

# SAN JUAN ISLANDS



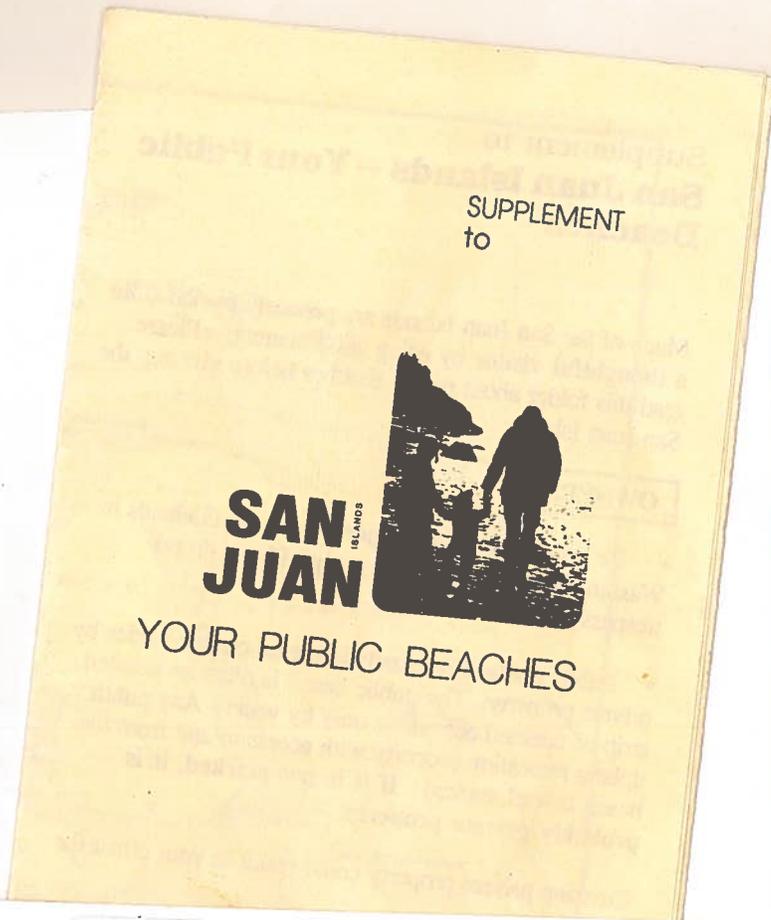
## YOUR PUBLIC BEACHES

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**Department of Natural Resources**  
Brian Boyle, Commissioner of Public Lands  
Art Stearns, Supervisor

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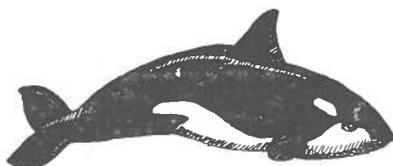
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**YOUR PUBLIC BEACHES**

# **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

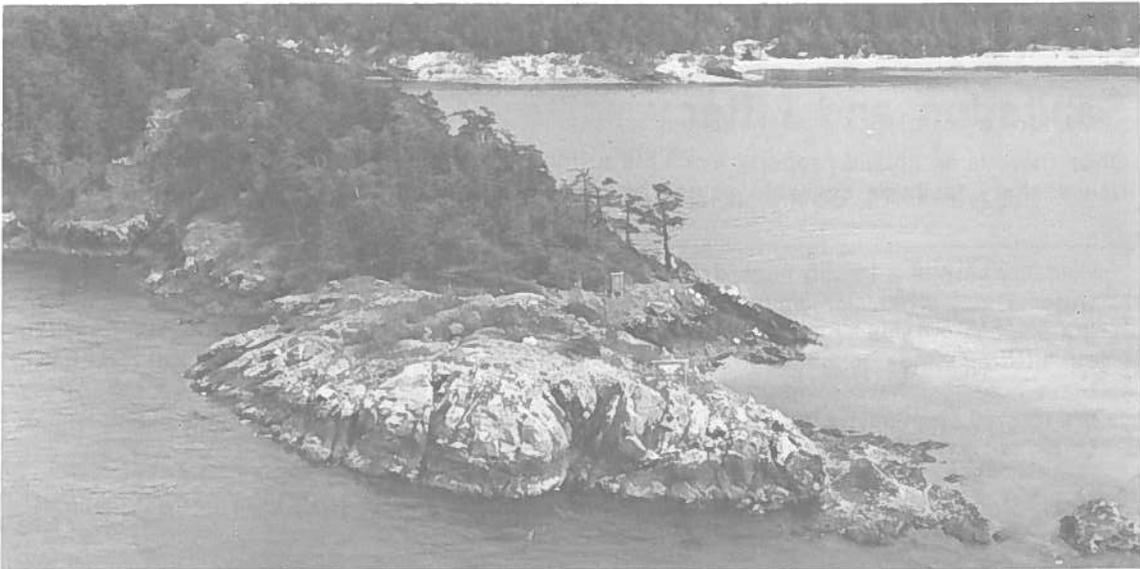
Welcome to the San Juan Islands, one of the most beautiful and unique areas in the State of Washington. There are some 370 miles of tidelands, of which 78 percent are still in state ownership. The typical San Juan beach is narrow, steep and rocky. However, the tidelands of the region vary from wide, 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.

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# 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.

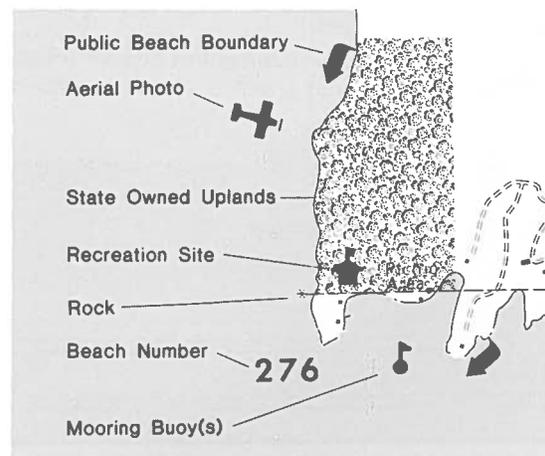
## Aerial Photos

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.

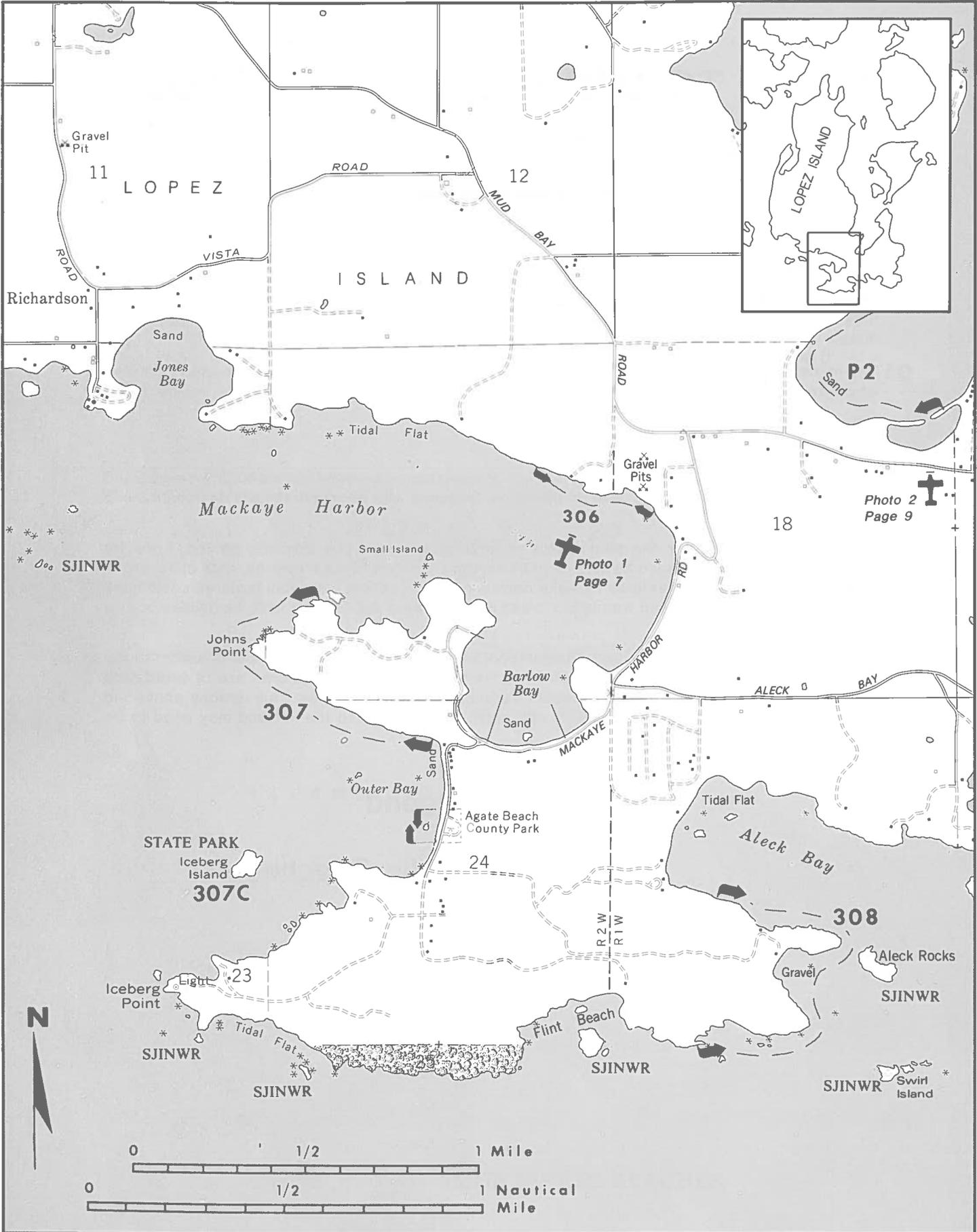
Think of yourself sitting in the pilot's seat of an airplane when you view the photos. Look for features along the beach such as clumps of trees, bare patches, docks, houses, rock cliffs, etc. It is best to identify several features to make certain of your location. Individual features could have changed 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



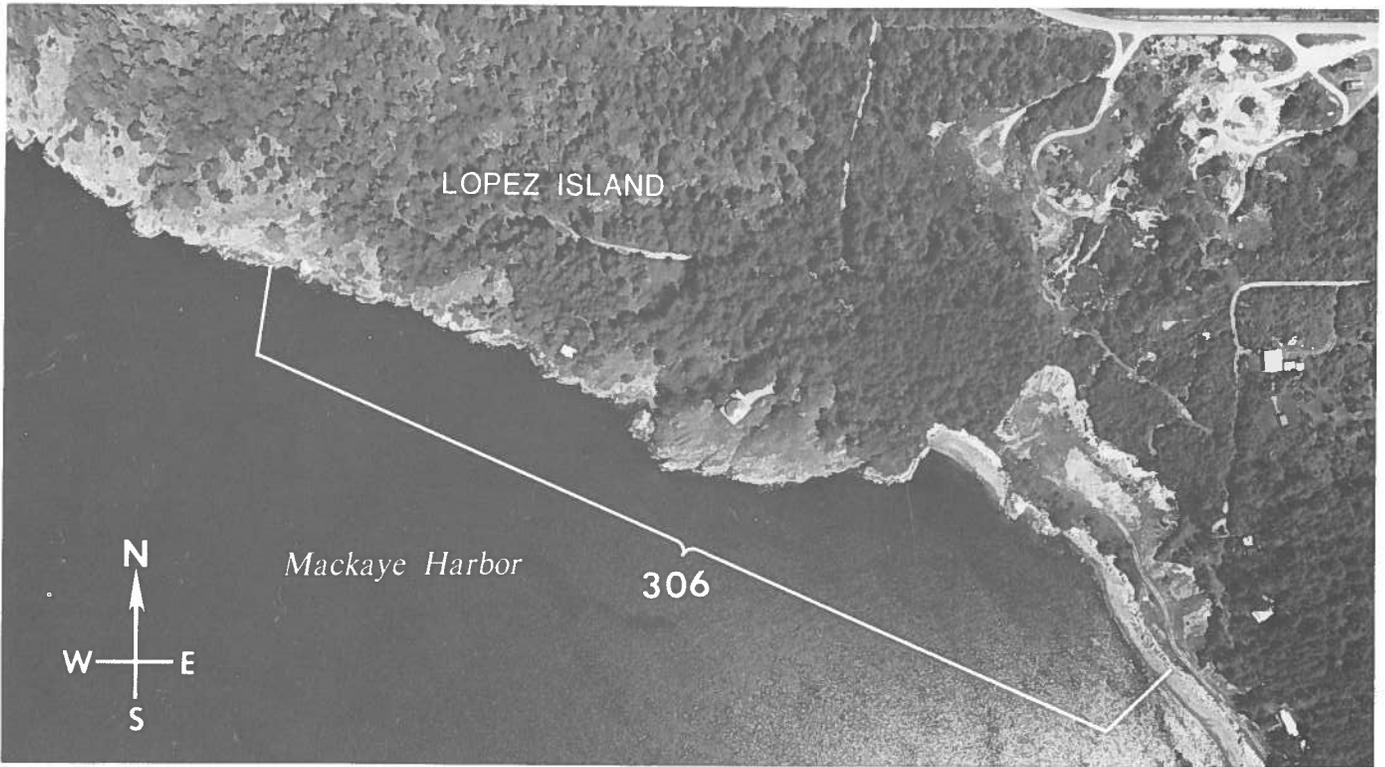
See Map 25

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.

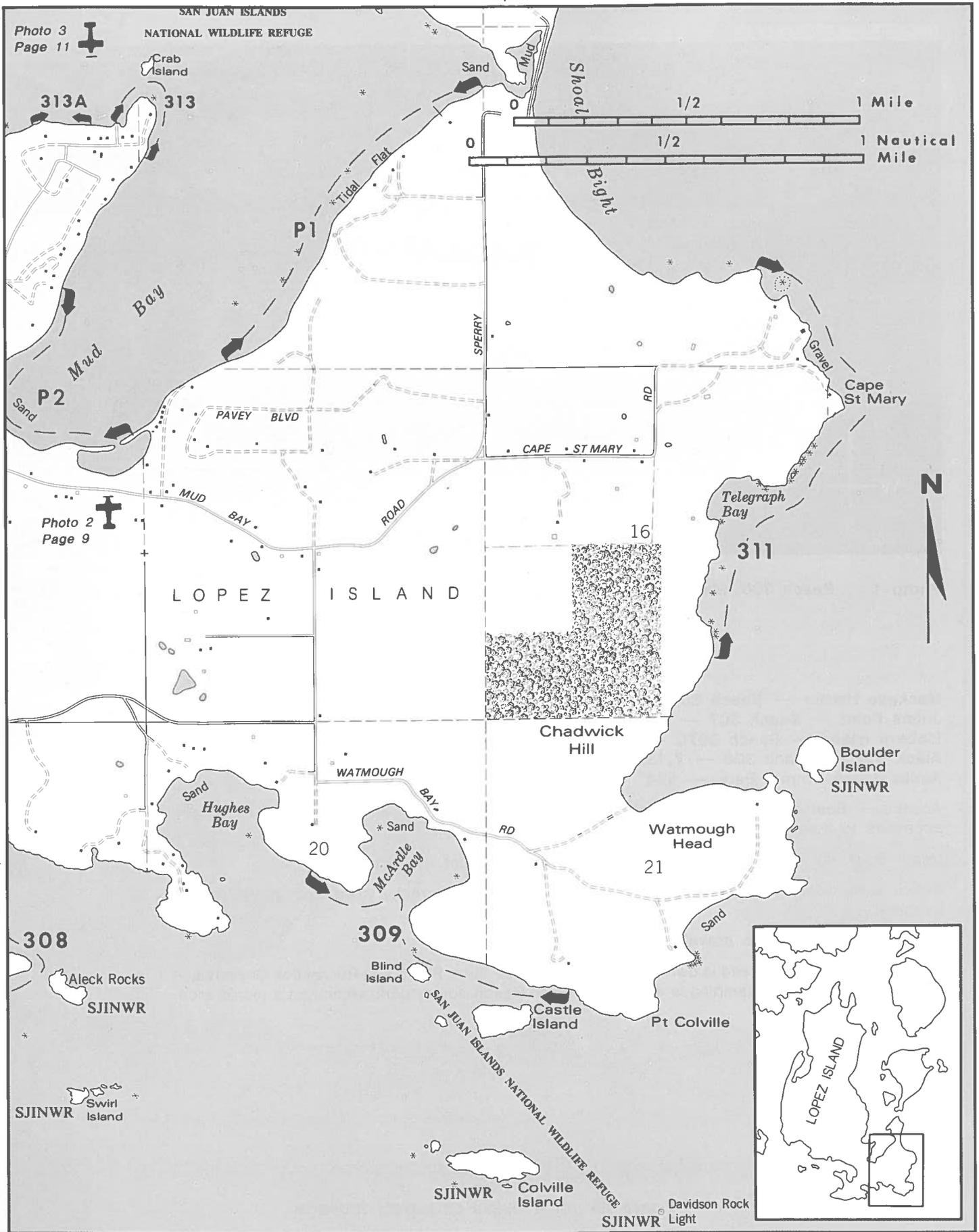
**Comments** — Iceberg Island is owned by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission but is undeveloped. No camping is allowed in Agate Beach county park which has a picnic area.

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

See Map 3

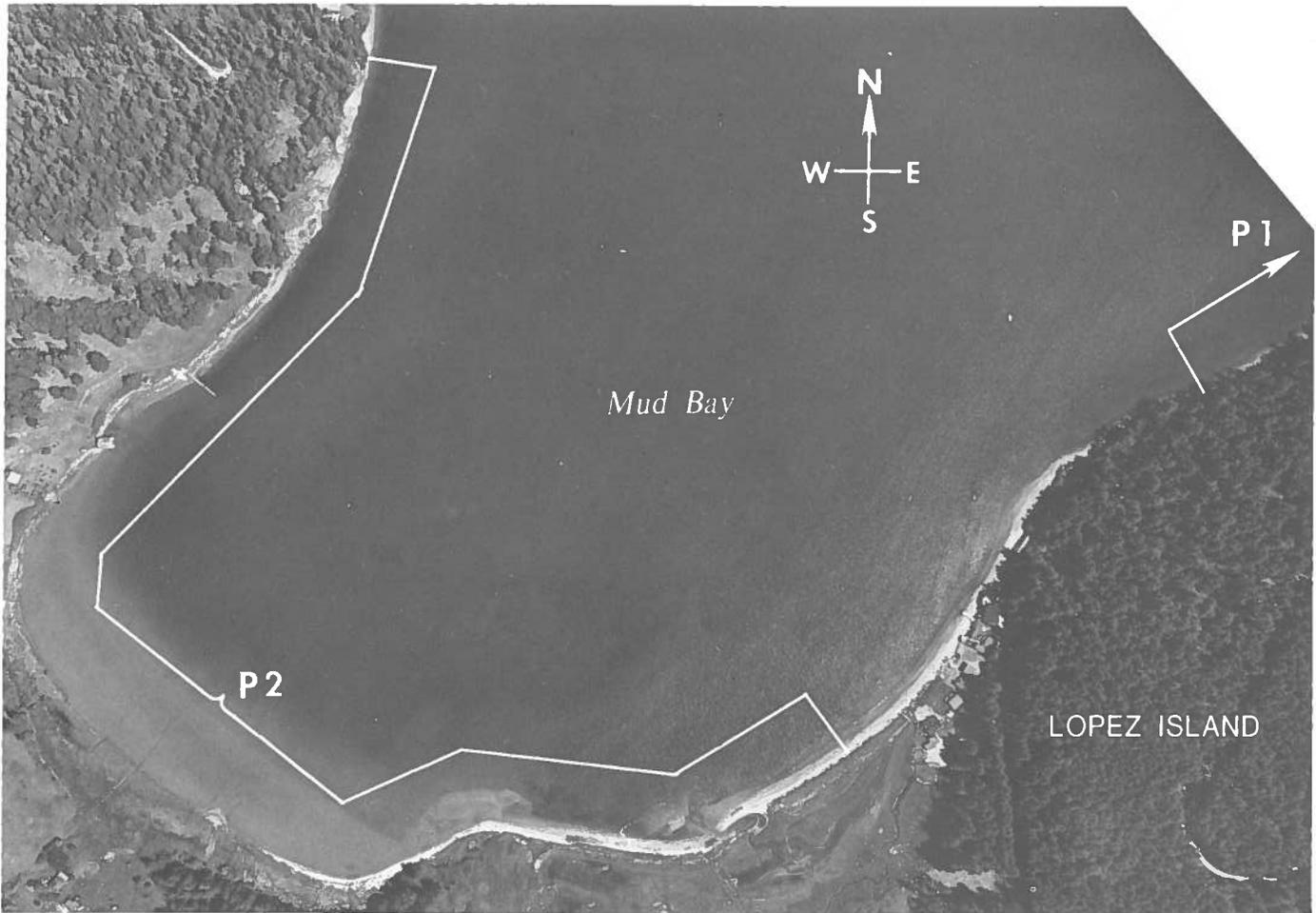
See Map 3

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 —

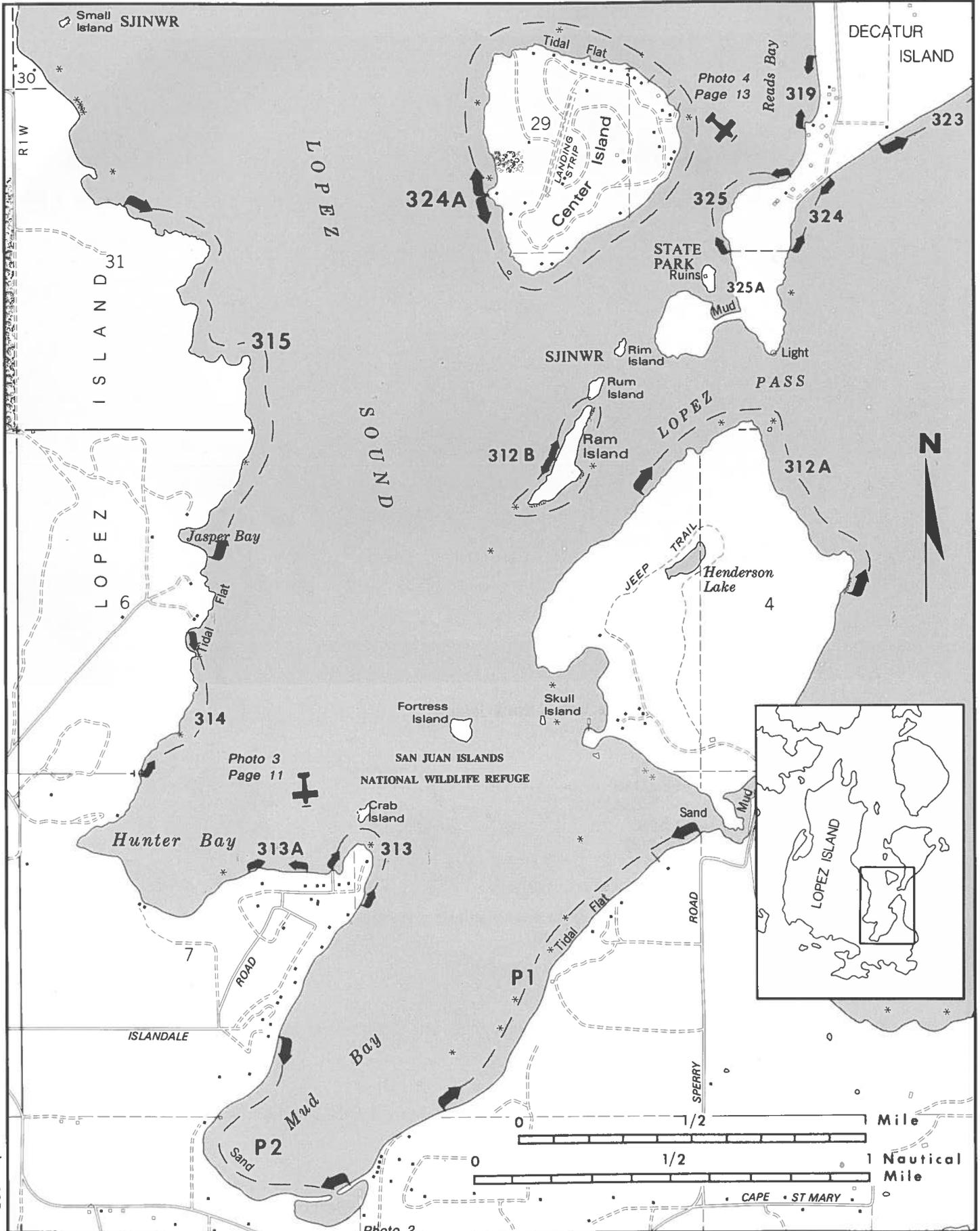
- 309, 311 and 313 — Typically rocky reef and headlands with cobble and pea gravel pocket beaches.
- 313A and P1 — Gravel or sand beaches.
- P2 — Wide beach with fine sand or mud.

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

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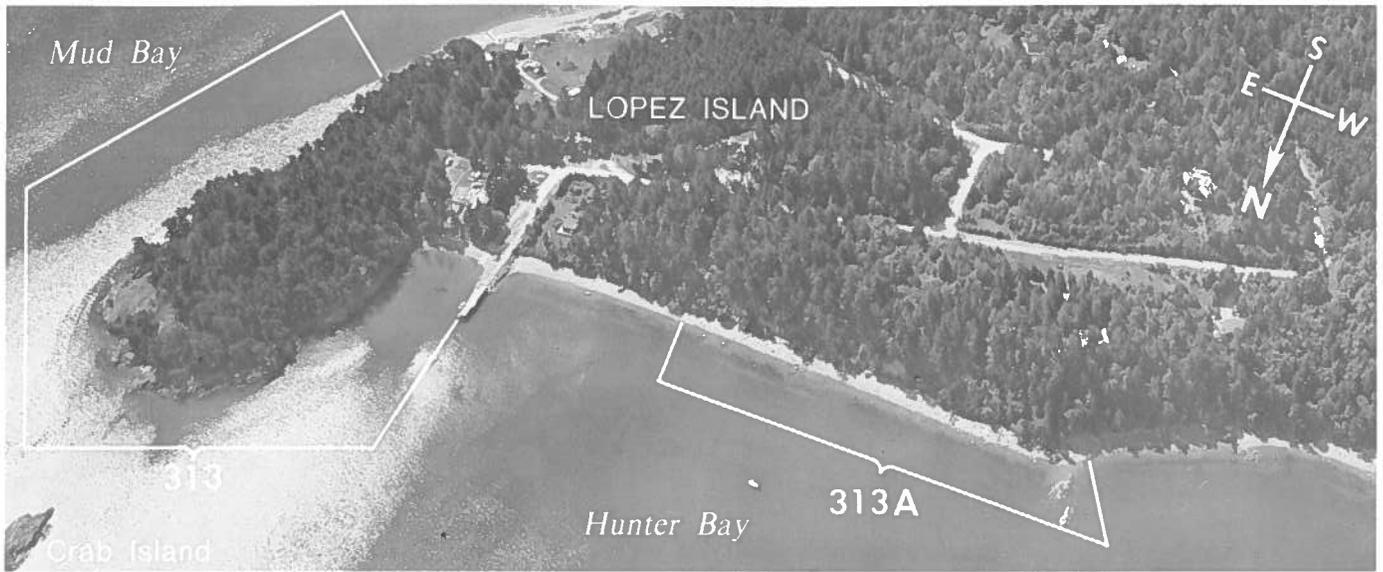
See Map 4

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'**

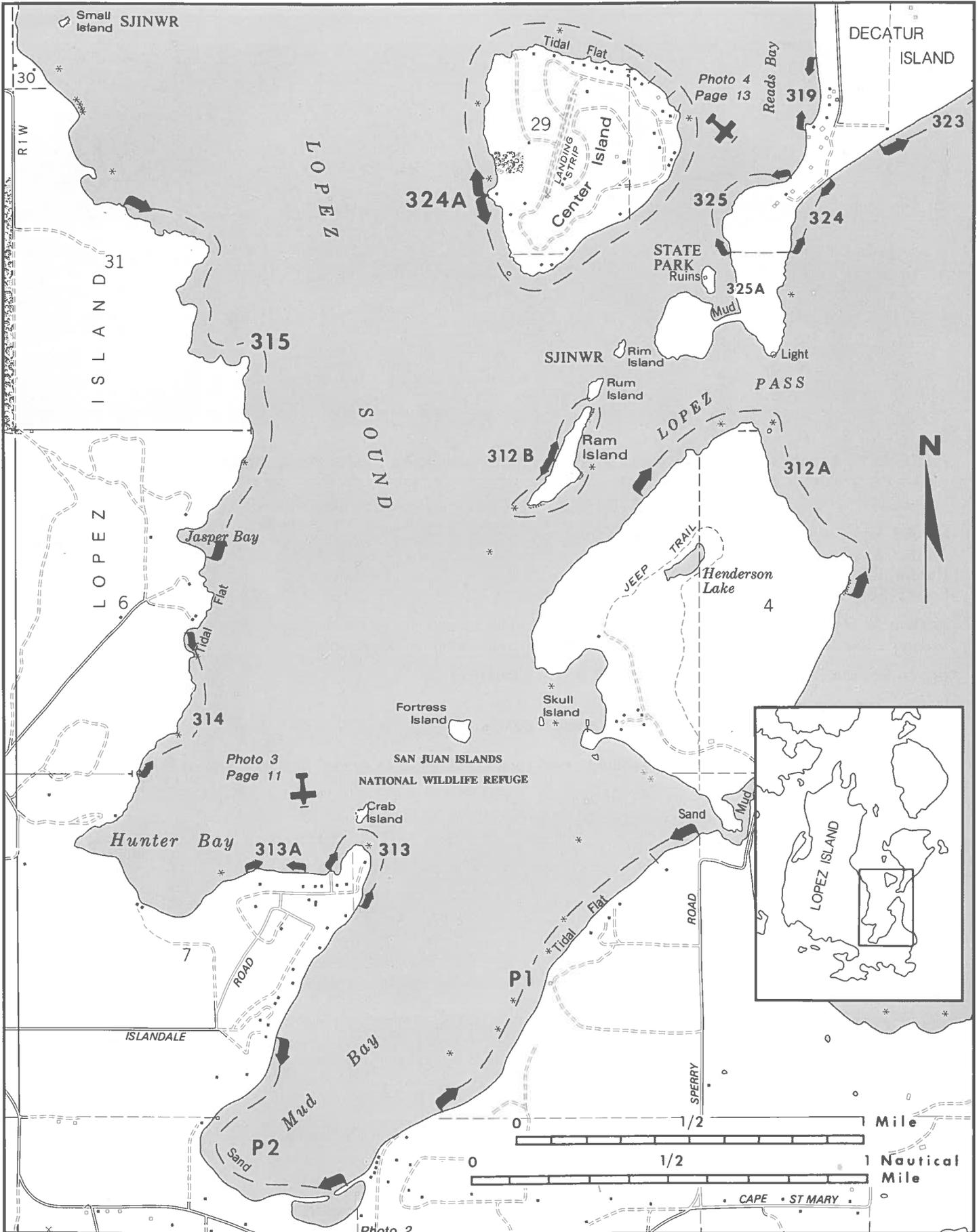
**Access —** Boat only except for 313. There is no public upland access to the other beaches. Upland access to 313 via county-owned dock and boat ramp on west end.

**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

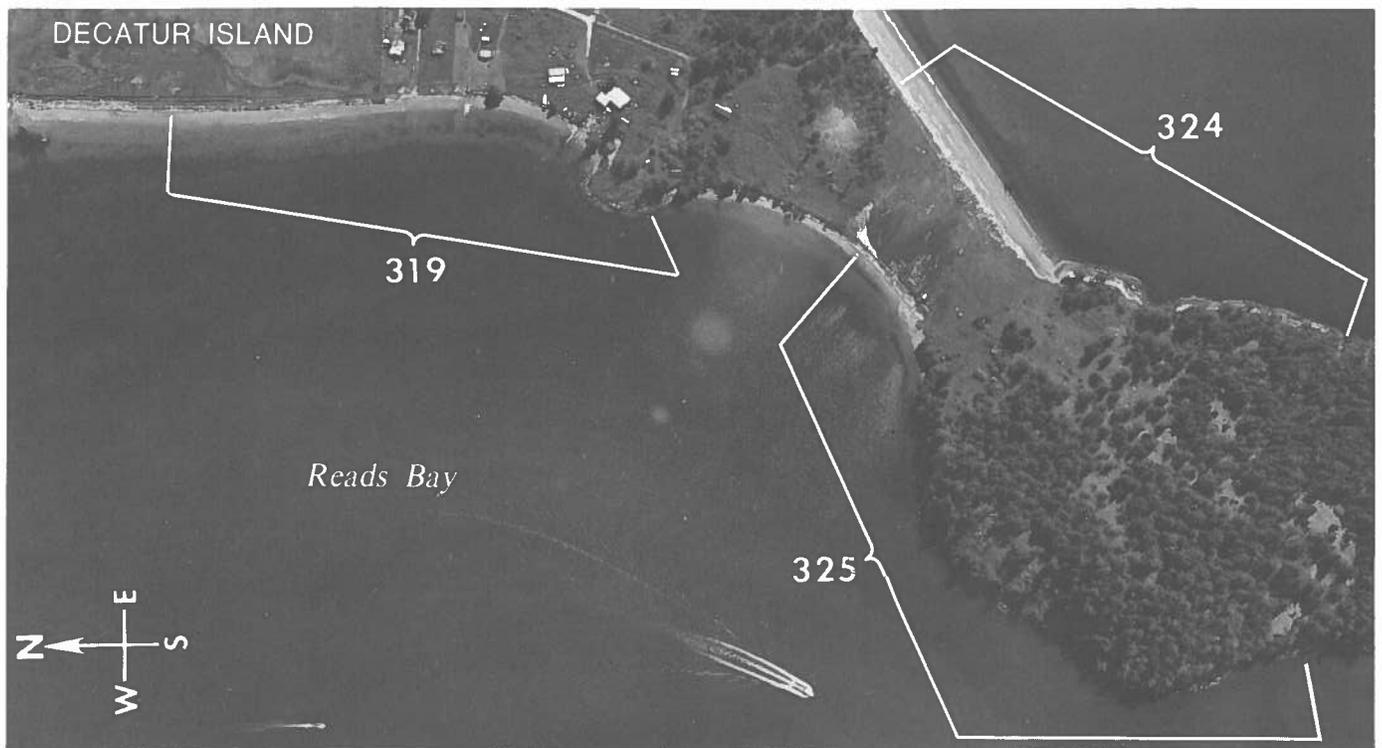
See Map 1

Photo 2 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'**

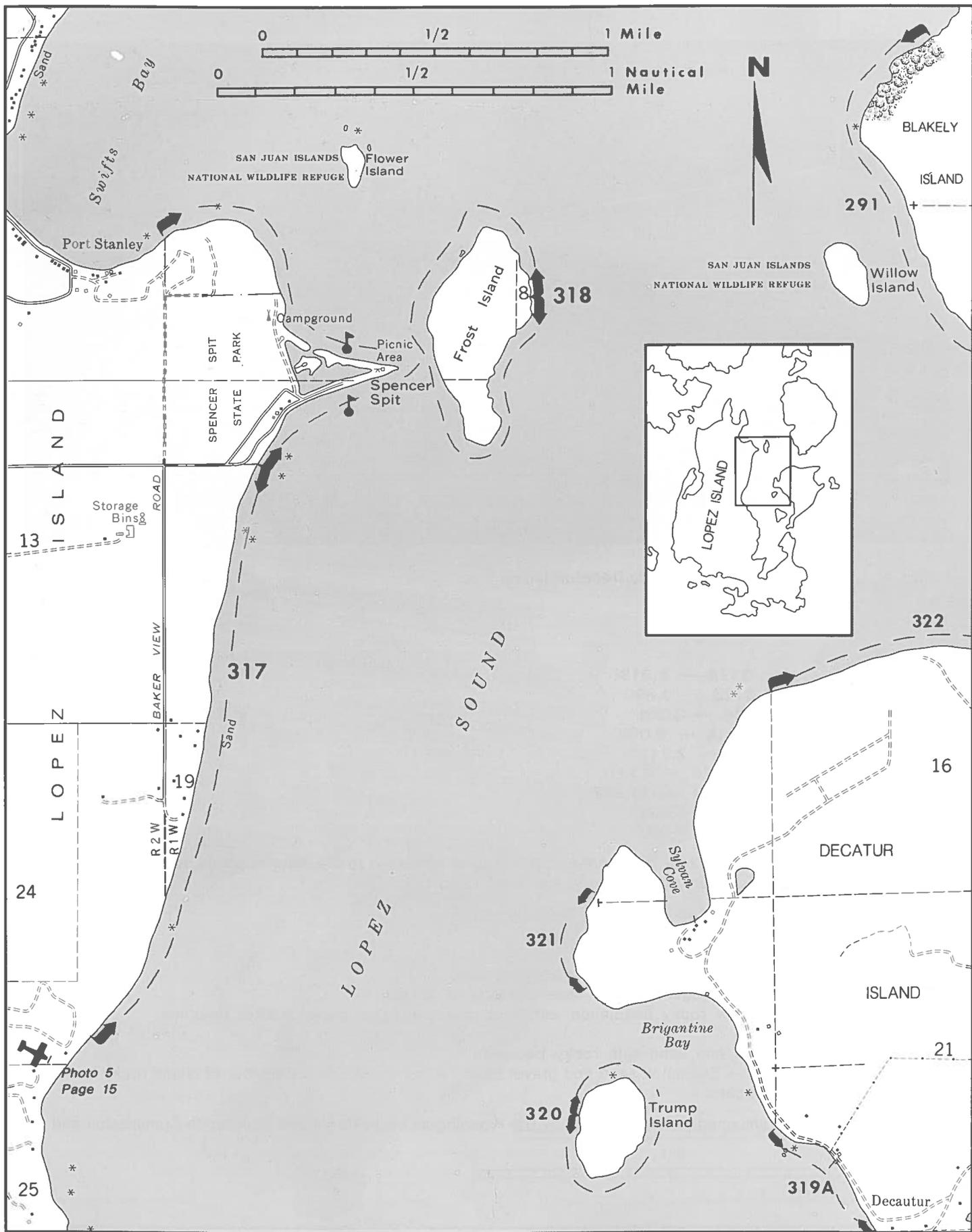
**Access** — Boat only except for 313. There are no public upland accesses to the other beaches. However, there is upland access to 313 via county-owned dock and boat ramp.

**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.



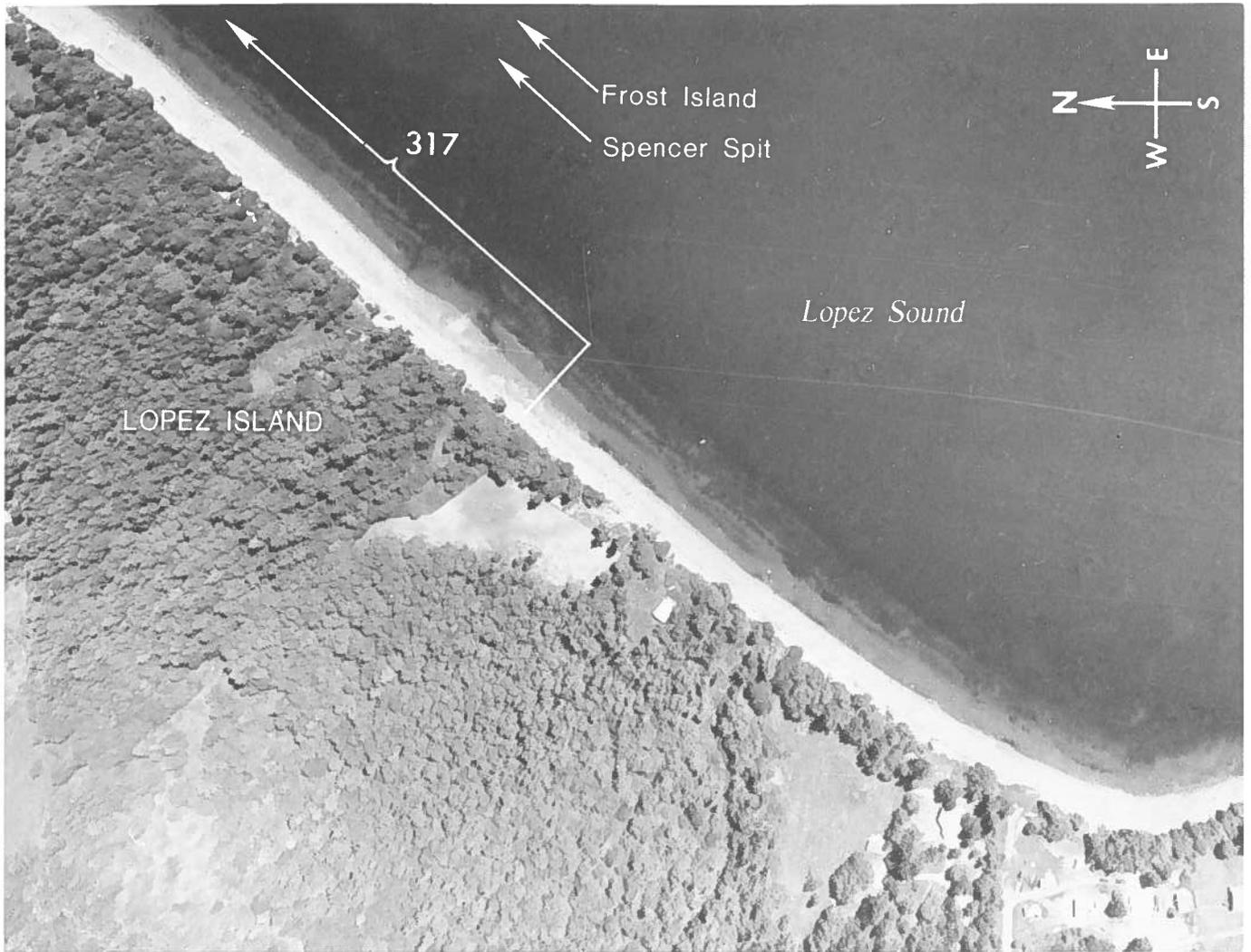
See Map 5

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'**

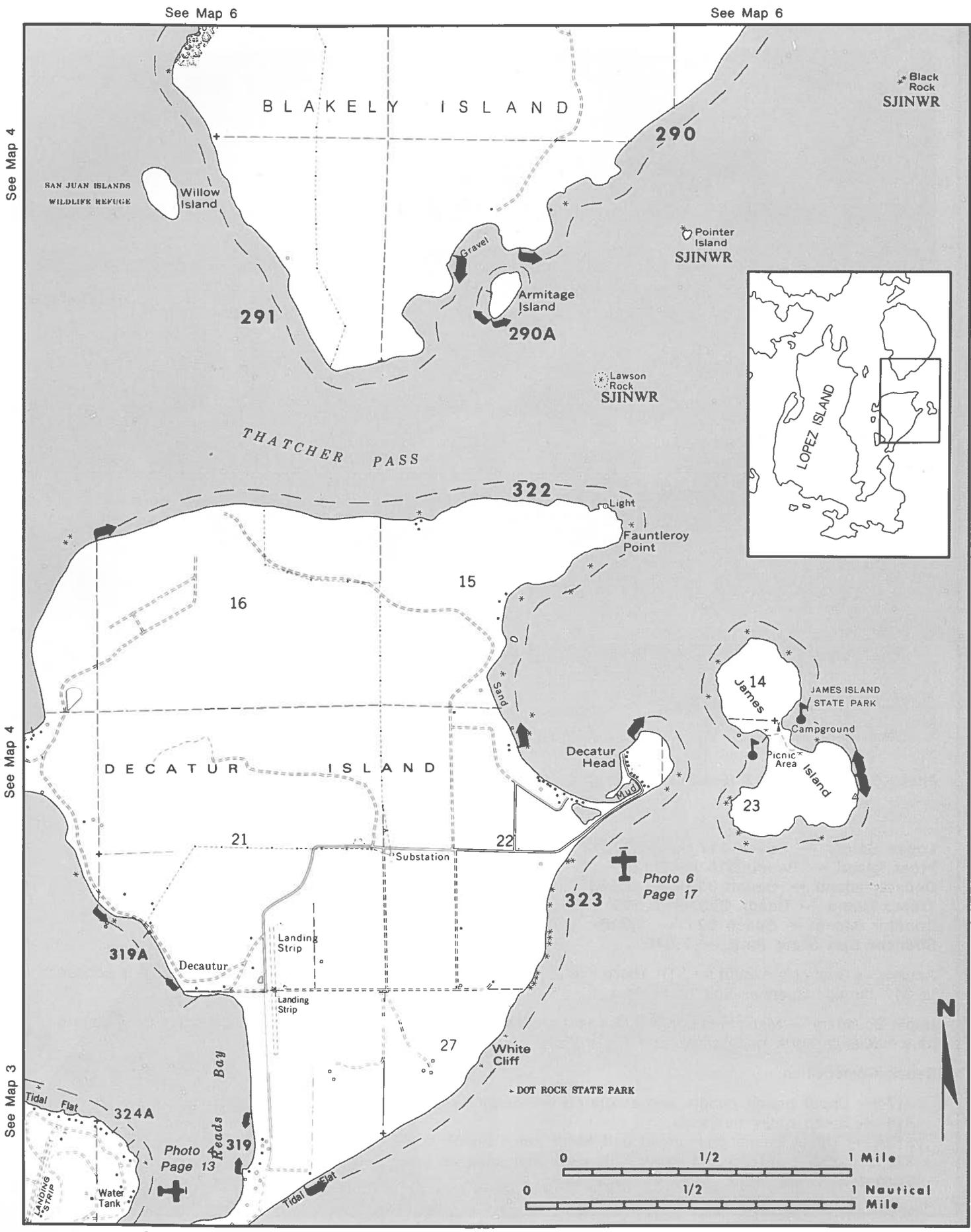
**Access —** Boat only except for 317. There are no public upland accesses to the other beaches. There is access to 317 through Spencer Spit State Park.

**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.



Map 5 Thatcher Pass, Blakely and Decatur Islands

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation



**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 —**

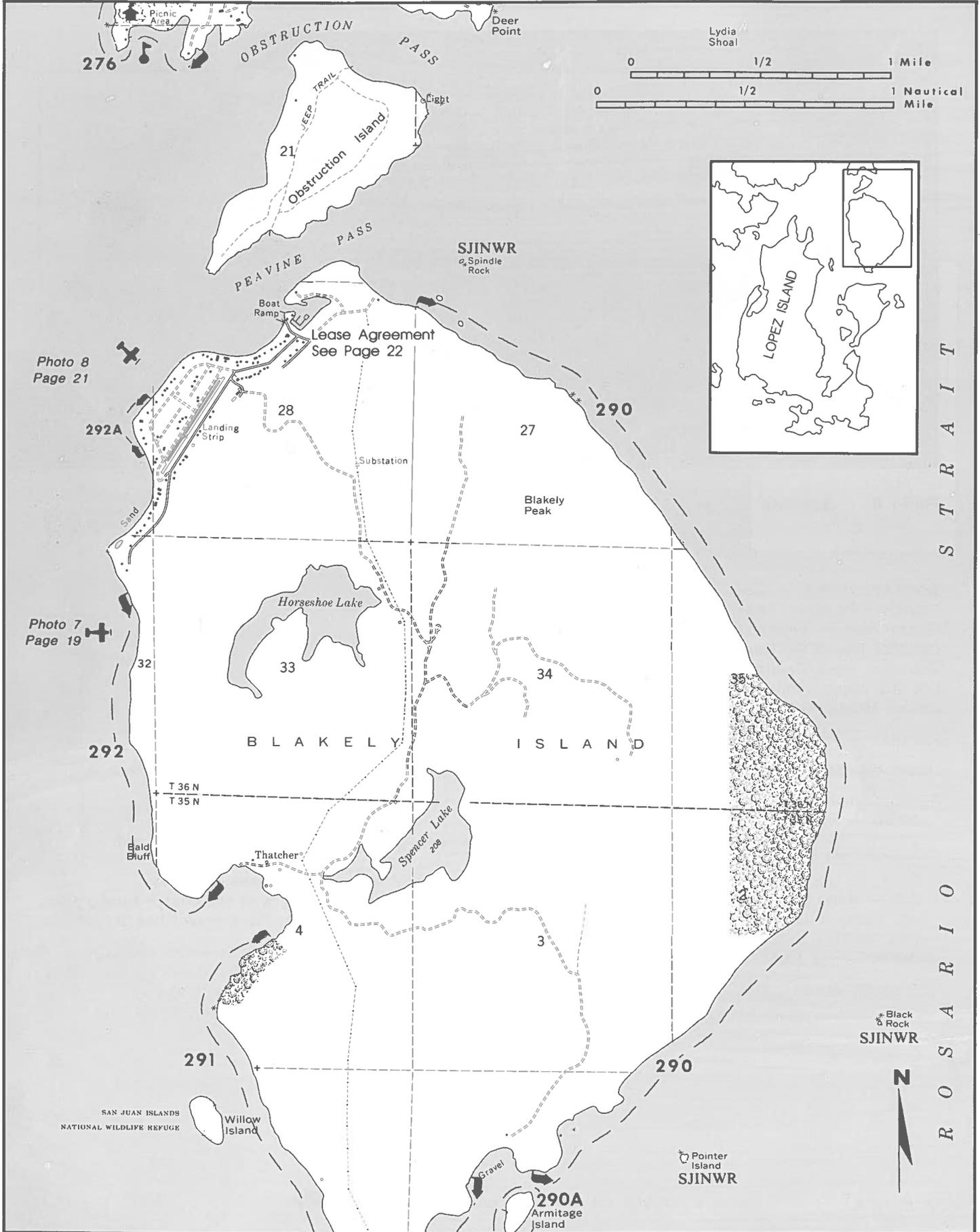
- 290A — Rocky Beach
- 291 — Rocky headlands with sand or cobble patches, pea gravel pocket beach on south end.
- 319 — Gravelly.
- 319A — Upper beach pea gravel and sand; lower beach cobble, some scattered boulders.
- 322 — North side of Decatur Island — upper beach boulders; lower beach pea gravel 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

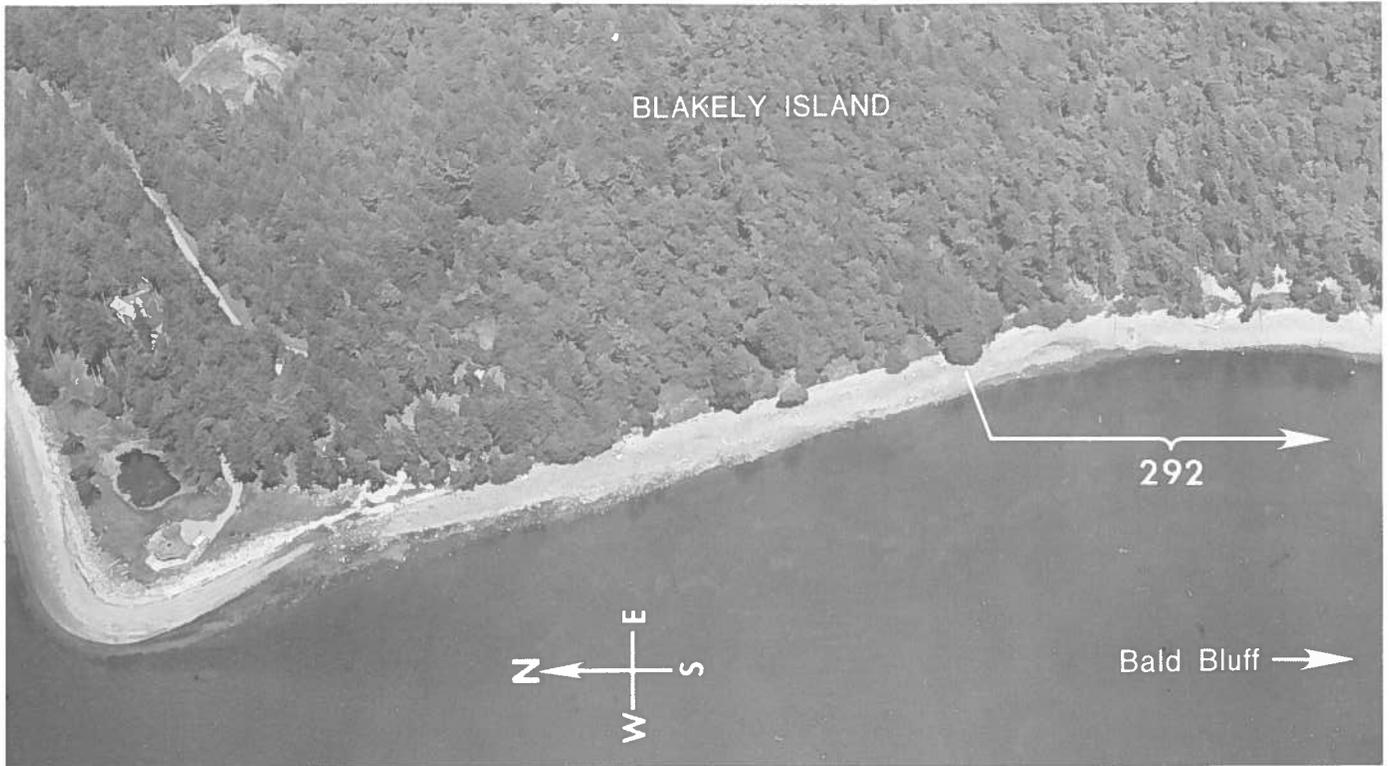
See Map 7



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

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 —**

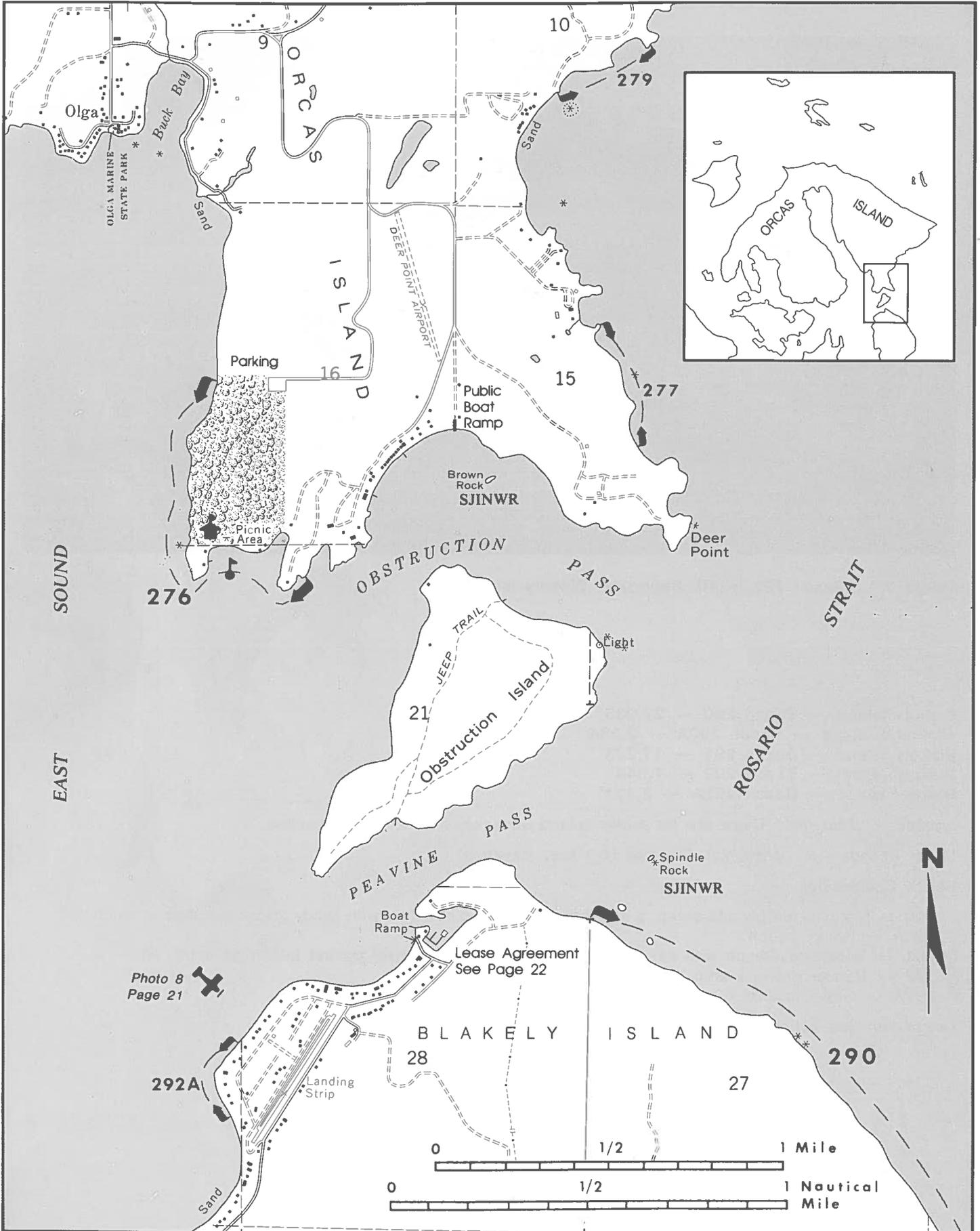
- 290 — Typically narrow and steep, a mixture of gravel and boulders with sandy gravel beaches at south end.
- 290A — Rocky beach.
- 291 — Rocky headlands with sand or cobble patches, pea gravel pocket beach on south end.
- 292 — Narrow gravel beach with rocky headlands.
- 292A — Gravel beach.

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

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See Map 10

See Map 8

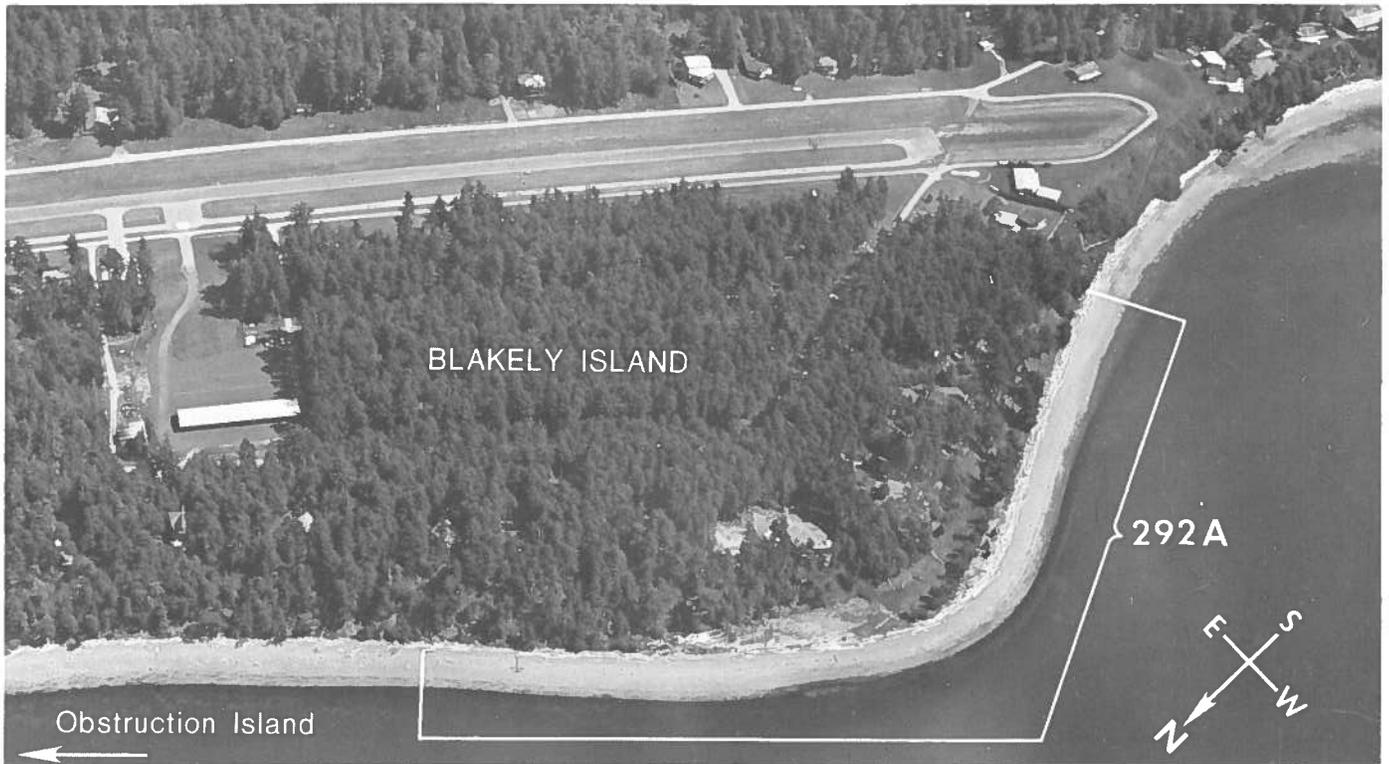


See Map 6

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.*

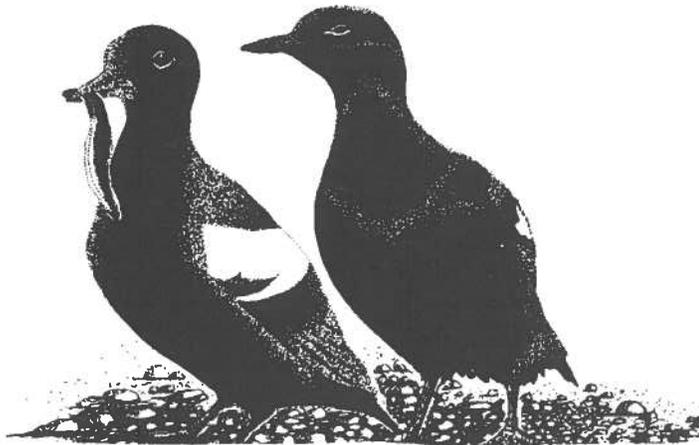
## VII

*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.*

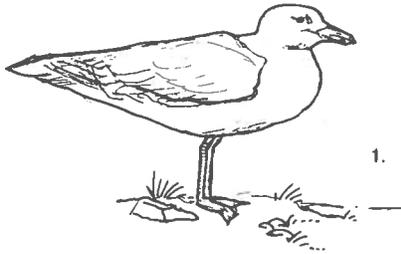
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**The information about wildlife is based on a publication by Katherine Hirsch, Washington State Department of Game.**

*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**

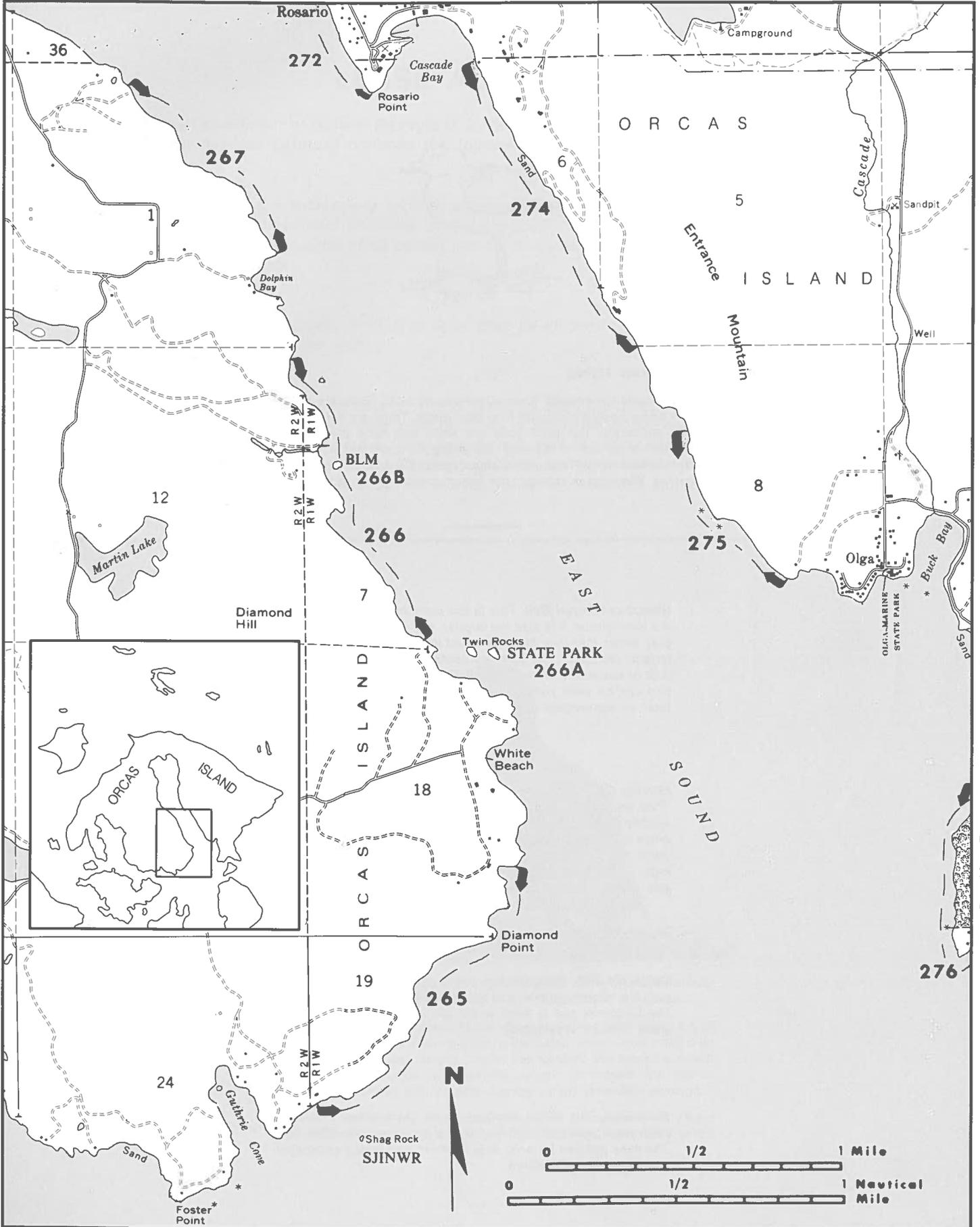
The "seagull" is actually several species of birds. Gulls are larger, more heavy bodied birds with long gray wings. Terns are light and fly more delicately. The adult gulls are white and have gray on the "mantle" or top part of the wing. The young are a mottled brown. It is often difficult to tell the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

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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 21

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation

Map 8 East Sound (South) Orcas Island

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).

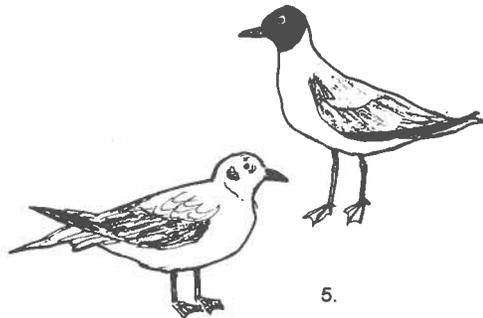
Beach Composition —

265 — Rocky headlands with large gravel pockets on beach.

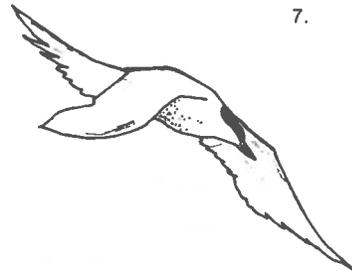
All remaining tidelands are rocky with narrow boulder and pea gravel beaches.

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.

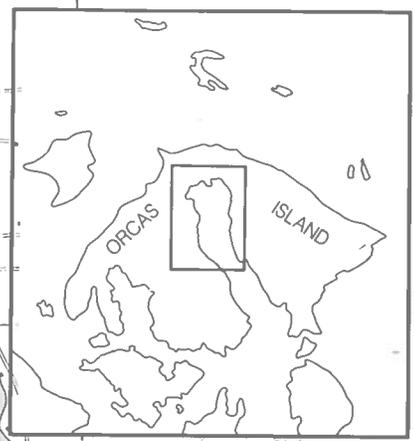
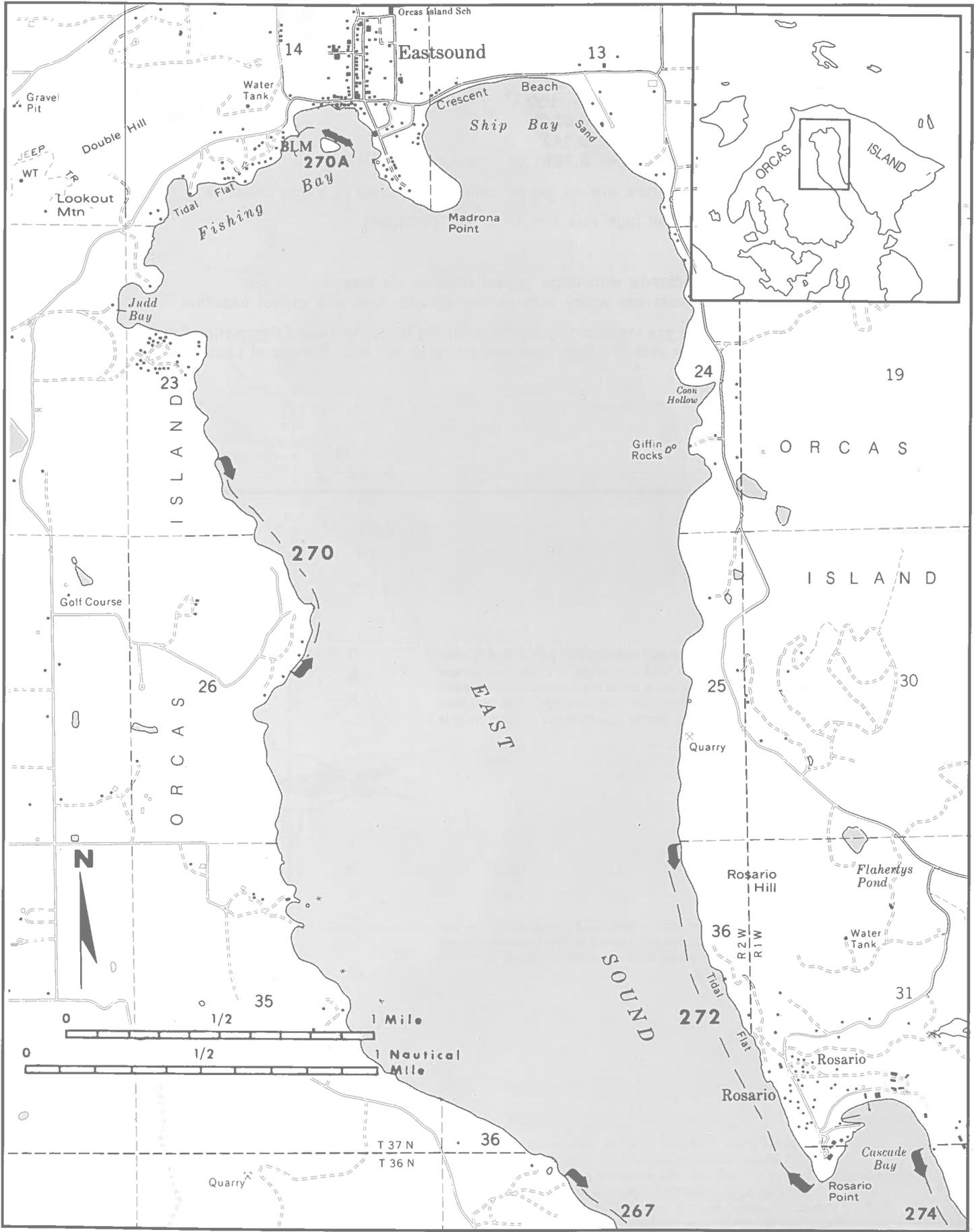


6. **Heermann's Gull.** The adult is gray and has a bright red bill. This bird breeds in Mexico and travels to the northwest in the summer and fall. The young lack a red bill and must be distinguished in other ways.



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.

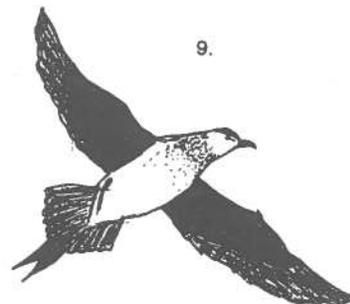
Comments: Beach 270A is owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and is open for public use.

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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.

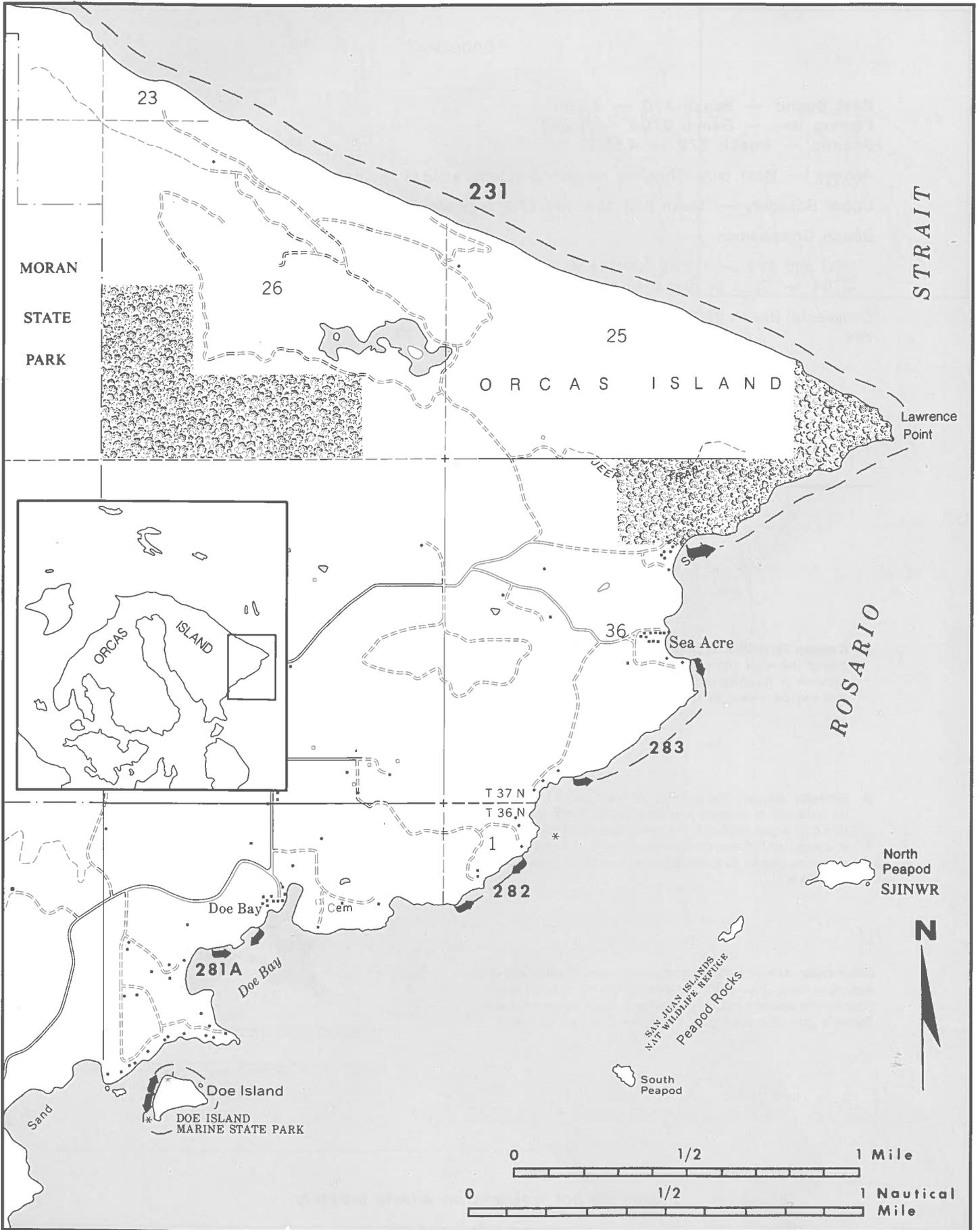
**Other Gulls.** Although the most common marine gulls have been described here, there are other less commonly spotted species. Look for the western gull, ring-billed gull, black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's gull, Glaucous gull, Franklin's gull and little gull.



**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.

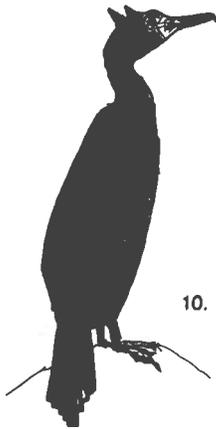
281A, 282 and 283 — Rocky with patches of gravel and pea gravel. A few pocket beaches, rocks and boulders are common.

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.

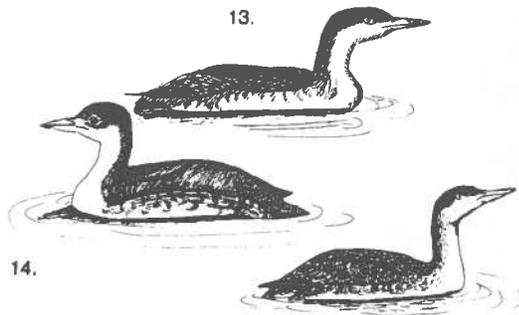
Comments: Clark Island State Park has nine mooring buoys.

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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.*

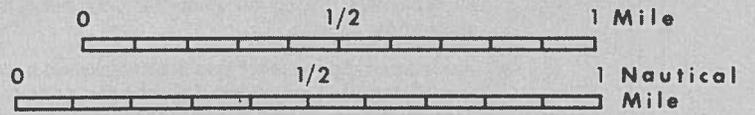
13. **Common Loon.** *The cry of this largest loon haunts winter mornings. In the summer it has a necklace, and striking white and black plumage. During the winter it is gray, but can still be recognized by its size.*
14. **Arctic Loon.** *This smaller loon is distinguished by its small narrow bill and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



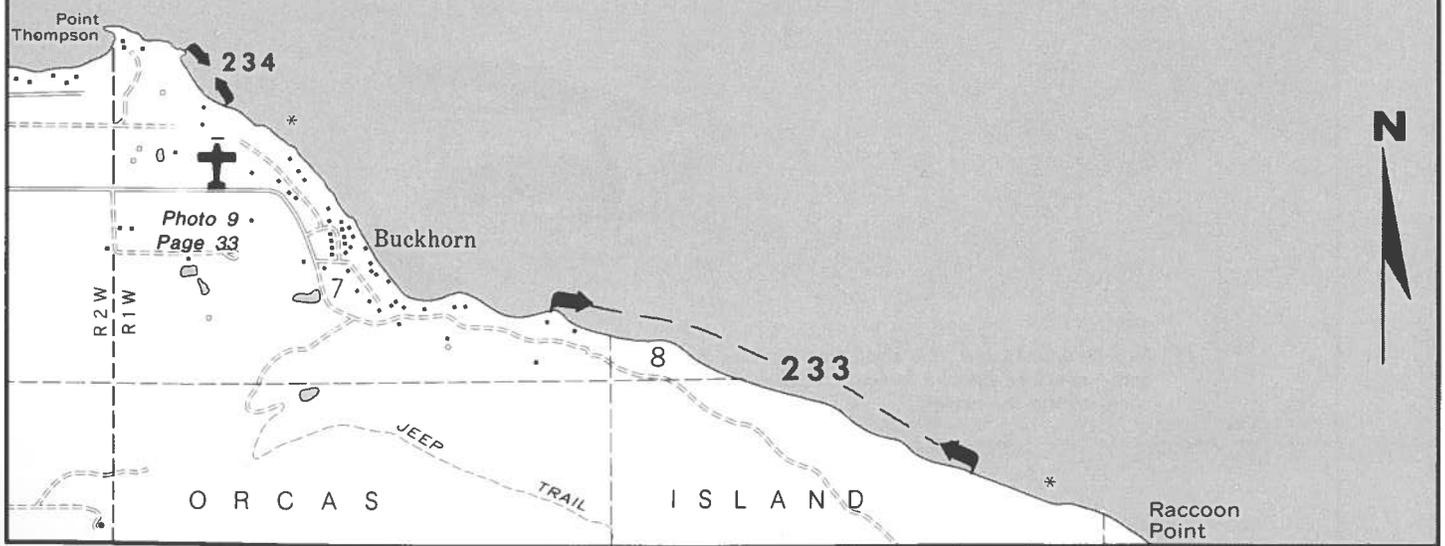
15. **Red-Throated Loon.** *This small gray loon has an up-turned bill and a speckled back. It is commonly seen in kelp beds near shore during the winter.*



# STRAIT OF GEORGIA



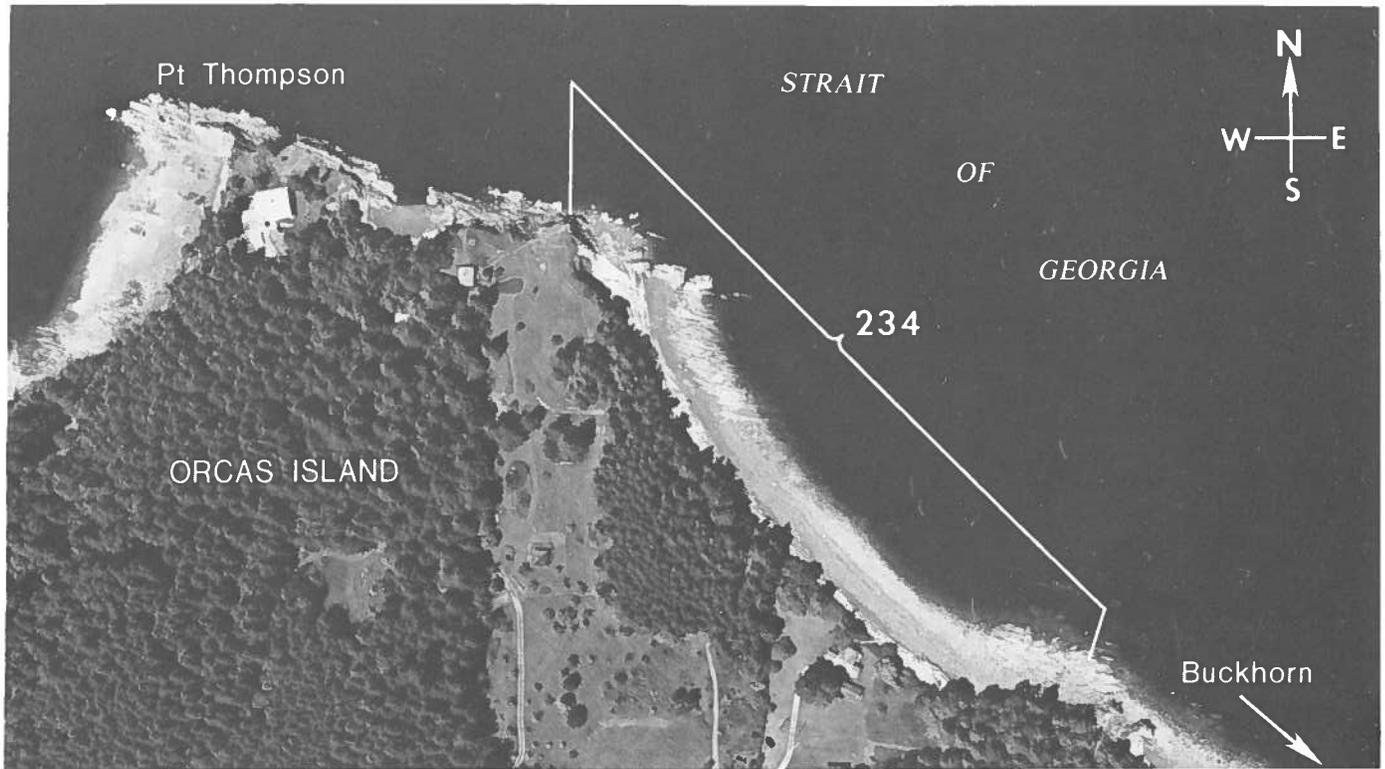
See Map 13



See Map 11

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation

### Map 12 Matia Island



**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).

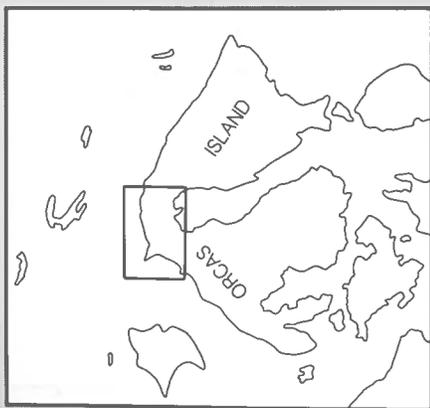
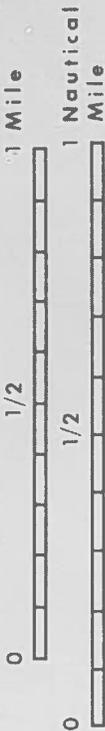
**Beach Composition —**

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

North Beach

10

236

Point Doughty

Campground

Camp Orkila

238A  
FREEMAN ISLAND STATE PARK

Photo 10  
Page 35

238

Beach Haven

16

ISLAND

Eastsound

14

ORCAS

15

238

16

16

16

16

16

16

16

16

Orcas Island Sch

Water Tank

Gravel Pit

JEEP

WT

FR

Lookout

Lookout

Mtn

Lookout

BLM 270A

Water Tank

Gravel Pit

JEEP

WT

FR

Lookout

Lookout

Lookout

Lookout

Lookout

Lookout

Lookout

Lookout

Lookout

Double Hill

Ship Bay

Beach

Sand

Crescent

Beach

Ship Bay

Sand

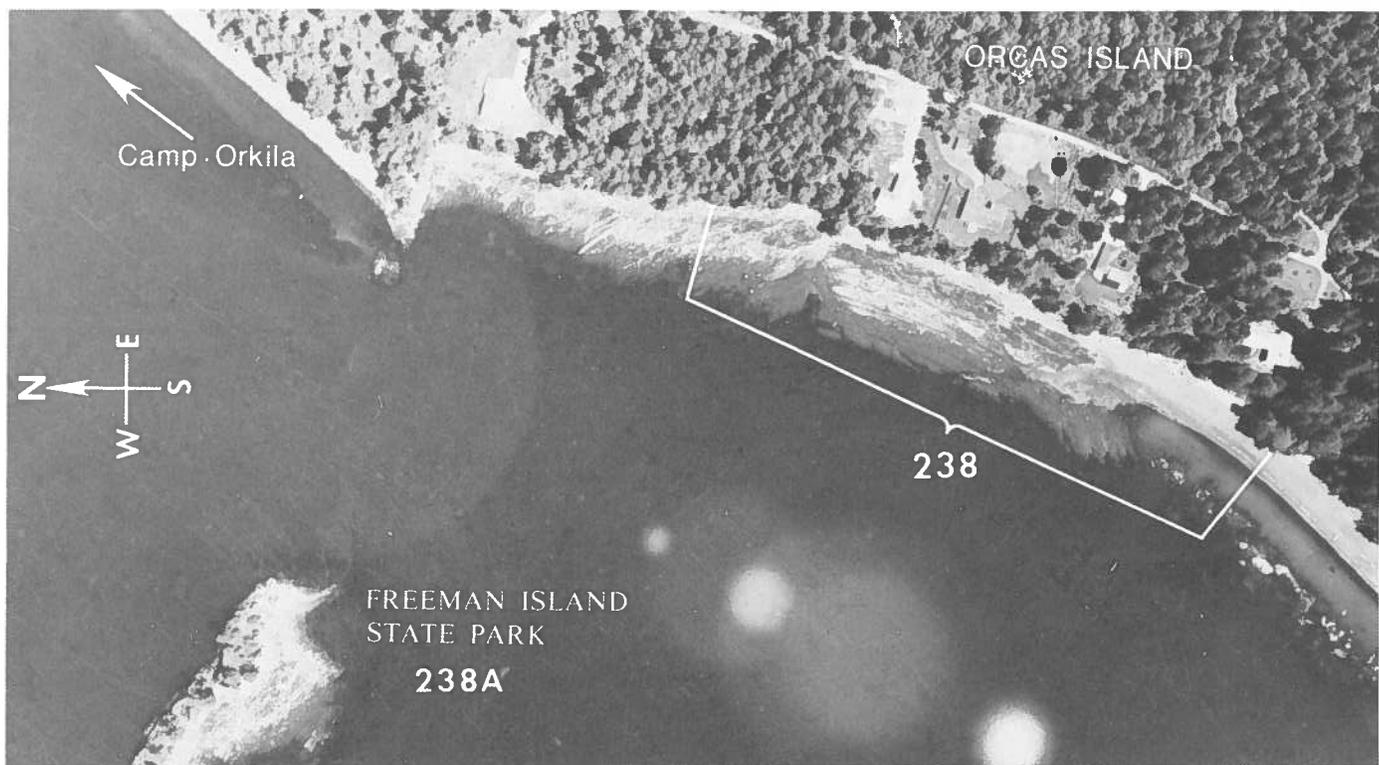
Crescent

Beach

Ship Bay

Sand

See Map 9



**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.**

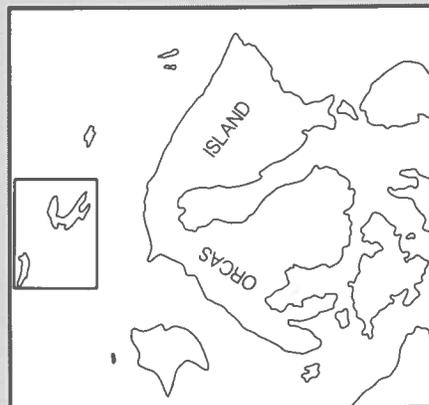
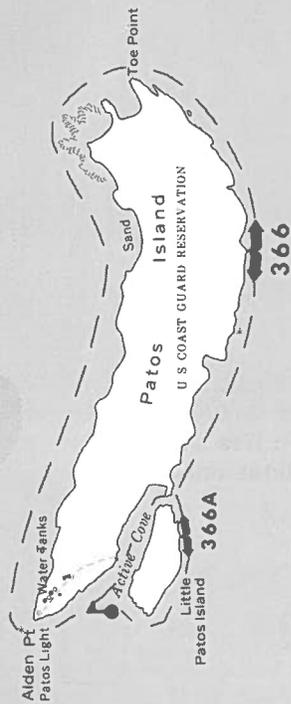
**Upper Boundary — Mean high tide line (7.8 elevation).**

**Beach Composition —**

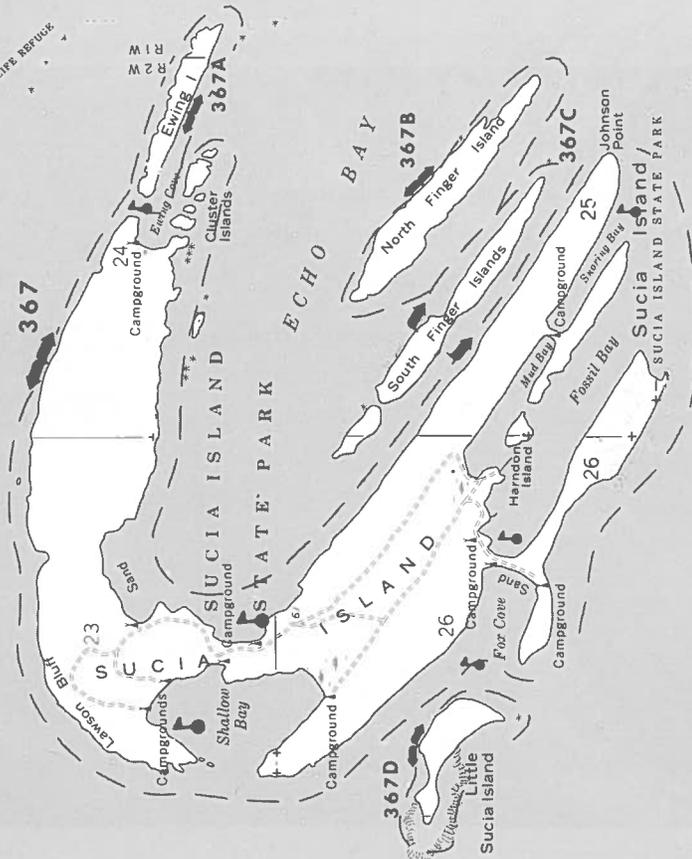
- 236 and 238A — Rocky headlands and ledge with some cobble beach.
- 238 — Northern half is rocky shelf. Southern half is pea gravel beach.
- 270A — Sand or gravel beach with scattered boulders.

**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).

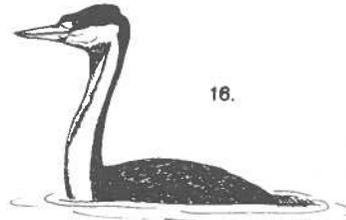
Beach Composition — Rocky ledge and headlands with numerous protected sand and gravel pocket beaches.

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.



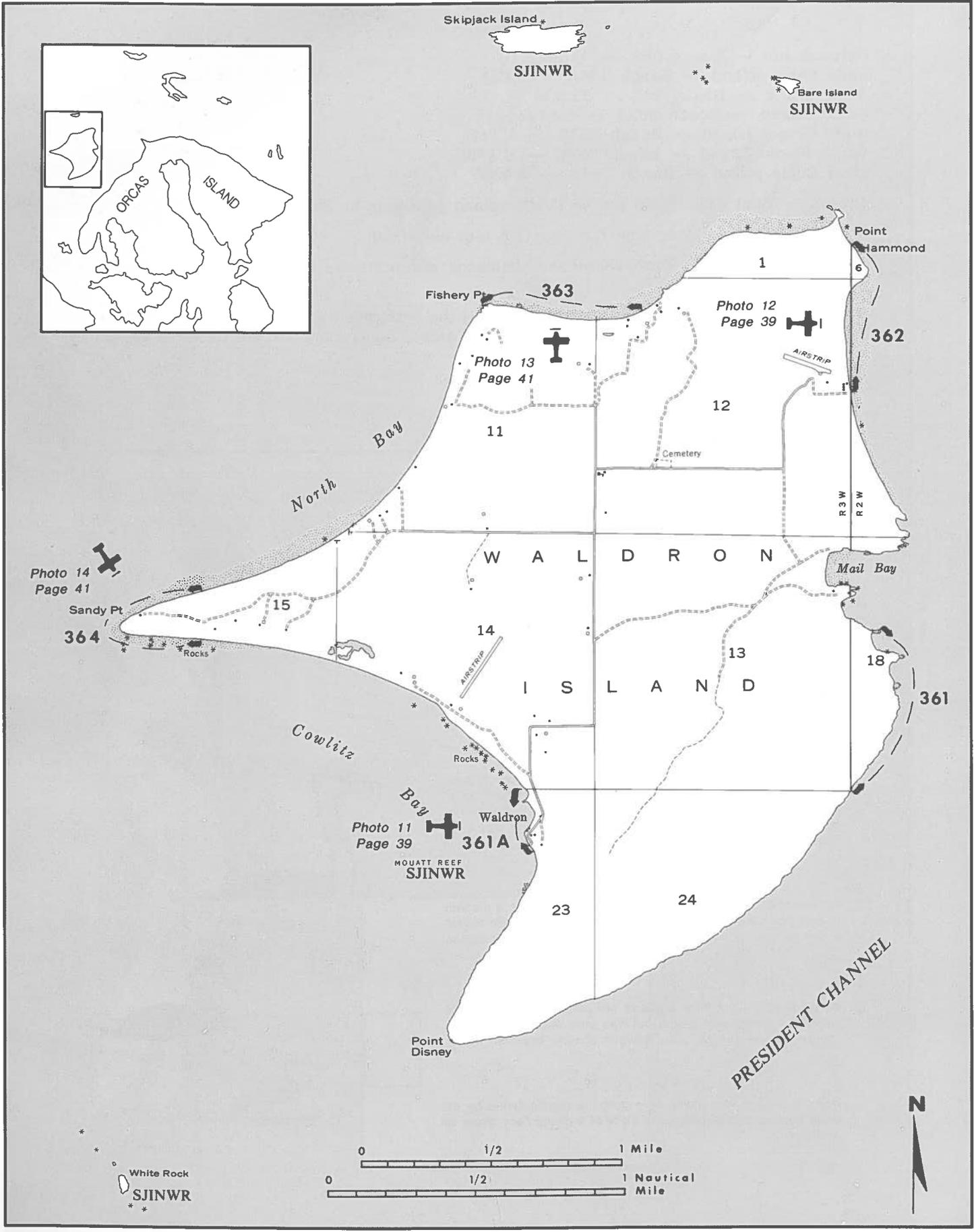
17. **Red-Necked Grebe.** The second largest grebe has a distinct helmet-like head shape. Its necks often retains a shade of red. It can be seen diving along bays and shorelines during winter.



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.

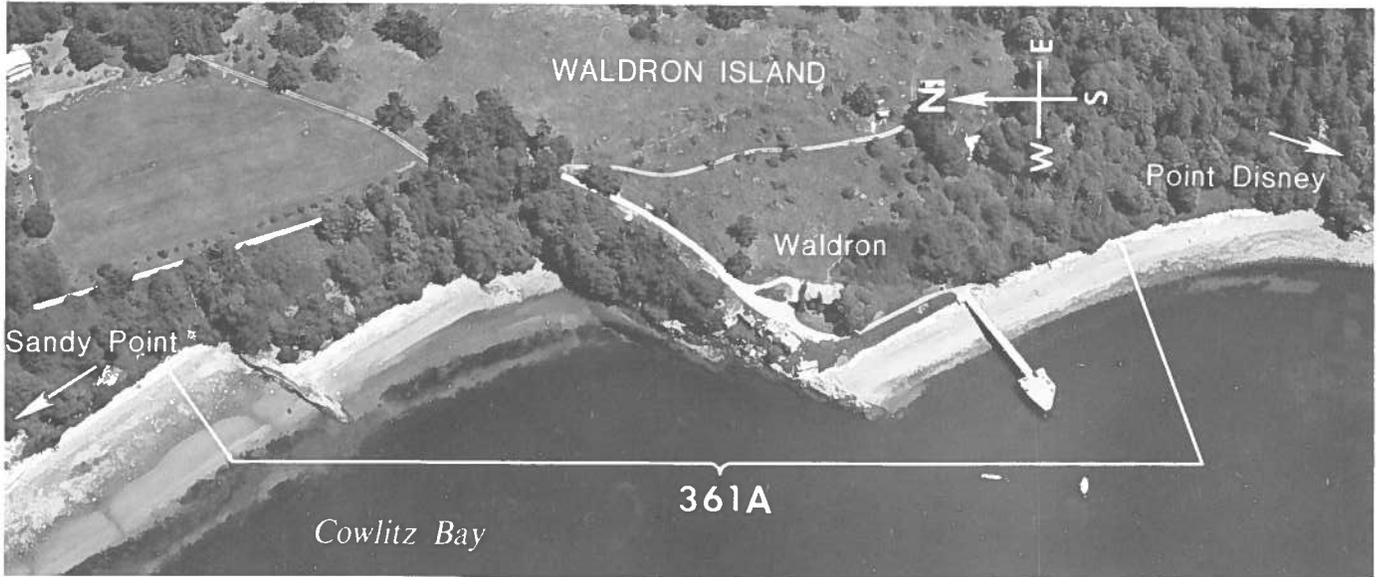




Map 15A Waldron Island

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.

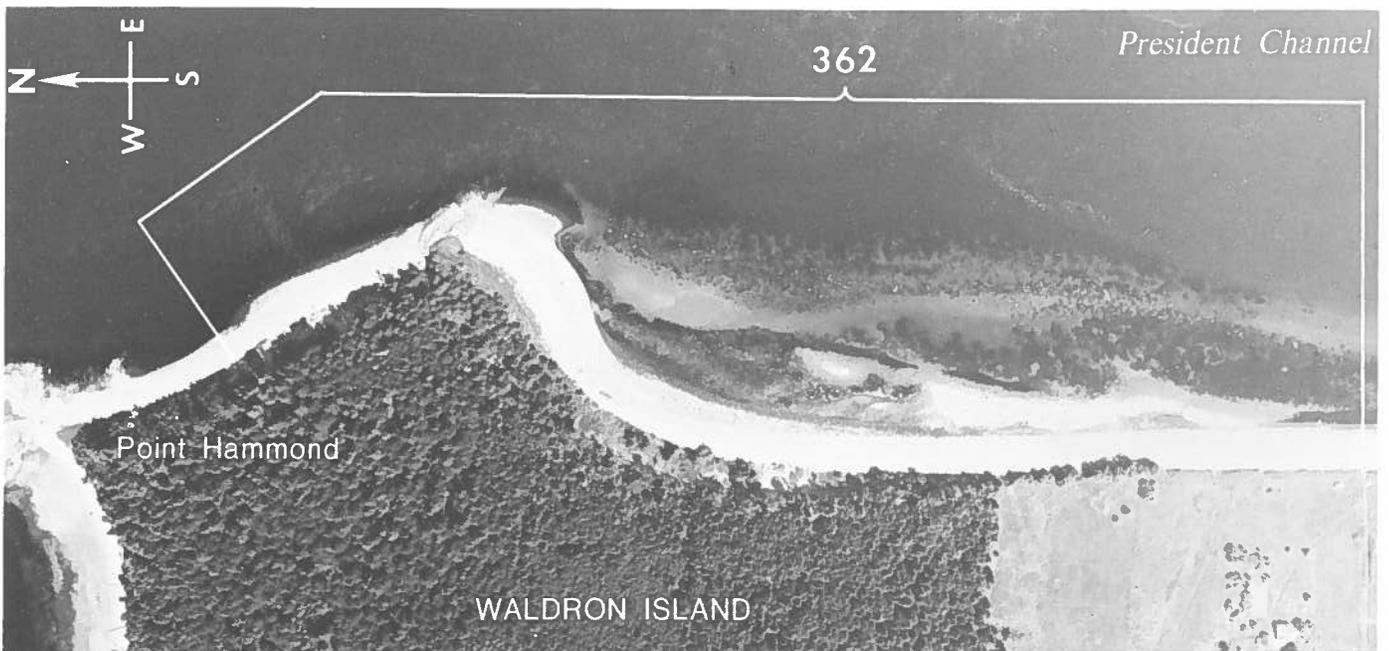
Upper Boundary — Mean high tide line (7.8 feet elevation).

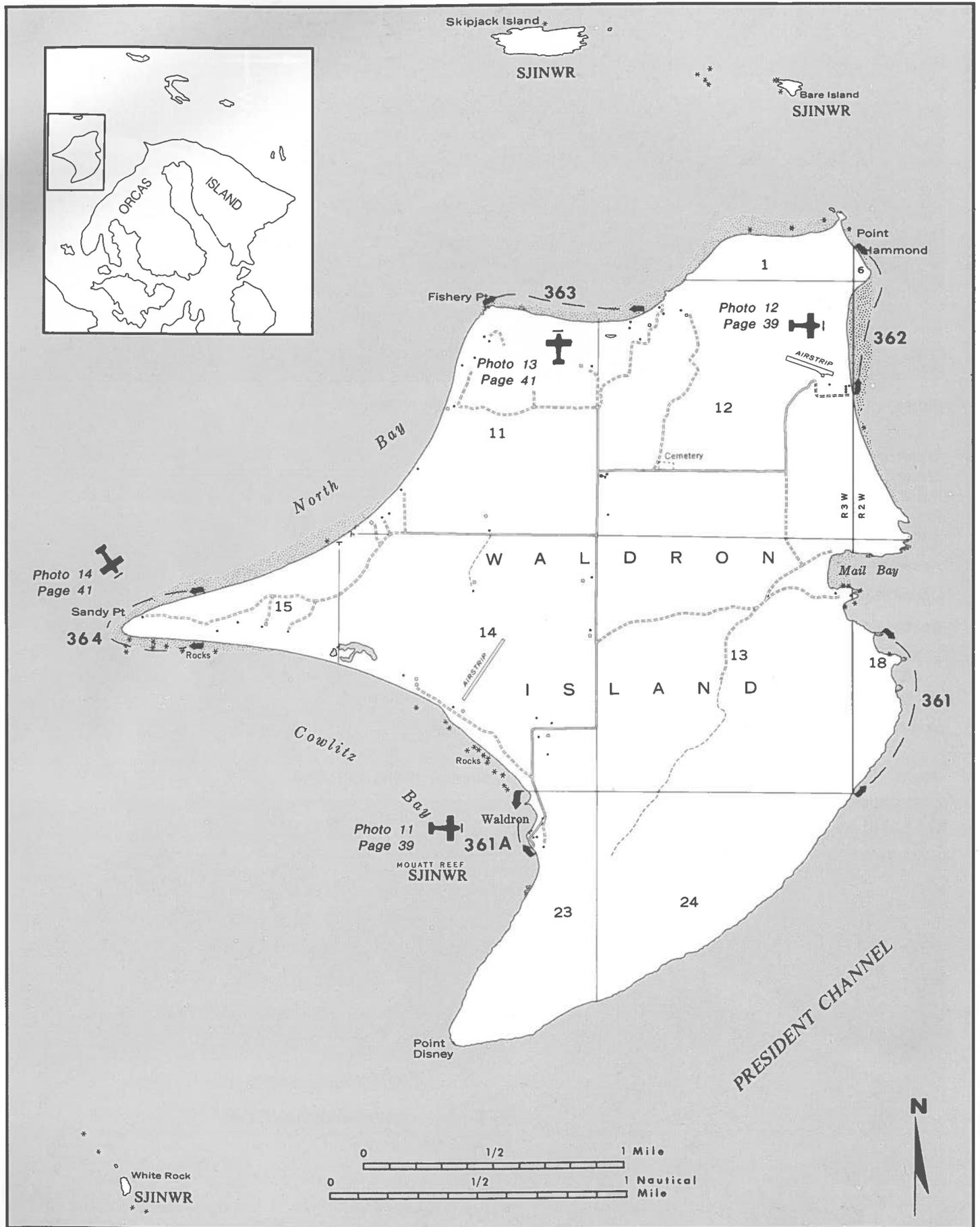
Beach Composition —

- 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**

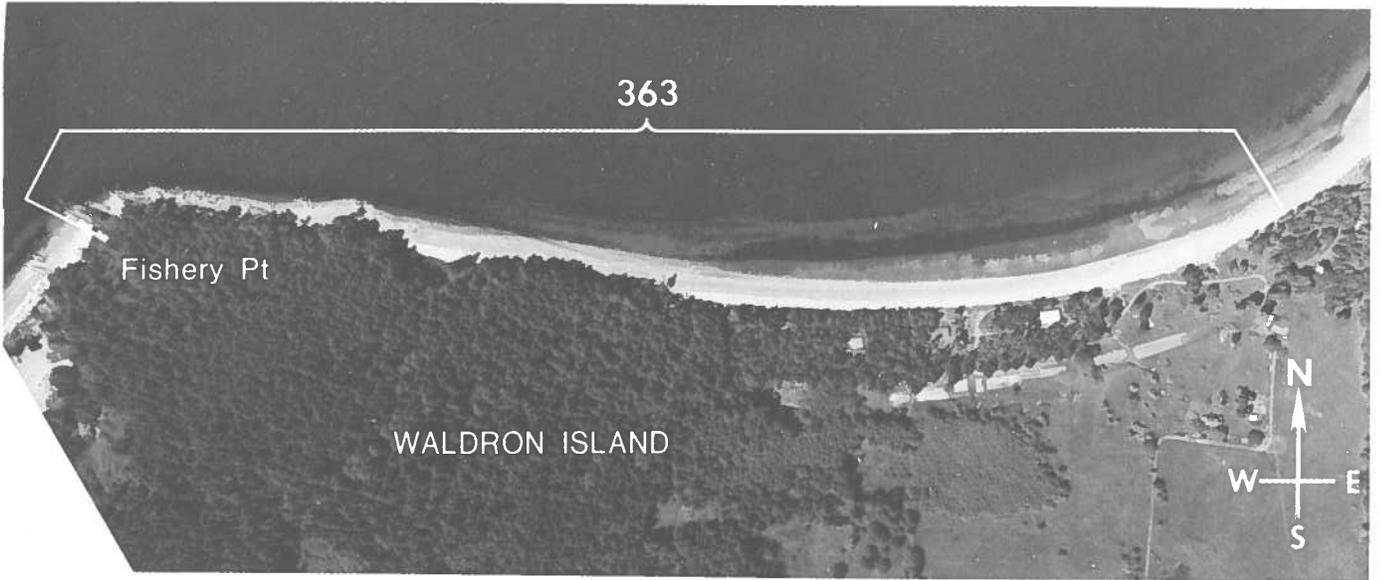




See Map 16

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.

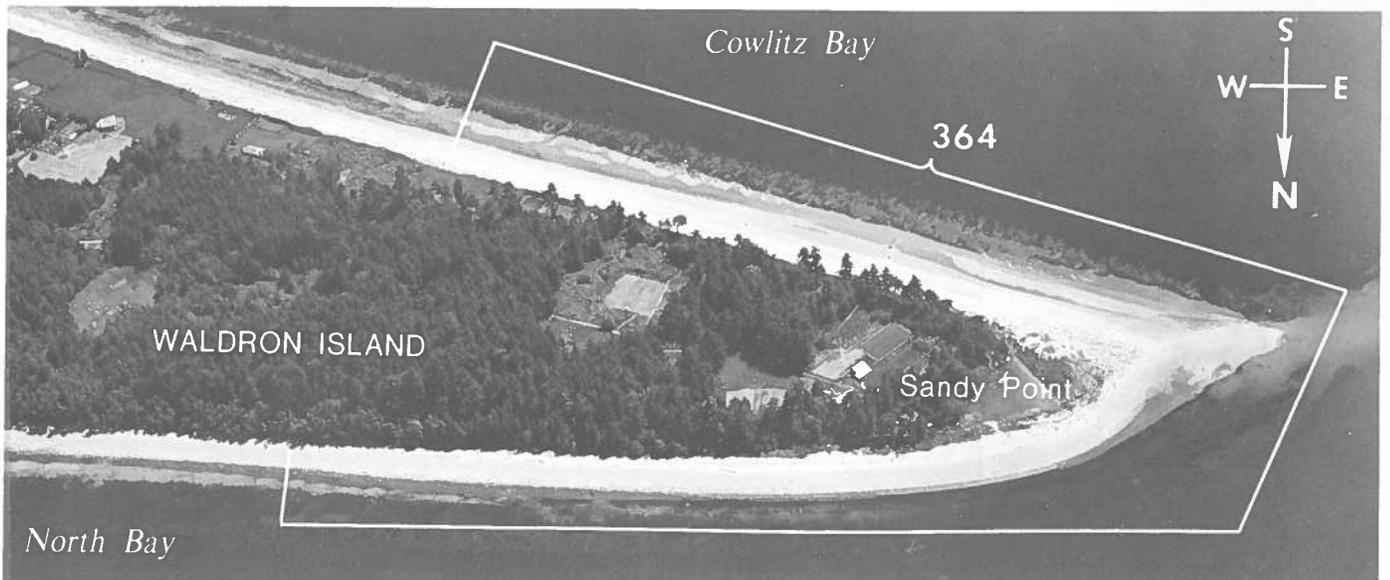
Upper Boundary — Mean high tide line (7.8 feet elevation).

Beach Composition —

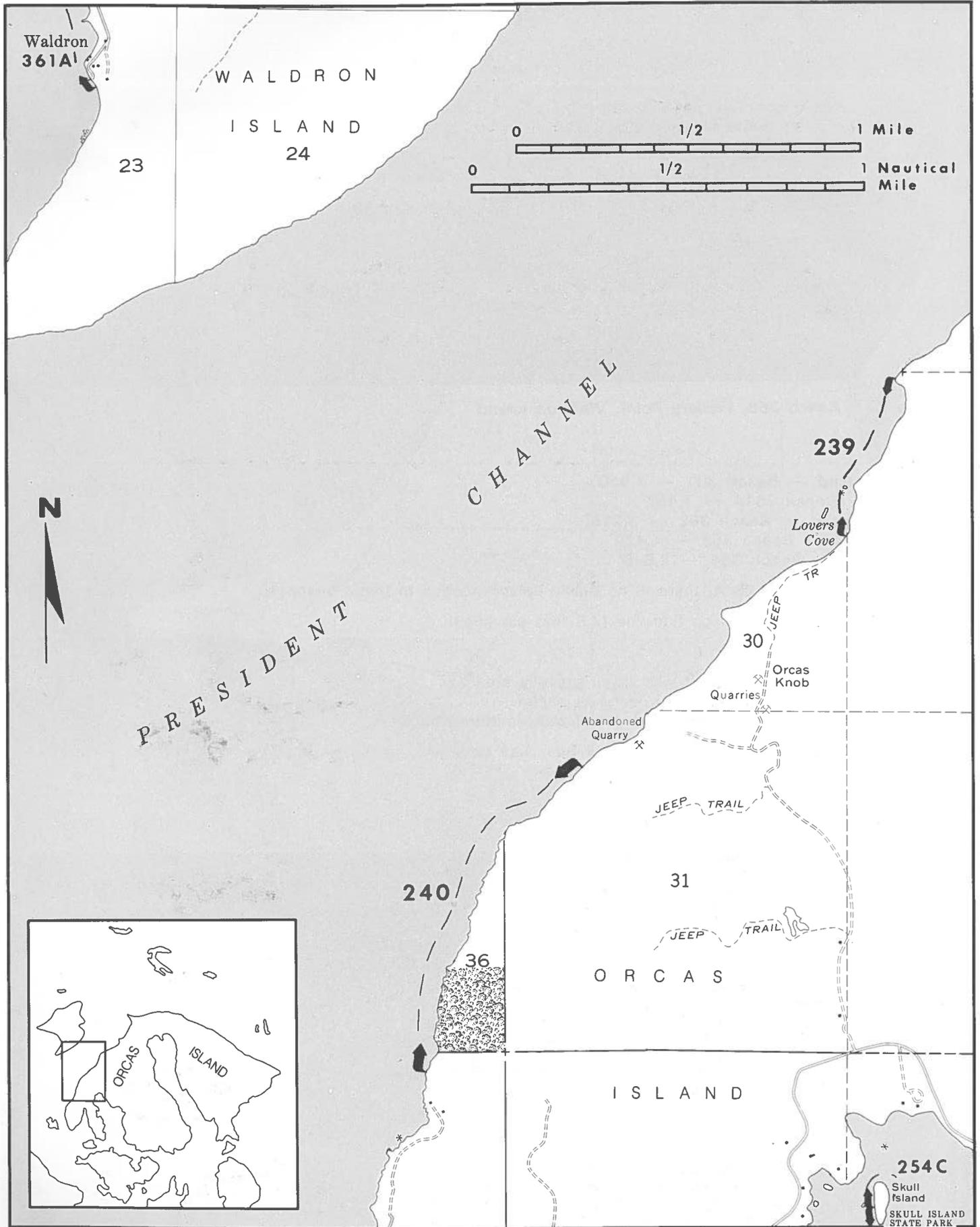
- 361 — Narrow rubble beach with some gravelly areas.
- 361A — Gravel beach with rock ledge in center.
- Remaining beaches have sand and gravel with scattered boulders.

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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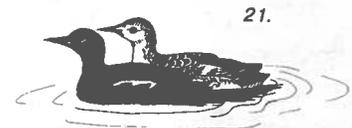
#### ALCIDS OR AUKS

*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.*

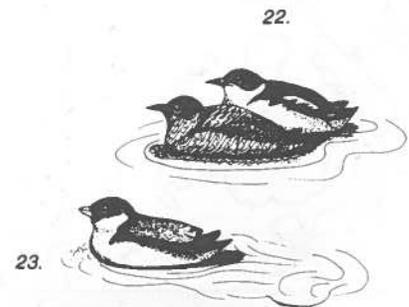
20. **Common Murre.** *During the summer, the murre has a white belly and a black head. It is similar in size to a loon, but has a shorter neck. During the winter, the murre retains the black back but gains white on the cheek. These birds are seen in large numbers in the Strait of Juan de Fuca in the 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 Guillemot.** *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

N

240A

Res

Deer Hbr

7

12

ORCAS ISLAND

240B

Star

Deer Harbor

Public Boat Ramp

Deer Harbor

Fawn Island

240C

14

Jones Island STATE PARK

SPRING PASSAGE

PASSAGE

Steep Point

NORTH PASS

Rocks\*

Reef Island

0 1/2 1 Mile

0 1/2 1 Nautical Mile

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.



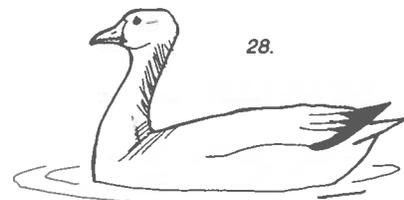
#### DUCKS, SWANS AND GEESE

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.



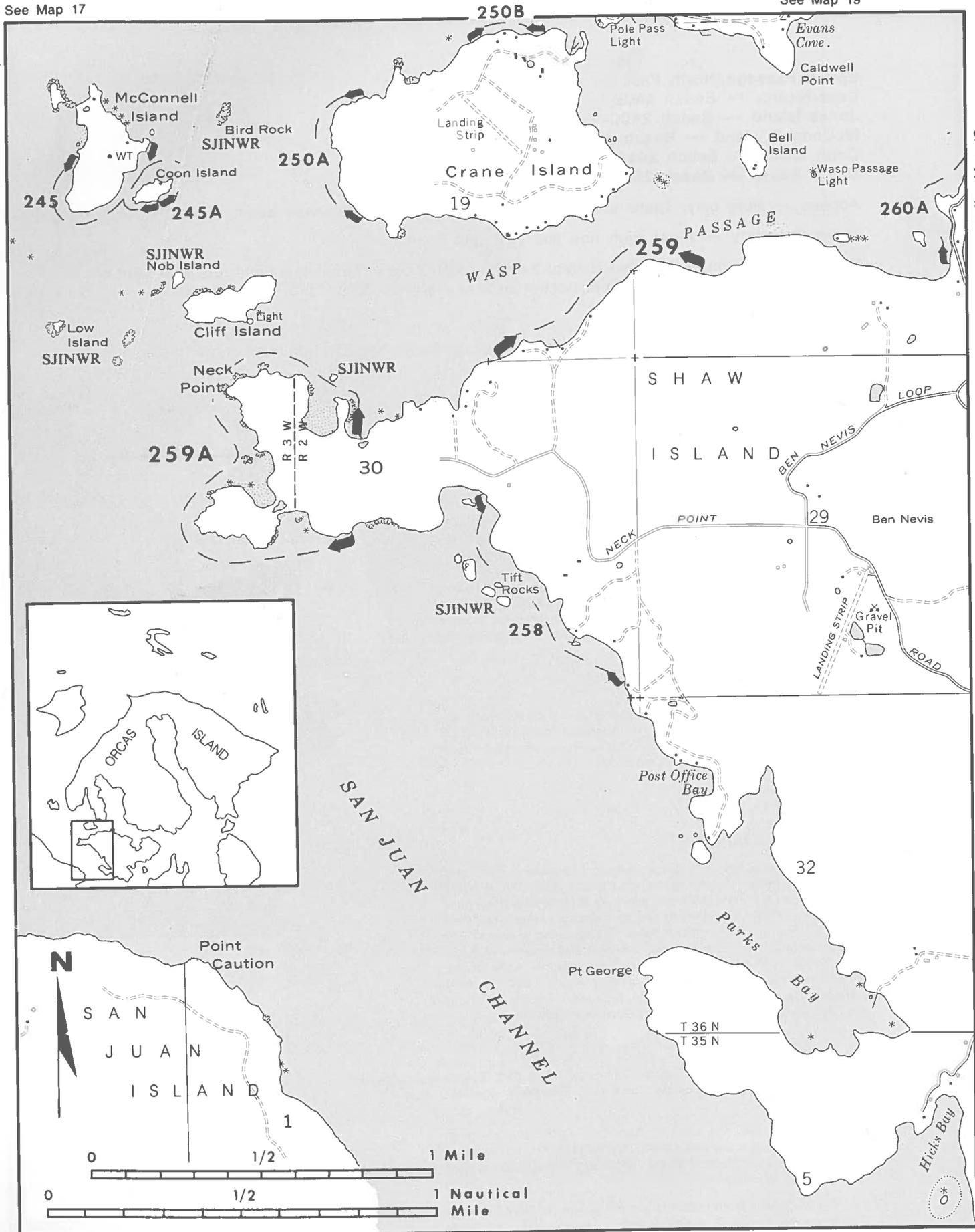
See Map 17

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).

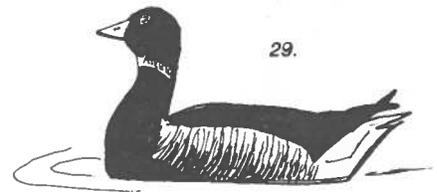
Beach Composition —

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.



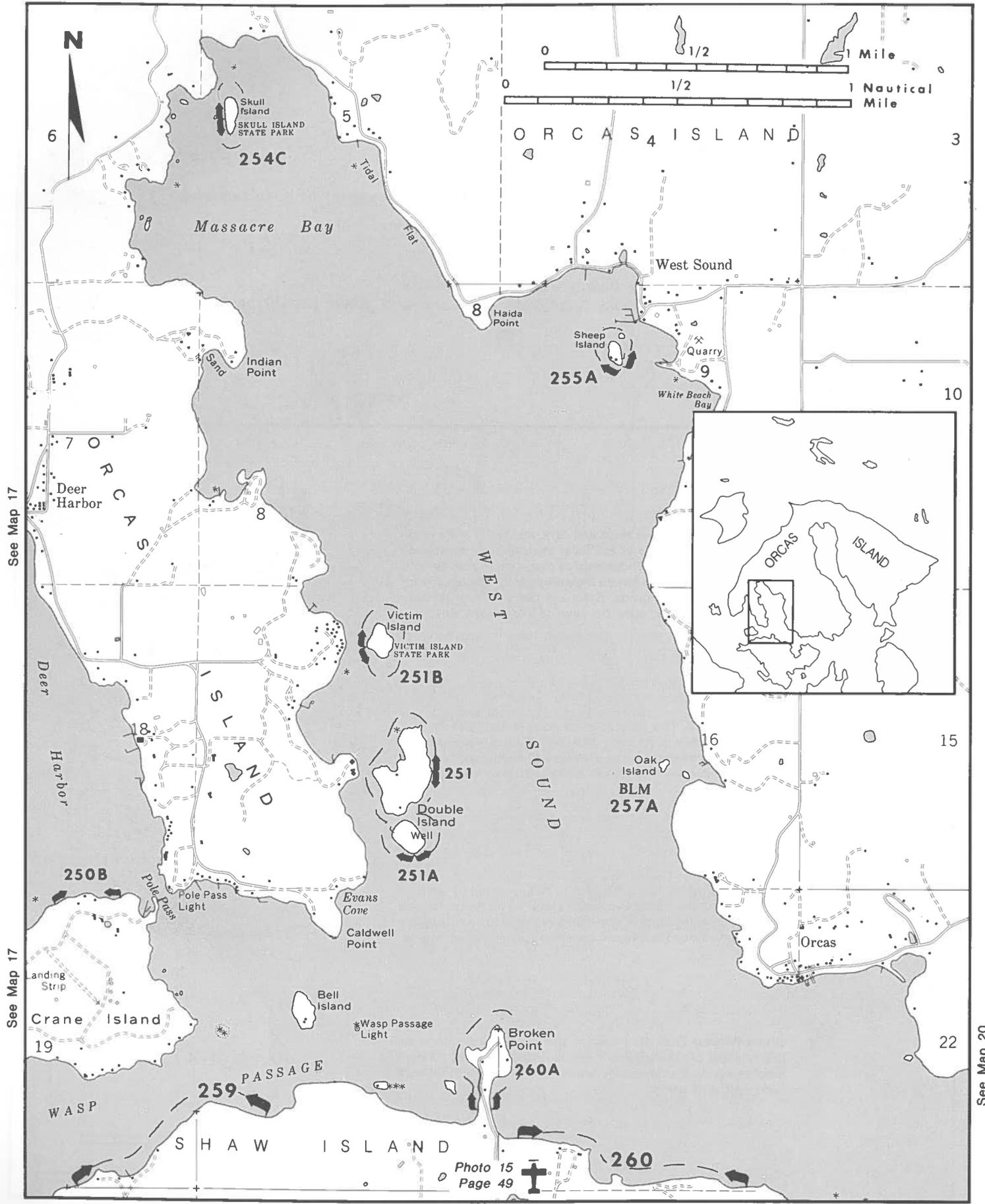
30. **Common Pintail.** This little dabbling duck is identified by long tail feathers, white on its neck, and vertical neck markings. The pintail is seen in salt marshes, shallow estuaries and shorelines during fall and winter. The female is drab and brown and is more difficult to identify.



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.

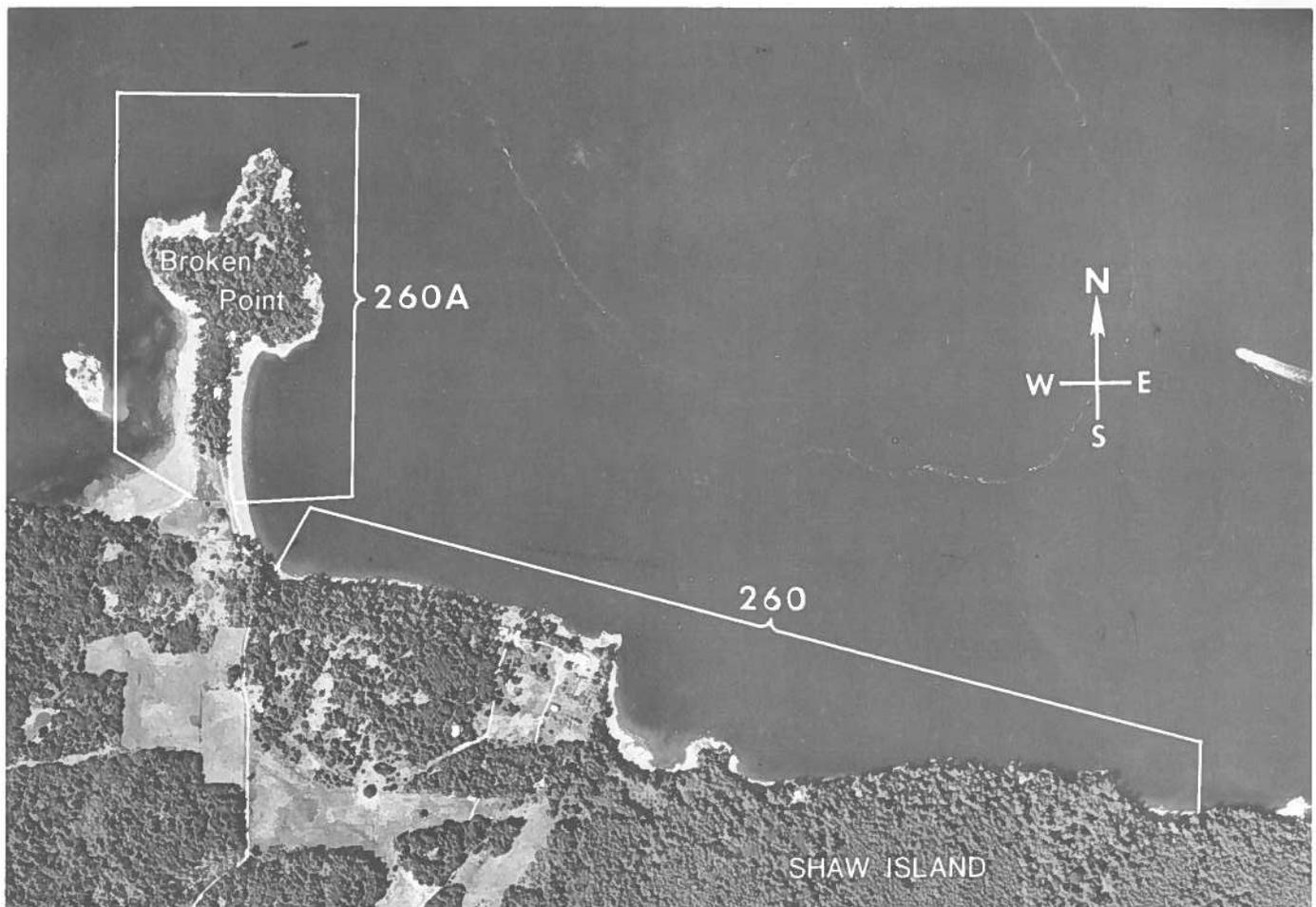


See Map 18

**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).

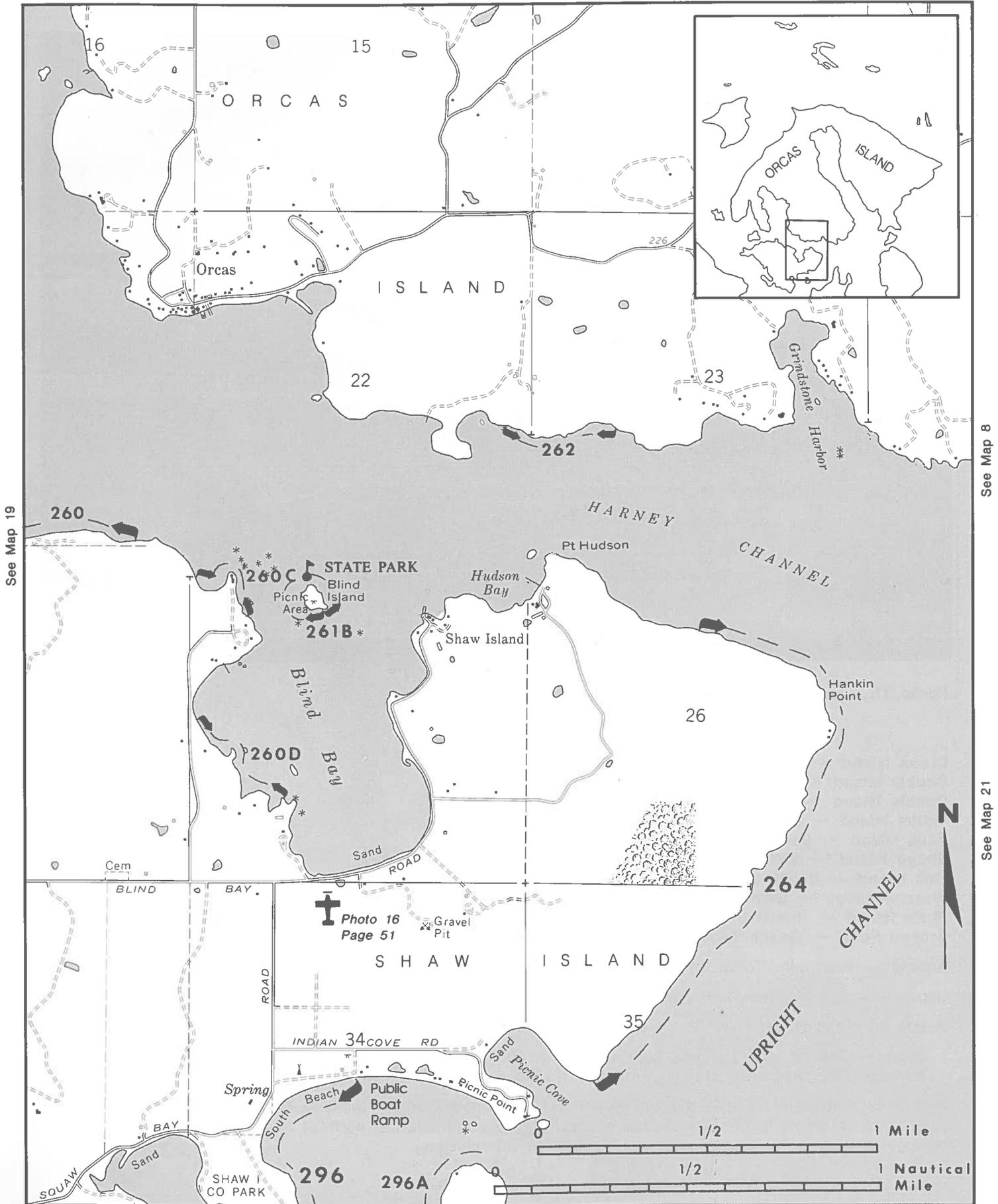
Beach Composition —

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

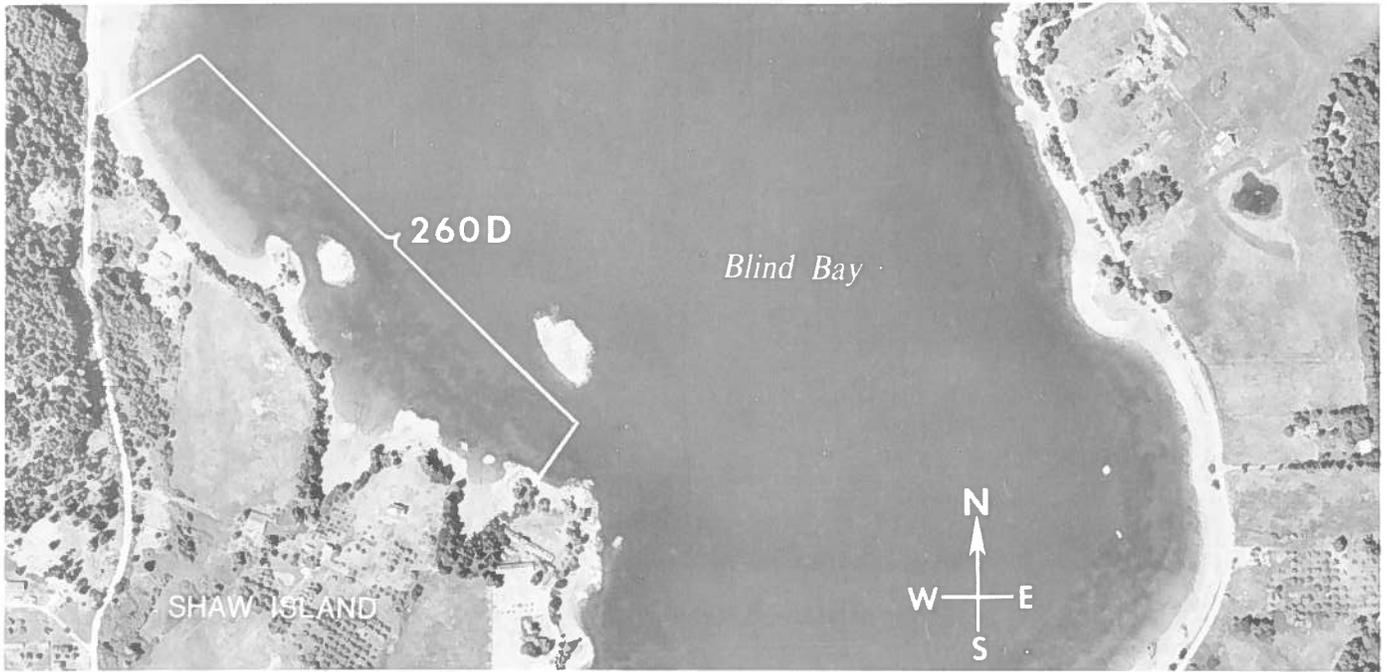
See Map 8

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.

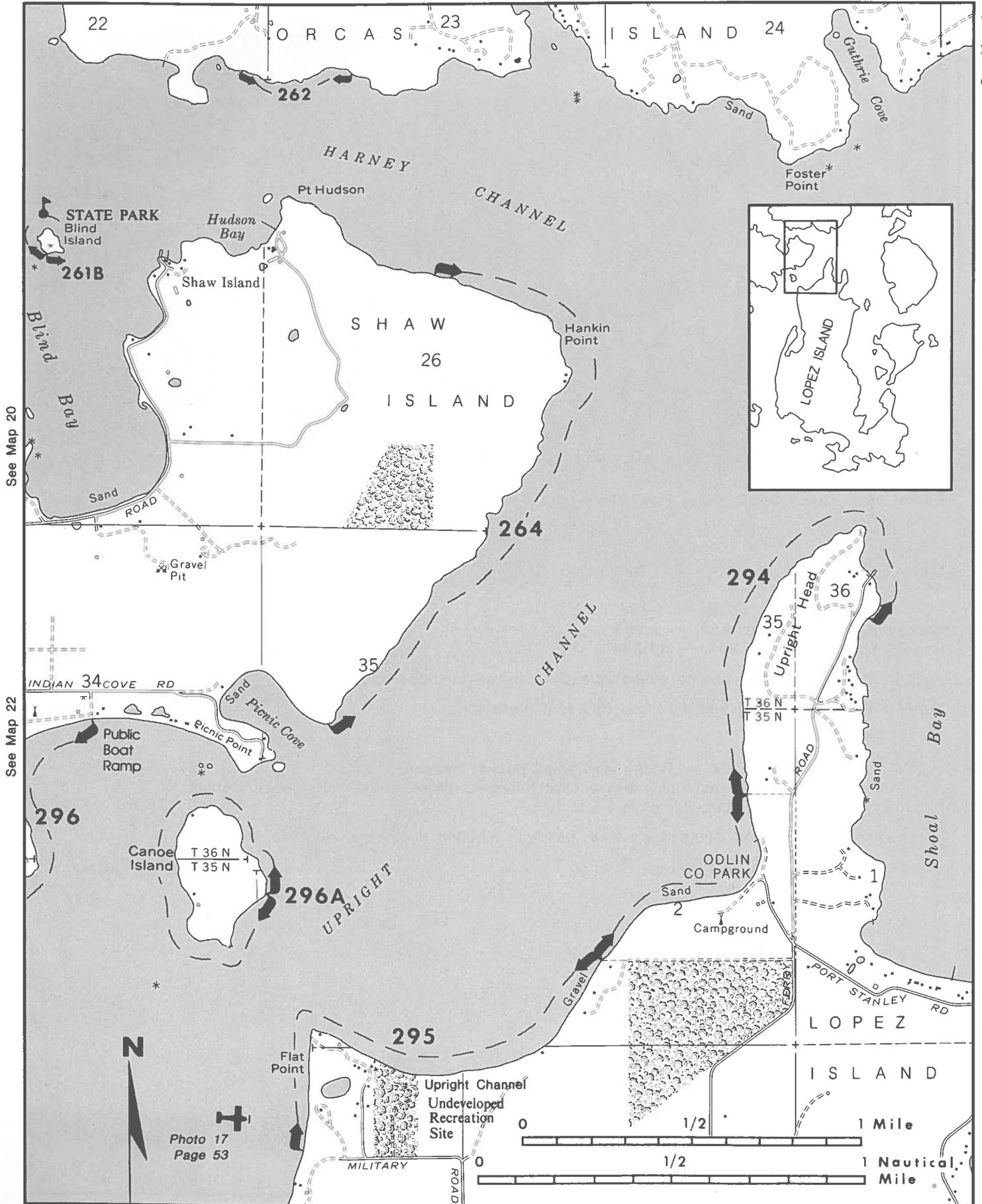
**Comments:** 261B — Blind Island State Park has four mooring buoys and a picnic area.

*Please do not trespass on private property*

See Map 19

See Map 20

See Map 8



See Map 20

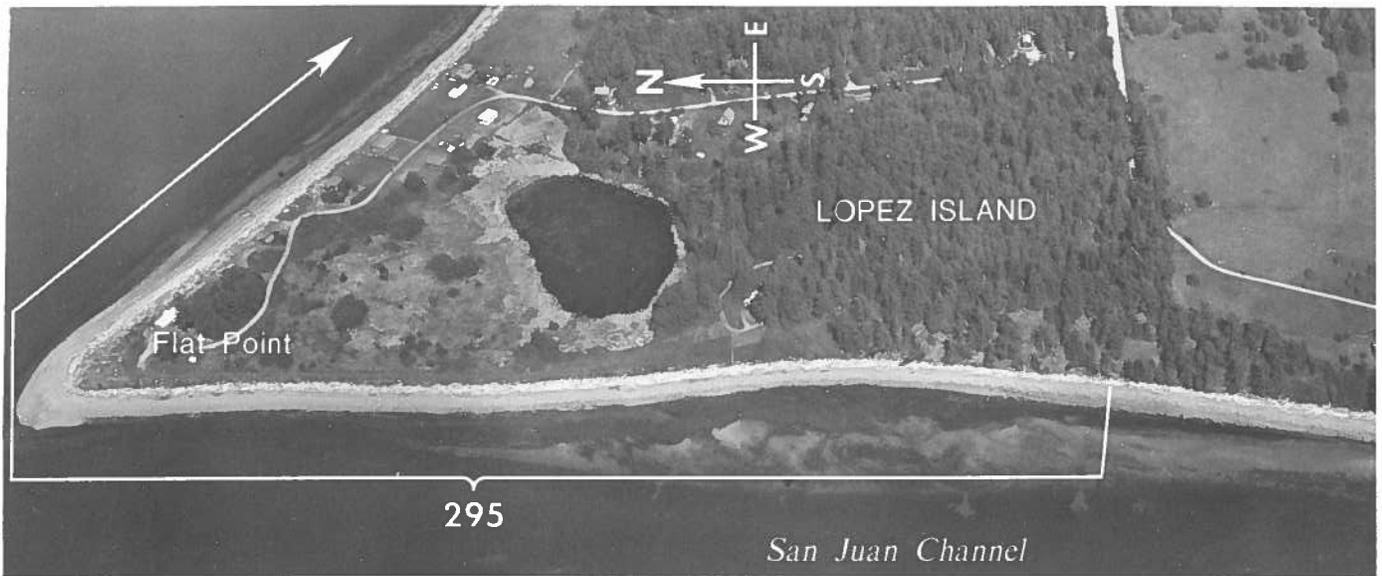
See Map 22

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.

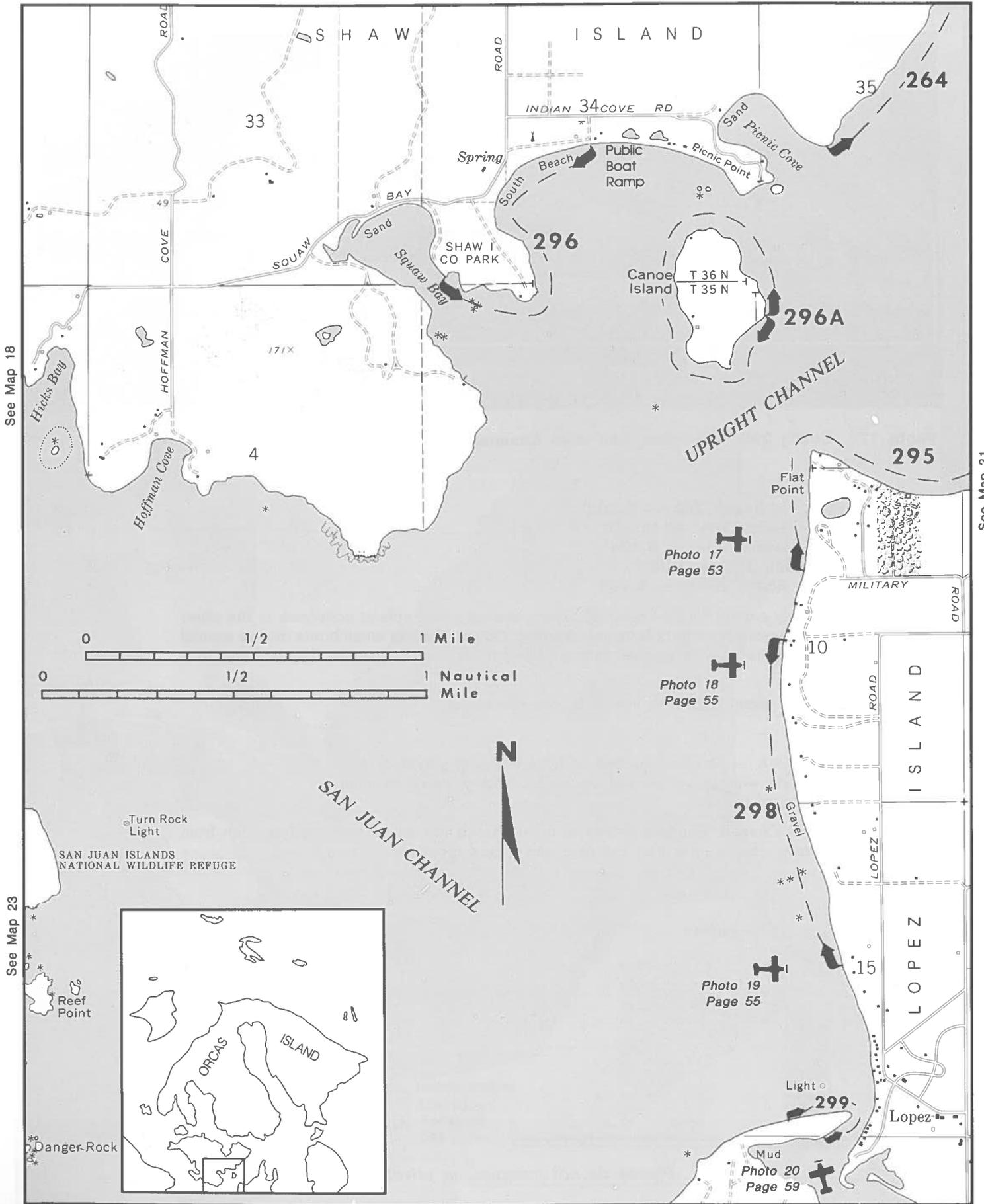
**Upper Boundary** — Mean high tide line (6.9 feet elevation).

**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*



See Map 18

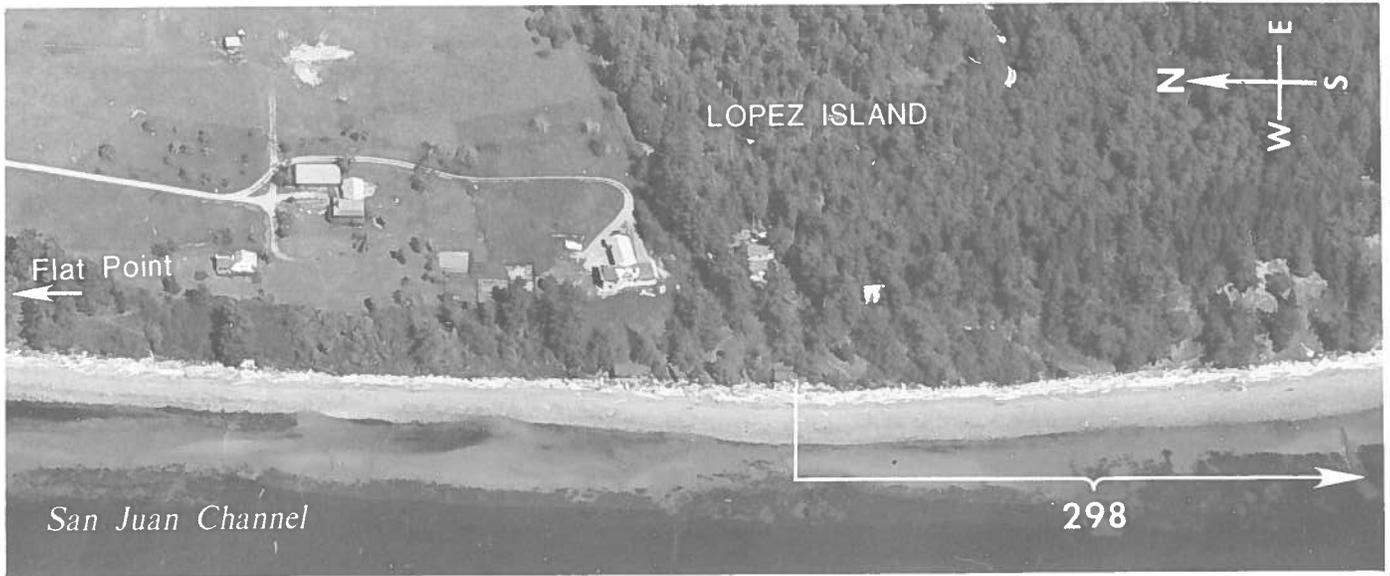
See Map 23

See Map 21

See Map 24

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation

Map 22 Canoe Island



**Photo 18 Beach 298 (North Boundary), San Juan Channel, Lopez Island**

- Indian Cove — Beach 296 — 3,249'
- Canoe Island — Beach 296A — 5,196'
- San Juan Channel — Beach 298 — 5,347'
- Fisherman Bay — Beach 299 — 1,660'

Access — Boat only except 296. There are no public upland accesses to the other beaches. Beach 296 is accessible through Shaw Island county park.

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

Beach Composition —

- 296 — Extensive gravel beach with rocky headland.
- 296A — Rocky headlands with pocket beaches.
- 298 — Cobble beach with sandy areas and scattered boulders.
- 299 — Sand or gravel beach.

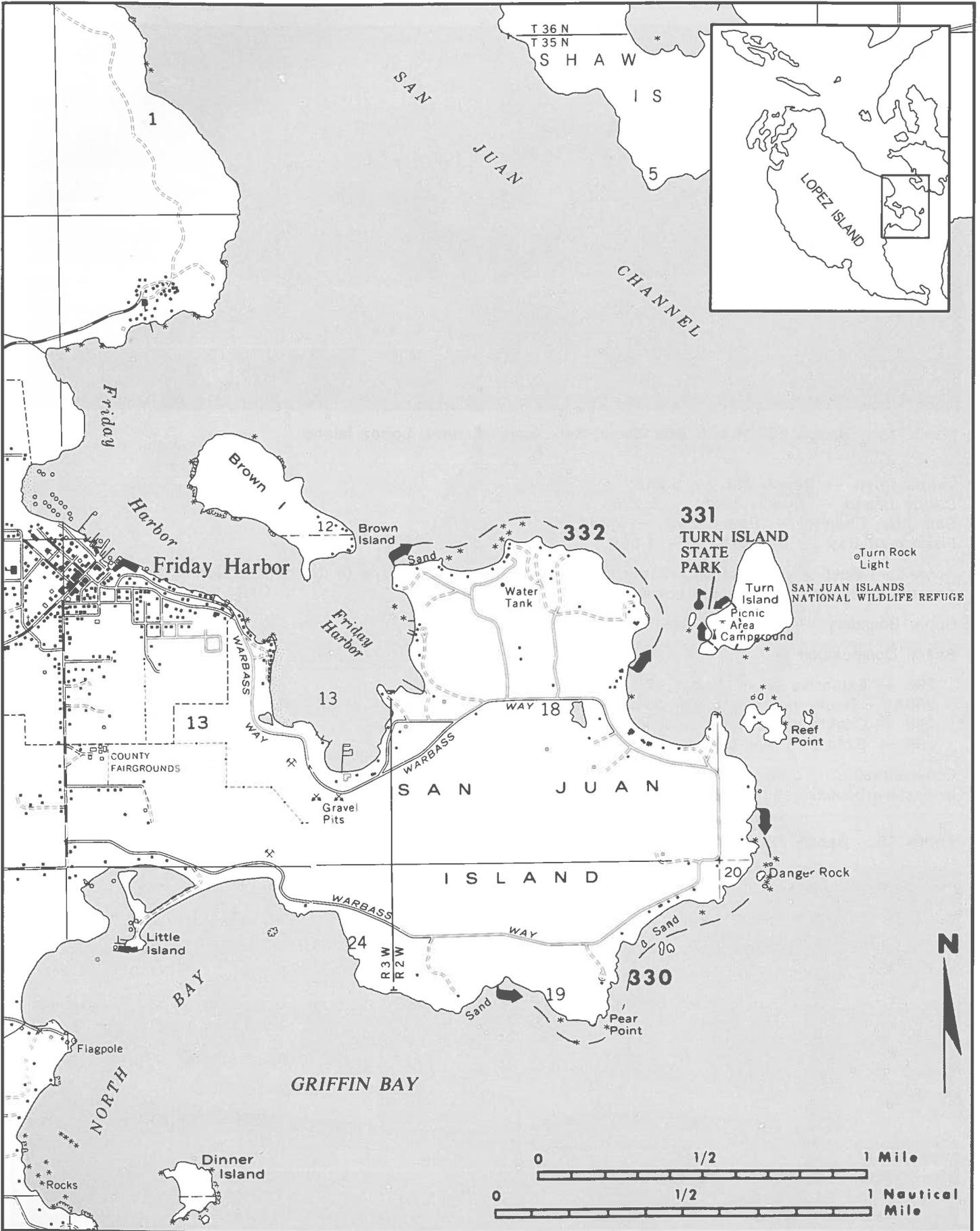
Comments: 297 — Uplands are Shaw Island county park which permit picnicking and camping. County boat ramp is eastern boundary of Beach 296.

**Photo 19 Beach 298 (South Boundary), San Juan Channels**



See Map 18

See Map 18



See Map 22

See Map 24

See Map 26

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation

Map 23 Friday Harbor, San Juan Island

**San Juan Island — Beach 330 — 8,432'**

**Turn Island — Beach 331 — 1,517'**

**Pear Point — Beach 332 — 6,097'**

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

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

Beach Composition —

Turn Island — Sand or gravel beach fronting state park; remainder of island beaches are rocky.

330 and 332 — Rocky headlands or ledges with sand or gravel pocket beaches.

Comments: Turn Island — Part of Turn Island is leased by Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. Public use is restricted to the area leased by State Parks. Three mooring buoys available in bay.

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#### **DIVERS AND SEA DUCKS**

*Divers and Sea Ducks can be seen in deeper water, feeding on clams and sea invertebrates on the bottom. They have a lobed toe to aid them in diving.*

33. **Canvasback.** This duck has white sides and a red head, and is distinguished by its long sloping head and bill. It is most common in Skagit and Padilla Bays.

34. **Barrow's Goldeneye.** Similar to the common goldeneye, this diver is identified by its crescent shaped spot before each eye. It is seen near Port Angeles and Olympia.



34.

35. **Common Goldeneye.** This roundish bird has a black head and back, white breast and a white round spot before each eye. The striking black and white bird is often seen with bufflehead, diving along shallow shorelines.

36. **Greater Scaup.** Although both scaup species are present in Puget Sound, the greater scaup is more common in salt water. Its white sides, blackish-green head and neck distinguish this diving duck.



37.

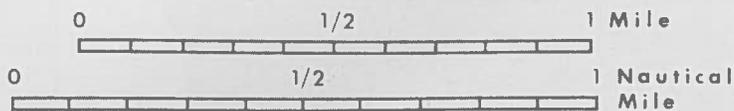
37. **Bufflehead.** This smallest of divers with its white breast, black head, and white crown is a familiar sight along shallow shorelines during the fall and winter.

38. **Harlequin Duck.** This unique duck, with its blue, orange, black and white mix, nests inland in trees along rivers. Most of the year it can be seen along rocky shorelines.



38.

See Map 22



See Map 23



SAN JUAN CHANNEL

298

Photo 19  
Page 55

Light

299

Photo 20  
Page 59

ROAD

Fisherman Bay

Lopez

HUMMEL LAKE

FISHERMAN BAY

Sandpit

ISLAND

LOPEZ

See Map 26

Photo 21  
Page 59

303

Rock Point

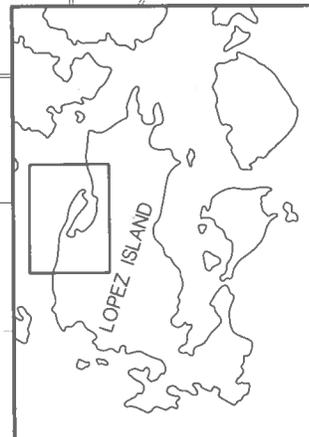
Gravel Pit

CHANNEL

ROAD

FISHERMAN BAY

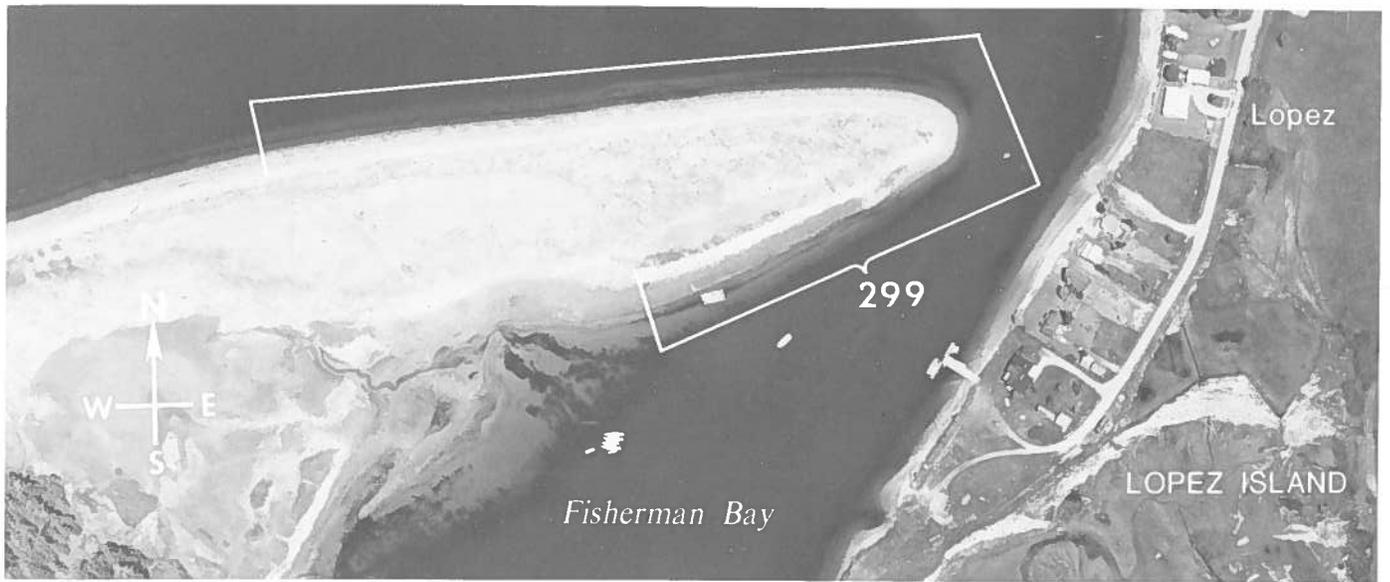
DILL



See Map 25

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation

Map 24 Fisherman Bay, Lopez Island



**Photo 20 Beach 299 of Fisherman Bay, Lopez Island**

**San Juan Channel — Beach 298 — 5,347'**  
**Fisherman Bay — Beach 299 — 1,660'**  
**Rock Point — Beach 303 — 1,312'**

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

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

Beach Composition —

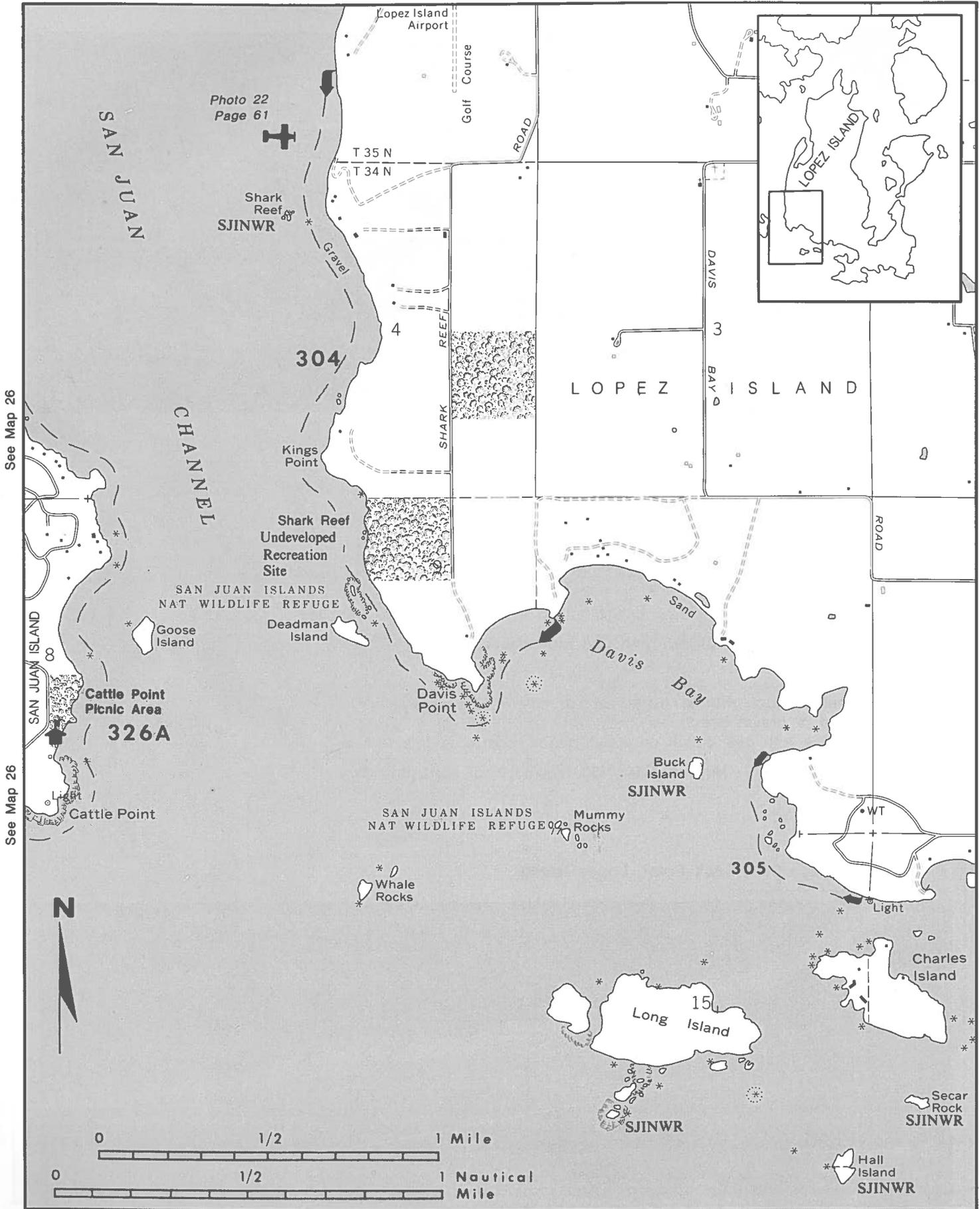
- 298 — Cobble beach with sandy areas and scattered boulders.
- 299 — Sand or gravel beach.
- 303 — Cobble with pea gravel on upper beach, scattered boulders.

Comments: Beach 303 — Huge boulder 100 feet north of north boundary.

**Photo 21 Beach 303, Rock Point, Lopez Island**



See Map 24



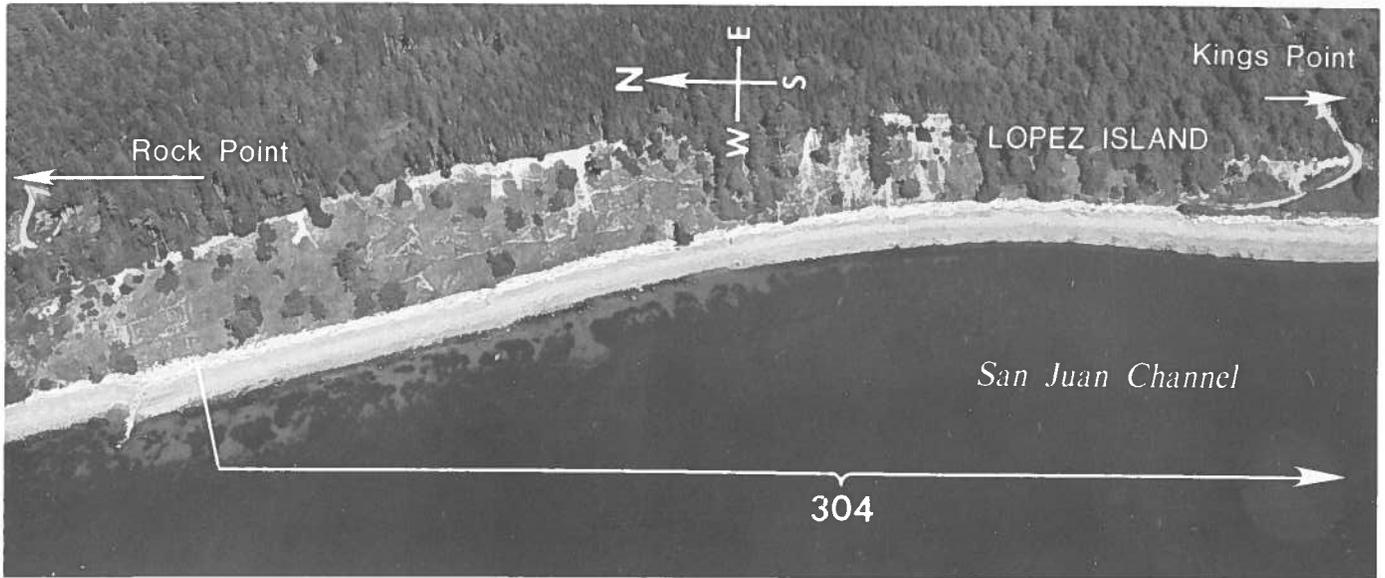
See Map 26

See Map 26

See Map 1

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation

Map 25 Davis Bay, Lopez Island



**Photo 22 Beach 304 (North Boundary), San Juan Channel, Lopez Island**

**Shark Reef — Beach 304 — 13,965'**  
**Lopez Island — Beach 305 — 4,055'**

**Access —** Boat only except for 304. There are no public upland accesses to other beaches. Beach 304 has access to rocky tidelands by access road to future Shark Reef Recreation Site.

**Upper Boundary —** Mean high tide line (6.6 feet elevation).

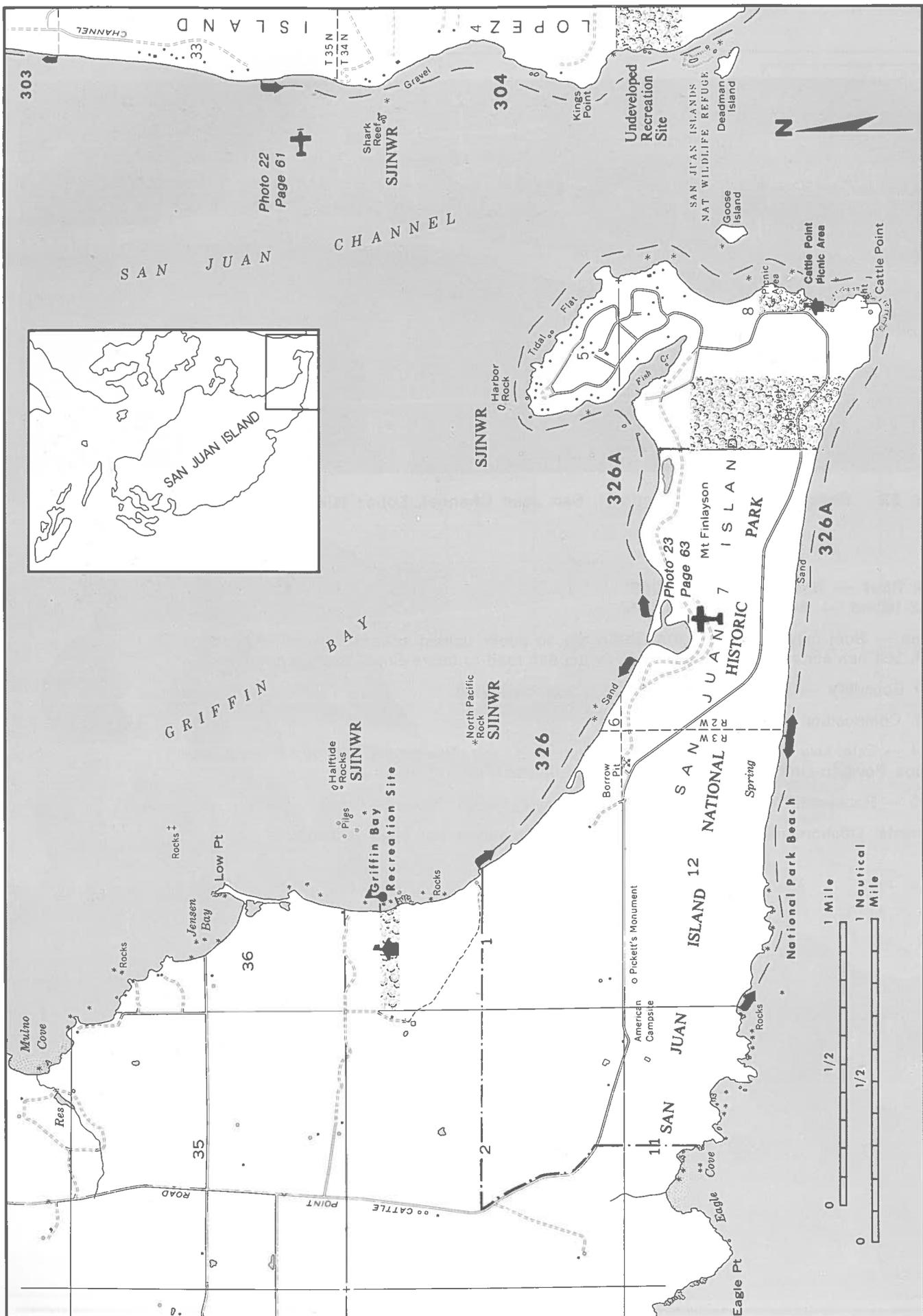
**Beach Composition —**

304 — Extensive gravel or cobble beaches on both ends. The central part of the beach from Kings Point to Davis Point is rocky ledge with small pocket beaches.

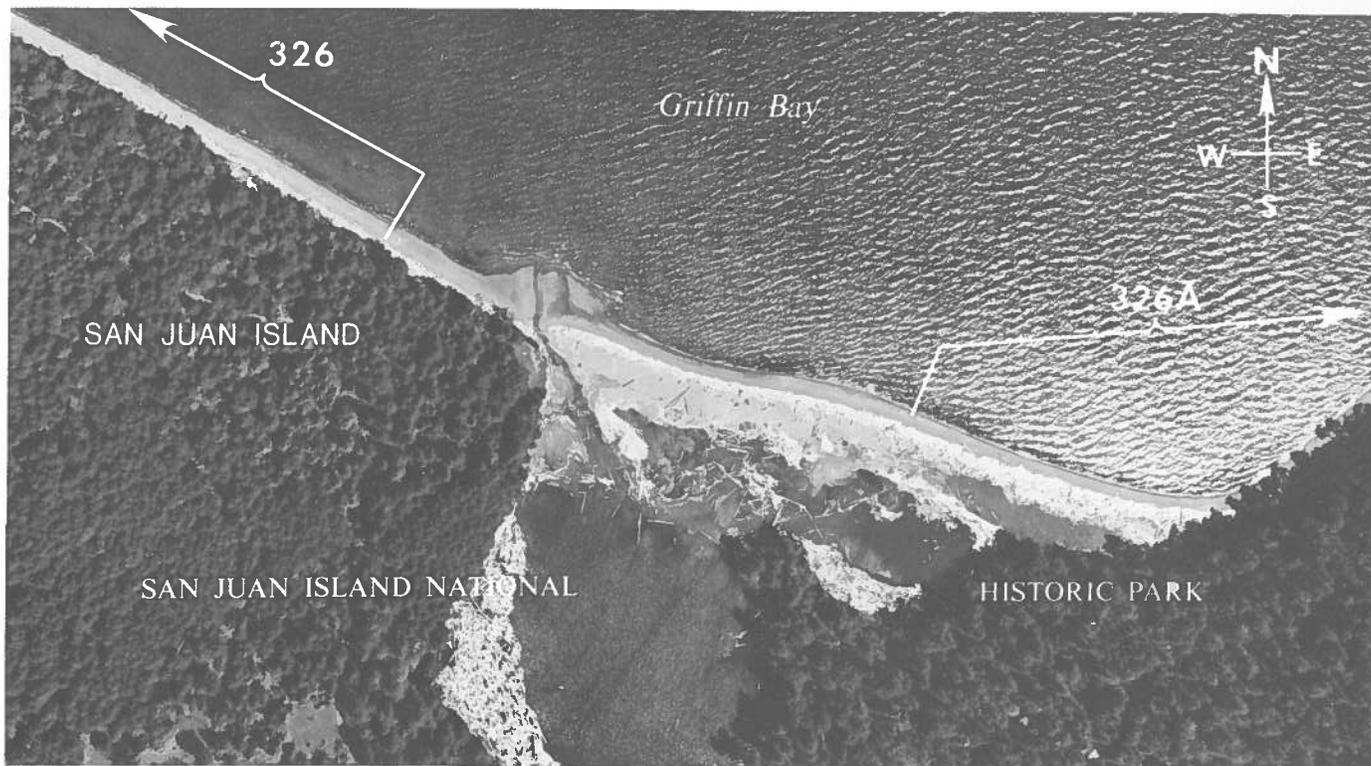
305 — Rocky bluff with and and pea gravel pocket beach. Group of exposed reefs in cove.

**Comments:** Offshore islands and reefs are nature preserves not open to public.

*Please do not trespass on private property*



WARNING: Not to be used for navigation



**Photo 23 Beaches 326 (East Boundary) and 326A (West Boundary), Griffin Bay, San Juan Island**

**Griffin Bay — Beach 326 — 3,498'**  
**Cattle Point — Beach 326A — 26,400' + 1,842'**  
**Shark Reef — Beach 304 — 13,965'**  
**Griffin Bay Recreation Site — 330'**  
**San Juan National Park — 4,290'**

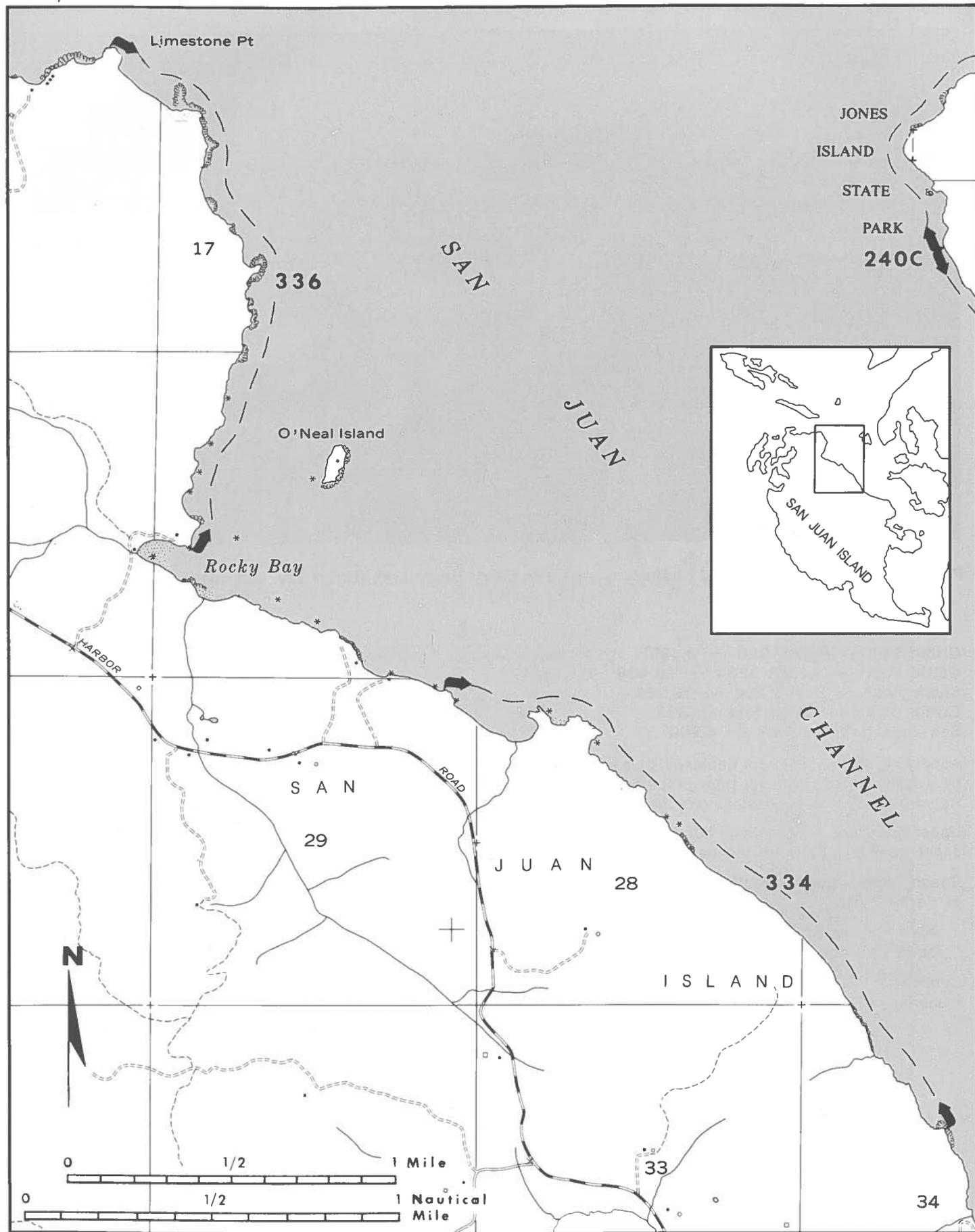
**Access** — All National Park tidelands, plus those parts of 326 and 326A fronting the national park, are accessible by walking across national park property. 326A is accessible by the Cattle Point Recreation site. Griffin Bay Recreation Site is accessible only by water.

**Upper Boundary** — Mean high tide line (6.6 feet elevation) exception in Section 1 where the meander line is the upper boundary between the national park and the tideland.

**Beach Composition** — Mostly wide beaches of sand and gravel except for headlands and pocket beaches north of Cattle Point.

304 — Extensive gravel or cobble beaches on both ends. The central part of the beach from Kings Point to Davis Point is rocky ledge with small pocket beaches.

**Comments:** 360A — Cattle Point tidelands are managed for public use by the Washington State Department of Fisheries.



See Map 17

Map 27 Rocky Bay, San Juan Island

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation

**San Juan Channel — Beach 334 — 14,516'**  
**Rocky Bay/Limestone Point — Beach 336 — 11,827'**

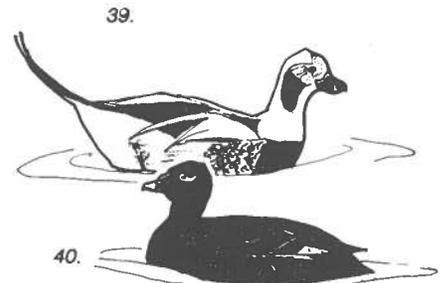
Access — Boat only. There are no public upland accesses to these beaches.

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

Beach Composition — Rocky headlands with pea gravel pocket beaches.

- 
39. **Oldsquaw.** This duck's yodeling of ah-ha-haluk is heard on still winter days. In winter, the white, brown and gray plumage and long tail feathers distinguish the oldsquaw. Large numbers can be seen along Dungeness Spit shallows.

40. **White-Winged Scoter.** Pink feet, white squiggle near each eye and white wing patches identify this scoter. The female is plain brown. It is a deep water bird and is a common fall, winter and spring resident.



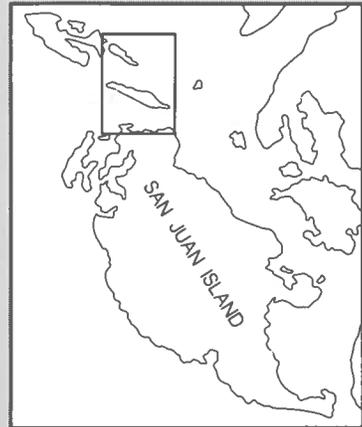
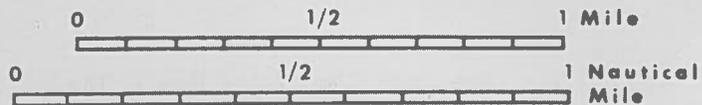
41. **Black Scoter.** It is completely black with a distinct orange bill. The female has a round light spot on its head. This is the least common scoter in Washington. It might be spotted along rocky shorelines.

42. **Surf Scoter.** This scoter has a black body, patterned orange bill and two white dots on its head. Its eats clams and crabs, and is a bird of deeper water. It is seen in fall, winter and spring.



43. **Ruddy Duck.** Its still tail, rusty color and round shape distinguish this small, pert duck. It is a winter resident of shallow bays.
-

See Map 29



See Map 30

See Map 27

Map 28 Johns and Spieden Islands

WARNING: Not to be used for navigation

**Spieden Island — Beach 352 — 1,458'**  
**Spieden Island — Beach 352A — 6,460'**  
**Spieden Bluff — Beach 353 — 1,054'**  
**Cactus Islands — Beach 353A — 2,523'**  
**Cactus Islands — Beach 353B — 4,150'**  
**Johns Island — Beach 356 — 20,368'**  
**SE Stuart Island — Beach 356B — 3,792'**

Access — Boat only. There are no public upland accesses to these beaches.  
Upper Boundary — Mean high tide line (7.0 feet elevation).

Beach Composition —

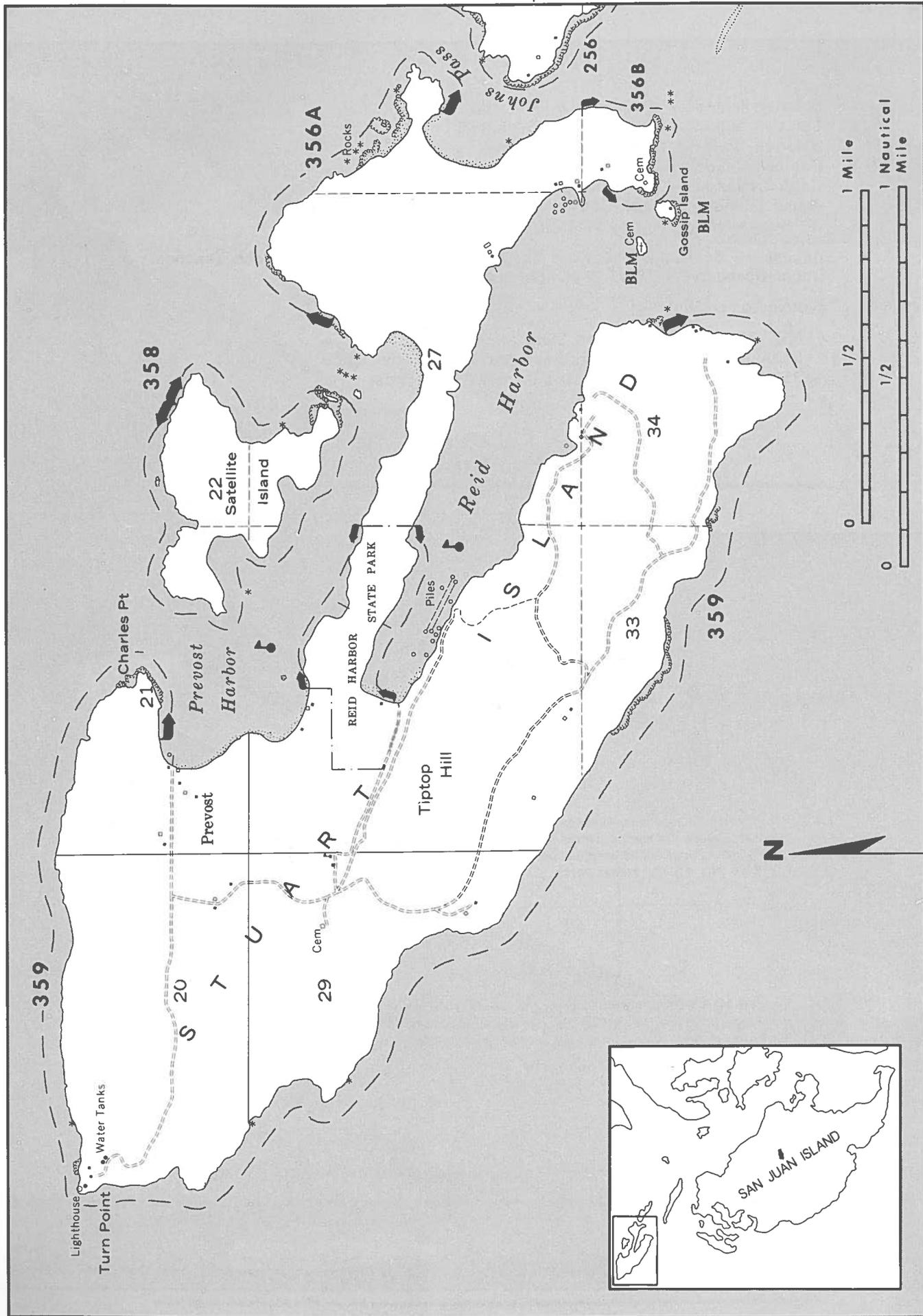
352, 352A, 353, 353B and 356B — Rocky.  
353A — Rocky ledge with small gravel or sandy beach.  
356 — Pea gravel beaches with rocky headlands.

- 
44. **Red-breasted Merganser.** Although the common merganser is occasionally seen in marine waters, the red-breasted is seen more often in Puget Sound open waters, where it dives for fish. The male has a puffy breast patch.



45. **Hooded Merganser.** The smallest of the mergansers has a white head crest and two vertical black stripes up the breast. It has brownish sides. Usually, it is seen in shallow estuaries and salt marshes.





Map 29 Stuart Island

NE Stuart Island — Beach 356A — 8,780'  
SE Stuart Island — Beach 356B — 3,792'  
Satellite Island — Beach 358 — 14,295'  
Stuart Island — Beach 359 — 36,050'  
Reid Harbor State Park — North shore 2,593' — South shore 3,755'

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

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

Beach Composition — Rocky headlands and rocky ledge with sand or gravel pocket beaches.

Comments: Reid Harbor State Park — In Reid Harbor there are 15 mooring buoys and 219 feet of moorage float space. In Prevost Harbor there are seven mooring buoys and 359 feet of moorage float space. Cemetery and Gossip Islands are public land managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

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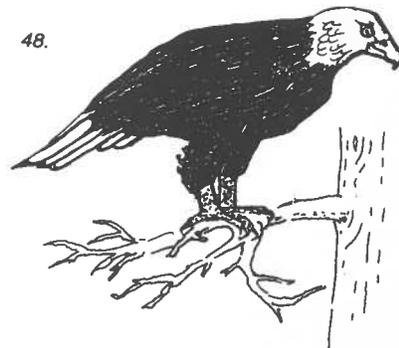
#### MISCELLANEOUS

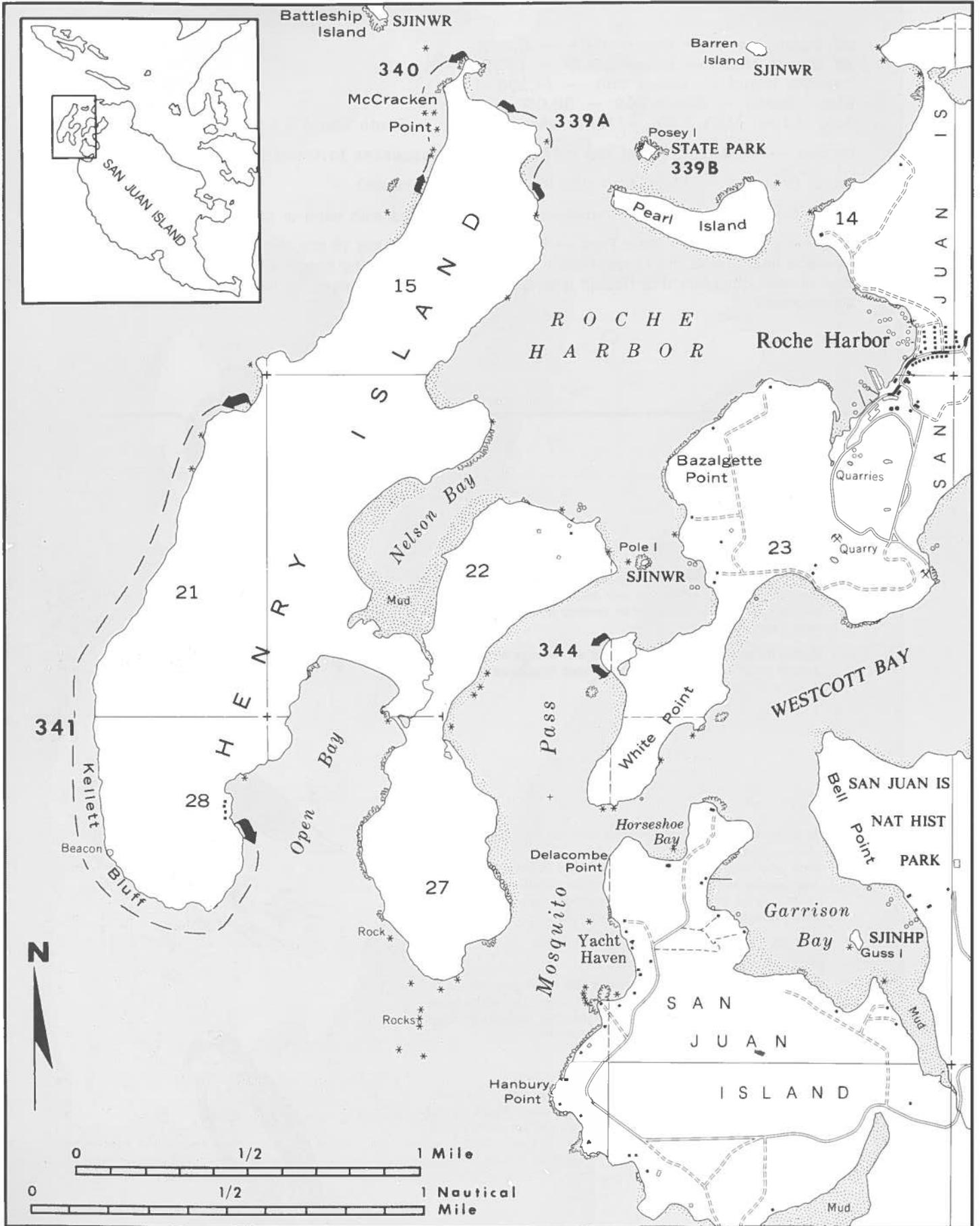
46. **Great Blue Heron.** With its long legs and heavy bill, this large bird spears fish in tide pools and shallows. It is a year-round resident along shorelines, often nesting in tree top colonies near Puget Sound.
47. **Belted Kingfisher.** This is a blue bird with a large head and has a rattling call. It can be seen on telephone lines or snags, where it waits to catch fish.



#### RAPTORS

48. **Bald Eagle.** Although not a marine bird, the bald eagle is seen year-round along Puget Sound beaches. The white head and large dark form identify this bird. It nests in trees on the San Juan Islands and other shoreline forests. Washington is one of the few states where this bird is commonly found; however, the bald eagle is a threatened species.
49. **Osprey.** This white and black bird is the only hawk that dives into the water for fish. It flies with crooked wings, and its black elbow patches are diagnostic. Look for this bird along Puget Sound shorelines during spring and summer.
50. **Peregrine Falcon.** Identified by pointed wings, rapid flight and mustache, this rare raptor is often seen along Puget Sound estuaries in winter. It preys on small ducks and shorebirds. This is a rarely viewed endangered species.





WARNING: Not to be used for navigation

Map 30 Roche Harbor, Henry Island

**Henry Island — Beach 339A — 2,408'**  
**Posey Island — Beach 339B'**  
**McCracken Point — Beach 340 — 2,891'**  
**Kellett Bluff — Beach 341 — 11,933'**  
**Mosquito Pass — Beach 344 — 488'**

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

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

Beach Composition —

339A — Gravel pocket beaches with rocky headlands.

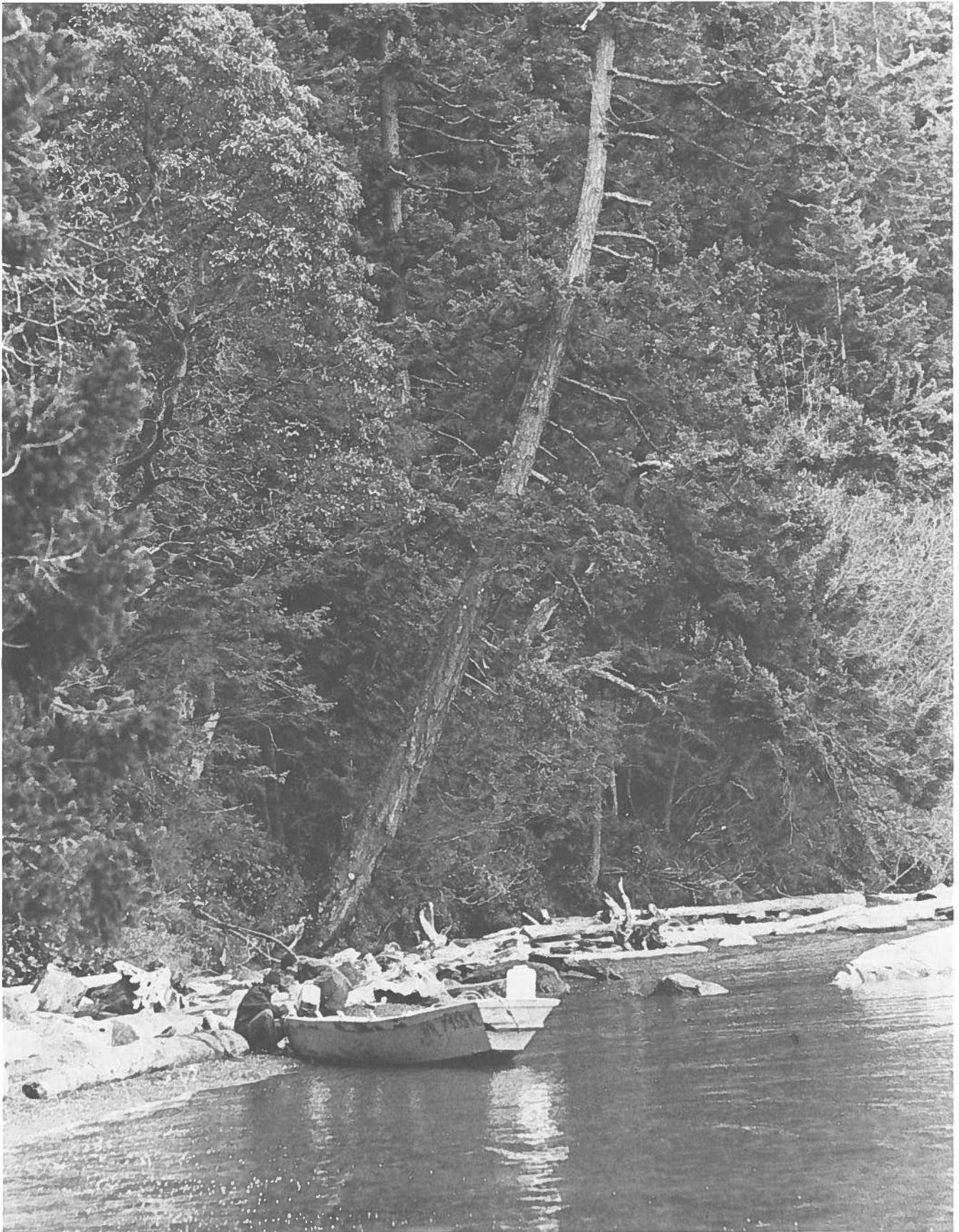
340 and 344 — Gravel beaches.

341 — Rocky; small gravel beach on north end.

Comments: \*Posey Island State Park is undeveloped.



A Washington State ferry makes one of several daily dockings at Friday Harbor on San Juan Island. (Photo courtesy of The Washington State Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Division of Tourism)



The north shore of Cypress Island is a natural area remaining much as it was when Columbus sailed for the New World.  
(Photo: Jim Anderson; Renton, Washington)

# APPENDIX A

## HISTORY OF PUBLIC BEACHES OWNERSHIP IN WASHINGTON

When the original 13 colonies became independent and self-governing, the founding fathers adopted land use laws based on the English legal system. The shores of navigable waters and the soils under them were considered property of the state. Upon admission to the union, new states retained these same rights as the original 13 states.

When the Washington State Constitution was adopted November 11, 1889, the state asserted ownership of all beds and shores of navigable waters up to and including the line of ordinary high water (mean high water, mean high tide).

The 1889-90 Legislature authorized the sale of public tidelands to private individuals. During the ensuing years, approximately 60 percent of Washington state-owned beaches were sold to private owners. This practice was discontinued in 1971.

## EXTENT OF PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

The length of publicly-owned tidelands parcels varies from 50 feet to over seven miles. The public tideland may be wide or narrow, depending upon the natural slope of the beach and the ownership history of the surrounding lands. The outer tideland boundary is usually the extreme low tide line which is -4.0 feet in the San Juan region. Tidelands sold specifically for oyster growing have surveyed boundaries and there may be public ownership shoreward or seaward of these oyster tracts. See Appendix C for further details. The upper boundary may be the mean low tide line, the mean high tide line or the government meander line. This depends on the date of original purchase of uplands or tidelands directly landward of the tideland in question. In a few instances where the uplands are publicly owned, the public ownership can extend the entire width of the tideland area.

## MANAGEMENT

Today, 1,300 miles of saltwater beaches remain state-owned. About 300 miles of beach, including Pacific coastal beaches, are managed by the State Parks and Recreation Commission or the Departments of Game and Fisheries. The remaining 1,000 miles of beaches are managed by the Department of Natural Resources.

DNR manages these state-owned lands through a multiple use concept. DNR has inventoried state-owned tidelands and identified those apparently best suited for public use purposes. Approximately 75 percent of the department-managed beaches were identified as candidate public use beaches. The decisions were based on locations, historic use, and length and type of beach.

*Please do not trespass on private property*

## Beach Identification Program

The San Juan tidelands are a mixture of public and private ownerships. Without an identification system, public tidelands are generally indistinguishable from the private tidelands. DNR is identifying selected state-owned tidelands for public use. This program is designed to provide the greater access to public property while limiting accidental trespass.

Beach identification will allow better management of shellfish resources and alleviate congestion and overuse of the available public beaches. Recent creation of the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account by the 1984 Legislature will allow greater emphasis on obtaining and developing upland access. Other forms of enhancement for recreational aquatic lands, such as habitat improvement projects for fish and shellfish, will also be possible.

Throughout most of Puget Sound, public beaches were marked by four-foot white posts. However, these markers have not proven reliable. DNR is evaluating alternative methods to physically mark the boundaries of otherwise unidentifiable beaches. At the time this publication was being prepared, a practical alternative had not yet been developed. Therefore, most beaches do not currently have visible markings.

## Fires

Although DNR regulations are in effect on most beaches, some beaches are protected by local fire districts. Check with the local fire district about rules for a particular beach.

Fires are allowed on department-protected beaches if certain safety precautions are followed (local districts may have different rules):

- Clear all flammable materials from surrounding area.
- Burn only when the wind is calm or light. Glowing embers can be blown great distances.
- Do not leave a fire unattended. Keep a bucket of water and usable shovel nearby.
- Do not build fires near logs or driftwood. Fires blazing in beach debris are extremely difficult to extinguish. Also, drift logs are needed to stabilize the upper beaches and banks. Remember, driftwood high on the beach may be on private property.
- Do not burn within 50 feet of a structure or burn materials such as rubber or plastic which emit dense smoke, offensive odors or hazardous chemicals.
- Before leaving, completely extinguish the fire by dousing it with buckets of seawater.

## Trespass

One is guilty of criminal trespass in the first degree when **knowingly** entering or remaining unlawfully in a building (1981 Revised Code of Washington RCW 9A.52.070). First degree criminal trespass is a gross misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in a county jail or by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or both (RCW 9.92.020).

One is guilty of criminal trespass in the second degree if **knowingly** entering or remaining unlawfully in or upon premises of another under circumstances not constituting criminal trespass in the first degree (RCW 9A.52.080). Criminal trespass in the second degree is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in a county jail or by a fine of not more than \$250.00 (RCW 9.92.030).

In any prosecution under RCW 9A.52.070 and 9A.52.080 it is a defense (9A.52.090 Criminal trespass — Defenses) when:

- (1) the building involved (in an offense under RCW 9A.52.070) was abandoned; or,
- (2) the premises were at the time open to members of the public and the actor complied with all lawful conditions imposed on access to or remaining on the premises; or,
- (3) the actor reasonably believed that the owner of the premises, or other person empowered to license access thereto, would have licensed him to enter or remain.

The county sheriff or local police are the appropriate authorities to enforce trespass laws. However, a landowner may use force, **provided it is not excessive**, to prevent malicious trespass (RCW 9A.16.020(3)).

## Leases for Recreational Docks

DNR has granted a number of leases across public tidelands. Most of these leases are for private recreational docks and floats. **These structures are private property.** Most of the leases allow the public to cross the leased area when using the surrounding tideland. However, there are some older leases which do not make allowances for public trespass. In those instances, where public access is not guaranteed, the lessee may exclude the public from the area leased. Contact DNR Division of Marine Lands ( (206) 753-5324, Olympia, Washington) to determine your rights in relation to specific leased areas.

## Using the Maps and Photographs

The area maps are photographic reproductions of U.S. Geological Survey Maps. Use Index Map 1 along with a marine navigational chart to locate the general area. Then use the individual maps to find the exact location of the beach.

The beaches should be approached with due caution using a navigational chart. The maps in this book are designed to show the location of the beaches and do not contain the necessary information for safe navigation.

The aerial photos selected were those that best show prominent physical features near boundaries. In a few instances the beach was small enough to be entirely contained in a photograph.

Most of the beaches described in this publication have the mean high water line as the upper boundary line. Please note the elevations for the various tidal heights are based on mean low water (0.0 tide) and not on the land survey datum of mean sea level (+ 4.8 ft at Up Right Head). The elevations for mean high water given for each beach are those of the Coast and Geodetic Survey tidal bench mark located nearest the beach.

The location of beach elevations on the ground can be determined either by leveling from the nearest Coast and Geodetic bench mark or from a tidebook. By using a tidebook, the height of the water at a particular time can be determined and from that the location of the mean high water line (MHW).

On most beaches the mean high water line is just seaward of drift logs piled on the upper beach. Therefore, the drift logs on the upper beach usually are on **private property**. The mean high tide is an average of all high tides. **Because of this, during half of the high tides, the entire public beach will be under water.**

All lands surrounding marine areas are surveyed into government lots, sections, townships and ranges. The numbered sections are the only category included on the topographic maps. State-owned upland is shown as a shaded area. In some instances, distances from end boundaries to major topographic features or landmarks are included in boundary descriptions. This information used with the accompanying map and photographs should help better identify beach boundaries.

Note beach lengths and all boundary information. Surrounding property is privately owned unless stated otherwise in **Beach Description**.

*Please do not trespass on private property*



# APPENDIX B

BEFORE GATHERING SHELLFISH, LEARN IF THE BEACHES ARE OPEN FOR COLLECTING. THE SAN JUAN AREA HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO OUTBREAKS OF PARALYTIC SHELLFISH POISONING (PSP). TO DETERMINE IF THE SHELLFISH ARE SAFE TO EAT, CALL EITHER A COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT OR THE PSP HOTLINE AT 1-800-562-5632

## SHELLFISH

Clam digging is a popular pastime among Washingtonians. This is one of the major reasons people go to the beaches. Although Puget Sound is renowned for good clam digging, few high quality clam beaches are accessible to the public. Most beaches contain moderate to low numbers of clams. Furthermore, the clams usually are not evenly distributed but are found in scattered beds. With the exception of Manila clams and eastern softshell clams, the best digging is usually at the lower tide levels.

Clams are relatively rare in the San Juans. There are some areas which would be quickly exhausted by overuse. Therefore, to prevent diminishing the wayfarer's excitement of exploration and discovery, the location of the clam beds found in this area will not be revealed in this publication.

A list of shellfish most likely to be found on various beaches of a particular habitat type in Puget Sound follows:

### ROCK BEACHES

Common Names	Scientific Names	Edibility
Bay mussel	<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	Very good
California mussel	<i>Mytilus californianus</i>	Very good
Pacific oyster	<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>	Very good
Pinto abalone	<i>Haliotis kamtschatkana</i>	Very good
Gooseneck barnacle	<i>Mitella polymeras</i>	Very good
Gooseneck barnacle	<i>Lepas anatifera</i>	Very good

### GRAVEL — COBBLE BEACHES

Common Names	Scientific Names	Edibility
Manila clam	<i>Venerupis japonica</i>	Very good
Japanese littleneck Steamer clam		
Native littleneck Steamer clam	<i>Protothaca staminea</i>	Very good
Bay mussel	<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	Very good
California mussel	<i>Mytilus californianus</i>	Very good
Pacific oyster	<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>	Very good
Olympia oyster Native oyster	<i>Ostrea lurida</i>	Very good

*Please do not trespass on private property*

# APPENDIX B (continued)

## SOFT ROCK — CLAY BEACHES

Common Names	Scientific Names	Edibility
Rough piddock Rock borer	<i>Ziphaea pilsbryi</i>	Good
Flat-tipped piddock	<i>Penitella penita</i>	Good

## SAND — MUD BEACHES

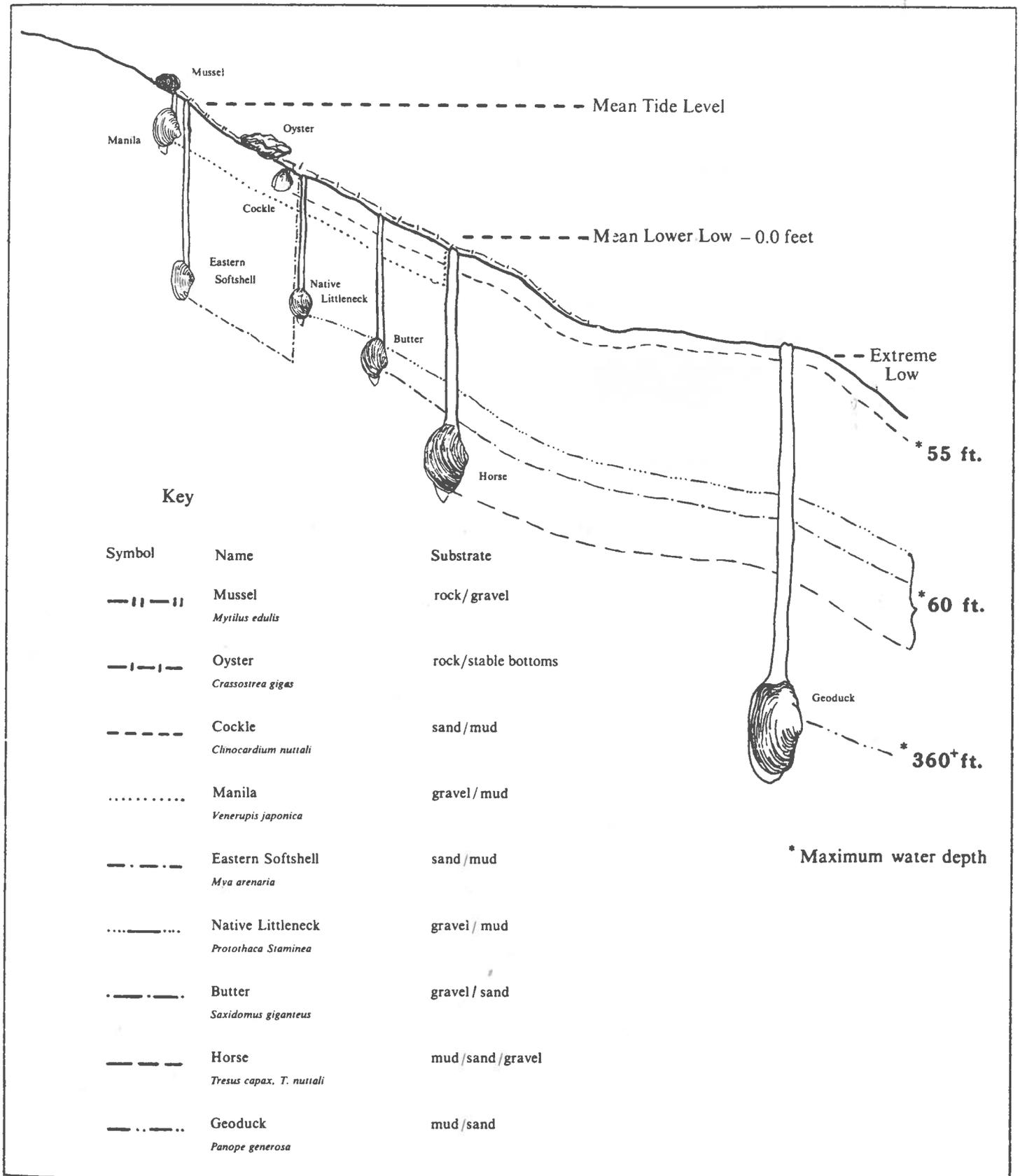
Common Names	Scientific Names	Edibility
Basket cockle Geoduck	<i>Clinocardium nuttalli</i> <i>Panope generosa</i>	Good Very good
Horse clam Gaper	<i>Tresus capax</i>	Good
Horse clam Gaper	<i>Tresus nuttalli</i>	Good
Eastern softshell Mud clam	<i>Mya arenaria</i>	Very good
Bent nose clam Mud clam	<i>Macoma nasuta</i>	Fair
White sand clam	<i>Macoma secta</i>	Fair
Red crab	<i>Cancer productus</i>	Very good
Dungeness crab	<i>Cancer magister</i>	Very good
Ghost shrimp	<i>Callinassa californiensis</i>	Very good

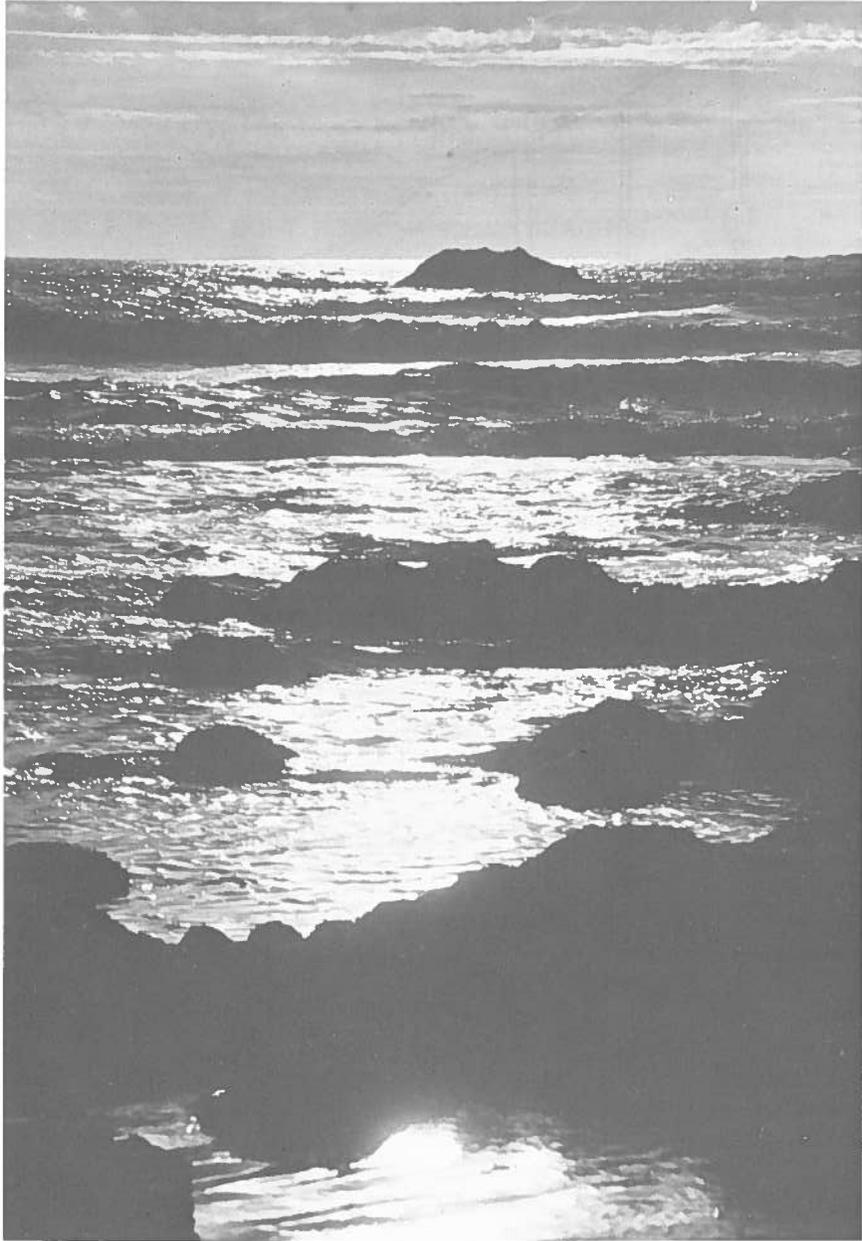
Read the current Washington State Department of Fisheries Fish and Shellfish Regulations since regulations may change from time to time.

Before leaving the beach fill in the holes you have dug. Otherwise, small clams on the sand pile or on the sides of the hole will be washed out and killed by predators.

Figure B1

Horizontal and Vertical Distribution of Some Intertidal Clams, Mussels and Oysters





The undulating reflections in the waters around the San Juans are the things of which dreams are made. (Photo: Julianne Crane, DNR)

# APPENDIX C

## Glossary

The glossary of terms relating to intertidal areas is grouped sequentially for ease of understanding.

**Tidal Datum** — The particular phase of the tide used as a reference to determine tidal elevations for a local area. On the West Coast of the United States the mean lower low water is the reference line used. Mean lower low water was arbitrarily chosen as the datum plane (0.00 ft. elevation) and does not represent the midpoint in the tidal range (mean tide level). Tidal elevations are based on the complete cycle of 18.6 years.

**Tidal Range** (Figure C1) — The rise and fall of the tide for a given locality. The maximum tidal range is the difference between the highest and lowest tides. The maximum tidal range at Neah Bay at the mouth of the Strait of Juan de Fuca is 15.8 feet and 22.5 feet at Olympia. That means there is more intertidal area at Olympia than at Neah Bay. The daily tidal range is less than the maximum tidal range and varies according to the tidal series. The highest highs and the lowest lows occur during a spring tide series. The next week the tides enter the neap tide series with a minimum tidal range.

**Extreme High Water** — The highest point the tide reaches during the 18.6-year tidal cycle. This tide level varies from 12.0 feet at Neah Bay to 17.8 feet at Olympia.

**Mean Higher High Water** — The average arithmetic mean of the higher high water heights at a particular place. Only the higher high water of each pair of high waters of a tidal day is included in the mean. The elevation varies from 7.9 feet at Neah Bay to 14.4 feet at Olympia.

**Mean High Water** — (Ordinary High Tide) — The average of all of high tides. This varies from 7.1 feet at Neah Bay to 13.5 feet at Olympia. This tide line may be a legal boundary (see Tideland description).

**Mean Tide Level** — (Local Mean Sea Level) — The average of all tides for a particular place. This varies from 4.3 feet at Neah Bay to 8.25 feet at Olympia.

**Sea Level** — (Now called National Geodetic Vertical Datum, NGVD) — The NGVD is based on the mean sea level data from 26 tidal stations in U.S. and Canada. Since local mean sea level varies from station to station, NGVD may or may not be equal to mean sea level at any particular locality. An arbitrary datum line was established by the National Geodetic Survey in 1929. This line provides constant elevation reference for all land areas in the United States, (i.e., a certain mountain at 12,400 feet above sea level). In Puget Sound elevations for NGVD are 7.73 feet above mean lower low water at Olympia and 4.2 feet at Neah Bay.

**Mean Low Water** — The arithmetic mean of all the low water heights at a particular place. This tide level varies from 1.6 feet at Neah Bay to 3.0 feet at Olympia.

**Mean Lower Low Water** — The arithmetic mean of the lower low water heights at a particular place. Only the lower low water of each pair of low waters of a tidal day is included in the mean. Mean lower low water has been determined to be the 0.00 feet tide level. All other tidal elevations are based on this datum. This tide level is 0.00 feet at Neah Bay and at Olympia.

**Extreme Low Water** — The lowest elevation reached by the tide as recorded by a tide gauge during a given period. This datum line forms the legal boundary between tideland and bedlands, and while the actual elevation varies from -3.8 feet at Neah Bay to -4.7 feet at Olympia, the -4.5 elevation is considered to be the extreme low water line in most of Puget Sound. The -4.0 feet elevation is considered to be extreme low water line in the San Juan Region.

**Beds of Navigable Waters** — (Bedlands) — Those submerged lands lying below the line of extreme low tide in navigable tidal waters, and below the line of navigability of lakes, rivers, and streams. The bedlands are owned by the State of Washington and managed by the Department of Natural Resources.

## APPENDIX C (continued)

**Tidelands** — A legal designation of the intertidal or beach area (Figure C2), which includes all lands over which the tide ebbs and flows from the line of mean high water to the line of extreme low water. However, there are exceptions (see Upland Ownership). In Washington, tidelands were transferred from federal to state ownership at the time of statehood. However, since the State Constitution does not provide upland owners with any right of access to saltwater for shipping, fish or shellfish propagation or other water-oriented industry, the first legislature authorized the sale of tidelands. The practice was discontinued in 1979. Approximately 60 percent of the tidelands were sold during this period.

Tidelands prior to March 26, 1895 were sold upon the basis of official maps made by the State Board of Tideland Appraisers as lots and blocks or upon the basis of surveys furnished by the applicant with metes and bounds descriptions. It is assumed that these purchasers acquired full-fee title to any lands that may be included within the lines of the surveys.

Tidelands sold between 1895 and March 8, 1911 extended from the **mean high water** to the line of mean low water.

Tidelands sold after March 8, 1911 extend from **mean high water** to **extreme low water**.

**Meander Lines** — Lines surveyed along the banks of navigable bodies of water and other important rivers and lakes for the purpose of defining contours (sinuosities) of the shore or bank, and as a means of determining the size of the land parcels bordering these waters. Since water bodies did not conform to the typical square township design, land agents used the surveys to determine how much of the land for a particular parcel was actually dry land.

**Navigable** — The State of Washington considers all bodies of water meandered by government surveyors as navigable unless declared otherwise by a court. Tidal water is navigable in law if, in fact, it is navigable though only at high tide.

**Aquatic Land Ownership** — The State of Washington asserts its ownership to the beds and shores of all navigable waters up to and including the line of ordinary high tide (mean high water) in waters where the tide ebbs and flows, and up to and including the line of ordinary high water within the banks of all navigable rivers and lakes (Article XVII, Section 1, State Constitution).

The state disclaims all title in, and claim to, all tide, swamp and overflowed lands patented (deeded to private ownership) by the United States prior to the adoption of the State Constitution and prior to the day Washington became a state — November 11, 1889 (Article XVII, Section 2, State Constitution).

**Upland Ownership** — Lands abutting tidal waters or lakes patented by the United States prior to November 11, 1889 extend to the **meander line** or the **mean high water line**, whichever is further seaward.

Lands patented by the United States after November 11, 1889 extend to the line of **mean high water**.

The state has no interest in tidelands or shorelands included within the meander lines of an upland survey abutting tidal water or lakes, where such lands were patented prior to statehood, November 11, 1889.

**Harbor Areas** — The area of navigable tidal waters between the inner and outer harbor lines where established in front of and within one mile of the corporate limits of an incorporated city or town.

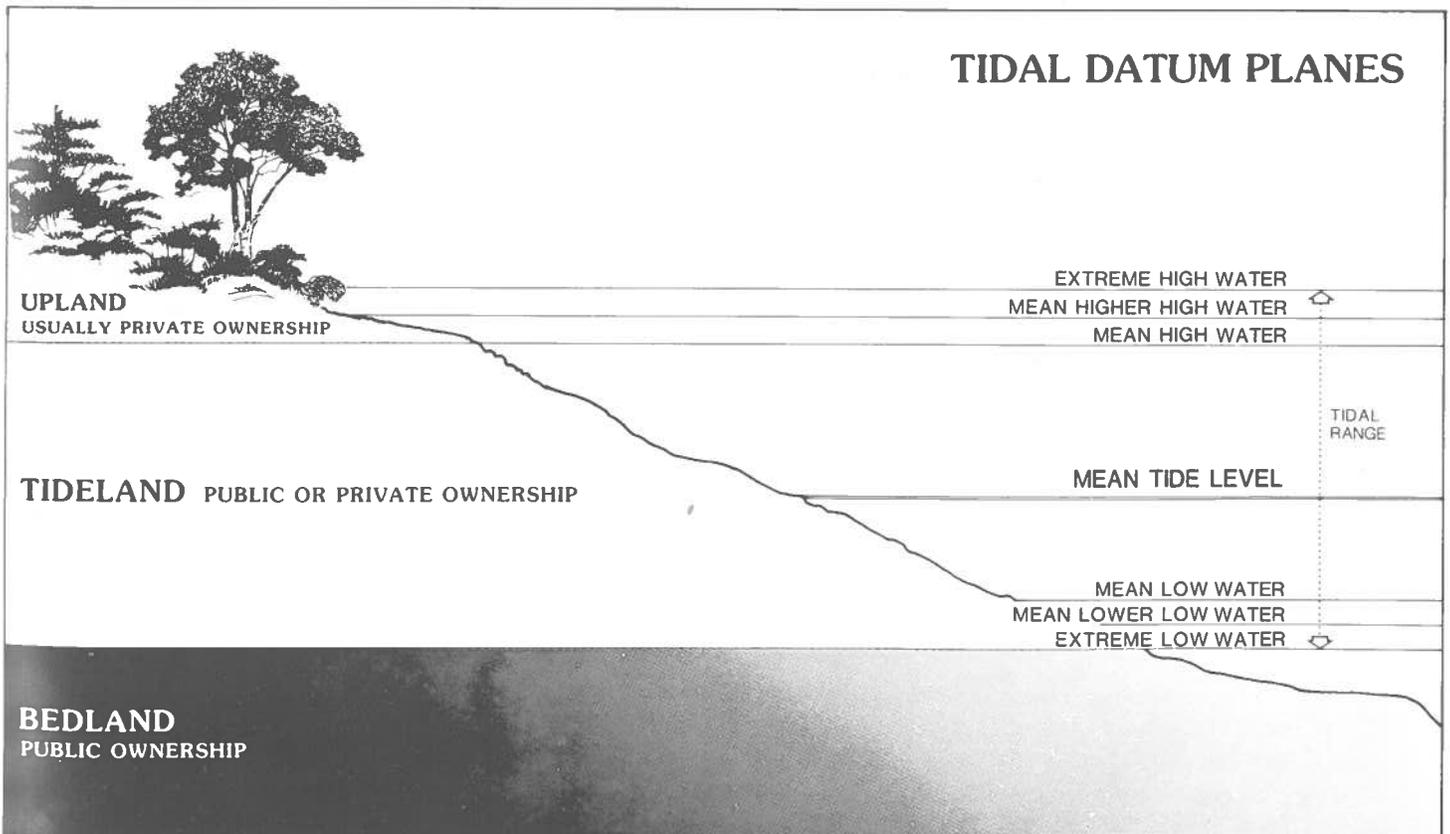
Figure C1

**Comparison of Tidal Range and Tidal Datum Planes Between Extreme Southern Puget Sound (Olympia) and the Entrance of the Strait of Juan de Fuca (Neah Bay)**

	Tidal Elevation (Feet)		
	Olympia	Neah Bay	
Extreme High Water	17.8	12.0	* Maximum Tidal Range 15.8
Mean High Water	13.5	7.1	
Mean Tide Level	8.2	4.3	
Sea Level (National Geodetic Vertical Datum)	7.7	4.2	
Mean Low Water	3.0	1.6	
Mean Lower Low Water	0.0	0.0	
Extreme Low Water	-4.7	-3.8	
	* 22.5		

Figure C2

**Relationships Between Tidal Datum Planes and Legal Ownership**





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*Please do not trespass on private property*

1. Aug 17 1898

## Marine Biological Preserve

The saltwater tidelands and bedlands of the San Juan Islands and Cypress Island in Skagit County are a biological preserve administered by the University of Washington, Friday Harbor Laboratory (RCW 28B.20.320).

It is not legal to take any plant or animal from this region except those used for food and the kelp *Nereocystis*. The director of the Friday Harbor Laboratory can grant special permission for collecting specimens.

Food fish and shellfish are managed by the Department of Fisheries. A list of various food fish and shellfish species and the laws governing their collection is found in the following book:

*The Salmon, Shellfish and Marine Fish:  
Sport Fishing Guide*

Washington Department of Fisheries  
115 General Administration Building AX-11  
Olympia, WA 98504

BEFORE GATHERING SHELLFISH, DETERMINE IF THE BEACHES ARE OPEN FOR COLLECTING. THE SAN JUAN AREA HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO OUTBREAKS OF PARALYTIC SHELLFISH POISONING (PSP). TO DETERMINE IF THE SHELLFISH ARE SAFE TO EAT, CALL EITHER A COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT OR THE PSP HOTLINE AT 1-800-562-5632

For additional information, write or phone:

Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Private Forestry  
and Recreation  
Olympia, WA 98504  
Phone: (206) 753-2400



If you gather **firewood** from the line of drift logs, you could be arrested for trespassing. Entering private property without permission can result in a charge of criminal trespass in the second degree.

## FIRE

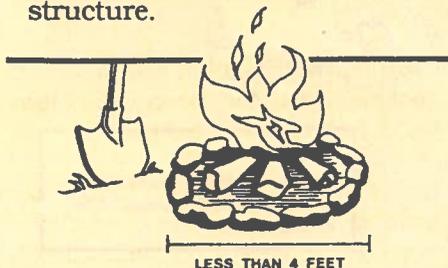
Because the San Juan Islands have a dry climate and steep terrain, are remote and often have no **firefighting facilities other than the private landowners**, fire is a real and constant danger. Unattended beach fires can swiftly spread to neighboring upland acres, threatening the islanders' property.

- Do not build fires near logs or driftwood. Fires in such beach debris are **extremely difficult to extinguish**. Driftwood fires can quickly spread and cause serious damage.

- Fires are **usually legal** under strictly controlled circumstances. For example, you can burn a recreational fire such as a **campfire or bonfire** without a burning permit if you meet all the following:

Figure 3. Campfire rules

- The fire is **less than 4 feet across**.
- You have a **shovel** nearby.
- You make certain the fire is **thoroughly dead**.
- You have a **sufficient area** free of flammable materials.
- The fire is **not** within **50 feet** of any structure.



- Before your visit, check with county fire officials about **summer closures** and other restrictions.
- Remember you are **liable** for any fire damage you cause.

**TO REPORT A FIRE OR IF  
YOUR FIRE HAS ESCAPED,  
CALL TOLL-FREE  
1- 800 - 562 - 6010**

Other agencies you should check with are:

- **Local fire districts** responsible for issuing burning permits.
- **Local air pollution control authorities** to determine if there are further restrictions on your outdoor fire.

**Outdoor burning could be suspended by the Department of Natural Resources during:**

- **Extreme fire danger periods** in designated areas due to adverse weather.
- **Air pollution episodes** declared by the Department of Ecology.

## SANITATION

Most uplands adjacent to public beaches are private property and do **not have public toilets and garbage facilities**.

- Use the **sanitary facilities on board** your boat or those shown on the map.
- **Indiscriminate disposal** of human waste on uplands might **contaminate water source**, which then must be closed or purified before being used.
- **Human waste** is a health and contamination hazard. Some **bacteria and viruses** can live **several days** in a clam or mussel contaminated by fecal matter.

- The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services will ban shellfish harvest on any beach where contaminated shellfish are found.

See *Appendixes A and B of Your Public Beaches* for further details.

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**Aquatic Land Publications by the Department of Natural Resources**

**Beach Books** (locations have mainly water-only access.)

**Volume 1. Your Public Beaches, Strait of Juan de Fuca.** A 52-page book containing descriptions, maps and photographs of 21 public beaches on the Strait. Water access is exceedingly dangerous because of shallow water and likelihood of large waves. 1984

**Price \$2.00\***

**Volume 5. Your Public Beaches, San Juan Islands.** An 87-page book containing descriptions, maps and photographs of 125 public beaches in the San Juan Islands. 1985

**Price \$3.00\***

**San Juan county map** showing public ownership of beaches and uplands

**Price \$5.00\***

\* Plus tax

**Contact:**

The Department of Natural Resources,  
Photo and Map Sales  
1065 Capital Park Building, AW-11  
Olympia, WA 98504 or telephone 753-5338  
to receive these publications.

Make check payable to:

**The Department of Natural Resources.**

*As a public agency, the Department of Natural Resources is interested in acquiring charitable donations of public use tidelands.*

SUPPLEMENT  
to

**SAN  
JUAN**

ISLANDS



YOUR PUBLIC BEACHES



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**

Brian Boyle Commissioner of Public Lands  
Art Stearns Supervisor

## Supplement to San Juan Islands -- Your Public Beaches

Much of the San Juan Islands are privately owned. Be a thoughtful visitor by using good manners. Please read this folder about public beaches before visiting the San Juan Islands.

### OWNERSHIP

- Be aware that over 50 percent of the tidelands in Washington are private property. Please do not trespass on private property.
- Public tideland is usually bordered on three sides by private property. The public beach is often an isolated strip of tideland accessible only by water. Any public upland recreation property with access to and from the beach is well marked. If it is not marked, it is probably private property.

Crossing private property could result in your arrest for trespassing.

- Public beaches vary from a few hundred feet to over five miles. To determine the end boundaries of a particular San Juan public beach, refer to *Your Public Beaches--San Juan Islands*.

- Public beaches extend from extreme low tide (minus 4.0 feet) to the mean high tide line (6.7 to 7.0 feet). Always assume the upper part of the beach (sand, gravel, etc.) is privately owned. Exceptions are stated in the San Juans booklet.

- On sandy beaches the mean high tide line typically lies two or three yards seaward of the line of drift logs high on the beach. ( See Figure 1.)

- On beaches, especially rocky ones where the line of drift logs may be scattered or absent, the mean high tide line typically lies two or three yards shoreward of the uppermost barnacles and other shellfish living attached to the rocks and gravel. ( See Figure 2.)

### TRESPASS

Please do not trespass on private property.

### Relative Location of Mean High Tide Line

Figure 1. On sandy beaches.

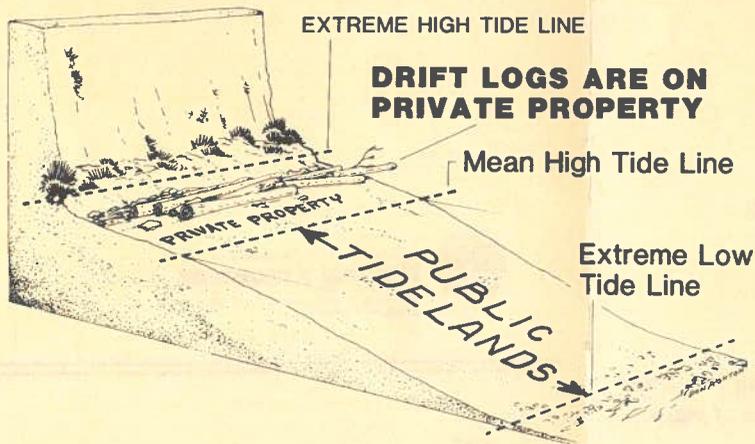
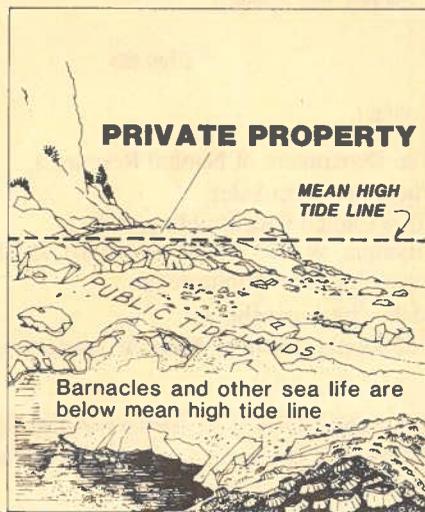
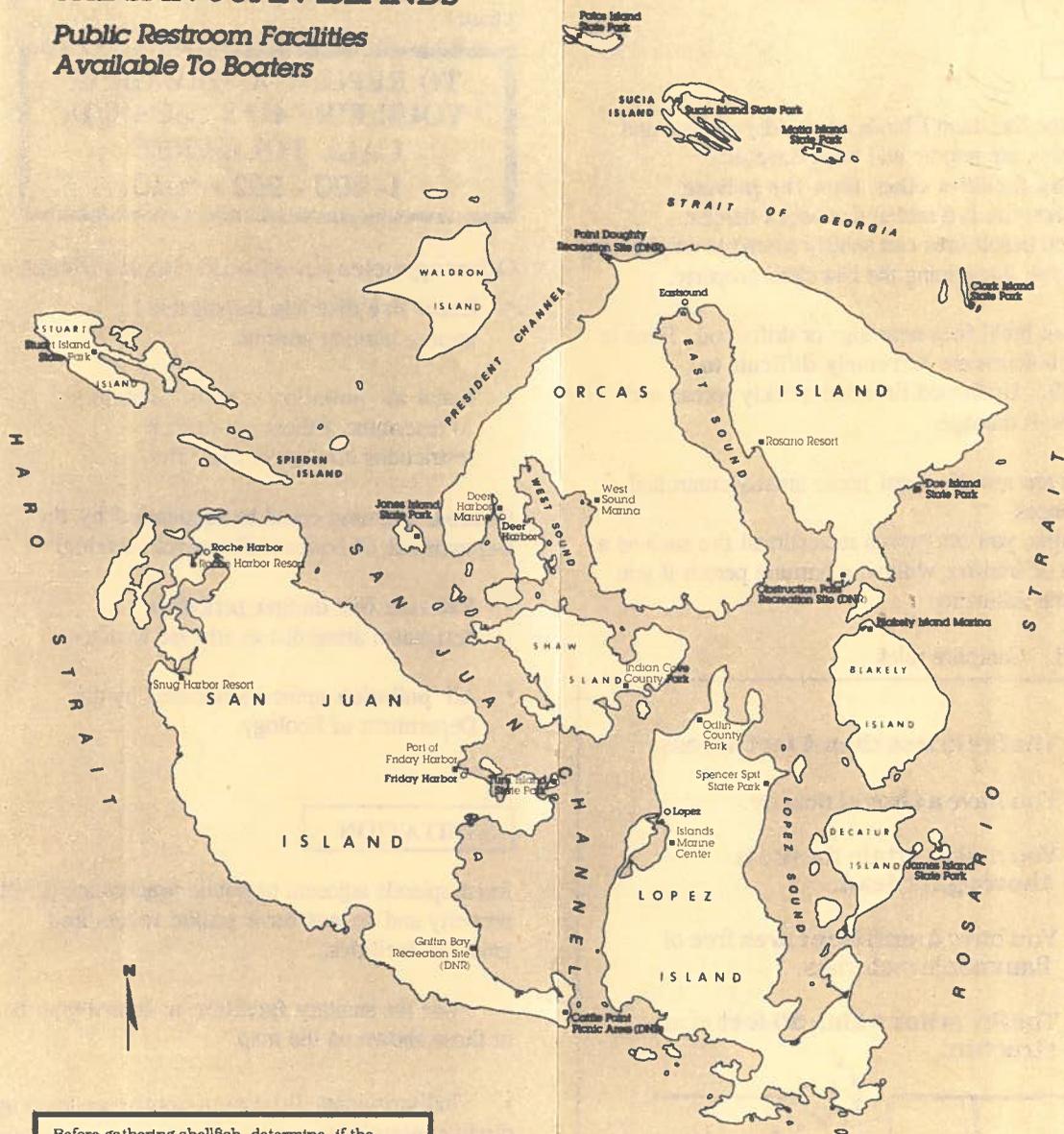


Figure 2. On rocky beaches.



# THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS

Public Restroom Facilities  
Available To Boaters



Before gathering shellfish, determine if the beaches are open for collecting. The San Juan area has been subject to outbreaks of paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP). To learn if shellfish in a particular area are safe to eat, call either the county health department or the

PSP hotline: 1-800-562-5632.

● Public Restrooms

Note:

There are no public rest facilities on Waldron Island and most of the smaller islands.