

Recreation Site and Trail Management Agreement 2022 Annual Report

Sea to Sky Marine Trail



**Recreation Site and Trail Management Agreement
2022 Annual Report**

January 15, 2023

**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 March of 2022 the partnership agreement was renewed for another five years.

In 2022, the following maintenance and projects were performed:

1. **Howe Sound Stewardship Team** – 2022 was the second year of the Stewardship Team, with site stewards for each site and their teams carrying 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.
2. **RSTBC Site Tour** – On April 27, 2022, RSTBC staff, a danger tree assessor and Steve Best took a tour of all six sites on the *Alpine Fir*. Subsequent to the tour, a wildfire crew went to the sites and cut down the danger trees.
3. **Tantalus Landing and Islet View Tent Platforms** – In 2021, the Valhalla Squamish Trail fund donated \$9000 for tent platforms at two sites. On September 13, 2021, cedar for three 10' X10' platforms was delivered to Tantalus Landing and cedar for two 12' X 12' platforms was delivered to Islet View. Stormy weather prevented construction in the Fall of 2021 and the lumber was tarped for the winter.

In April and May of this year, three 10' X10' tent platforms were completed by volunteer crews at Tantalus Landing.



Platform 1





Platform 2



Platform 3



In July, two 12' X12' tent platforms were completed by volunteer crews at Islet View.



Platform 1



Platform 2



4. **Logbook “Houses”** – In 2022, a SKABC volunteer built six logbook “birdhouses” to replace the previous Plexiglas cases, which were difficult to close, resulting in soaked and mildewed logbooks. Four of the

“birdhouses” were installed in 2021. The remaining two were installed in 2022. This design appears to be performing well.



5. **Video/Presentations** – A video on the work that SKABC has done on the Howe Sound sites in 2022 was presented at the SKABC Annual General Meeting November 7, 2022. The video is posted online on the SKABC website.

<https://youtu.be/XMzKXcqJi0M>

b) Volunteers

23 volunteers from SKABC visited the sites for the maintenance and projects noted above. A total of 65 volunteer-days of work were performed. Volunteer work parties were purposely limited due to continuing COVID-19 concerns.

c) Incidents and Actions

- 1) All six sites are boat access only and are not patrolled on a regular basis.
- 2) At Zorro Bay, it was determined on November 24th that, when the wildfire crew felled a tree upslope of one of the tent platforms, it did not fall where they were aiming. Instead, it had fallen across the platform. While the platform itself was undamaged, the guardrail on the downhill side was knocked off and one end post knocked loose. It appears that the 2x6 top plate and the two 2x4 horizontal intermediate rails were intact and were re-installed by the wildfire crew. A 2x2 and 2x4 below the top plate and one intermediate post were missing and were presumably removed from the site in pieces.

The damage went unnoticed until the Fall site inspection on November 19th, when the Site Steward noted the loose end post. Temporary repairs were made November 24th, and complete repairs will be made in the Spring of 2023. While the damage was accidental, it would have been helpful if the wildfire crew had reported it, so repairs could have been made in a timely manner. As it turned out, the guardrail was in an unsafe state for most of the season.



Felled tree



Missing post and other members

3) No other incidents or actions were reported.

d) **Management Concerns**

Following are the most significant current management concerns:

- 1) In 2021, complaints were received from neighbouring cabin owners regarding overcrowding, trespassing, partying and loud music at Zorro Bay. Additional signage was posted on site and three tent platforms were built in 2021. No complaints were received in 2022. The situation will continue to be monitored.
- 2) 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. In 2021, it was determined that these structures are not on the Recreation Site. Any action will not be the responsibility of SKABC or RSTBC.
- 3) Thornbrough Channel saw a significant increase in use in 2022. We are planning three new tent platforms for this site in 2023.
- 4) A large group of 15 was dropped off at one of the sites for the Canada Day long weekend. This is the first time this type of use has been noted. We will continue to monitor use to determine whether any action is required.

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 2022 based on onsite logbook entries:

- a. Ramillies Channel** – 24 day visitors. 84 overnight visitors. This is a increase in day visitors and an decrease in overnight visitors from 2021. There was one visit by s tour/course group of by Norm Hahn Expeditions.
- b. Bain Creek** – 5 day visitors. 79 overnight visitors. This is a slight decrease in day visitors and a slight decrease in overnight visitors from 2022. There was one visit by a group of 12 from Camp Elphinstone and one visit by a group of 18 from Camp Latona.
- c. Thornbrough** – 64 day visitors. 172 overnight visitors. This is a very substantial increase in both day and overnight visitors from 2022. There was one visit by a group of 8 from Camp “BDA;” four visits by groups (4, 15, 8 & 10) from Camp Potlatch; one visit by a group of 4 from Camp Latona; and one visit by a group of 8 from Camp Elphinstone.
- d. Islet View** – In our 2021 report, information was only available through July 9, 2021. The missing information is now available and the totals for 2021 were 60 day visitors and 153 overnight visitors. For 2022, the totals were 50 day visitors and 173 overnight visitors. This is a decrease in day visitors and an increase in overnight visitors from 2021. There was one visit by a group of 11 from Camp Potlatch. A large group of 15 was dropped off at the site for the Canada Day long weekend.
- e. Zorro Bay** – 26 day visitors. 126 overnight visitors. This is a decrease in day visitors and a substantial increase in overnight visitors from 2021. There was one visit by a group of 7 from Camp Elphinstone.
- f. Tantalus Landing** – 100 day visitors. 47 overnight visitors. This is a decrease day visitors and a slight increase in overnight visits from 2020.

Total for all sites: 489 day visitors, 681 overnight visitors. This is an increase from 380 day visitors in 2020 and an increase from 614 overnight visitors in 2021. Summer camps were closed in 2020 due to COVID-19. Visits resumed in 2021 from one summer camp. In 2022, there were 11 visits from four summer camps (111 total visitors from summer camps). There were also 5 visits by tour/course groups (40 total visits).

While the majority of visits were by self-propelled watercraft (kayak, canoe, stand-up paddleboard and surfski), there was use at all sites by powerboats. 9 visitors arrived by sailboat.

It is known from anecdotal evidence that some day and overnight visits were not entered in the logbooks, so actual site usage is higher.

b) Revenue

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

3. Summary of Expenses

The purchase of lumber for the five tent platforms built in 2022 was largely covered by a 2021 grant of \$9,000 from the Valhalla Squamish Trail Fund (actual cost for lumber and delivery to sites in 2021 came to approximately \$1,400).

In 2022, 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 \$700
- b) \$3000 was donated in 2022 from a film festival put on by Valhalla Pure Outfitters. These funds will go toward the purchase of aluminum food cache boxes to replace the existing rusting steel food caches.

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 they are continuing to rust and will need to be replaced. We are planning to replace two bins a year over the next three years, and adding a second bin at at least one of the sites.
- 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) Three platforms will be built by volunteers at Thornbrough Channel. Lumber for these platforms is currently being ordered.
- b) Canoe run improvements at three of the sites will proceed as tides, funds and manpower permit.
- c) Increasing capacity at any of the sites will require tent platforms. Additional tent platforms will proceed as funds and manpower permit.
- d) Trail work at various sites will proceed as funds and manpower permit. Significant trail work at Zorro Bay is anticipated to proceed in 2023.
- e) Additional picnic tables at various sites will proceed as funds and manpower permit.