

Important Areas (IAs) were identified for Manila clams (based on the concentration of productive beds) and razor clams (based on stock by area) in 2006. This was achieved by interviewing experts and considering relevant literature during the process of establishing Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) in PNCIMA.¹

Manila and razor clams perform all their life history stages in the general area where settlement of larvae occurs. Settlement most likely occurs in areas where a combination of physical factors creates suitable life-long habitat. IAs for these clams include beds that support high densities, full age structures, larger growth or greater productivity, and beds that act as source populations.¹

Manila Clam

The Manila clam (*Venerupis philippinarum*) was introduced to BC in the 1930s with imported oyster seed and today supports a commercial fishery.¹ Within PNCIMA, Manila clams are found intertidally and subtidally in habitats of mixed sand, mud and gravel.² While the identification of IAs for Manila clams is typically on a scale too small for mapping, concentrations of

Manila and razor clams may settle in areas containing suitable lifelong habitat

productive beds were identified in the Bella Bella/Central Coast area. This is also the northernmost population of commercially harvested Manila clams in BC.¹

Razor clam

Razor clams (*Siliqua patula*) are found from California to Alaska on sandy beaches with high wave action from the mid-intertidal zone to depths of 20 m.¹ The largest stock in BC occurs from Massett to Rose Spit off the north coast of Haida Gwaii and, as such, a single IA was identified in McIntyre Bay.³ That stretch of beach presently supports the only commercial fishery for razor clams in BC. The fishery is co-managed by the Council of the Haida Nation and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Material presented is drawn from the following literature reviews, which include primary references:
 1 Clarke, C.L. and Jamieson, G.S. 2006. Identification of ecologically and biologically significant areas in the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area: Phase I – identification of important areas. Can. Tech. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 2678: vi + 89 p.
 2 Lucas, B.G., Verrin, S. and Brown, R. (Editors). 2007. Ecosystem overview: Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA). Can. Tech. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 2667: xiii + 104p.
 3 Clarke, C.L. and Jamieson, G.S. 2006. Identification of ecologically and biologically significant areas in the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area: Phase II – final report. Can. Tech. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 2686: v + 25 p.



Razor clam fishing.
 Photo: Sharon Jeffery



Razor clam.
 Photo: Pauline Ridings

