



**Presentation to the
Howe Sound Community Forum
May 2015**





- **Project Vision**
- **Partnering for Success**
- **Stakeholders and Beneficiaries**
- **A Unique Opportunity**
- **Benefits of the Project**
- **Requirements of a Marine Trail Network**
- **Meeting the Requirements**
- **Steps to Completion**
- **Grand Opening Ceremony**
- **Future Plans**

Presentation Content



To create a Marine Trail Network in Howe Sound allowing multi-day camping trips for users of self-propelled water craft.

Two separate priorities drove the project forward:

- **Recreation Sites & Trails BC saw an opportunity to create more recreation opportunities in Howe Sound.**
- **The Sea to Sky Trail project, led by the SLRD, needed to connect with the rest of the Trans Canada Trail in West Vancouver.**



Vision & Goals



Recreation Sites & Trails BC – the lead agency and caretaker of the new Recreation Sites.

Squamish Nation – millennia long caretakers of Howe Sound.

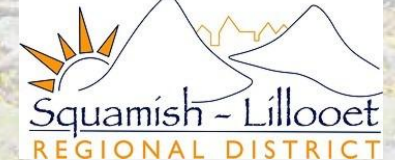
BC Parks – caretaker of the three Marine Parks in the Sound.

BC Marine Trails Network Association – a not-for-profit organization focused on creating marine trail networks throughout British Columbia.

Trans Canada Trail Foundation – intent on creating the largest trail network in the world, linking Canada from sea to sea to sea.

Squamish-Lillooet Regional District – government agency hosting one Provincial Park and two Recreation Sites in the network. Funder of initial development of the project.

Sunshine Coast Regional District – government agency hosting two Provincial Marine Parks and five Recreation Sites in the network.



Partnering for Success



Public Access Point Communities:

- **District of Squamish.**
- **District of West Vancouver – Horseshoe Bay.**
- **Town of Gibsons.**
- **Bowen Island – Snug Cove.**
- **Sunshine Coast Area F – McNair Creek Park.**

Other Communities around the Sound with water access.

Kayak outfitters and tour operators throughout the Sound.

Other businesses at Public Access Points.

Stakeholders & Beneficiaries

Howe Sound has been recreationally underutilized compared to other coastal waters, especially in the mid and northern areas.

Decades of pollution has severely impacted the marine life and environment.

Three major point sources of pollution have been remediated:

- **Britannia Mine**
- **Woodfibre Pulp Mill**
- **Nexen Chemical Plant**

Eco-system is rebounding!



Unique Opportunity



Creation of a major new free community recreation amenity.

Economic benefit to the communities and the Province from tourist and local use.

Improve environmental stewardship from experiencing the natural marine environment.

Social benefits from the subsequent planned development of an interpretive signage program highlighting the natural and human stories of the Sound, especially First Nations.

Benefits



Kayaks travel at a walking speed, usually about 4 km/hour.

Two to four hours is a good day's paddle for most kayakers.

The next camping site(s) should be within 12 km.

Sea kayakers are very self sufficient, used to carrying all their own potable water and an absence of toilet facilities. Overnight wilderness backpacking would be the closest land based comparison. Like backpackers, there is a great respect for the natural environment.

Kayak campers are not beginner paddlers. Special gear, skills and knowledge is required.

Primary need is for a safe landfall and a place to pitch a tent.

Requirements



Recreation Sites
and Trails BC



Solution: Start with Parks



Recreation Sites
and Trails BC



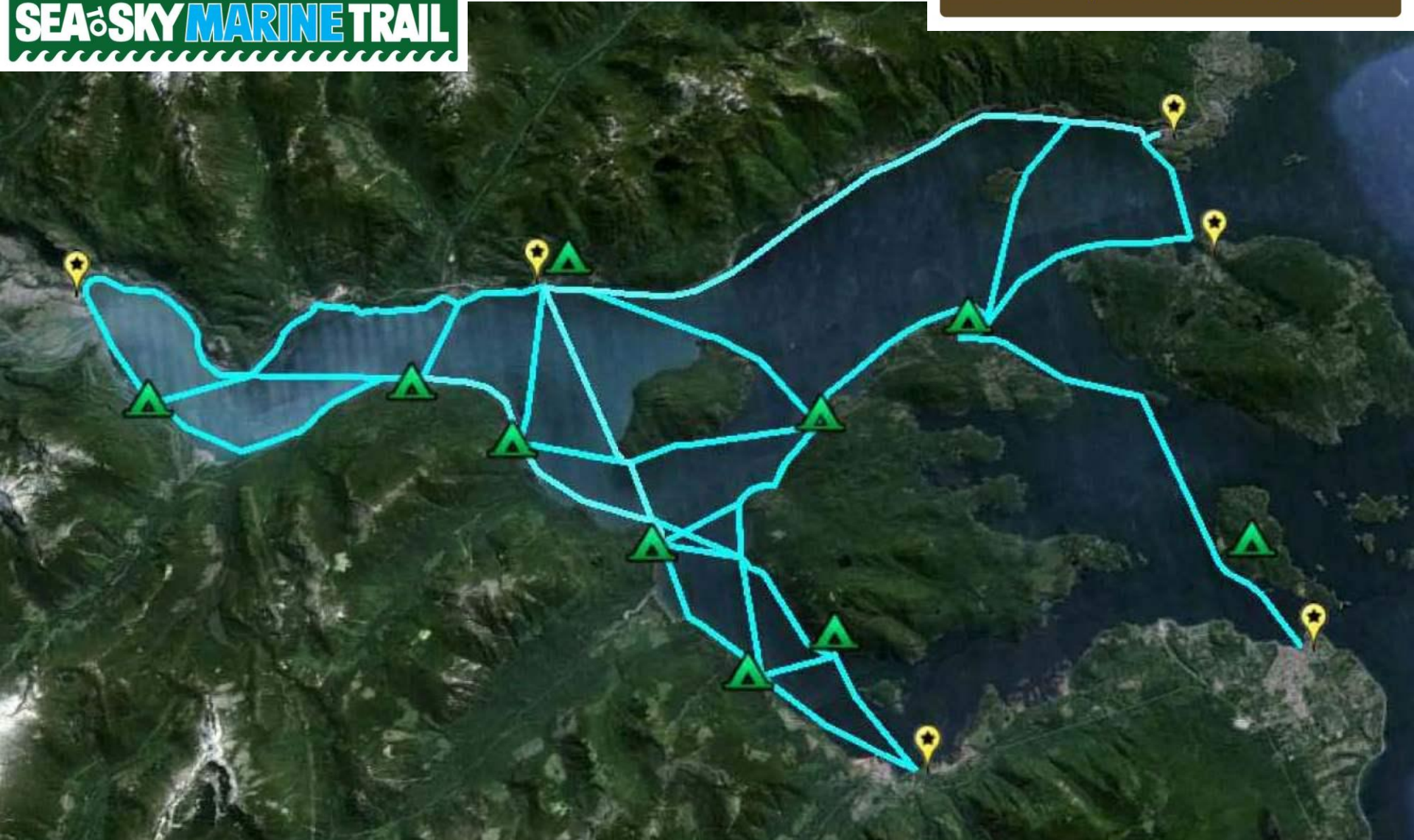
Solution: Add Recreation Sites



Solution: Add Public Access Points



Recreation Sites
and Trails BC



Solution: Equals a Network



Design and produce signage & website:

15 Large (3' x 4') Map Signs for Access Points, Parks & Recreation Sites.

Site Orientation Sign at the Recreation Sites explaining that they are rough un-serviced Sites (Leave No Trace).

Site Identification Signs to RSTBC standards with Site name plus Squamish Nation place name.

Website to be hosted by BC Marine Trail Networks Association in a special section for the Sea to Sky Marine Trail.

www.bcmarinetrails.org

www.seatoskymarinetrail.ca



LATONA PASSAGE

RECREATION SITE

T'Ú7XWAY



Steps to Completion

Prepare Recreation Sites:

- **Remove hazard trees.**
- **Clear landing channel. Several Sites have rocky shores that require clearing a 2 m wide channel the length of the intertidal zone.**
- **Clear tent sites. Most sites will have at least 6 tent sites.**
- **Install signage.**
- **Work has begun on the sites.**



Steps to Completion



The Opening Ceremonies will be held June 14th in Squamish and June 28th in Gibsons.

Possibly a concurrent ceremony in Horseshoe Bay on June 14th.

Squamish ceremony will begin at the waterfront followed by a group paddle to the nearby Squamish Nation reserve for a salmon BBQ.

Gibsons ceremony will begin in their harbour followed by a group paddle to the nearby Squamish Nation historical site of Chetwynd (pending approval) for a salmon BBQ.

Invitees to speak include the Lieutenant Governor of BC, local MP & MLAs, local Mayor, representatives from relevant groups, etc.

Grand Opening



Additional sites are being explored to enhance the network.

Interpretive signage to celebrate the natural and human history of the Sound, especially First Nations, would add to the user experience.

Improve Sites as possible with more tent sites, raised tent platforms and composting toilets.

Sponsorship may be sought to improve the Recreation Sites (kayak outfitters, tour operators, paddling clubs, etc).

Future Plans



Recreation Sites
and Trails BC

Thank you.
QUESTIONS?

