

Conservation status of

Ballenas-Winchelsea Island Local Trust Area

The Ballenas-Winchelsea (Executive) Local Trust Area is one of 13 local trust areas and island municipalities that make up the Islands Trust Area. The Ballenas-Winchelsea (Executive) Local Trust Area, located off the coast of Vancouver Island between Nanaimo and Deep Bay north of Qualicum Beach, includes 19 islands and islets. It is within the traditional territories of numerous First Nations who have cared for these lands and waters since time immemorial.

Ballenas-Winchelsea (Executive) archipelago of rugged islands and islets are home for some of British Columbia's rarest ecosystems, which are facing continued impacts from habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive species, and climate change.

The Islands Trust Conservancy does "nature check-ups" to measure the state of island ecosystems to see how well we are meeting the Islands Trust's mandate to "preserve and protect". Guided by a science-based Regional Conservation Plan, our work is important because, like the species and habitats that support us, the quality of human life depends on ecosystem health. We all have a part to play in protecting these fragile islands in the Salish Sea for future generations.

Species at risk



Steller Sea Lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*)

Special Concern (Federally),
blue listed (Provincially)

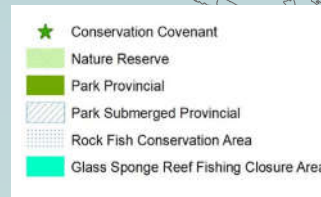


Peregrine Falcon, *anatum* subspecies (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)

Special Concern (Federally),
blue listed (Provincially)

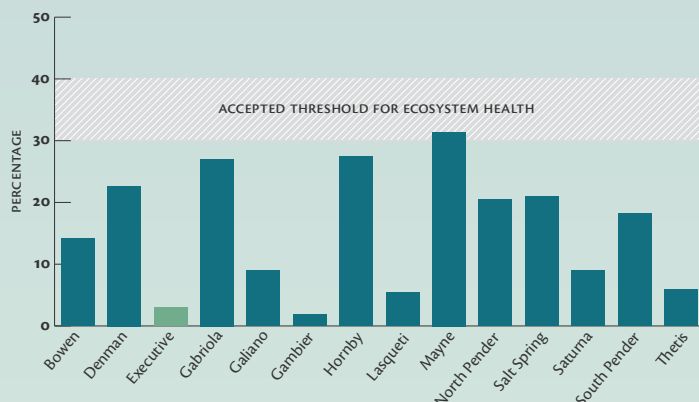
These islands & islets are blanketed with wildflowers
vulnerable to human impacts

Parks & protected areas



14% PROTECTED

Land Converted to Human Use in the Islands Trust Area



Once land is converted for human use, that land is less available for nature. As land conversion reaches or goes above a 30-40% threshold, the number of species in a given habitat decline more rapidly.

Rathrevor Beach Provincial Park

Gerald Island Provincial Park

South Winchelsea Island
(Nature Reserve)



Learn more at islandstrustconservancy.ca

How do forests help us?


CARBON EMISSIONS ABSORBED BY
BALLENAS FORESTS ANNUALLY

EQUIVALENT CARBON EMISSIONS
EMITTED BY PASSENGER VEHICLES
ANNUALLY



=

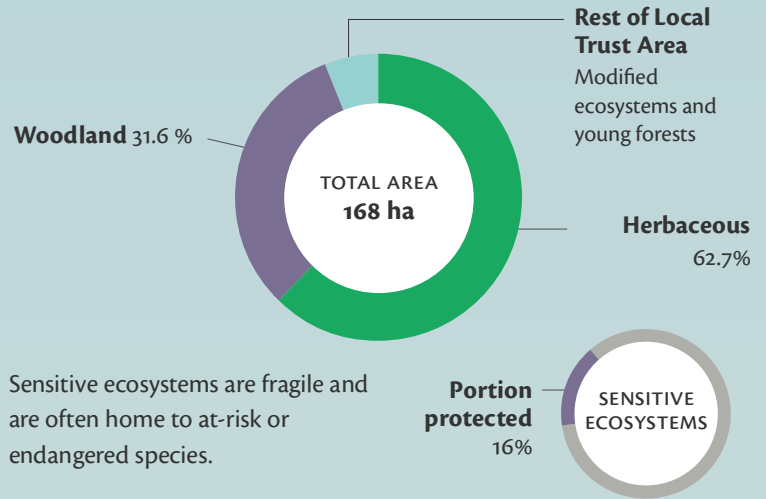


 = 1,000 tonnes of carbon

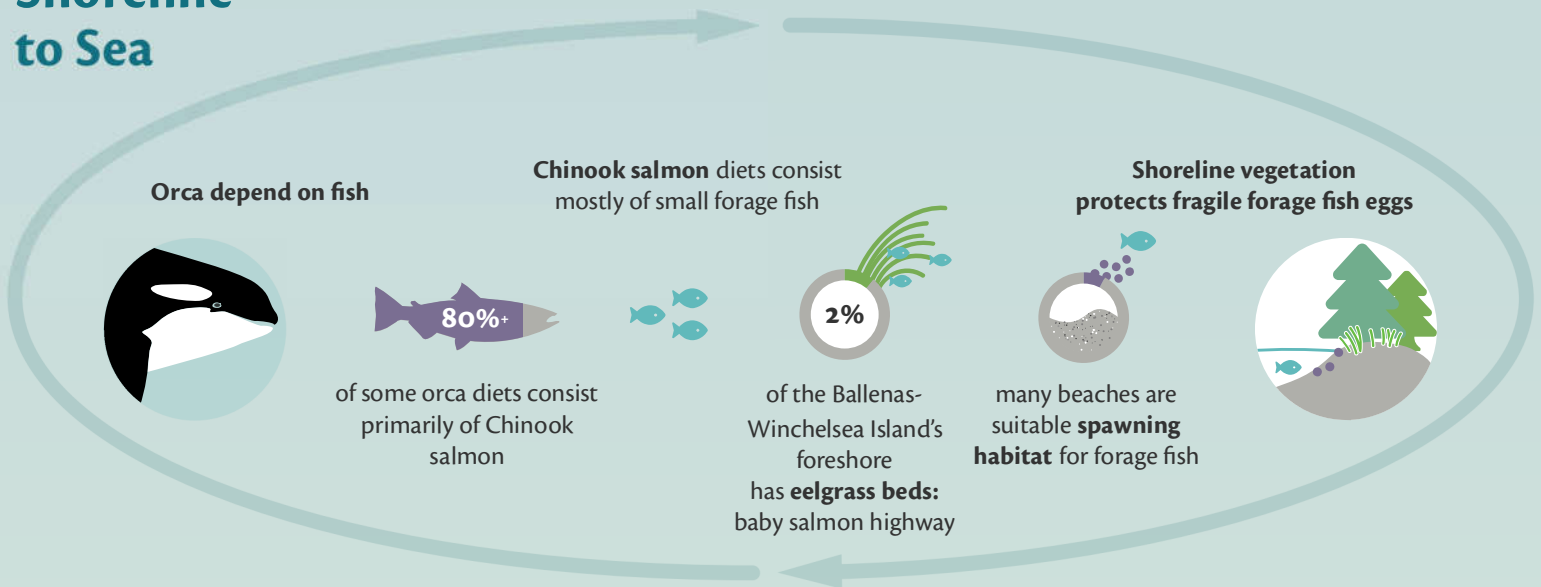
 = 500 vehicles

The forests in the Ballenas-Winchelsea Islands sequester 89 tonnes of carbon/year which equates to removing the emissions of 175 passenger vehicles per year.

Sensitive ecosystems



Shoreline to Sea



Marine health starts at the shoreline. Your actions can make a difference!

Modified Ecosystems as of 2017

More than 65% of the Islands Trust Area is in private land ownership. Pressures to develop and change the natural landscape are tremendous. The Islands Trust Conservancy works with landowners to protect private land with conservation covenants, land donations, fundraising for nature and stewardship.



What is a midden?

Middens are places of cultural and archaeological heritage for the First Peoples of the Salish Sea and Coast Salish territory. A midden is found by or within a village site or resource gathering area and defines an area that has been utilized for thousands of years. Middens tell us about how vital resources were sustained over time. They also provide scientific understanding of the past that is key to understanding climate change impacts, and human activity.

Sites within the Islands Trust Area can be over 8,000 years old, and any archaeological site on private or public land is protected under the Heritage Conservation Act. Middens can contain archaeological artifacts, tools, and ancestral remains. Removal of items or impacts to middens contributes to the destruction of cultural heritage, language, and knowledge, and has long-term impacts for reconciliation with First Nations.

Preservation and protection of middens, cultural heritage, and archaeological sites is essential. If you find an artifact, ancestral remains, or discover a midden on public or private property, contact the Islands Trust or the Archaeology Branch of the provincial government. We all have a role to play in preserving and protecting the cultural heritage of the Islands Trust Area now and into the future.

