

**Recreation Site and Trail Management Agreement
2017 Annual Report**

Sea to Sky Marine Trail



**Recreation Site and Trail Management Agreement
2017 Annual Report**

January 15, 2018

**Name of Agreement Holder:
Sea Kayak Association of BC**

**Sites or Trails under Management:
Sea to Sky Marine Trail –**

- **Ramillies Channel**
- **Bain Creek**
- **Thornbrough Channel**
- **Islet View**
- **Zorro Bay**
- **Tantalus Landing**

Table of Contents

- 1. Management of Operations**
 - a) Maintenance & Projects**
 - b) Volunteers**
 - c) Incidents and Actions**
 - d) Management Concerns**
 - e) Enforcement Support**
- 2. Summary of Visitors and Revenue**
- 3. Summary of Expenses**
- 4. Year End Condition of Infrastructure (summary tables may be attached)**
- 5. Proposed Projects and Planning for the Coming Year**
- 6. Appendix – Site Condition Reports**

1. Management of Operations

a) Maintenance & Projects

The six Sea to Sky Marine Trail sites in Howe Sound are new Recreation Sites established by the British Columbia Marine Trails Network Association (BCMTNA), Trans Canada Trail and RSTBC in 2015. In the spring of 2017 the Sea Kayak Association of British Columbia (SKABC), a Vancouver based sea kayak club, entered into a partnership agreement with RSTBC to look after maintenance of the six sites.

In 2017 the following maintenance and projects were performed:

- 1) In June and July, bear proof food cache boxes were installed at each of the six sites. The food cache boxes are steel site tool boxes from Summit Tools in two sizes: 3 ft long (Bain Creek, Thornbrough Channel & Islet View) and 4 ft long (Ramillies Channel, Zorro Bay & Tantalus Landing). The food cache boxes were painted green, bear-proof “s” hook latches, with wire retainers to prevent loss were added, instruction labels were applied and the boxes were installed on pressure-treated timber sleepers and concrete sonotube footings, or in some cases were bolted to existing posts or screwed firmly to tree roots.



Typical food cache box

- 2) On the weekend of October 14/15, 2017, five of the six sites were visited by a team of volunteers using a powerboat for year-end site condition reports. Minor leveling, tidying and garbage removal were performed in the course of the site visits.

On October 27, 2017, the remaining site, Tantalus Landing, was visited by a single kayak for a year-end site condition report. Minor

tidying and garbage removal were performed in the course of the site visit.

See the Appendix for year-end site condition reports.

b) Volunteers

Fourteen volunteers from SKABC visited the sites for the maintenance and projects noted above.

c) Incidents and Actions

All six sites are boat access only and are not patrolled on a regular basis. No incidents or actions were reported.

d) Management Concerns

Following are most significant current management concerns:

- 1) None of the six sites currently have latrine facilities. Users are expected to use Leave No Trace practices:
 - i. Go below tide line, cover with rocks or sand, or
 - ii. Dig a small hole well away from streams, cover with soil.
 - iii. Pack out toilet paper.Unburied human waste, toilet paper and/or feminine hygiene products were found at two sites, with some evidence of creek areas being used as toilets. Additional signage will be posted in the food cache boxes over the winter. In the longer term, outhouses should be provided, starting with the most heavily used sites.
- 2) Two sites have leaning danger trees that could pose a hazard to visitors. A faller will be required to remove the danger trees.

e) Enforcement Support

No enforcement support is currently required.

2. Summary of Visitors and Revenue

a) Visitors

2017 was the first year of management of these sites by SKABC, and no system was in place for recording visitor usage. Year-end site inspections noted moderate usage at five sites, with one site noted as considerable. All sites probably receive more day use than overnight use.

Most site visitors will have launched from Porteau Cove Provincial Park. Eric

Haggin, Porteau Cove Provincial Park Maintenance Manager, was interviewed on November 3, 2017. He noted that those launching and leaving their vehicles overnight require overnight parking permits, and are asked their destinations. Over the season, he estimated that ten persons per weekend left their vehicles overnight, and two persons per day during the week, with the most popular destinations being: #1 Islet View, #2 Zorro Bay, and #3 McNab Creek. He further estimated that 2/3 of the visitors were from the Vancouver area, and 1/3 from elsewhere, including foreign visitors.

Some visitors will have also launched from Squamish, with the three northmost sites receiving both day visitors and overnight visitors.

It is proposed that in 2018, visitor logbooks will be provided in the food cache boxes at each site to record site usage. A sample logbook has been purchased and logbook content is being developed. On-line visitor logbooks are also being explored.

b) Revenues

All six site are boat access only and no fees are charged for use.

We understand from Alistair McCrone's (RSTBC District Recreation Officer) Dec. 12, 2017 conversation with Paul Grey of the BCMTNA that, as part of SKABC's partnership agreement with RSTBC, \$5000 will be available to SKABC from RSTBC for maintenance and projects on the six sites in 2017 and also in 2018.

3. Summary of Expenses

In 2017, expenses were incurred for the following maintenance and projects:

- a) Bear Proof Food Cache Boxes
 - 1) Boxes, paint and materials
 - 2) Powerboat and camping for box installation
- b) Year-end site condition reports
 - 1) Powerboat and camping
- c) Visitor logbooks
- d) Three SKABC members are taking the Chainsaw Safety course at BCIT. Two sets of protective gear are being purchased (hard hat, visor, Kevlar gloves, Kevlar pants).

SKABC will invoice separately for the above expenses.

4. Year End Condition of Infrastructure

- a) Generally, all sites are in good shape and show evidence of moderate use.
- b) Bathroom etiquette signs are present at three sites and missing at three sites.
- c) Food cache boxes, new in July, are in good shape. Some minor garbage was found in some boxes.
- d) Unburied human waste, toilet paper and/or feminine hygiene products were found at two sites, with some evidence of creek areas being used as toilets.
- e) Leaning danger trees were noted at two sites.
- f) Chairs, likely brought in by powerboat, were found at two sites. To be removed when next visited by powerboat.
- g) Propane BBQ found at one site. To be removed when next visited by powerboat.

Please see the Appendix for individual Year-End Site Condition Reports.

5. Proposed Projects and Planning for the Coming Year

- a) SKABC has been informed that RSTBC is in contact with Jesse Levine, a commercial outfitter, regarding use of some of the STSMT sites. It is unclear what this will mean in terms of increased use of these sites, and in terms of potential site improvements by the commercial outfitter.
- b) Bathroom etiquette signs are present at three sites and missing at three sites. SKABC is requesting three additional signs to be posted at the missed sites.
- c) Additional signage will be posted in the food cache boxes regarding leave-no-trace practices for human waste.
- d) For those sites seeing significant use, outhouses should be provided. SKABC is looking into providing one prototype outhouse in 2018 at a site to be determined, with outhouses provided at additional campsites in subsequent years.
- e) It is proposed that in 2018, visitor logbooks will be provided in the food cache boxes at each site to record site usage. On-line visitor logbooks are also being explored.
- f) Deal with any danger trees.
- g) Add tent sites at smaller campsites through levelling or tent platforms.
- h) Add picnic tables.
- i) Improve trails and steps in a number of locations.

6. Appendix – Site Condition Reports

SKABC**Howe Sd Site Inspection****Fall 2017**

| | |
|--|---|
| Site Name: Ramillies Channel | Your comment/ observation. Was action taken? |
| Landing Access from beach safe, secure? Clear of obstructions? Beach debris- flotsam, plastics,? | Steps up from beach eroding. Considerable expanded polystyrene flotsam – removed. Some plywood sheeting removed. |
| Visitors #Campers? #Day Visitors? Where from? How did they come (e. g SUP, water taxi, kayak) | None present |
| Tent Sites How many? Any hazards (trees)? Condition? Level and smooth? Litter or debris? Trimming needed? Sketch map helpful to identify sites | 3 or 4 on grassy bench. 2 upland at SE end of bench. 1-2 beach sites on gravel between drift logs, 1 high on NW side up rough trail. Several dead alders (snags) appear to be leaning and hazardous to trails and or tent sites. |
| Trails Any hazards (trees)? Erosion or water issues? Unnecessary trails? | Trail up to NW needs stairs, protection of hole where seasonal creek runs. |
| Signs (present and in good condition?) Ocean –side site sign with name Large map sign? Other signs? | All present in good shape. Present: Water side sign, map sign, location sign. |
| Steel Food bin Functional? Clear of garbage, old food? | Good. |
| Nasty Waste Visible human waste? Toilet paper? Where? How much? | Minimal. Possibly some on upper beach that was above tidal action in summer. |
| User Behaviour Vandalism? Tree cutting? Fire pits in upland? Stream disturbance? | None seen |
| Kitchens Any camp furniture? Old tarps, rope? | Plastic lawn chair present – not removed. |
| Overall Estimate how much use is this site getting? | Moderate |
| Overall How could we make this site better? | Improve trail to NW. Maybe extend trail to next beach which is within Rec Site boundary. |
| Overall What are the priority issues? | Fall snags or top them – they have some wildlife value as dead snags. |
| Date of visit | 2017 10 15 |
| Reporter name (s) with email address(es) | Laura South, Martha-Bassett, Darlene Heath, Nick Heath |

Ramillies Channel Photos



Brushing



Entry steps



Furniture



Levelling



Trail steps needed



Hazard tree #1



Hazard tree #2



Hazard tree #3

SKABC**Howe Sd Site Inspection****Fall 2017**

| | |
|--|---|
| Site Name: Bain Creek | Your comment/ observation. Was action taken? |
| Landing Access from beach safe, secure? Clear of obstructions? Beach debris- flotsam, plastics,? | Boat run intact. No place to store canoes/kayaks unless hauled up bank. Orange flag bunting over site entrance left in place. Entry stair ok.. |
| Visitors #Campers? #Day Visitors? Where from? How did they come (e. g SUP, water taxi, kayak) | None present |
| Tent Sites How many? Any hazards (trees)? Condition? Level and smooth? Litter or debris? Trimming needed? Sketch map helpful to identify sites | 3-4 in main area. 1 up trail, 1 small bluff site. Main site needs further levelling - roots everywhere! Garbage present. Other tent sites semi-cleared but not yet levelled. |
| Trails Any hazards (trees)? Erosion or water issues? Unnecessary trails? | Trail up hill to bluff leads past 2 holes, possibly mine related. Both need some protection to prevent people falling into them or trail eroding into holes. Some erosion control needed – e.g. water bar or steps. |
| Signs (present and in good condition?) Ocean –side site sign with name Large map sign? Other signs? | All present in good shape. Present: Water side sign, map sign, location sign, poop sign. |
| Steel Food bin Functional? Clear of garbage, old food? | Good but had some garbage in it. |
| Nasty Waste Visible human waste? Toilet paper? Where? How much? | Considerable amount of unburied toilet paper. About 20 separate piles seen. Most removed or buried. Report received earlier of creek area being used as toilet. |
| User Behaviour Vandalism? Tree cutting? Fire pits in upland? Stream disturbance? | Evidence of camp fire on bluff. Mostly cleared. |
| Kitchens Any camp furniture? Old tarps, rope? | None |
| Overall Estimate how much use is this site getting? | Moderate. Amount of garbage could be result of only one irresponsible group. |
| Overall How could we make this site better? | Outhouse needed to protect creek. Kayak storage needed. Possible bluff tent pad. Explore possible access up bank from adjacent better beach to S. |
| Overall What are the priority issues? | Human waste needs follow up action and toilet. |
| Date of visit | 2017 10 15 |
| Reporter name (s) with email address(es) | Laura South, Martha-Bassett, Darlene Heath, Nick Heath |

Bain Creek Photos



Fire scars



Hazard hole #1



Hazard hole #2



Moss & tree damage



Trail drainage control



Typical toilet paper litter

SKABC**Howe Sd Site Inspection****Fall 2017**

| | |
|--|--|
| Site Name: Thornbrough Point (Channel) | Your comment/ observation. Was action taken? |
| Landing Access from beach safe, secure? Clear of obstructions? Beach debris- flotsam, plastics,? | Kayak/canoe storage is almost lacking. The beach floods so one cannot safely keep boats on it. There are some cedars with curving trunks for one or two boats . Others must be dragged up a steep bushy slope. It might take ingenuity to make suitable boat storage . |
| Visitors #Campers? #Day Visitors? Where from? How did they come (e. g SUP, water taxi, kayak) | None present |
| Tent Sites How many? Any hazards (trees)? Condition? Level and smooth? Litter or debris? Trimming needed? Sketch map helpful to identify sites | 2 small lower sites, 3 on bluff. Considerable quantity of small garbage on bluff – collected, removed. |
| Trails Any hazards (trees)? Erosion or water issues? Unnecessary trails? | Main path to bluff needs improvement – stairs, better creek crossing. Path to food bin eroded - in need of supporting log or similar |
| Signs (present and in good condition?) Ocean –side site sign with name Large map sign? Other signs? | All present in good condition. Present: Water side sign, map sign, location sign, poopy sign |
| Steel Food bin Functional? Clear of garbage, old food? | Hummock masks food bin, hides wasp nest, drops debris onto bin – could be cut down to create less of a problem. Appears to be unused. |
| Nasty Waste Visible human waste? Toilet paper? Where? How much? | Lots on bluff area especially unburied toilet paper, feminine hygiene items and packaging |
| User Behaviour Vandalism? Tree cutting? Fire pits in upland? Stream disturbance? | Some axe hacking on bluff on small tree that might have fallen naturally or not. Some person has clambered on steep moss-covered rock (for cliff jumping?) damaged a small arbutus tree and ripped out moss. |
| Kitchens Any camp furniture? Old tarps, rope? | None present |
| Overall Estimate how much use is this site getting? | Considerable on bluff sites. |
| Overall How could we make this site better? | Trail improvements. Tent pads. |
| Overall What are the priority issues? | Food bin access. |
| Date of visit | 2017 10 14 |
| Reporter name (s) with email address(es) | Laura South, Clark Perry-Bater, Alice Wong, Nick Heath |

Thornbrough Point Photos



Hummock at food bin



Improving creek crossing



Typical toilet paper litter



Axe hacking

SKABC**Howe Sd Site Inspection****Fall 2017**

| | |
|--|--|
| Site Name: Islet View | Your comment/ observation. Was action taken? |
| Landing Access from beach safe, secure? Clear of obstructions? Beach debris- flotsam, plastics,? | Boat run intact. Access to site over a few drift logs could be improved with minor effort. |
| Visitors #Campers? #Day Visitors? Where from? How did they come (e. g SUP, water taxi, kayak) | None present |
| Tent Sites How many? Any hazards (trees)? Condition? Level and smooth? Litter or debris? Trimming needed? Sketch map helpful to identify sites | 1 large 1small. 3 tents max. Further levelling would be good. |
| Trails Any hazards (trees)? Erosion or water issues? Unnecessary trails? | No issues but quite rough and could be made less so. |
| Signs (present and in good condition?) Ocean –side site sign with name Large map sign? Other signs? | All OK Present: Water side sign, map sign, location sign, poop sign |
| Steel Food bin Functional? Clear of garbage, old food? | OK |
| Nasty Waste Visible human waste? Toilet paper? Where? How much? | Some. |
| User Behaviour Vandalism? Tree cutting? Fire pits in upland? Stream disturbance? | None |
| Kitchens Any camp furniture? Old tarps, rope? | None except for a long board |
| Overall Estimate how much use is this site getting? | Moderate |
| Overall How could we make this site better? | Tent pad for additional site. Outhouse to be located S of main sign. Would need trail brushing to it. |
| Overall What are the priority issues? | Expand capacity of site. |
| Date of visit | 2017 10 14 |
| Reporter name (s) with email address(es) | Laura South, Clark Perry-Bater, Alice Wong, Nick Heath |

Islet View Photos



Boat run



Site entrance



Site levelling

SKABC**Howe Sd Site Inspection****Fall 2017**

| | |
|--|--|
| Site Name: Zorro Bay | Your comment/ observation. Was action taken? |
| Landing Access from beach safe, secure? Clear of obstructions? Beach debris- flotsam, plastics,? | Good |
| Visitors #Campers? #Day Visitors? Where from? How did they come (e. g SUP, water taxi, kayak) | None present |
| Tent Sites How many? Any hazards (trees)? Condition? Level and smooth? Litter or debris? Trimming needed? Sketch map helpful to identify sites | 4, more levelling needed especially largest upper site and small upper site with large rock in centre. Brambles need trimming – some trimmed. With brushing 1 or 2 more sites can be made. |
| Trails Any hazards (trees)? Erosion or water issues? Unnecessary trails? | One tree leaning at 45 deg over trail and food bin. Secure for now – rooted and upper end lodged in fork of sapling. Steeper section of access trail could use some steps/stairs. Potential for erosion damage. |
| Signs (present and in good condition?) Ocean –side site sign with name Large map sign? Other signs? | See below. Present. Waterside sign, map sign, location sign. Poopy sign not present |
| Steel Food bin Functional? Clear of garbage, old food? | OK has minor dent- painted over. |
| Nasty Waste Visible human waste? Toilet paper? Where? How much? | Nil or minor |
| User Behaviour Vandalism? Tree cutting? Fire pits in upland? Stream disturbance? | Large map sign has bullet hole. Rope swing in poor place and unsightly. |
| Kitchens Any camp furniture? Old tarps, rope? | 4 chairs stashed for later removal. Grill from BBQ. |
| Overall Estimate how much use is this site getting? | Moderate. Definitely seeing more day use than overnight use? Definitely chairs brought by power boat rather than sailors/paddlers. |
| Overall How could we make this site better? | Outhouse . Extend trails to N bluff. Source of water likely exists and needs locating. |
| Overall What are the priority issues? | Hazard tree removal. |
| Date of visit | 2017 10 14 |
| Reporter name (s) with email address(es) | Laura South, Clark Perry-Bater, Alice Wong, Nick Heath |

Zorro Bay Photos



Hazard Tree

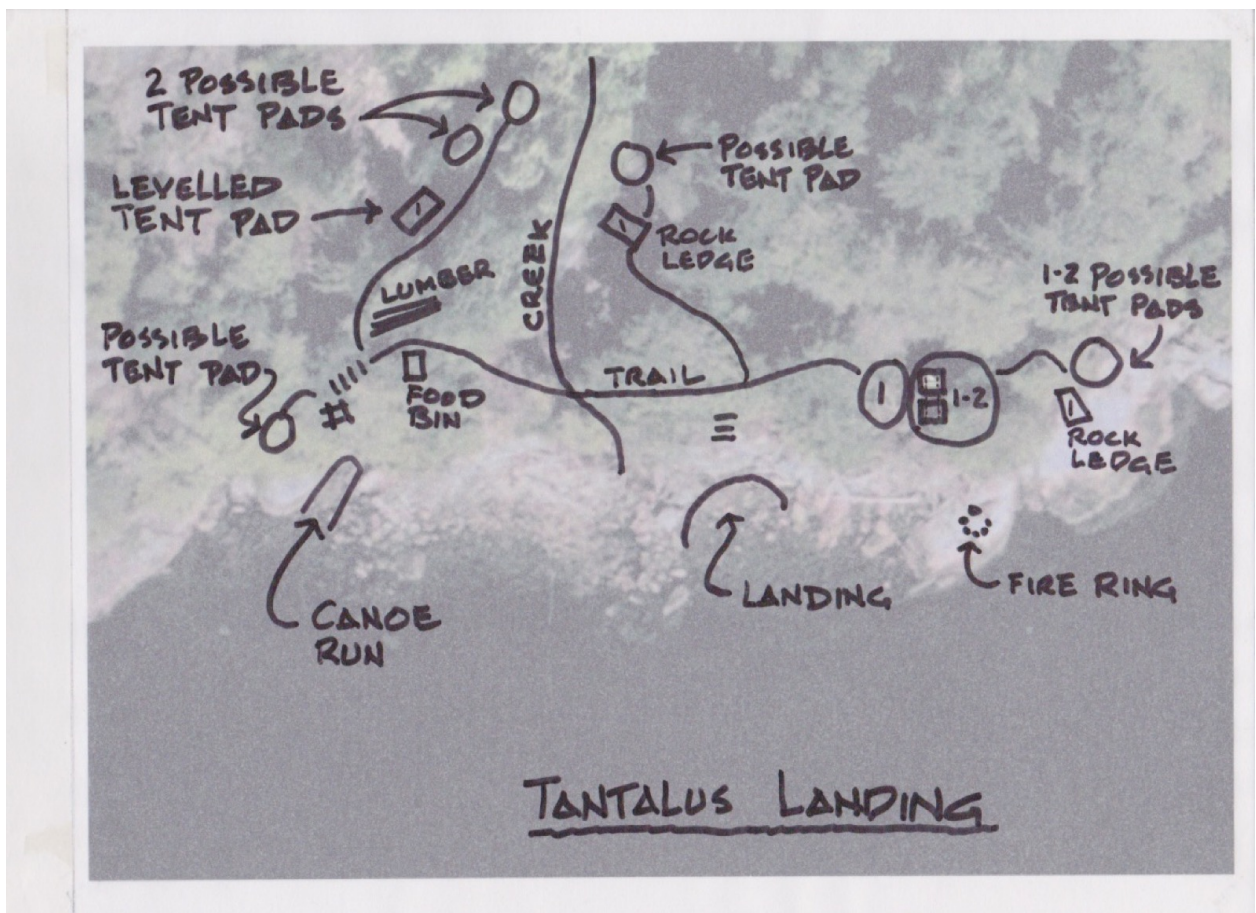


Hazard tree

SKABC**Howe Sd Site Inspection****Fall 2017**

| | |
|--|---|
| Site Name: Tantalus Landing | Your comment/ observation. Was action taken? |
| Landing Access from beach safe, secure? Clear of obstructions? Beach debris- flotsam, plastics,? | Drift log in upper part of boat run. Recommend removing if still present in spring. Entry stairs from both landing sites ok. |
| Visitors #Campers? #Day Visitors? Where from? How did they come (e. g SUP, water taxi, kayak) | None present. |
| Tent Sites How many? Any hazards (trees)? Condition? Level and smooth? Litter or debris? Trimming needed? Sketch map helpful to identify sites | 2-3 level & smooth in main area on flats east of creek. 1 pad levelled by users on bench up steep trail west of creek, 2 more pads possible with brushing/levelling. Potential sites: Faint trail at very east end up bluff, 1 small tent site on rock ledge, 1-2 pads possible with brushing & minor levelling. Faint steep trail east of creek to 1 small tent site on rock ledge, 1 pad possible with brushing & minor levelling. Faint rough, steep trail at very west end up to possible tent pad with brushing & more significant levelling. Sketch map attached. |
| Trails Any hazards (trees)? Erosion or water issues? Unnecessary trails? | Main trail across site in good shape. Faint trails noted above have been created by users. |
| Signs (present and in good condition?) Ocean –side site sign with name Large map sign? Other signs? | Water side sign, map sign present. No poop sign. |
| Steel Food bin Functional? Clear of garbage, old food? | Good but had a mouldy plastic lid in it. |
| Nasty Waste Visible human waste? Toilet paper? Where? How much? | None. |
| User Behaviour Vandalism? Tree cutting? Fire pits in upland? Stream disturbance? | Fire ring on water-side rock ledge. Piece of plywood found by creek, left by food bin for later removal. |
| Kitchens Any camp furniture? Old tarps, rope? | 2 painted 4'x4' plywood tabletops have been placed by users on existing concrete foundation. Stack of 2x lumber near food bin & jug of linseed oil left by club member planning to build tabletop on existing concrete foundation. |

| | |
|--|---|
| | Propane BBQ present in main area, stashed in bushes at east end for later removal. |
| Overall Estimate how much use is this site getting? | Moderate. Tent pad levelled by users indicates use by groups larger than 2-3 tents, or multiple groups. |
| Overall How could we make this site better? | Outhouse needed. Tent pad levelled by users can be improved with additional levelling. 5-6 tent pads can be added with brushing & leveling. |
| Overall What are the priority issues? | Outhouse. |
| Date of visit | 2017 10 27 |
| Reporter name (s) with email address(es) | Steve Best haidagwail@bcmarinetrails.org |



Tantalus Landing Photos



Drift log in boat run



Tables and BBQ



Tent pad levelled by users