



MARINE PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Gitdisdzu Lugyeks (Kitasu Bay)

Forward

On behalf of the Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation, we are pleased to present this management plan for the Gitdisdzu Lugyeks (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. Drawing on our traditional laws and management practices, as stewards of our Territory, we are responsible for the health and well-being of Gitdisdzu Lugyeks 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 plan 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.

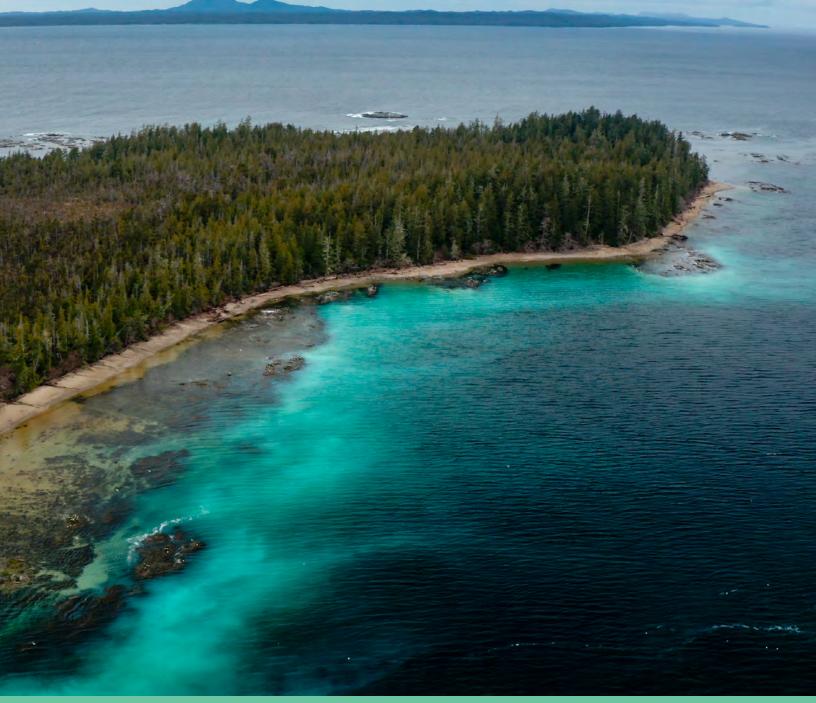
While developing this plan, the Kitasoo Xai'xais worked with the Federal and Provincial governments, the Klemtu community, neighboring Nations, and many stakeholder groups including the fishing, tourism, conservation, and shipping sectors. We invite other people and governments to work with us to implement 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 these 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 Lugyeks*, we must take steps now to protect this unique place.

Sincerely,

Kitasoo Xai'xais Hereditary Chiefs





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"We come from the land, but we exist from the sea"

- LATE HEREDITARY CHIEF AND ELDER DZAGM'SAGIS (LESLIE NEASLOSS)

Vision

Our vision for the management of our marine areas and resources in *Gitdisdzu Lugyeks* 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 jobs to sustain our families and communities. Drawing on our inherent jurisdiction, laws, and management practices, the Kitasu 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.



"*Gitdisdzu Lugyeks* has all the resources we use. We harvest everything there, ground fish, all species of salmon, herring eggs, even the ducks we harvest there... it's our major harvesting area. It's just like a pantry for us... that's why we work so hard and are determined to protect that bay."

- THE LATE NIES'LOS (ARCHIE ROBINSON SR.), HEREDITARY CHIEF AND ELDER



Introduction

Introduction

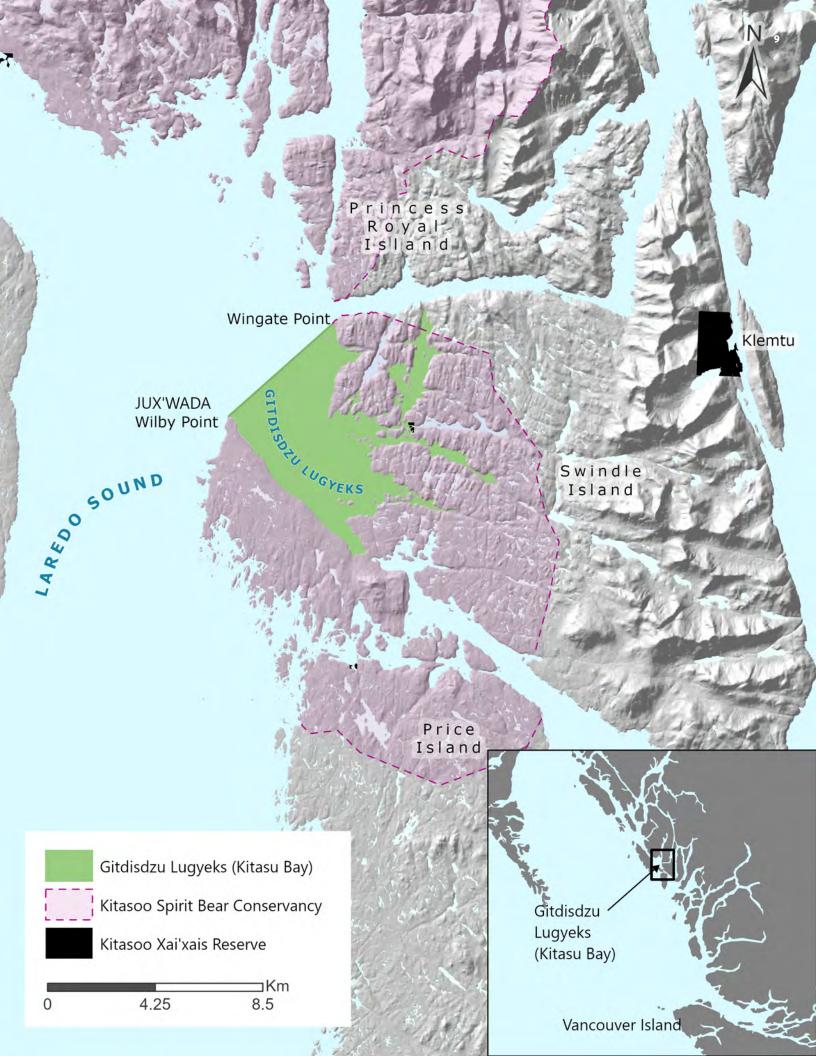
Located in the heart of Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation Territory (Territory) in the Central Coast of British Columbia, *Gitdisdzu Lugyeks* (commonly known as Kitasu Bay) is a spiritual place that is ecologically and physically unique. Its lands, waters, fishes, aquatic resources, and wildlife are integral to 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. It also contains some of the highest valued habitat and spawning areas for Pacific herring.

Gitdisdzu (pr: "git-dis-ju") means "people of Disju" (the more contemporary spelling or reference is Kitasu or Kitasoo), and Lugyeks (pr: "Lew-gyeks") means "sheltered bay". 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. This management plan has been prepared by the Kitasoo Xai'xais Stewardship Authority (KXSA) with direction and guidance from Kitasoo Xai'xais hereditary chiefs, community knowledge holders, community members, and KXSA staff, researchers, and advisors. It 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.

The Kitasoo 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 Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation will continue to uphold Kitasoo Xai'xais rights and title to *Gitdisdzu Lugyeks* and our broader Territory, while also pursuing recognition through reconciliation with the provincial and federal governments.





The following guiding principles are based on Kitasoo Xai'xais laws, customs, ethics, and values. Supporting what western scientists now refer to as Ecosystem Based Management (EBM), these principles are the building blocks of planning and management in Kitasu Bay and the Kitasoo Xai'xais Territory.





Loomsk/xáła (Respect)

All living things have the right to be respected. We take only what we need, give thanks, and acknowledge those who behave accordingly. In Kitasu Bay, the community will harvest only the fish and resources that it requires for cultural purposes, sustenance, and trade purposes, and the communal spawn on kelp (SOK) fishery and, in general, management will be based on a precautionary approach.



Sityaaw/xvíłsístái (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. Management decisions in the MPA will be equitable to ensure the natural and cultural heritage of *Gitdisdzu Lugyeks* is passed onto future generations.



Sagayt k'üülm goot/qátualmta (Interconnectedness)

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. 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.



Gugwilx'ya'ansk/qdúł?a'Xa (Intergenerational Knowledge)

Intergenerational knowledge ensures that wisdom gained over countless generations of ancestors living in our Territory is passed on. 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.

Significance & Human Use

Located within an area known as the Hecate Lowlands, the Kitasu Bay is in the *marine* North Coast Fjords Ecosection. Kitasu Bay has a high diversity and abundance of marine habitats and species. Ocean waves and currents mix marine water with freshwater from the mountains in this shallow marine area, providing support for nutrient rich ecosystems. Hundreds, if not thousands, of distinct species of plants and animals live in or come to *Gitdisdzu Lugyeks*, including species at risk, all of which must be respected as essential aspects of the ecosystem.

Kitasu Bay represents one of the highest valued herring spawning areas left on the BC coast. During the herring spawn in March and April, 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 in the bay for the annual feast.

Kitasu Bay is rich in Kitasoo Xai'xais cultural heritage, and has seen historic and continued use and occupation by the Kitasoo Xai'xais people. The area is a critical source of resources that support our 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.

As an important recreation destination, *Gitdisdzu Lugyeks* is primarily used for marine-based activities. The Spirit Bear Lodge, which provides substantial, reliable, and rewarding employment for the community, often visits the area, and there are approximately nine small ship commercial tour operators that visit Kitasu Bay. Members of the public also occasionally visit the bay by pleasure craft or kayak for the purposes of wildlife viewing, photography, camping, or safe anchorage. Temporary recreational anchoring and shoreline activities 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 Lugyeks*.

Film companies have used Kitasu Bay and the surrounding area for a variety of projects including TV production, news, documentaries, and nature films. This activity must be done under a protocol agreement with the KXSA and a Park Use Permit with BC Parks.



Being near shipping routes, *Gitdisdzu Lugyeks* is often used as an anchorage and refuge for small to mid-sized ships. 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.

Commercial fishing, as currently practiced and managed by DFO, is viewed as the biggest threat to *Gitdisdzu Lugyeks* and the Kitasoo Xai'xais use and reliance on *Gitdisdzu Lugyeks*. Short term management policies and strategies allowing overfishing combined with changing ocean conditions have resulted in significant impacts to many species, including salmon, abalone, herring, sea birds, and more. 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.

At least eight fish species (crab, prawns, sea urchin, rockfish, halibut, herring, geoduck, and lingcod) are often opened by DFO for commercial harvest even when it is not clear that the stock is abundant enough to support such fishing. 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. We ascribe much of this 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. "Kitasu Bay, that's a really sacred spot for the people here, the community. We used to move out to Marvin Island at the middle of March, waiting for the herring to spawn. There were eight or ten houses there with as many as three families to a house. I was there every year with my parents for five to six weeks. We salted or dried herring eggs. We dried cod and halibut, and just lived off the fat of the land."

- THE LATE GUSK (PERCY STARR), HEREDITARY CHIEF AND ELDER





Management Direction

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

GOAL 1:

Protect, conserve, and restore marine biodiversity and ecosystems.

A key priority is protecting the diversity of species, populations, and communities, including our ability to adapt to climate change. The Kitasoo Xai'xais is also committed to restoring Kitasu 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.



1.1 Strategies to protect, conserve, and restore species, habitats, and food webs in the MPA.

- 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 - Kitasu Bay/Higgins Cultural Zone.
- To maintain the wilderness setting and reduce impacts to the sensitive ecosystems and habitat, infrastructure (i.e. docks) will be minimized.
- 8. A herring rebuilding strategy and implementation plan is developed by 2024.
- 9. Where necessary, develop mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate impacts on species or habitats.
- 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.

- 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. Visitor rules will be established for this time period.
- Permanent spatial restricted areas are established in parts of the MPA including *Lax'cga*, Cann Inlet, *Kinmał* and *Kvi kwa* Inlet, where visitors are not allowed to access or conduct activities except by invitation/permission.



GOAL 2:

Protect and enhance the continuity of Kitasoo Xai'xais culture.

Gitdisdzu Lugyeks continues to have great cultural, spiritual, and economic importance to our people. 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. food, social, and ceremonial fishing) will be prioritized over all purposes except conservation.

2.1 Strategies and targets to identify, protect, and maintain features and sites of spiritual and cultural importance.

- 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.

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

2.2 Strategies and targets to protect and maintain activities and uses that support a living Kitasoo Xai'xais culture.

- 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. Specific harvest sites that are the property of individuals or families are identified and respected by others.
- Development and growth of new and existing Kitasoo Xai'xais cultural programs (e.g., Supporting Emerging Aboriginal Stewards, Súa, Rediscovery, etc.) are encouraged.

- All living beings must be respected whether or not they are harvested.
- The sale of any resources harvested within the MPA is prohibited. Trading of resources harvested within the MPA for sustenance purposes is permitted.
- All hunting is prohibited in the MPA during March and April.
- Cleaning of fish in the water, dumping of blood water, and discharge of bilge water is prohibited in the MPA during March and April.
- Harvesters should leave boughs or kelp that only acquired a thin layer of herring eggs in the water so that the eggs may hatch.
- Be as quiet as possible while setting ponds or hemlock boughs for herring spawn.

- A harvested resource must be fully used. Waste should be avoided where possible.
- Harvesters must take only what is needed.
- Non-edible parts of the harvest should be disposed of in a respectful manner.
- 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.
- The first catch of the season of each species should be shared with the community.

"That's one of the first things that I could remember, my grandpa talked about how we should make Kitasu Bay into a kind of sanctuary, where nobody could touch it, because it's going to be needed for our own use. That's what we are doing for *Gitdisdzu Lugyeks* now."

HAAY-MAAS (ERNEST "CHARLIE" MASON JR.), HEREDITARY CHIEF AND ELDER



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. 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.

3.1 Strategies and targets to ensure fisheries in the MPA are ecologically sustainable.

- 1. The Kitasoo Xai'xais communal SOK fishery will be monitored and managed to rebuild the stocks.
- 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.
- 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.
- Monitor food, social, and ceremonial fisheries within the MPA to ensure the long-term sustainability of the marine resources is not being impacted.
- 5. Ensure all harvesters take only what is needed for cultural purposes, sustenance, and trade purposes.

- Conduct annual stock assessments to annually update the Kitasoo Xai'xais herring management plan including the allocation of herring quota to support SOK fisheries.
- 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.

3.2 Strategies and targets to ensure tourism and recreation in the MPA is sustainable.

- 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. Spirit Bear Lodge continues to operate tours in the MPA and has priority access to tourism opportunities in the MPA.
- 3. 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.

- 4. Policies (e.g., Cultural Zone Site Level Management Plan) are reviewed every five years to manage visitation while protecting natural and cultural heritage.
- 5. Opportunities for new activities are reviewed as required.

- Kitasoo Xai'xais require a protocol agreement to be signed with all commercial tourism operators (including tourism, film, and photography) in the Territory.
- Commercial tourism/recreation will be limited to 2022 activity levels.
- Land access, including camping, will not be allowed in the Restricted Access Zones unless explicit permission has been provided from the KXSA. Currently, land access will only be allowed on Wilby Point.
- 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.
- Overnight temporary recreational camping is only allowed at Wilby Point or by explicit permission from the KXSA.
- Tourism operators and the public will be informed about "no trespassing" on Indian Reserves and the sensitive cultural values associated with the reserves.

- 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.
- 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.
- Everyone must follow Kitasoo Xai'xais wildlife viewing guidelines. Please see www.klemtu.com for more information.
- Unguided visitors to the MPA should possess the knowledge and skills necessary for safe and low impact travel.

3.3 Strategies and targets to manage and monitor vessel and air traffic to minimize impacts to the MPA.

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. Develop indicators and strategies for vessel impacts and carrying capacity through a cumulative effects monitoring framework.
- 4. Acquire and place a marine response equipment cache(s) in the MPA that can be used during environmental response incidents for Parsons Anchorage, Kvi kwa, and Marvin Islands.



SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES

- Ensure that the MPA is identified as a restricted area and not as a Place of Refuge by Transport Canada/Canadian Coast Guard. Vessel access will be restricted in designated zones.
- Engage in a consultation process involving the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship and Transport Canada to implement appropriate regulation changes related to vessel restrictions.
- 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 – October 15).
- 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.

- 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.
- Discharge of pollution, in the form of sewage, grey water, bilge water, and garbage is prohibited in *Gitdisdzu Lugyeks*.
- All permitted vessels must travel at slow speeds in the MPA during March and April, to minimize impacts to herring spawn.
- All permitted vessels should minimize use of sonar in the MPA during March and April.

GOAL 4: Advance knowledge and understanding of *Gitdisdzu Lugyeks*. Research and monitoring priorities in the MPA will focus on key ecological and cultural species of importance, cultural impacts, and inventorying archaeological sites. 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.

4.1 Strategies and targets to support and further develop the MPA monitoring program.

- 1. A comprehensive EBM monitoring program is fully developed and operational by 2023.
- 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.
- 3. Invasive species are monitored and managed accordingly.
- 4. New and existing partnerships are developed to support monitoring activities.
- 5. The MPA monitoring activities are integrated with broader local and regional monitoring initiatives.

4.2 Strategies and targets to promote and advance research that supports management and decision making in the MPA.

- Kitasoo Xai'xais traditional knowledge and laws and other local knowledge about the MPA is documented, inventoried, and shared as appropriate.
- 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.

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

Plan Implementation

Properly resourcing the establishment and implementation of the MPA will be a core element of the MPA's success. 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 management plan including stewardship activities, compliance monitoring patrols, research and monitoring projects, engagement, and youth mentoring in the MPA. The KXSA will also prepare annual work plans and budgets to support implementation of the management plan and conduct necessary reviews and assessments.

Governance: Governance of the MPA is rooted in the jurisdiction, authority, and the stewardship responsibilities held by Kitasoo Xai'xais Hereditary Chiefs. This is exercised by the Nation through the Stewardship Committee that includes representatives of the Hereditary Chiefs and matriarchs, elected Council, elders, and community members.

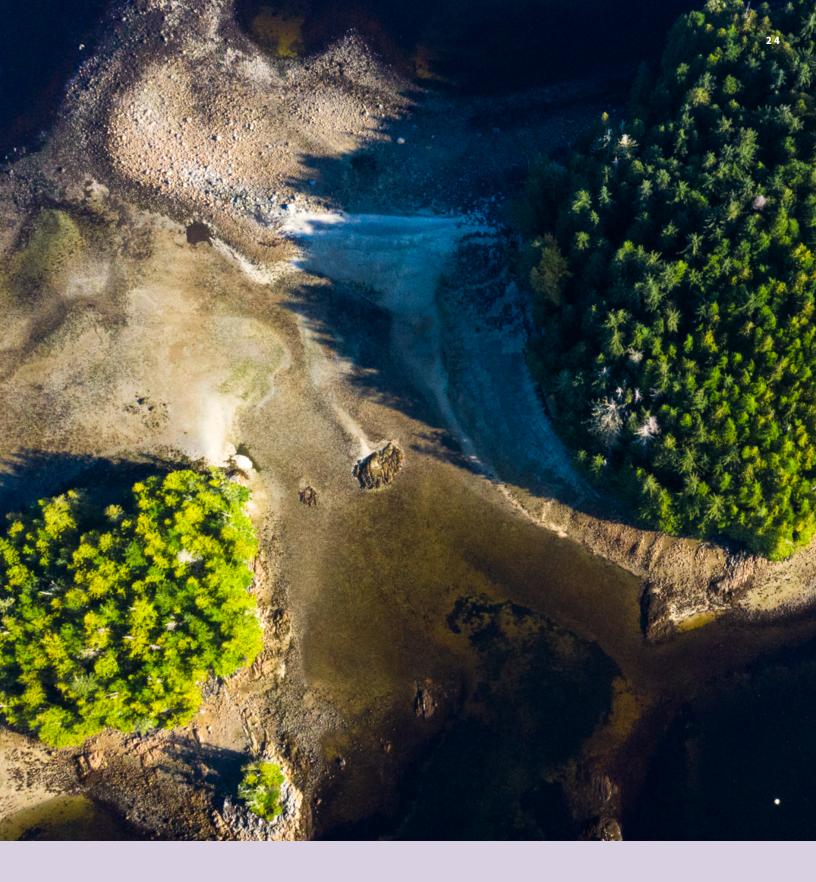
Public Information: Public information and education will be provided to ensure that all visitors understand the management

strategies and measures, designated areas and zones, and other rules and guidelines in the management plan. This will aid the management of sites and resources, and ensure a safe and rewarding experience.

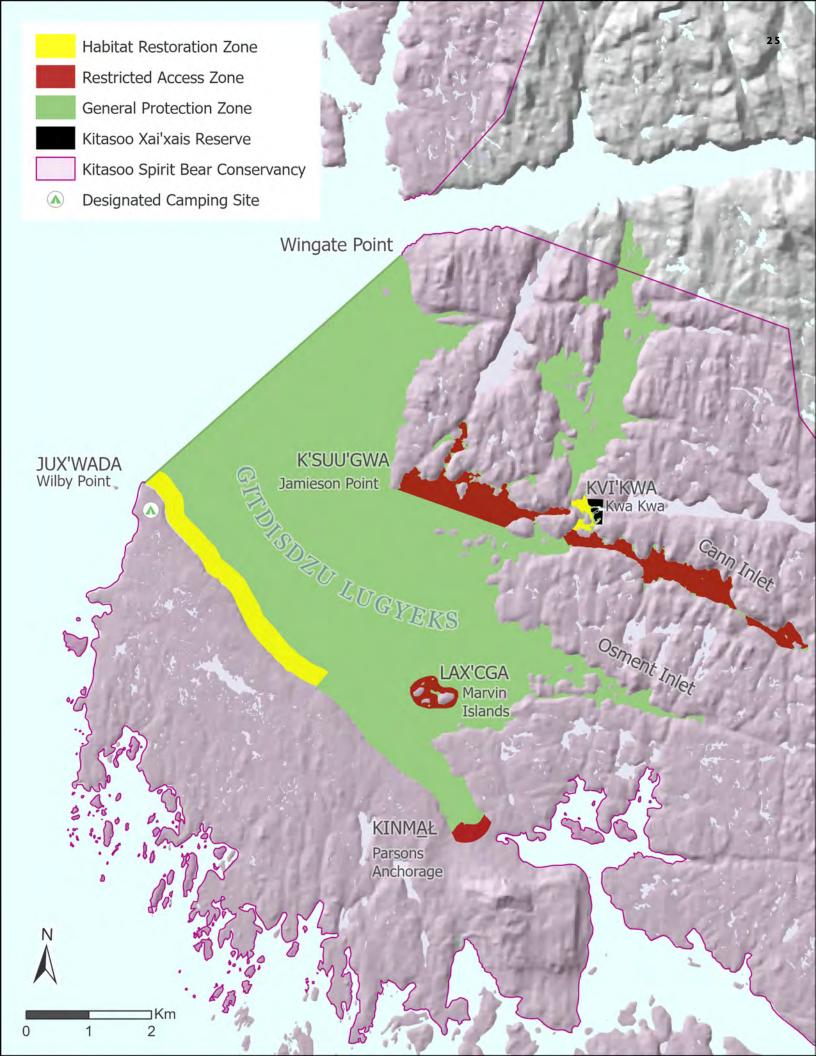
Monitoring and Compliance: The Kitasoo Xai'xais Guardians will be responsible for much of the monitoring and compliance with the management direction of the MPA. With the authorities and responsibilities of the BC Parks Rangers, the Guardians will also ensure compliance and enforcement to the extent applicable to the Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy.

Adaptive Management: A monitoring framework will be developed to evaluate management outcomes/results against the objectives, strategies, and targets. The Plan will undergo a significant review and update every five years (or as required) and a comprehensive re-evaluation every ten years. Over time, natural environmental and ecology changes will be taken into account, and the Plan may be adjusted accordingly.





Zoning Plan



Allowable Uses

The table below summarizes existing and potential future uses in the MPA that are and are not allowed in each zone. 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. 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.

ACTIVITY/FACILITY	GENERAL PROTECTION ZONE	HABITAT PROTECTION ZONE	RESTRICTED ACCESS ZONE
ACTIVITIES AND USES			
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	Ν	N	N
Hunting (guided and unguided)	Ν	N	N
Shellfish aquaculture	Y	N	N
Finfish aquaculture	N	N	N
FACILITIES/INFRASTRUCTURE			
Safety/response infrastructure	Y	N	N
Anchorages	Y	N	N
Mooring buoys	Y	N	N
Docks	Y	N	N
KXSA operational floating accommodations	Y	N	N
Commercial floating accommodations	Ν	Ν	Ν

IN MEMORY

The Gitdisdzu Lugyeks Marine Protected Area Management Plan is dedicated to the memory of all those who have contributed to the Nation's marine planning, traditional knowledge, and community needs work over the years.





MARINE PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Gitdisdzu Lugyeks (Kitasu Bay)

Photo credits: Moonfish Media and Kitasoo Xai'xais Stewardship

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

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