

The Seabird Survival Program



How *You* Can Make a Difference.

Important Bird Areas

The seabirds we share the oceans with live their lives as they have since the last glacial retreat, about 11,000 years ago. They have survived the hazards of fierce storms and efficient predators, and yet maintained healthy breeding populations. In just the last three hundred years, however, the human population of coastal BC has increased more than 30 times, putting ever-increasing pressure on seabirds. We take over nesting colonies for our own settlements, compete for food, introduce alien predators like rats, and disturb the daily lives of seabirds with our commercial and recreational activities.

Some areas where there are significant concentrations of seabirds are now designated as Important Bird Areas, under the IBA program of BirdLife International. An IBA site may be significant for one species of bird, or many, and it may be significant nationally, continentally, or globally.

The *Seabird Survival Program* is an initiative of the Federation of BC Naturalists, to help minimize human disturbance of seabirds, at IBAs and elsewhere in the southern Strait of Georgia. The project proposes voluntary viewing guidelines which recreational boaters and beachwalkers can use to view seabirds responsibly.



Pigeon Guillemot

SHAKE ISLAND IBA

Part of Hudson Rocks Ecological Reserve.

Breeding colony

POBLIER PASS IBA

Seabird feeding area

ACTIVE PASS IBA

Seabird feeding area

SIDNEY CHANNEL IBA

Includes part of Gulf Islands National Park Reserve on Sidney Island.

Breeding and wintering area

CHAIN ISLETS IBA

Part of Oak Bay Islands Ecological Reserve.

Breeding and wintering area



The Important Bird Area Program is an initiative of BirdLife International. The BirdLife partners in Canada are the Canadian Nature Federation and Bird Studies Canada.

For more information: www.ibacanada.ca

There are five Important Bird Areas recognized in the southern Strait of Georgia. There are many other sites that are significant to seabirds in this area.



informational brochure for
Federation of BC Naturalists