

A.I.P. CANADA SUPPLEMENT

AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF THE GULF ISLANDS AND WEST COAST WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES, BRITISH COLUMBIA

With the summer flying season approaching it is timely to remind pilots of the procedures for use while in the vicinity of the Gulf Islands of British Columbia. These procedures while not regulatory in nature were developed to encourage pilots to co-operate in addressing the issue of noise and wildlife protection.

These procedures have had a significant effect in reducing the number of complaints. While it is recognized complete elimination of aircraft noise is not feasible it is recognized that with some forethought and care in the operation of aircraft, the degree of noise impact on residents of the Gulf Islands can be greatly reduced. Therefore again this year urge all pilots, in the interest of being a good neighbor, to help us to do whatever we can to minimize noise impact on the public.

The Gulf Islands also have been identified as home to several unique and endangered wildlife species and in this regard Transport Canada has been working with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada as well as British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to establish procedures to aid in wildlife protection. These species include several types of birds as well as sea mammals including the Orca whale. The rapidly growing interest in wildlife has caused concern due to encroachment into endangered bird and animal habitat by both surface and air traffic. Therefore pilots are encouraged to avoid low level flight over bird nesting areas marked  on the VFR charts and to avoid, where possible, low flight over any area where bird or sea life activity may be encountered.

This year this reminder has been extended to include the bird sanctuaries south along the coastline from Vancouver International Airport and the area around Boundary and Mud Bay and the Serpentine Nature Reserve east of Boundary Bay Airport.

Any questions or comments may be sent to the Regional Director Civil Aviation (Pacific)