

BALLINGALL ISLETS**ER #151****ORIGINAL PURPOSE** To preserve nesting sites of colonial seabirds**OVERVIEW**

Date established:	28 Nov 1963	Location:	7km NNE of Ganges
ORC #:	155	Latitude:	48°54'N
Map number:	92 B/14	Longitude:	123°27'W

Total Area:	0.5 ha	Elevation:	0-6 m
Land:	0.5 ha		

Access: Closed to public to protect the sensitive ecosystem. A permit is required to land on the islets. Accessible by boat through Trincomali Channel.

Biogeoclimatic Zone: Coastal Douglas-Fir (CDF)
Biogeoclimatic Variant: CDFmm Moist Maritime
Ecosection: Southern Gulf Islands/Straight of Georgia (area too small to be representative)
Region: Vancouver Island
Management Area: Saanich/ Southern Gulf Islands

COMPOSITION

Physical: This small rocky archipelago is comprised of two islets that are made up of glaciated and wave-worn sedimentary bedrock of the Nanaimo Group, and are oriented in a northwest-southeast direction located between Saltspring and Galiano islands in the Trincomali Channel. These semi-protected islets are barren except for a single dead juniper attached to one of the rocks.

Biological: There is no surficial soil on the islets sufficient for vascular plant growth. Lichens and bryophytes are present on the islets.

The Ballingall Islets were originally designated as a nature park to protect colonies of double-crested and pelagic cormorants. At the time of designation, 28 nests of double-crested cormorants and 11 nests of pelagic cormorants were observed. Nesting failures, due in part to human disturbance, have caused a severe decline in cormorant populations in the Strait of Georgia and neither species of cormorants have been observed on the islets since 1987. The reserve now serves as an historic nesting site and it is hoped that by preserving and possibly enhancing this habitat, they will repopulate the reserve.

The reserve remains an important nesting site for gulls and pigeon guillemots.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

SIGNIFICANT SPECIES	BC LIST STATUS	COSEWIC STATUS	CF PRIORITY
Double-crested Cormorant	Blue listed	Not At Risk (1978)	2

THREATS

- Climate Change:** As the climate changes, the islets may be subject to habitat loss due to rising sea levels and increased storm activity. Warming sea surface temperatures may alter the life cycles and distribution of marine species, subsequently impacting the sea bird populations that depend on marine food sources.
- Recreation:** Presence of motorized vessels and kayaks disrupts marine mammal and bird behaviour.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Islets are appropriate site for seabird population studies and recovery strategies for cormorants.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE BALLINGALL ISLETS ER ACCOUNT

Flora

None mentioned

Fauna

Cormorant, Double-crested (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)
Cormorant, Pelagic (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus*)
Guillemot, Pigeon (*Cephus columba*)