to contribute to Canada's international commitments and targets to protecting its marine and coastal areas through networks of protected areas and other effective area-based measures (Canada Target 1)<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>8</sup> National Framework for Canada's Network of Marine Protected Areas. Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Government of Canada. 2011.



**Figure 4.** Kitasu – Laredo Zoning Map, MPA Network Action Plan (Source: NSB MPA NAP)

The NAP is intended to be a blueprint for how the governing partners will establish and manage individual MPAs. The MPA is encompassed in Zone 190 (Kitasu Bay) of the draft NAP. The ecological objectives for Zone 190 focus on protecting areas of high biodiversity, areas important for different life history stages of marine species (i.e. herring, sea ducks), and protecting culturally significant species including salmon, herring, rockfish, halibut, herring, clams, geoduck, sea cucumber as well as migratory species of birds and mammals. The management measures proposed for this zone in the draft NAP conditionally allow for shellfish and marine plant aquaculture, SOK herring fishery and the conditional commercial harvest of marine plants. All other harvest activities directed at fishing and aquaculture would be prohibited in Kitasu Bay. While we will continue to work with Canada and BC to complete the NAP, it is imperative that we take steps now to protect and manage Kitasu Bay in the manner described in this Plan.

#### **4.2.4 Sea Cucumber Integrated Fisheries Management Plan**

In 2004, the Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation challenged the DFO in the courts over concerns about the long-term sustainability of sea cucumber populations and related fisheries in the Kitasoo Xai'xais Territory. After a 2-year negotiated process, DFO and the Kitasoo Xai'xais reached consensus on various outstanding conservation concerns including the development of a network of sea cucumber refugia and Food Social and Ceremonial (FSC) fishing areas that protected critical habitat for sea cucumber and enabled successful FSC fisheries. Additionally, the Kitasoo Xai'xais are now able to once again access commercial fishing quota adjacent to our community at Klemtu, thus improving the economic viability for Kitasoo Xai'xais fishers and the Kitasoo Seafoods processing facility. The Kitasu Bay FSC closure area is recognized in Canada's sea cucumber Integrated Fisheries Management Plan and the boundary and management objectives under that plan are consistent with this management Plan.

#### **4.2.5 Kitasu Bay Rockfish Conservation Area**

The Kitasu Bay RCA was established unilaterally by DFO in the mid-2000s without consultation with the Kitasoo Xai'xais. Through this designation DFO did however recognize Kitasu Bay as an important area for rockfish and lingcod. RCAs were established to reverse the dramatic declines in rockfish populations that were observed along the BC coast. RCAs are intended to provide a refuge for rockfish thus enabling the populations to rebuild inside and outside the RCAs. Commercial bottom trawl, groundfish hook and line, sablefish trap, and salmon troll fisheries are prohibited by DFO in the RCAs. Similarly, recreational hook and line fisheries, salmon fishing, and spearfishing are prohibited in RCAs. The MPA is partially overlapped by the Kitasu Bay RCA (Figure 2)<sup>10</sup>

### **4.3 Indigenous Protected Areas and Kitasoo Xai'ais Rights and Title**

We acknowledge the work of other Indigenous Peoples in other areas of Canada and internationally to develop and apply the approach known as Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs).

IPAs are lands and waters where Indigenous governments have the primary role in protecting and conserving ecosystems through Indigenous laws, governance, and knowledge systems. They are a model for protected area management in Canada and beyond that supports both ecosystems and sustainable human use of the land and oceans. IPAs aim to also safeguard Indigenous rights - including the right to exercise free prior and informed consent - while also maintaining biodiversity and securing a space where communities can actively practice Indigenous ways of life, now and into the future.

IPAs are rooted in the exercise of Inherent and constitutionally upheld Indigenous rights in accordance with Indigenous laws. Exercising management over how lands and waters are managed and protected, and conserving space to practise Indigenous livelihoods may seem "new," for other governments, however these practices are much older than our current governance structures and jurisdictions. IPAs represent a modern application of traditional values, Indigenous laws, and Indigenous knowledge systems, an exercise in cultural continuity on the land and waters and a foundation for local Indigenous economies. Supporting IPAs advances reconciliation by recognizing and upholding inherent and Aboriginal title and rights.

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<sup>10</sup> Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Rockfish Conservation Areas, Area 6, Kitasu Bay.

The UNDRIP sets out minimum standards for the survival, dignity, and well-being of Indigenous peoples in the world. While UNDRIP should be read and understood as a whole, the following are examples particularly relevant to the creation of this MPA:

- Article 3 confirms Indigenous peoples right to self-determination, including freely pursuing economic, social and cultural development;
- Article 11 of UNDRIP confirms Indigenous peoples' right to practice and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs, including the right to maintain, protect and develop past, present, and future manifestations of their cultures, including archaeological and historical sites;
- Article 19 confirms that Indigenous peoples' free, prior, and informed consent must be sought for approvals of any projects affecting their lands or territories or other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization, or exploitation of mineral, water, or other resources;
- Article 29 confirms Indigenous peoples have the right to conserve and protect the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources; and
- Article 32 confirms Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and resources<sup>11</sup>.

The Kitsoo Xai'xais Nation exercises Inherent and Aboriginal title and rights within our Territory, which are both recognized in the UNDRIP, and provided constitutional protection by section 35 of the Canadian *Constitution Act*. Numerous court rulings and Federal/Provincial legislation (*UNDRIPA* and *DRIPA*) and policies have affirmed the recognition, respect, and understanding of these rights and the importance of reconciliation and respectful nation-to-nation, government to government relationships.

The Kitsoo Xai'xais Nation will continue to uphold Kitsoo Xai'xais rights and title to *Gitdisdzu Luyeks* and our broader Territory, while also pursuing recognition through reconciliation with the provincial and federal governments. This Plan is supported by current laws and policies and will continue to evolve as adaptive management is implemented, our rights and title are fully recognized, and reconciliation is achieved. Kitsoo Xai'xais will continue to work together with other government partners on various initiatives related to the planning and management of *Gitdisdzu Luyeks*. To that end, the Kitsoo Xai'xais will work with federal and provincial governments towards the following:

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<sup>11</sup> *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, S.C. 2021, c. 14, (UNDRIPA) The Government of Canada's Approach to Implementation of the Inherent Right and the Negotiation of Aboriginal Self-Government. <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100031843/1100100031844>.

- a) Respect for the direction set out by Kitasoo Xai'xais in this Plan by the federal and provincial governments and other users.
- b) Alignment of federal and provincial laws, policies, and plans to support the direction set out in this Plan, and the adoption of collaborative governance/management structures that uphold the authorities of the Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation and Crown governments.
- c) Recognition by the federal and provincial governments of the Kitasoo Xai'xais hereditary chiefs and our rights and responsibilities.
- d) Recognition by the federal and provincial governments of the authority of the Kitasoo Xai'xais Guardians to conduct compliance and enforcement of the management direction in the Gitdisdzu Lugyek MPA.



Barbequing salmon (Photo: Rosie Child)

## 5.0 MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

### 5.1 Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

The following goals, objectives, and strategies will guide the management of the MPA over the next ten years.

Under Kitasoo Xai'xais laws and Canada's laws, the paramount priority in the management of fish and aquatic resources is conservation. After conservation, the exercise of harvesting rights protected under s. 35 of Canada's *Constitution Act* are provided top priority over other users of the resources. The goals, objectives, and strategies set out in this Plan are based on this "Doctrine of Priority". Once conservation objectives are addressed, our constitutionally protected rights to fish and aquatic resources are prioritized over other users within the MPA. When there is sufficient abundance to address both conservation and the exercise of our s.35 protected rights, we will enable appropriate recreational and commercial access to the resources in the MPA.

The goals outline high-level direction and are supported by strategic objectives, which break the goals down into more specific components. Goals and objectives were informed by ecological, cultural, social, and economic values and priorities identified by the Kitasoo Xai'xais, including the overarching purpose of the MPA. The MPA will be managed primarily for the purpose of protecting and conserving the ecological and cultural values of the marine environment.

Strategies and targets allow the KXSA to measure and report on progress towards each objective. Annual workplans and species and site management plans will be developed based on the guidance provided in this plan to ensure alignment with Kitasoo Xai'xais objectives.



School of herring (Photo: Moonfish Media)

## ***GOAL 1. Protect, conserve, and restore marine biodiversity and ecosystems.***

The ecological health of Kitsu Bay is important, both to resident and migratory species, and to the Kitsu Xai'xais. A key priority is protecting the diversity of species, populations, and communities, including our ability to adapt to climate change. The Kitsu Xai'xais is also committed to restoring Kitsu Bay to the healthy and functional ecosystems that existed before the days of commercial fishing. Improved conservation of fish and fish habitat is necessary to meet this goal.

Research indicates that fish and invertebrates inside MPAs or other forms of spatial protection can become more abundant and grow to greater size and age than in exploited areas. Consequently, MPAs may provide (a) greater population productivity of exploited species, (b) spillover benefits, through larval dispersal and adult movement, to adjacent areas where fisheries are permitted, and (c) ecosystem and species resilience to climate change and other environmental shifts<sup>12</sup>.

A key aspect of ecological conservation in Kitsu Bay is the recovery, conservation, and long-term persistence of diverse Pacific herring populations and of the multi-species interactions that they support in the ecosystem. Effectively, this means maintaining herring abundance not only to sustain the needs of our people, but also the needs of diverse predators, including groundfish, marine mammals, salmon, seabirds, and others. This requires the protection of key spawning areas from herring roe fisheries and other major stressors.

As part of the Herring Management Plan, the Kitsu Xai'xais are developing an action plan for Pacific herring protection in Kitsu Bay. This action plan prioritizes measures that are most likely to improve herring population status in the MPA and surrounding areas. The Kitsu Xai'xais also support rebuilding populations of ecologically and culturally significant species (e.g. abalone) to support Kitsu Xai'xais culture and an abundant food web. In accordance with our laws, we are closing the MPA to all commercial fishing, except for communal herring roe SOK. Controlling access to cultural features and resources is also a major consideration.

Work to protect, conserve, and restore biodiversity and ecosystems in Kitsu Bay also links to broader protected areas management efforts in Kitsu Xai'xais Territory and in the north Pacific that are led by the Kitsu Xai'xais, BC, and Canada.

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<sup>12</sup> Frid, A. Why MPAs can help maintain or improve First Nations' access to traditional foods (CCIRA: March 30, 2020)

## Objective 1.1

Protect and conserve species, habitats, and food webs in the MPA.

### Strategies and Targets:

1. Key ecological features and species and their habitats are documented and conserved.
2. Key marine areas of high biophysical diversity, special, rare, and sensitive ecosystem elements are documented and protected.
3. The *Kitasoo Xai'xais Management Plan for Pacific Herring* is fully implemented in the MPA by 2022, including the Herring Communal Protection Zone and Core Habitat Protection Zone.
4. Monitor herring stocks and update Kitasoo Xai'xais management Plan annually to address any emergent conservation concerns.
5. Management plans for other identified important species and Species-At-Risk (e.g. Northern Abalone) are developed and implemented.
6. A site-level management plan is developed for the Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy - Kitasoo Bay/Higgins Cultural Zone.
7. The entire MPA is designated as a community harvest zone where only members of the Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation and our guests may harvest resources. Non-members of the Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation must be granted permission to harvest any resources in the area.
8. Ensure all harvesters take only what is needed for cultural purposes, sustenance, and trade purposes.
9. To maintain the wilderness setting and reduce impacts to the sensitive ecosystems and habitat, infrastructure (i.e. docks) will be minimized.

### Specific Management Measures:

10. Close the MPA to all commercial and sport fishing/harvesting (including commercial fishing by community members) except for the communal commercial herring SOK fishery.
11. Restrict all visitor access and activities in the MPA during March and April herring season, except by invitation or in the event of an emergency, to protect the herring spawn.
12. Permanent spatial restricted areas are established in parts of the MPA including *Lax'cga*, Cann Inlet, *Kinm̓ł* and *Kwi Kwa* Inlet (Figure 5), where visitors are not allowed to access or conduct activities except by invitation/permission.

## Objective 1.2

Restore species, habitats, and food webs in the MPA where required.

### Strategies and Targets:

1. A herring rebuilding strategy and implementation plan is developed by 2024.
2. Where necessary, develop mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate impacts on species or habitats.
3. Kitasoo Xai'xais identified priority restoration and enhancement projects for native species and ecosystems (e.g., salmon streams, kelp forests, cockles, contaminated sites) are developed and implemented where appropriate.
4. Management plans for other identified important species and Species-At-Risk (e.g. Northern Abalone) are developed and implemented.

## ***GOAL 2. Protect and enhance the continuity of Kitasoo Xai'xais culture.***

Kitasoo Xai'xais culture is based on a strong relationship with the land and waters in our Territory, and the viable livelihoods and community well-being that flows from our resources. Kltasu Bay is a sacred place and the “pantry” or “breadbasket” of the Kitasoo Xai'xais. Our people have an extensive history of use within *Gitdisdzu Lugyek*s, including fishing, hunting, trapping, and gathering food and medicines, among other uses. The area continues to have great cultural, spiritual, and economic importance.

Visitor activities can cause intended and unintended disturbance to cultural heritage and traditional use sites and features. Commercial and recreational fish-harvesting and other uses have had impacts and are contributing to the declines in local natural resources, many of which the Nation depends on for sustenance.

All Kitasoo Xai'xais cultural sites will continue to be protected and any visits to these sites will be restricted and/or only undertaken with Kitasoo Xai'xais explicit permission and accompanied by approved guides. Traditional harvest for cultural, sustenance, and trade purposes (e.g. FSC fishing) will be prioritized over all purposes except conservation. The MPA creates a refuge for fish and other creatures from industrial activity, commercial fishing, and intensive recreational fishing.

## Objective 2.1

Identify, protect, and maintain features and sites of spiritual and cultural importance.

### Strategies and Targets:

1. Historical and ethnographic research, archaeological field assessments, and cultural heritage and traditional use field inventories and assessments will be supported as research priorities.
2. Sites and areas with significant spiritual, cultural, and/or archaeological values are documented and protected, consistent with Kitasoo Xai'xais laws and protocols.
3. A site-level management plan that is largely informed by this Plan is developed for the Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy - Kitasu Bay/Higgins Cultural Zone.
4. Under federal and provincial legislation and Kitasoo Xai'xais traditional law, it is illegal to disturb cultural/heritage sites or remove artifacts from them. KXSA will focus compliance monitoring efforts on Kitasu Bay cultural/heritage sites.
5. Kitasoo Xai'xais knowledge, laws, principles, traditions, and management practices regarding the Kitasu Bay are shared as appropriate.

### Specific Management Measures:

6. Establish permanent spatial restricted areas in parts of the MPA including Lax'cga (Marvin Islands), Cann Inlet, *Kinmgał* and *Kwi Kwa* (Kwa Kwa) Inlet (Figure 5), where visitors are not allowed to access or conduct activities except by invitation/permission.
7. Culturally significant sites are closed to all visitors unless accompanied by an approved guide.

## Objective 2.2

Protect and maintain activities and uses that support a living Kitasoo Xai'xais culture.

### Strategies and Targets:

1. Traditional and sustenance harvesting activities/uses in the MPA, and the resources that support them, are identified and managed.
2. The Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation identifies and implements protocols and measures to guide Kitasoo Xai'xais use and stewardship in the MPA by 2024. Measures may include focusing development away from sites, developing best practices for harvesting activity (e.g. timing of operations), having the KXSA monitor sensitive sites, and/or restricting access and use.
3. The entire MPA is designated as a community harvest zone where only members of the Kitasoo Xai'xais and our guests may harvest resources. Non-members of the Kitasoo Xai'xais must be granted permission to harvest in the area.
4. Ensure all harvesters take only what is needed for cultural purposes, sustenance, and trade.
5. Specific harvest sites that are the property of individuals or families are identified and respected by others.
6. Development and growth of new and existing Kitasoo Xai'xais cultural programs (e.g., SEAS, SUA, Rediscovery, etc.) are encouraged.

### Specific Management Measures:

7. Close the MPA to all commercial and sport fishing/harvesting (including commercial fishing by Kitasoo Xai'xais community members) except for communal herring roe SOK.
8. Conduct annual stock assessments to annually update the Kitasoo Xai'xais herring management plan including the allocation of herring quota to support SOK fisheries.
9. Restrict all visitor access and activities in the MPA during March and April herring season, except by invitation or in the event of an emergency, to protect the herring spawn.
10. The sale of any resources harvested within the MPA is prohibited. Trading of resources harvested within the MPA for sustenance purposes is permitted.

### ***GOAL 3. Support sustainable resource use and economic development that benefits Kitasoo Xai'xais and adheres to Kitasoo Xai'xais management principles.***

Various economic activities such as tourism and fisheries currently occur in Kitasu Bay. The Bay also receives regular visits from commercial and recreational vessels. These activities can provide important cultural, social, and economic benefits to the Kitasoo Xai'xais community. But can also come with various impacts.

As noted, the MPA is managed primarily for the purpose of protecting and conserving the ecological and cultural values of the marine environment. Commercial and recreational marine activities such as boating and kayaking may occur if they are conducted in a manner that is consistent with this Plan

and do not compromise ecosystem structure or function. However, general fishing activities in the MPA will be prohibited except for Kitasoo Xai'xais harvest for cultural purposes, sustenance, trade purposes, and the communal herring roe SOK fisheries.

This Plan sets out management measures, rules and guidelines for recreational tourism and recreational fishing within the MPA. In addition to their ecological purposes, some of the measures are aimed at protecting specific places for cultural reasons and others are aimed at preserving privacy for our harvesters at certain times of the year. A strategy framework to evaluate human activities in the MPA will be developed to ensure that activities are ecologically sustainable and provide social, cultural, and/or economic benefits. We will continue to work with other governments to manage access to the MPA.

<b>Objective 3.1</b>
Ensure fisheries in the MPA are ecologically sustainable.
<b>Strategies and Targets:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Kitasoo Xai'xais communal SOK fishery will be monitored and managed to rebuild the stocks.</li> <li>2. Kitasoo Xai'xais traditional knowledge, laws, and technical analysis are incorporated into decision-making processes for all fisheries in zones adjacent to the MPA by 2024.</li> <li>3. Develop species-specific and multi species food-fish policies that will guide traditional fisheries in the MPA and monitor the impacts of traditional fisheries on marine resources.</li> <li>4. Monitor FSC fisheries within the MPA to ensure the long-term sustainability of the marine resources is not being impacted.</li> <li>5. Ensure all harvesters take only what is needed for cultural purposes, sustenance, and trade purposes.</li> </ol>
<b>Specific Management Measures:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Conduct annual stock assessments to annually update the Kitasoo Xai'xais herring management plan including the allocation of herring quota to support SOK fisheries.</li> <li>7. Close the MPA to all commercial and sport fishing/harvesting (including commercial fishing by Kitasoo Xai'xais community members) except for communal herring roe SOK.</li> <li>8. Restrict all visitor access and activities in the MPA during March and April herring season, except by invitation or in the event of an emergency, to protect the herring spawn.</li> </ol>

## Objective 3.2

Ensure tourism and recreation in the MPA is sustainable.

### Strategies and Targets:

1. Tourism/recreational use of the MPA and the Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy will continue to be managed and permitted in accordance with the Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy Management Plan and Kitasoo Xai'xais Tourism Protocol Agreements.
2. A site-level management plan is developed for the Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy - Kitasu Bay/Higgins Cultural Zone.
3. Spirit Bear Lodge continues to operate tours in the MPA and has priority access to tourism opportunities in the MPA.
4. Tourism activities in the MPA are managed to minimize impacts in sensitive locations (e.g., near cultural features and resources), and with proper engagement and meaningful benefits and opportunities for the Kitasoo Xai'xais
5. Policies (e.g., Cultural Zone Site Level Management Plan) are reviewed every five years to manage visitation while protecting natural and cultural heritage.
6. Opportunities for new activities are reviewed as required.

### Specific Management Measures:

7. Kitasoo Xai'xais require a protocol agreement to be signed with all commercial tourism operators (including tourism, film, and photography) in the Territory.
8. Commercial tourism/recreation will be limited to the current (2022) activity levels.
9. Land access including camping will not be allowed in the Restricted Access Zones identified in Figure 5 unless explicit permission has been provided from the KXSA. Currently, land access will only be allowed on Wilby Point.
10. Visitor access and activities in the MPA will be restricted during March and April herring spawn season, except by invitation or in the event of an emergency, to protect the herring spawn. No commercial or public recreation activities will be allowed in the MPA during this time.
11. Overnight temporary recreational camping is only allowed at Wilby Point or by explicit permission from the KXSA (Figure 5).
12. Tourism operators and the public will be informed about "no trespassing" on Indian Reserves and the sensitive cultural values associated with the reserves.
13. Filming crews and photographers must be accompanied by a guide approved by the KXSA. All filming within Parks and Protected Areas requires a Park Use Permit in addition to a KXSA protocol agreement. Applications and proposals for filming will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
14. The use of drones is prohibited except with permission from the KXSA.

### Objective 3.3

Manage and monitor vessel and air traffic to minimize impacts to the MPA.

#### Strategies and Targets:

The Kitasoo Xai'xais will work with relevant agencies to strengthen communication and develop policies about vessel and aircraft access and movements in or near the MPA.

1. The Kitasoo Xai'xais will work with relevant agencies to encourage large vessels to transit sufficiently far offshore of the MPA to ensure adequate response time and prevent accidents.
2. Develop indicators and strategies for vessel impacts and carrying capacity through a cumulative effects monitoring framework.
3. Acquire and place a marine response equipment cache(s) in the MPA that can be used during environmental response incidents for Parsons Anchorage, Kwa Kwa, and Marvin Islands.

#### Specific Management Measures:

4. Ensure that the MPA is identified as a restricted area and not as a Place of Refuge by Transport Canada/CCG.
5. Vessel access will be restricted in designated zones (Figure 5).
6. Engage in a consultation process involving the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development (FLNRORD) and Transport Canada to implement appropriate regulation changes related to vessel restrictions.
7. Work with BC Parks to include Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy (including foreshore) in Amendments to Schedule A of the *Park Act Regulation*, which will restrict helicopters and fixed wing aircraft from landing in the Conservancy (including in the MPA) during the herring season and tourism season (March 1 – Oct. 15).
8. Work with BC Parks to develop voluntary restrictions for aircraft conducting any form of low-level sightseeing in the Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy (including the MPA). Aircraft flying over the area must remain at least 500 metres above the surrounding terrain. Aircraft access for emergency purposes such as search and rescue, park patrols, and research (with appropriate permits and agreements) is considered acceptable.
9. Anchors may only be deployed in designated anchoring areas and in waters deeper than 60 feet. This measure is in place for the protection of sensitive eel grass beds.
10. Discharge of pollution, in the form of sewage, grey water, bilge water and garbage is prohibited in *Gitdisdzu Lugyeks*.

**GOAL 4. Advance knowledge and understanding of Gitdisdzu Lugyek.**

Kitasoo Xai'xais traditional knowledge, laws, and practices come from millennia of observing and learning from our people and our environment. Kitasoo Xai'xais also conduct and participate in all levels of modern scientific enquiry from study planning to data analysis. Research projects in our Territory often benefit from the expertise of our community members, scientists, and other organizations. The information elucidated by the science and local/traditional knowledge conducted here benefits our community, our neighbouring Nations, British Columbia, and Canada.

Research and monitoring priorities in the MPA will focus on key ecological and cultural species of importance, cultural impacts, and inventorying archaeological sites. KXSA will maintain ecological and cultural datasets and look towards developing a comprehensive EBM monitoring program to gain a better understanding of the MPA. Research and monitoring objectives will be achieved by collaborating with government research programs, universities, and local organizations. Results of this work will inform the MPA management decisions and may also benefit management of other areas in the Kitasoo Xai'xais Territory and in the broader north Pacific region.

<b>Objective 4.1</b>
Support and further develop the MPA monitoring program.
<b>Strategies and Targets:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A comprehensive EBM monitoring program is fully developed and operational by 2023.</li><li>2. Specific monitoring programs and datasets for priority species (e.g., herring, abalone, sea cucumber, kelp, cultural features) are acquired, maintained, or improved. Some of these datasets are held by the DFO and the Province of BC.</li><li>3. Invasive species are monitored and managed accordingly.</li><li>4. New and existing partnerships are developed to support monitoring activities.</li><li>5. The MPA monitoring activities are integrated with broader local and regional monitoring initiatives.</li></ol>

## Objective 4.2

Promote and advance research that supports management and decision making in the MPA.

### Strategies and Targets:

1. Kitasoo Xai'xais traditional knowledge and laws and other local knowledge about the MPA is documented, inventoried, and shared as appropriate.
2. Archaeological inventories of tidal, near shore, and subtidal sites with a known or high probability of previous Kitasoo Xai'xais occupation or use are conducted.
3. Research that advances knowledge of ecological, cultural, and social-ecological systems and connections is supported.
4. Research that develops tools for implementing EBM is supported.
5. Research that monitors populations of culturally important species to assess the impacts of management measures implemented within the MPA is supported.
6. Research that monitors the impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems within the MPA is supported.

### Specific Management Measures:

7. Kitasoo Xai'xais require a protocol agreement and data sharing arrangement be signed with all researchers prior to any research activities in the MPA.
8. The use of drones is prohibited except with permission from the KXSA.

## 5.2 Zoning Plan

This Plan uses zoning to support implementation of the goals, objectives, and strategies, and to assist in the general management of the MPA. Zoning divides an area into logical units to apply consistent management objectives for protection of cultural heritage, conservation, and other values. The zones reflect the physical environment, intended marine use, existing patterns of use, the degree of human use desired, and the level of management, and development required (e.g., which activities/uses are permitted and a particular set of management objectives that may apply). Zoning can be used to physically separate incompatible activities or uses within the MPA and provide visitors and managers with a quick visual representation of how a protected area is managed.

Zoning for the marine area of Kitasu Bay was initially established in 2011 via the *Kitasoo Xai'xais Marine Use Plan* and subsequently via the *Central Coast Marine Plan*. The terrestrial area of Kitasu Bay is in a Cultural Zone in the Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy and managed collaboratively by the Kitasoo Xai'xais and BC Parks. A site-level management plan for this zone will be developed in the near future and it is anticipated that this Plan will inform Conservancy planning allowing for greater integration of marine and terrestrial management.

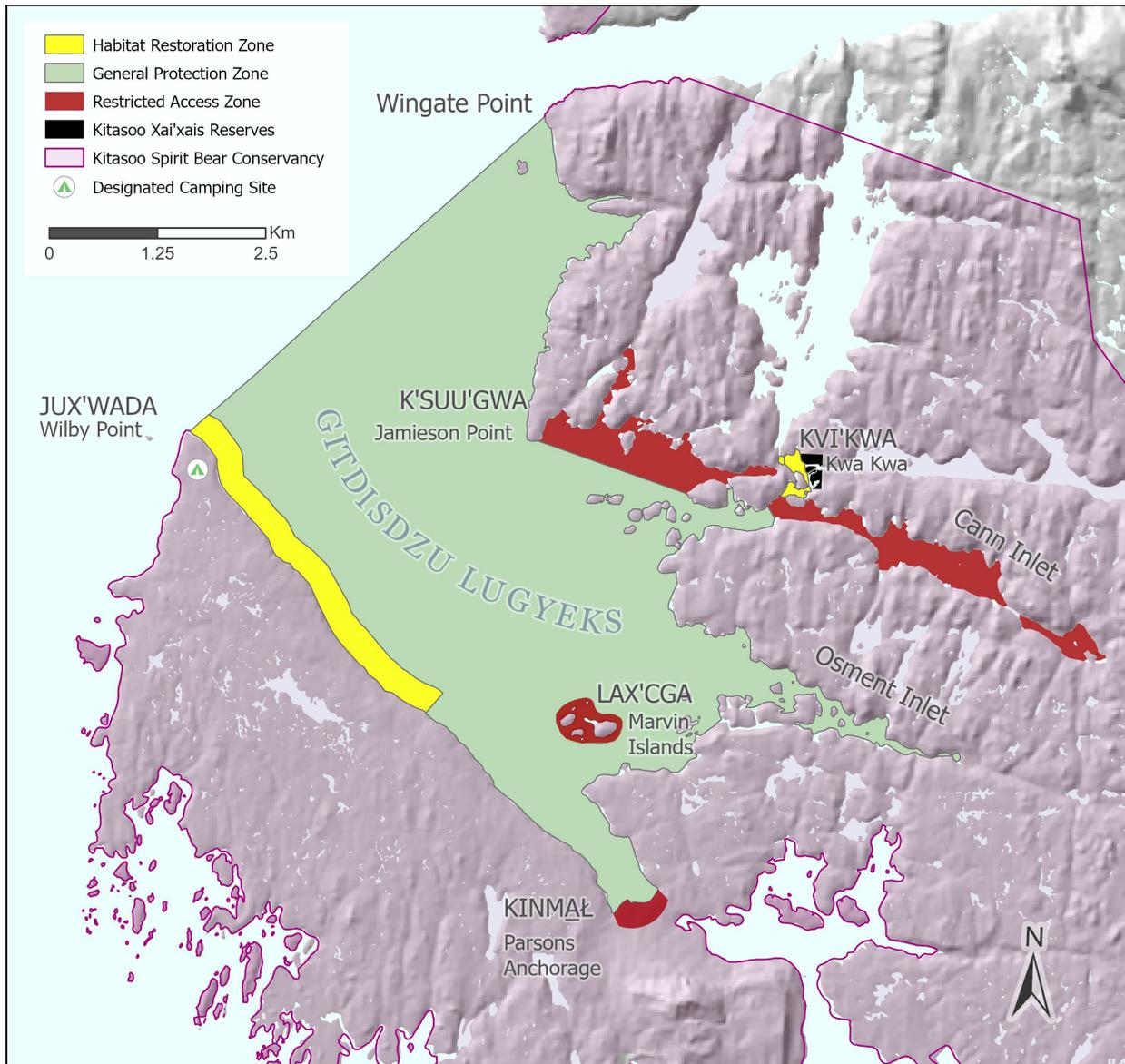
Three management zones have been identified for the MPA (Figure 5):

- General Protection;
- Habitat Protection; and
- Restricted Access.



SOK communal fishery (Photo: Rosie Child)

The zoning aims to protect sensitive ecological and cultural features such as archaeological sites and fish rearing areas. Please see Table 3. Allowable Uses Table and Marine Zoning Framework for activities that are appropriate in each zone. Except for the Habitat Protection Zone in *Kwi Kwa* Lagoon, which is intended to protect important Sockeye habitat (Figure 5), members of Kitasoo Xai'xais have access for traditional uses like sustainable food fishing activities that continue to provide wellbeing and connect people and families to Kitasu Bay in all zones throughout the MPA.



**Figure 5.** Map of Gitdisdzu Lugeyks (Kitasu Bay) Marine Protected Area (MPA) showing management zones and Jux'wada (Wilby Point) camping area.

## Habitat Protection Zones

These zones represent core habitat protection for herring, Sockeye, and other key fish species.

*Kwi Kwa* Lagoon – Identified as a PMZ in the *Central Coast Marine Plan* (IUCN 1b), this small bay serves as nursery habitat for many marine and anadromous species. Eelgrass beds provide essential habitat for the adjacent Sockeye salmon spawning system. They also provide food, shelter, and protection from predators for many juvenile fish and shellfish species, and play a vital role in the life cycles of shellfish, crabs, finfish, and waterfowl. The lagoon also holds significant cultural and traditional harvest values for the Kitasoo Xai'xais. Given increasing vulnerabilities and declines in returning salmon, fishing for salmon is prohibited here.

*Jux'wada* - Identified as a Core Habitat Protection Zone in the *Kitasoo Xai'xais Herring Management Plan*, an area south of *Jux'wada* includes primary spawning areas that encompass critical habitat, as identified by local knowledge and DFO's spatial data on high concentrations of cumulative spawn. The zone extends from the intertidal zone to 300 metres offshore where all commercial fishing activities including Kitasoo Xai'xais use of closed ponds for SOK are prohibited.

## Restricted Access Zones

*Lax'cga* - Only members of the Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation and our guests may visit and camp on *Lax'cga* (Marvin Islands). The restriction protects the privacy of the Kitasoo Xai'xais at our harvest camp.

Cann Inlet and *Kwi Kwa* Inlet - Only members of the Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation and our guests may visit Cann Inlet and *Kwi Kwa* Inlet. The closure protects culturally and environmentally sensitive areas. The restricted area is north of a line between Jamieson Point and the entrance to Cann Inlet.

*Kinmgt* (Parsons Anchorage) - Only members of the Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation and our guests may visit *Kinmgt*. The closure protects a culturally and environmentally sensitive area. The restricted area includes the beach and intertidal area, as well as upland forest.

## Allowable Uses

The tables below summarize existing and potential future uses in the MPA that are and are not allowed in each zone. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all uses that may be considered in this MPA in the future. Please refer to the zoning plan and review relevant sections of the management plan where appropriate. Industrial uses such as forestry, mining, energy, and utilities are all prohibited in all zones in the MPA.



View north from *Jux'wada* (Photo: Rosie Child)

**Table 2.** Allowable Uses Table Legend

Allowable Use Table Legend		
<b>Y</b>	<b>May be an allowable use</b>	<p>Uses and activities may be allowed in the indicated zone subject to applicable laws, policy, and relevant agreements, and provided they are consistent with (adhere to) the plan management direction. Acceptability of any use/activity does not guarantee that a use/activity will be approved.</p> <p>If the activity/use already exists, the management Plan provides guidance on the appropriate level of use and may address specific restrictions or planned enhancements and/or decommissions (e.g., capacity, designated areas for a particular activity, time of year, etc.). For new or expanded uses, this symbol indicates that the use may be considered for further assessment/evaluation and approval.</p>
<b>N</b>	<b>Not an allowable use</b>	<p>The use is not appropriate in the indicated zone. If the use currently exists but the management planning process has determined that the use is no longer appropriate in all or part of the protected area, the management Plan will include strategies for ending the activity (e.g., phasing out, closing).</p>

**Table 3.** Allowable Uses Table and Marine Zoning Framework

Activity/Facility	General Protection Zone	Habitat Protection Zone	Restricted Access Zone
<b>Activities and Uses</b>			
Cultural activities*	Y	Y	Y
Traditional use of marine resources (all species)*	Y	Y	Y
Scientific research and education	Y	Y	Y
Monitoring and restoration	Y	Y	Y
Tourism and recreation	Y	Y	N
Filming and photography	Y	Y	Y
Camping**	Y	Y	N
Communal herring SOK fishery	Y	N	Y
Commercial fisheries/harvest	N	N	N
Recreational fisheries/harvest	N	N	N
Hunting (guided and unguided)	N	N	N
Shellfish aquaculture	Y	N	N
Finfish aquaculture	N	N	N
<b>Facilities/Infrastructure</b>			
Safety/response infrastructure	Y	N	N
Anchorage	Y	N	N
Mooring buoys	Y	N	N
Docks	Y	N	N
KXSA operational floating accommodations	Y	N	N
Commercial floating accommodations	N	N	N

\* Kitasoo Xai'xais cultural activities and traditional use are allowed in all zones, consistent with Kitasoo Xai'xais laws and traditions and section 35 of the Constitution Act

\*\* Temporary recreational camping is only allowed at *Jux'wada* (Wilby Point), except with express permission from the KXSA.

## **5.3 Visitor Rules**

### **Spring Herring Harvest**

1. All permitted vessels must travel at slow speeds in the MPA during March and April.
2. All permitted vessels should minimize use of sonar in the MPA during March and April.
3. All hunting is prohibited in the MPA during March and April.
4. Cleaning of fish in the water, dumping of blood water, and discharge of bilge water is prohibited during March and April.
5. Harvesters should leave boughs or kelp that only acquired a thin layer of herring eggs in the water so that the eggs may hatch.
6. Be as quiet as possible while setting ponds or hemlock boughs for herring spawn.

### **Fish and Shellfish Harvest**

1. All living beings must be respected whether or not they are harvested.
2. Harvesters must take only what is needed.
3. A harvested resource must be fully used. Waste should be avoided where possible.
4. Non-edible parts of the harvest should be disposed of in a respectful manner.
5. Harvesters should understand the ecosystem before they harvest from it. The best way to do this is to learn from elders, or in the case of guests, from their hosts.
6. The first catch of the season of each species should be shared with the community.

### **Recreation**

1. Do not pollute the water, land, or otherwise cause harm to the MPA. "Leave No Trace" guidelines should be followed. This means all human waste, including toilet paper, must be removed from the site. The best solution is for users to return to their vessels when possible, to use the closed containment toilets on board their vessels. For urination needs, the area below high tide should be used.
2. Everyone must follow KITASOO XAI'XAIS wildlife viewing guidelines. Please see [www.klemtu.com](http://www.klemtu.com) for more information.
3. Unguided visitors to the MPA should possess the knowledge and skills necessary for safe and low impact travel.

## 6.0 Plan Implementation

Properly resourcing the establishment and implementation of the MPA will be a core element of the MPA's success, and an essential part of the MPA management. As Kitasoo Xai'xais chiefs and elders will often say, any protected area only becomes real when there are people on the ground or on the water working to protect it.

The KXSA will be responsible for implementing this Plan and for annual plan assessment. The KXSA will undertake stewardship activities including patrols, research projects, and youth mentoring in the MPA. The KXSA will prepare annual work plans and budgets to support implementation of the Plan. Implementation of the strategies and measures within the Plan will be prioritized based on available resourcing, cost, feasibility, and overall benefit toward MPA objectives.

To ensure the objectives, strategies, and targets in this Plan remain relevant and effective, the KXSA will review this Plan annually. The levels and types of permissible use and any impacts and cumulative effects will be monitored and adjusted where necessary to support the goals and objectives of the MPA as set out in this Plan. Broader community interests will be addressed through ongoing outreach activities associated with management operations.

### 6.1 Governance

Governance of the MPA is rooted in the jurisdiction, authority and the stewardship responsibilities held by Kitasoo Xai'xais Hereditary Chiefs. This authority and responsibility is exercised through the Board of the KXSA (Stewardship Board), a board that includes representatives of the Hereditary Chiefs and matriarchs, elected Council, elders, and community members. Hereditary Chiefs who are not members of the Stewardship Board are welcome to provide input at any time if they have concerns about how the MPA, or a resource within it, is being managed.

The KXSA recognizes and acknowledges that input on decisions affecting the MPA historically came from a variety of sources and should continue to do so. Input from all sources is valued and considered. The KXSA acquires information from board members, community members, public meetings, and scientific research conducted by technical staff and consultants. Federal and provincial governments are also welcome to submit information and science, and will be solicited for input.

### 6.2 Public Information

Public education is a key component for providing a safe and rewarding experience for people, to manage sites and resources, and to prevent undue disturbance to cultural features, species, and habitats. It is important for all visitors to understand the management strategies and measures, designated areas and zones, and other rules and guidelines in the management Plan. Information about the MPA will be posted on the KXSA website. An MPA brochure that has similar information will be made available to fishers, commercial operators, the public, at Spirit Bear Lodge, and kept on hand with the Guardians. Changes or revisions to this management Plan will need to be reflected in all communications materials.

### **6.3 Monitoring and Compliance**

The Kitasoo Xai'xais Guardians will be responsible for much of the monitoring and compliance with the management direction of the MPA. Compliance with the measures outlined in this Plan will also be the responsibility of BC Parks Rangers to the extent that it applies to Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy. Being on-site during the herring season, the Guardians will be the primary contact for all vessels entering the MPA.

Kitasoo Xai'xais Guardians will be responsible for collecting data and monitoring relevant visitor use. Similar data will be collected from Spirit Bear Lodge staff, tour operators, and other relevant visitors/users as applicable. Remote cameras can be used to record wildlife, visitors, and vessel traffic. Any incidents or suspicious activity must be reported to the KXSA or Kitasoo Xai'xais Guardians. A formal incident/encounter recording/reporting system will be established (i.e., report forms and annual reports). Guardians, BC Parks, the BC Conservation Officer Service, and DFO will collaborate on compliance monitoring and managing specific incidents or issues if required.

### **6.4 Adaptive Management**

Adaptive management is a formal process for continually revising and improving management objectives and strategies by learning from the outcomes (results) through monitoring and evaluation (see Figure 6). This Plan includes an initial suite of management strategies and targets that provide direction on how to achieve the stated objectives. KXSA will refer to the strategies and targets when establishing and implementing annual work plans. A monitoring framework consisting of indicators and reference points will be developed to monitor and evaluate management outcomes/results against the objectives. Management objectives and strategies will be revised based on monitoring outcomes. Results from monitoring will also be used to prioritize research activities and identify research gaps.

The Plan, including goals, objectives, strategies, and targets will undergo a more significant review and update every five years (or as required) to consider emerging management needs and priorities, as well as cumulative results from monitoring reports and annual work plans. A comprehensive re-evaluation of the Plan will occur every ten years. As well, over time, natural environmental changes, and the long-term effects of climate change on sea-level rise, salmon survival, habitat, and wildlife ecology will be taken into account, and the Plan may be adjusted accordingly.

# Adaptive Management

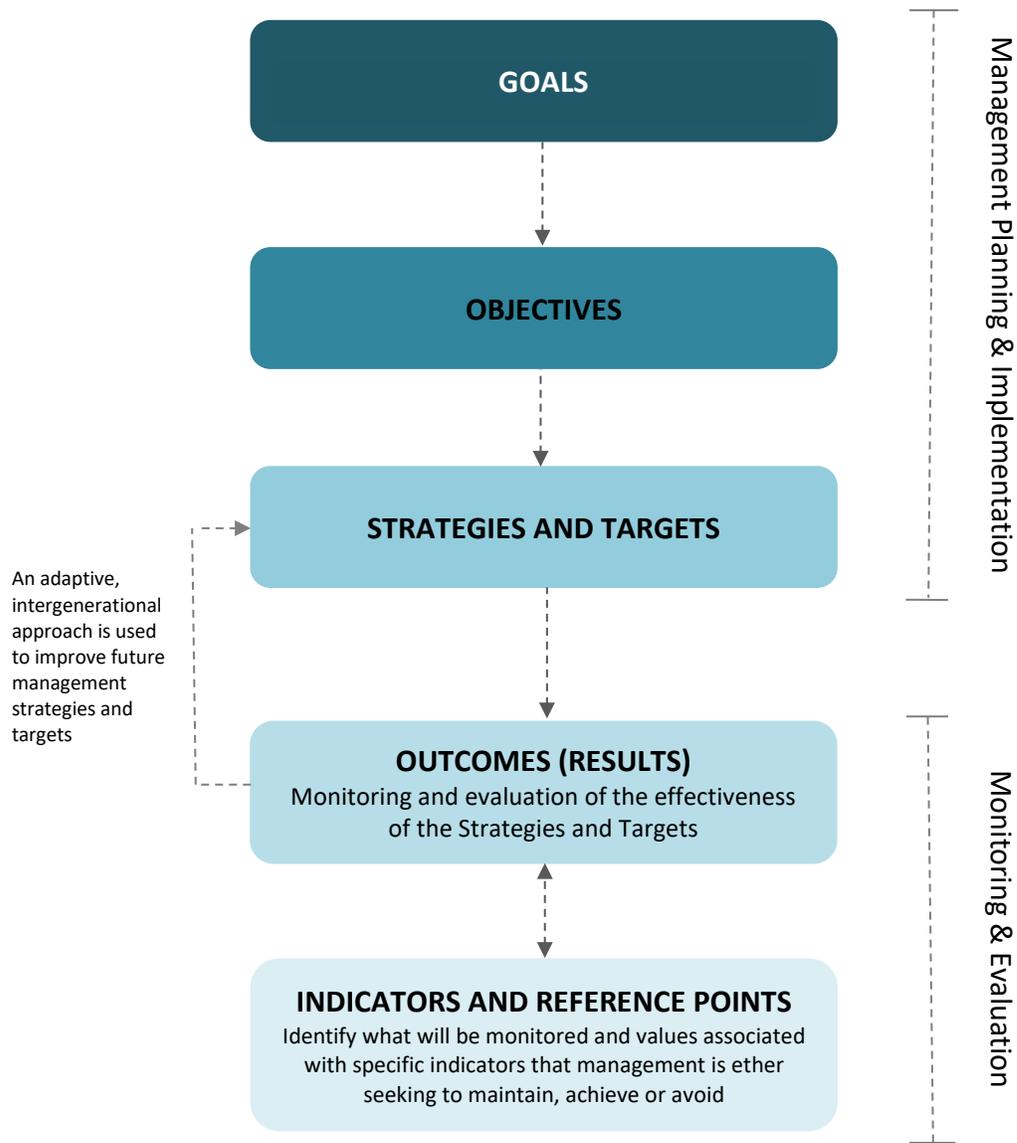


Figure 6. Adaptive Management Flow Chart

## 6.5 Effect of the Management Plan

This Plan is intended to formally guide how the marine resources and areas of Kitasu Bay are managed and used. The Kitasoo Xai'xais rely upon and exercise inherent and Aboriginal Title, Rights, and responsibilities, including ownership, jurisdiction, stewardship, and management, over the lands, waters, and resources, including the marine spaces of our Territory.

While this Plan is an exercise of our inherent and Aboriginal Rights, Title, and responsibilities, it does not describe, define, amend, or modify, the full extent of our Inherent and Aboriginal Rights and Title, including our responsibilities in this area.

This Plan is not an acknowledgement of Crown title and rights to land, waters, and resources in our Territory, nor is it an acknowledgement of the rights of those who rely on Crown licences and permits. While we acknowledge the assertion of Crown sovereignty in our Territory, our lands, waters and resources remain the unceded Territory of the Kitasoo Xai'xais.

For decades we have worked with Canada and BC to collaboratively form an MPA in Kitasu Bay. We will continue to encourage that outcome, however, we can no longer wait until other governments act to preserve and protect this special place that is integral to Kitasoo Xai'xais.



Flock of surf scoters (Photo: Moonfish Media)

## 7.0 Appendices

### Background Documents and References

The following plans, reports, policies, and background studies were used to help design this MPA Management Plan:

- Gitdisdzu Lugyek (Kitasu Bay) Marine Protected Area Background Document, 2019.
- Kitasoo Xai'xais Marine Use Plan, 2011.
- Kitasoo Xai'xais Land Use Plan, 2000.
- Kitasoo Xai'xais Management Plan for Pacific Herring, January 2018.
- Kitasoo Xai'xais Marine Governance and Management Review, 2018.
- Central Coast Marine Plan (MaPP), 2015.
- Northern Shelf Bioregion Marine Protected Area Network (Draft) Action Plan 2021
- Kitasoo Xai'xais Spirit Bear Conservancy Management Plan, 2015.
- Kitasoo Xai'xais and BC Collaborative Management Agreement, 2006.
- Coastal First Nations and BC Reconciliation Agreement, 2016.
- Kitasoo Xai'xais Summary of Indigenous Law (Draft).
- Kitasoo Xai'xais Cultural Heritage Policy (Draft).
- Kitasoo Xai'xais Food Fish Policies (Draft).
- Kitasoo Xai'xais Heritage Database and Indigenous Law Archives.
- We Rise Together: Achieving Pathway to Canada Target 1 through the Creation of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in the Spirit of Practice and Reconciliation, The Indigenous Circle of Experts' Report and recommendations, 2018.
- National Framework for Canada's Network of Marine Protected Areas. Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Government of Canada. 2011. ( <http://waves-vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/345207.pdf>).
- Establishing Marine Protected Area Networks – Making It Happen. IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN-WCPA). 2008. IUCN-WCPA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and The Nature Conservancy.
- The Government of Canada's Approach to Implementation of the Inherent Right and the Negotiation of Aboriginal Self-Government. <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100031843/1100100031844>.
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Rockfish Conservation Areas, Area 6, Gitdisdzu Lugyek. <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/maps-cartes/rca-acr/rca-acr/north-nord/KitasuBayChart3902-eng.html>.
- DFO NuSEDS database. <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/c48669a3-045b-400d-b730-48aaf8c5ee6>.

Fisheries and Oceans Canadian Data Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, No. 299, July 1982. Catalogue of Salmon Streams and Spawning Escapements of Statistical Area 6 (South). A.J. Leaney-East, C.I. Manzon, and D.E. Marshall.

Integrated Fisheries Management Plans for crab, prawns, sea urchin, rockfish, halibut, herring, geoduck, and sea cucumber, Fisheries and Oceans Canada 2018.

The Valued Marine Environments and/or Features Database overview report  
<ftp://ftp.gis.luco.gov.bc.ca/pub/coastal/rpts/overview.pdf>.

BCMCA Atlas Physical Representation Ecosections  
[https://bcmca.ca/datafiles/individualfiles/bcmca\\_eco\\_physical\\_ecosections\\_atlas.pdf](https://bcmca.ca/datafiles/individualfiles/bcmca_eco_physical_ecosections_atlas.pdf).

Conservation Data Centre, BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre/explore-cdc-data/species-and-ecosystems-explorer>.

Why MPAs can help maintain or improve First Nations' access to traditional foods Alejandro Frid (CCIRA), 2020.