

Introduction to the Council of BC Yacht Clubs:

The Council of BC Yacht Clubs, a non-profit society, has represented recreational boaters on both salt water and fresh water since 1956. It is composed of more than 50 British Columbia boating organizations.

The Council maintains representation on provincial and federal committees to provide and receive information pertinent to our interests and expertise.

We fulfill a role as protectors of marine areas, reporting violations such as pollution, industrial debris on shores, etc. We support small communities on the coast, bringing significant revenue, providing income and jobs.

The Council formed the "BC Marine Parks Forever Society" to advocate for and financially support the creation, expansion or enhancement of BC Marine Parks. We've contributed more than \$2.6 million to the betterment of over twenty marine parks and installed mooring buoys and over 186 stern ties to protect sensitive holding grounds and support safe anchoring.

Recreational boating is a major economic driver in the province, supporting more than 17,000 direct jobs. Clearly, recreational boating is very important to the province's economy and as such, in our role as spokespersons for 15,000 boaters, we make the following suggestions regarding the 2027 budget:

- 1. Protection of Anchorages** in marine parks and other protected areas including conservancies and ecological reserves through increased installation of infrastructure such as mooring buoys, dinghy docks and stern tie pins.
- 2. Enhanced provincial staff/ park ranger coverage in marine parks and expansion of the volunteer park host program.** These programs both offer protection to sensitive areas. The park host volunteers greet visitors and provide useful information about the various marine parks and are often the eyes and ears to ensure park protection. BC Parks Staff report that their presence is very helpful to the contracted park operators and to the provincial staff responsible for the parks.
- 3. Sewage Pump Out Stations:** Boaters along the BC Coast are finding that the low number of sewage pump out stations along the coast, especially further north, is problematic. Holding tanks aboard vessels have limited capacity and skippers are left without an environmentally responsible solution for the disposal of black water.