Birding in British Columbia by Boat

Bird Nerds on Boats

Top Locations
Tips for Boaters
Resources

VOYAGE MAKERS
TRAIN - EXPERIENCE - BRITISH COLUMBIA

Tracy Sarich

VOYAGE MAKERS

TRAIN - EXPERIENCE - BRITISH COLUMBIA

On-Water Training for Sail, Power & Catamaran
Concierge Itinerary Services
Educational Adventures
Free Resources for Boaters in B.C.

H16 – Granville Island

WITH GRATITUDE

Acknowledge of the existence, diverse teachings, traditions and practices within these unceded and traditional territories.

203 First Nations in British Columbia

Vancouver Island

Coast Salish – including Quw’utsun, Halalt, Stz’uminus, Snuneymuxw, Snaw-naw-as, K’ómoks, & Qualicum First Nations

Howe Sound

Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) & Lilwat7úl (Lil’wat) Nations

South Fraser

scəw̓aθən (Tsawwassen), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) & other Coast Salish Peoples

Fraser Valley

Sts’ailes, Seabird Island, Sq’ewá:lxw, Cheam, Douglas, Leq’a:mel, Samahquam, Sq’ewlets, Skatin and Stó:lō Coast Salish Peoples,Katzie, Kwantlen, Matsqui, Semiahmoo, Semá:th, Mathxwí First Nations

Indigenous Tourism B.C. www.indigenousbc.com
First Nations Fisheries Council: www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca

Birding Capital of Canada

Waterfowl & Shorebirds
Seabirds
Raptors
Songbirds & Forest Birds
Endangered Species

How Do You Become a Bird-Nerd?

Look Around
Buy Some Binoculars
Grab a Field Guide – Online (eBird)
Find A Friend (Flock Together)
Don’t Need Fancy Equipment

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Key Biodiversity Areas

Provincial Parks

Sanctuaries

Ecological Reserves

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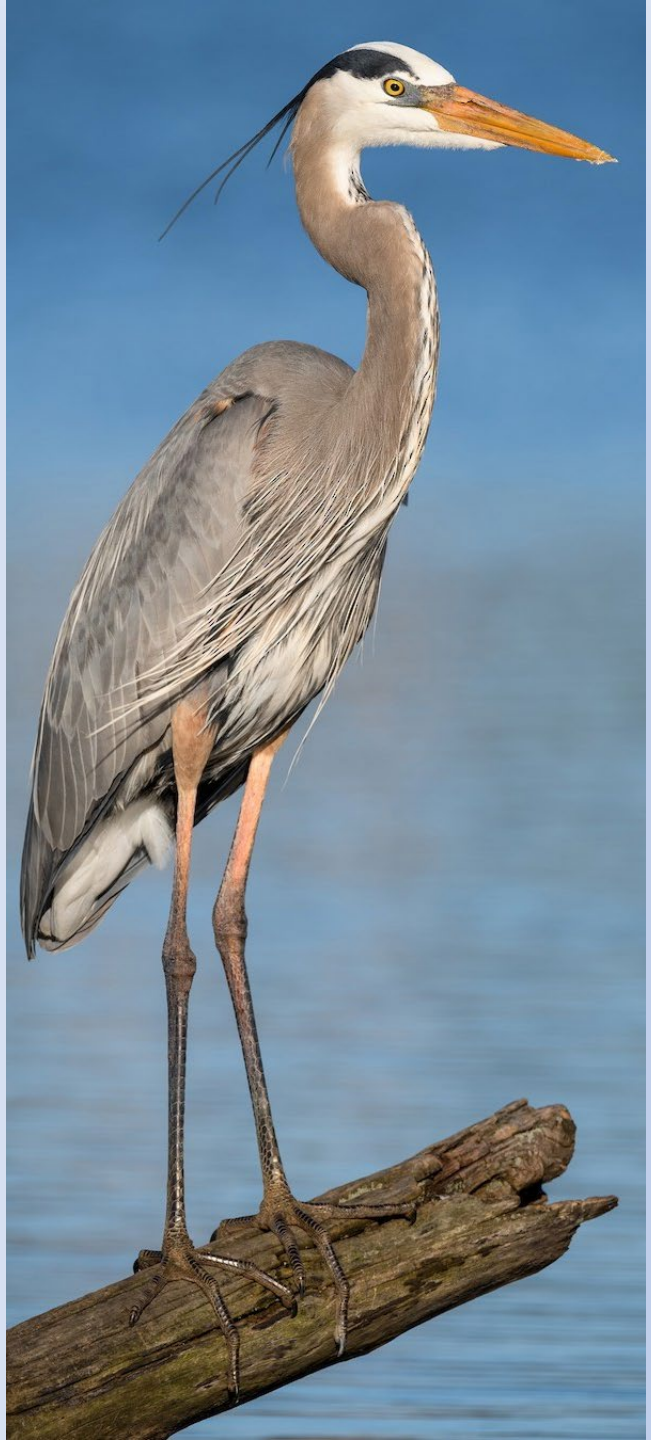

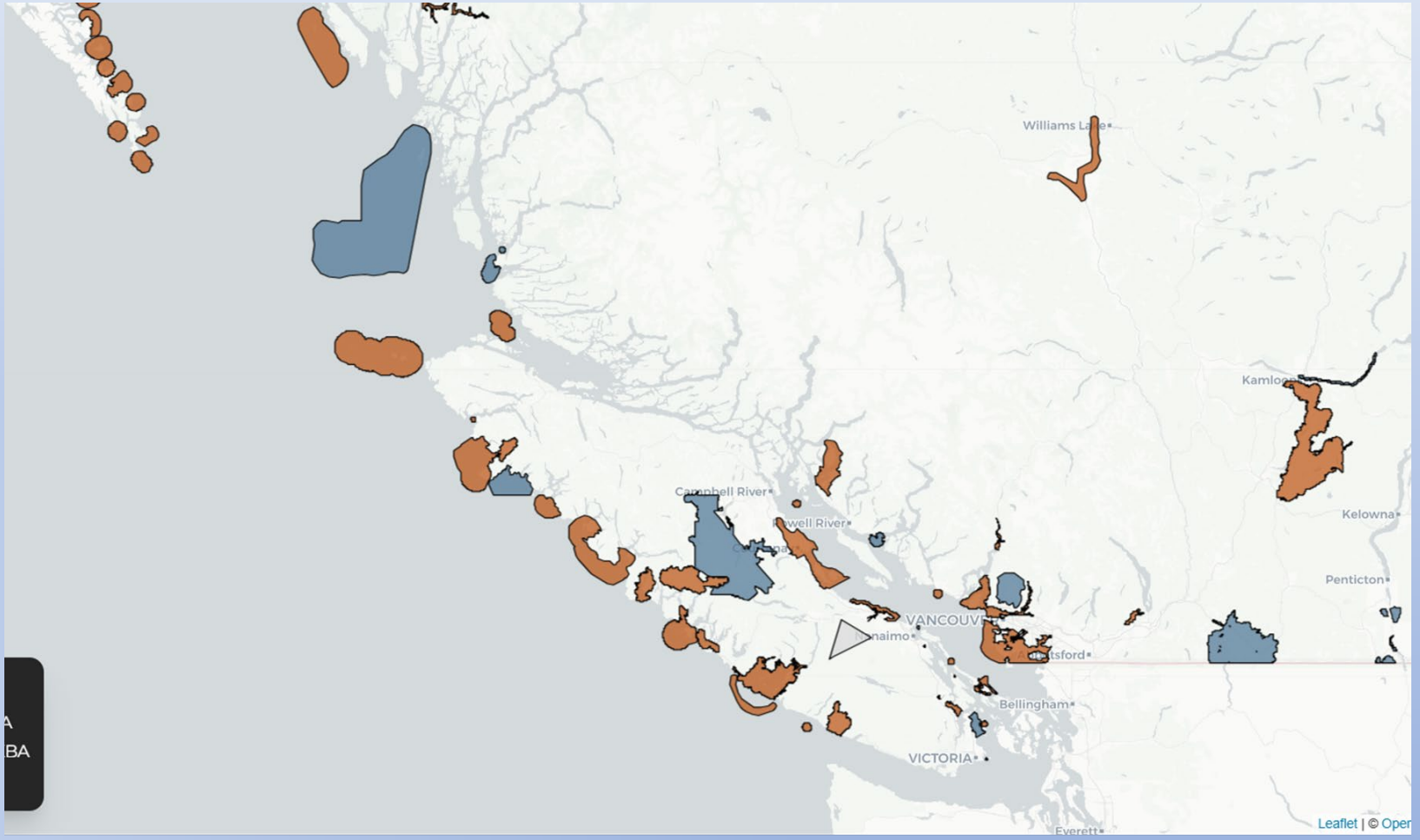

Key Biodiversity Areas
Identified Important Areas for Bio-Diversity
Inform public, governments, private industry to make decisions

40-year project
16,000 KBA's Worldwide
Safeguards more than 12,000 Species of Concern
keybiodiversityareas.org

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Provincial Parks

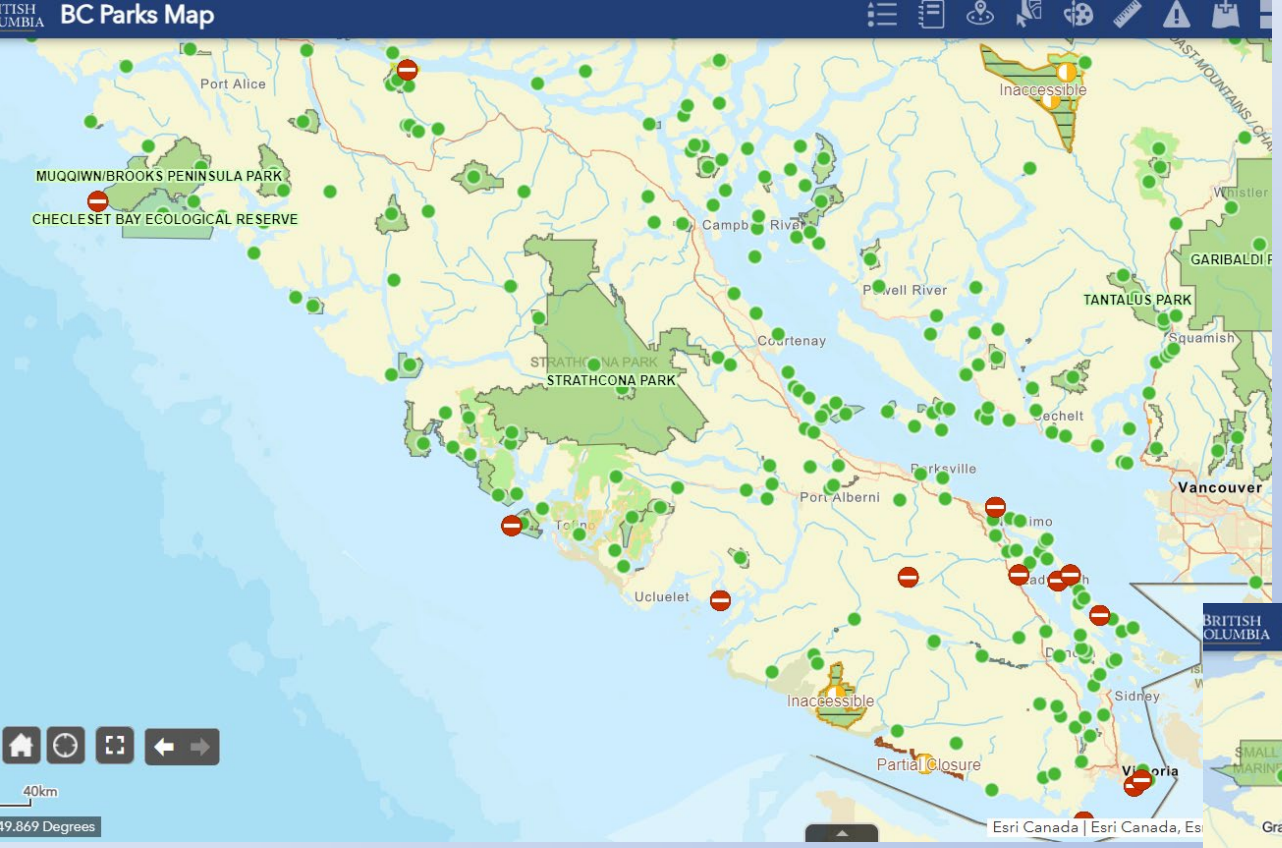
Practice Fire Safety	Prevent Wildfires
Respect Indigenous Values	Awareness of Heritage Sites Leave Artifacts Alone (Pot Shards, Arrowheads)
No Lifeguards	Practice Water Safety
Pets Welcome	Must be Under Control Offleash Areas are Marked

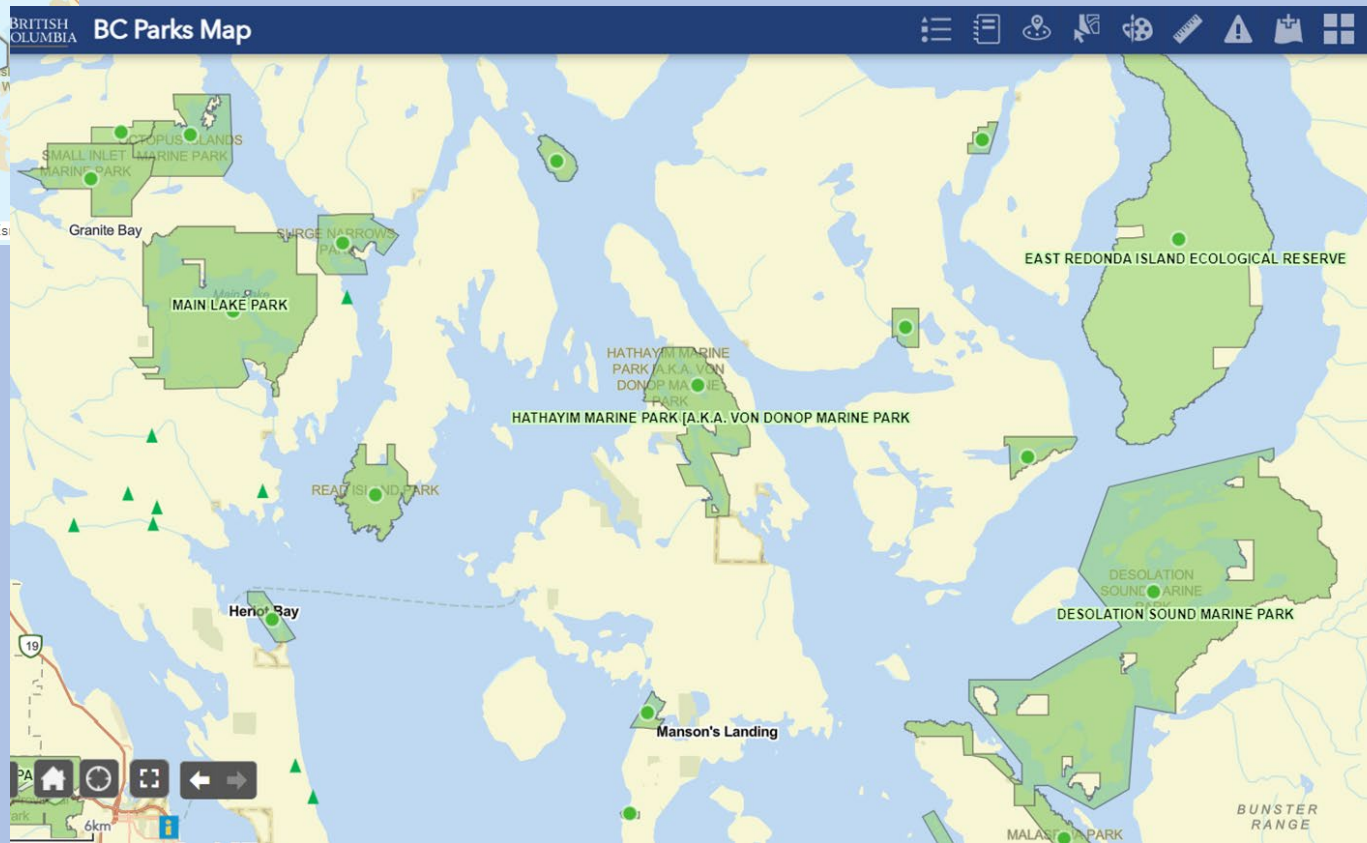
Be Aware of Sanctuaries & Ecological Reserves Nearby

B.C. Parks – Plan Your Trip	Everything You Need Permits, Camping, Marine bcparks.ca

BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Parks

VOYAGE MAKERS
TRAIN - EXPERIENCE - BRITISH COLUMBIA


BC Parks Map
Port Alice
Inaccessible
MUQQIWN/BROOKS PENINSULA PARK
CHECLESET BAY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE
Campbell River
Powell River
Whistler
GARIBALDI
TANTALUS PARK
Squamish
Courtenay
STRATHCONA PARK
Port Alberni
Vancouver
Ucluelet
Inaccessible
Sidney
Partial Closure
Victoria
40km
49.869 Degrees
Esri Canada | Esri Canada, Es


BC Parks Map
SMALL INLET MARINE PARK
Granite Bay
MAIN LAKE PARK
EAST REDONDA ISLAND ECOLOGICAL RESERVE
HATHAYIM MARINE PARK (A.K.A. VON DONOP MARINE PARK
Herald Bay
DESOLATION SOUND MARINE PARK
Manson's Landing
BUNSTER RANGE
6km

Sanctuaries

Protection During Critical Life Cycle

- Breeding & Nesting
- Moulting
- Staging & Stopover during Migration

Prohibited Activities in Wildlife Sanctuaries (Birds)

- Hunting/Firearms
- Disturbing or Taking Nests
- No dogs

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Ecological Reserves

Established to Maintain Biodiversity

- Used for Scientific Research & Education
- Preserve Representative Samples:
  - Plant & Animal Species
  - Features
  - Phenomena

Prohibited Activities in Ecological Reserves

- Consumptive Activities
- Motorized Vehicles
- Emitting Waste
- Smoking
- Unauthorized Entry
- Fires
- Removing Natural Resources
- Disturbing Wildlife
- Drone Use

BC Parks Map

VOYAGE MAKERS
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Wildlife Mindfulness Tips for Boaters

Identify Protected Areas & Species During Itinerary Planning

Awareness of Regulations

Permits Required in Some Locations

Respect for Wild Areas Empty Beaches Aren't "Uninhabited"

Be Conscious of Pollution

Shores Are Important Clam Beds, Eel Grass, Herring Spawning
Vital Habitat & Food Sources
Be Mindful of Wakes & Jet Skis Near

Don't Cause Unnecessary Disturbances
Large Gatherings, "Feeding Frenzies" – Times to Refuel/Refresh

Dogs

Protect Wildlife – even Birds – From Harm & Harrassment

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Birding in British Columbia by Boat

Hot Spots

VOYAGE MAKERS

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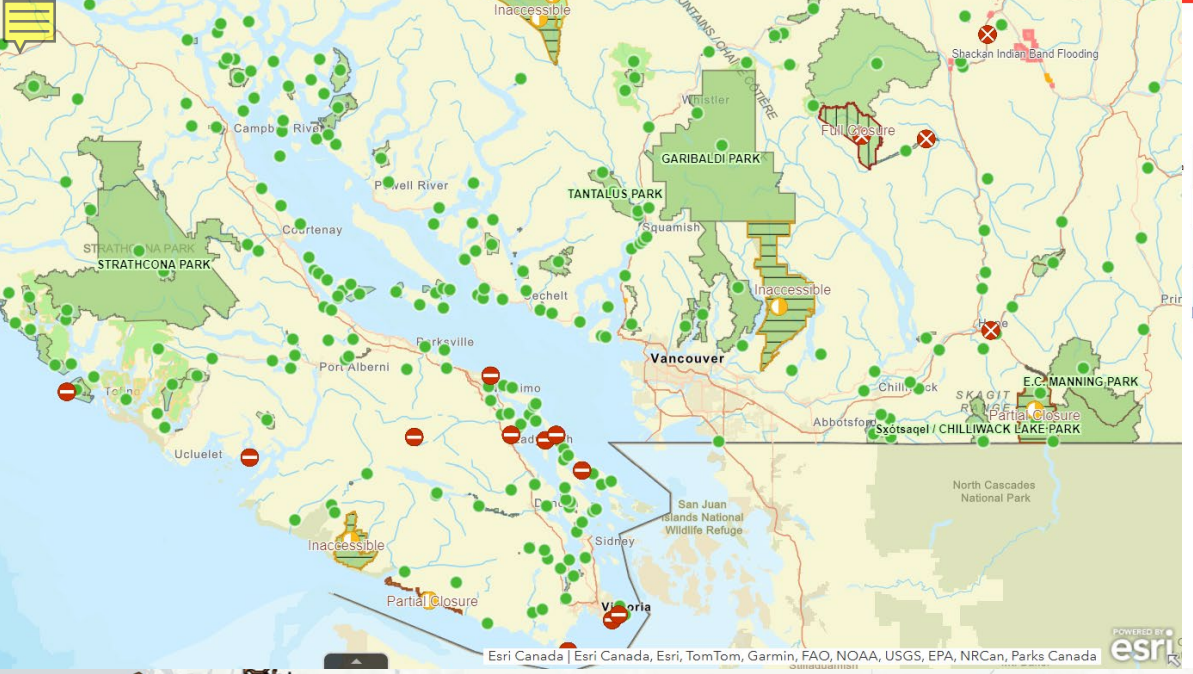
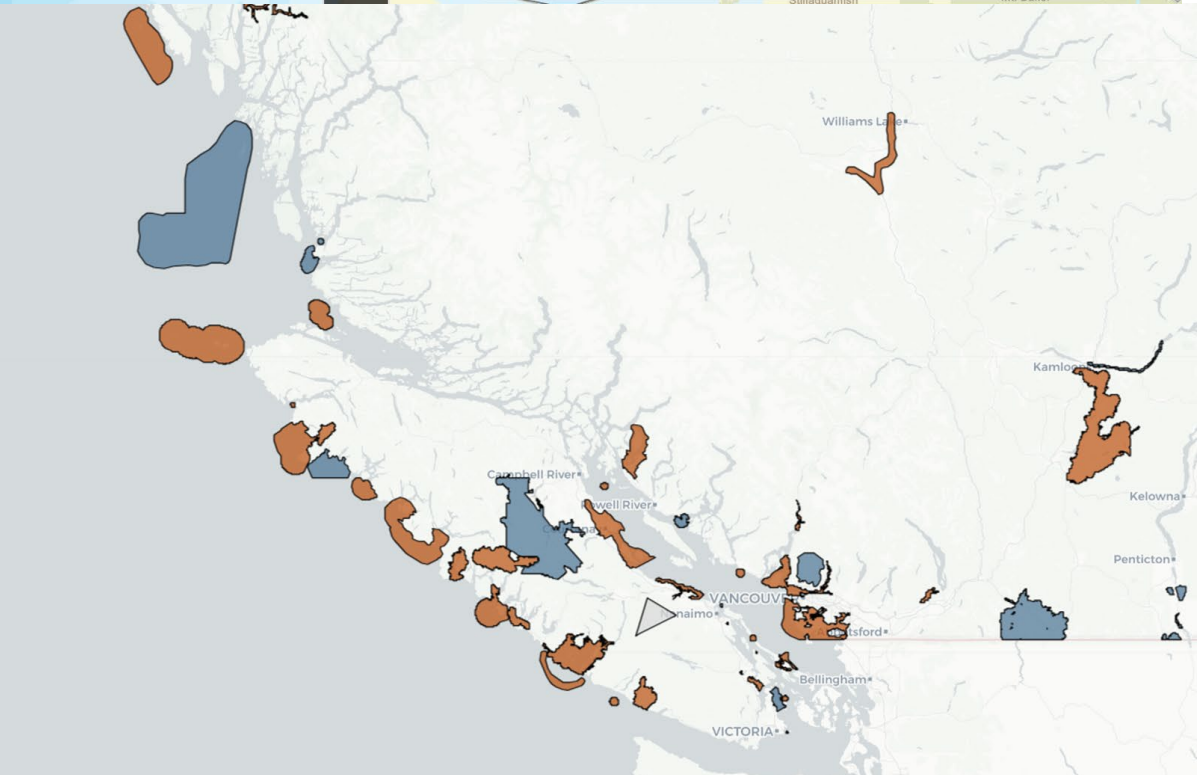
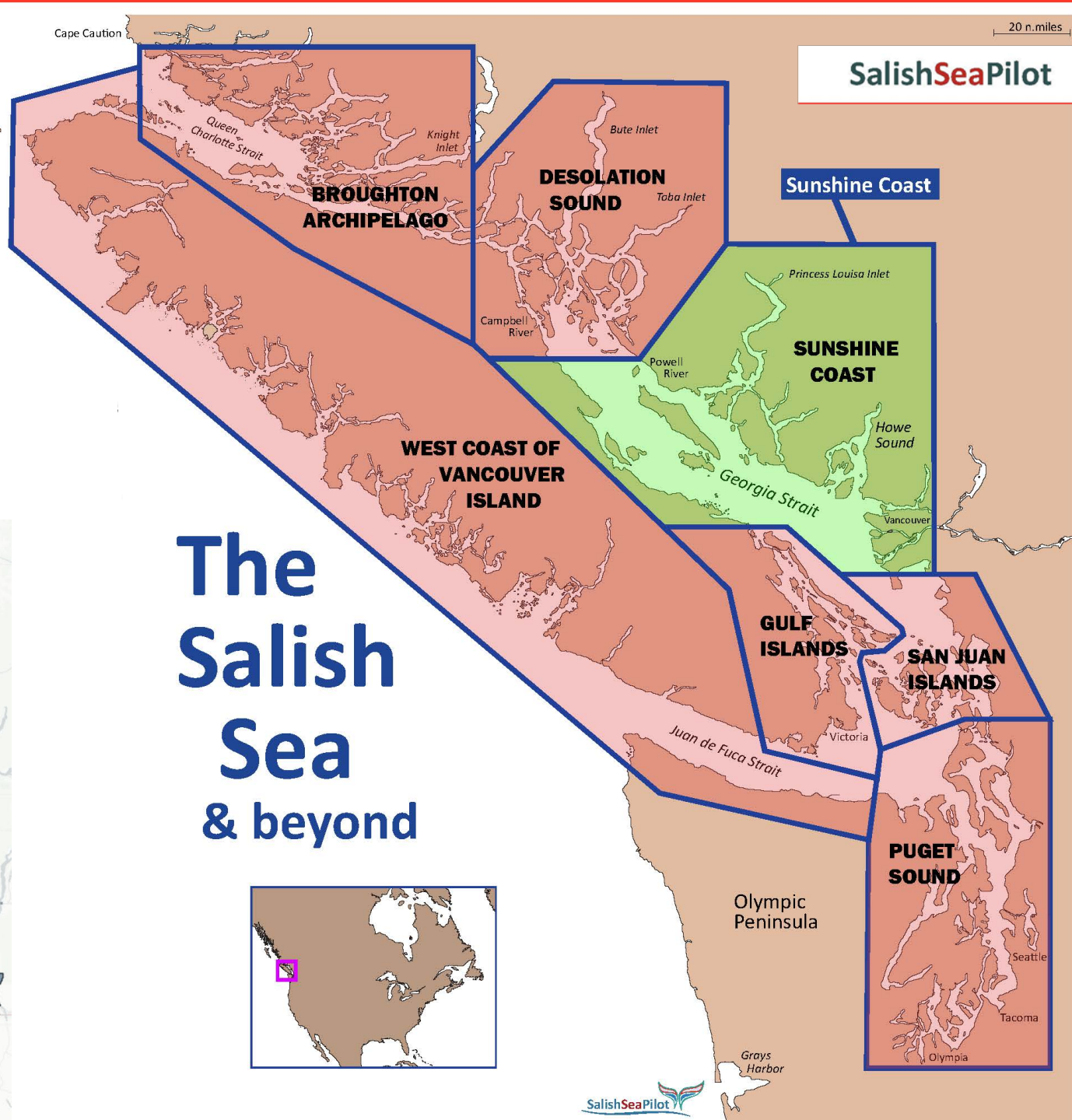
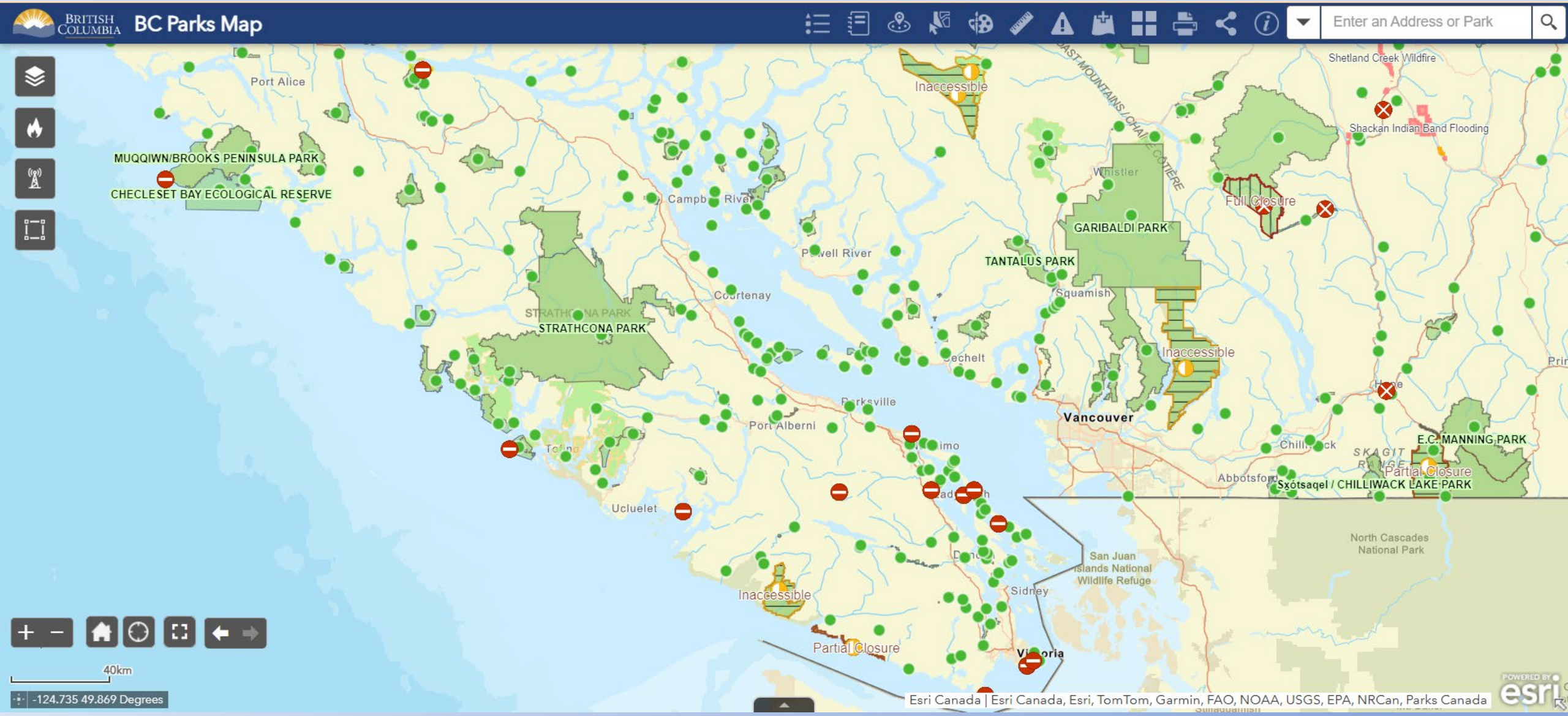
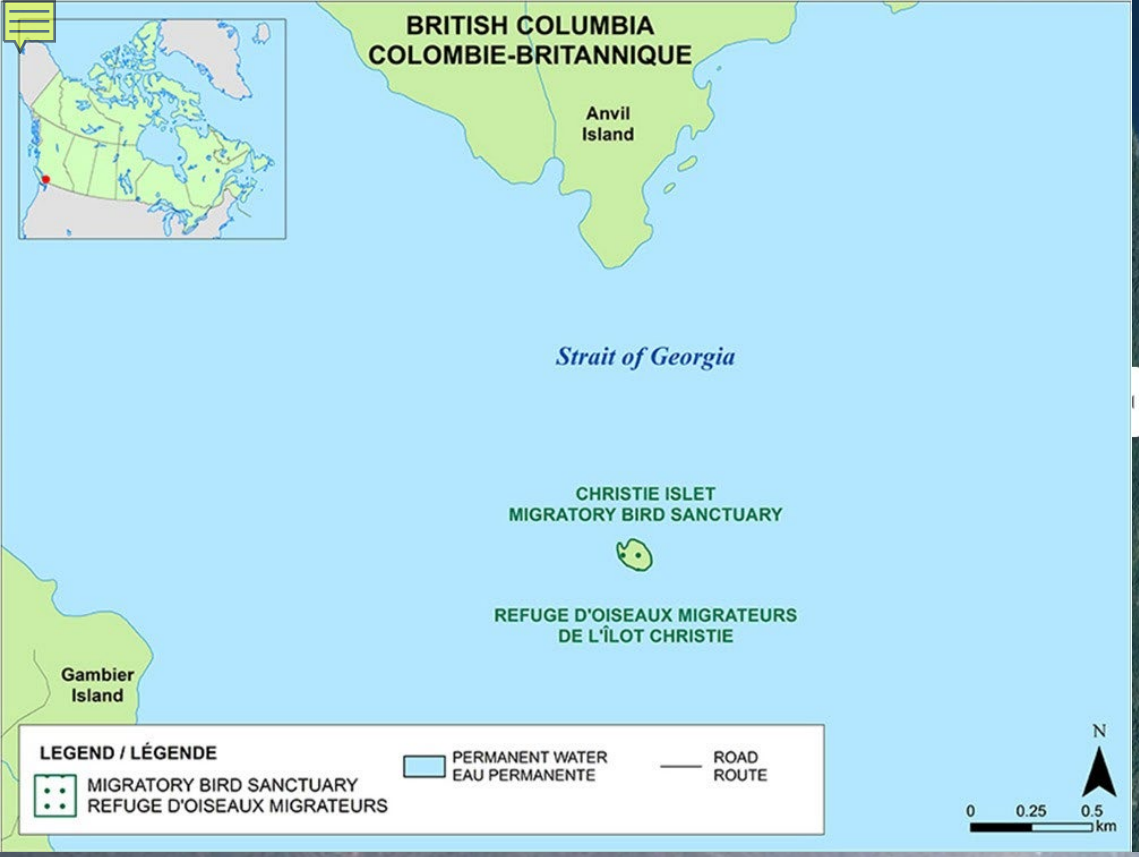


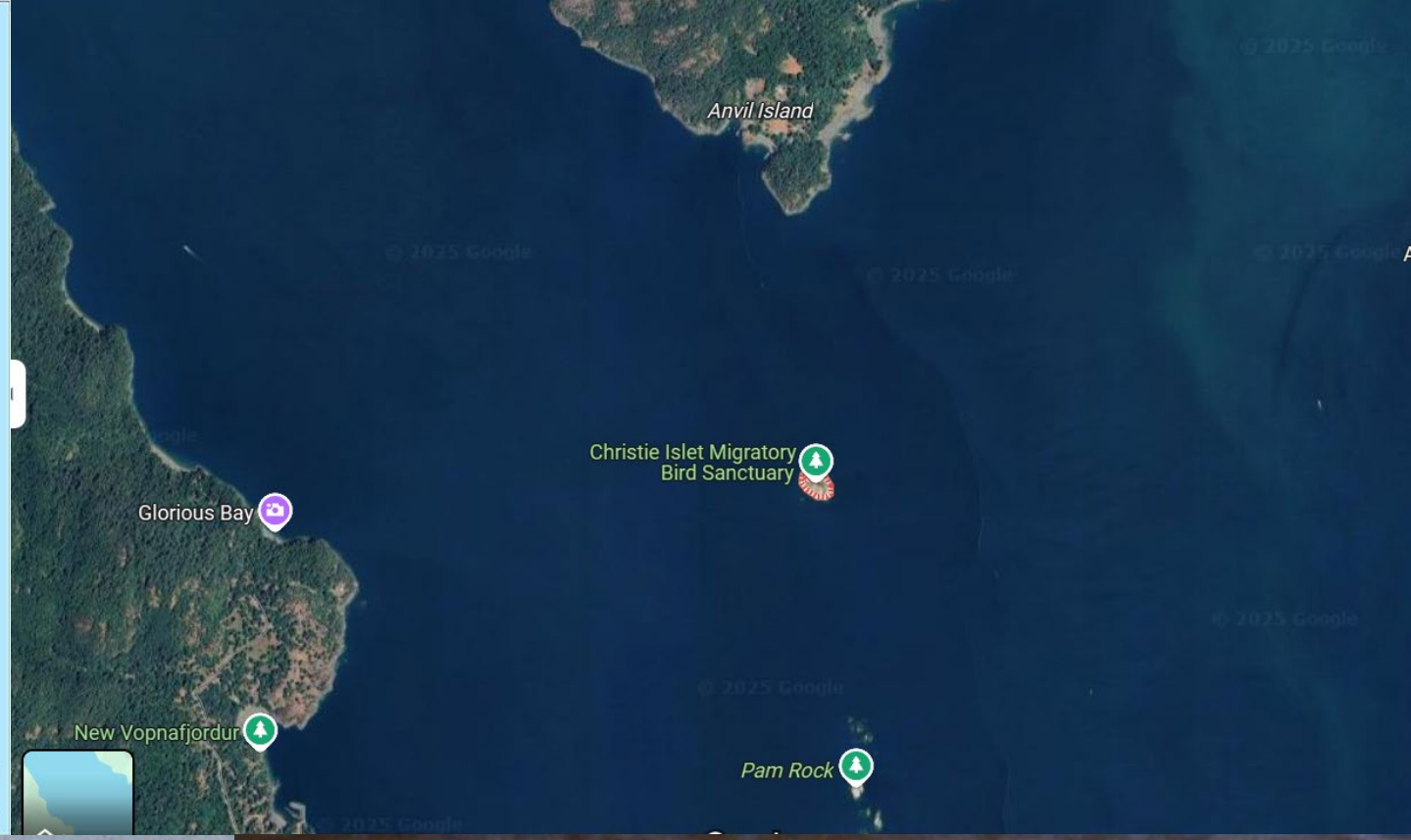


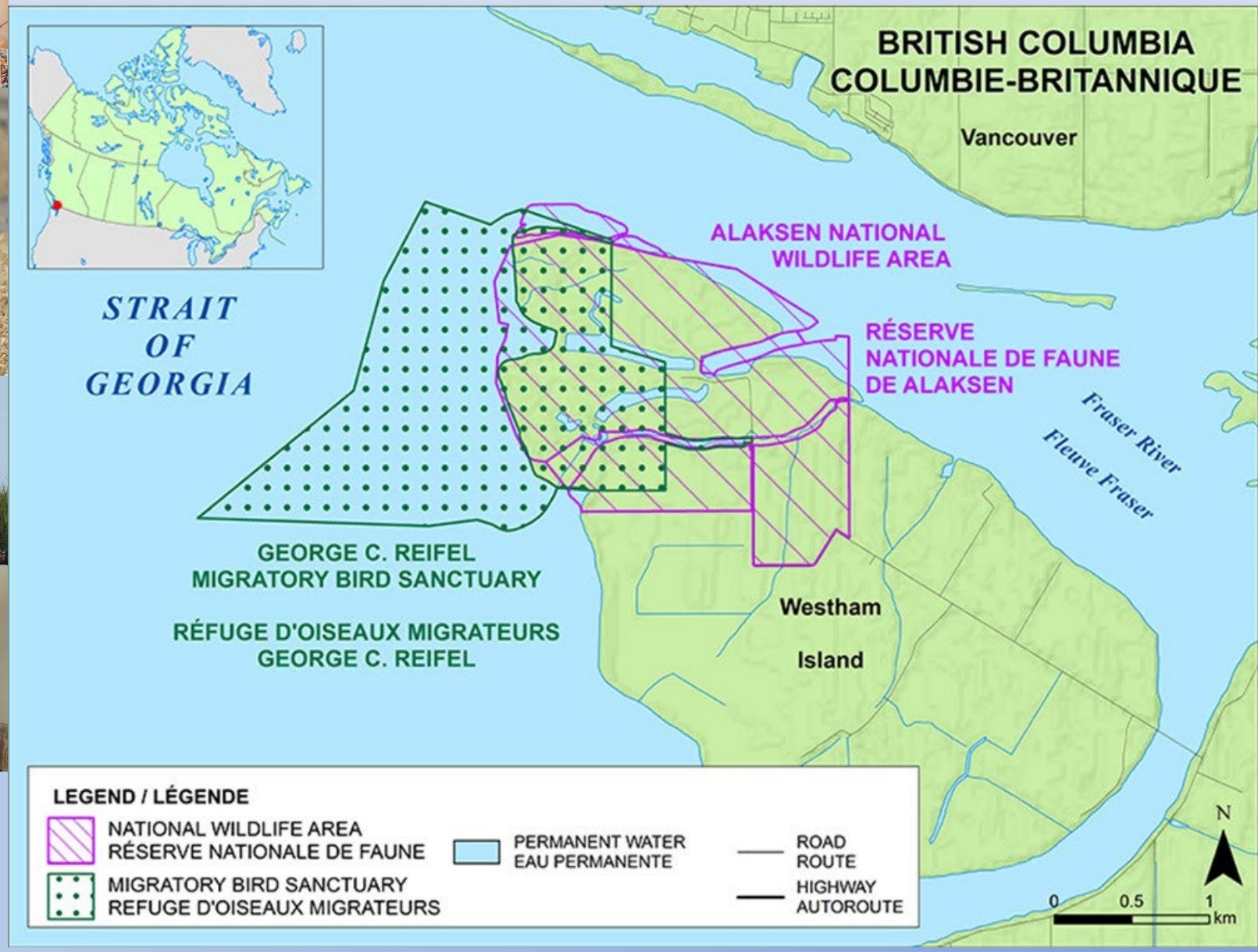


The Salish Sea
& beyond


BRITISH COLUMBIA
BC Parks Map
Enter an Address or Park
Port Alice
MUQQIWN/BROOKS PENINSULA PARK
CHECLESET BAY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE
Campbell River
Powell River
Courtenay
STRATHCONA PARK
Tofino
Ucluelet
Port Alberni
Parksville
Nanaimo
Sechelt
Squamish
Whistler
TANTALUS PARK
GARIBALDI PARK
Inaccessible
Full Closure
Vancouver
Shetland Creek Wildfire
Shackan Indian Band Flooding
Hope
Chilliwack
Abbotsford
Sxótsaqel / CHILLIWACK LAKE PARK
E.C. MANNING PARK
Partial Closure
North Cascades National Park
San Juan Islands National Wildlife Refuge
Sidney
Victoria
40km
-124.735 49.869 Degrees
Esri Canada | Esri Canada, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NRCan, Parks Canada


BRITISH COLUMBIA
COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE
Anvil Island
Strait of Georgia
CHRISTIE ISLET
MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY
REFUGE D'OISEAUX MIGRATEURS
DE L'ÎLOT CHRISTIE
Gambier Island
LEGEND / LÉGENDE
MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY
REFUGE D'OISEAUX MIGRATEURS
PERMANENT WATER
EAU PERMANENTE
ROAD
ROUTE
N
0 0.25 0.5 km


Anvil Island
Christie Islet Migratory Bird Sanctuary
Glorious Bay
New Vopnafjordur
Pam Rock


BRITISH COLUMBIA
COLUMBIE-BRITANNIQUE
Vancouver
STRAIT OF GEORGIA
ALAKSEN NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA
RÉSERVE NATIONALE DE FAUNE DE ALAKSEN
Fraser River
Fleuve Fraser
GEORGE C. REIFEL MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY
RÉFUGE D'OISEAUX MIGRATEURS GEORGE C. REIFEL
Westham Island
LEGEND / LÉGENDE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA
RÉSERVE NATIONALE DE FAUNE
MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY
REFUGE D'OISEAUX MIGRATEURS
PERMANENT WATER
EAU PERMANENTE
ROAD
ROUTE
HIGHWAY
AUTOROUTE
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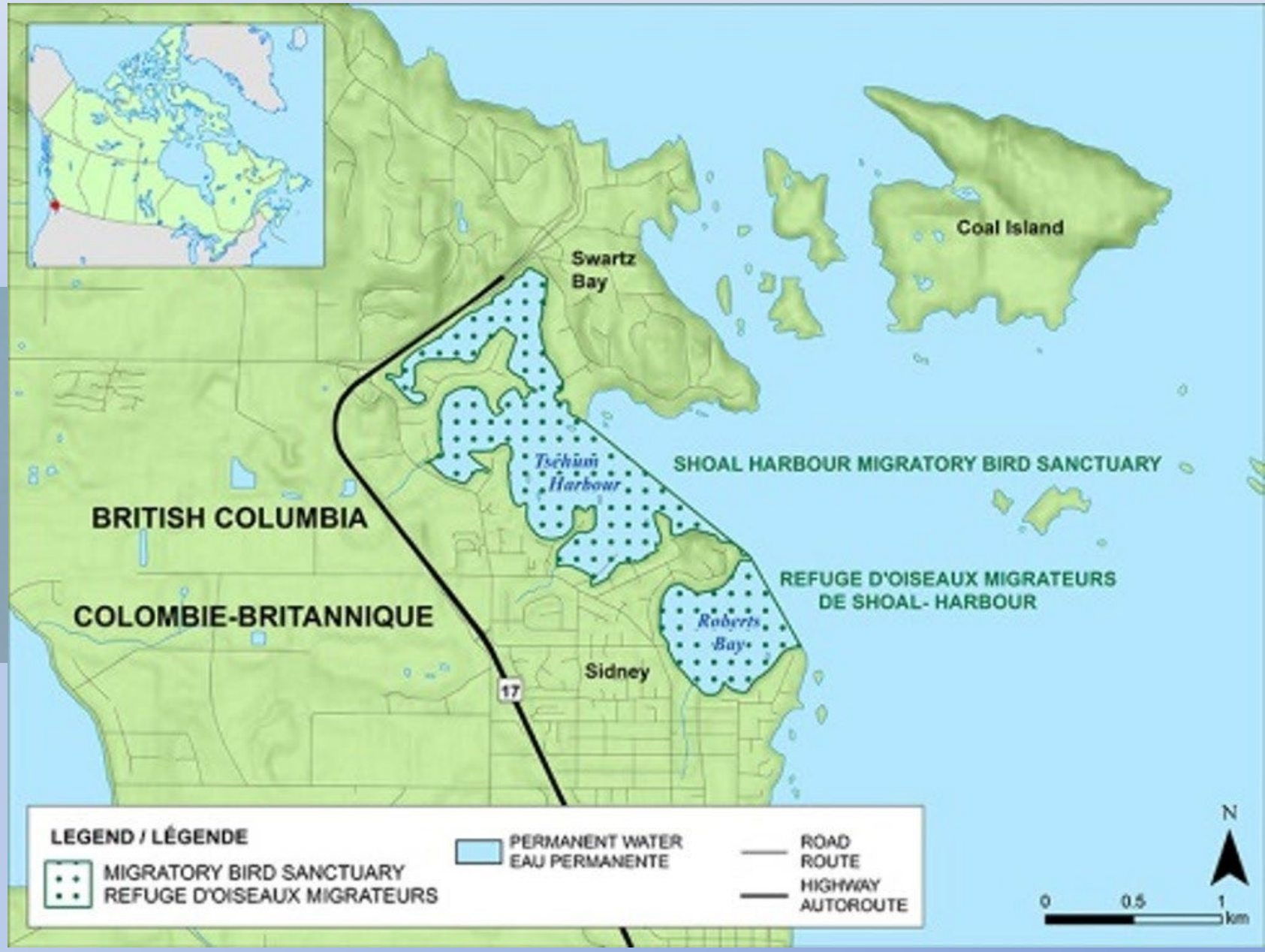
km


Coal Island
Swartz Bay
Tsehum Harbour
SHOAL HARBOUR MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY
BRITISH COLUMBIA
COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE
REFUGE D'OISEAUX MIGRATEURS DE SHOAL- HARBOUR
Roberts Bay
Sidney
17
LEGEND / LÉGENDE
MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY
REFUGE D'OISEAUX MIGRATEURS
PERMANENT WATER
EAU PERMANENTE
ROAD
ROUTE
HIGHWAY
AUTOROUTE
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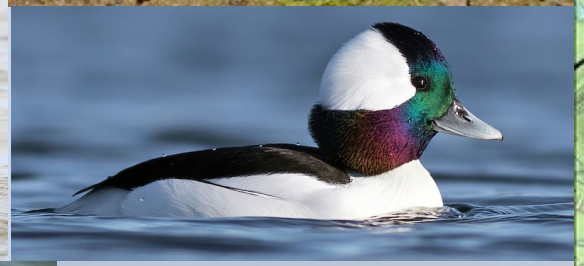
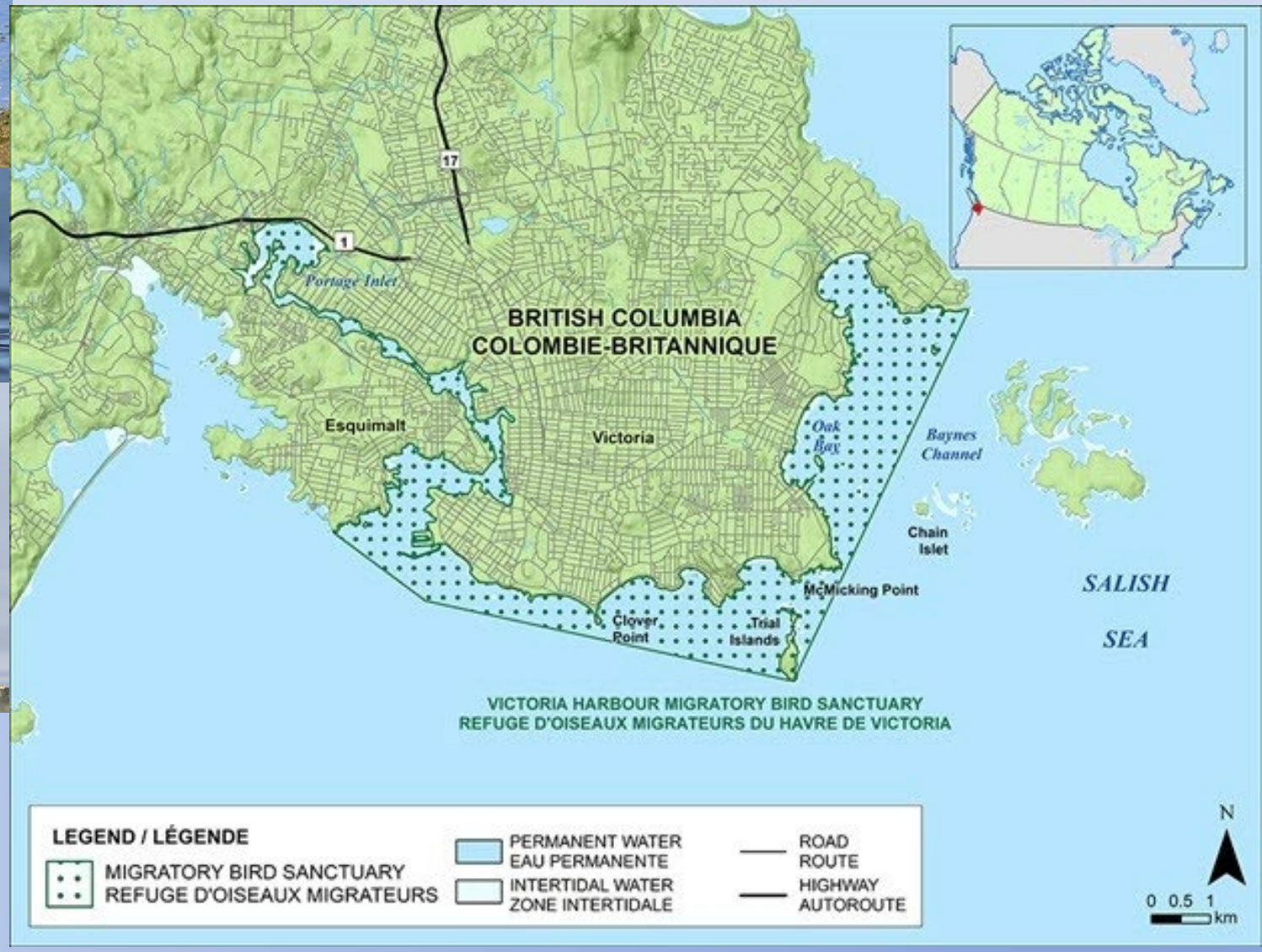
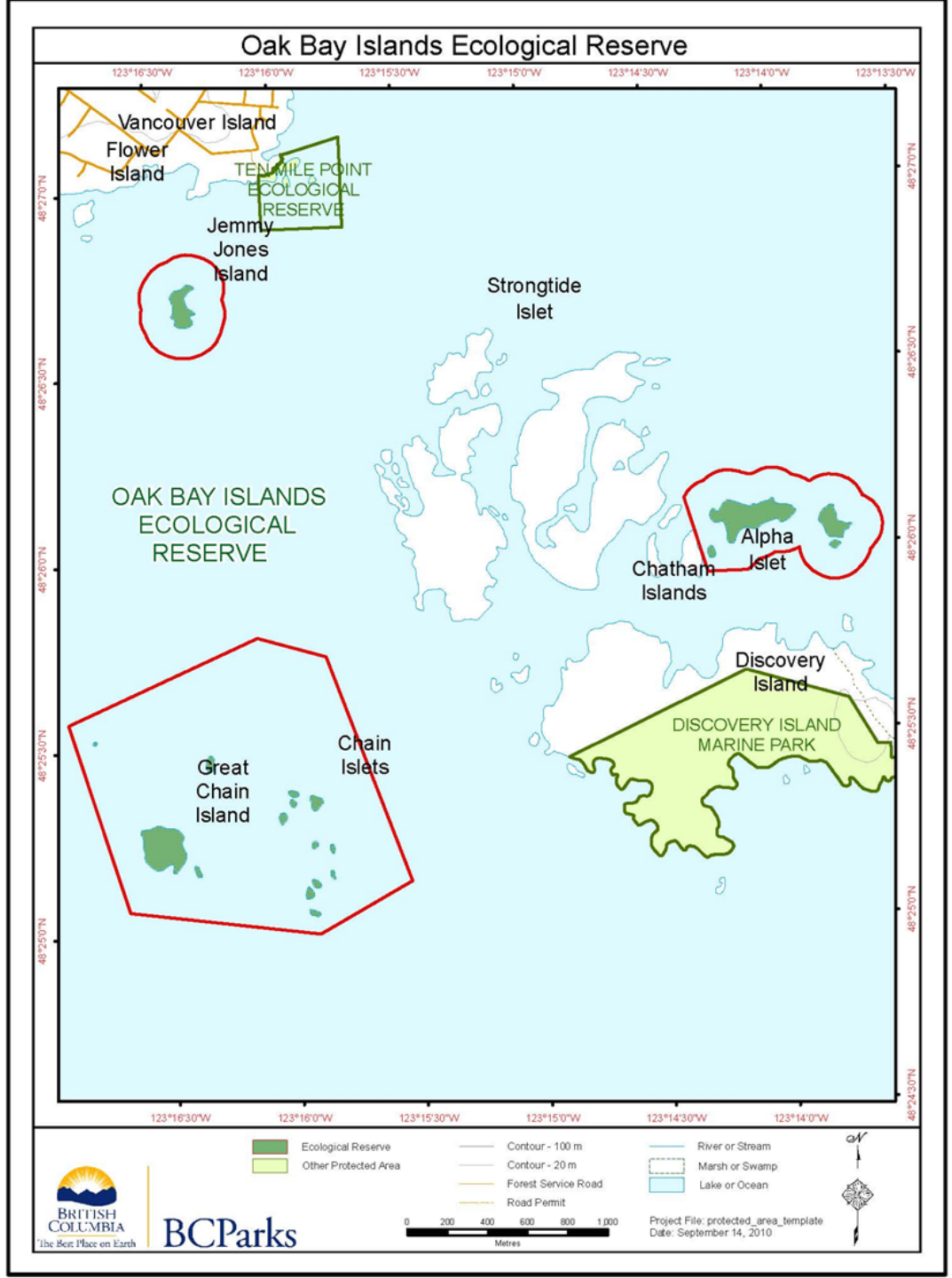
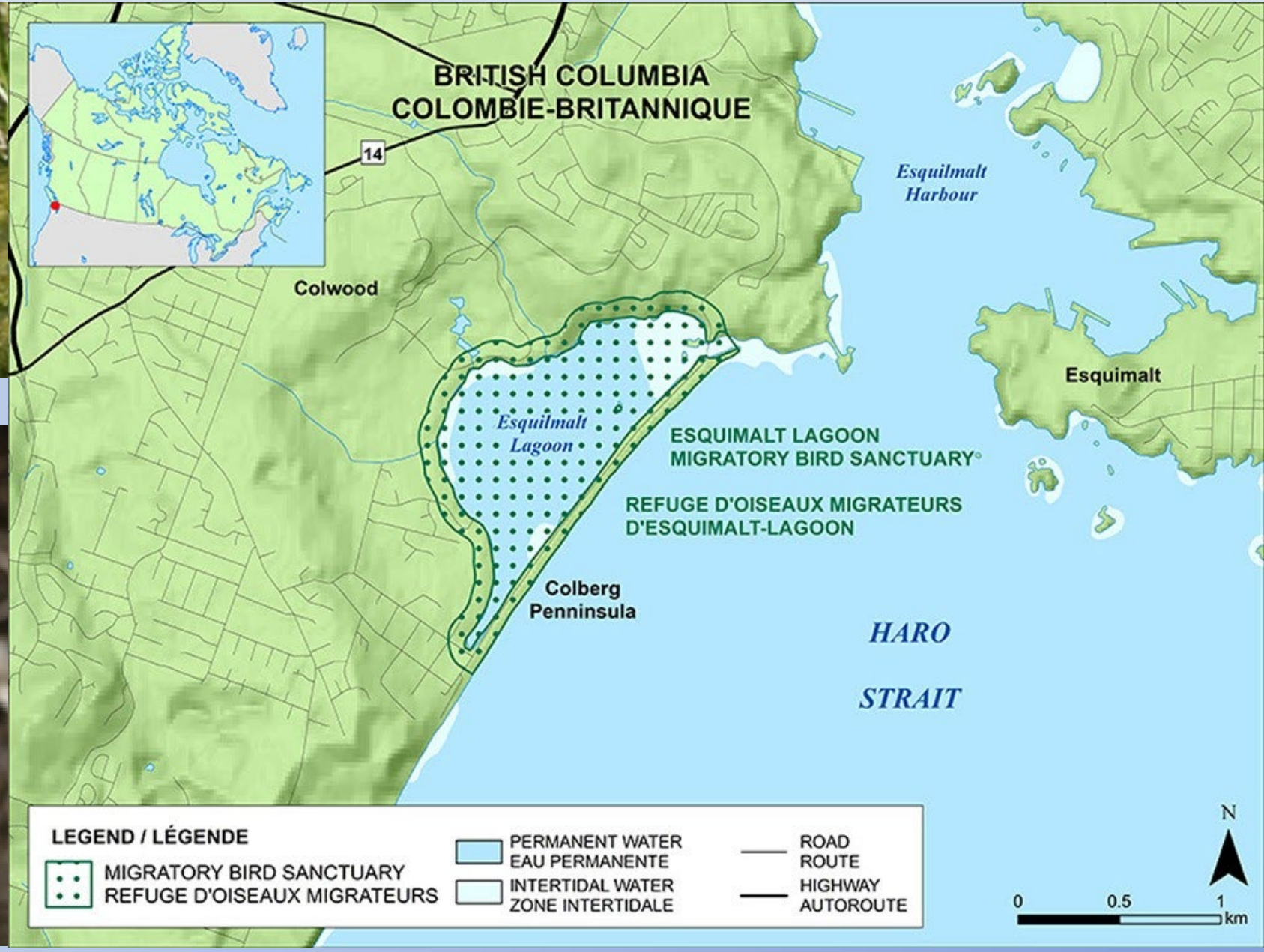
km




BRITISH COLUMBIA
COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE
17
1
Portage Inlet
Esquimalt
Victoria
Oak Bay
Baynes Channel
Chain Islet
McMicking Point
Clover Point
Trial Islands
SALISH SEA
VICTORIA HARBOUR MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY
REFUGE D'OISEAUX MIGRATEURS DU HAVRE DE VICTORIA
LEGEND / LÉGENDE
MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY
REFUGE D'OISEAUX MIGRATEURS
PERMANENT WATER
EAU PERMANENTE
INTERTIDAL WATER
ZONE INTERTIDALE
ROAD
ROUTE
HIGHWAY
AUTOROUTE
N
0 0.5 1
km

Ecological Reserve: Oak Bay Islands
Provincial Park: Discovery Island Marine Park




BRITISH COLUMBIA
COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE
14
Colwood
Esquilmalt Harbour
Esquimalt
Esquilmalt Lagoon
ESQUIMALT LAGOON MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY
REFUGE D'OISEAUX MIGRATEURS D'ESQUIMALT-LAGOON
Colberg Penninsula
HARO STRAIT
LEGEND / LÉGENDE
MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY
REFUGE D'OISEAUX MIGRATEURS
PERMANENT WATER
EAU PERMANENTE
INTERTIDAL WATER
ZONE INTERTIDALE
ROAD
ROUTE
HIGHWAY
AUTOROUTE
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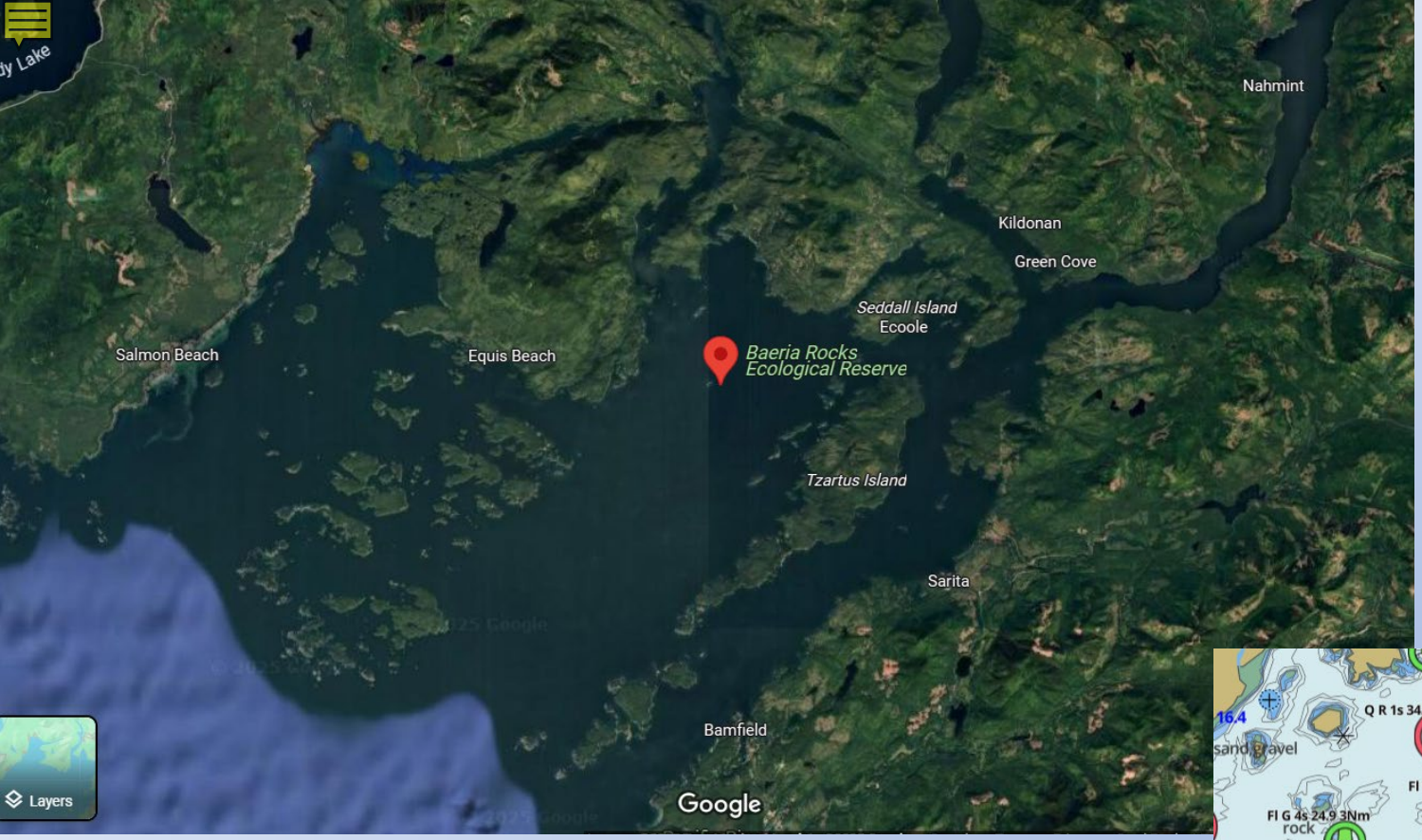
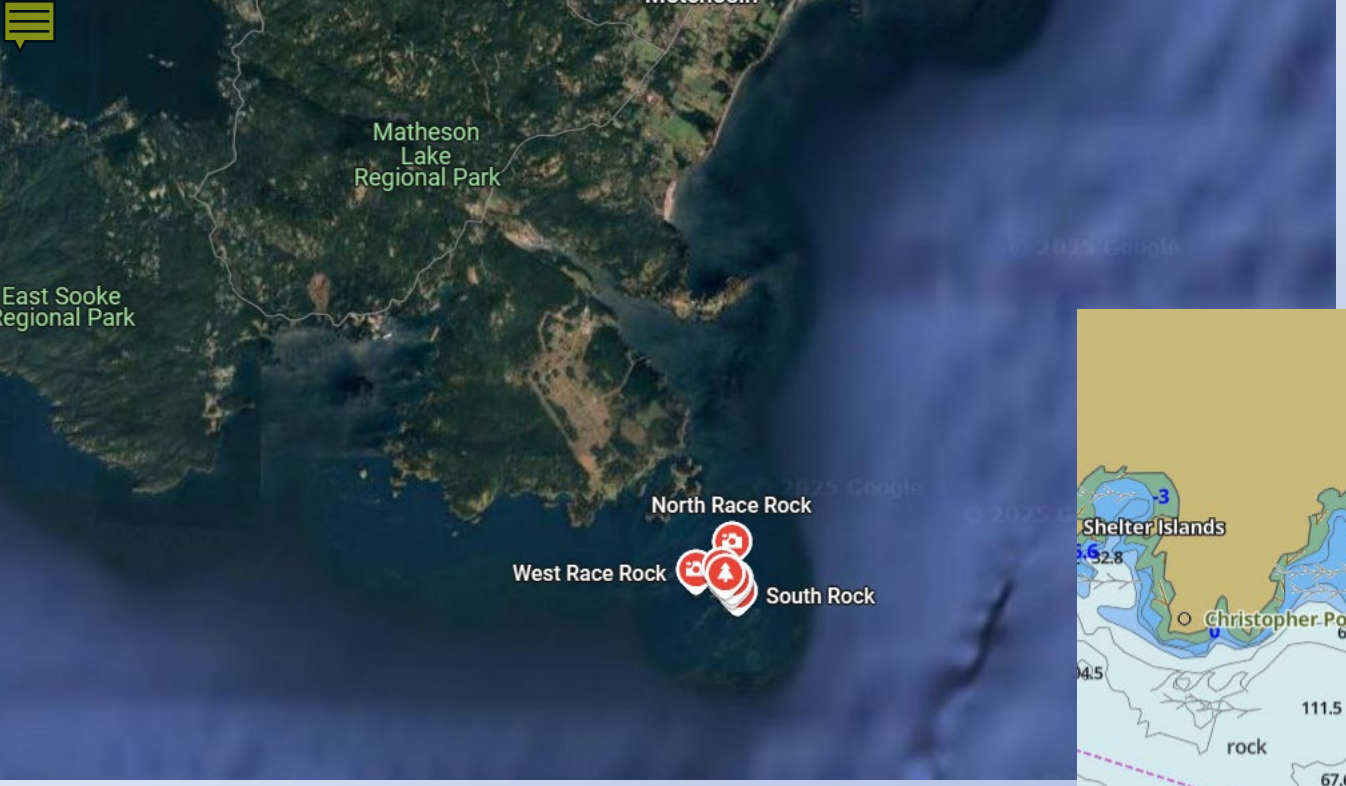
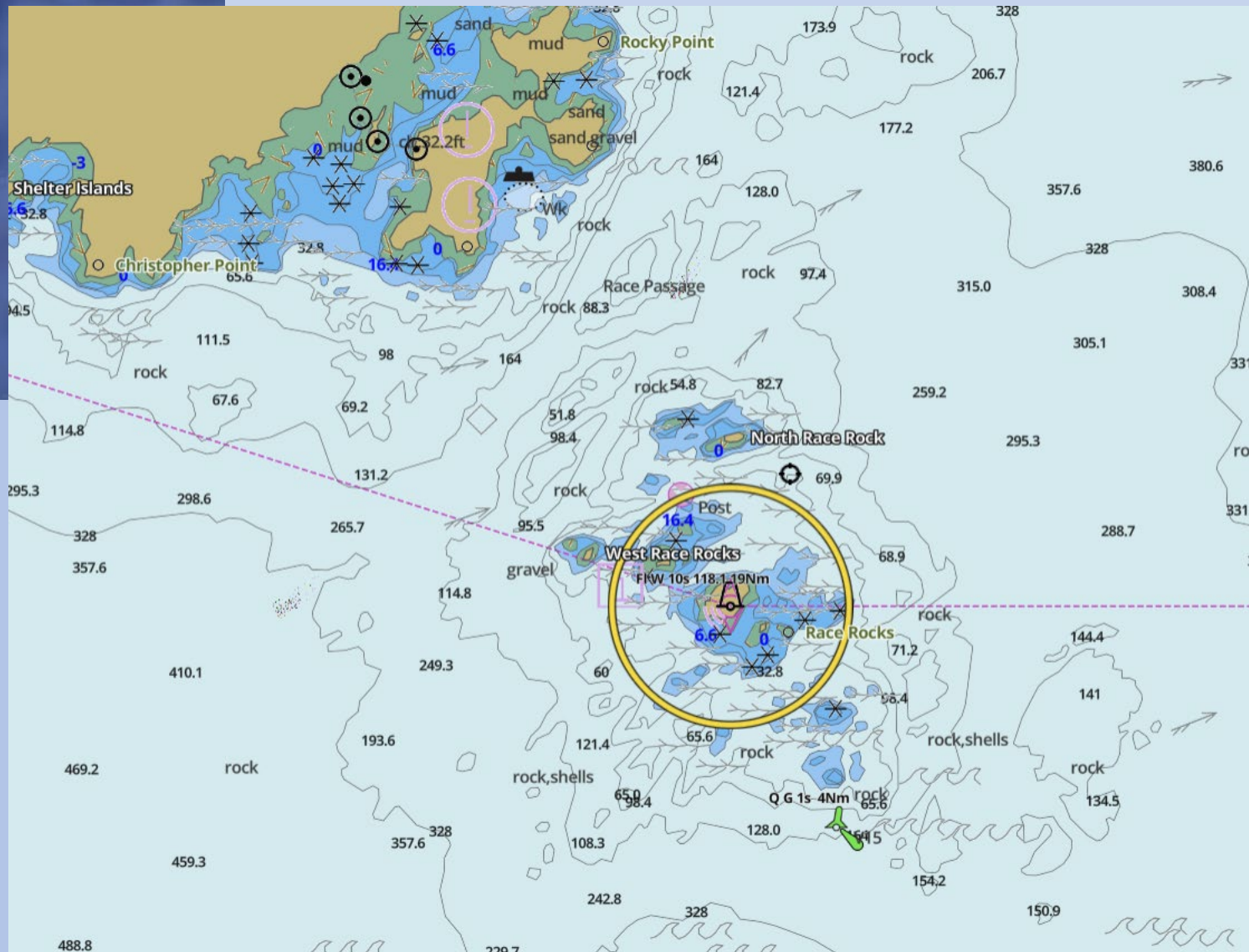
1
km

Baeria Rocks
Barkley Sound
Broken Group







Race Rocks
(racerocks.ca)

East Entrance
– Strait of Juan de Fuca

Resources for Bird Nerds in British Columbia

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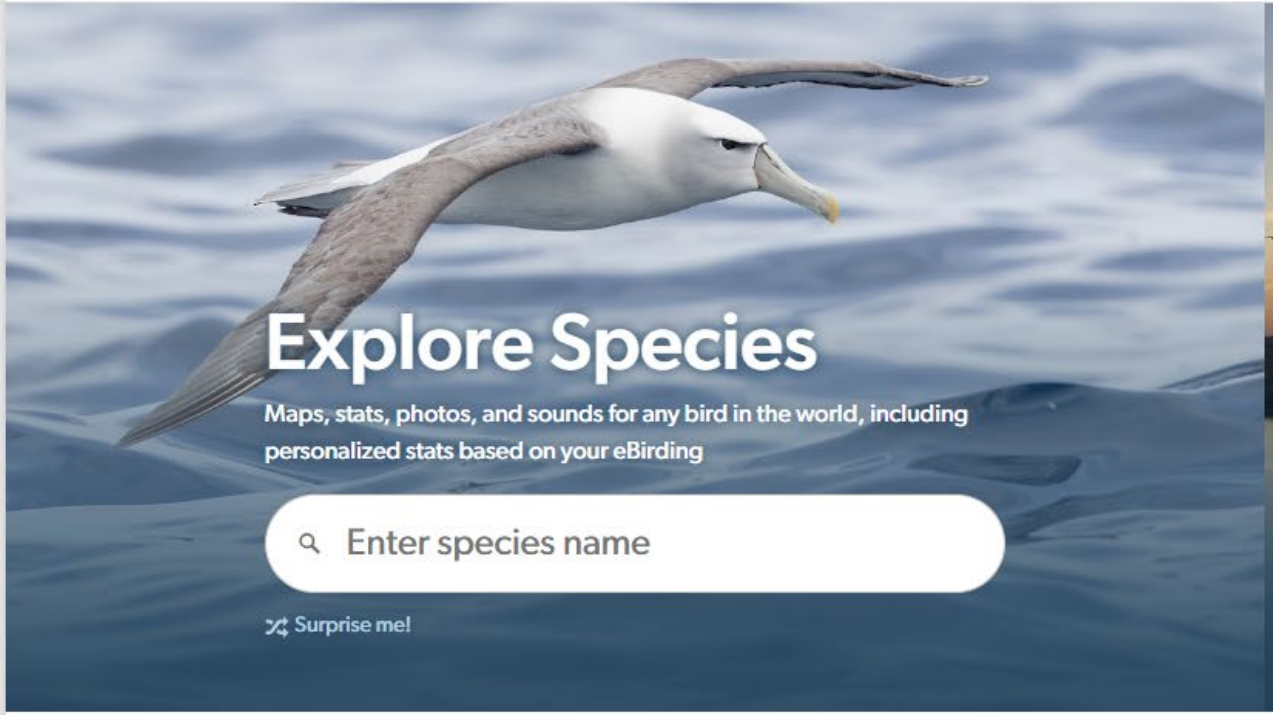
eBird

Submit Explore My eBird Science About News Help

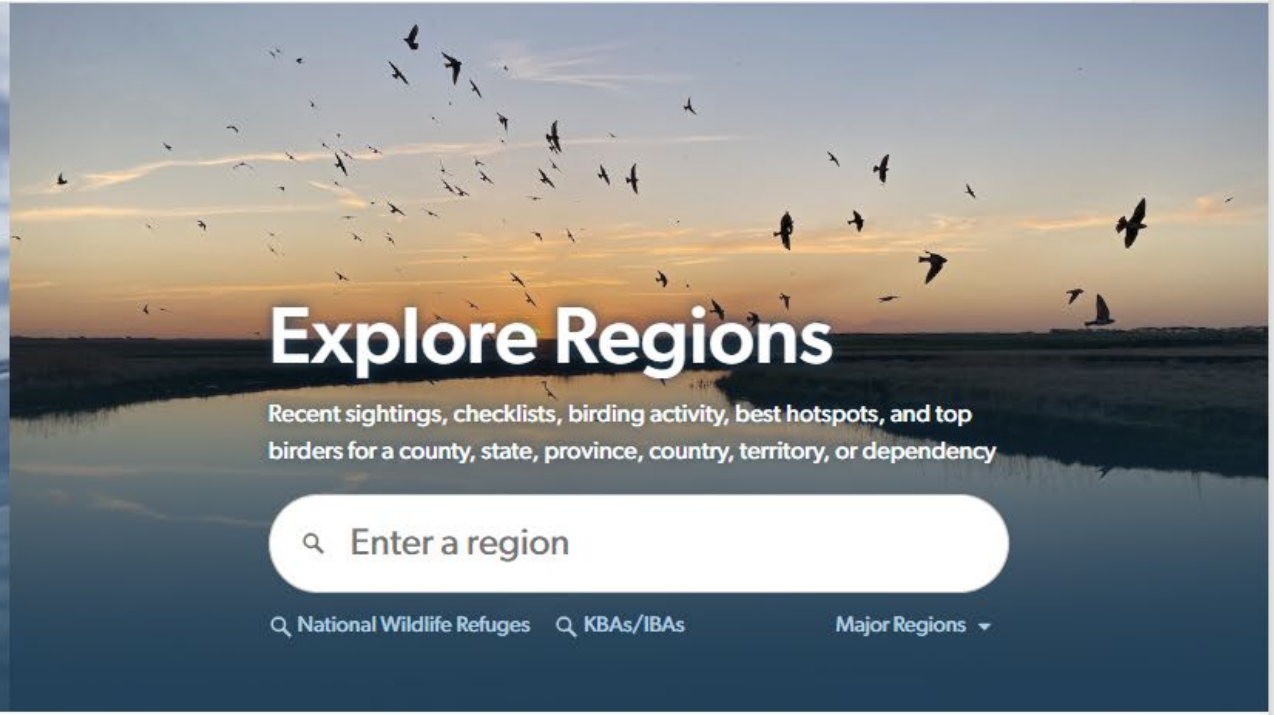


Explore Species

Maps, stats, photos, and sounds for any bird in the world, including personalized stats based on your eBirding

Enter species name

Surprise me!



Explore Regions

Recent sightings, checklists, birding activity, best hotspots, and top birders for a county, state, province, country, territory, or dependency

Enter a region

National Wildlife Refuges KBAs/IBAs Major Regions

More Ways to Explore

Species Maps

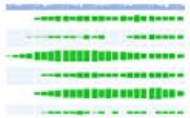
Explore interactive range maps by species or subspecies — zoom in for details

Search Photos and Sounds

Explore media through the Macaulay Library

Explore Hotspots

Discover the best places for birding nearby or around the world.



Bar Charts

Find out what birds to expect throughout the year in a region or location

ROCKY POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY

Pedder Bay RV Resort & Marina
Passerine Migration Monitoring
Northern Saw-whet Owl Monitoring
Bird Walks – Public Education

Rocky Point Ammunition Depot
Restricted Access
DND Special Clearance Required

Witty's Lagoon Regional Park
Maps Program CRD

Power to Be at Prospect Lake
Restricted Access

Hummingbird Project
Banding Project
Research

Outerbridge Park
Bird Walks

VOYAGE MAKERS
TRAIN - EXPERIENCE - BRITISH COLUMBIA

THE BC BIRD TRAIL

Who are we?

Over 34 partners, including:

SUPER, NATURAL BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADA

BIRDS CANADA OISEAUX CANADA

INDIGENOUS TOURISM BC

PACIFIC. AUTHENTIC. RICHMONDBC

DESTINATION VANCOUVER

VANCOUVER'S NORTH SHORE

OUR MISSION

Support birding and birdwatching-focused travel in the province

Be ambassadors welcoming all people to the world of birding

Encourage visitors to respect the land and its peoples

Our Core Values

Education	providing entry-level ornithological and ecological learning opportunities
Conservation	promoting personal responsibility, sustainability, and mindfulness
Community	sharing the historical and contemporary stories of our participating regions

What is the BC Bird Trail?

BCBirdTrail.ca

7 trails with multiple communities

Central Vancouver Island
- Parksville Qualicum Beach
- Cowichan

Vancouver Island North
- Port Alice
- Port Hardy
- Sointula and Alert Bay
- Port McNeill

South Fraser
- Richmond
- Delta
- Surrey

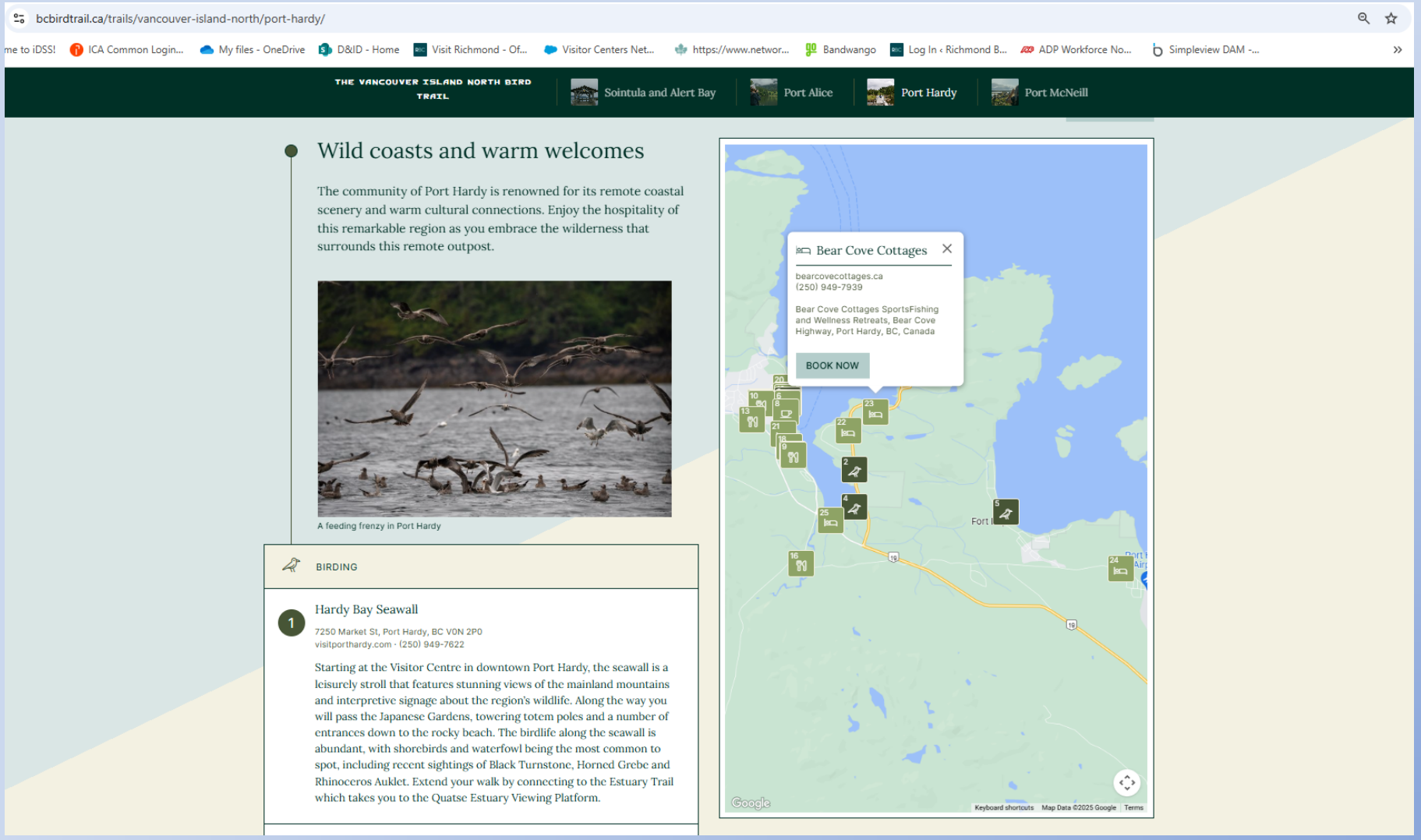
Sea to Sky
- Squamish
- Whistler

10 Outposts

Sooke
Southern Gulf Islands
Tofino
Ucluelet
Vancouver
Vancouver's North Shore

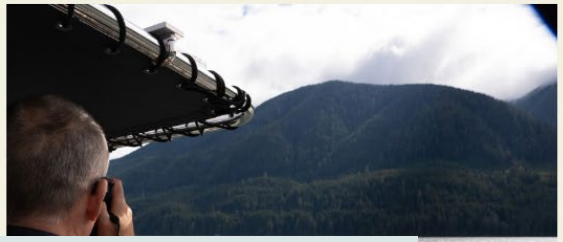
Interactive itineraries

e BC



Birding info & experiences

e BC



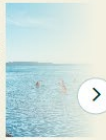
EXPERIENCES

Bookable Experiences in Vancouver Island North

Vancouver Island North is a destination for relaxed and spontaneous adventure. Here you can witness wildlife, such as whales, eagles, and black bears, while discovering magical shorelines and inland wilderness.

Seasmoke Whale Watching

Tide Rip Grizzly Adventures



EXPLORE EXPERIENCES

Birds you can find *right now* in Vancouver Island North

1 Common Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula)
2 Common Loon (Gavia immer)
3 Chestnut-backed Chickadee (Poecile rufescens)
4 Brandt's Cormorant (Urile penicillatus)
5 Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus)
6 Bufflehead (Bucephala albeola)
7 American Crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos)
8 Canada Goose (Branta canadensis)
9 Anna's Hummingbird (Calypte anna)
10 Common Merganser (Mergus merganser)

eBird Data provided by eBird Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York.

Spring
MARCH–JUNE

Summer
JUNE–SEPTEMBER

Fall
SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER

Winter
DECEMBER–MARCH

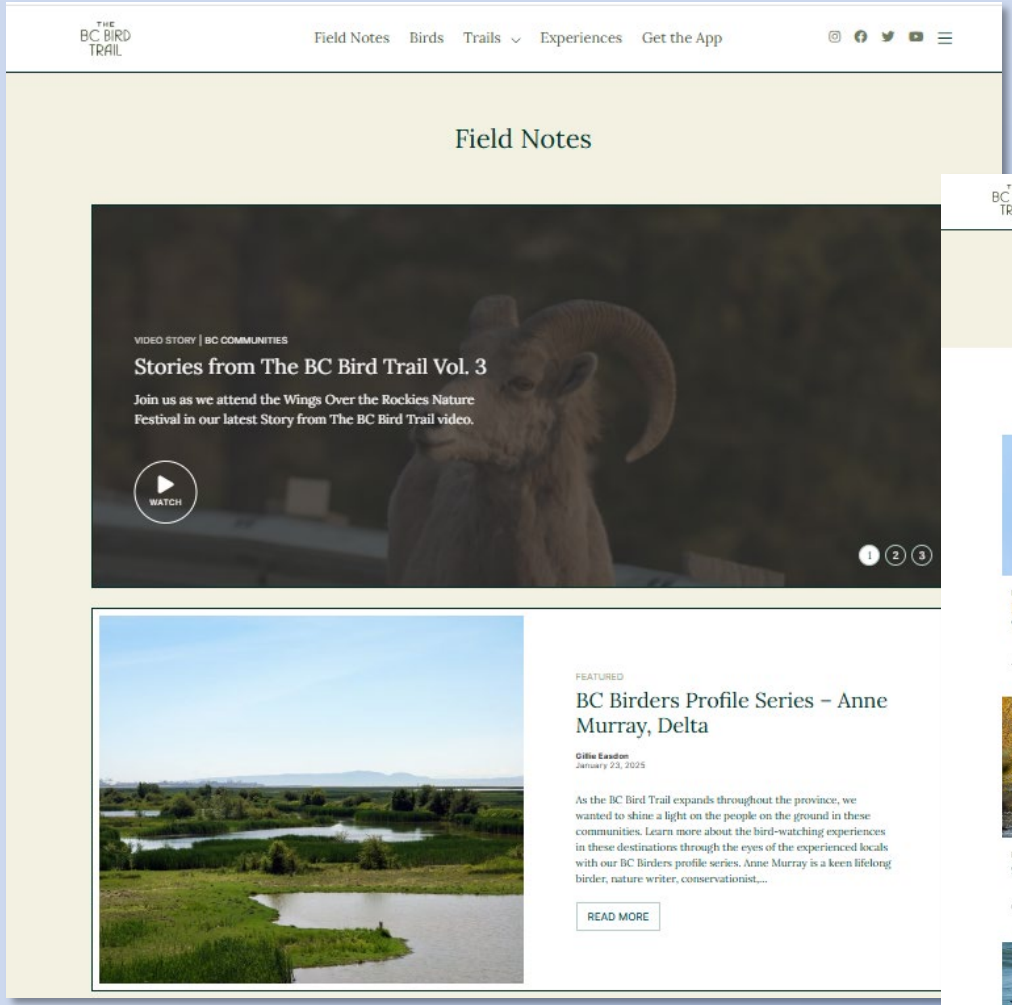
Spring birding in Vancouver Island North

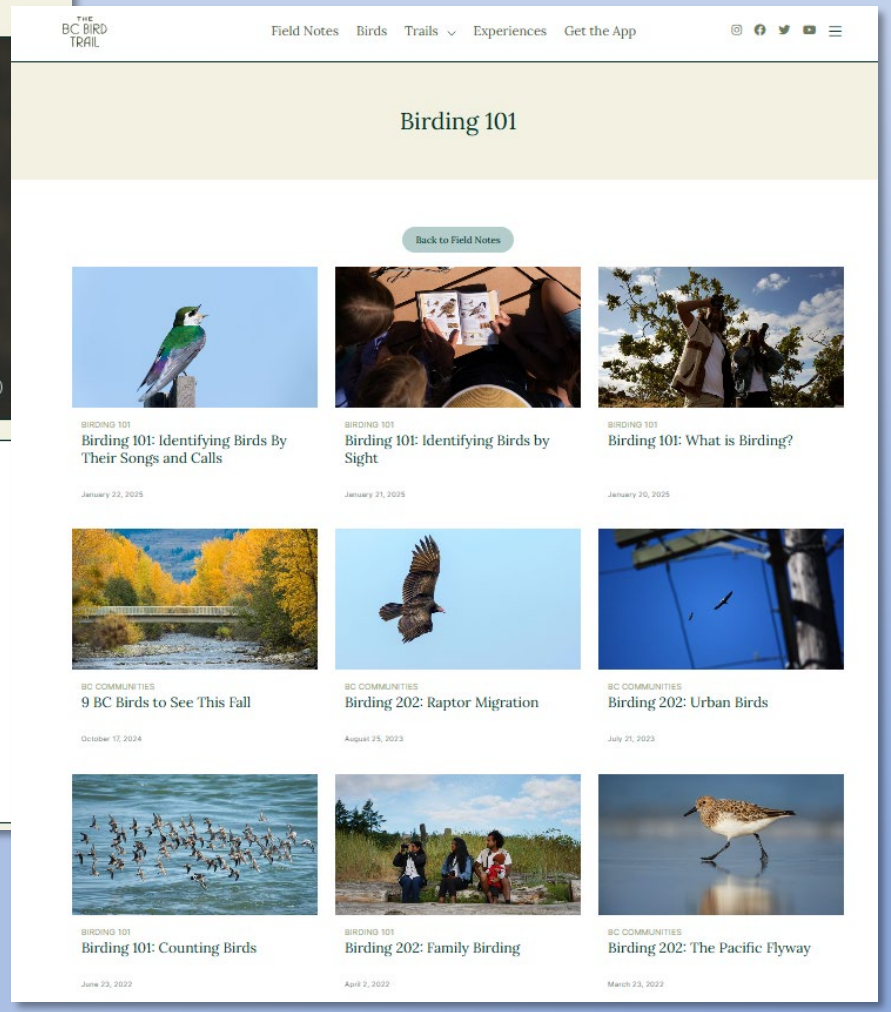
Spring on Northern Vancouver Island is a birdwatcher's paradise as migratory birds return to the region's diverse habitats. Keep an eye out for striking Black Oystercatchers with their distinctive red bills along rocky shores. Listen for the melodious songs of Pacific-slope Flycatchers in the lush rainforests. Along the shorelines, watch for majestic Bald Eagles soaring overhead or Horned Grebes diving for fish.

LEARN MORE

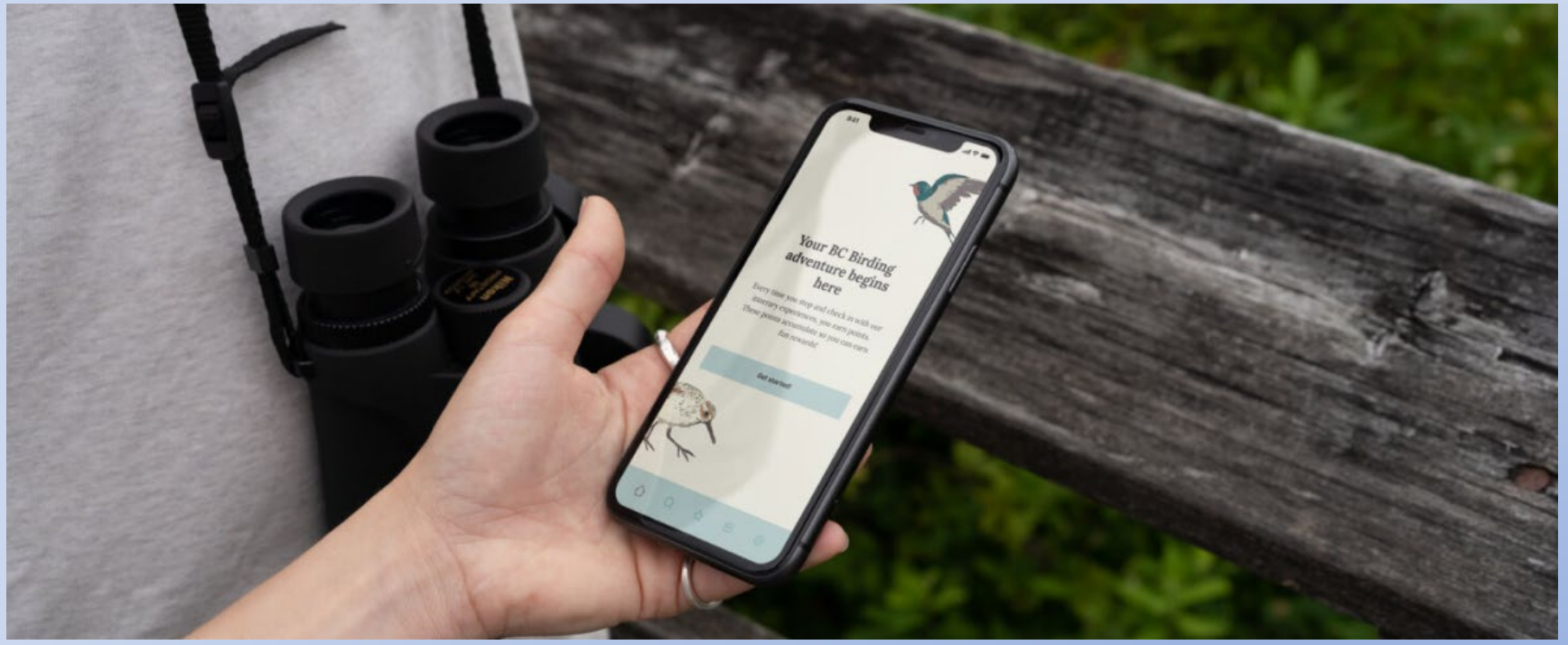
Field notes

e BC





BC Bird Trail Mobile Experience



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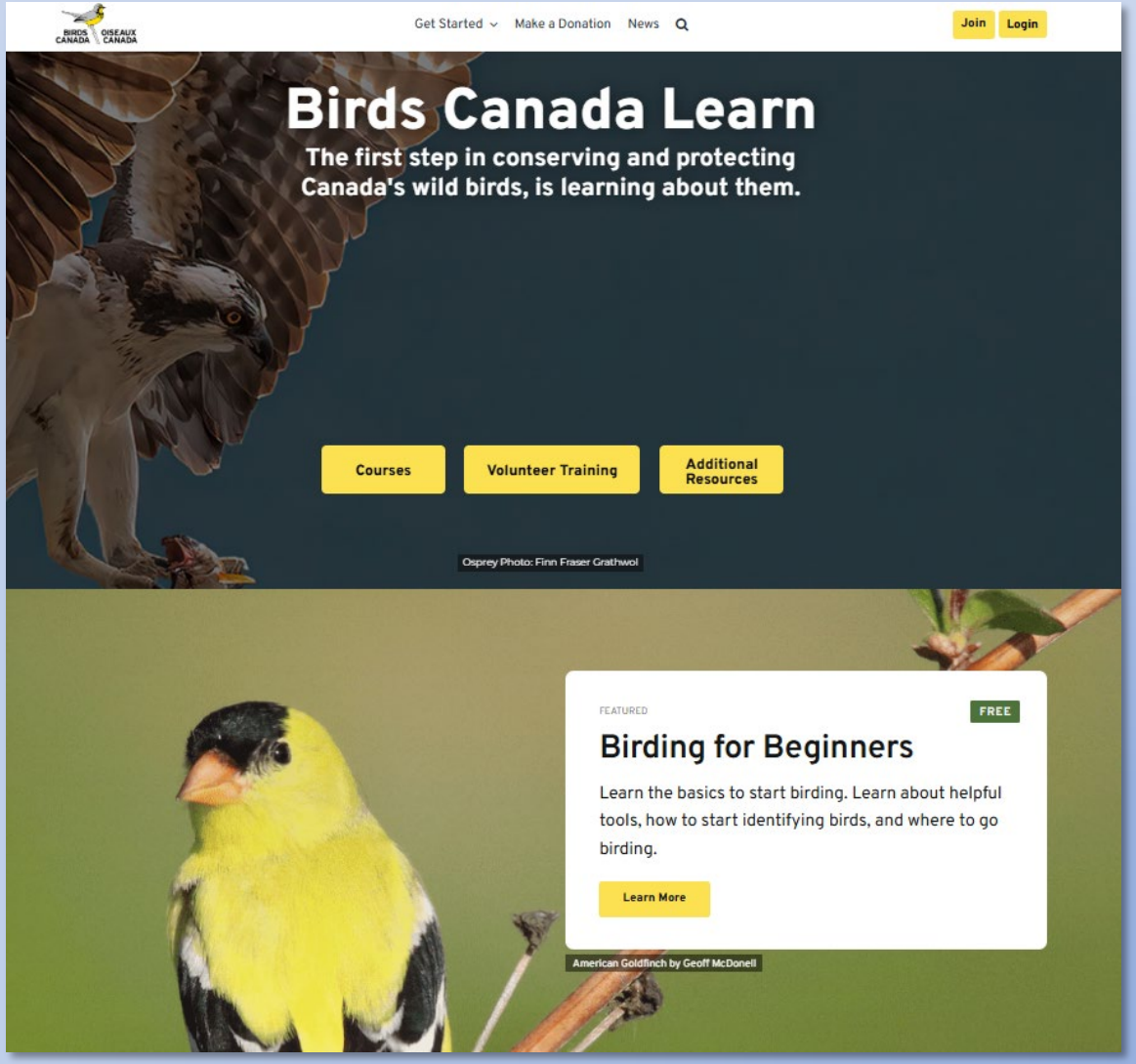
Birds Canada Tools – birdscanada.org



bcbirdtrail.ca info@bcbirdtrail.ca

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Bird Lover Resources for Coastal British Columbia

eBird – Cornell Lab of Ornithology – Citizen Data
ebird.org

BC Nature – Federation of British Columbia Naturalists (1969). Breedng bird atlas.
bcnature.org

Rocky Point Bird Observatory – Conservancy. Public Education. Partnership with Eagle Wing Tours.
rpbo.org

BC Bird Trail – Birdwatching locations & Seasonal Migration Patterns. Funded by Destination B.C..
Birdtrail.ca

Greater Victoria Naturehood – BC Nature. Public Education. Restoration Projects & Naturalists. Volunteer Supported.
gvnaturehood.com

RUSH - Resilient Urban Systems & Habitat – Pilot program map of areas in need of restoration and ecological healing.
whatstherush.ca

Victoria Natural History Society – Society of Naturalists. Downloadable “Checklist of Birds”
vicnhs.ba.ca

Bird Life International – International Focused Conservation & Public Education
birdlife.ca

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Bird Lover Resources for Coastal British Columbia

Atlas of Breeding Birds of British Columbia – Breeding Map & Checklists are GREAT!!!!
birdatlas.bc.ca

Friends of Ecological Reserves –
ecoreserves.bs.ca

Nature Conservancy of Canada – Protection of Critical Habitats.
Natureconservancy.ca

Pacific Flyway – US Fish & Wildlife. Maps & Resources. Stopover Sites
fws.gov

Bird Studies Canada – Migratory Patterns, Maps, Citizen Project Data
Birdscanada.org

Map of Migratory Birds in Canada
ec.gc.ca

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Bird Lover Print Resources for Coastal British Columbia

A Field Guide to Birds of the Pacific Northwest by Tony Greenfield KnowBC.com

At Sea with The Marine Birds of the Raincoast by Caroline Fox

The Birder's Guide : Vancouver Island by Keith Taylor.

Birds of Coastal British Columbia by Nancy Baron and John Acorn 1997

Birds of British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest: A Complete Guide Second Edition. Richard Cannings, Tom Aversa et al. Seasons with Birds. Bruce Whittington. ISBN 1-894898-21-4. 2004 ebook Overdrive

The Birds of Vancouver Island's West Coast. Adrian Dorst, On Point Press, 2018 ISBN:9780774890106 UBC

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