

## SUMMER CRUISE 2019 DISCOVERING THE DISCOVERY ISLANDS



The ***Yucultas, Hole in the Wall, Surge Narrows, Dent's Devils Hole, Octopus Islands*** – these are some of the exotic names associated with the area we plan to visit in late June.

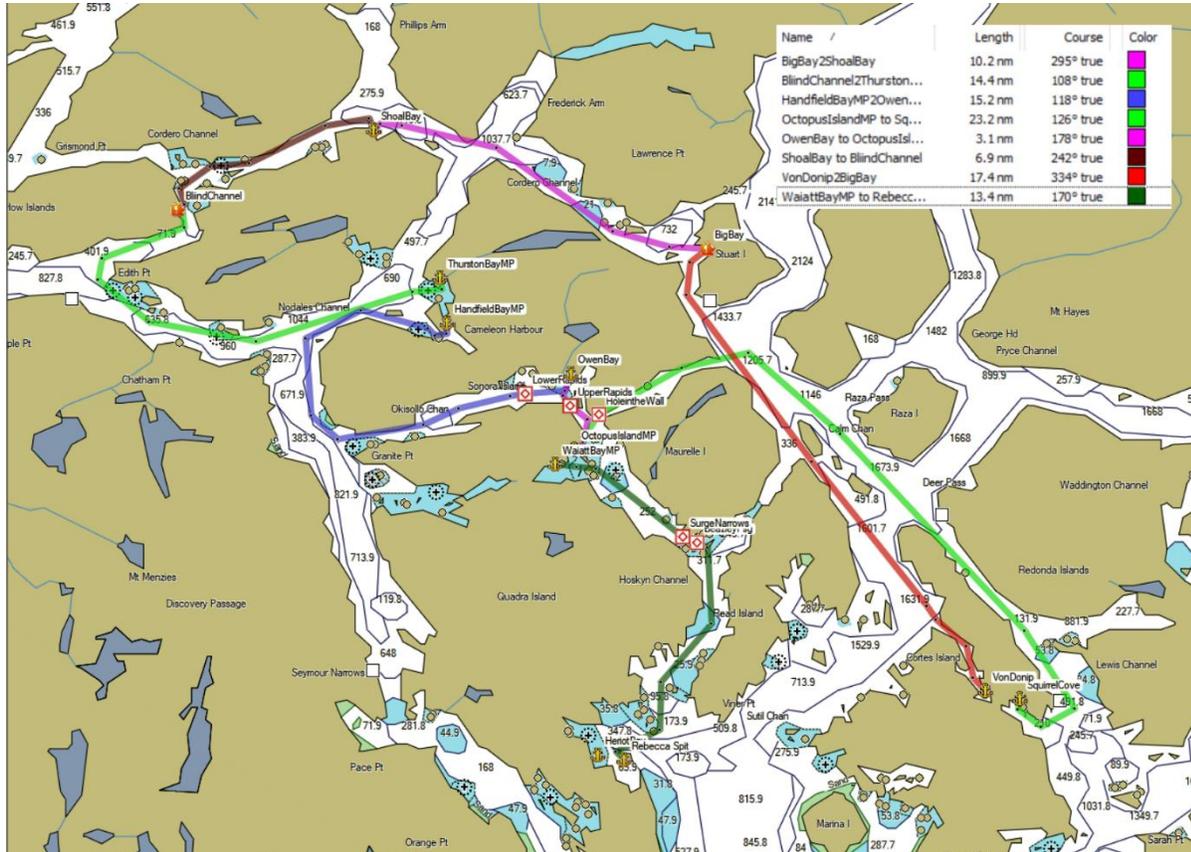
Many boaters are anxious about heading north because they know that they must brave a series of significant narrows and rapids the top end of Georgia Strait. Those of us who have gone up to the Broughton archipelago or even further north to Haida Gwaii or Alaska have remarked on the beauty and grandeur of the region north and west of Desolation Sound, but only in passing, usually passing right through to get to our northern destination.

This cruise is an opportunity to explore this fascinating and scenic region in the company of others who have been through most of the rapids numerous times. We will be timing our passages for slack, or near slack, waters and although most of the area is well protected from winds, we will be choosing our actual routes according to the weather.

You will be surprised at how calm the passages are and perhaps wonder what all the fuss is about. But don't get complacent – if you were there 2 hours earlier or later, you'd see how that location got its name! Always check the current tables (and don't rely on one source, especially the one that's on your chart plotter or smartphone).



Passing through this region I have seen spectacular displays by dolphins, Orca and grey whales while eagles fly overhead. Fishing is outstanding and several places are known to be good for



crabbing. Others have scene bears and wolves on the shorelines – much of this area is pristine wilderness.

Already 7 boats (sail and power) are planning to participate, with staggered departure dates (June 13, June 17 and June 18) and return times (June 30 to mid-July – Darrel says he doesn't have to be back until Christmas!). We will all rendezvous at Von Donop inlet, a delightful anchorage on Cortes Island for a potluck and skipper's meeting before proceeding into the first of the rapids. We plan to anchor out at least half the time and will be visiting several of the Marine Parks that our donations (to Marine Parks Forever Society) have helped to establish.

**Interested? Contact me for more details!**

I hope to see you on the water

Mike Apps, Cruise Director