

# Haida Gwaii MARINE MATTERS

August 8, 2002

## • Recreational fishery creel

**surveys** are conducted by Haida Fisheries to estimate the recreational fishery catch in Masset Inlet, Naden Harbour, Langara Island, Skidegate Inlet, Cartwright Sound and Rennell Sound. Watchmen field camps [✳] are maintained throughout the fishing season in Skoas (Naden Harbour) and Bruin Bay (near Langara Island).

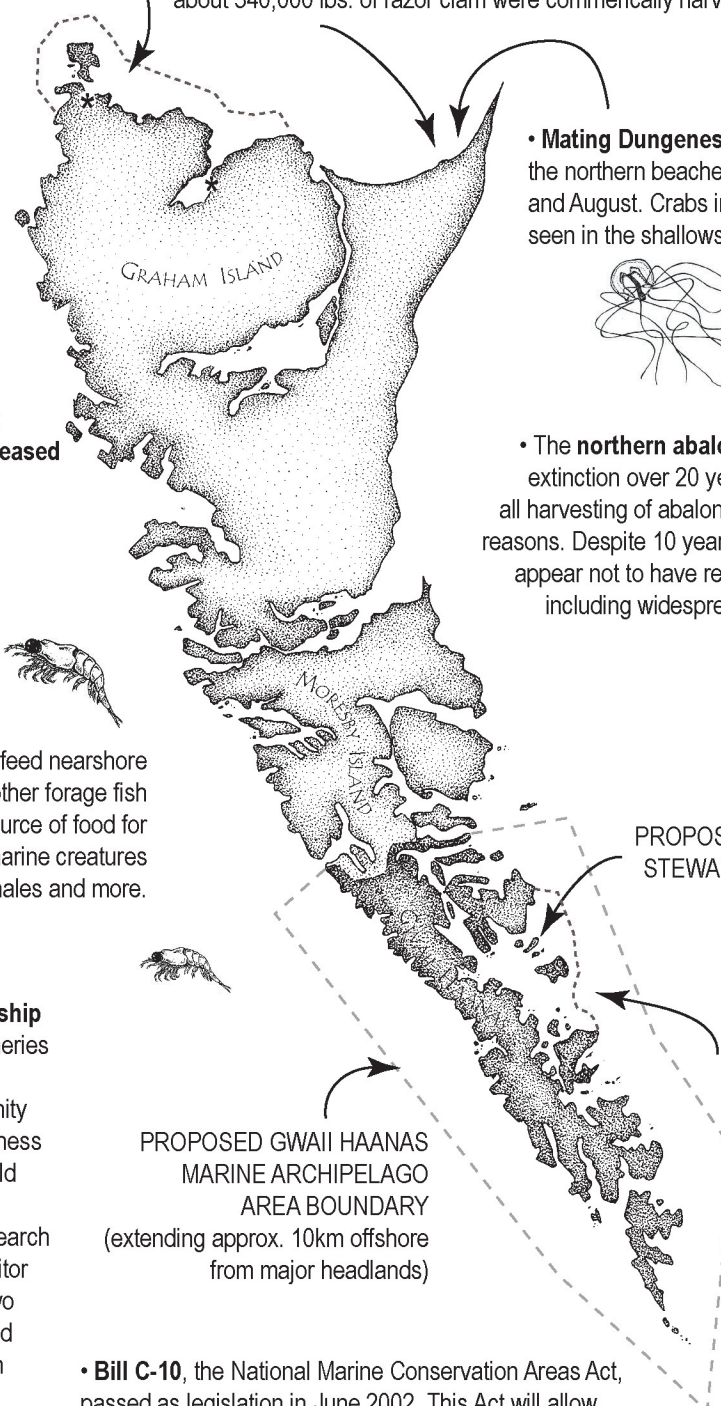
## • Creel survey catch numbers for 2001:

Species	Kept	Caught & Released
Coho salmon	44,575	140,091
Chinook salmon	24,405	28,844
Pink salmon	4,006	
Chum Salmon	675	
Rockfish	5,309	
Halibut	13,500	
Lingcod	6,891	

• Balls of **juvenile herring** feed nearshore throughout the summer. They and other forage fish are a critically important source of food for countless species of marine creatures - salmon, rockfish, seabirds, seals, whales and more.

• A community-based **Abalone Stewardship Program** was initiated by the Haida Fisheries Program in 2000 with several local and federal partners. A Haida Gwaii Community Action Plan was drafted to create awareness about abalone conservation and to rebuild abalone populations around the Islands. Haida Fisheries is in its fifth abalone research season, conducting dive surveys to monitor abalone populations and recruitment. Two Abalone Stewardship Areas are proposed in upper Juan Perez Sound and northern Graham Island from Naden Harbour to Langara Island.

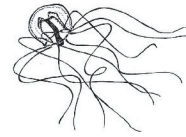
PROPOSED  
ABALONE  
STEWARDSHIP  
AREA



PROPOSED GWAII HAANAS  
MARINE ARCHIPELAGO  
AREA BOUNDARY  
(extending approx. 10km offshore  
from major headlands)

• The largest **razor clam** beach in BC is located along the northern beaches of East Graham Island. The commercial fishery, composed mostly of Haida clam diggers, is cooperatively managed by the Council of the Haida Nation and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Haida Fisheries conducts management activities including population surveys, harvest data collection and biotoxin monitoring. In 2001, about 340,000 lbs. of razor clam were commercially harvested for the food and bait markets.

• **Mating Dungeness crabs** come close to shore along the northern beaches of East Graham Island in July and August. Crabs in their mating embrace can be seen in the shallows with the falling tide.



• The **northern abalone** was harvested to commercial extinction over 20 years of intensive harvest. In 1991, all harvesting of abalone was prohibited for conservation reasons. Despite 10 years of closure, abalone populations appear not to have recovered for a number of reasons, including widespread illegal harvesting and critically depressed natural populations.



• Juan Perez Sound is an area of **upwelling** where cool, nutrient-rich waters are driven up from the deep, allowing for high plankton productivity and attracting plankton-eating creatures ranging in size from small forage fish (herring, sandlance) to giant humpback whales!

• **Bill C-10**, the National Marine Conservation Areas Act, passed as legislation in June 2002. This Act will allow Parks Canada to protect our rich marine heritage by working cooperatively with local communities.

• Hundreds of **Pacific white-sided dolphins** and up to 50 **humpback whales** at a time visited the waters around South Moresby Island throughout this spring and summer.

