

Areas of High Conservation Utility



Vancouver Nanaimo Victoria

** Analysis extended to the edge of the continental shelf

Pacific Ocean

A Conservation Utility analysis was performed by Living Oceans Society in 2003. It used 93 categories of data to look for areas of high conservation value. Shown here are the cumulative results from 2,400 different solutions. We generated solutions for six different reserve sizes (ranging from 5% to 50% of the study area) at four levels of "clumping" (very scattered, scattered, moderate, and clumped). These 24 variations were run 100 times each, using Marxan software, to generate 2,400 solutions. The study area contains about 32,000 planning units (500 hectare hexagons). Planning units chosen repeatedly, solution after solution, have high "conservation utility", meaning they are very useful (perhaps essential) to meet conservation goals. Although these yellow areas are important, they do not necessarily capture all identified ecological values within the study area. For this, one must look at individual solutions. An expanded analysis for all Canadian Pacific waters is now underway by the BC Marine Conservation Analysis team - www.bcmca.ca



This analysis is based on 93 feature layers (http://www.livingoceans.org/documents/LOS_MPA_model_v31_web.pdf). Data sources: Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Decision Support Services, MSRM; Canadian Wildlife Service; Natural Resources Canada; Parks Canada;private researchers; local knowledge. Mapping & Analysis: Living Oceans Society.

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