

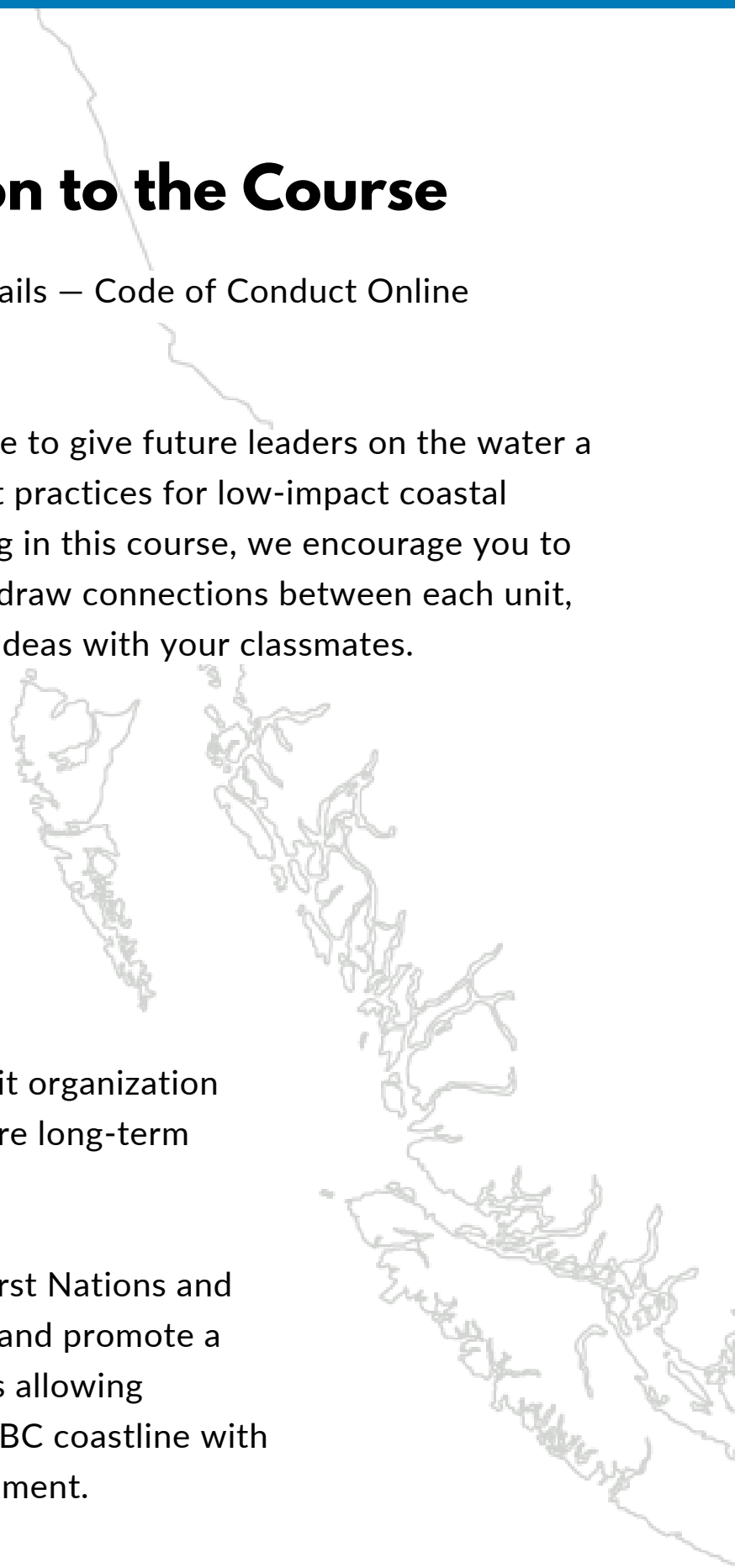


CODE OF CONDUCT

BC Marine Trails — Online Classroom

Unit 1 - Introductory Reading

Introduction to the Course



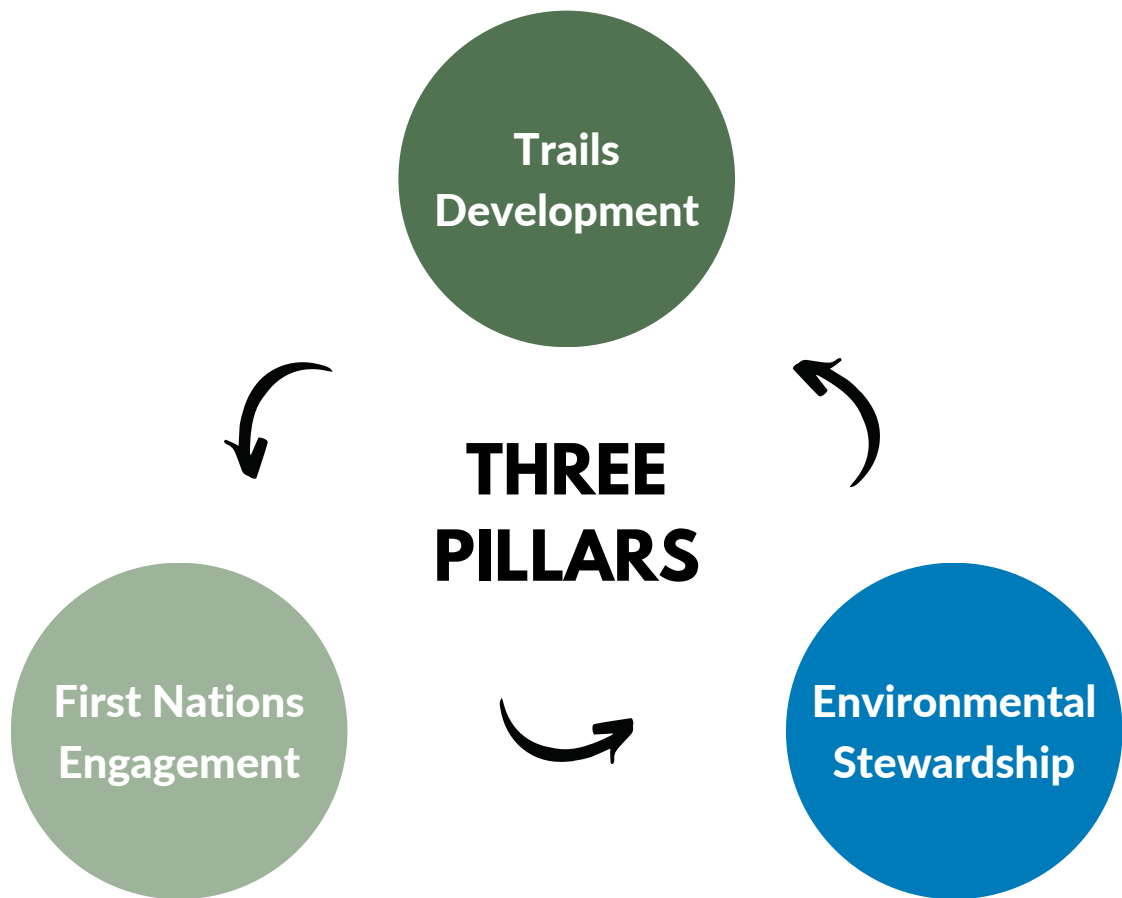
Welcome to the BC Marine Trails – Code of Conduct Online Classroom.

We have developed this course to give future leaders on the water a complete overview of the best practices for low-impact coastal recreation. As you follow along in this course, we encourage you to take notes from the readings, draw connections between each unit, and discuss the concepts and ideas with your classmates.

Who is BC Marine Trails?

BC Marine Trails is a non-profit organization working together to help secure long-term public access to the BC coast.

Our mission is to work with First Nations and stakeholders to build, protect and promote a public network of marine trails allowing recreational navigation of the BC coastline with minimal impact on the environment.



Trails Development

This work enables recreationists to navigate the coast safely and respectfully. It encompasses everything from site assessments and safety mandates to social license over coastal access points. As part of our trails development, we install structures like tent platforms, food caches and composting toilets. All of this is necessary to keep sites sustainable and is made possible through donations, membership fees and the help of our volunteers.

First Nations

Working together with First Nations is an integral part of our work. As we establish a marine trails network, respectful engagement and listening is a way to give back in the process of reconciliation. We address current issues and provide consistent engagement, which enables dialogue. Information about proposed marine trail sites is shared and discussed in a respectful manner, and where possible, agreements are reached to permit access to sites within a First Nations' traditional territory, while guiding the public away from the most sensitive spiritual and heritage sites. Sharing information supports our mutual belief in collaborative stewardship and benefits First Nations' initiatives.

Environmental Stewardship

We value the incredibly diverse environment of the BC Coast and are committed to help protect and preserve it for future generations. Our on-the-ground initiatives include shoreline cleanups, invasive species removals, site maintenance and improvements. Another major stewardship initiative over the past few years was the development of a marine Code of Conduct, which encourages visitors and recreationists to have minimal impact on the local environment. As part of our public education program, we aim to raise awareness of our collective role and responsibility as marine stewards — for this reason we encourage those exploring the BC coast to join us in our Coastal Caretakers program



Why we set out to build a Code of Conduct (CoC)

BC Marine Trails (BCMT) aims to ensure minimal environmental impact at marine trail sites, which lack direct oversight / management. It is our goal to facilitate environmentally sustainable marine recreation on the BC Coast. This requires rethinking accepted practices, sifting behaviours, and recognizing our role as marine stewards. By following the Code of Conduct, visitors help to reduce environmental impacts.

Why is it important to uphold the CoC?

There are obvious benefits to the environment, but it goes much deeper – and ultimately affects the public's ability to access the coast. BCMT has been working diligently with land managers/ owners, First Nations, and other stakeholders to ensure access to the coast. If users don't respect these locations, future permissions may be harder for BCMT to obtain. The Code aims to proactively prevent issues, avoiding the need for retroactive measures to restore habitats. Success means restricted, heavily managed camping locations won't be necessary.



[CoC – pocket version](#)



[CoC – long form](#)

Photo Credits:

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