

Bear Viewing Guidelines



- Stay at least 30M (100ft) away from bears at all times.
- Approach and depart at slow boat speeds (less than 5 knots).
- Stay in groups. If on shore, stay grouped together and alert for signs of bear activity.
- Limit viewing time to 20 minutes.
- No pursuit viewing of bears.
- Be sensitive to bear reactions. If a bear acts nervous (yawning, staring, moves towards cover) you may be displacing it. Move back and leave the area. If a bear shows aggressive behavior (ears back, jaw popping, growling, stomping feet), leave the area.
- Never use flash photography with animals.
- Backcountry areas are not suitable for pets due to potential problems with bears.
- Bear spray is required by at least one person who is trained in its use.

Contact Information

BC Parks and the Kitsoo/Xai'xais are dedicated to the protection of natural environments for the inspiration, use, and enjoyment of all visitors. Together, they are working hard to preserve this unique wilderness.

With your help, this amazing wilderness will remain for future generations to enjoy.



Kitsoo/Xai'xais Nation

Resource Stewardship Director
(250) 839-1096

BC Parks

Area Supervisor
(250) 982-2701



WELCOME



Fiordland Conservancy



BC Parks



Protected Area Information and
Bear Viewing Guidelines

Fiordland Conservancy

At 84, 417 hectares, the Fiordland Conservancy is one of the finest examples of glacially gouged fiords on the British Columbia coast. It encompasses Kynoch Inlet and Láiq (Mussel Inlet), their estuaries, and surrounding mountain coast.

Here you will find spectacular sheer granite cliffs rising more than 1000 metres from sea to sky. You will enjoy views of the soaring peaks of the Coast Mountains, dense coastal forests, imposing waterfalls and lush river estuaries.



This Protected Area is located in the territory of the Kitsoo/Xai'xais and is collaboratively managed under an agreement between the Kitsoo/Xai'xais and the Province of BC.

While visiting, please respect the land, water and culture of this area.

Láiq (Mussel Inlet) Special Management Area

Although all estuary systems within the Fiordland Conservancy are sensitive and important ecosystems, Láiq is an especially significant system for bears and other wildlife. This area provides some of the most valuable habitat for bears and wildlife on the Central Coast.

Maintaining ecologically sustainable, safe, and culturally sensitive tourism opportunities is an important management objective for these areas. The potential exists to negatively impact bears and wildlife if they are continually displaced from highly productive areas. As such there are guidelines for appropriate behaviour when in this area to help ensure the integrity of these special and significant places are preserved in their natural state for future generations.

Access to this highly sensitive area is closely monitored and guidelines are strictly enforced. During peak season this area is managed jointly by BC Parks and the Kitasoo/Xai'xais Guardians. When entering the area **please contact the Kitasoo/Xai'xais Guardians on Marine Channel 6.**



Láiq SMA Viewing Guidelines

May 1 - August 14: See guidelines below

August 15-October 15: **WILDLIFE VIEWING ONLY WITH A PERMITTED GUIDE**

October 16-April 30: **AREA CLOSED TO WILDLIFE VIEWING**

Water-based Viewing Guidelines

- Maximum 2 vessels in this area at a time. Vessels must stay together.
- No access upstream of the lower Mussel River Island.
- Jet boats are not permitted.
- Maximum 16 people total in this area at a time.

Land-based Viewing Guidelines

- Allowed only at the designated viewing area on the lower Mussel River Island.
- No access upstream of the lower Mussel River Island or on the main Mussel Estuary.
- Maximum of 16 people total permitted on shore at a time. Visitors **MUST** stay grouped together.
- Firearms are not permitted below 1000ft.
- No pets are permitted in viewing areas, except in the designated dog walking area (on leash).
- Please do not take food onto land.

