

Besides the aforementioned 400,000 snow geese, approximately two million ducks move through the west coast area.

Numerous sea bird colonies exist on the west coast, but though scientific investigation is going ahead by public and private bodies on these bird colonies, they are as yet little understood. However, some of the islands adjoining the Queen Charlottes and to some extent the Queen Charlottes themselves are very important for such birds as auklets, merres, puffins, guillemots, cormorants and various species of gulls. Tens of thousands of one species, the ancient merlette, is raised at the top end of the Queen Charlottes. The young, delicate, downy and relatively helpless when two days old, go right down to the water and start moving out from the shore. They of course would become very vulnerable to oil spills at this point.

Hecate Strait is a very important fishing area for halibut and various other species of fish. The islands and islets in the Strait are extremely important for sea birds on both sides of Hecate Strait. Some of the sooty sheerwaters, the pink-footed sheerwaters and the slender billed sheerwaters, are creatures that have been raised in the far south in the southern latitudes of Cape Horn and the coast of Chile. In summer they move up to our latitudes and spend their summer in large flocks in Hecate Strait, in the fishing

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