Recreation Site and Trail Management Agreement 2021 Annual Report

Sea to Sky Marine Trail



Recreation Site and Trail Management Agreement 2021 Annual Report

January 15, 2022

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

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1. Management of Operations

a) Maintenance & Projects

The six Sea to Sky Marine Trail sites in Howe Sound are 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 2021, the following maintenance and projects were performed:

1. **Howe Sound Stewardship Team** – At the beginning of the year site stewards recruited for each of the six recreation sites that SKABC looks after. The site stewards and their teams have carried out Spring, Summer and Fall site inspections at their sites, as well as work parties at some of the sites. The site inspections are carried out by kayak, reducing the number of power boat trips required. Overall management of the team continues to be done by Steve Best.

In April, tools were delivered to all of the sites where the tools are locked in the inactive chambers of the composting toilets. The tools will allow site stewards to carry out site maintenance without taking tools with them in their kayaks.

2. **RSTBC Site Tour** – In March, Steve Best accompanied the RSTBC District Recreation Officer, his assistant, and a danger tree assessor on a tour of all six sites. On the same trip, four giant bags of wood shavings were dropped off at the sites that need them for their composting toilets. Subsequent to the tour, a wildfire crew went to the sites and cut down the danger trees.

At Bain Creek, the wildfire crew left a giant tree and all its branches down across the creek. In May, a SKABC work party cleaned up the branches, built more stairs on the trail to the toilet and built a kayak rack. The remaining tree trunk in the creek bed was too big for SKABC to tackle, and there was concern that in the winter rains it could cause flooding and scouring of the creek bank. In the Fall, a crew from RSTBC went to Bain and removed the section of trunk blocking the creek.

3. **Islet View Roof Repair** – In March, a fallen tree limb put a hole in the polycarbonate toilet roof at Islet View. A SKABC volunteer paddled to the site and secured a tarp over the hole in the roof. A two-man volunteer work party then went to the site with a ladder by power boat and replaced the damaged roof section.



Tarped toilet roof

4. **Zorro Bay Tent Platforms** – The Squamish Lillooet Regional District Council came through with a grant of \$10,000 to be spent on Zorro Bay, the only Howe Sound Recreation Site in the SLRD. Thimbleberry Contracting was hired to build three cedar tent platforms and a second cedar picnic table. At the end of August, a crew from Thimbleberry spent two days at Zorro Bay building the platforms and table.



Zorro Bay Tent Platform



Zorro Bay Tent Platform



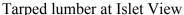
Zorro Bay Picnic Table

In April, a chartered surveyor was engaged on a volunteer basis and he located and old boundary survey pin at the southeast corner of the Zorro Bay Recreation Site. Previously, we had worked with only a very approximate definition of the site but, when adding tent platforms, the official boundary was critical to know. This work would have been expensive if we had not been so fortunate in getting his services on a voluntary basis.

A trail was started at Zorro Bay from the existing campsites to a higher bench and on to a creek to the north. This trail will allow for future expansion, funnel exploring visitors away from private lands, and access to a freshwater source.

5. Tantalus Landing and Islet View Tent Platforms – The Valhalla Squamish Trail fund donated \$9000 for tent platforms at two sites. On September 13, seven volunteers, four from SKABC and three from Valhalla Pure Outfitters, loaded the cedar, tools and other materials and delivered it in two shuttles. Cedar for three 10' X10' platforms was delivered to Tantalus Landing and cedar for two 12' X 12' platforms was delivered to Islet View. We had hoped to build the platforms in the Fall, but poor weather and other commitments intervened, the lumber has been tarped for the winter. These platforms will be built by volunteers in the Spring, or sooner if weather and availability permit.







Tarped lumber at Tantalus Landing

6. **Logbook "Houses"** – In 2021, visitor logbooks at two of the sites became soaked and mildewed. At first it was thought that the Plexiglas cases had leaked, but it now seems likely that the cases, which can be difficult to close, had not been closed properly, allowing rain in. In response, a SKABC volunteer built six logbook "birdhouses", which are well ventilated and easy to use. Four of the "birdhouses have been installed to date. The other two will be installed in 2022.





7. **Video/Presentations** – A video on the work that SKABC has done on the Howe Sound sites in 2021 was presented at the SKABC Annual General Meeting November 1, 2021. The video is posted online on the SKABC website.

https://youtu.be/3B4B7gv2t50

b) Volunteers

31 volunteers from SKABC visited the sites for the maintenance and projects noted above. A total of 61 volunteer-days of work were performed. Volunteer work parties were purposely limited due to COVID-19 concerns.

c) Incidents and Actions

- 1) All six sites are boat access only and are not patrolled on a regular basis.
- 2) Overnight on January 12, 2021, six barges from the Port Mellon pulp mill broke loose in high winds and five of them grounded on the boulders beside the boat run at Islet View. The only camper at the time was unharmed and the boat run was not damaged. Seaspan removed the barges the following day.



Dave Ray photos from The Squamish Chief

3) In response to an emailed complaint from a cabin owner near Zorro Bay, an on-site meeting was held June 19, 2021 with Steve Best, Howe Sound Marine Trail Steward, Mike McHolm, Zorro Bay Site Steward, and five neighbouring cabin owners. The cabin owners noted that campers continued to exceed capacity on weekends, with people camping outside of the recreation site, that campers arriving by powerboat and jet ski were still partying and playing loud music late into the night, and that visitors were trespassing on the unoccupied cabin on the neighbouring headland. It was agreed that SKABC would have "Private/Rec Site", "Rec Site Map", and "You Are Now on Private Property" signs printed and posted on site. As noted in 2. 4) above, three tent platforms were built at Zorro Bay in 2021 to address overcrowding.





Private/Rec Site Sign

Rec Site Map

4) No other incidents or actions were reported.

d) Management Concerns

Following are the most significant current management concerns:

- 1) See Item 3. c) above regarding trespassing, partying and loud music at Zorro Bay. Additional signage has been posted on site. The situation will be monitored and contact maintained with the neighbouring cabin owners in the coming year to determine if the problem continues.
- 2) As noted above, campers exceed capacity on weekends at Zorro Bay. Three additional tent platforms were completed in 2021. Usage will continue to be monitored to determine if additional platforms will be required to increase capacity.
- 3) The pier and adjacent building at Zorro Bay are continuing to deteriorate. It poses a danger to anyone on it, plus the creosote pilings pose a danger to the environment.

e) Enforcement Support

No enforcement support is currently required.

2. Summary of Visitors and Revenue

a) Visitors

Visitor logbooks were installed at all six sites in 2018. The following visits were recorded in 2021 based on onsite and online logbook entries:

- **a.** Ramillies Channel 13 day visitors. 129 overnight visitors. This is a decrease in day visitor and an increase from 2020.
- **b.** Bain Creek 8 day visitors. 87 overnight visitors. This is a decrease in day visitors and a substantial increase in overnight visitors from 2021. There were three visits from groups from Camp Latona.

- **c.** Thornbrough 19 day visitors. 111 overnight visitors. This is a substantial increase from 2021. There was one group visit from Camp Latona.
- **d. Islet View** 36 day visitors, 94 overnight visitors recorded through July 9, 2021. This is only a partial record as the end-of-season visit did not occur at this site.
- e. Zorro Bay 87 day visitors. 91 overnight visitors. This is a slight decrease in day visitors and a slight increase in overnight visitors from 2020. Neighbouring cabin owners noted that campers exceeded capacity on weekends. This indicates that not all visits are being recorded in the visitor logbooks.
- **f.** Tantalus Landing 143 day visitors. 43 overnight visitors. This is a decrease from 2020.

Total for all sites: 356 day visitors, 555 overnight visitors. This is an decrease from 418 day visitors in 2020 and a very slight increase from 553 overnight visitors in 2020. At one site logbook records were only obtained for half of the season, so actual usage was higher. Visits resumed in 2021 from one summer camp (prior to 2020, four summer camps were using the sites). It is known from anecdotal evidence that some day and overnight visits were not entered in the logbooks, so actual site usage is higher.

While the majority of visits were by self-propelled watercraft (kayak, canoe and stand-up paddleboard), there was use at all sites by powerboat. 22 visitors arrived by sailboat.

b) Revenue

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

3. Summary of Expenses

In 2021, expenses were incurred for the following maintenance and projects:

- a) Purchase and delivery of tools to all sites, supplies and work parties.
 - 1) Powerboat and materials. Approximately \$1,400
- b) 3 tent platforms, 1 picnic table, and site signage at Zorro Bay.
 - 1) \$10,000 grant from SLRD.
 - 2) Approximately \$10,200 spent.
- c) Islet View and Tantalus Landing tent platforms.
 - 1) \$9000 grant from Valhalla Squamish Trail Fund.
 - 2) Approximately \$10,400 spent on materials and water taxi delivery.

4. Year End Condition of Infrastructure

- a) Generally, all sites are in good shape and show evidence of moderate use.
- b) Composting toilets at all sites are in good shape.
- c) Food cache boxes, new in 2017, are in generally good shape, but the exteriors are all continuing to rust and will be monitored. It is estimated that they will need to be replaced in one or two years.
- d) The canoe run at Tantalus Landing was never finished at the high tide line. Rock removal/shifting required. Maintenance work and improvements on the canoe runs at Bain Creek and Islet View may be required as well.

5. Proposed Projects and Planning for the Coming Year

- a) Two tent platforms will be built by volunteers at Islet View and three platforms will be built by volunteers at Tantalus Landing. Lumber for these platforms is already stored on site as noted in Section 1, a), 5. above.
- b) The remaining two Plexiglas logbook cases will be replaced by "birdhouses" in 2022.
- c) Canoe run improvements at three of the sites will proceed as tides, funds and manpower permit.
- d) Increasing capacity at any of the sites will require tent platforms. Additional tent platforms will proceed as funds and manpower permit.
- e) Trail work at various sites will proceed as funds and manpower permit. Significant trail work at Zorro Bay is anticipated to proceed in 2022.
- f) Additional picnic tables at various sites will proceed as funds and manpower permit.

6. Appendix 1 – Site Visitor Logbooks

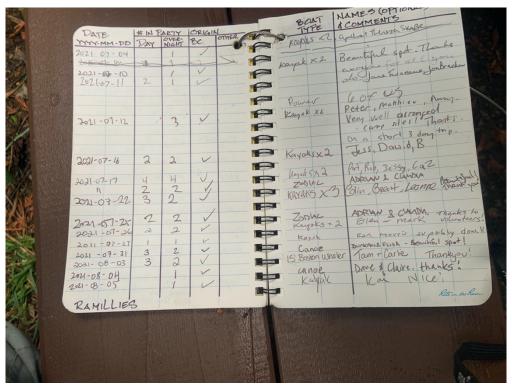
Site Visitor Logbook - Ramillies Channel



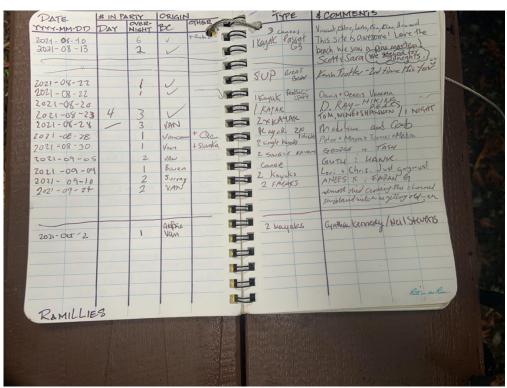
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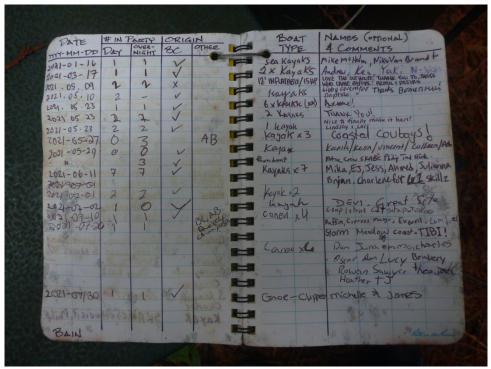


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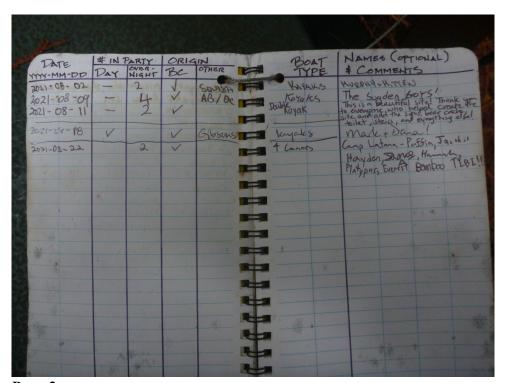


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Site Visitor Logbook - Bain Creek

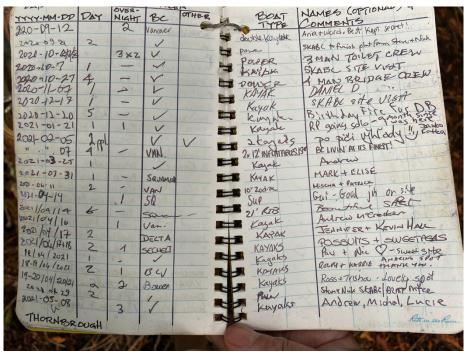


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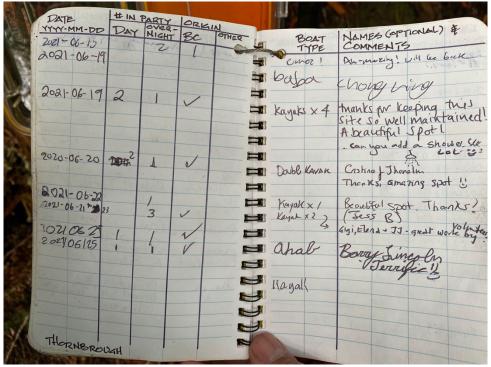
Site Visitor Logbook - Thornbrough Channel



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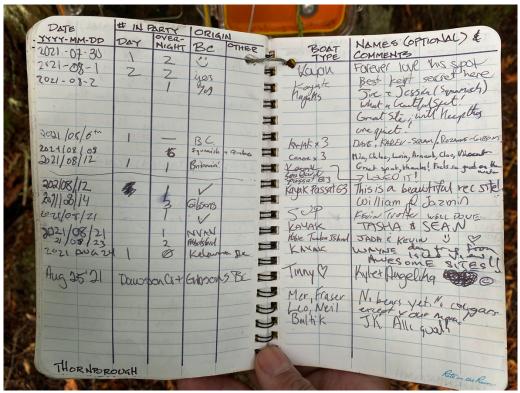
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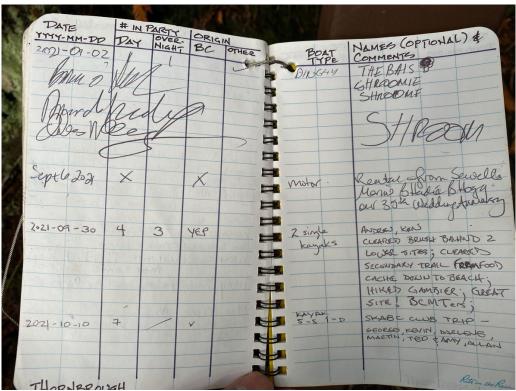
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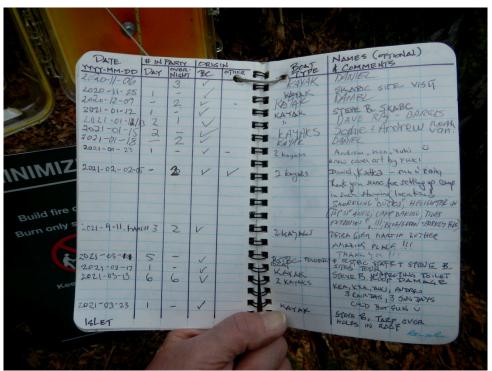


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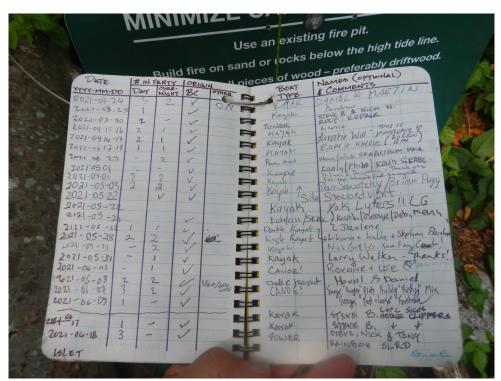


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Site Visitor Logbook – Islet View



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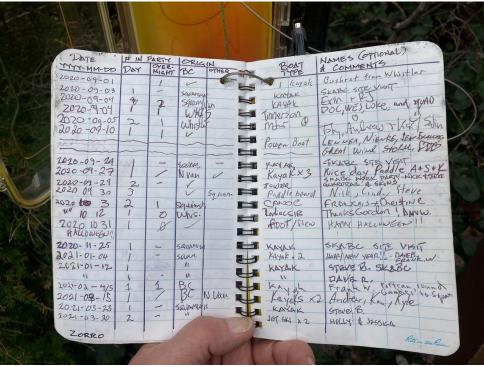


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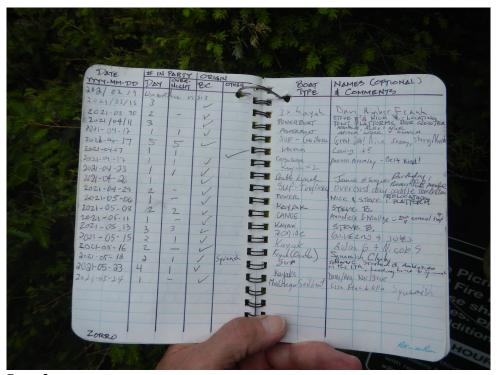
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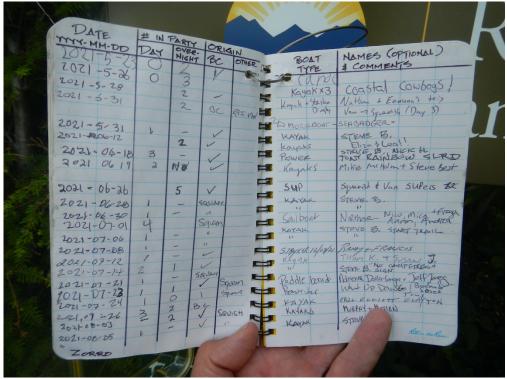
Site Visitor Logbook - Zorro Bay



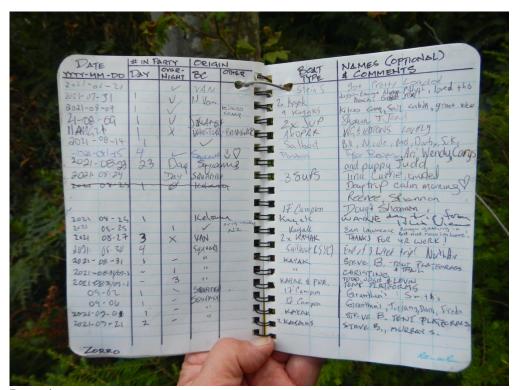
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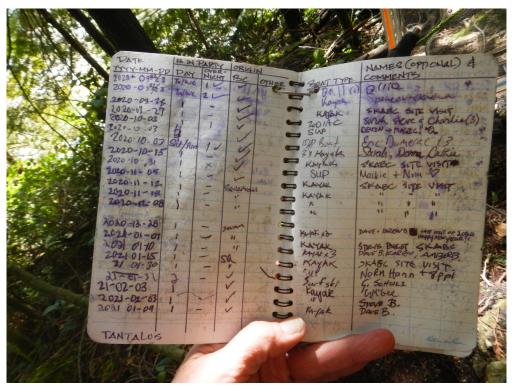


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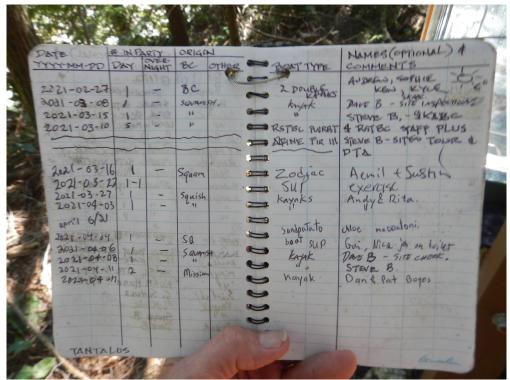


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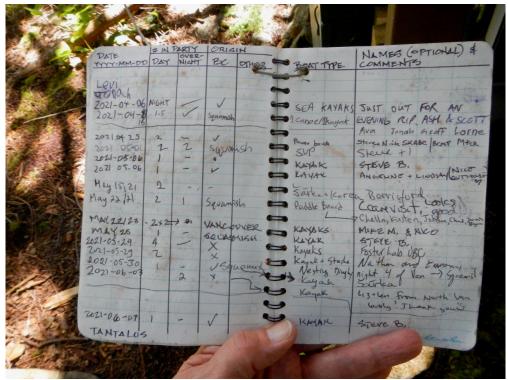
Site Visitor Logbook - Tantalus Landing



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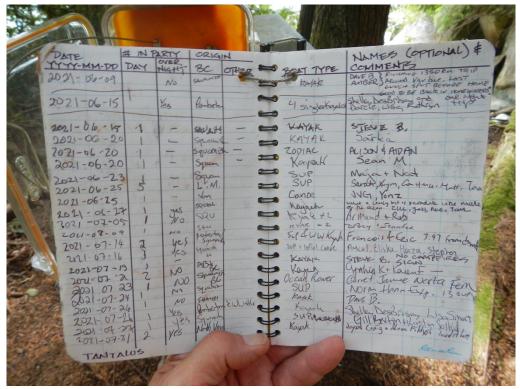
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