



BC MARINE TRAILS

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 29, 2024

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Howe Sound, British Columbia — The BC Marine Trails Network (BCMT) is proud to announce the successful completion of the first phase of our 2024 Howe Sound projects. This phase involved the construction of three tent platforms and a picnic table at the Thornbrough Channel Recreation Site, and two at the Zorro Bay Recreation Site — marking a significant milestone in ongoing efforts to enhance outdoor experiences for paddlers. Both sites are a part of the wider [Sea to Sky Marine Trail](#).

Paul Grey, President of BCMT, explains, “The Sea to Sky Marine Trail immerses the paddler quickly into a unique remote experience. Volunteers have managed to build a network of campsites equipped with composting toilets, picnic tables, bridges, and tent platforms providing comfort in the midst of wilderness.”

Upcoming work includes the replacement of steel bear caches with new aluminum models.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of SKABC and BCMT, funding was secured for the project through the Destination Development fund, together with a 30% matching grant from the Trans Canada Trail. *QUOTE APPROVED FROM DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT*: The Destination Development Fund, from which BCMT received a total grant amount of \$26,136, was made

possible through the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport. These grants enabled us to hire a backcountry contractor to carry out the construction of the platforms.

Beginning on March 12th, under favorable weather conditions, SKABC's dedicated club Treasurer, Nick Heath, accompanied contractor Todd Nichols to Thornbrough Channel and Zorro Bay for a review of platform locations. Todd Nichols, who previously constructed three tent platforms at Zorro Bay and five recreation site composting toilets, led the construction efforts.

Utilizing innovative methods, Todd and his crew transported platform lumber as a raft behind an inflatable from Britannia Beach to Zorro Bay, where they successfully built two platforms and added a hand/guardrail to the access trail wood stair. They then proceeded to Thornbrough Channel, delivering materials in two loads via Mercury Transport from Horseshoe Bay. Despite logistical challenges, the team efficiently completed three platforms alongside a stunning solid table, showcasing breathtaking marine views — the work was finished on March 18th, 2024.

Paddlers are invited to explore these newly constructed tent platforms, offering an enhanced outdoor experience in Howe Sound. Steve Best, SKABC's Howe Sound Marine Trail Steward, does caution that, "Howe Sound is a body of water that has to be treated with respect. Make sure that you have the appropriate paddling skills, and pick your weather with care."

While sites are free for use, support for future projects is appreciated through membership with BCMT. Membership not only supports further trails development, but First Nations engagement, and stewardship initiatives. BCMT requests that marine recreationalists along the coast adhere to our [Code of Conduct](#) to ensure responsible and sustainable practices. A one page summary of the Code of Conduct can be found [here](#). A detailed, interactive map of BCMT sites — including Zorro Bay and Thornbrough Channel — can be found at bcmarinetrails.org/map

We extend our special thanks to Todd Nichols and his team, grant writers, and volunteer stewards whose dedication and expertise have contributed to the realization of this project, bringing a touch of paradise to our community.

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For more information regarding BCMT, please contact Sam Cutcliffe at (902) 213-3039 or scutcliffe@bcmarinetrails.org. For more information regarding the recent tent platform construction, the history of the Sea to Sky Marine Trail, or the SKABC, please contact Steve Best at (604) 828-0272.