

Salmon | Field  
Coast | Station



**Salmon Coast Field Station  
User Handbook  
2018 Edition**

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## **RESEARCH FACILITIES**

### **Dock and Wet Lab**

The dock, built of cedar, is 60' x 60' with dry storage space and a wet lab. We offer moorage space for research vessels and visitors and landing space for "beaver" type floatplanes. The wet lab on the dock is a room of approximately 14' x 16' in size, with lighting, a power outlet, aquaria, and shelving units. We can set up flow-through fresh or salt water.

### **Dry Lab**

A large room in the Main House is used for dry laboratory work, with plenty of room for laptops and microscopes. We also have a printer/scanner/photocopier available to users.

### **Power System**

The station is off the grid, and we have a large 24 V battery bank which is charged by our large solar panel array, our microhydro system and our gasoline-fuelled generator when necessary. The station is wired with 120 AC current but we can also provide 240 if needed. If your project has high power requirements, please contact us to make sure we can handle those needs and make special arrangements if necessary. The station is suitably wired for delicate electronics such as computers. Surge protection power cords are found at some outlets, but users are encouraged to bring their own for their own rooms.

### **Research Supplies**

We encourage users to bring their own research supplies. However, we do have some basic supplies available for use including a stereoscope, a plankton splitter, salinity refractometer, thermometers, marine VHF radios and some other supplies. Contact us to sort out what is available at the station for free usage or for a rental fee and to determine what supplies you will need to bring for your specific research project. Do not use any research equipment without prior authorization.

## **LIVING FACILITIES**

### **The Main House**

The largest building at the station, this house has a dining area which seats 14, a little "Purple Room" with couches, a full bathroom, a big cedar deck for enjoying the view and a beautiful kitchen where most of the cooking at the station is done. The house is heated with a wood stove, and its kitchen features two sinks, a six-burner propane stove and oven, lots of cookware, a cold room for food storage, and a power-efficient fridge and freezer. Because of the nature of our location, we must be careful about keeping our food mouse free. There is some mouse proof Tupperware available at the station, but we encourage you to bring your own for personal use. Sleeping quarters in the main house consist of one room with a queen bed, one room with one bunk bed, and a dorm-style room with two

sets of bunk beds and a single bed. There is also a small loft sleeping area over the lab with a single bed.

### **Grandma's House**

This old float-house, now pulled up on land has a living and dining area, a small kitchen with a sink and a stove (again, food must be stored with mice in mind), and a bathroom with a shower, sink and toilet. Sleeping quarters consist of three rooms: one with a set of bunk beds, one with a double and one dorm style room with a single and one set of bunk beds. This house is also heated with a wood stove, and it also has a beautiful deck overlooking the bay.

### **The Guest Cabin**

This simple structure has a double bed below and one single bed above in a small loft area. It has electricity but no heat source, so it's most comfortable in the warmer months.

### **Tenting Platforms & Micro-Cabin**

Two tenting platforms are available for users who bring their own tents, and there is also a single occupancy tiny-cabin that is semi-exposed to the elements. A mosquito net is provided.

Because of the nature of the field season, you will likely need to move beds throughout your stay. We try to assign rooms based on self-identified gender and reserve private rooms for couples and families.

## **OTHER STATION FEATURES**

### **Gardens and Greenhouses**

Old fruit trees, domestic and wild berry bushes, and terraced gardens are found throughout the station property. The climate and terrain here make gardening a challenge and we are always working to enrich the soils, improve the composting system and increase food production at the station. Station users are encouraged to contribute to this process. We have one medium sized greenhouse. Kale grows well here and is almost always available.

### **Outbuildings**

We have a large workshop, a tool shed, a generator and power shed, and various woodsheds. Talk to one of the Station Coordinators before using any of these structures and equipment.

### **Trails**

Behind the station are several beautiful hiking trails. One follows our waterline up the valley near the station, and one climbs over the hill behind the station and then drops down into another valley and branches several ways, one direction leading to Billy's Museum and the Echo Bay Marina and the other towards the old school site on the other side of Echo Bay. Many other great hikes are available by boat. Because of the presence of bears and cougars, users are not allowed to walk the trails alone.

## **OUR LOCATION & NEIGHBOURS**

### **Territory**

We are grateful to live and work in the unceded territories of the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw: the Gwawa-enuxw, the Dzawada'enuxw, and the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nations. In all areas of our research, conservation and community efforts we seek to work under the guidance and protocols of these nations and their Musgamagw Dazawada'enuxw Tribal Council.

### **Echo Bay**

An important part of life at Salmon Coast is engaging with and supporting our local community. We strongly encourage users to visit and patronize local businesses and artisans, including Sea Rose Gallery (paintings, books, pottery), Pierre's Echo Bay (ice cream, snacks, gifts), Paddler's Inn (kayak rentals, accommodations (great for visiting parents, massages – special rate for Salmon Coasters!), and Billy's Museum (books, gifts, T-shirts). As part of our community engagement efforts, we often volunteer as a group with neighbourly duties (trail clearing, moving, etc).

## USER GUIDELINES

### General Conduct

1. Treat other station users with respect and care, regardless of gender, age, race, religion, political affiliation, citizenship, or sexual orientation. We have a zero-tolerance policy on discrimination, excessive profanity, violence, any form of harassment, or any threatening behaviour.
2. Think conservation. Do not use more energy than you need. Propane for cooking and hot water, gasoline for electricity, and firewood for heating are precious resources at Salmon Coast.
3. Alert Coordinators if you use the last of some any of the station supplies, or if you notice any supplies running low. Write down grocery items to buy on the chalkboard in the Main House.
4. Inform the Coordinators if you break something or find something broken.
5. Feel free to come to the Coordinators with any questions or problems, and **please tell them immediately if you have any safety concerns**. They will do their best to answer your questions clearly and help work out problems.
6. Enjoy your stay!

### Policy for Misconduct

Remember that your presence in the Broughton Archipelago and at Salmon Coast Field Station is a privilege. There is a **zero tolerance policy** for any individual or group that does not follow the above user guidelines for appropriate and respectful behavior. **Such individuals or groups will be required to leave immediately at their own expense** (i.e. \$500 for water taxi if other rides are not available).

### Meals and Dishes

**Dinners** - During peak season we have communal dinners in the Main House. Each station user is included in the cooking schedule and the dishes schedule, so please come prepared to cook dinners and clean up when it is your turn. Town trips happen regularly, and users must plan their communal dinners ahead of time to allow us time to order the appropriate ingredients from the grocer in Port McNeill. When planning meals it is important to take into account the expected number of people eating, and the dietary restrictions of the other station users. Dietary restrictions typically include gluten free, vegan and vegetarian. Dinner do not need to be elaborate: they only need to be filling, healthy and served at a reasonable hour. We encourage use of local and reasonably priced foods.

Depending on the season, we may also have food available from the station gardens or the ocean - we have crab and prawn traps and fishing gear. If you are overwhelmed we have many easy recipe suggestions to help you out. Check out our wide variety of cookbooks or ask fellow users.

**Breakfast and Lunch** – These meals you prepare for yourself (or you may unofficially arrange to prepare them with others). You do your own dishes and are responsible for dealing with your leftovers. We strongly encourage avoiding food wastage.

**Food Storage** – Every user gets the equivalent of one milk crate of storage in the cold room and a portion of a shelf in the dry storage area. There is also very limited storage in the fridge and freezer. Plan your meals accordingly to ensure your groceries don't go bad (i.e. eat your leafy greens first). You are responsible for cleaning up any spoiled food or spills.

**Food Orders** – We take grocery orders a few days before every scheduled town trip, and the Port McNeill IGA shops for us and delivers it to our boat. Therefore, you need to be extremely clear when writing your grocery order. The IGA has all the basics, but you may want to bring any specialty foods with you. Their international selection is limited and expensive, so pack your special sauces.

### **Bedding and Towels**

We can provide sheets, pillows, pillowcases and towels, or you may bring your own. When you leave, or when they need changing, place your dirty linens in the station dirty laundry bins (one at the main house and one at Grandmas) or include them in a personal load of laundry if possible. We ask users to bring their own sleeping bags or blankets, but do have some spares if needed.

### **Showers**

On sunny days, we encourage station users to make use of our wonderful solar shower. There are also conventional showers in both Grandma's and the Main House. Remember these showers use propane, which must be shipped a long way, to heat the hot water, so please keep your showers short and efficient.

### **Laundry**

There is a generator-powered washing machine in the laundry room at Grandma's House. Each load of laundry uses gasoline, so only do laundry when necessary. We will let users know when we are going to run the generator for battery maintenance - this is the best time to do laundry. Consider hand-washing some clothes, especially easy to wash undergarments and shirts. For clothes drying on nice days, you can use a clothes line or porch railings, and for wet days there are numerous drying racks and clothes lines in both the Main House and Grandmas.

## **Energy Use**

We try to conserve power as much as possible. Please turn off all unused lights, unplug appliances you are not using and don't leave your computer or other electronics on or plugged in unnecessarily.

## **Internet Use**

Wireless satellite internet is available in all living spaces. Our internet plan now includes 100GB of downloading per month, and a charge of \$2 for every additional GB over 100. In the quiet season we rarely approach this limit; during peak season we have to be careful. Coordinators check usage often and will let users know if we are approaching our limit. If your project will have heavy downloading needs, we can arrange for you to cover cost of additional GB used over 100.

## **Telephone Use**

We have a phone hot-spot in the main house lab, so users can bring their own cell phones. Users may also ask to use the Station cell phone, which has free calling anywhere in Canada.

## **Social media**

Salmon Coast is active on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. We encourage you to follow us and post content. If you're keen, we'd love to have you contribute to our online presence.

As a non-profit research station, we do need to be mindful of how we appear on social media. Here are a couple guidelines:

- Do not post photos with people drinking, smoking or appearing to be doing anything dangerous, disrespectful or illegal. Even if the activity is safe and responsible, these images can easily be misconstrued.
- Be very careful when posting images of dead or harvested wildlife. Salmon Coast does not condone illegal or irresponsible harvesting of any wildlife. If in doubt, don't post.
- Do post and share your marine mammal sightings. We'll let you know the best practices for getting a safe and useful ID shot, and where to send the photos.
- If you have any questions, please ask the Coordinators.

## **Alcohol and drugs**

If you are over 19, you are welcome to bring your own alcohol and use it responsibly. However, there is zero tolerance for abuse of alcohol or any other substance. No open alcohol is allowed on any station boat at any time. There is zero tolerance for drinking and driving a boat. If there are problems, you will be asked to leave.

## **If you smoke, please follow these guidelines:**

- Smoke outside, well away from entrances



- Before smoking around others, make sure that they don't have asthma or allergies and don't mind you smoking near them, and don't smoke around children
- Don't smoke near the fuel tank, generator or power shed, or any other area near gas or propane. Ask if you aren't sure which areas are unsafe for smoking
- Dispose of your butts appropriately (we can provide you with a container)

### **Pet Policy**

There is one resident dog at Salmon Coast, and several dogs who visit regularly. They all go inside the Main House and Grandma's. If you have allergies, please plan accordingly and let the Station Coordinators know in advance of your arrival. The dog owners are responsible for cleaning up after the dogs, so let the owners know if you notice any messes or bad behaviour.

If you or a visitor wish to bring a dog or other pet to Salmon Coast, you must contact the Station Coordinators well in advance. Because we already have at least one dog on site, we unfortunately do not anticipate being able to welcome others.

### **Garbage, Recycling and Composting**

- Please dispose of your garbage in the proper place (bins are labelled), wash and sort your recycling (as indicated by signs) and put compost in the bin (except fish or meat, which may attract predators – dispose of these off the dock or use them for crab bait).
- Ask Station Coordinators any questions you have about the recycling, garbage and compost system and make sure you understand it so no one has to re-sort.
- Keep minimal packaging in mind when buying supplies; remember all the garbage and recycling generated must be hauled out by hand (except some paper which is used to start fires.)

### **Helping around the Station**

In addition to fulfilling the requirements for cooking and dishes, please also:

- **Clean up after yourself** – for example:
  - Do your breakfast and lunch dishes
  - Clean up food prep areas and storage areas and spills
  - Wipe or sweep up mud or dirt you track in
  - Don't leave clutter around unnecessarily in common areas
  - Don't leave bathroom floors wet and dirty after showers, help keep sinks and toilets clean
  - Hang up wet clothes to dry right away (they quickly get musty in this climate)
  - Keep your room reasonably tidy, especially when sharing with roommates
  - Share in the cleaning of common spaces. You and your room mates are responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of the house you live in – including kitchen, bathroom and

common areas. If you make use of common space in a house you don't sleep in, you need to help clean it too (i.e. the Purple Room).

- If you are a lab user, share in the cleaning of the lab.

- **Help with other Station chores**

**Possible tasks include:**

- Helping out in the gardens and grounds - ask Coordinators for tasks and supplies
- Cleaning common areas - window washing, porch sweeping, dock tidying
- Chopping and hauling wood - ask Coordinators for instructions and tools
- Walking the water line to monitor for leaks, water level and to clean intake grate
- Maintaining trails (chopping back salal and clearing brush)
- Fishing, crabbing, prawning or gathering wild food for station use
- Boat, tree and building maintenance – if you have special skills, let a Coordinator know!

## Packing Guidelines

### The Basics

- **Blankets or sleeping bag** (you can bring your own towel, pillow and linens, or they can be provided here if necessary)
- **Medications** you may POSSIBLY need during your stay, and a spare supply and/or prescription
- **Toiletries and other personal items** (extra contacts, pads, etc) – there is no drug store here and we only do town trips occasionally
- **Sunscreen** (water glare makes burns likely); **polarized sunglasses** (for spotting fish underwater)
- **Cash and bank card** (cash for purchases at the small store, museum or art gallery near Echo Bay, cash or bank card for purchases during town trips to Port McNeill)
- **Reusable water bottle**
- **Headlamp/flashlight and spare batteries** (use rechargeable or take dead batteries with you)
- **Appropriate clothing**, including:
  - **Quality raingear** (jacket, pants and rubber boots)
  - **Durable, warm work-clothes** that can get dirty
  - **Warm socks and undergarments**
- If you are doing fieldwork or plan on exploring by boat, remember that driving in an open boat can make you very cold even on a mild day. **Bring mitts or gloves and a warm hat.**

### Other items you may find useful

- Thermos/Tupperware
- Rubber boot liners
- Slippers and warm comfy indoor clothes
- Camera and film/memory cards
- Neoprene/water proof work gloves
- Polarized sunglasses
- Earplugs (walls thin in sleeping areas)
- Allergy pills, pain meds etc
- Snacks or specialty foods
- Portable media device and headphones
- Instruments and art supplies
- Fun clothes for festivities
- Music and movies to share