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Contact: Sam Cutcliffe  
BC Marine Trails  
(902) 213-3039  
[scutcliffe@bcmarinetrails.org](mailto:scutcliffe@bcmarinetrails.org)

## **BC Marine Trails honours John Kimantas with 2025 Ray Pillman Service Award**

**British Columbia Coast** – [BC Marine Trails \(BCMT\)](https://bcmarinetrails.org) is pleased to announce that longtime coastal recreation advocate and author John Kimantas has been selected as the 2025 recipient of the Ray Pillman Service Award. The award recognizes individuals whose vision and dedication have significantly advanced public coastal recreation and the mission of BC Marine Trails.

Named in honour of the late Ray Pillman, a tireless champion of public access and low-impact coastal recreation in the early days of BCMT, the Sea Kayak Association of BC (SKABC), and the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC, the award celebrates those who share Ray's commitment to opening and caring for the BC coast. Ray passed away in 2022, and BCMT continues to honour his legacy by recognizing people whose work reflects his passion and values.

This year's recipient, John Kimantas, was a key figure in the early vision for BC Marine Trails. Between 2005 and 2007, John's coastal recreation guidebooks became essential resources for paddlers planning trips along the BC coast. His later series of waterproof "deck topper" maps allowed paddlers to carry concise, on-deck versions of these guides, making route planning and on-water navigation more accessible to a wider community of coastal explorers.

As BCMT's first employee, John worked closely with the Board of Directors to research, debate, and draft the BC Marine Trails Code of Conduct, which continues to guide responsible, low-impact use of the coast. He also initiated BCMT's engagement efforts with First Nations to seek concurrence for sites displayed on the BCMT map, helping to lay the foundation for the organization's ongoing commitment to respectful visitation in First Nations' Traditional Territories.