

# SAN JUAN ISLANDS



## YOUR PUBLIC BEACHES

State of Washington

**Department of Natural Resources**

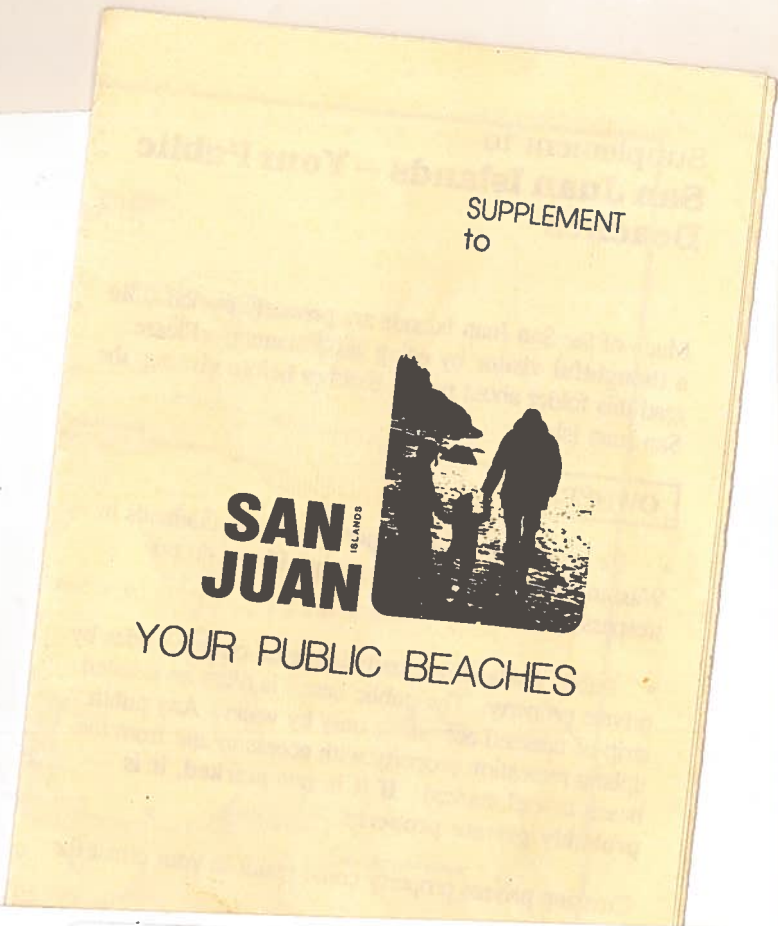
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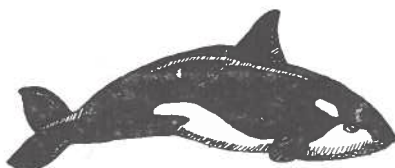
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**YOUR PUBLIC BEACHES**

# **SAN JUAN**

**REGION**



**January 1985**

STATE OF WASHINGTON

Department of  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**

BRIAN BOYLE  
Commissioner of Public Lands

ART STEARNS  
Supervisor

# DEFINITION OF TERMS

## USED IN THIS PUBLICATION

(See Appendix C Glossary)

### BEACH TYPE:

A general account of the substrate compositions of the beach is provided.

### PHYSICAL FEATURES

BEACH—That portion of the tideland that is in public ownership and use.

POCKET BEACH—Typically a crescent shaped beach at the end of a rocky cove.

ROCK HEADLANDS—Beach is vertical or nearly so — seldom of any recreational value.

ROCK LEDGE—Beach is horizontal, or nearly so, often containing tide pools.

ROCKY REEF—Low lying offshore rocks or isles, seldom protruding above high tide.

### BEACH COMPONENT SIZE CLASSES

MUD—Fine dust sized particles.

SAND—Particles up to  $1/64$  of an inch in size.

PEA GRAVEL—Typically  $1/2$ -inch diameter particles.

GRAVEL—Typically 2-inch diameter particles.

COBBLE—Typically 6-inch diameter particles.

BOULDERS—Typically 2-foot diameter particles.

RUBBLE—Angular cobble, boulder sized chunks of rock.

### ABBREVIATIONS

SJINWR—San Juan Island National Wildlife Refuge

BLM—Bureau of Land Management

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# INTRODUCTION

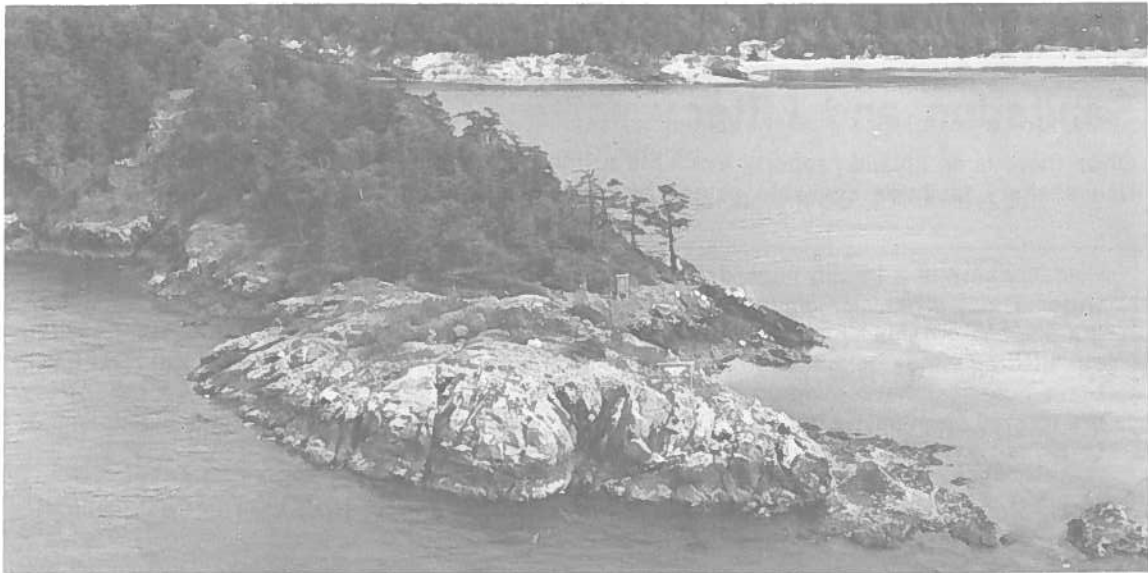
Welcome to the San Juan Islands, one of the most beautiful and unique areas in the State of Washington. There are some 370 miles of tidelands, of which 78 percent are still in state ownership. The typical San Juan beach is narrow, steep and rocky. However, the tidelands of the region vary from wide, sandy beaches to vertical cliffs; from open expanses to little hidden pocket beaches. Birds and wildlife abound on many of the smaller islands and rocks, which are part of the San Juan Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

The beaches introduced in this publication differ from the more formalized public parks or recreational areas. Parks are typically upland sites with camping or picnic facilities, road access and some associated tidelands. State of Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) tidelands are typically isolated strips surrounded, except from the water, by private property.

## About the Book

"Your Public Beaches — San Juan Region" is a general guide to the location and use of public beaches under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources. However, this publication is not a complete listing of all DNR-managed tidelands in the region<sup>1</sup>. Recreational tidelands managed by other public agencies are included where possible.

This book is one in a series of publications that also covers Hood Canal, South Puget Sound, North Puget Sound and the Straits of Juan de Fuca. Additional information on public beaches can be found in publications by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, the Departments of Fisheries and Ecology, and the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation.



The rocky shores of Strawberry Island jut into the channel. (Photo: Washington State Department of Natural Resources)

<sup>1</sup>All DNR-managed lands and tidelands in the San Juans can be found on the San Juan Quadrangle Map available through DNR Photos, Maps & Reports Section; QW-21; Olympia, WA 98504. Price \$4.00 plus tax.

*Please do not trespass on private property*

# RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BEACH USER

(See Appendix A for further details.)

Please do not trespass or litter when visiting beaches.

Beach fires are legal under certain circumstances.

Use marked access trails or determine the location of the boundary before using public beaches. These are your public beaches. Treat them and adjacent private property with the same consideration expected for your property .

Tidelands fronting the National Wildlife Refuge are not open for public use. Boaters should stay at least 100 yards offshore to avoid disturbing the birds or animals.

## Liability

Users of state-owned beaches assume all liability and risk.

## Sanitation and Litter

Often there is no upland property available at the beach to install sanitary or garbage facilities. Use sanitary facilities available at nearby marinas and parks, or carry a toilet on your boat.

Human waste is a health hazard. Some viruses and bacteria can live several days in seawater. These organisms contaminate shellfish. If the contaminated shellfish are eaten before the disease organism passes through mollusks or crustaceans, people can become ill. When shellfish become contaminated, if detected, the Washington State Department of Health will ban all shellfish harvesting on the affected beach until the problem is corrected. If beaches are to stay open for the taking of shellfish, everyone must cooperate by not dumping human or animal waste on or near them.

The only way beaches will be kept clean is with everyone's help. Take litter to trash cans. Keep the beach as litter-free as possible.

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# BEACH IDENTIFICATION

This book identifies the public beach boundaries by using a combination of maps, photographs and written descriptions (see Appendix A).

The end boundary locations were determined by using ownership survey maps and aerial photographs. To the best of our knowledge, the boundaries are current; however, since the boundary information is not based on a recent property survey, the boundaries cannot be guaranteed as being absolutely accurate. Most boundary locations shown on the maps and photographs have been moved toward the center of the beach to compensate for errors or distortions. The map and photo boundaries indicate the extent of public use and have no legal standing as an indication of the actual property line location.

The beaches presented in this publication are restricted to those with 1,000 feet or more of public ownership, and located either in front of state-owned uplands or in front of uplands patented after statehood, November 11, 1889. A more detailed description appears in the Appendix C Glossary.

The following DNR-managed tidelands are excluded from this publication:

- Tidelands of less than 1,000 feet of public ownership, unless there is developed upland access, or some other extraordinary recreational feature.
- Most tidelands where the upper boundary is the meander line or mean low tide line. The location of these lines had not been established at the time of publication. These tidelands will be reviewed and those with the best public use potential will be included in future revisions.
- Tidelands identified by this or other agencies or institutions as needing special protection because of unique scientific or educational features.
- Those tidelands having little or no public recreational potential.

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**INDEX MAP OF YOUR PUBLIC BEACHES  
IN THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS**

# HOW TO USE MAPS AND PHOTOS

## Index Map

Use the index map to locate the individual beach map or area.

## Beach Maps

To find a particular public beach on the beach map, use such prominent landmarks as bays, points, islands, or any object appearing both on the map and in your field of vision. Note the location of the beach boundary symbols on the map and their relationship to one or more landmarks.

The maps are oriented with north at the top of the map. It may help to orient the map to your view of approach to the beach. This may require viewing the map from the side or upside down.

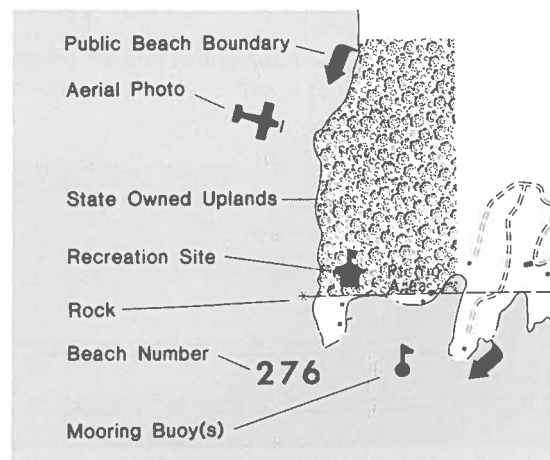
## Aerial Photos

Photographs are used to supplement the maps in the instances where landmarks are smaller and more easily seen on the photos than on the maps. Beaches with aerial photos are designated with an airplane symbol.

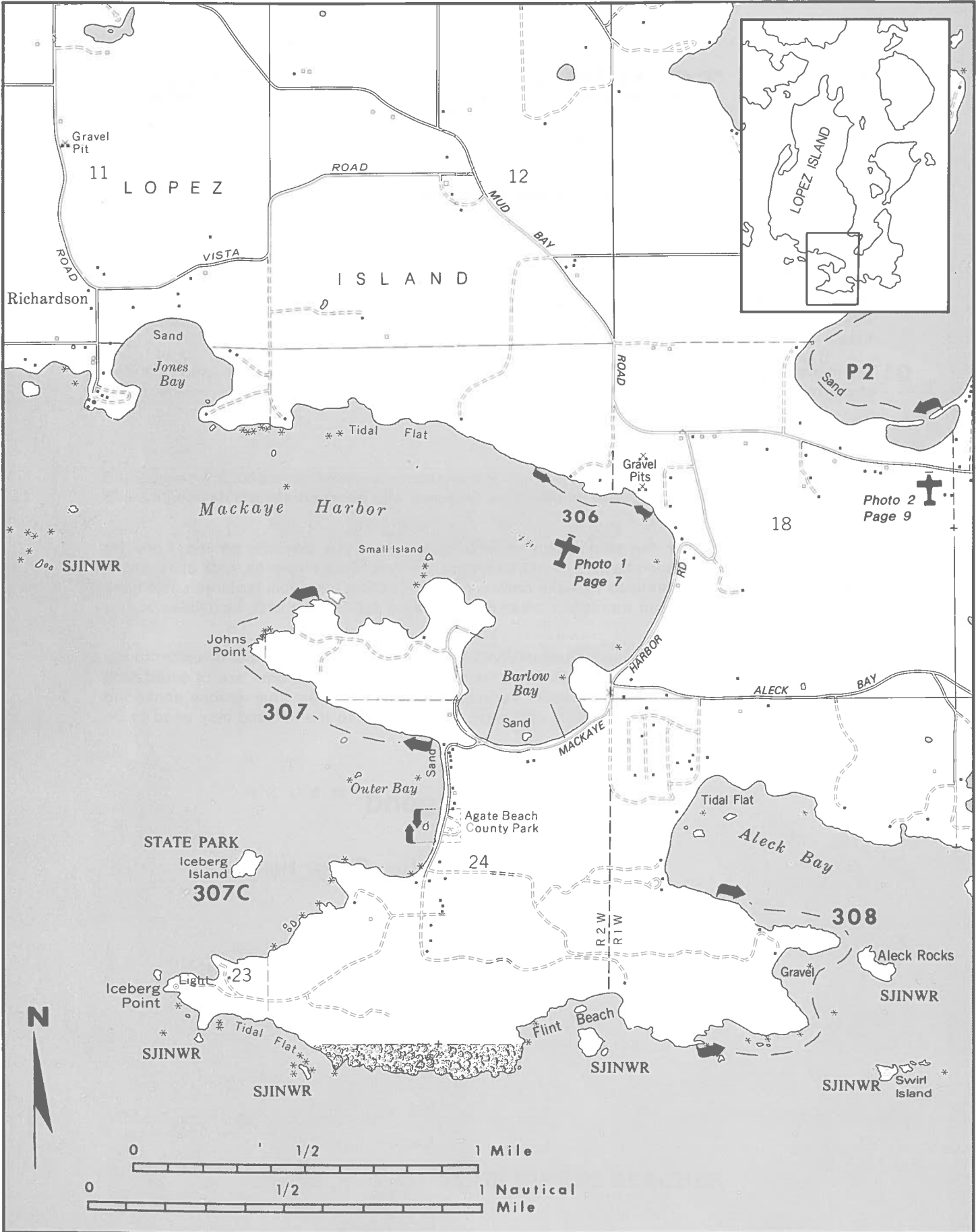
Think of yourself sitting in the pilot's seat of an airplane when you view the photos. Look for features along the beach such as clumps of trees, bare patches, docks, houses, rock cliffs, etc. It is best to identify several features to make certain of your location. Individual features could have changed since the photo was taken: trees possibly were cut, houses built, landslides or new vegetation established.

Two types of aerial photos are used. Oblique photos show a view from the air that is similar to the view seen when approaching the beach from the water. The oblique photos are oriented to a boater's view when approaching the beach. Vertical photos show a view from directly above the beach. The vertical photos are oriented with north at the top or to the left and may need to be reoriented to your view.

## Legend for Public Beaches Maps:



See Map 3



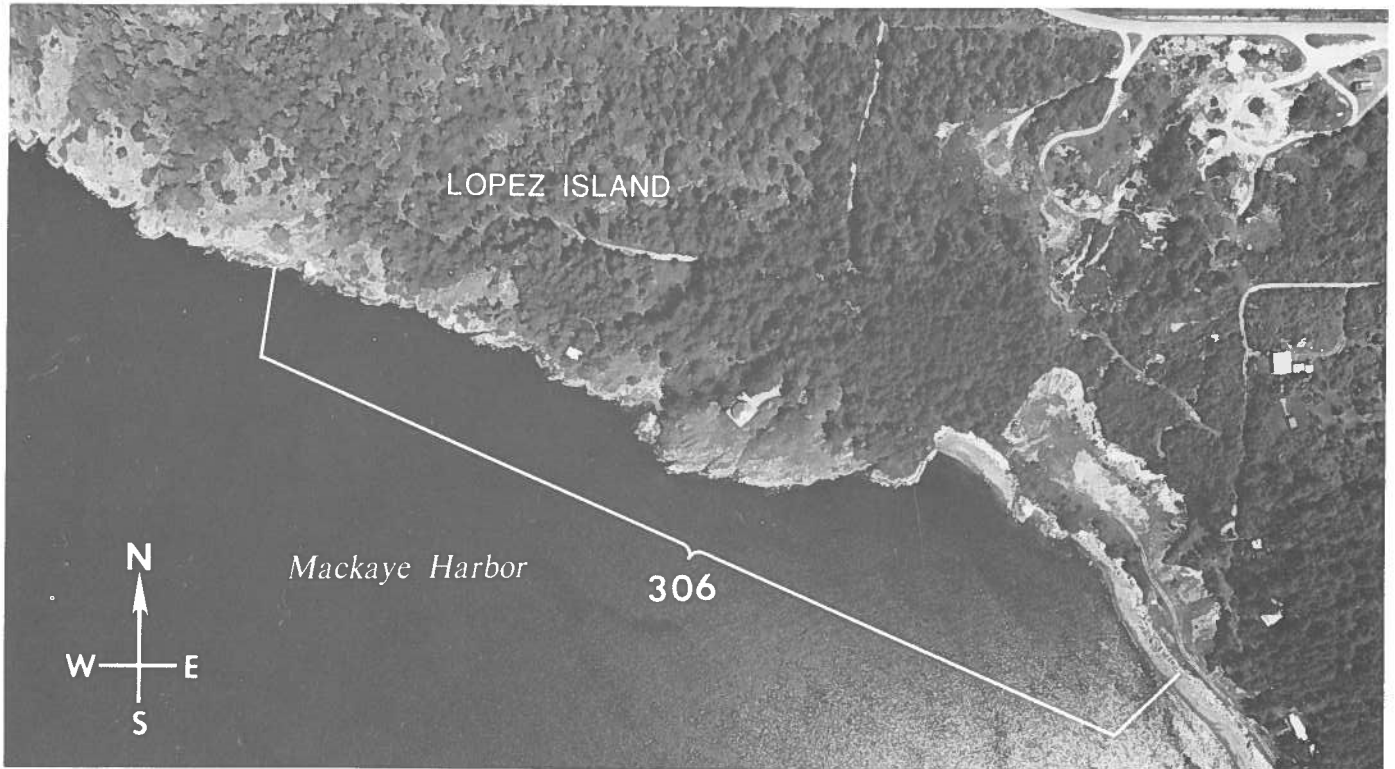
See Map 25

See Map 3

See Map 2

Map 1 Mackaye Harbor, Lopez Island

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation



**Photo 1 Beach 306, Mackaye Harbor, Lopez Island**

**Mackaye Harbor — Beach 306 — 2,580'**  
**Johns Point — Beach 307 — 3,751'**  
**Iceberg Island — Beach 307C — 1,599'**  
**Aleck Bay — Beach 308 — 7,132'**  
**Agate Beach County Park — 594'**

**Access** — Boat only, except at Agate Beach county park. There are no other public upland accesses to these beaches.

**Upper Boundary** — Mean High tide line (6.7 feet elevation).

**Beach Composition** — Typically steep rocky headlands with rocky reefs and gravel pocket beaches.

**Agate Beach** — Wide gravelly beach.

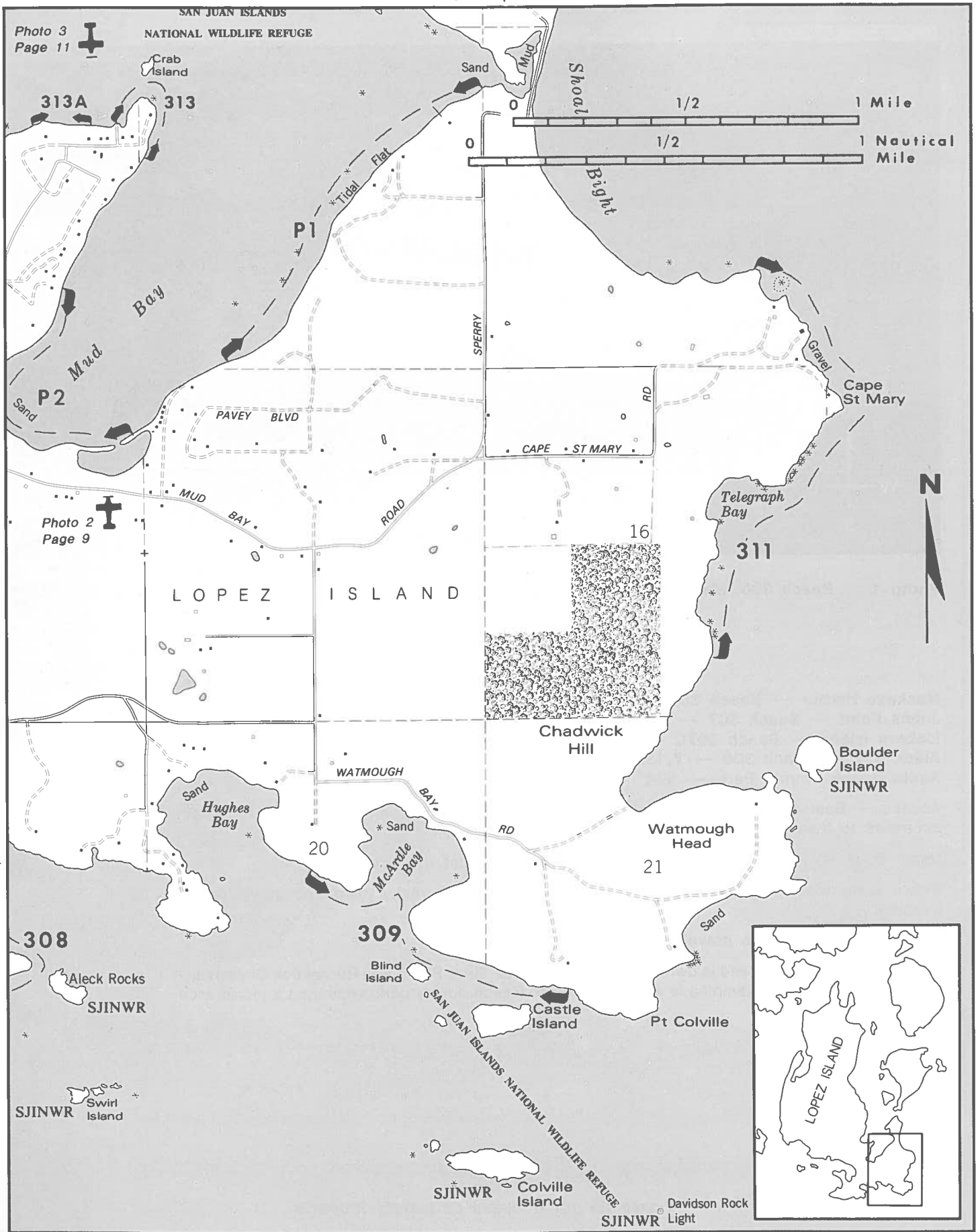
**Comments** — Iceberg Island is owned by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission but is undeveloped. No camping is allowed in Agate Beach county park which has a picnic area.

***Please do not trespass on private property***

See Map 3

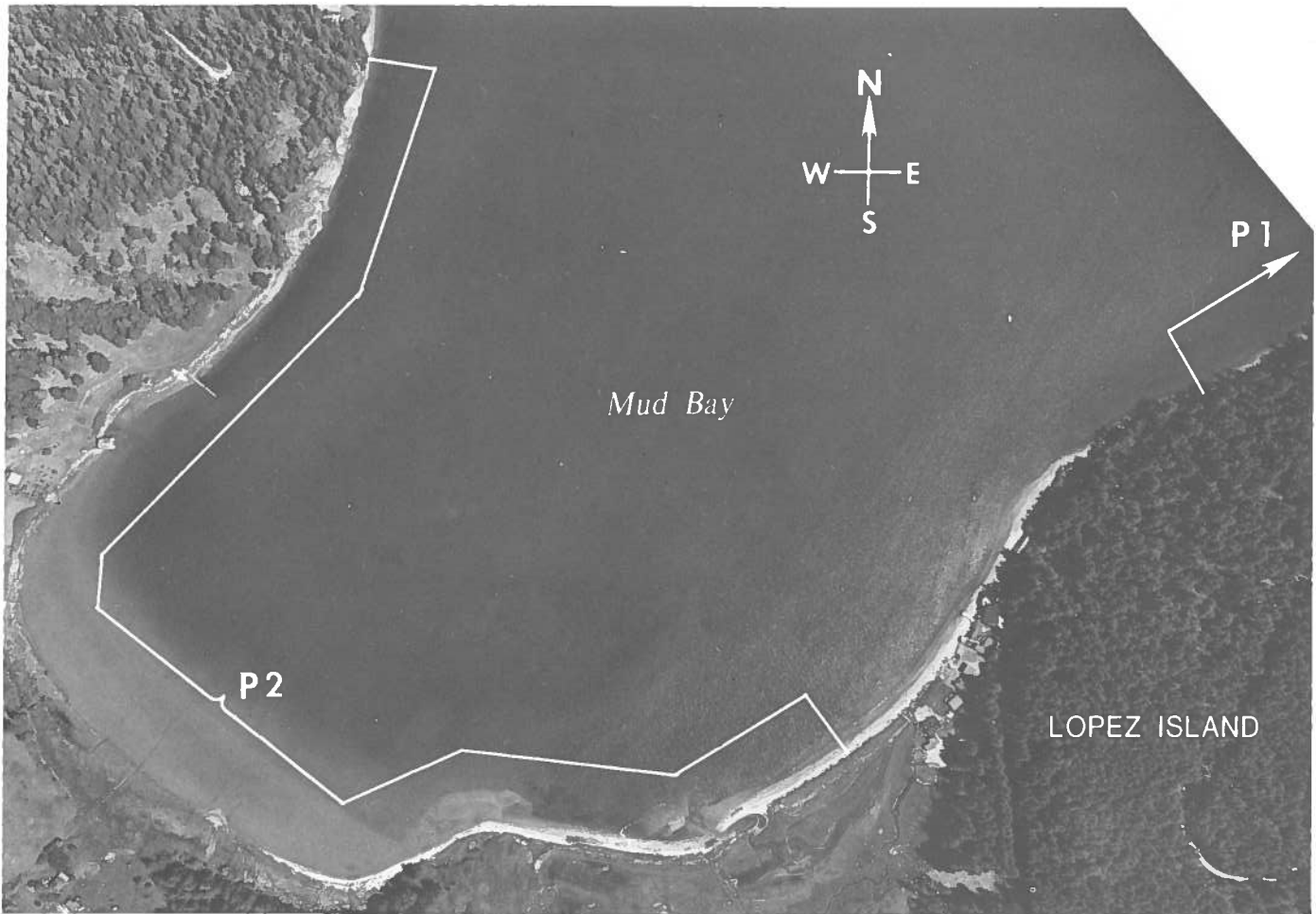
See Map 3

See Map 1



Map 2 Mud Bay, Lopez Island

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation



**Photo 2 Beaches P1 and P2, Hunter Bay, Lopez Island**

- McArdle Bay — Beach 309 — 10,932'**
- Cape St Mary — Beach 311 — 11,557'**
- Hunter Bay — Beach 313 — 2,098'**
- Hunter Bay — Beach 313A — 1,300'**
- Mud Bay — P1 — 5,986'**
- Mud Bay — P2 — 5,372'**

Access — Boat only except for 313. There are no public upland accesses to these beaches. However, there is access to 313 at the county dock and boat ramp.

Upper Boundary — Mean high tide line (6.7 feet elevation).

Beach Composition —

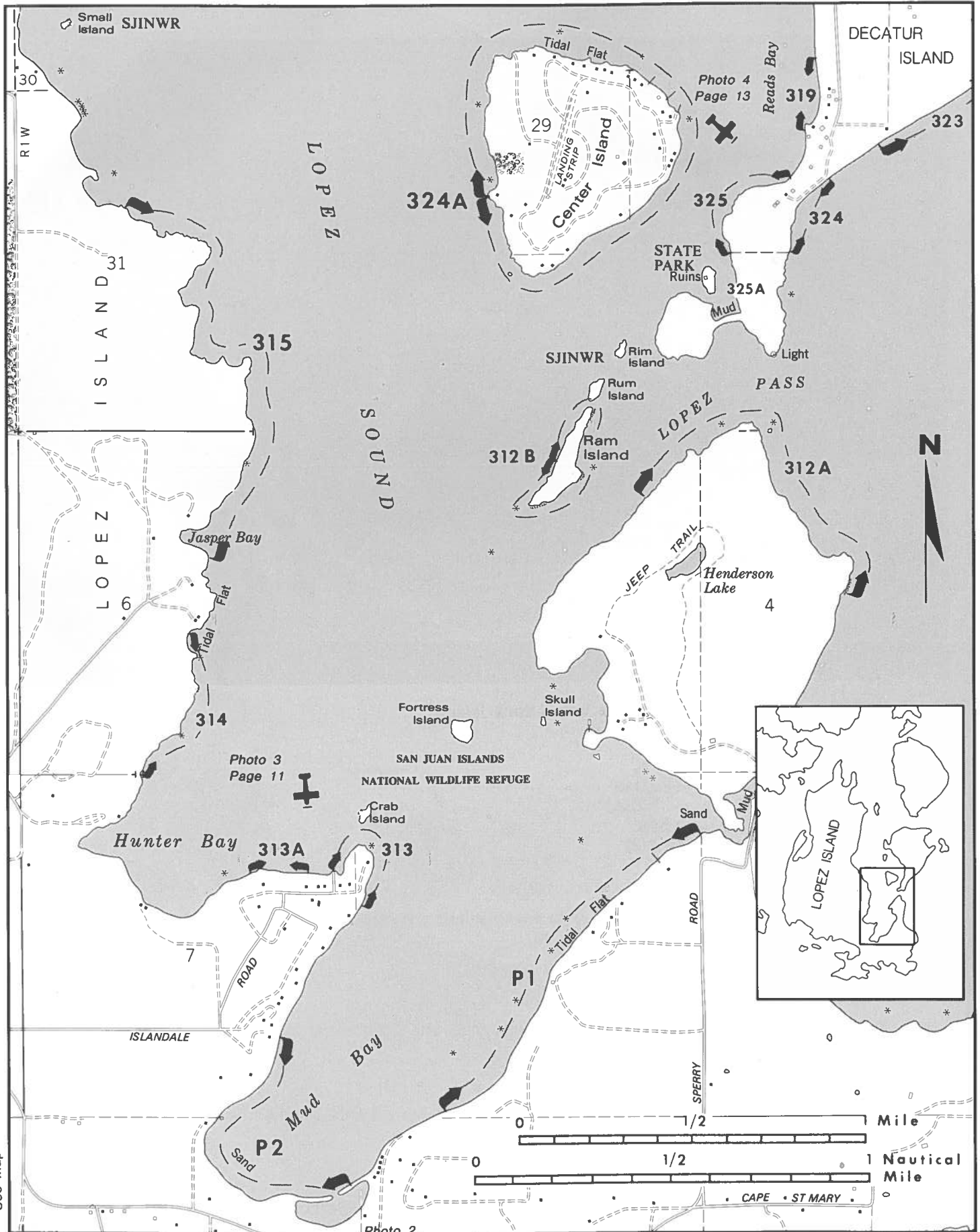
- 309, 311 and 313 — Typically rocky reef and headlands with cobble and pea gravel pocket beaches.
- 313A and P1 — Gravel or sand beaches.
- P2 — Wide beach with fine sand or mud.

Comments: Beaches P1-P2 are managed by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

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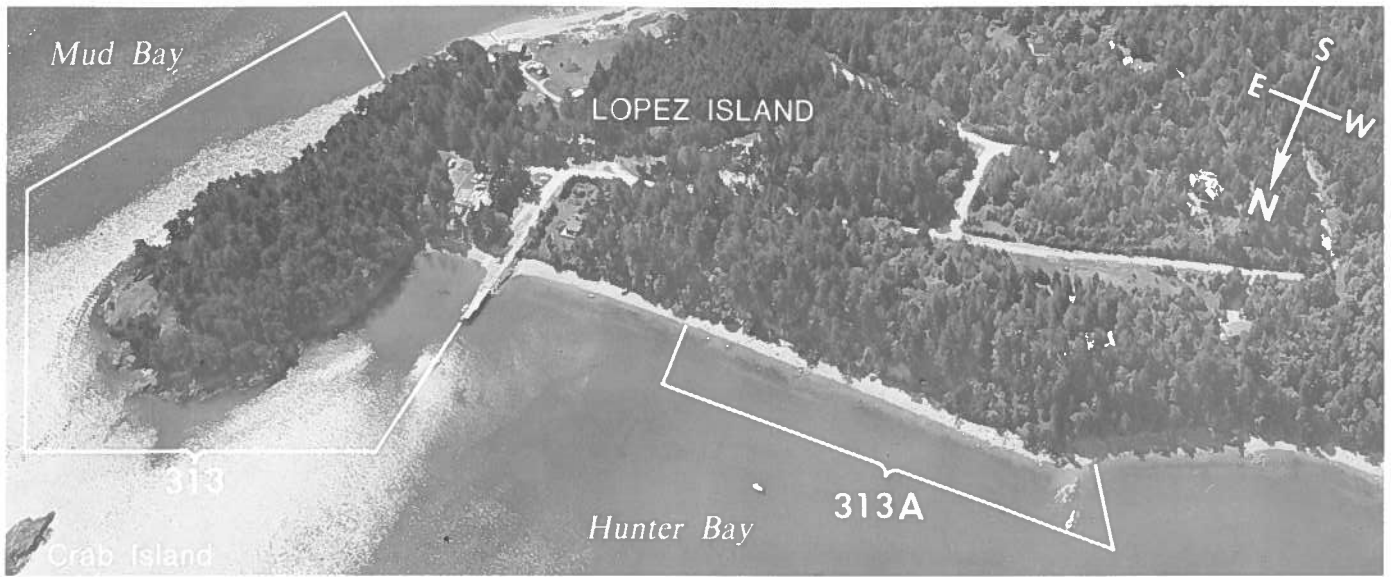
See Map 4

See Map 5



Map 3A Center Island and Lopez Pass

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation



**Photo 3 Beach 313A County Dock and Boat Ramp, Mud and Hunter Bays, Beach 313 Hunter Bay, Lopez Island**

- Hunter Bay — Beach 313 — 2,098'
- Hunter Bay — Beach 313A — 3,366'
- Hunter Bay — Beach 314 — 3,366'
- Lopez Sound — Beach 315 — 9,066'

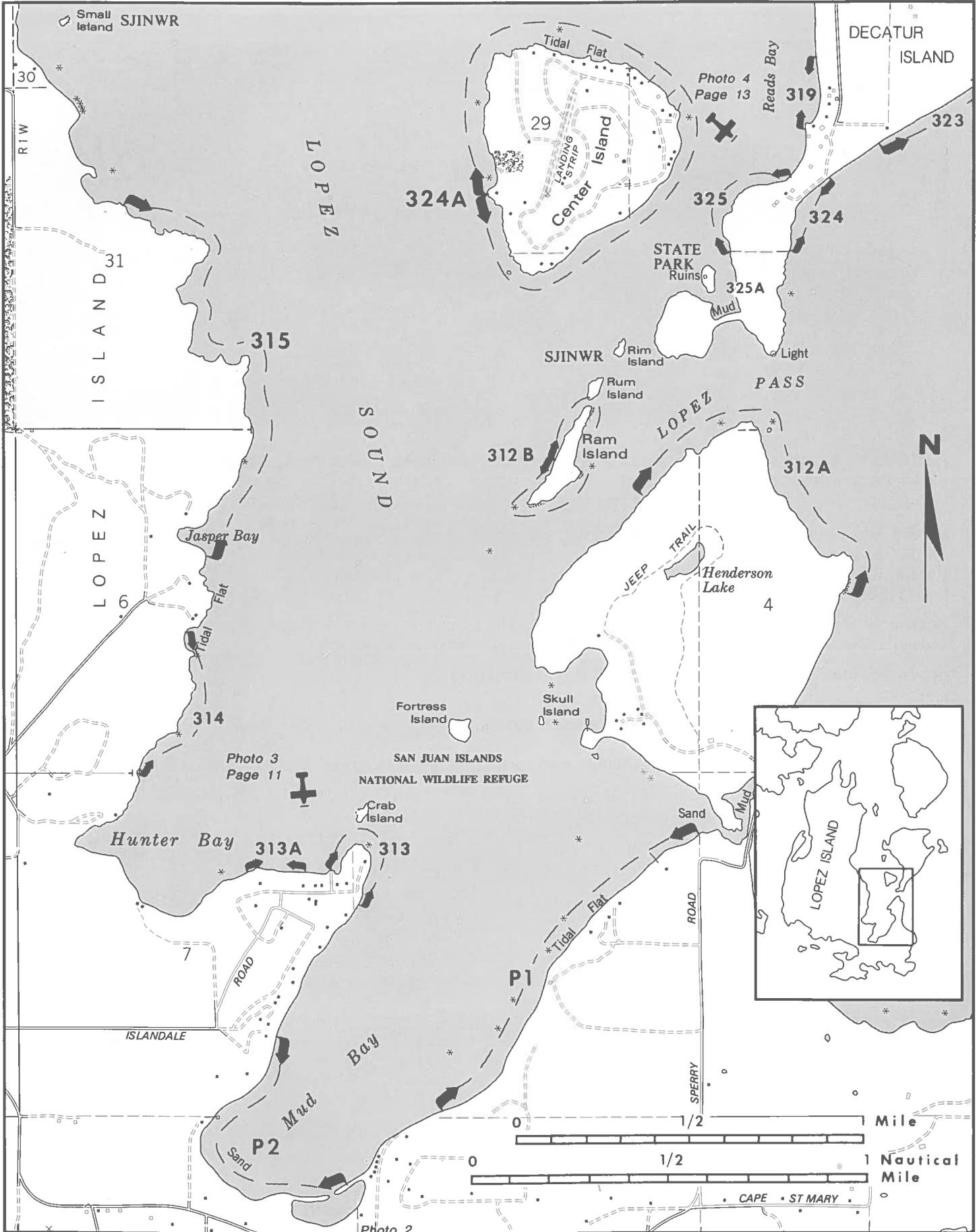
Access — Boat only except for 313. There is no public upland access to the other beaches. Upland access to 313 via county-owned dock and boat ramp on west end.

Upper Boundary — Mean high tide line (6.8 feet elevation).

**Beach Composition —**

- 313 — Rocky headlands with gravelly cobble beach.
- 313A — Cobble and coarse sand.
- 314 and 315 — Typically rocky headlands with rock reefs and pea gravel pocket beaches.

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See Map 5

See Map 2

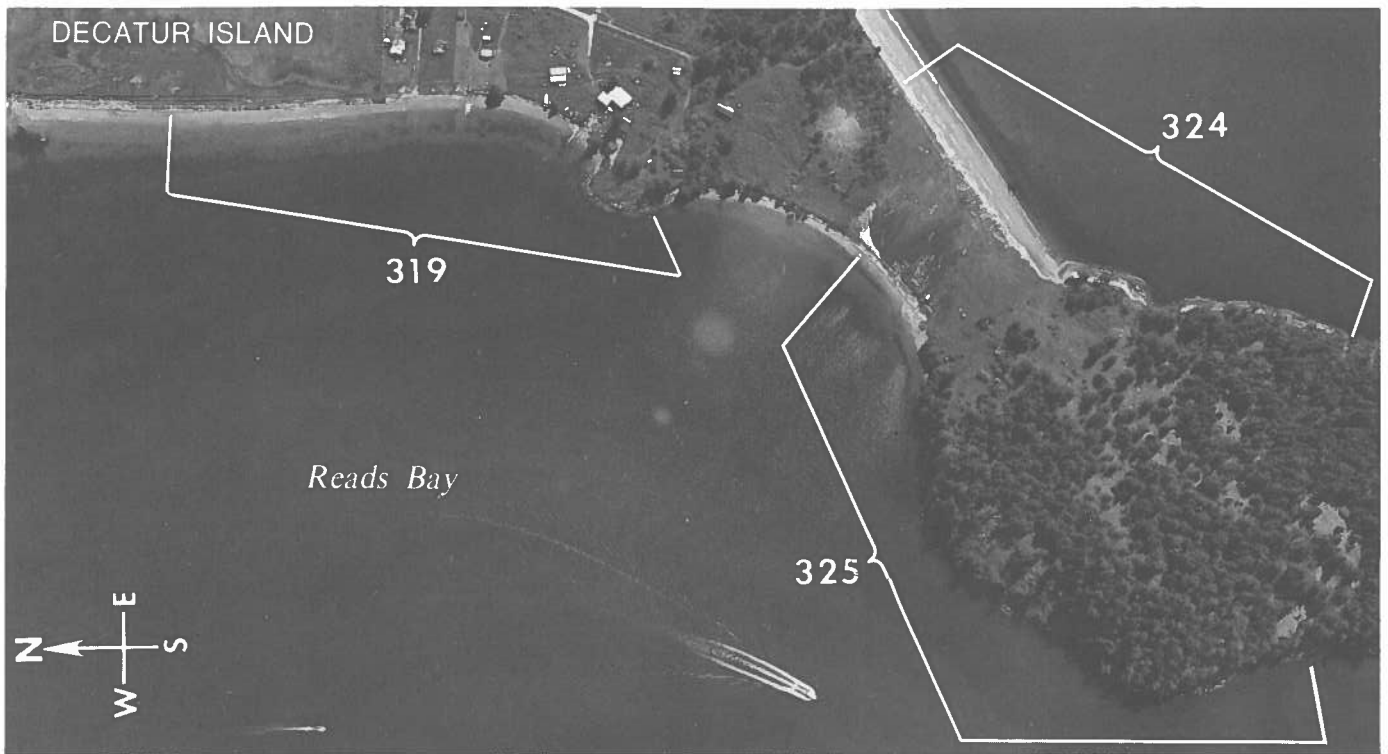
See Map 1

See Map 1 Page 9

See Map 2

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation

Map 3B Center Island and Lopez Pass



**Photo 4 Beaches 319, 324, 325, Decatur Island**

- Lopez Pass — Beach 312A — 5,913'**
- Ram Island — Beach 312B — 3,890'**
- Hunter Bay — Beach 314 — 3,366'**
- Lopez Sound — Beach 315 — 9,066'**
- Reads Bay — Beach 319 — 2,211'**
- Decatur Beach — Beach 324 — 1,650'**
- Center Island — Beach 324A — 11,322'**
- Reads Bay — Beach 325 — 1,986'**
- Unnamed — Beach 325A — 1,600'**

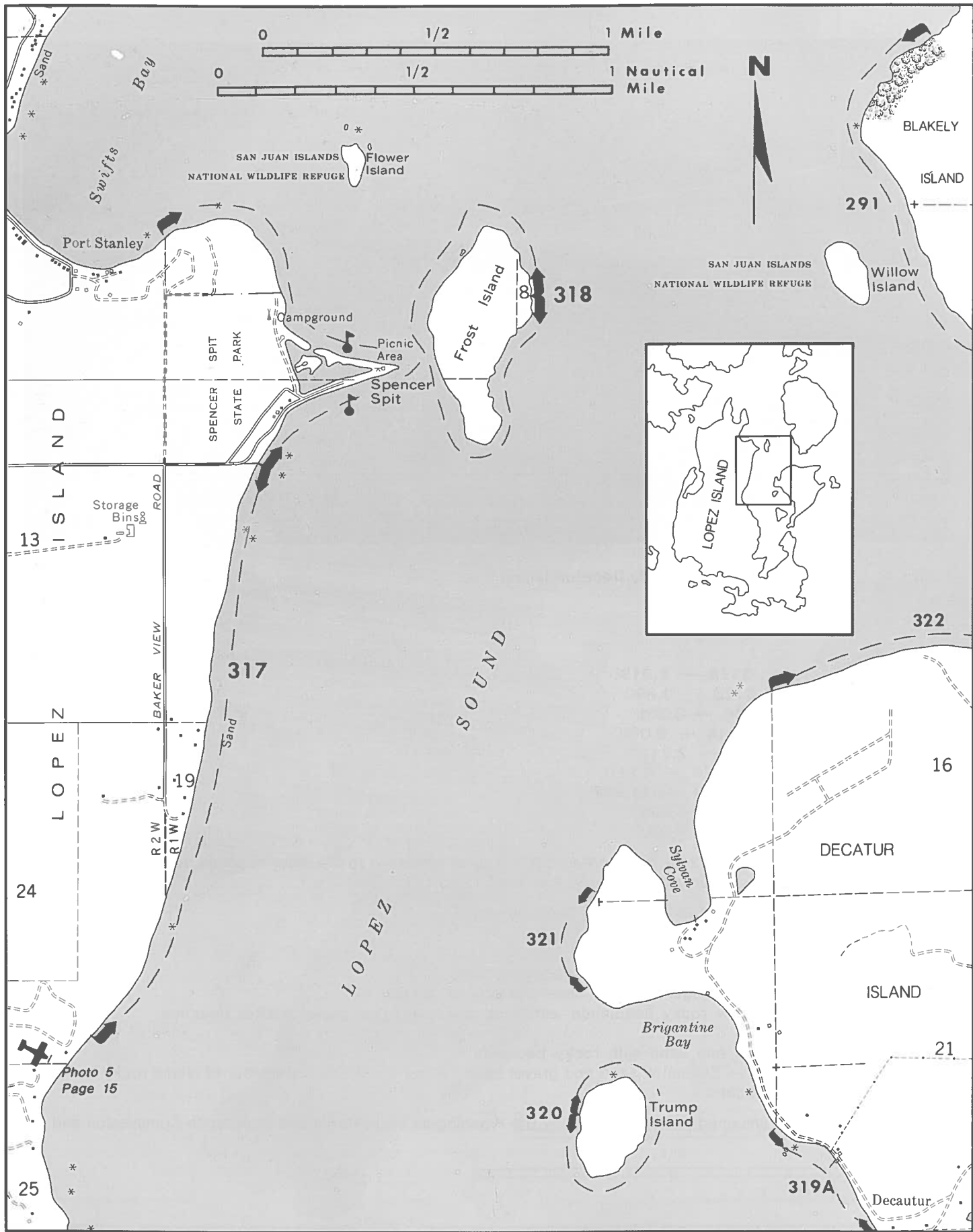
**Access** — Boat only except for 313. There are no public upland accesses to the other beaches. However, there is upland access to 313 via county-owned dock and boat ramp.

**Upper Boundary** — Mean high tide line (6.8 feet elevation).

**Beach Composition** —

- 312A — Rocky headlands with narrow gravelly beaches.
- 312B — Beach is rocky ledge with two small pockets of gravel.
- 314 and 315 — Typically rocky headlands with rock reefs and pea gravel pocket beaches.
- 319 — Gravel
- 324 and 325 — Gravel and sand with rocky bedlands.
- 324A — Center Island — Extensive sand and gravel beach along south side; remainder of island rocky headlands with pocket beaches.

**Comments:** 325A is an unnamed island managed by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and is undeveloped.



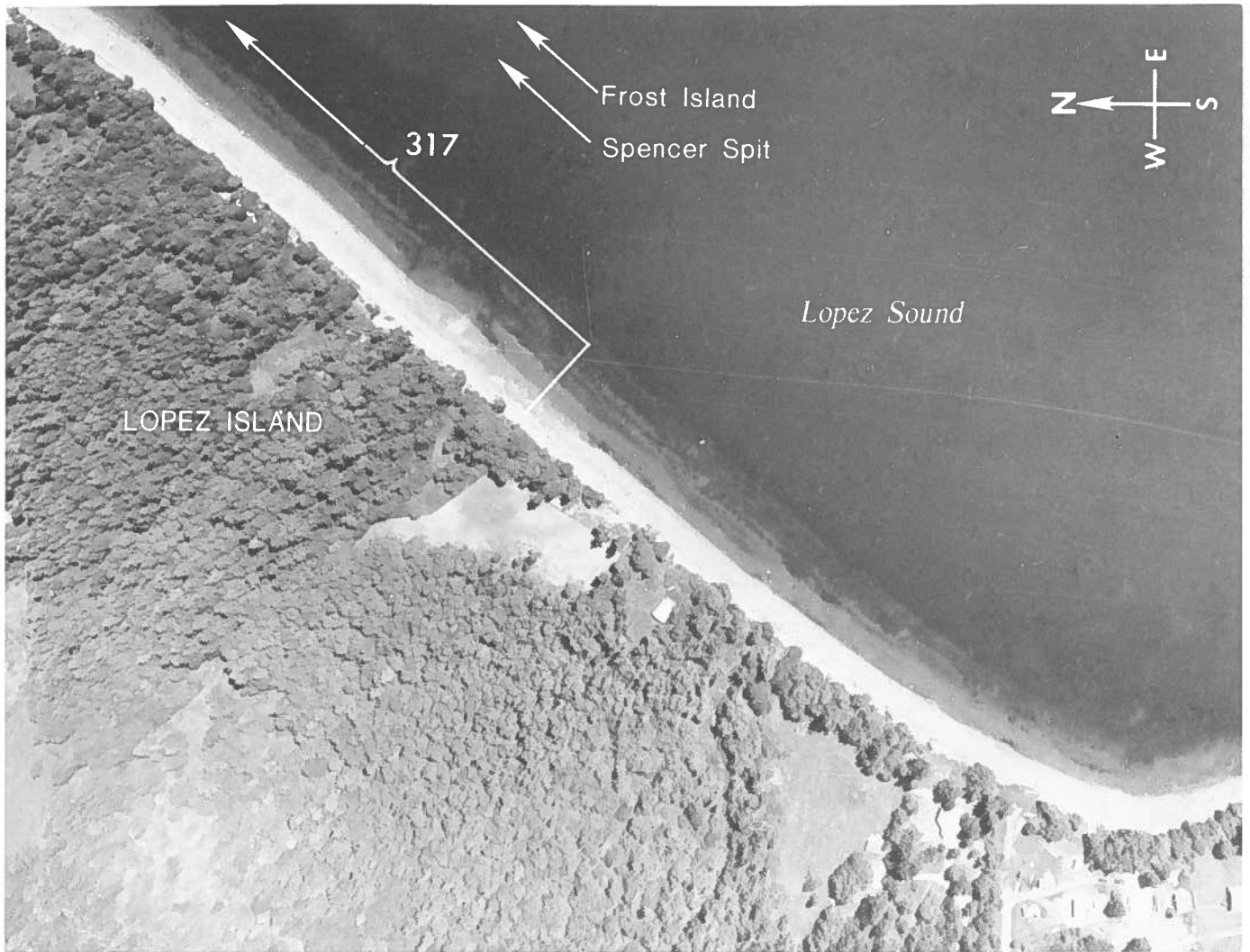
See Map 5

See Map 3

See Map 5

Map 4 Frost Island

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation



**Photo 5 Beach 317 (South Boundary), Lopez Island**

**Lopez Sound — Beach 317 — 11,773'**  
**Frost Island — Beach 318 — 6,138'**  
**Decatur Island — Beach 319A — 2,508'**  
**Trump Island — Beach 320 — 3,599'**  
**Decatur Island — Beach 321 — 1,000'**  
**Spencer Spit State Park — 7,840'**

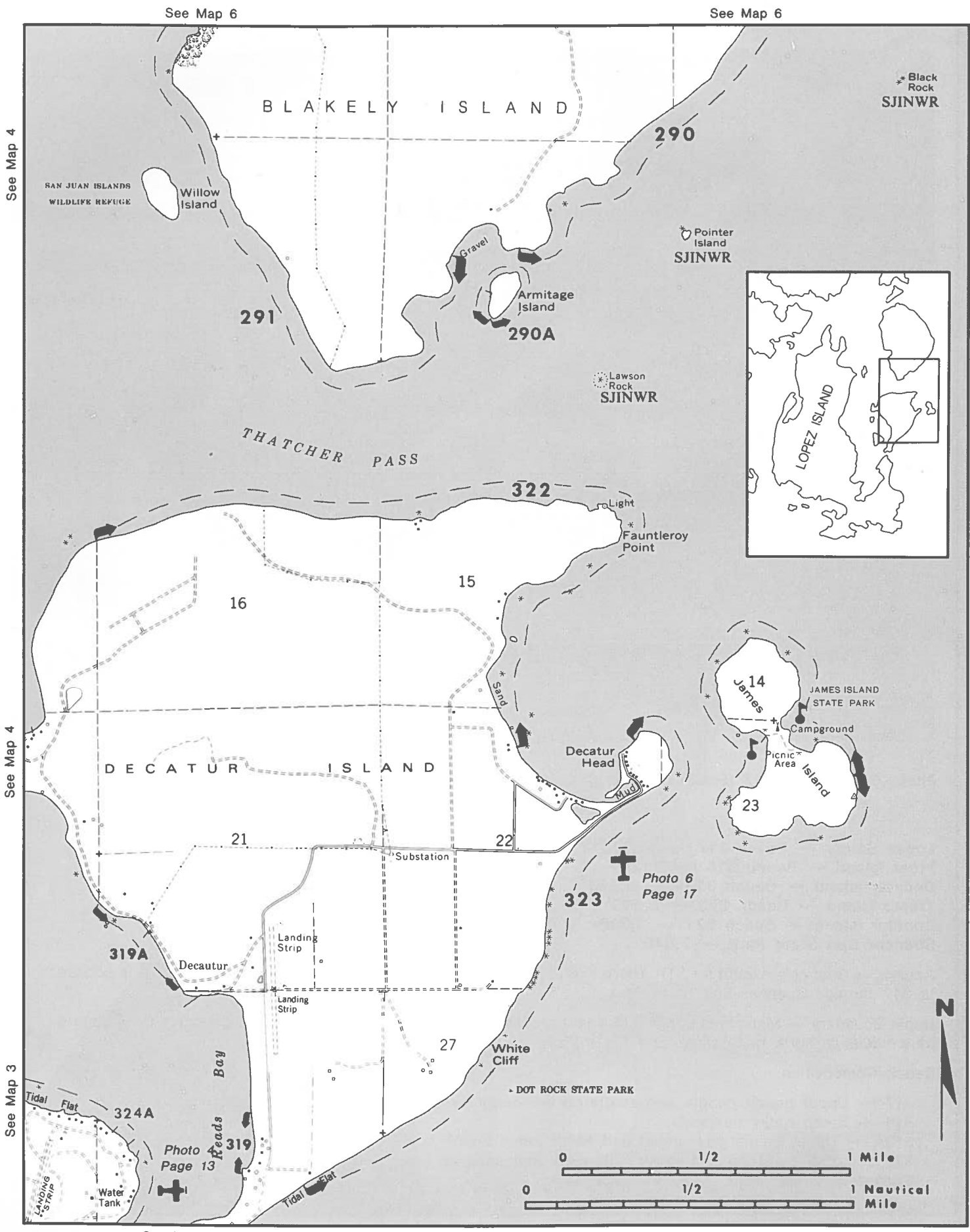
**Access —** Boat only except for 317. There are no public upland accesses to the other beaches. There is access to 317 through Spencer Spit State Park.

**Upper Boundary —** Mean high tide line (7.1 feet elevation). The meander line is the upper boundary for the state park tidelands north of Spencer Spit State Park.

**Beach Composition —**

- 317 — Upper beach cobble and scattered boulders; lower beach cobble and sand.
- 318 — Steep rocky tidelands.
- 319A — Upper beach pea gravel and sand; lower beach cobble, some scattered boulders.
- 320 and 321 — Steep and rocky with reefs and sand or gravel pockets.
- Spencer and Spit State Park — Gravel beach.

**Comments:** Spencer Spit State Park has 12 moorage buoys offshore.



See Map 4

See Map 4

See Map 3

See Map 6

See Map 6

See Map 3

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation

Map 5 Thatcher Pass, Blakely and Decatur Islands



**Photo 6 Beaches 322 and 321, Decatur Head, Decatur Island**

Armitage Island — Beach 290A — 2,284'  
 Thatcher Pass — Beach 291 — 11,283'  
 Reads Bay — Beach 319 — 2,211'  
 Decatur Island — Beach 319A — 2,508'  
 Thatcher Pass/Fauntleroy Point — Beach 322 — 16,219'  
 Decatur Head/White Cliff — Beach 323 — 12,516'  
 James Island — 12,335'

Access — Boat only. There are no public upland accesses to these beaches.

Upper Boundary — Mean high tide line (6.8 feet elevation).

Beach Composition —

290A — Rocky Beach

291 — Rocky headlands with sand or cobble patches, pea gravel pocket beach on south end.

319 — Gravelly.

319A — Upper beach pea gravel and sand; lower beach cobble, some scattered boulders.

322 — North side of Decatur Island — upper beach boulders; lower beach pea gravel and coarse sand grading into rocky ledge with sand pockets at Fauntleroy Point, south of Fauntleroy Point gravel beach.

323 — Very exposed cobble and sand beach.

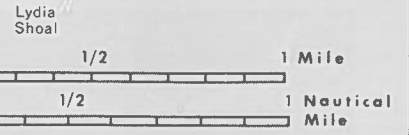
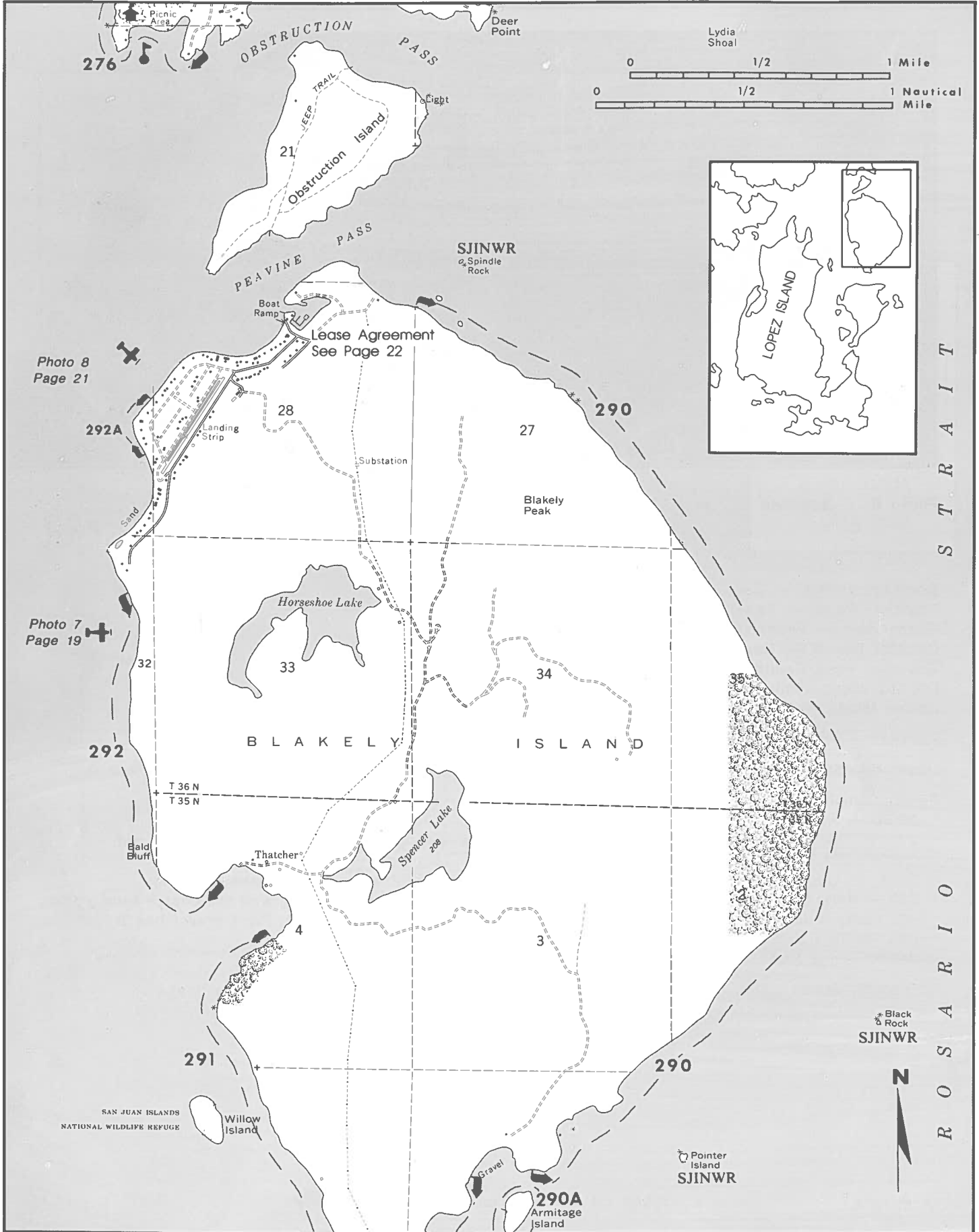
James Island State Park — Rocky headlands with gravel pocket beaches.

Comments: James Island State Park has four moorage buoys and 90 feet of moorage float.

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See Map 7

See Map 7



S T R A I T  
R O S A R I O

Photo 8  
Page 21

Photo 7  
Page 19

SAN JUAN ISLANDS  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

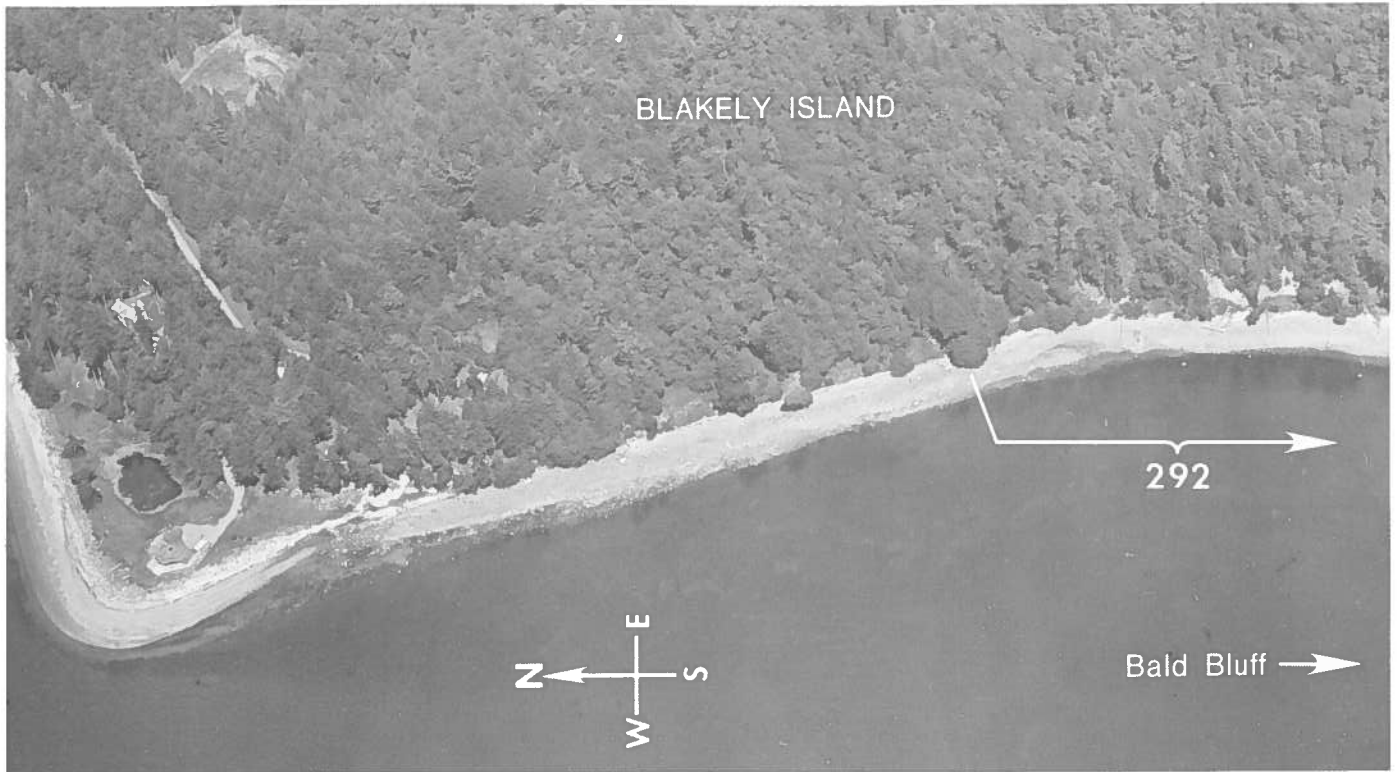
Black  
Rock  
SJINWR

Pointer  
Island  
SJINWR



See Map 4  
**Map 6 Blakely Island**

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation



**Photo 7 Beach 292 (North Boundary) Blakely Island**

- Blakely Island — Beach 290 — 27,935'**
- Armitage Island — Beach 290A — 2,284'**
- Blakely Island — Beach 291 — 11,283'**
- Blakely Island — Beach 292 — 7,649'**
- Blakely Island — Beach 292A — 2,121'**

**Access —** Boat only. There are no public upland accesses to the other beaches.

**Upper Boundary —** Mean high tide line (7.1 feet elevation).

**Beach Composition —**

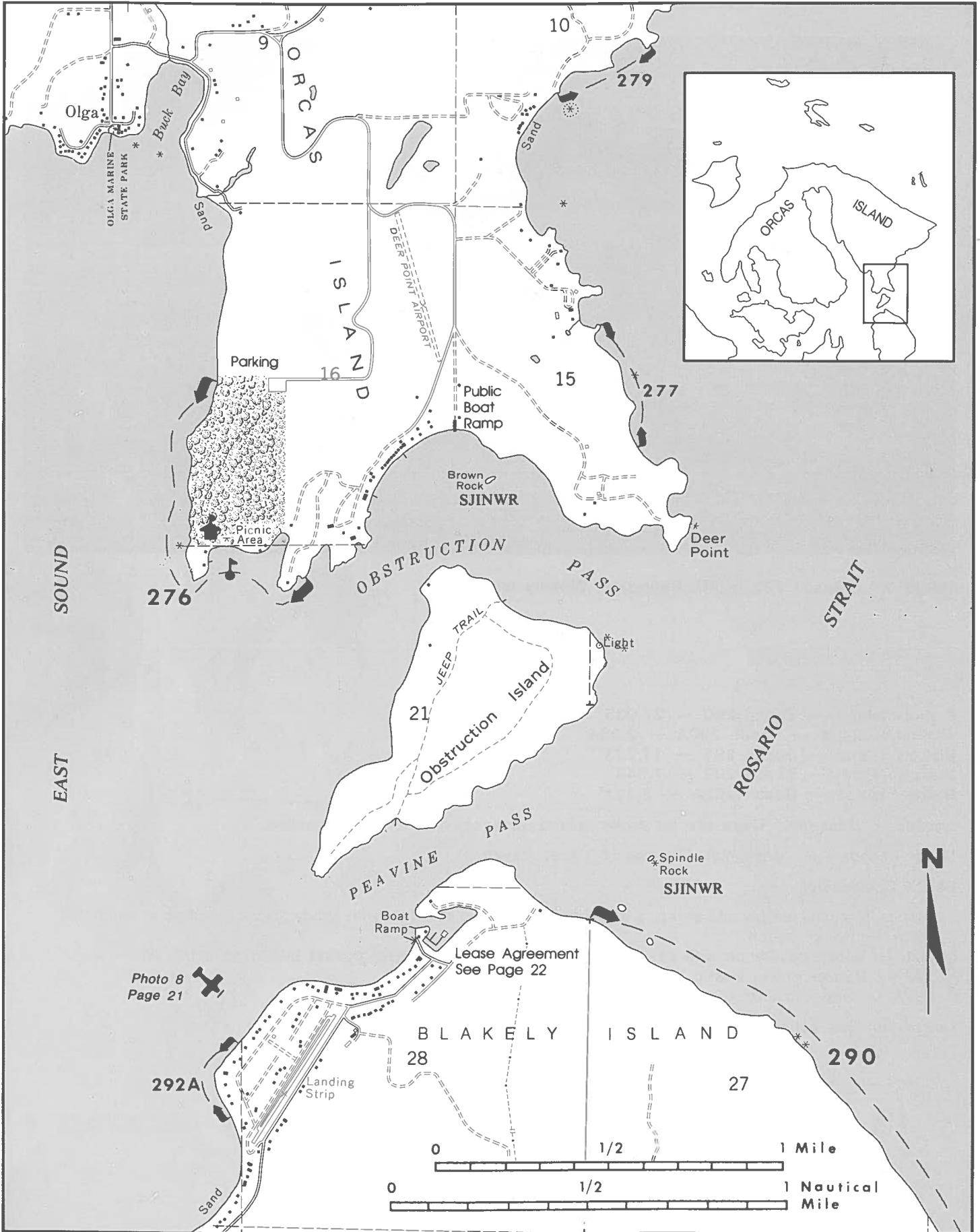
- 290 — Typically narrow and steep, a mixture of gravel and boulders with sandy gravel beaches at south end.
- 290A — Rocky beach.
- 291 — Rocky headlands with sand or cobble patches, pea gravel pocket beach on south end.
- 292 — Narrow gravel beach with rocky headlands.
- 292A — Gravel beach.

**Comments:** See public use lease agreement described on page 22.

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See Map 10

See Map 8

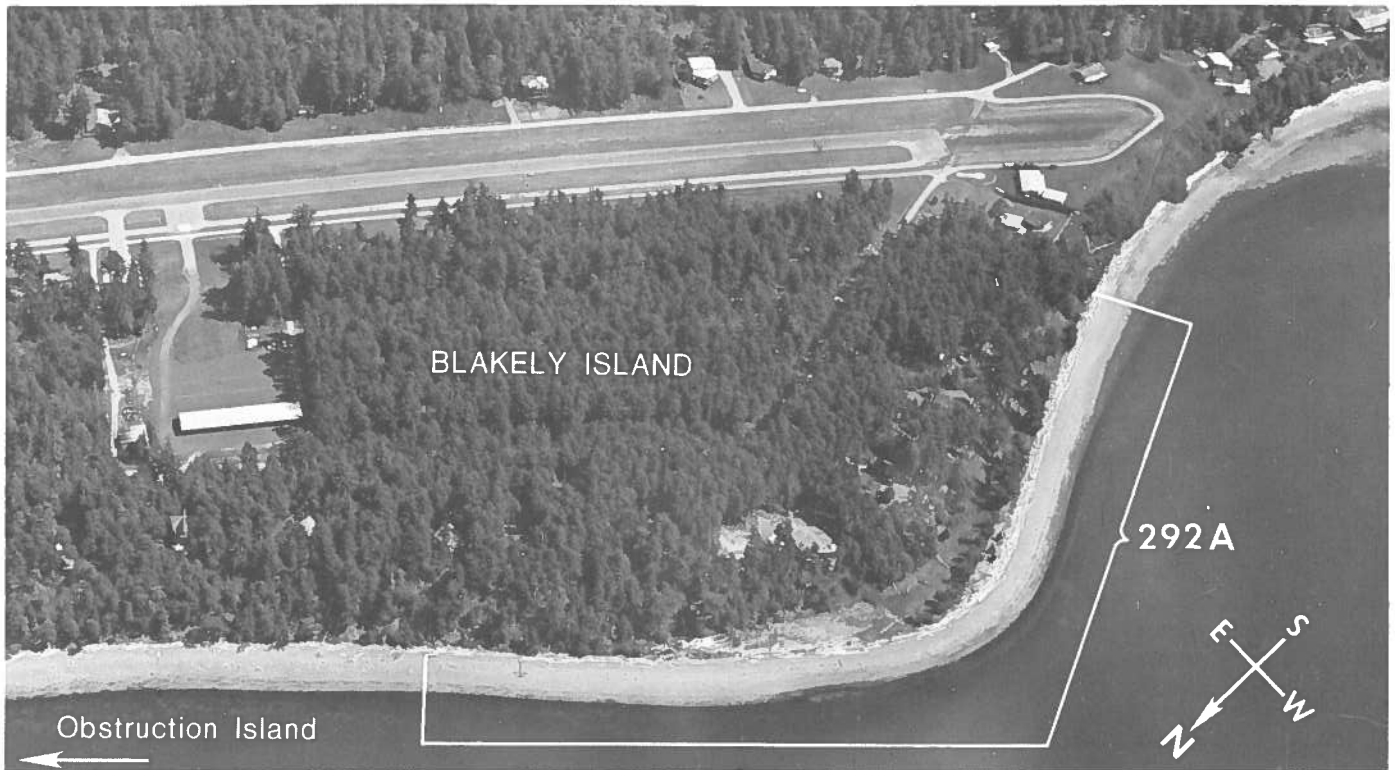


See Map 6

See Map 6

Map 7 Obstruction and Peavine Passes, Blakely and Orcas Islands

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation



**Photo 8 Beach 292A, Blakely Island**

**Obstruction Pass — Beach 276 — 6,941'**

**Deer Point — Beach 277 — 2,700'**

**Orcas Island — Beach 279 — 1,446'**

**Blakely Island — Beach 292A — 2,121'**

**Access —** Boat only except for 276. There are no public upland accesses to the other beaches. There is pedestrian access to 276 via Obstruction Pass Recreation Site.

**Upper Boundary —** Mean high tide (7.1 feet elevation).

**Beach Composition —**

276 — Gravel beach north end; rocky headlands and gravel pocket beaches south end.

277 — Narrow cobble beach with rocky headlands.

279 — Cobble, gravel pocket beaches with rocky headlands.

292A — Gravel beach.

**Comments:** Obstruction Pass Recreation Site has two moorage buoys, four camp sites, five picnic areas and two group picnic areas. Camp sites and picnic areas are 2,000 feet from the parking area.

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# LEASE AGREEMENT

The lease from the Department of Natural Resources for the marina on the north end of Blakely Island (Floyd O. Johnson, San Juan Aviation Estates) contains the following public use clauses.

## VI

*The lessee or the sublessees or their assigns shall make available to the extent now available public moorage on all replacement facilities. In the event such facilities are not replaced, lessees of the sublessees herein or their assigns shall permit public moorage of similar spaces on remaining facilities located on the leased area.*

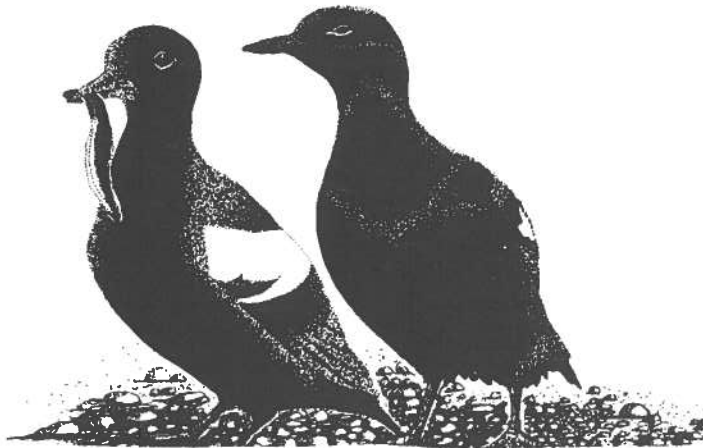
## VII

*The lessee or sublessees or their assigns shall be allowed to make reasonable rental charges for moorage to the members of the public.*

## VIII

*The lessee or sublessees herein or their assigns shall make available for public use during the term of the lease the existing shower and toilet facilities or their respective replacements, along with picnic tables, barbecue stoves, shuffleboard courts, laundromat and facilities for the purchase of gas and oil located in the marine area. Lessee or sublessees or their assigns shall be allowed to make reasonable charges for the use of such facilities by the public not to exceed the amounts charged to the various property owners of Blakely Island.*

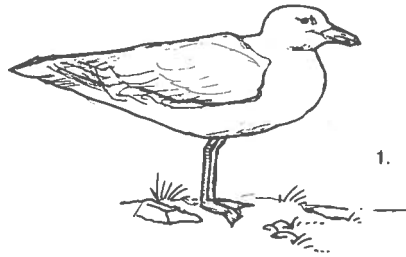
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**The information about wildlife is based on a publication by Katherine Hirsch, Washington State Department of Game.**

*During the winter months, Puget Sound is filled with birds which breed further north. They migrate to the Sound after nesting and stay to feed until the next spring. During the summer, the seabirds which breed in Washington, such as the pelagic cormorant, the pigeon guillemot and the tufted puffin display gaudy breeding plumage.*

*Marine birds are the most common wildlife encountered on Puget Sound waters. Seabirds are grouped into "families" described on the following pages.*



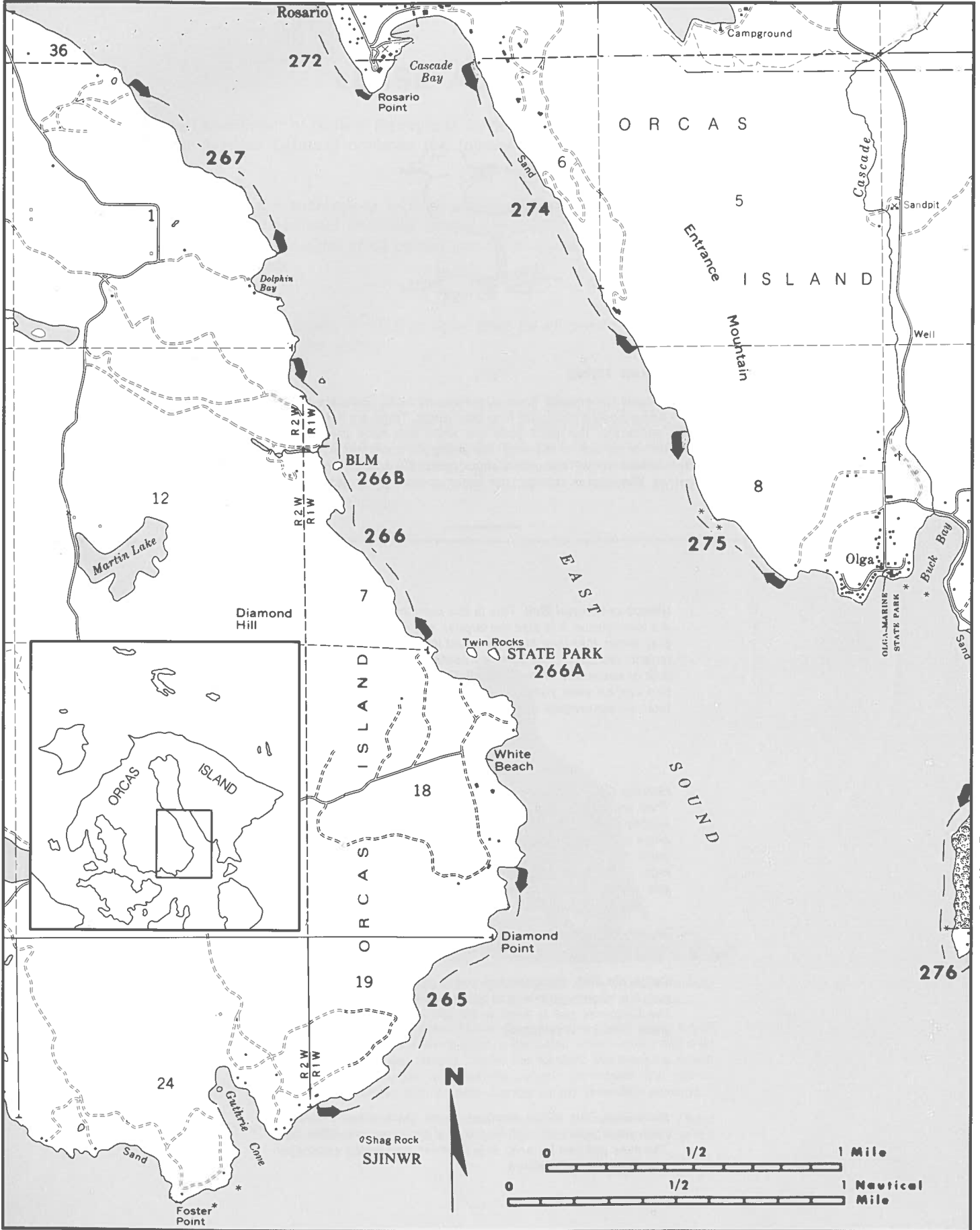
### **GULLS AND TERNS**

The "seagull" is actually several species of birds. Gulls are larger, more heavy bodied birds with long gray wings. Terns are light and fly more delicately. The adult gulls are white and have gray on the "mantle" or top part of the wing. The young are a mottled brown. It is often difficult to tell the gull species apart. Glaucous-winged gulls nest on Washington islands; the other species pass through.

- 
1. **Glaucous-Winged Gull.** This is the most common gull in western Washington. It is also the largest, and is distinguished by its gray wings that lack black tips and its yellow bill with characteristic red spot. This species nests in colonies. The nest is built of seaweeds on the ground. The chicks hatch in July. This bird can be seen year round, flying behind ferries, on the waters, or scavenging on the beach.
  2. **Herring Gull, Thayer's Gull.** These two gulls look much alike. They are smaller than a glaucous-winged. The Thayer's has a slightly darker gray mantle. It has larger white "windows" in the black wing tips than the herring gull. The black wing tips distinguish them from the previous species. They also have pink legs. These birds are mainly seen in Washington during the fall and winter, usually on open water, or at creek mouths.
  3. **California Gull.** Although this gull looks similar to the herring gull, it is slightly smaller and has greenish legs. It nests inland. The California gull is seen in the fall when large numbers migrate through Washington
  4. **Mew Gull.** This is the smallest of the "look alikes". It has a plain small yellow bill with no red spot and greenish-yellow legs. The mew gull can be seen in fall, winter, and spring along shallow bays and shorelines.

See Map 9

See Map 9



See Map 7

See Map 7

See Map 20

See Map 21

Map 8 East Sound (South) Orcas Island

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation

Diamond Point — Beach 265 — 6,685'  
East Sound — Beach 266 — 6,155'  
Twin Rocks — Beach 266A — 300'  
Unnamed Isle — Beach 266B — 100'  
East Sound — Beach 267 — 5,024'  
East Sound — Beach 274 — 6,142'  
East Sound — Beach 275 — 3,786'

Access — Boat only. There are no public upland accesses to these beaches.

Upper Boundary — Mean high tide line (7.3 feet elevation).

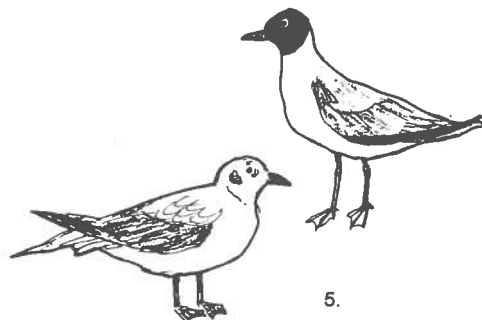
Beach Composition —

265 — Rocky headlands with large gravel pockets on beach.

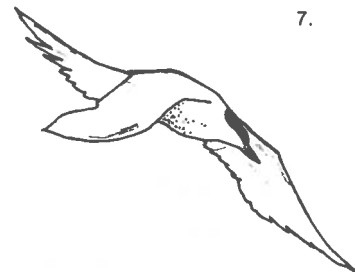
All remaining tidelands are rocky with narrow boulder and pea gravel beaches.

Comments: Twin Rocks are managed by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. Isle in center of Beach 266 is public land belonging to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

- 
5. **Bonaparte's Gull.** A small gull, delicate and tern-like, it is identified by the V pattern on back and wings. In breeding plumage it has a black head, in winter a white head with a dot near each eye. It makes a chattering call. This bird can often be seen pattering in the shallows, stirring invertebrates to feed on. It is most common in the fall.

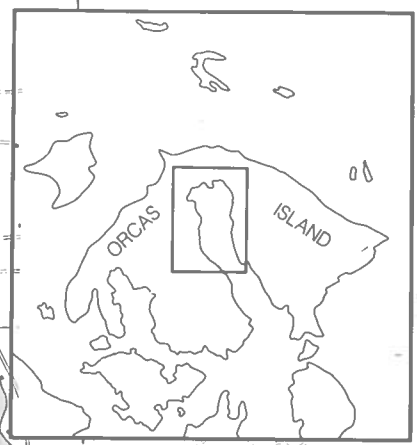
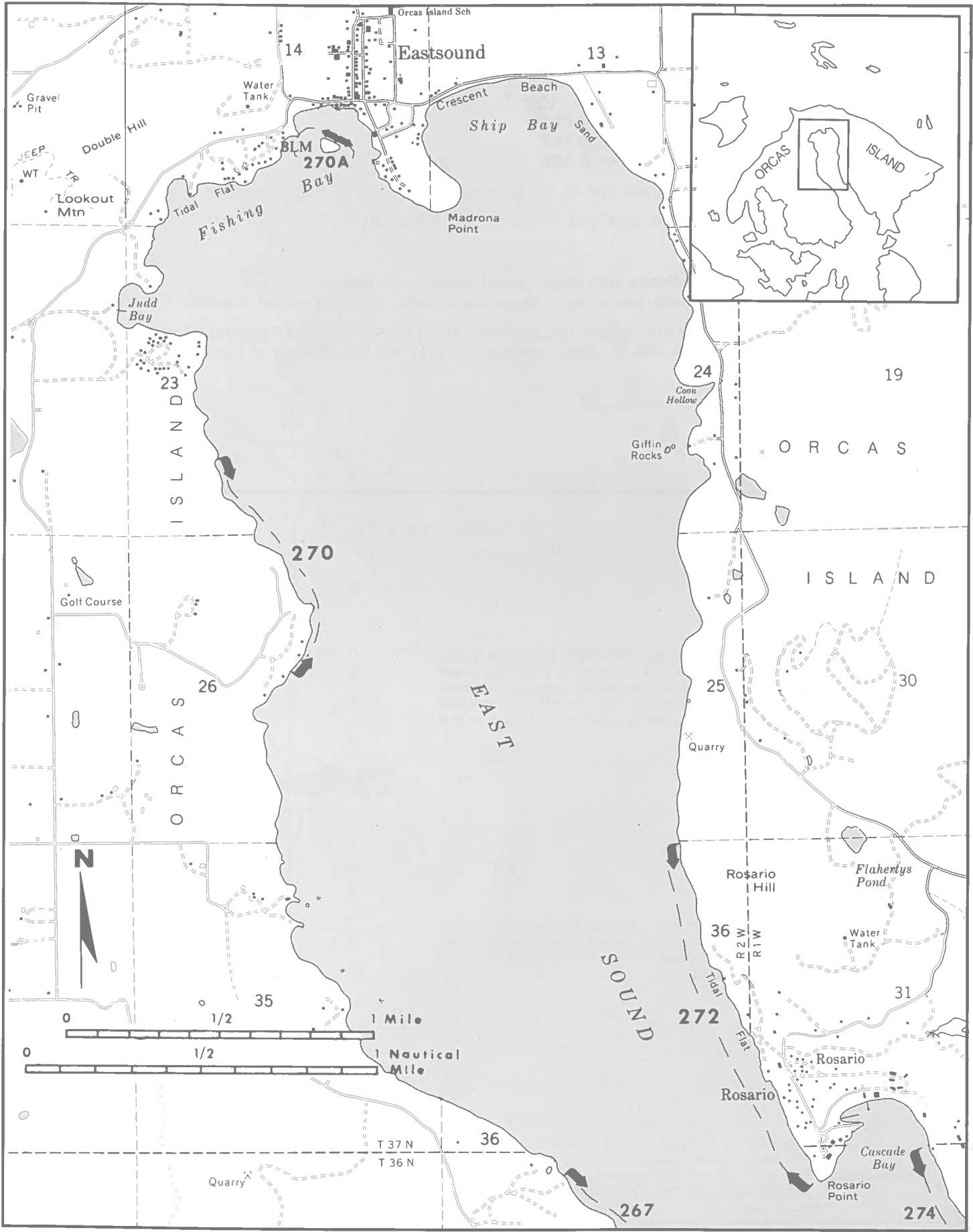


6. **Heermann's Gull.** The adult is gray and has a bright red bill. This bird breeds in Mexico and travels to the northwest in the summer and fall. The young lack a red bill and must be distinguished in other ways.



7. **Common Terns.** This bird is small and delicate. It has long slender wings, red feet and bill, and a deeply forked tail. On top its head is a black cap. The immature bird has an almost black bill and lacks the black cap. These birds feed by dipping their heads into water, and are seen in flocks, gathered in tide rips or roosting on log booms throughout the fall.

See Map 13



See Map 8

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation

Map 9 East Sound (North) Orcas Island

**East Sound — Beach 270 — 4,790'**  
**Fishing Bay — Beach 270A — 1,240'**  
**Rosario — Beach 272 — 4,999'**

Access — Boat only. There is no public upland access to these beaches.

Upper Boundary — Mean high tide line (7.3 feet elevation).

Beach Composition —

270 and 272 — Rocky with small sand or gravel pocket beaches.

270A — Sand or gravel beach with scattered boulders.

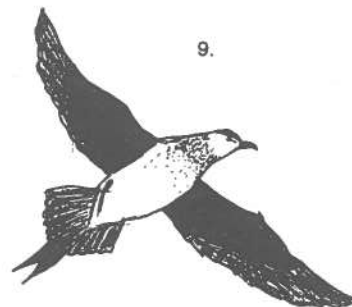
Comments: Beach 270A is owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and is open for public use.

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8. **Caspian Tern.** With its proud stance and large size, this tern is one of the most impressive seabirds. It has recently become common in Washington and nests in Grays Harbor. Its hoarse call can be heard as it flies overhead.

9. **Parasitic Jaeger.** The pointed tail feathers of this jaeger, and its behavior of robbing prey from other birds distinguish this bird from a gull. An Arctic breeder, it passes Washington coasts in spring and fall, and occasionally strays into Puget Sound. The pomarine jaeger, long-tailed jaeger and skua are also seen occasionally.

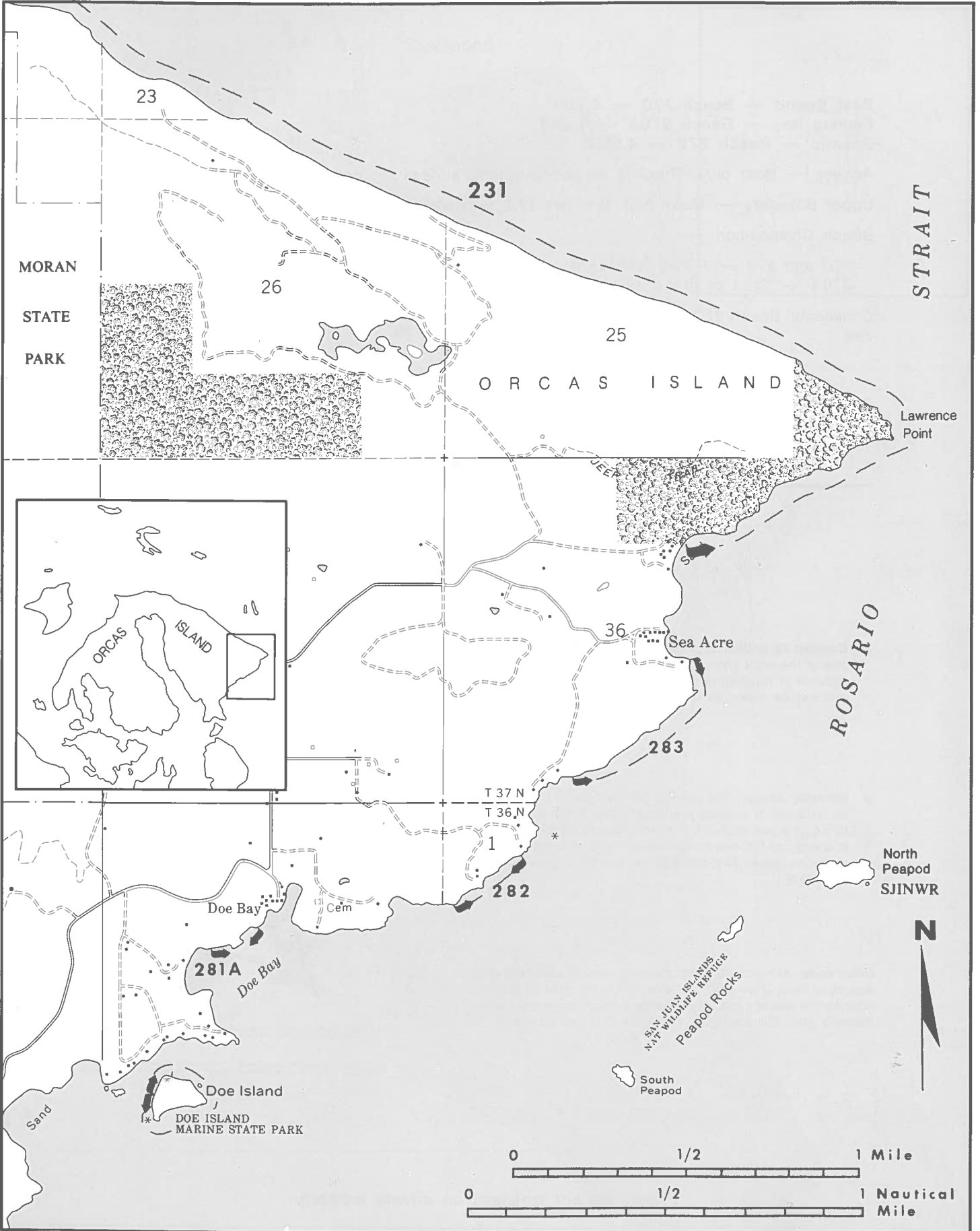
**Other Gulls.** Although the most common marine gulls have been described here, there are other less commonly spotted species. Look for the western gull, ring-billed gull, black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's gull, Glaucous gull, Franklin's gull and little gull.



**Please do not trespass on private property**

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See Map 11



See Map 7

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation

Map 10 Lawrence Point, Orcas Island

Point Lawrence — Beach 231 — 26,386'  
Doe Bay — Beach 218A — 1,509  
Orcas Island — Beach 282 — 1,694'  
Orcas Island — Beach 283 — 3,907'

Access — Boat only. There are no public upland accesses to these beaches.

Upper Boundary — Mean high tide line (7.3 feet elevation).

231 — North of Point Lawrence, steep rubble beach. South of Point Lawrence, pocket beaches — upper beach sand or gravel, outer beach rocky.

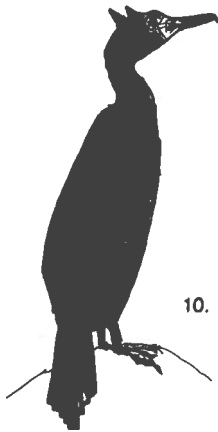
281A, 282 and 283 — Rocky with patches of gravel and pea gravel. A few pocket beaches, rocks and boulders are common.

Comments — Doe Island State Park has 60 feet of moorage float space.

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#### **CORMORANTS**

*These gawky black birds are commonly seen on water and pilings drying their wings. They are large birds with long necks and wings. Year-round residents, they nest on islands. During the winter they remain in Puget Sound, diving for fish.*



10. **Double-Crested Cormorant.** *This largest of cormorants has a yellow bill and gular neck pouch. It is larger and has a thicker neck than the other cormorants. Although it also nests inland, it is a common year round resident of Puget Sound.*

11. **Brandt's Cormorant.** *This bird is difficult to distinguish. During the spring and summer it has a dark throat pouch. This bird is more likely to be seen in northern Puget Sound.*

12. **Pelagic Cormorant.** *The pelagic cormorant is the smallest cormorant. It has a slender bill. During the spring and summer it has white flank patches and a red gular pouch. This bird is another year-round resident of inland waters.*



**Barnes Island — Beach 229 — 6,457'**  
**Clark Island — Beach 230 — 11,556'**  
**Point Lawrence — Beach 231 — 26,386'**

Access — Boat only. There are no public upland accesses to these beaches.

Upper Boundary — Mean high tide line (7.8 feet elevation).

Beach Composition —

229 and 230 — Rocky ledge with sand or gravel beaches.

231 — North of Point Lawrence, steep rubble beach. South of Point Lawrence, pocket beaches — Upper beach sand or gravel, outer beach rocky.

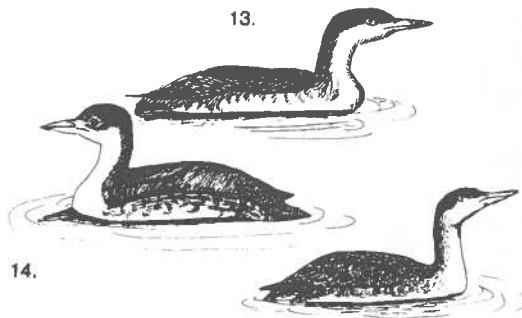
Comments: Clark Island State Park has nine mooring buoys.

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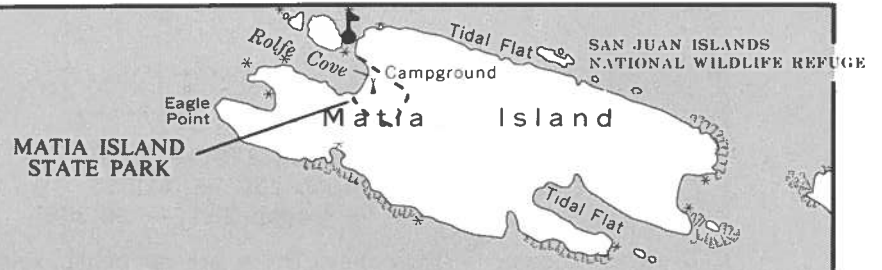
## LOONS

*Three species of loons frequent Washington's marine waters. Two of the loon species breed in the Arctic and one in the boreal forest. Loons have low squat forms, short thick necks and pointed narrow bills. They are known for their diving skills.*

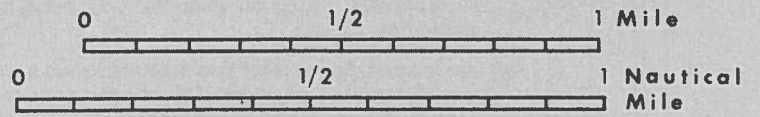
13. **Common Loon.** *The cry of this largest loon haunts winter mornings. In the summer it has a necklace, and striking white and black plumage. During the winter it is gray, but can still be recognized by its size.*
14. **Arctic Loon.** *This smaller loon is distinguished by its small narrow bill and plain gray back. This species dives for fish and is seen in the deeper bays and passages during the winter.*



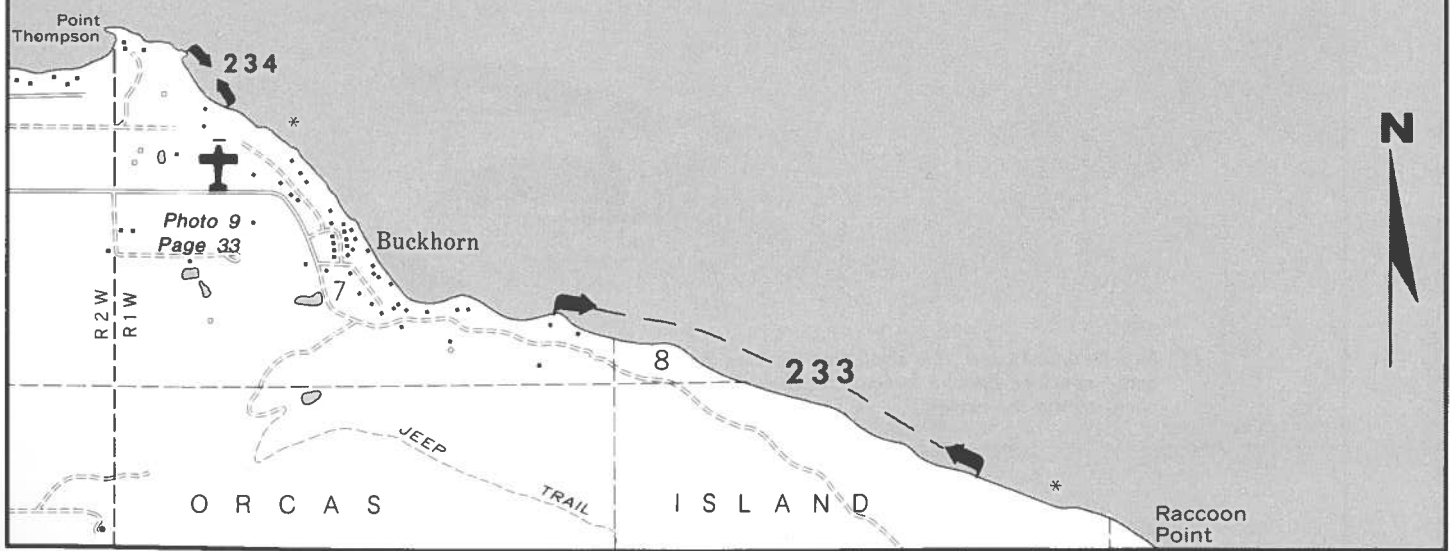
15. **Red-Throated Loon.** *This small gray loon has an up-turned bill and a speckled back. It is commonly seen in kelp beds near shore during the winter.*



# STRAIT OF GEORGIA



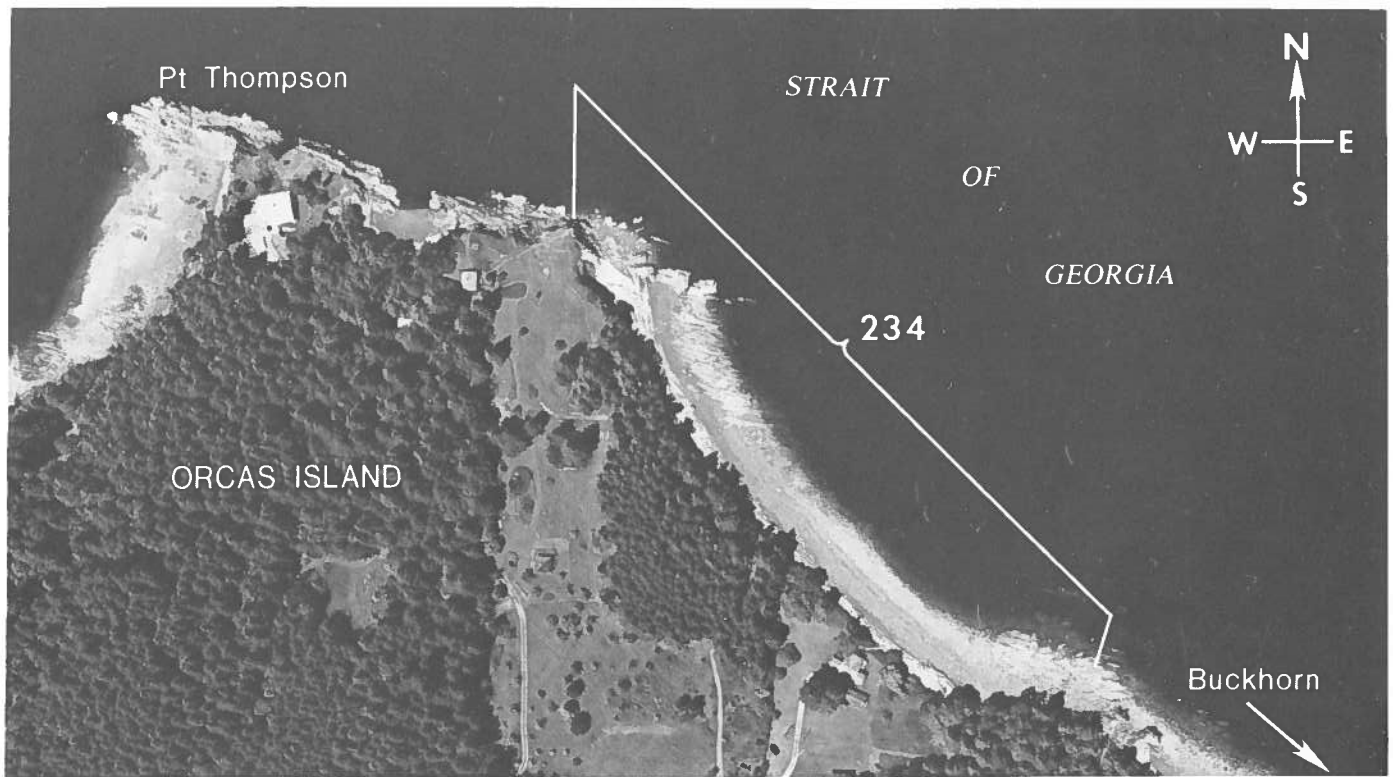
See Map 13



See Map 11

### Map 12 Matia Island

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation



**Photo 9 Beach 234, Point Thompson, Orcas Island**

**Raccoon Point — Beach 233 — 7,077'**  
**Point Thompson — Beach 234 — 1,213'**  
**Matia Island State Park — 350'**

**Access —** Boat only. There are no public upland accesses to these beaches.

**Upper Boundary —** Mean high tide line (7.1 feet elevation).

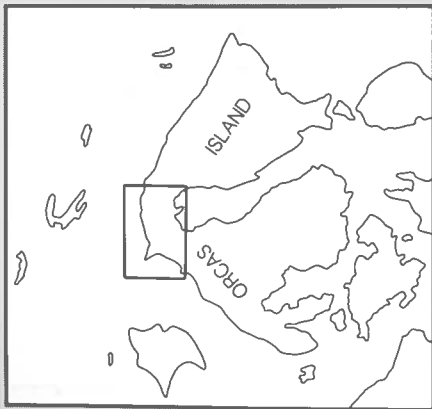
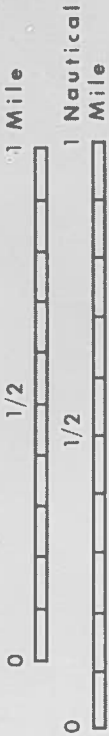
**Beach Composition —**

233 and 234 — Exposed rocky ledge with patches of sand or gravel.

**Comments:** Matia Island State Park — a small portion of Matia Island is leased from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. The 350 feet of beach and the leased area are open to the public. The remaining portions of the island beaches are closed to the public to protect eagle nesting areas. Matia Island State Park has two anchor buoys and 90 feet of moorage float.

*Please do not trespass on private property*

Parker Reef Light  
SAN JUAN ISLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



STRAIT OF GEORGIA

Terrill Beach

12

11

10

North Beach

236

Point Doughty

Campground

Camp Orkila

238A  
FREEMAN ISLAND STATE PARK

Photo 10  
Page 35

238

Beach Haven

16

ISLAND

Eastsound

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ORCAS

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Beach Haven

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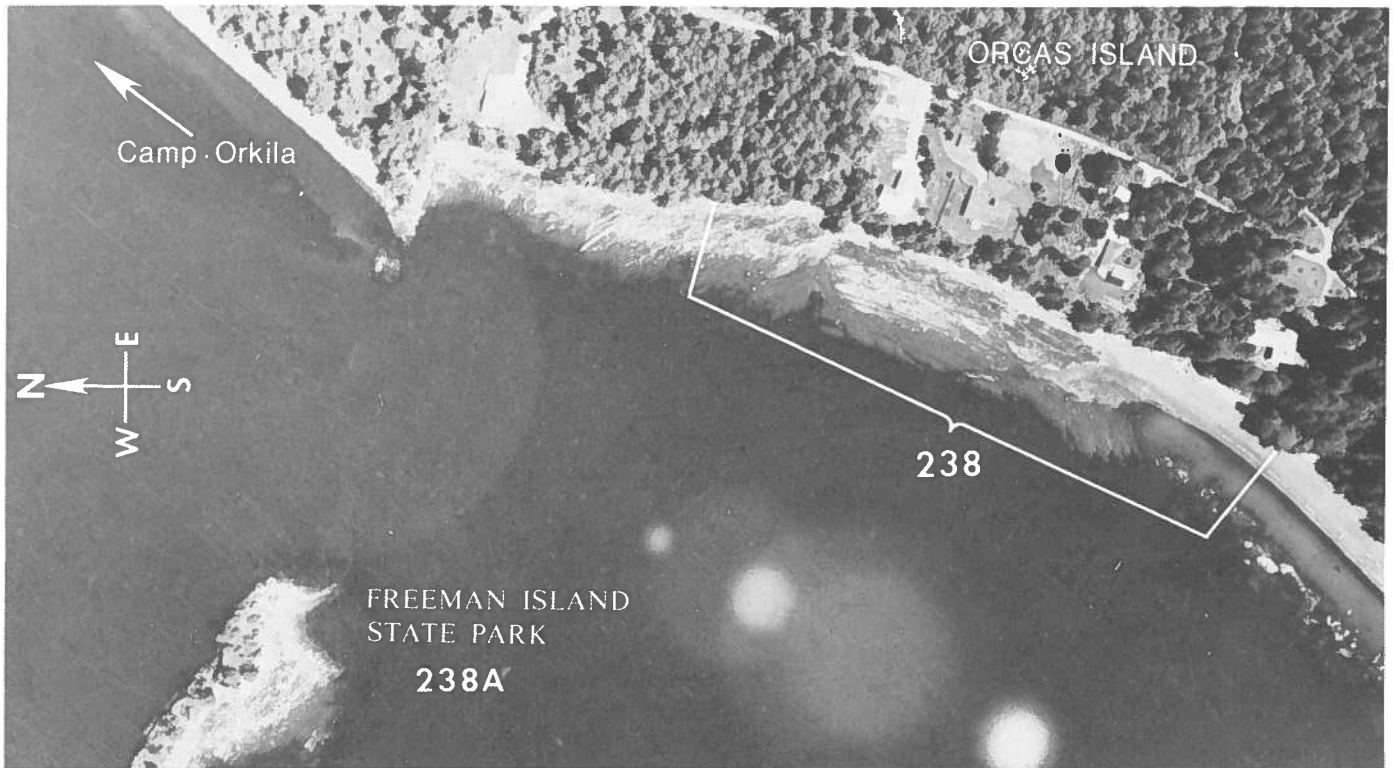
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**Photo 10 Beaches 238 and 238A — Freeman Island State Park, Orcas Island**

- Point Doughty — Beach 236 — 8,256'**
- Beach Haven — Beach 238 — 1,201'**
- Freeman Island — Beach 238A — 897'**
- Fishing Bay — Beach 270A — 1,240'**

**Access —** Boat only. There are no public upland accesses to these beaches.

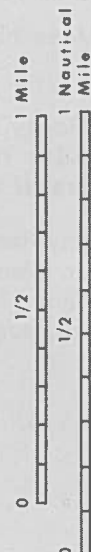
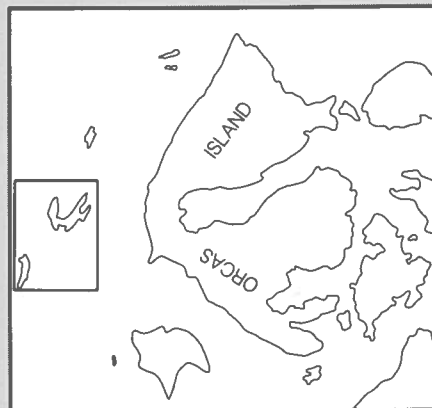
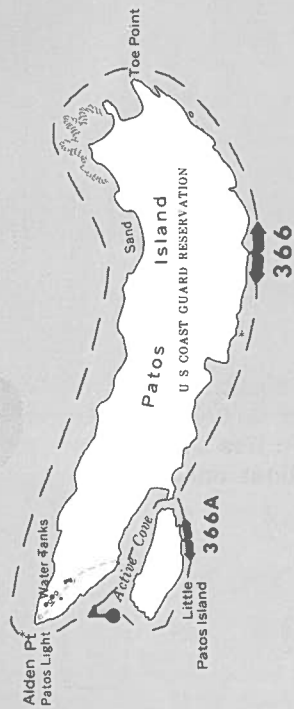
**Upper Boundary —** Mean high tide line (7.8 elevation).

**Beach Composition —**

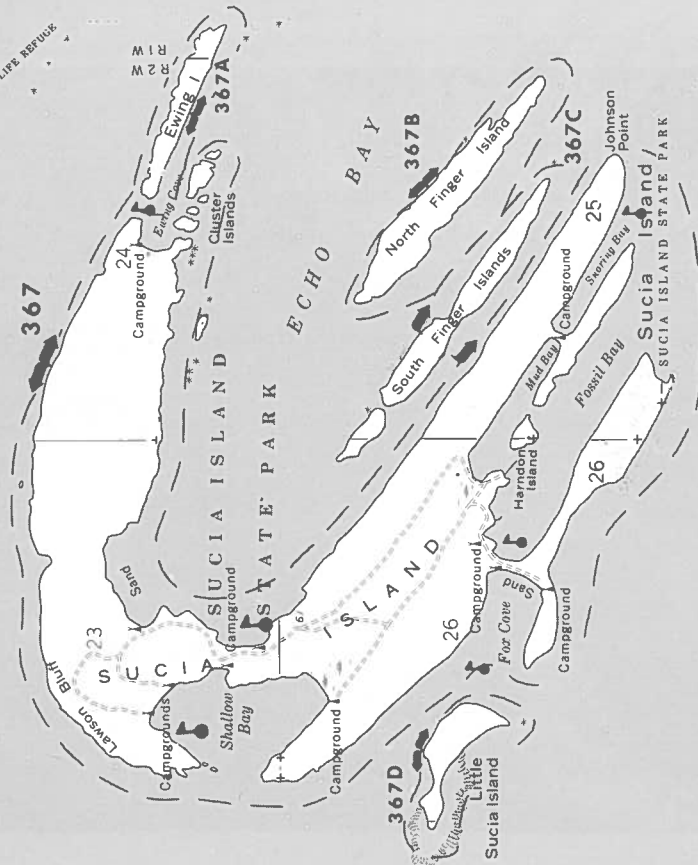
- 236 and 238A — Rocky headlands and ledge with some cobble beach.
- 238 — Northern half is rocky shelf. Southern half is pea gravel beach.
- 270A — Sand or gravel beach with scattered boulders.

**Comments:** Point Doughty Recreation Site is accessible only from the water. There are picnic and camping sites. Freeman Island State Park does not have any mooring facilities. Beach 270A is owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and is open for public use. **DANGER: Use extreme caution when approaching Point Doughty. Recommend landing in small boat only.**

# STRAIT OF GEORGIA



SAN MARY ISLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE RESERVE  
Clements Reef



See Map 13

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation

**Patos Island — Beach 366 — 17,886'**  
**Little Patos Island — Beach 366A — 3,234'**  
**Sucia Island — Beach 367 — 56,538'**  
**Ewing Island — Beach 367A — 5,412'**  
**North Finger Island — Beach 367B — 8,712'**  
**South Finger Island — Beach 367C — 8,375'**  
**Little Sucia Island — Beach 367D — 4,930'**

Access — Boat only. There are no public upland accesses to these beaches.

Upper Boundary — Mean high tide line (7.8 feet elevation).

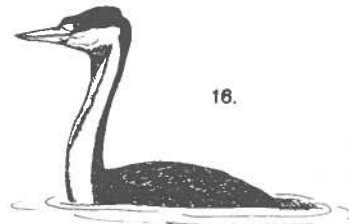
Beach Composition — Rocky ledge and headlands with numerous protected sand and gravel pocket beaches.

Comments: Both Sucia and Patos are managed by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. There are 48 mooring buoys scattered around Sucia Island and one off Patos Island.

#### GREBES

*This group of birds breed inland but live in a sheltered marine environment during winter. These prairie birds spend winter months diving for fish and invertebrates. They can be recognized by their long necks, short bodies and pointed beaks. The winter and spring plumages vary. The winter plumages are shown here.*

16. **Western Grebe.** The sight of this largest grebe, with its long white neck is spectacular. This species moves in large flocks. Hundreds can be seen in Bellingham Bay and other deeper Puget Sound bays. Their exotic and elaborate mating dance involves bending, pattering and arching.



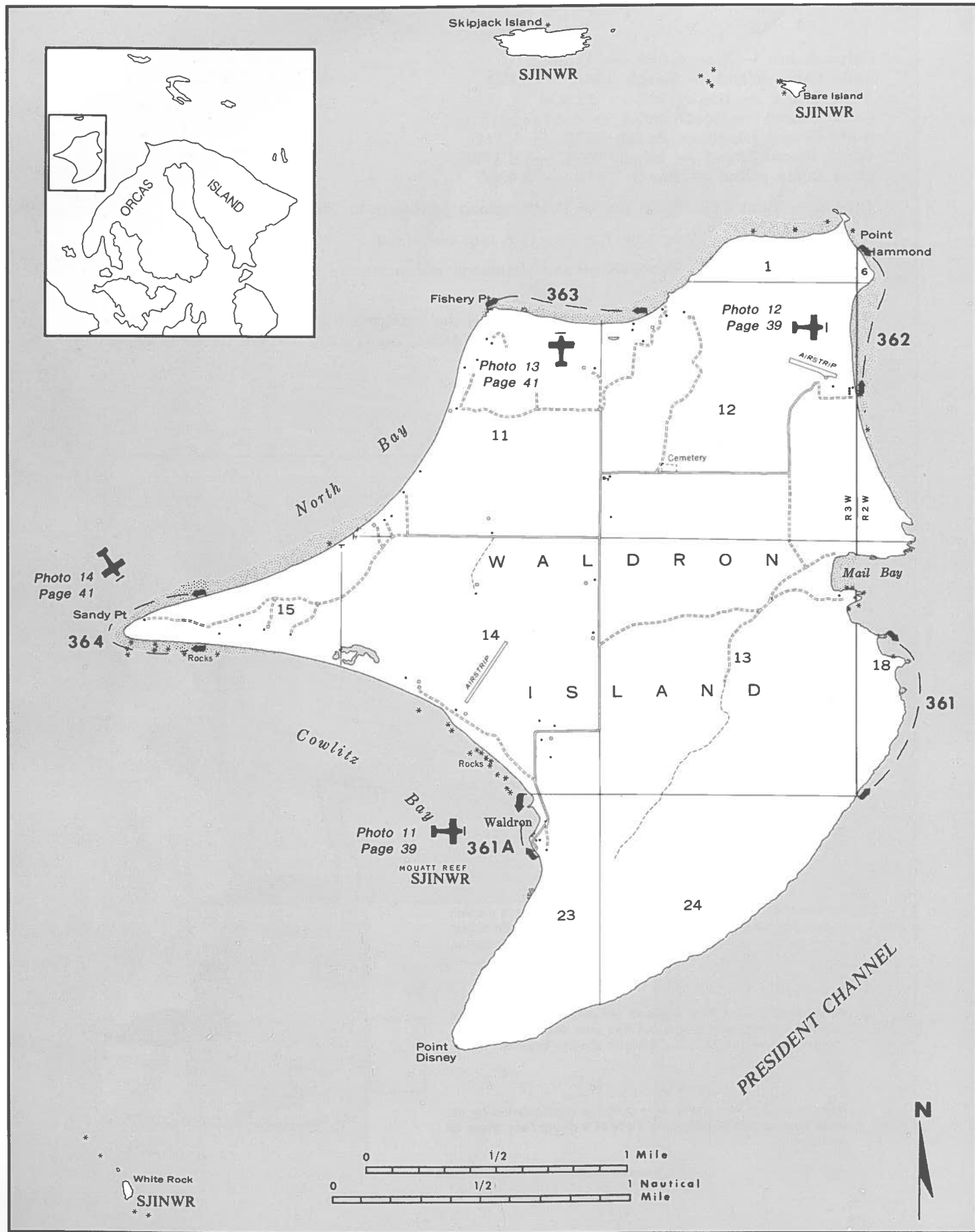
17. **Red-Necked Grebe.** The second largest grebe has a distinct helmet-like head shape. Its necks often retains a shade of red. It can be seen diving along bays and shorelines during winter.



18. **Eared Grebe.** This little grebe is not pictured here. It looks much like the horned grebe, but has less white on the face. Occasionally it can be seen diving in shallow brackish water.

19. **Horned Grebe.** This plump little grebe is distinguished by its white head and gray body. The sight of it diving near shore is common.

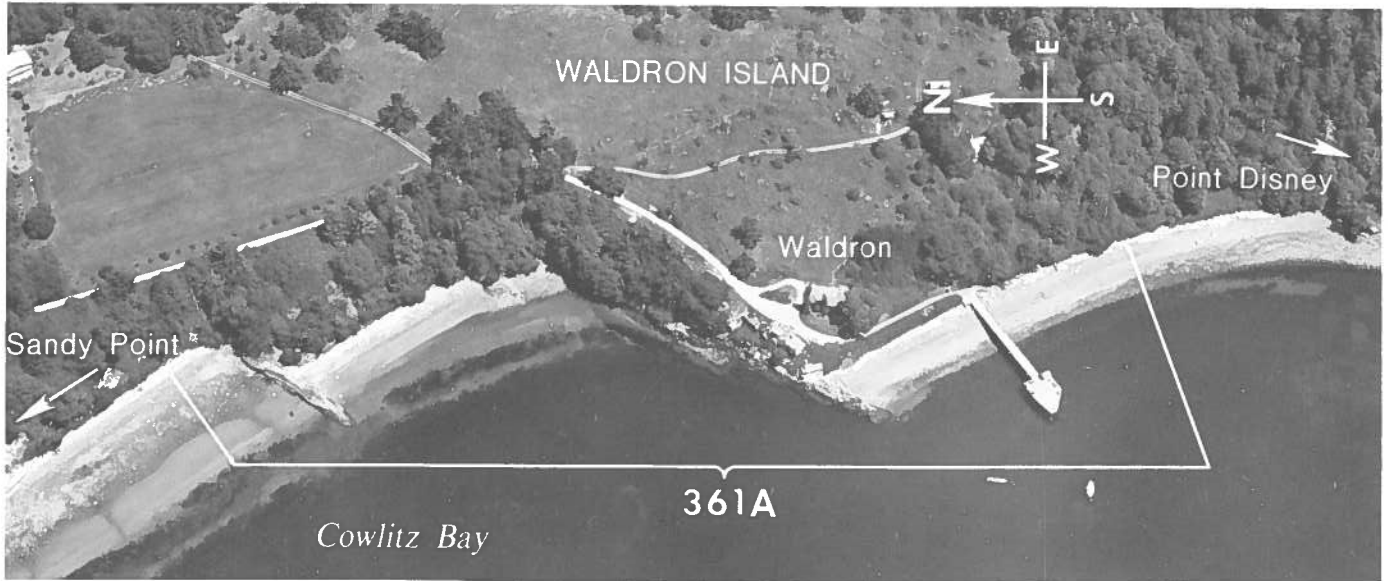




Map 15A Waldron Island

See Map 16

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation



**Photo 11 Beach 361A, County Dock, Cowlitz Bay, Waldron Island**

- Waldron Island — Beach 361 — 4,950'
- Waldron — Beach 361A — 1,467'
- Point Hammond — Beach 362 — 3,218'
- Fishing Point — Beach 363 — 4,422'
- Sandy Point — Beach 364 — 2,640'

Access — Except for 361A, there are no public upland accesses to these beaches.

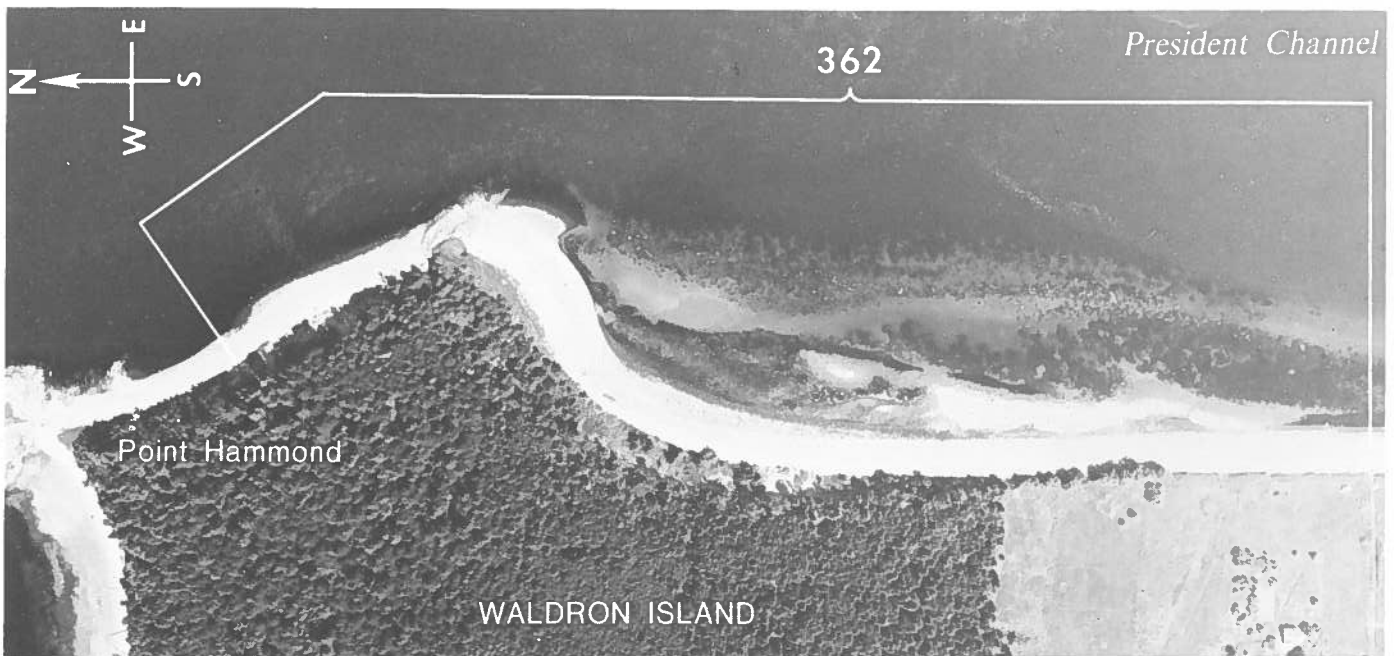
Upper Boundary — Mean high tide line (7.8 feet elevation).

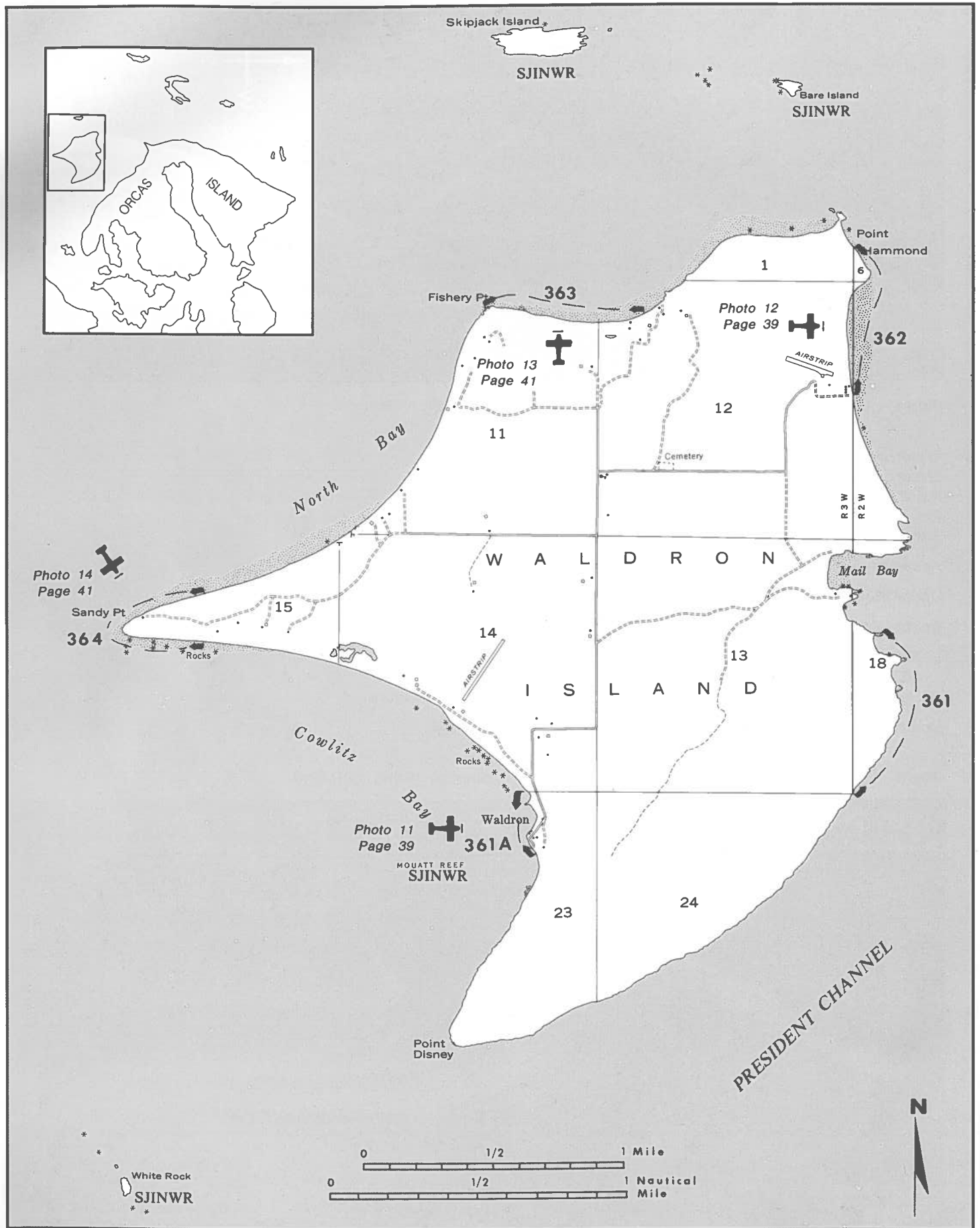
Beach Composition —

- 361 — Narrow rubble beach with some gravel areas.
- 361A — Gravel beach with rock ledge in center.
- Remaining beaches have sand and gravel with scattered boulders.

Comments: 361A — the dock is owned by San Juan County.

**Photo 12 Beach 362 (North Boundary), Point Hammond, Waldron Island**

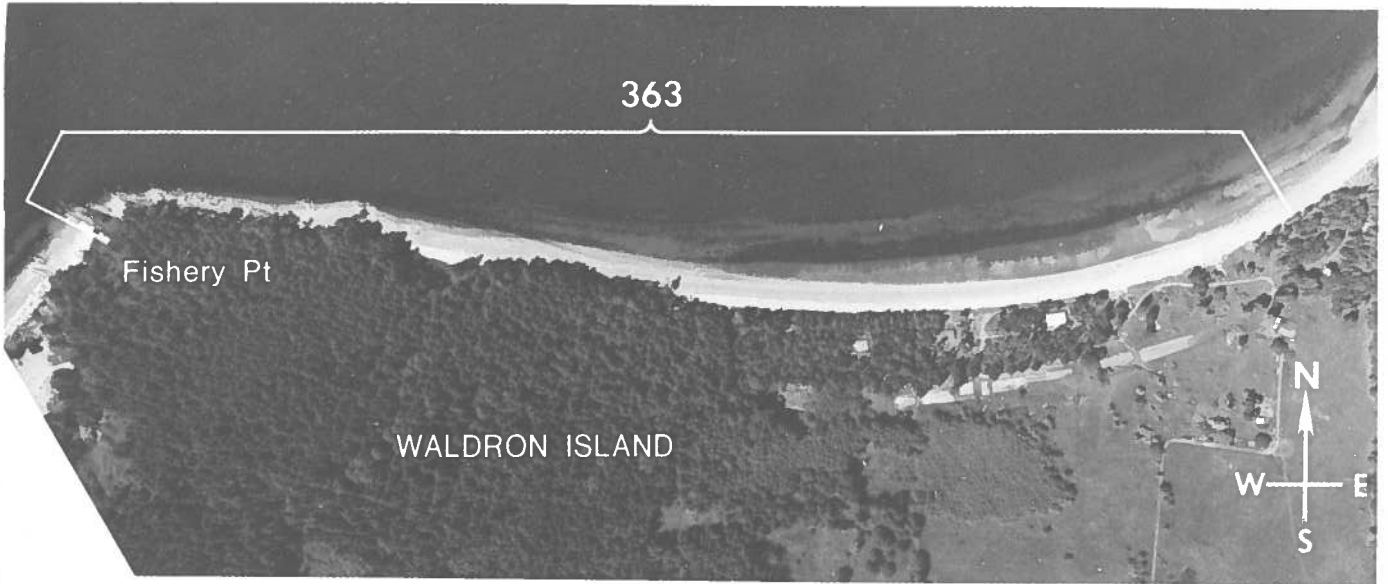




See Map 16

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation

Map 15B Waldron Island



**Photo 13 Beach 363, Fishery Point, Waldron Island**

- Waldron Island — Beach 361 — 4,950'**
- Waldron — Beach 361A — 1,467'**
- Point Hammond — Beach 362 — 3,218'**
- Fishing Point — Beach 363 — 4,422'**
- Sandy Point — Beach 364 — 2,640'**

Access — Except for 361A, there is no public upland access to these beaches.

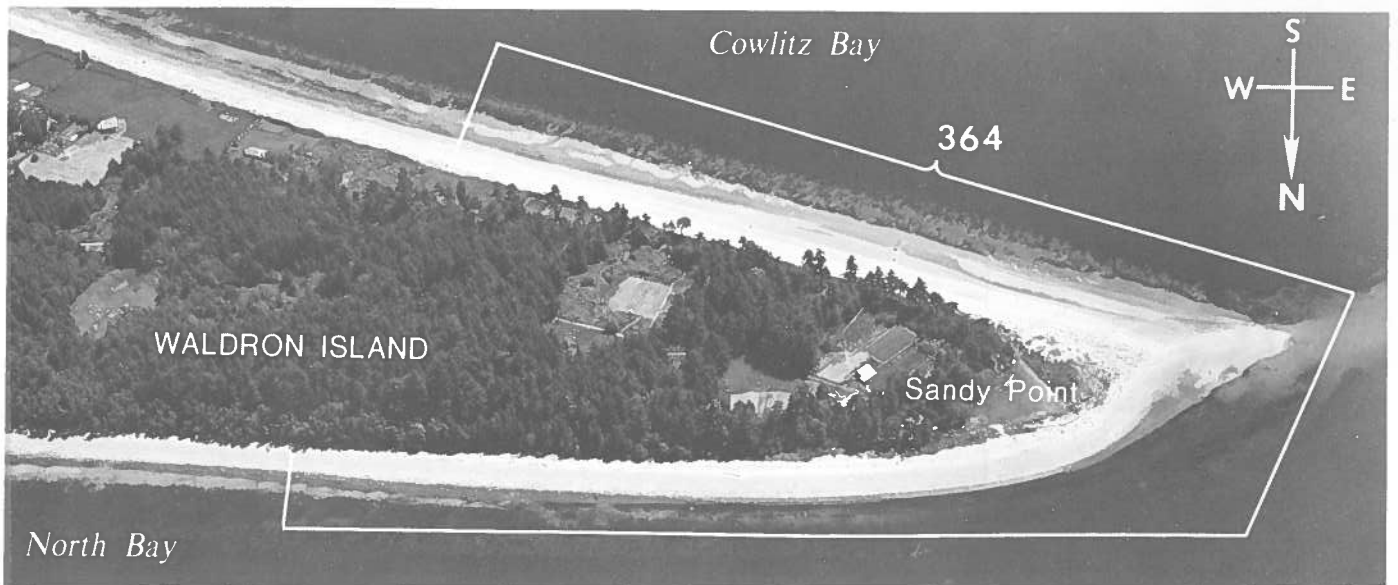
Upper Boundary — Mean high tide line (7.8 feet elevation).

Beach Composition —

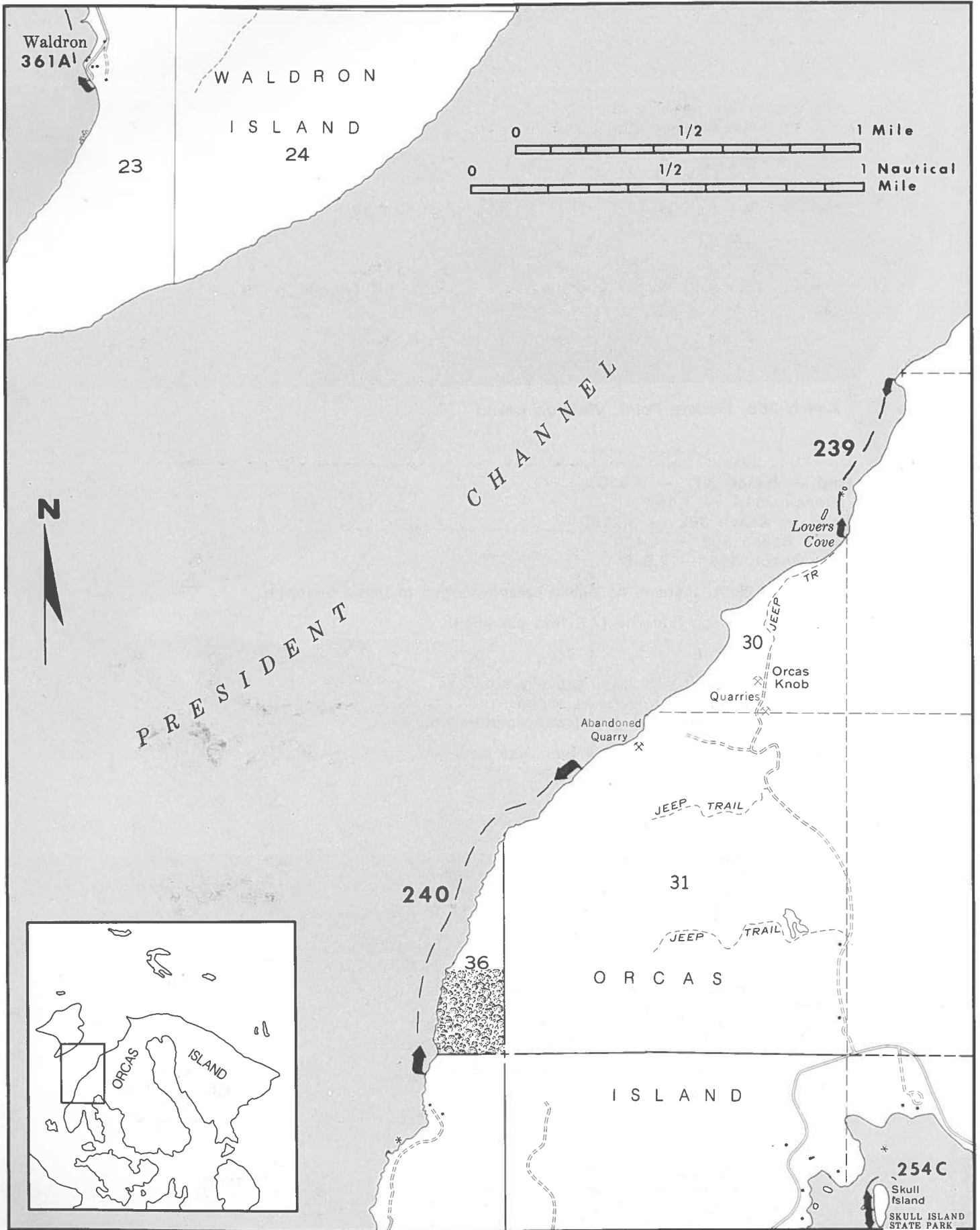
- 361 — Narrow rubble beach with some gravelly areas.
- 361A — Gravel beach with rock ledge in center.
- Remaining beaches have sand and gravel with scattered boulders.

Comments: 361A — the dock is owned by San Juan County.

**Photo 14 Beach 364, Sandy Point, Waldron Island**



See Map 15 A or B



See Map 17

See Map 19

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation

Map 16 President Channel, Orcas and Waldron Islands

Lover's Cove — Beach 239 — 2,772'  
President's Channel — Beach 240 — 6,448'  
Waldron — Beach 361A — 1,467'

Access — Except for 361A, there are no public upland accesses to these beaches.

Upper Boundary — Mean high tide line (7.0 feet elevation).

Beach Composition —

239 — Sand and gravel beaches separated by rock ledge.

240 — Rock ledge with two or three small pockets of sand or gravel.

361A — Gravel beach with rock ledge in center.

Comments: 361A — the dock is owned by San Juan County.

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#### ALCIDS OR AUKS

*These stubby and round seabirds spend most of the year far out to sea. They breed mainly on islands. These diving birds are counterparts of penguins. They use their wings for flying underwater.*

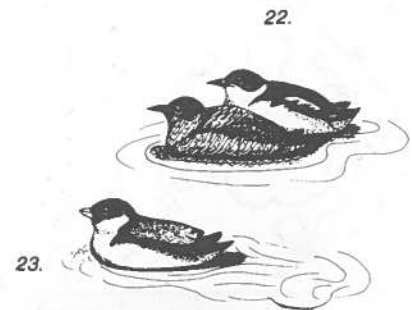
20. **Common Murre.** *During the summer, the murre has a white belly and a black head. It is similar in size to a loon, but has a shorter neck. During the winter, the murre retains the black back but gains white on the cheek. These birds are seen in large numbers in the Strait of Juan de Fuca in the fall, or can be seen diving during the winter in northern Puget Sound deeper waters. They nest on islands off the outer coast during the summer.*



21. **Pigeon Gullemot.** *This common bird is distinguished in summer by its red legs, black plumage and white wing patches. In winter they are a blotchy white. This little alcid is less seaworthy and stays near land most of the time. It nests in cliff crevices along Puget Sound, and is a year round resident.*



22. **Marbled Murrelet.** *There is a mystery surrounding this little murrelet. Only a few nests of this species have been found; some high in Douglas firs, and others on the ground. Although it is commonly seen in summer, no nest has been found in Washington due to its nocturnal habits. In the summer it is a mottled brown, and during the winter it is white and black, resembling a miniature murre.*



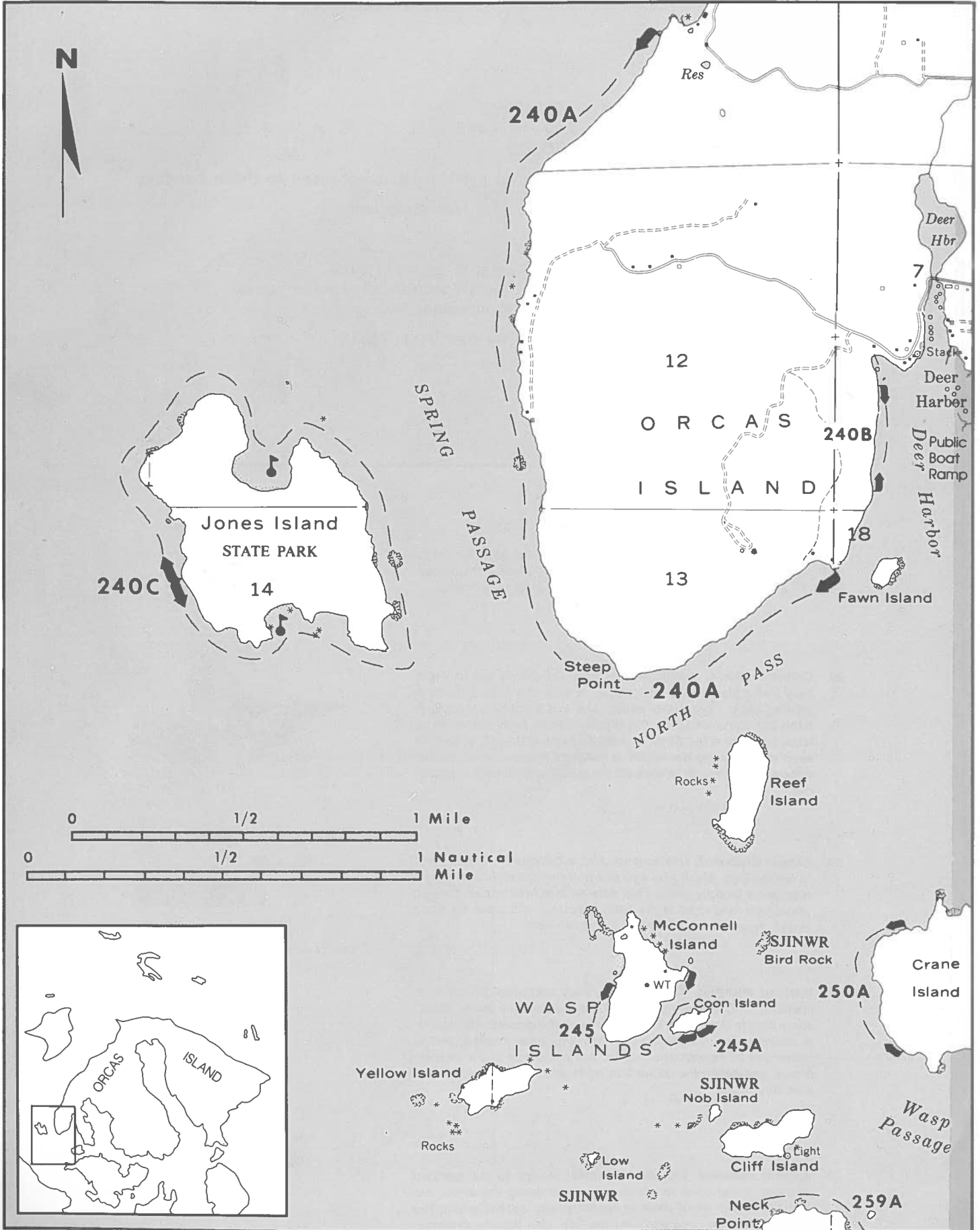
23. **Ancient Murrelet.** *This bird is similar in size to the marbled murrelet. It was once an uncommon visitor during the winter, but has been seen more often in recent years, particularly in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and near the San Juan Islands. In winter, its gray back separates it from the marbled murrelet.*



See Map 16



See Map 27



See Map 19

See Map 18

See Map 18

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation

Map 17 Jones Island State Park

Spring Passage/North Pass — Beach 240A — 15,813'  
 Deer Harbor — Beach 240B — 2,490'  
 Jones Island — Beach 240C — 16,368'  
 McConnell Island — Beach 245 — 2,066'  
 Coon Island — Beach 245A — 1,891'  
 Crane Island — Beach 250A — 3,933'

Access — Boat only. There are no public upland accesses to these beaches.

Upper Boundary — Mean high tide line (7.0 feet elevation).

Beach Composition — All areas except 240B consist of rocky headlands and reefs with sand or gravel pocket beaches. The best pocket beaches are on Jones and Coon Islands.

240B — Narrow rubble beach.

Comments: Jones Island State Park has two moorage buoys and 276 feet of moorage float space.

24. **Rhinoceros Auklet.** This auklet is actually more like a puffin. It is larger than a murrelet, and is distinguished by the horn-like projection on its yellow bill and its white plumes. Approximately 17,000 pairs of auklets nest on Protection Island in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Since these birds only go to their colony at night, they can only be seen during the day feeding near San Juan Island, Port Angeles and Admiralty Inlet. Although most common in spring and summer, some can be occasionally spotted during winter.



25. **Tufted Puffin.** This largest of alcids in the clown, aptly endowed with ornate plumes and a decorative orange and red bill during breeding seasons. A few nest on Protection Island, but it is more common on the outer coast.



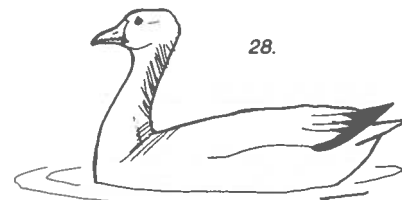
#### DUCKS, SWANS AND GEESE

Puget Sound abounds with ducks, swans and geese. They stay mainly in the shallow water, feeding on aquatic plants and animals. Their webbed feet and specialized bills help them feed in the marine environment. Dabbling ducks (those that dabble rather than dive) prefer shallow estuarine environments. Diving ducks prefer a little deeper water and are seen in bays, channels and along most shorelines. Goldeneye, scaup and bufflehead are shallow water divers, while scoters and oldsquaw prefer deeper water. Look for these waterfowl species in estuaries (Skagit, Nisqually), Padilla Bay, Drayton Harbor, Dungeness Refuge and Boundary Bay.

26. **Whistling Swan.** This majestic and huge white bird is seen occasionally during fall, winter and spring. They prefer brackish ponds.

27. **Canada Goose.** The large V's formed by flocks of these birds during migration are distinctive. This large goose has a black neck with a white mark above the head. This species breeds inland in Washington.

28. **Snow Goose.** Skagit delta is a winter home for huge flocks of these geese, which mainly breed in the U.S.S.R. This large white goose has distinctive black wing tips.



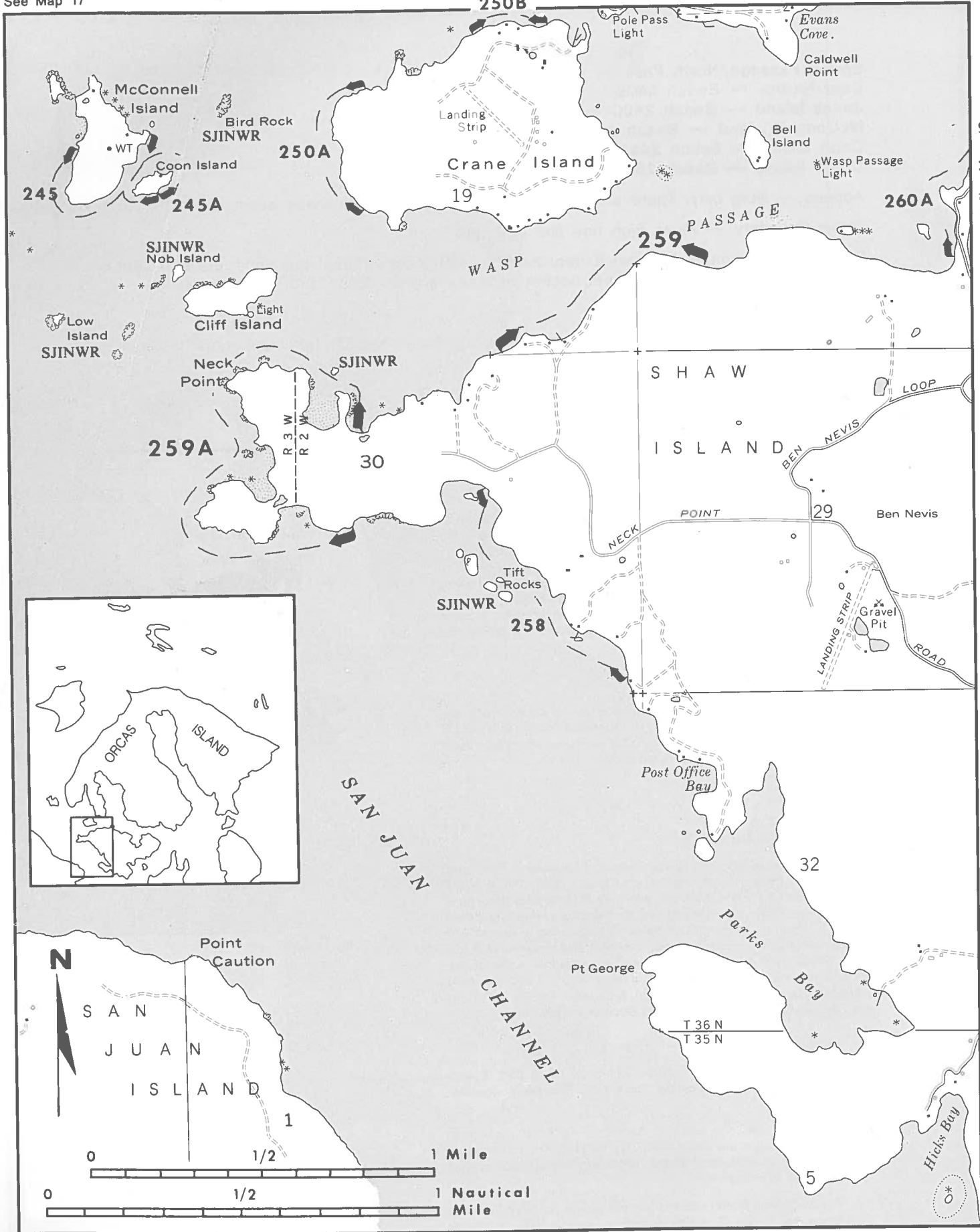
See Map 17

See Map 19

See Map 17

See Map 19

See Map 22



See Map 23

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation

Map 18 Wasp Passage, Shaw Island

McConnell Island — Beach 245 — 2,066'  
Coon Island — Beach 245A — 1,891'  
Crane Island — Beach 250A — 3,933'  
Shaw Island — Beach 258 — 1,607'  
Wasp Passage — Beach 259 — 7,403'  
Neck Point — Beach 259A — 12,021'  
Shaw Island — Beach 279 — 9,867'

Access — Boat only. There are no public upland accesses to these beaches.

Upper Boundary — Mean high tide line (7.0 feet elevation).

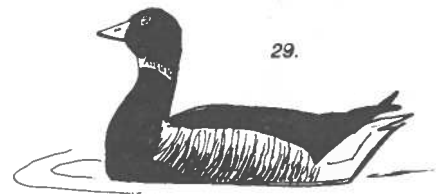
Beach Composition —

259 — Narrow rocky beach with gravel patches.

Other beaches — Rocky headlands with sand and gravel pocket beaches.

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29. **Brant.** This little goose is small and dark, and has a white neck-lace. Padilla Bay is one of the most important spring staging areas for this species. Thousands of these birds stop to feed on the aquatic eel-grass before departing plump and healthy for the Arctic breeding grounds. Brant are common from January through April and can also be seen in Dungeness Bay.



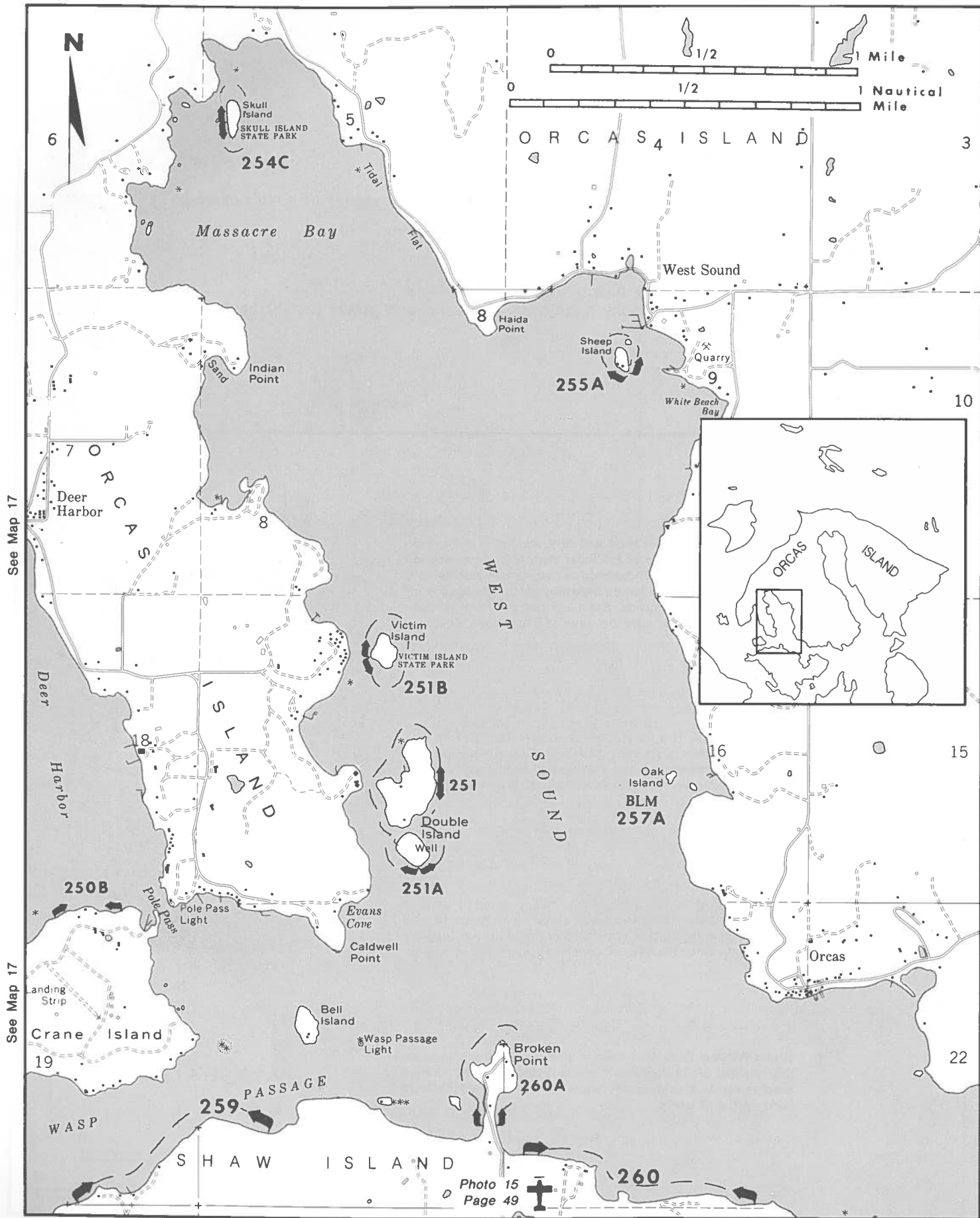
30. **Common Pintail.** This little dabbling duck is identified by long tail feathers, white on its neck, and vertical neck markings. The pintail is seen in salt marshes, shallow estuaries and shorelines during fall and winter. The female is drab and brown and is more difficult to identify.



31. **American Wigeon.** This little duck is distinguished by white in the wings and the distinctive green stripe on its head. Wigeon are common along shallow shorelines of Puget Sound. They are usually seen along Washington coastlines during fall and winter.



32. **Green-Winged Teal.** Also seen in shallow, brackish marshes, this smallest of the dabbling ducks is distinguished by its dark head and vertical stripe on the breast. They are commonly seen during fall and winter.



See Map 17

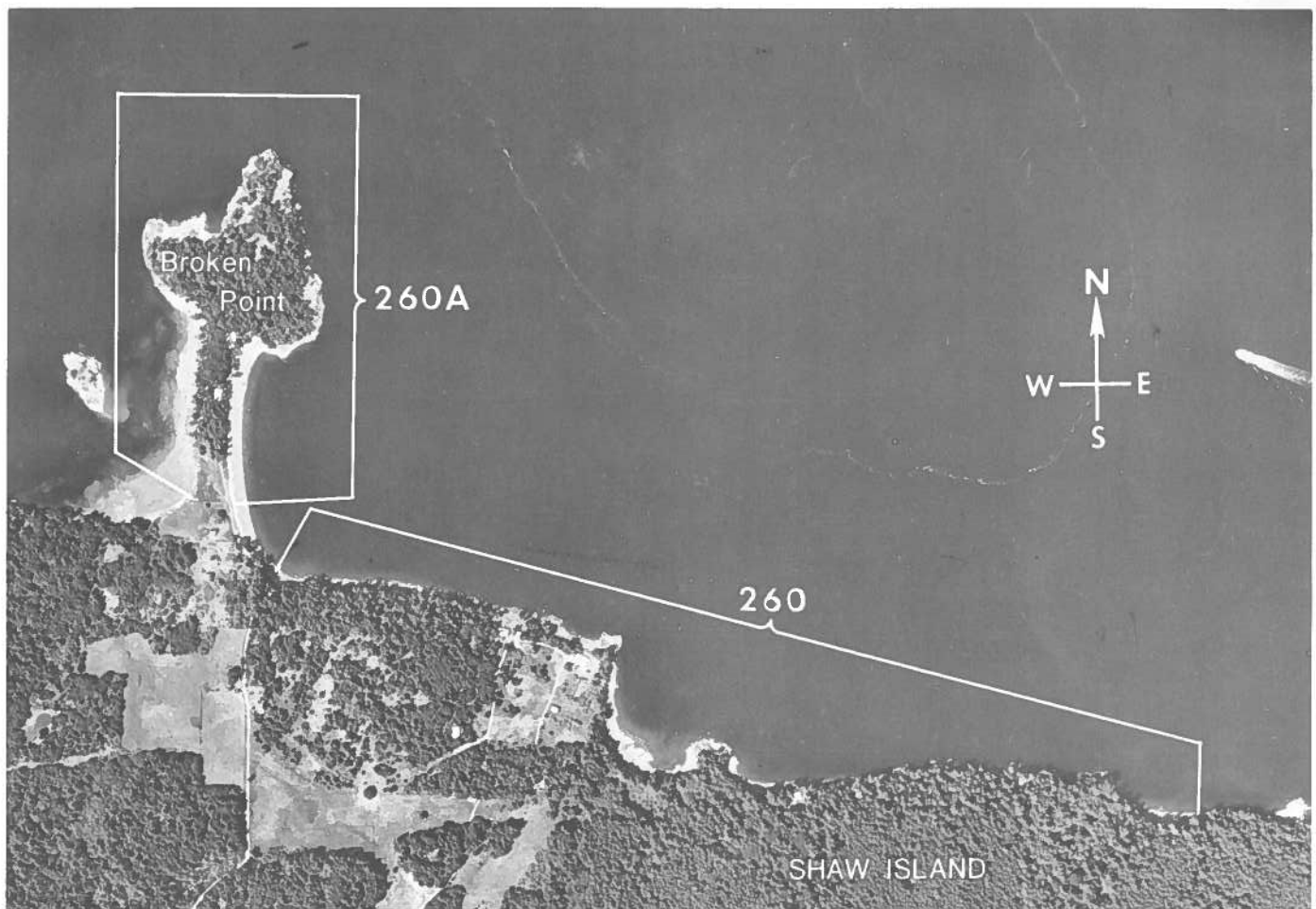
See Map 17

See Map 18

**Map 19 West Sound, Orcas Island**

See Map 20

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation



**Photo 15 Beaches 260 and 260A, Broken Point, Shaw Island**

- Crane Island — Beach 250B — 1,452'**
- Double Island — Beach 251 — 3,960'**
- Double Island — Beach 251A — 1,900'**
- Victim Island — Beach 251B — 1,801'**
- Skull Island — Beach 254C — 1,861'**
- Sheep Island — 255A — 1,081'**
- Oak Island — Beach 257A — 300'**
- Wasp Passage — Beach 259 — 7,403'**
- Shaw Island — Beach 260 — 4,620'**
- Broken Point — Beach 260A — 4,039'**

**Access —** Boat only. There are no public upland accesses to these beaches.

**Upper Boundary —** Mean high tide line (6.9 feet elevation).

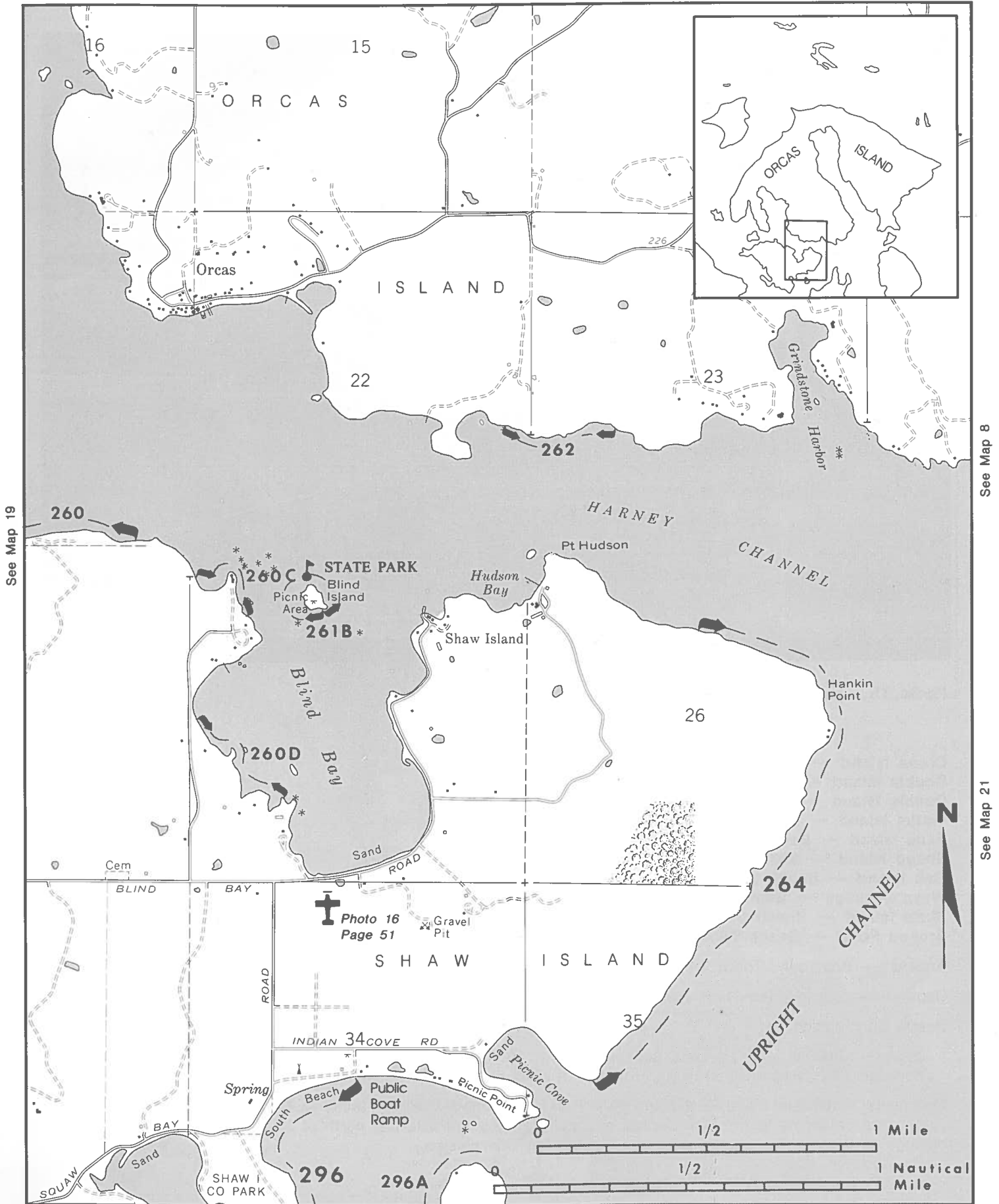
**Beach Composition —**

260A — Shallow layer of sand and gravel over clay shelf.

Remaining beaches are narrow and rocky with sand and gravel patches or pocket beaches.

**Comments:** Victim Island and Skull Island State Parks do not have moorage facilities. Oak Island is public land belonging to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Isle just north of Sheep Island belongs to Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

See Map 19



See Map 19

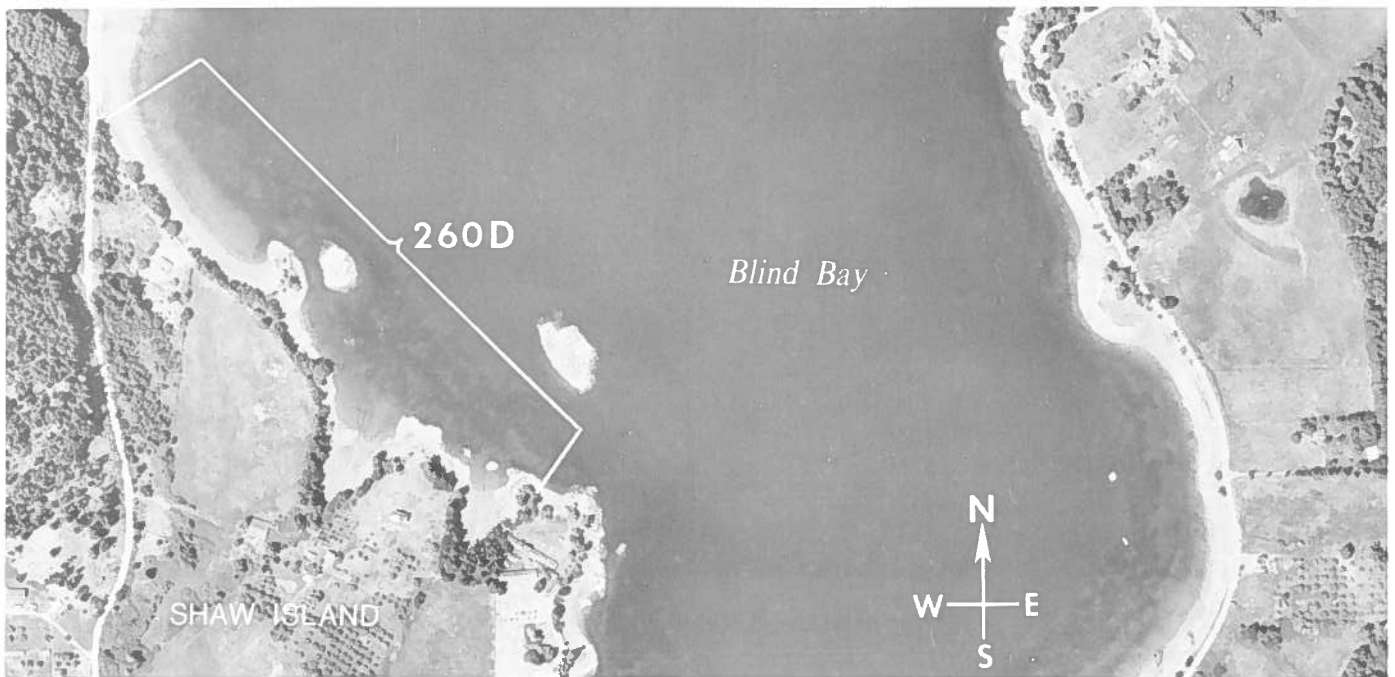
See Map 8

See Map 21

See Map 22

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation

Map 20 Harney Channel, Orcas and Shaw Islands



**Photo 16 Beach 260D, Blind Bay, Shaw Island**

**Shaw Island — Beach 260C — 1,927'**

**Blind Bay — Beach 260D — 2,171'**

**Blind Island — Beach 261B — 1,396'**

**Harney Island — Beach 262 — 2,203'**

**Hankin Point — Beach 264 — 11,344'**

**Access:** Boat only. There are no public upland accesses to these beaches.

**Upper Boundary —** Mean high tide line (6.9 feet elevation).

**Beach Composition —**

260C, 261B, 262 and 264 — Rocky with small pocket beaches.

260D — Eastern two-thirds rocky with pocket beaches. Western one-third gravel, cobble beach with extensive sand; flat at low tide.

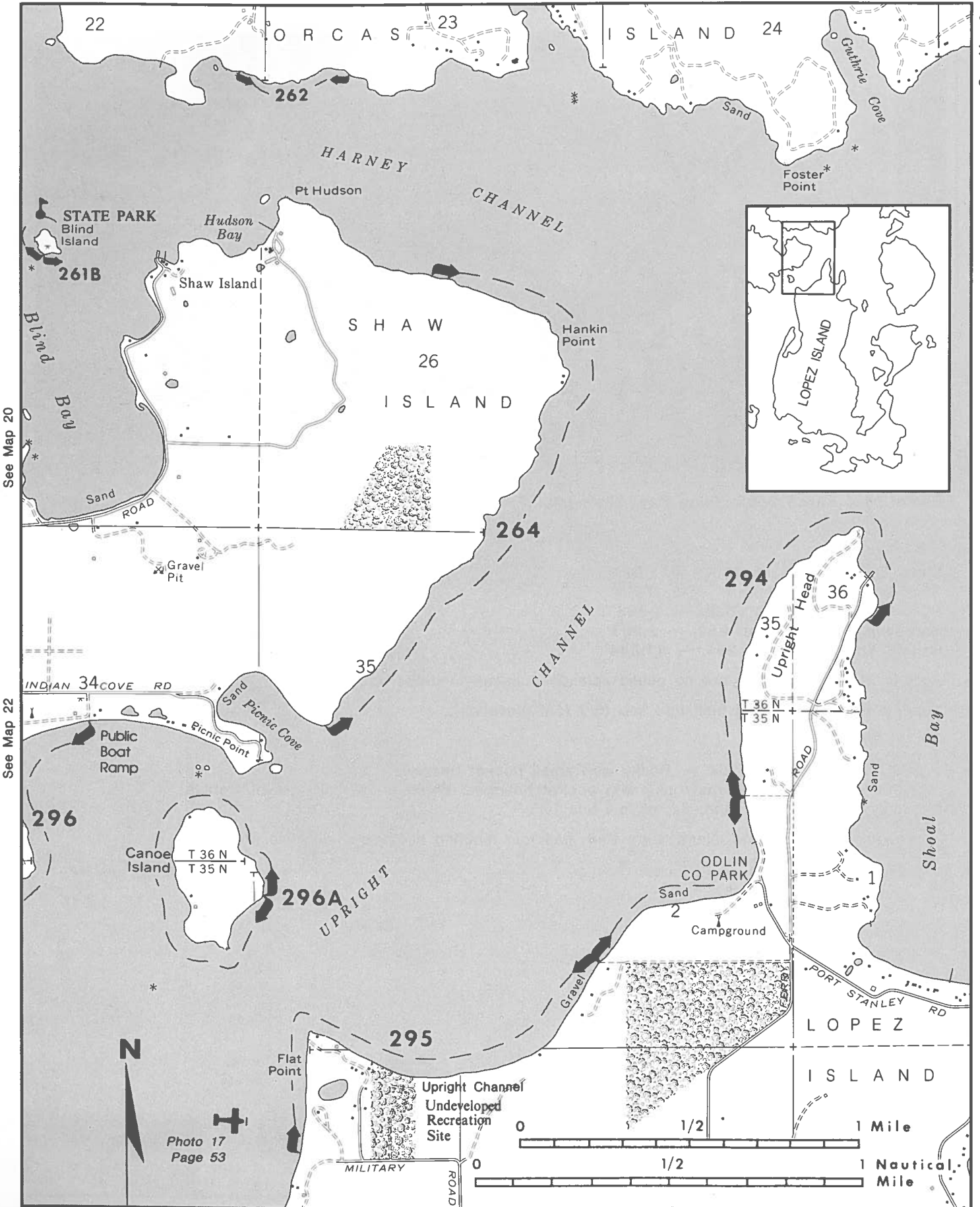
**Comments:** 261B — Blind Island State Park has four mooring buoys and a picnic area.

*Please do not trespass on private property*

See Map 19

See Map 20

See Map 8



See Map 20

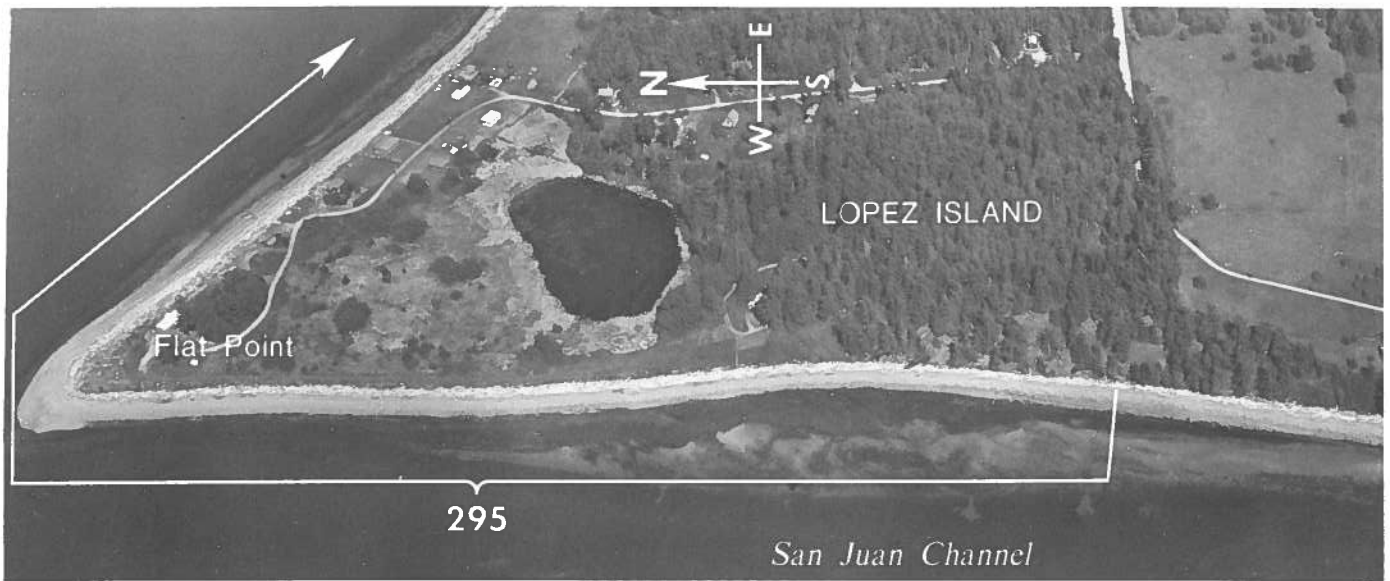
See Map 22

See Map 4

See Map 22

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation

Map 21 Upright Channel, Lopez and Shaw Islands



**Photo 17 Beach 295, Flat Point, San Juan Channel, Lopez Island**

- Harney Channel — Beach 262 — 2,203'**
- Hankin Point — Beach 264 — 11,344'**
- Upright Head — Beach 294 — 6,794'**
- Flat Point — Beach 295 — 6,081'**
- Canoe Island — Beach 296A — 5,196'**

**Access** — Boat only except for 294 and 295. There are no public upland accesses to the other beaches. 294 is accessible via ferry terminal. Warning: Do not operate small boats or dive around ferry terminal. 295 is accessible by road through Upright Channel Recreation Site or from Odlin County Park.

**Upper Boundary** — Mean high tide line (6.9 feet elevation).

**Beach Composition** —

- 262, 264 and 296A — Rocky beaches with patches of gravel.
- 294 — Headlands with gravel pocket beach located by ferry terminal.
- 295 — Nice gravel beach.

**Comments:** Upright Channel Recreation Site is undeveloped but an access road is open from Military Road. Odlin county park has camping and picnic facilities.

*Please do not trespass on private property*

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**Photo 21**

Rock Point

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**Edibility**  
Very good











Figure C1

Figure C2

MEAN TIDE LEVEL

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Stuart  
Island  
Park  
State

Rosario Resort

Deer  
Harbor  
Marina

West  
Sound  
Marina

Harbor Reso

Snug Harbor Resort

Indian C  
County

Part of  
Friday Harbor

Odlin  
County  
Park

Sinner Spit  
State Park

Islands  
Marine  
Center

Grafton Bay  
Recreation Site  
DNR